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## PREAMBLE

The production of a plan of management for the Botanic Gardens is an attempt to consolidate and clarify the immense range of issues associated with such a high profile area of public space. The plan explores the current character of the Gardens in terms of both past and present influences, and establishes clear direction for the future development and management of the Gardens in order to preserve and enhance its unique qualities.

This plan is divided into 6 parts:

- Part 1** examines what a plan of management is, outlines the purpose and scope of this plan, explains the linkage between the plan of management and Council's land management goals and details the importance of community consultation in the planning process.
- Part 2** indicates the location and extent of the Botanic Gardens, and examines the Garden's characteristics and resources.
- Part 3** identifies and examines the major planning issues essential to an understanding of the overall directions of the plan of management. Current management policies and practices are also discussed.
- Part 4** explores the philosophical basis for the plan of management. It details the significance of the Gardens and establishes objectives of management that guide policy development and formulation of a works program.
- Part 5** is the implementation and performance component of the plan of management. A matrix sets out the objectives, proposed actions and performance indicators for each issue, with each issue being given a priority rating. An indicative works program further details the staging of all works and actions.
- Part 6** contains the appendices as well as supporting material and background information that provides an important resource base.

## **PART 1**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

Plans of Management are important documents that provide clear guidelines for the effective short and long term management of all land owned by Council or under Council's control.

The rationale for the preparation of a plan of management for Auburn Council comes from a desire to produce a consistent and useful set of guidelines for the management of public open space. Open space is an important component of the urban environment, for recreation and leisure, providing visual relief from urban form, whilst also functioning as a refuge for flora and fauna. Plans of management provide a framework within which managers of open space can develop a balanced response to current and future opportunities and pressures.

A plan of management identifies clear objectives and establishes directions for planning, resource management and maintenance. It establishes and clarifies Council policy and direction, both to Council staff and the general public. The plan of management provides a basis for assigning priorities in works programming and budgeting.

Auburn Council previously adopted a Plan of Management for the Auburn Botanic Gardens. That Plan of Management was instigated by the Auburn Botanic Gardens Plan of Management working party, a group of Councillors and relevant Council Officers.

That Plan of Management required an annual review to assess implementation and performance, and a review after five years to allow policy and planning issues to be updated. This Plan of Management is a review of the original plan. This Plan also introduces requirements relating to threatened/vulnerable species/population and community identified under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

### **1.2 COUNCIL'S LAND MANAGEMENT GOALS**

The production of this plan of management is closely linked with Auburn Council Management Plan, being the means by which a number of these objectives are achieved. Council's land management objectives as they apply to Auburn Botanic Gardens are as follows:

- To provide a network of public open space that:
  - meets, in the most cost-effective manner, the outdoor passive recreation/leisure needs of the local and wider community;
  - that positively contributes to the enhancement of landscape character;

- that is adequately maintained, safe and functional;
- To improve the natural environment where appropriate through the regeneration of remnant native bushland and the use of environmentally-friendly maintenance procedures;
- To maximise community benefits from limited financial resources.

## PART 2

### 2.1 SITE LOCATION & GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Auburn Botanic Gardens is an extensive area of public open space that is located 2.5 kilometres south west of Auburn GPO and 20 kilometres west of the city of Sydney. The Botanic Gardens encompasses an area of 13.1 Hectares and is bounded by Chisholm Road, residential properties in West Street, Duck River, Auburn Council's Works Depot and Killeen Street.

This Plan of Management applies to land identified in Table 1.

Table 1 - Legal Description

Land Description	Theme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 1 DP 222366</li> <li>• Lot 12 &amp; 36 Section 8 DP 7079</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Botanic Gardens</li> <li>• Botanic Gardens on west street</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiswick Road, Auburn</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 7016 DP 93911</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiswick Road, Auburn</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part Lots 1 DP 235351</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aviary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiswick Road, Auburn</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part Lot 1 DP 938994</li> <li>• Lots 26-29 DP 6713</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Picnic Area and Killen Street Carpark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Killen Street,</li> <li>• Chiswick Road, Auburn</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 2 DP 669013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Works Depot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiswick Road, Auburn</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 2 DP 235351</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kiosk, floral clock, toilets, Bonsai Garden, Fernery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiswick Road, Auburn</li> </ul>

The Botanic Gardens consists of nine (9) separate themes;

1. Japanese Lake & Hill
2. Central formal area containing the reflection pool and pergola, sunken rose garden and scented garden.
3. Woodlands Theatre
4. Australian Native Garden
5. Australian Rainforest
6. Aviary
7. Fauna Reserve
8. Bonsai Garden
9. Community Picnic Area & Barbecue Area adjacent to Duck River.

Four at grade carparks, parking for 300 vehicles which are located within the Botanic Gardens precinct. Vehicle access outside the existing road network is restricted within the Botanic Gardens, exceptions to these restrictions are Council's maintenance vehicles, emergency vehicles and vehicles transporting people with disabilities.

The location of the Auburn Botanic Gardens, and the separate themes is shown on maps 1 and 2.

## 2.2 Land Ownership and Restrictions to the Use of the Land.

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires Plans of Management for Community Land that is not owned by Council to:

- a) identify the owner of the land, and
- b) must state whether the land is subject to any trust, estate, interest, dedication, condition, restriction or covenant, and
- c) must state whether the use or management of the land is subject to any condition or restriction imposed by the owner, and
- d) must not contain any provisions inconsistent with any thing required to be stated by paragraph (a), (b), or (c).

Table 2 shows the ownership details of the Auburn Botanic Gardens Precinct.

Table 2 - Land Ownership

<b>Land Description</b>	<b>Ownership</b>
• Lot 1 DP 222366	• Minister administering the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979
• Lots 12 & 36 Section 8 DP 7079	• Auburn Council
• Lot 7016 DP 93911	• Crown Land Government Gazette 2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 1987
• Part Lots 1 DP 235351	• Auburn Council
• Lot 1 DP 938994	• Auburn Council
• Lots 26-29 DP 6713	• Auburn Council
• Lot 2 DP 669013	• Auburn Council
• Lot 2 DP 235351	• Auburn Council

Auburn Council does not own some of the land within the Auburn Botanic Gardens Precinct for example there are some Crown Land within the precinct.

Under the Local Government Act, 1993, Auburn Council is not obliged to prepare Plans of Management for land to which the Crown Lands Act, 1989 applies.

Certain Crown Lands and private land not owned by a public authority are included in this Plan of Management for Council's management purposes. The provisions of Chapter 6 in regard to Community Land, of the Local Government Act, 1993 do not apply to these lands.

Some of the land not owned by Council are subject to trusts, estates, interest, conditions, dedications, restrictions or covenants imposed by the owner. This Plan of Management does not contain any provisions inconsistent with these trusts, estate, interest, dedication, condition, restrictions, conditions or covenant. Further, the Plan of Management does not contain any provisions that override any provisions, trusts, estate, interest, dedication, condition, restrictions, conditions or covenant imposed by the owner.

## 2.3 HISTORY OF THE AUBURN BOTANIC GARDENS

At a Council Meeting held on February 28, 1968, and in conjunction with a report by Mr E. W. Black, Engineer/Town Planner, concerning the need to use an area in the Duck River Open Space Zone for passive recreation and for intense landscaping activities, rather than for waste disposal purposes, Auburn Council allocated the 9.5 hectares tract of land bounded by Chisholm Road, Chiswick Road and Duck River for the development of a botanic garden as a long term project. Mr E. W. Black was responsible for the concept and design of the gardens.

The area of land allocated contained a north-south easement, 6 metres wide, under the control of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. The easement, which divided the area into approximately two equal portions, became the main working access to the site, and was later to be designated the Avenue of Remembrance. The portion of land east of the 6 metre Water Board easement was traversed by a watercourse flowing westerly from Chisholm Road and also by a marshy type of watercourse flowing north from Chiswick Road. The latter watercourse crossed the western portion of the Japanese Garden Lake. A further area to the extent of 2 hectares, previously used for garbage disposal purposes and lying north of the main area was included in the project, to later become the site of the Woodland Theatre.

Initial construction work on the Botanic Gardens site commenced in 1969 and involved the excavation of the Japanese Gardens Lake.

On September 9, 1973, several hundred trees were planted in the Avenue of Remembrance, Garden of Trees and Woodland area during a Tree Planting Ceremony.

Further construction work and planting completed the eight main divisions of the complex - the Japanese Hill and Lake Garden, the central formal area containing the reflection pool and pergola, the sunken rose garden, the garden of trees, the scented garden, the air woodland theatre. Other features comprising plant nursery, glasshouse, fernhouse, administration room, kiosk, public toilets, ranger's cottage and floral clock were also completed.

His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., officially opened the Gardens on Sunday, September 11, 1977, at 3 p.m., watched by a huge crowd including local and visiting dignitaries.

Since the official opening, many couples have chosen the Japanese Garden as the venue for their marriage. The Woodland Theatre has been used for "Carols by Candlelight" at Christmas time and by local school children for various functions.

During 1978 trachyte setts and ornamental iron gates were used to make an attractive formal entrance to the Gardens. Electric barbeques were erected in the proposed picnic area to cater for the increasing patronage.

Recent years have seen:

A community picnic area at the southern end of the grounds and this covered facility enjoys maximum usage.

The introduction of the walk through Bonsai Garden which was established with the assistance of the Ryde School of Bonsai.

Installation of an aviary in conjunction with the Taronga Zoo Park Trust.

Construction of the Avenue of Remembrance.

Extended barbecue and picnic facilities, riverside walk and extensive landscaping.

## **2.4 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

### **2.4.1 GEOMORPHOLOGY**

Auburn Botanic Gardens is located within the Sydney Basin a geological province characterised by sedimentary rocks, with some localised igneous activity. Metamorphic rocks are generally rare, with minor occurrences towards the edges of the basin. Overlying the deep Permian rock strata are the Triassic sediments. These dominate the geology of the basin and include the Wianamatta rock grouping.

The majority of the original Botanic Gardens precinct was mined for clay tile production early this century. The area was then used as a waste landfill site. The waste landfill site was subsequently filled with an area of soils from other areas. In turn these soils were excavated to form the hills and lake systems that now exist in the Auburn Botanic Gardens.

### **2.4.2 SOILS**

The site occurs in the undulating, low hilly, wide valley; landscape known as the Cumberland Basin. The soil is of the Villawood series of the yellow podsolitic soil group which has developed under poorly drained conditions in the shale landscape in past geological times. Also the yellow podsolitic soil group has a poorly drained profile, an extremely high clay and salt content and a very low coarse sand content. The soil is acid, has a pH below 5.5 and soluble salt content above 250 parts per million.

Extensive treatment of the soil profile was undertaken in order to reach the desired soil standard for growing a wide variety of native and exotic plants.

As mentioned above the site has been changed considerably over the years because of the nature of the soils on the site now (fill) it is difficult to give an accurate description. However, erosion has taken place on the mounded areas of the gardens.

### **2.4.3 CLIMATE**

Westerly and north-westerly winds have a strong influence on the climate of Auburn. In particular westerly winds are dominant in the mornings during late autumn, winter and early spring. In summer, coastal north easterly winds are more likely to influence the climate.

The area receives an expected average rainfall of 930 mm with an average maximum of 23°C and a minimum of 12.3°C.

#### 2.4.4 VEGETATION

The current vegetation of the Auburn Botanic Gardens precinct consists of a mix of indigenous native flora, ornamental flora, weed infestations, introduced lawn grasses and maintained garden areas of both native and exotic plants.

In the western boundary of the gardens there is a small pocket of indigenous plants *Melaleuca nodosa*, that have survived the mass earthworks that occurred when the gardens were constructed. This section has and will continue to be used for seed collection for future revegetation along Duck River.

All the natives have been chosen for their horticultural and educational value to the gardens, and the community.

Ornamental flora has been selected and sited to be in keeping with the different themes that are used through the Botanic Gardens.

Weed intensity varies throughout the site, with the majority being along the Duck River corridor, as they are carried down stream or blown across from the open space on the other side of Duck River.

A list of vegetation for the Auburn Botanic Gardens is partially complete (75%). It was prepared for the original Plan of Management and is attached and marked Appendix A.

Draft Recovery Plans have been prepared by National Parks and Wildlife Service which identifies *Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle) and Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell) within the Auburn Botanic Gardens. The draft Recovery Plans also specifies actions to be undertaken by Council.

*Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle) is a spreading shrub 1-4m high with brilliant yellow flowers and bipinnate leaves and conspicuously hairy branchlets. It is mainly restricted to the Cumberland Plain, with recordings from Bardwell Valley to the Blue Mountains.

*Acacia pubescens* is listed as a vulnerable species on Schedule 2 of the New South Wales Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 and is also listed as a vulnerable species on Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act, 1992.

Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest is listed as an endangered ecological community under Schedule 1 Part 3 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995. Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest is an ecological community dominated by paperbarks such as *Melaleuca nodosa* and *M. decora*. It has a

structural form of open-forest to low woodland, generally with characteristics shrubby or scrubby understorey.

A population of *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell) is listed under Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995. *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell) is a perennial, tufted herb 10-75cm high, with blue flowers forming a tube 0.5-1.5mm long.

#### **2.4.5 WHAT IS A RECOVERY PLAN**

The Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 is New South Wales's legislative framework to protect and encourage the recovery of vulnerable/threatened species, populations and communities. The Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 requires the Director – General of National Parks and Wildlife to prepare Recovery Plans for Species populations and ecological communities listed as endangered or vulnerable on the Threatened Species Conservation Act schedules.

Further, under the Local Government Act, 1993, land is directly affected by a recovery plan only if the plan concerned requires measures specified in the plan to be undertaken by Council on or in respect of the land.

Draft Recovery Plans being prepared by National Parks and Wildlife Service has identified *Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle) and Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell) within the Auburn Botanic Gardens. The draft Recovery Plans also specify actions to be undertaken by Council.

The Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 also requires government agencies not to undertake actions inconsistent with a Recovery Plan.

Auburn Council is supportive of the draft Recovery Plans (although draft documents) and has included all relevant objectives and actions specified in the draft Plan in this Plan of Management.

Auburn Council will also continue to consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage threatening processes so as to avert, ameliorate or eliminate adverse effects and support and promote the recovery of the endangered species, population, community to a position of viability in nature.

## 2.4.6 FAUNA

To complement the aesthetic and educational components of the selected vegetation, within the Botanic Gardens, a number of species were introduced in the fauna area;

1. Fauna Reserve
2. Aviary
3. Uninhibited fauna that roam the Botanic Gardens
4. Migrating bird life

The Fauna Reserve is a built structure that allow the public to walk through and view native animals within their own environment. The fauna reserve was opened in 1994 and is an excellent educational tool for the Auburn Community and regional visitors.

The Aviary is a built structure that displays bird life from asian regions. It is widely visited and provides both aesthetic and educational value.

A number of fauna species roam the Botanic Gardens environment, which adds to the different themes of the Botanic Gardens. The two main congregation areas occur at the Japanese Lake and the Billabong.

It has been noted that migrating birds also frequent the Botanic Gardens.

A fauna survey has been conducted and is attached marked Appendix B.

## **2.5 BUILT FORM**

There are a number of buildings within the Auburn Botanic Gardens precinct. A comprehensive list is attached marked Appendix C. The more significant buildings include;

- Fauna Reserve
- Aviary
- Kiosk
- Bonsai Garden
- Community Picnic Area
- Amenities
- Woodland Theatre

The architectural features of the built environment, although varied in style are generally of a high quality and consistent with the surrounding themes of the area.

## **2.6 AUTHORISED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE BOTANIC GARDENS PRECINCT**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the following are authorised by this Plan of Management:

- a) Leases, and licences or granting of estates.

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires any leases and licences or granting of estates of Community Land to be authorised by a Plan of Management.

This Plan of Management expressly authorise Council to enter into a lease or licence with any person or organisation or entity for the use or occupation of part of or the whole of the subject land affected by this Plan of Management. The lease or licence or estate may be granted for any purpose that is consistent or ancillary to the objectives of the Plan of Management and in compliance with Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Leases and licences or granting of estates, are to be granted in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 as amended, as prescribed in the Local Government Regulations and in accordance with any leasing, licensing and or hire policy or plan adopted by Auburn Council.

Community Land cannot be leased or licenced or any other estate granted over the land for more than twenty-one (21) years. Leases and Licences for more than five (5) years are allowed after community consultation.

- b) Use or hire of the site with the consent of Council.

Council may grant consent to use or hire of the site in accordance with the objectives of this Plan of Management, the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 as amended, as prescribed in the Local Government General Regulations and in accordance with any leasing, Licensing and or hire policy or plan adopted by Auburn Council.

Use of the site should also be consistent with the provisions of any environmental planning instrument, deemed environmental planning instrument or development control plan or policy adopted by Auburn Council and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 as amended.

- c) Development of Community Land with the consent of Council.

The Threatened species Conservation Act, 1995 amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, requires that consent and determining authorities consider relevant recovery plans when assessing applications under Parts 4 & 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Consent and determining authorities when considering any development or activity which may threatened species/population/community must consider the conservation strategy outlined in a Recovery Plan.

Development of Community Land and construction of buildings, structures and facilities are to be consistent with the objectives of this Plan of Management and the provisions of any environmental planning instrument, deemed environmental planning instrument or development control plan adopted by Auburn Council. Development of Community Land should also be consistent with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 as amended.

Section 47E of Chapter 6 the Local Government Act, 1993, as amended, makes provisions relating to development of Community Land.

Council will consider the preparation of a Plan of Management to address development proposals that have the potential to significantly affect the environment and or cause interference to the existing and future amenity of adjoining occupations, surrounding areas and or the neighbourhood in general.

d) Use of Land for drainage purposes.

Provision of drainage easements in favour of upstream properties, subject to the following conditions:

- the easement is situated to the park's boundaries;
- appropriate compensation is sought for the easement burdening the park;
- the drainage easement shall not interfere with the use of the park;
- the stormwater pipe within the easement shall have a 1 in 100 year capacity;
- the stormwater pipe within the easement shall be constructed to Council's standards and specifications;
- all costs associated with the creation of the drainage easement shall be borne by the applicant; and
- the drainage easement shall be granted at the discretion of Council.

e) Construction and or dedication as public road in accordance with the objectives of this Plan of Management and with Council consent.

The Local Government Act, 1993 requires that community land may not be dedicated as a public road under the Roads Act, 1993 unless :

- i) the road is necessary to facilitate enjoyment of the area of community land on which the road is to be constructed or any facility on that land, and
- ii) Council has considered means of access other than public road access to facilitate that enjoyment, and
- iii) there is a Plan of Management applying to the land concerned and provision of a public road is expressly authorised by the Plan of Management.

The following are exempt from the above provision:

- i) dedication of land for the purpose of widening an existing public road, or
- ii) dedication of land for the purpose of other road works of minor character authorised by the Plan of Management applying to the land, in respect of existing roads or roads, or
- iii) dedication of land for the purpose of a road that is subject to an order under Division 1 of Part 5 of the Roads Act, 1993.

f) Fees and Charges for use of the Auburn Botanic Gardens.

Fees and charges shall be in accordance with the fees and charges specified in Council's annual Management Plan. Net proceeds should be used towards the general purpose and management of the Auburn Botanic Gardens.

g) Any activity or purpose which is consistent with the objectives of this Plan of Management, the Local Government Act, 1993, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, deemed environmental planning instrument, environmental planning instrument and development control plan adopted by Auburn Council.

## 2.7 CURRENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE BOTANIC GARDENS

The Auburn Botanic Gardens accommodates a range of recreational experiences. These include:

- Access pathways used for activities such as walking and jogging.
- The gardens being are used as a backdrop for wedding photographs and other filming.
- Family and social gatherings at the Community Picnic Area and barbecue facilities that are provided.
- School exercises for educational purposes.
- Many visitors to the gardens come to enjoy the surrounds of the well-kept gardens.

## 2.8 CATEGORISATION

All land owned by or under the control of Council (known as Public Land) is classified as either “Community” Land or “Operational” Land. This is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1993.

The essential difference between the two classifications is that Community Land is subject to restrictions as to how Council may lease or sell the land. Operational land is not subject to such restrictions. Community Land is primarily made up of Council’s open space areas.

The Local Government Act 1993 require Community Land to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- (a) a natural area;
- (b) a sportsground;
- (c) a park;
- (d) an area of cultural significance;
- (e) general community use.

The Auburn Botanic Gardens is categorised as a “Natural Area” and a “Park”.

The Local Government Act 1993 requires natural areas to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- (a) bushland;
- (b) wetland;
- (c) escarpment;
- (d) watercourse
- (e) foreshore; and/or
- (f) a category prescribed by the regulations to the Act.

The Auburn Botanic Gardens is further categorised as “Bushland” and “Foreshore”.

Other lands covered by this Plan of Management within the precinct are separately categorised under the Plans of Management for Parks, General Community Use and Sportsgrounds.

Map 3 shows the Natural Area/Bushland.

## 2.8.1 GUIDELINES FOR CATEGORISATION

The following are explanations and guidelines for categorisation.

- a) “Natural Area” and “Bushland”.

Section 36B of the Local Government Act, 1993 provides that community land, all or part of which is directly affected by a recovery plan or a threat abatement plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 must be categorised as a natural area.

The Auburn Botanic Gardens contain *Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle), Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell’s Bluebell).

Draft Recovery Plans have been prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for *Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle), Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell’s Bluebell). The recovery objectives and issues are included in this Plan of Management.

*Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle) is listed on Schedule 2 of the New South Wales Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 and listed on Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Commonwealth Endangered Species Protection Act, 1992.

Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest is listed as an endangered ecological community under Schedule 1 Part 3 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

A population of *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell’s Bluebell) present in the Auburn Botanic Gardens, is also listed under Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.

Further, Section 36A of the Local Government Act, 1993 also provides that Community Land that is a site of a known natural, scenic or contains other feature that is considered by Council to warrant protection or special management considerations, or that is a site of a wildlife corridor, must be categorised as a natural area.

In addition, the vegetation of the Auburn Botanic Gardens consists of a mix of indigenous native flora and exotic plants. The flora is representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation of the locality.

- b) a “Park”, because the Auburn Botanic Gardens is used for passive, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful

enjoyment of the land by others and is proposed to be improved by landscaping.

- c) a “Foreshore” because it is a natural area which is situated on the edge of Duck River and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.

## **PART 3**

### **3.1 BACKGROUND**

A usage survey has revealed that the Auburn Botanic Gardens receives between 200,000 to 250,000 visitors per year, with over 70% of visitors coming from outside the Auburn Local Government area. These figures confirmed Council's belief that the Auburn Botanic Gardens is a regional facility and as such should be managed as a regional facility.

### **3.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

The existing landscape character of the Auburn Botanic Gardens has evolved since its conception in 1968. It is important to monitor and manage the physical and social influences, so as those contributing to desirable landscape characteristics may be retained and enhanced and those negatively influencing landscaping quality may be identified and removed.

A review of the landscape character has identified that in recent years the original intent of the Botanic Gardens and in particular the Japanese Gardens has been overlooked. It is important to retain the original intent of the gardens and plans will be introduced to achieve this objective. A search of Council's files uncovered systematic drawings that represent the original intent.

The original intent of the Japanese Gardens was a more open arrangement, in which the vegetation was sparse and more reflective of a Japanese setting.

Vegetation is a major variable influencing landscape character. It is recognised that the Botanic Gardens is a regional educational facility which requires careful selection of fauna that compliment the theme of the individual sections.

### **3.3 ACCESS & CIRCULATION**

The provision of adequate access, as well as design and arrangement of an appropriate circulation system is an important issue affecting the way the Auburn Botanic Gardens precinct is utilised. Nearly 80% of the visitors travel by private vehicles with over 1,500 vehicles per week seeking parking spaces. Council has four dedicated carparking areas which cater for 300 vehicles. It is clear that with further marketing of the gardens there will be excess vehicles during the peak times, which will inevitably overspill into the residential areas.

An integrated transport system needs to be adopted which encourages and incorporates rail and bus links, private tourist coaches and residential parking zones which deter overflow parking.

The current level of access provisions for disabled persons is considered good. Council conducted an Access Audit of the Botanic Gardens in 1997 which identified a number of accessibility issues which needed to be upgraded. The principles of the Access Audit are taken into serious consideration when undertaking access and circulation works, thus ensuring the Botanic Gardens is accessible to all sections of the community.

### **3.4 STRUCTURES & SERVICES**

Unless adequately designed and sited, structures within open space areas can be significantly intrusive. Whilst existing buildings within the Auburn Botanic Gardens precinct are generally architecturally sound, any further building works or improvements to these structures should aim to maintain compatibility with the surrounding landscape character.

Safety considerations are paramount when dealing with the upkeep of children's play facilities. The playground structure at the Botanic Gardens is generally well utilised and is in good condition. It is important that these facilities be managed in such a way that it continues to be a safe, functional and an attractive facility.

Effective directional and interpretation signage within an open space area can assist user circulation and enrich the general recreational experience. User surveys and the Access Audit stated in the original Plan of Management identified a degree of dissatisfaction with the extent and nature of signage present. Existing signage has been developed in an adhoc fashion and whilst, generally they are in good condition, lacks consistency and functionality. The extensive nature of the Botanic Gardens precinct warrants a comprehensive signage system both internal and external to the gardens. Directional/interpretive signage has been partially installed. This system is informative, unobtrusive and sympathetic to the landscape character of the Botanic Gardens and rationalise the existing signage.

Nevertheless, user surveys will further ensure that the level of community satisfaction with the signage.

Given the regional significance of the Botanic Gardens the original Plan of Management required an investigation into the feasibility of erecting an Information Centre. The Information Centre would service residents, regional communities and educational institutions. An information centre has been erected at the entrance to the Japanese Gardens.

### **3.5 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS**

The popularity and quality of the Auburn Botanic Gardens can lead to competition between the various user groups for available open space and prime features. In keeping with the Gardens regional status as a significant open space facility, it is important that a range of recreational opportunities are catered for.

Funding is both an opportunity and constraint to the management and objectives of the Botanic Gardens. Opportunities such as maximising grant funding sponsorship user pay schemes, hire fees, leasing, admission fees need to be pursued to ensure the Botanic Gardens have adequate funding to grasp the opportunities and achieve the objectives of this plan of management.

Marketing and promotion of the Botanic Gardens is seen as a key component to ensure the area remains a regional facility. Given the current levels of expenditure by Council it is important that greater levels of the local community are aware and visit the Botanic Gardens. Regional promotion and sensible pricing policies can see the costs burden spread more evenly.

Major constraints to the viability of the Botanic Gardens are the funding levels, the retention of adequate staffing levels and expertise, Council's Works Depot, vandals that harass staff and the public and damage to the environment, competition from Millennium Park and transport routes. The challenge for management is to adequately address and ensure these constraints revert to opportunities for the Botanic Gardens.

### **3.6 MANAGEMENT**

Current management has focused on achieving an acceptable standard of maintenance for the various sections of the Auburn Botanic Gardens precinct. This plan of management seeks to achieve a holistic approach to the long term care of the Botanic Gardens. The incorporation of community participation in the planning process is also an important management tool. Whilst some surveys of the Botanic Gardens have been carried out these have tended to be limited in scope.

Education is considered an essential element of the Botanic Gardens and as such shall form an integrated part of the management structure and philosophy. Management need to develop programs for local schools and provide the educational components of the Botanic Gardens on a regular basis.

Monitoring of management systems is important to ensure their effectiveness in both the short and long term. This plan of management will assist the implementation of monitoring programs (refer indicative work program) to review issues such as environmental parameters, management of vulnerable endangered species populations/communities, recreation usage levels and quality of maintenance.

### **3.7 MAINTENANCE**

The need for ongoing maintenance is an important issue which influences not only landscape character but also affects general safety levels. The effectiveness of maintenance is a function of a number of factors including the type and extent of machinery available, the level of experience and expertise of personnel, and the frequency of each operation. Efficient maintenance practices allow cost savings to be made, permitting funds to be redirected to other important areas. Whilst a full analysis of maintenance activities is outside the scope of this study, Section 5 seeks to address the key issues.

### **3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS**

Pollution in any form is detrimental to the quality of life. In the context of an open space area, the presence of pollution detracts from the overall recreational experience, affecting landscape character, restricting freedom of movement and sometimes endangering health.

Urban run-off and fertilisers are the most prevalent pollutants at the Botanic Gardens. Urban run-off is a particular problem as the Botanic Gardens precinct flow-paths are channelled to Duck River, and Council then uses the water from Duck River for irrigation and water supply. A sedimentation pond has been installed in this loop to assist in reducing the cycle of pollutants.

Water quality and usage are major issues that need to be addressed through management systems, testing and monitoring. Water quality assists the liveability of the fauna and improve the appearance of the Botanic Gardens water features. Measures such as provision of a solid base in the water ponds would improve the water quality and need to be investigated.

Given that, the Botanic Gardens is considered a wildlife haven, the current guidelines of no domestic animals being permitted within the Auburn Botanic Gardens precinct should be maintained.

## **PART 4**

### **4.1 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT**

The primary aim of the Auburn Botanic Gardens Plan of Management is to provide guidelines for future use, development, management and maintenance of the Botanic Gardens. Auburn Botanic Gardens is a valuable resource, serving the recreational needs of both local residents and the regional community; providing refuge for a variety of flora and fauna; whilst contributing to the educational needs of the local school network.

This Plan of Management also aims to ensure that the management decisions made which affect any vulnerable, threatened and or endangered populations/communities are consistent with the objectives of this Plan of Management and any Recovery Plan and or Threat Abatement Plan.

It is the responsibility of management to maximise the potential of this important area of open space, ensuring the gardens are adequately maintained, that it continues to cater for a range of activities, conflicts between user groups are kept to a minimum, and that any future enhancements of the gardens be compatible with the desired landscape character in each section.

Management should carefully consider the relationship of the Botanic Gardens to other regional facilities, and attempt to minimise any adverse inter-relationships between these areas. Management must also be responsive to the changing needs of the community and users, and the plan of management must have the scope and flexibility to incorporate and take advantage of future requirements and changing needs as they arise.

## 4.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Based on a review of legislative requirements, community needs and expectations, and the values and assets of Auburn Botanic Gardens the following broad objectives have been identified:

- To manage the Botanic Gardens in accordance with the overall objectives of the Auburn Council Management Plan.
- To define, promote and maintain an appropriate landscape character for defined parts of the Botanic Gardens.
- To provide for a range of recreational activities commensurate with the gardens capacity as a significant open space resource.
- To facilitate an understanding and awareness of the educational and environmental values of the Botanic Gardens.
- To manage and promote the Botanic Gardens as a regional facility.
- To ensure the long term financial viability of the Botanic Gardens.
- To manage the playground area in accordance with the service levels outlined in the Auburn Council Management Plan.
- To manage stormwater in accordance with the principles of Total Catchment Management.
- To ensure a standard of maintenance is achieved in order to maintain the natural state and setting and preserve a desirable landscape character over the range of different areas within the Botanic Gardens.
- To provide for public safety.
- To actively encourage community participation in the ongoing management of the Botanic Gardens.
- To provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion.
- To ensure the plan of management is flexible and able to evolve with changing community attitudes.
- To control and restrict the spread of feral plant and animal populations within the Botanic Gardens.
- To provide the means for a safe and efficient access and circulation network to and within the Botanic gardens.
- To reduce the extent of existing and potential pollution in the Botanic Gardens.

- To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.
- To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the Auburn Botanic Gardens including it as the habitat of *Acacia pubescens* (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle), Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and *Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell).
- To provide for the restoration and regeneration of the bushland and Auburn Botanic Gardens.
- To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.
- To provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games.
- To retain and enhance the cultural significance of the Auburn Botanic Gardens (namely its historical, aesthetic, technical, research and social significance) for past, present and future generations by the active use of conservation methods; such as :
  - (i) continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the Auburn Botanic Gardens and any buildings;
  - (ii) the adaptive reuse of the land and any buildings. That is the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact);
  - (iii) the preservation of the land or any buildings. That is the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and retardation of deterioration of the land and any buildings.
- To ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the Auburn Botanic Gardens by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) and other ecological values.

- To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the Auburn Botanic Gardens.
- To promote the management of the Auburn Botanic Gardens in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion.
- To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores.
- To retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term.
- To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.
- To maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area.
- To facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.
- To enhance the use of this community asset for the active/passive recreational, aesthetic, environmental and cultural benefit of the community, including non-residents.

These objectives have been used in the subsequent management issues to guide policy development and formulation of the action plan.

### 4.3 POLICY, IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE

The means by which Council proposes to achieve the objectives and performance targets and the manner of assessing its performance in respect to the objectives and performance targets, are detailed in Table 3 of this Plan of Management.

The policies established in this plan provide the framework for management consistent with anticipated availability of resources and anticipated community trends.

A list of issues to manage Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community including the relevant issues identified in the Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest & *W. maulticaulis* draft Recovery Plan are listed against the objectives.

These issues identified in the draft Endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community & Endangered *W. maulticaulis* population Recovery Plan include:

- Level of understanding. For example, the ecosystem function and the relative importance of the ecological processes are not well understood. There is no baseline from which to determine the characteristic structural or floristic components.
- Threatening processes:
  - habitat loss (eg. through clearing and fragmentation. Fragmentation increases the abundance of defoliating insects, genetically isolate populations of species which may result in the loss of genetic diversity and fitness and reduces seed set by reducing abundance of pollinating agents).
  - habitat degradation (eg. through weed invasion, seed collection, unsuitable fire management regimes, dumping of rubbish and other material, mechanical damage, recreational use, effects from adjacent land use, inappropriate bush regeneration practices and lack of awareness).

The priority ratings outlined on the following pages are subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds, and may require modification if special circumstances arise.

**Codes used to define priorities in the following matrix:**

<b>ST</b>	(Short Term)	-	Action completed within 2 years
<b>MT</b>	(Medium Term)	-	Action completed within 2-4 years
<b>LT</b>	(Long Term)	-	Action commenced after 4 years *
<b>O</b>	(Ongoing)	-	Action is carried out on a regular basis for the life of this plan of management
<b>C</b>	(Commenced)	-	Action has commenced
<b>CP</b>	(Completed)	-	Action has been carried out

**\* Note:**

This plan of management is designed to be relevant for a 5 year period, and to be extensively reviewed and updated at the end of this time. As defined by this document, long-term projects are those which are scheduled for commencement but not completion within the life of this plan.

Review of the management strategies will ensure their relevance and consistency with the recovery of Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community, changing community expectations and budgetary constraints.

Implementation of on ground works will assist in slowing down habitat degradation and lead to the enhancement of the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest Community. It is important that National Parks and Wildlife Service be consulted on relevant matters relating to conservation and management of the ecological community.

**Table 3  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve &amp; enhance appropriate existing vegetation.</li> <li>To conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the Auburn Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain &amp; enhance habitat for native flora, ornamental flora, lawns, revegetation sites, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appendix A has list of fauna.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual flora and fauna survey.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To control noxious &amp; environmental weeds in the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To provide for the restoration of degraded bushland and regeneration of the Auburn Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop &amp; implement programs of weed control &amp; removal using methods such as spot spraying, hand pruning &amp; cutting.</li> </ul>		C/O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in level of weeds.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aesthetics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new plantings to enhance the existing landscape character &amp; aesthetic of the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To continuously protect, care and maintain the physical material of the land and buildings.</li> <li>To protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To plant &amp; establish the appropriate flora that is in keeping with the individual themes areas of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User surveys.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3**  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threatened Species Management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.</li> <li>To ensure that any planning and management decisions that are made which affect any threatened species are made in accordance with the objectives of the Recovery Plan for that species.</li> <li>To ensure that the threatened species / population / community occurring in the Auburn Botanic Gardens are protected from habitat loss and managed for conservation.</li> <li>Conservation of species is facilitated through appropriate planning and management decisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate a research program into currently unknown aspects of the species / population / community and a threat and habitat management program. (eg. population dynamics, breeding system, fire ecology, distribution, biology, ecology and health).</li> <li>Maintain data base on species and seed collection. Identify and reduce existing and potential threats (eg. weed invasion, hybridisation and reducing access to sites).</li> <li>Monitor populations on a regular basis to assess effectiveness of threat and habitat programs.</li> <li>Develop awareness and involvement of the broader community in the species and its conservation.</li> <li>Development consents in the vicinity of populations is sensitive to the species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Recovery Plans for <i>Acacia pubescens</i> (Vent.) R. Br. Fabaceae (Mimosoideae) (Downy Wattle), Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and <i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i> (Tadgell's Bluebell).</li> </ul>	<p>LT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Training.</li> <li>Investigations and surveys carried out.</li> <li>Number of species/ ecological community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Parks and Wildlife.</li> </ul>

**Table 3**  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threatened Species Management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reverse the degrading processes and trends of loss and fragmentation.</li> <li>To regenerate and revegetate bushland areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop best management guidelines for ecological restoration in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife and other relevant public authorities.</li> <li>Investigate and monitor distribution of threatened species/populations/community.</li> <li>Prepare, where necessary, environmental planning instruments which avoid and minimise impacts on species.</li> </ul>		LT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To achieve the original intent of the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To maintain the Auburn Botanic Gardens in its natural state and setting.</li> <li>To retain and enhance the cultural significance of the Auburn Botanic Gardens for past, present and future generations by active use of conservation methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement measures that ensure the original intent of the Botanic Gardens is achieved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schematic drawings of the Japanese Gardens have been sourced.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original intent of Botanic Gardens is achieved.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3**  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fauna Management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve, maintain &amp; enhance the range of fauna within the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To conserve biodiversity and maintain the ecosystem function in respect of the Auburn Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To retain the bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term.</li> <li>To ensure ongoing ecological viability of the Auburn Botanic Gardens by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land the fauna of the land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain &amp; preserve fauna habitats within the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of species at Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain &amp; enhance fauna exhibits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include Koala &amp; Wombat enclosures in Fauna Park. Investigate feasibility of Australian Bird display in Aviary.</li> </ul>	ST/O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User satisfaction.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
ACCESS & CIRCULATION**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Action	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to &amp; within the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a safe &amp; secure access &amp; circulation to &amp; within the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To provide for the community use of and access to the land / buildings in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance to vulnerable threatened species / population / community, caused by human intrusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify unsafe &amp; non-secure pathways.</li> <li>Manage access and rationalise tracks using barriers, fences for areas containing vulnerable, threatened species / population / communities.</li> </ul>		ST/O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly inspections.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan &amp; prioritise corrective pathway works.</li> </ul>		ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathway works strategy.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the principles &amp; recommendations of the Access Audit 1997 are addressed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the recommendations of the Access Audit 1997.</li> </ul>		MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Access Audit implementation plan.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
ACCESS & CIRCULATION**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Action	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide an integrated transport system for the community to access the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish frequent bus links from railway stations to the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek support from State Transit Authority &amp; private bus companies.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence discussions with State Transit Authority and private bus companies.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage tourist coaches to include the Botanic Gardens on their itinerary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate incentives for the coach operators &amp; visitors.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence discussions with tourist coach operators.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the amenity of the local community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide vehicle, coach and bicycle parking at the Botanic Gardens and not in residential streets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all carspaces are available at peak times. Investigate coaches parking in Depot. Install additional bicycle racks.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of available vehicles spaces.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility of a residential parking scheme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek comments from the effected residents.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys undertaken.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
STRUCTURE & SERVICE**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Action	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide effective and consistent signage for the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-ordinate all signage in Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation complete. Feasibility assessed.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify signage which needs upgrading, and identify areas where additional signage is required.</li> </ul>		ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas requiring additional signage identified &amp; listed.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide effective and consistent signage for transport routes to the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and install the appropriate transport route signage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek approval from the relevant authorities.</li> </ul>	ST		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update community information boards.</li> </ul>		O		

**Table 3  
STRUCTURE & SERVICE**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Action	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide necessary enhancements that are well sited and visually compatible with the landscape character of the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To adaptively reuse the land and any buildings by enhancing the land and any buildings of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile an inventory of existing built structures and park furniture located within the Botanic Gardens precinct.</li> </ul>		ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory complete.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide the necessary park furniture to meet the needs of the users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a works program of the enhancements outlined by the Botanic Gardens Plan of Management Working Party.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Botanic Gardens Working Party enhancement list is outlined in Appendix.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works Program complete.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify community needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation surveys of Botanic Gardens users.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys completed and list of users requirements produced.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS**

Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the feasibility of a Community Information Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate customer response &amp; costings of an Information Centre at the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		LT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report feasibility to Council.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsorship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a sponsorship program for the Botanic Gardens area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a strategy for sponsorship of animals in the fauna park and the remainder of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide fact sheets, plaques &amp; determine costs of sponsorship strategies.</li> </ul>	ST-MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of integrated sponsorship strategy.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pricing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure a pricing structure is adequate to cater for the maintenance and capital requirements of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formulate a pricing structure for visitors, cars and buses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No charge shall be applied to Auburn residents and school groups</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pricing structure implemented.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an audit and monitoring process for the implementation of the pricing structure.</li> </ul>		ST		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate alternative payment options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of smart cards or pre-paid tickets will reduce cash transactions.</li> </ul>	ST		

**Table 3  
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS**

Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing and Promotion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To market and promote the Botanic Gardens as a regional facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise the most suitable and cost effective medium to market and promote the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eg. Advertising at cinemas, radio stations, newspapers, tourist journals, community notice boards, etc.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usage rates at the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>Advertising at Reading Cinema.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify activities within the Botanic Gardens that promote the gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eg. Noodle markets, jazz bands, herb markets, etc.</li> </ul>	MT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maximise funding opportunities for the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To actively seek and apply for grants for the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		O		

**Table 3  
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS**

Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage the Botanic Gardens to provide a range of recreation opportunities for a variety of users &amp; to facilitate a high level of use.</li> <li>To encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities.</li> <li>To facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all activities occurring within the Botanic Gardens are appropriate &amp; lie within the 'carrying capacity' of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of usage for recreation &amp; user satisfaction.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generate revenue to support the maintenance of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take bookings &amp; charge the appropriate fees as set out in Council's Fees and Charges document.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revenue collected.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide leases or licences for areas of the Botanic Gardens precinct in accordance with the Local Government Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kiosk is currently under a lease arrangement.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revenue collected.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
MANAGEMENT**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Consultation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To achieve higher levels of community and user awareness and participation in the management of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine user requirements or encourage users to provide feedback on the quality of facilities and service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation surveys of current users.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys undertaken.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively promote the Botanic Gardens area as focal points for local and regional activities and places for all the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage events such as Environmental Expo. Bushwalk tours, Fauna Shows.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion activities commenced.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage schools to use the Botanic Gardens as an educational tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence school programs, such as Junior Ranger.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement of educational programs.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the appropriate signage and displays are installed that promote the educational components of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rainforest walks, Australian birds in the Aviary, etc.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of appropriate signage and displays.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
MANAGEMENT**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide an educational facility for the school community.</li> <li>To encourage, promote and facilitate educational pastimes and activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop programs for local schools that promote the educational components of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs such as the Junior Waste Ranger, Automated presentations and visits to and from schools, etc.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of educational programs.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the Botanic Gardens has the appropriate level of security for the community and staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide infrastructure such as secure fencing, surveillance cameras, security lighting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate funding is required.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security incidents reports.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure staff have security licences and implement roving patrols from Council's Rangers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to report and monitor all occurrences of vandalism.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff training.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graffiti to be removed as soon as practicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are less likely to deface surfaces which are in undefaced or undamaged condition.</li> </ul>	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed of removal or repair work.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
MANAGEMENT**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety &amp; Risk Management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timely identification, measurement &amp; management of potential hazards to minimise Council's exposure to criticism, compensation claims &amp; litigations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formulate an inspection program to identify all potential hazards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer all potential hazards to maintenance program. Include in Council's Risk Management Manual.</li> </ul>	ST-MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspection program formulated &amp; implemented.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of Management Systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan of Management is reviewed &amp; updated as required to preserve, maintain &amp; enhance the values &amp; the landscape character of the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Plan of Management regularly. Review &amp; update policy &amp; planning issues after 5 years.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achievements of Plan objectives within the stated time frame.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
MAINTENANCE**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard of maintenance to be commensurate with the Botanic Gardens high profile as a regional facility &amp; to respond to the needs &amp; expectations of users &amp; the general community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare maintenance schedules for all components for maintenance.</li> </ul>		ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of maintenance schedules.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion.</li> <li>To preserve the land and or any buildings by maintaining the physical material of the land and building in its existing state and retardation of deterioration of the land and buildings.</li> <li>To maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment and protect and enhance all its functions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out regular maintenance of the Botanic Gardens to appropriate standards &amp; within budgetary constraints.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance program implemented on time &amp; within budget.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
MAINTENANCE**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance of Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent future problems, ensure appropriate allocation of funds &amp; delivery of cost-effective solutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need user-pay schemes &amp; fees that over costs &amp; are channelled into botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	ST - MT		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaken emergency repairs as required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council staff need to be pro-active.</li> </ul>	O		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide bins for users.</li> <li>To prohibit rubbish dumping and littering.</li> <li>To encourage and promote recycling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory signage at suitable locations.</li> <li>Community education.</li> <li>Provide garbage and recycling bins for glass, aluminium, and plastics.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of incidents of illegal dumping.</li> <li>Cost of clean-up and litter collection per year.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise the level of pollution within the Botanic Gardens.</li> <li>To protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of soil surface.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a soil monitoring program.</li> <li>Develop a waste minimisation strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide colour coded recycling system.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual monitoring of problem sites.</li> <li>Community acceptance of waste minimisation.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3  
ENVIRONMENT**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Run-Off</li> <li>Drainage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To adopt a Total Catchment Management approach to stormwater.</li> <li>To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and the foreshore.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify pipe network &amp; discharge points.</li> </ul>		ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of drainage plans.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan &amp; prioritise appropriate mitigation &amp; drainage works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eg. Sedimentation basins, trash racks, etc.</li> </ul>	ST - MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of mitigation &amp; drainage plans.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide satisfactory water quality to the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a water quality testing &amp; monitoring program.</li> </ul>		O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of water quality testing &amp; monitoring program.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify &amp; implement measures that will improve the water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A concrete base in the Japanese Pond will improve the water quality.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality of ponds within the Botanic Gardens.</li> </ul>	

**Table 3**  
**ENVIRONMENT**

Management Issue	Objectives & Performance Targets	Means of Achievement	Comments	Priority	Manner of Assessment	References
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fauna Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide a safe environment for the Fauna.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prohibit domestic animals for the Botanic Gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage &amp; infrastructure will be required</li> </ul>	O		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilisers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise the use of fertilisers used in the Botanic Gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a fertiliser reduction program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify fertilisers currently being used in the gardens.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of fertiliser reduction program.</li> </ul>	