

AGENDA

Environment and Planning Committee

Monday, 11 July 2022

7.00pm

**Dragon Room, 1st Floor,
Georges River Civic Centre, Hurstville**



OATH OF OFFICE OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their Oath of Office or Affirmation of Office made at the time of their swearing into the role of Councillor.

All Councillors are to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Georges River Council area and are to act faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

All Georges River Councillors are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise) in a matter being considered by Council or at any meeting of Council.

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**ORDER OF BUSINESS****1. OPENING****2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY****3. APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4. NOTICE OF WEBCASTING****5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST****6. PUBLIC FORUM****7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item: ENV016-22 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Environment and Planning Committee meeting held on 14 June 2022

Author: Executive Services Officer

Directorate: Office of the General Manager


Matter Type: Previous Minutes

ENV016-22

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2022 be confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#) 1  Unconfirmed Minutes - Environment and Planning - 14 June 2022

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

MINUTES

Environment and Planning Committee

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

7.00pm

Blended Meeting

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES



GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL

PRESENT

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Mayor, Councillor Katris, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Landsberry (Chairperson), Councillor Elise Borg, Councillor Peter Mahoney, Councillor Natalie Mort, Councillor Colleen Symington, Councillor Warren Tegg (online) and Councillor Benjamin Wang.

COUNCIL STAFF

Acting General Manager – David Tuxford, Director Environment and Planning - Meryl Bishop, Manager Strategic Planning - Catherine McMahon, Acting Director Community and Culture – Kristie Dodd, Acting Director Business and Corporate Services – Sue Weatherley, Strategic Planner/Information Management – Andy Zhou, Acting Manager Office of the General Manager - Vicki McKinley, Executive Services Officer - Neil Treadwell (Minutes) and Technology Systems Officer – Alex Wong.

OPENING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry, opened the meeting at 7.05pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Bidjegal people of the Eora Nation.

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Councillor Borg and Councillor Wang

That apologies be accepted and leave of absence be granted for Councillor Jamieson.

Record of Voting:

For the Motion: Unanimous

NOTICE OF WEBCASTING

The Chairperson, Councillor Landsberry, advised staff and the public that the meeting is being recorded for minute-taking purposes and is also webcast live on Council's website, in accordance with Section 4 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice. This recording will be made available on Council's website.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made.

PUBLIC FORUM

	Speaker	Report No	Report Title
1	Aaron Sutherland	ENV015-22	Planning Proposal PP2022/0001 - 9 Gloucester Road Hurstville - Request for Gateway Determination

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ENV014-22 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Meeting held on 9 May 2022
(Report by Executive Services Officer)

RECOMMENDATION: Councillor Borg and Councillor Wang

That the Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 May 2022 be confirmed.

Record of Voting:

For the Motion: Unanimous

ENV015-22 Planning Proposal PP2022/0001 - 9 Gloucester Road Hurstville - Request for Gateway Determination
(Report by Strategic Planner/Information Management)

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor, Councillor Katris and Councillor Mahoney

- (a) That Council support the recommendation of the Georges River Local Planning Panel dated 2 June 2022 for the Planning Proposal PP2022/0001 relating to 9 Gloucester Road, Hurstville.
- (b) That Council support the amendment to Schedule 1 of the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 proposed by Planning Proposal PP2022/0001 relating to part of the site known as 9 Gloucester Road, Hurstville.
- (c) That Council endorse the forwarding of Planning Proposal PP2022/0001 relating to 9 Gloucester Road, Hurstville to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to request a Gateway Determination under Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for an amendment to the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 by:
 - 1) introducing "residential flat building" as an additional permitted use on "Area A" of the Site (being Part Lot 30 DP785238); and
 - 2) excluding the application of Clause 6.13 Development in certain business zones from "Area A" of the Site (being Part Lot 30 DP785238).
- (d) That the Planning Proposal be placed on formal public exhibition in accordance with the conditions of any Gateway Determination issued by the DPE.
- (e) That Council write to the DPE requesting that the Planning Proposal be placed on the public exhibition for 28 days.
- (f) That Council consider a report on the submissions received following the public exhibition.

Record of Voting:

For the Motion: The Mayor, Councillor Katris and Councillors Borg, Mahoney, Tegg and Wang.

Against the Motion: Cr Landsberry (abstained)

CONCLUSION

The Meeting was closed at 7.23pm

Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item: ENV017-22 Report on Submissions - Planning Proposal to List 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno ('Glenlee') as a Local Heritage Item

Author: Strategic Planner

Directorate: Environment and Planning

Matter Type: Committee Reports

ENV017-22

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council note the submissions received during the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal PP2022/0002 that seeks to list 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno, known as 'Glenlee' as a local heritage item.
- (b) That Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 as exhibited in relation to Lot 1 DP10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno to:
 - a. List No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage of the Georges River LEP 2021; and
 - b. Amend the Heritage Map - Sheet HER_003 to map No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as "Item – General".
- (c) That Council forward the Planning Proposal for gazettal to the Department of Planning and Environment in accordance with Section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- (d) That all persons who made a submission to the Planning Proposal be advised of Council's decision.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the outcome of the public exhibition of a Planning Proposal (PP2022/0002) that seeks to list 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno, known as 'Glenlee' as a local heritage item.
2. The Planning Proposal (PP) was publicly exhibited for a period exceeding 28 days, from Wednesday 4 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022. A total of 120 community submissions and two (2) public authority submissions were received. Of the community submissions, 56% (67) provided direct support for the PP and/or heritage listing. A further 43% (52) provided general support for Glenlee (e.g., retaining/preserving the site for the benefit of the community, but did not specifically mention the PP or heritage listing). Only one (1) submission provided a neutral response, and no submissions were received objecting to the PP. No response was received from the current owner/s of the site. Both public authority submissions supported the PP.
3. There are no recommended changes to the PP as a result of the submissions received. The PP has been updated to reflect the outcomes of the public exhibition and agency consultation. A copy of the PP is in **Attachment 1**.
4. It is recommended that the PP be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for gazettal.

BACKGROUND

5. At its meeting on 24 January 2022, Council resolved to prepare a Planning Proposal (PP) to list Lot 1 DP10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno (also known as 'Glenlee') as a local heritage item within Schedule 5 of the Georges River Local Environmental Plan (GRLEP) 2021. The Georges River Local Planning Panel supported the listing at its meeting on 17 February 2022 and Council at its Meeting held on 28 March 2022 unanimously resolved (ENV008-22) to endorse the forwarding of PP2022/0002 to the DPE to request a Gateway Determination under Section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. A copy of the 28 March 2022 resolution is provided below:

ENV008-22 Planning Proposal PP2022/00002 - Lot 1 DP 10359 (80) Boronia Parade Lugarno - Request for Gateway Determination

- (a) *That Council acknowledge the Heritage Assessment Report for Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade, Lugarno prepared by GML Heritage and the recommendation that the Site be listed as a local heritage item.*
 - (b) *That Council support the listing of Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a local heritage item on the heritage schedule of the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 which contains the appropriate provisions for protecting and managing the item.*
 - (c) *That Council support the State listing of Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade, Lugarno.*
 - (d) *That Council endorse the forwarding of Planning Proposal PP2022/0002 to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to request a Gateway Determination under Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 for an amendment to the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 by:*
 - i. listing Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade Lugarno as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage; and*
 - ii. mapping Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade Lugarno as "Item – General" on the Heritage Map.*
6. On 29 March 2022 the PP was forwarded to the DPE for a Gateway Determination. A Gateway Determination was issued by the DPE on 6 April 2022, which authorised Council to be the local plan-making authority. The Gateway Determination required minor changes to both the PP and GML's Heritage Assessment. An updated Heritage Assessment addressing the Gateway conditions was lodged with Council on 11 April 2022. The PP was also updated.
- Subject Site and Locality**
7. The site subject to the Planning Proposal (PP) is Lot 1 DP 10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno (also known as 'Glenlee'). The locality and subject site are shown in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** below.

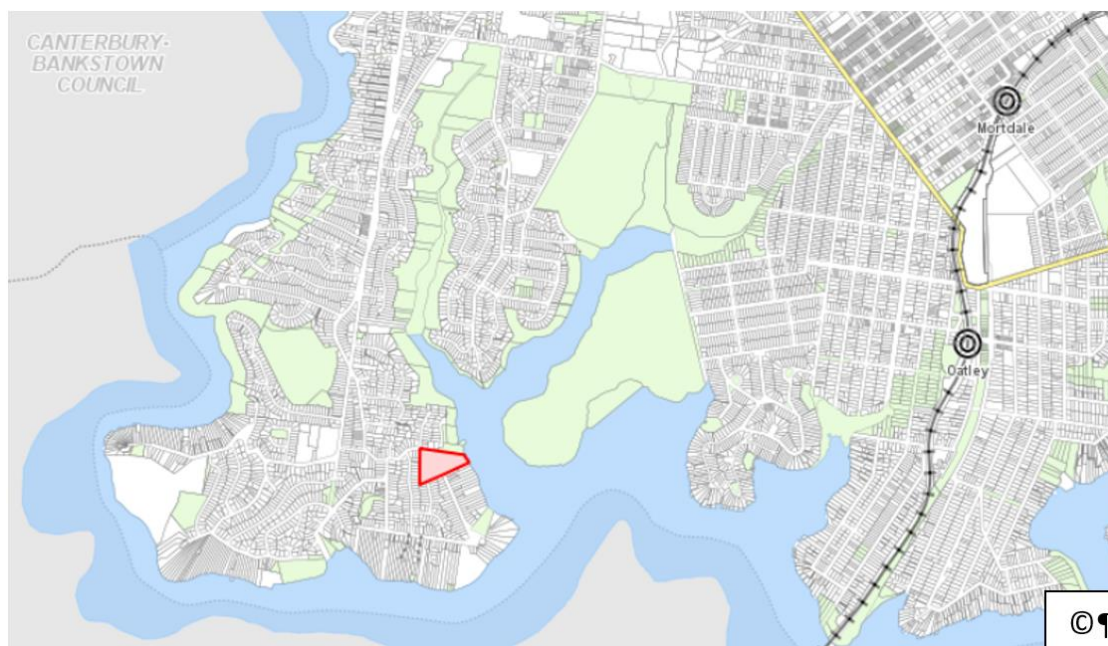


Figure 1 – Locality

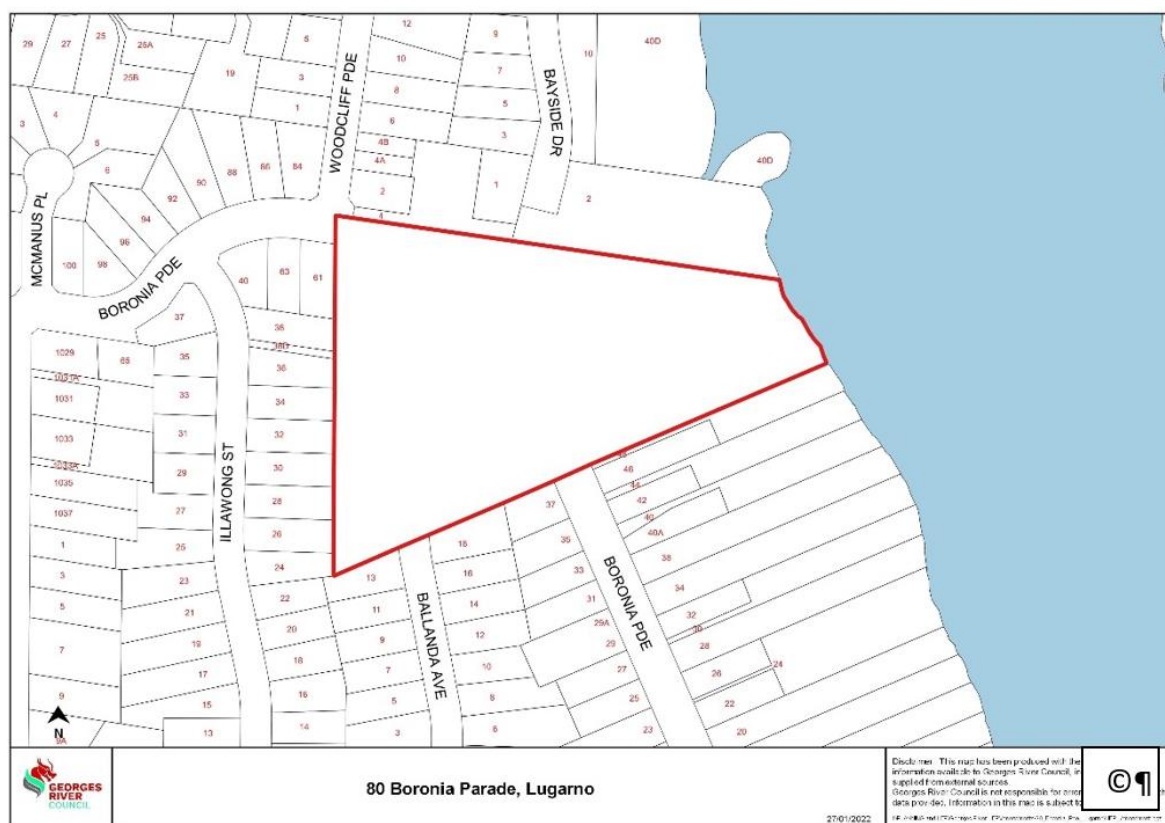


Figure 2 – Subject Site

Planning Proposal

8. The PP seeks to amend the GRLEP 2021 by:

- listing Lot 1 DP 10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage as follows:

Suburb	Item name	Address	Property description	Significance	Item no
Lugarno	Glenlee	80 Boronia Parade	Lot 1 DP10359	Local	I317*

*The heritage item number is indicative only and will be confirmed at the finalisation stage.

- mapping Lot 1 DP 10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as “Item – General” on the Heritage Map. The proposed Heritage Map - Sheet HER_003 is illustrated in **Figure 3** below:

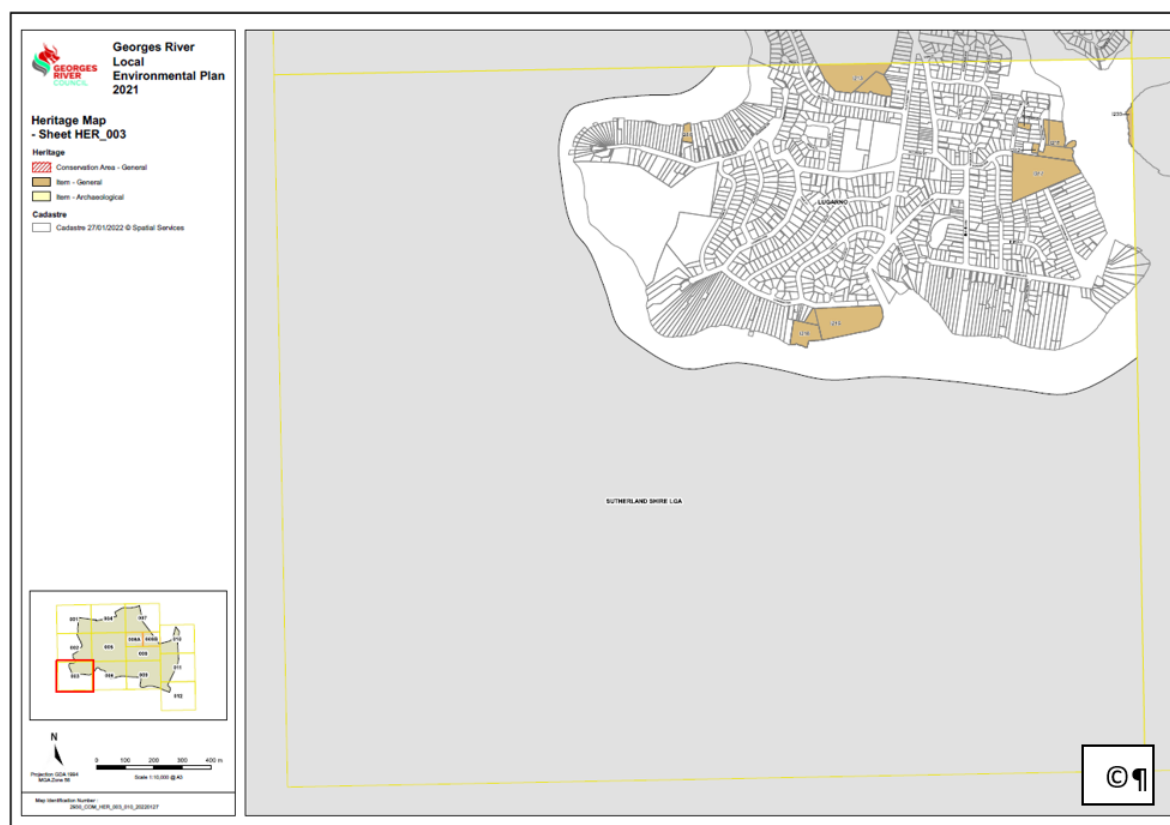


Figure 3 – Proposed Heritage Map Sheet_003

- A copy of the PP is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Heritage Assessment of the Site

- The PP is supported by a heritage assessment by GML Heritage Consultants which was exhibited with the PP. The Report concludes that the site has cultural significance at the State level under criteria (f) and (g) and at the local level under criteria (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) as set out in **Figure 4** below.

<p>Criterion (a)</p> <p>An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);</p>	<p>Criterion (e)</p> <p>An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);</p>
<p>Criterion (b)</p> <p>An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);</p>	<p>Criterion (f)</p> <p>An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);</p>
<p>Criterion (c)</p> <p>An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);</p>	<p>Criterion (g)</p> <p>An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural or natural places; or • cultural or natural environments. <p>(or a class of the local area's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural or natural places; or • cultural or natural environments.)
<p>Criterion (d)</p> <p>An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;</p>	

**Figure 4 – Extract from Assessing heritage significance
(NSW Heritage Manual 2001)**

11. The Heritage Assessment Report recommends that the site be listed as a heritage item in the GRLEP 2021 as well as considered for State heritage listing.
12. The Report is thorough and comprehensive and assesses all the issues related to the site. In terms of the assessment against the heritage criteria outlined by the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines the following is to be noted:

- a. **Criterion A (Historical Significance):** The site has cultural significance at a local level under this criterion. The Report indicates that the site itself has historical significance due to its connection to the practice of oyster farming in the Georges River. The Report states on pages 165 and 166:

Cultivation of oysters in Lime Kiln Bay near the subject site began in 1886 and was a profitable commercial enterprise. The Matthei family, who took over the leases in 1906, continued oyster farming at the site through to 1996. The Mattheis were some of the most prominent oyster farmers in the Georges River area and the practice was one of their primary sources of income.

Significant intact features that evidence the historical significance of the site include Glenlee house, the movable heritage elements, the boatsheds and jetty, the cable-pulley engine shed, the orchard, vegetable gardens, cultural plantings, landscape features and outbuildings.

- b. **Criterion B (Associative Significance):** The site has cultural significance at a local level under this criterion. The Report states on page 166:

Glenlee has associative significance at a local level for its connection to the Matthei family, who occupied the site continuously for over a century. Originally granted to absentee owner Thomas George Lee in 1856, the site came to be owned by prominent wool broker JH Geddes. While it appears the first structure on the site (since demolished) was constructed during Geddes' ownership, his most significant contribution to the site was

the introduction of oysters from his lease in Port Hacking. The site came to be owned by a German immigrant family from Hamburg, the Mattheis, who built Glenlee house soon afterward.

The Mattheis were among the early settlers in the area who established farming and orcharding on the site. The Mattheis were particularly involved in developing oyster farming in the area. They were involved in the social life and émigré community of the Lugarno area, being active in the local German Zither Club. They were heavily involved in the Lugarno and District Progress Association, and as such actively contributed to the development of the wider Lugarno area. Like many early settlers, the family subdivided their land, selling off portions which helped to establish early residential development along the river front throughout the twentieth century. The family occupied the site for over a century, and continued oyster farming at the site for 90 years. Their continuous occupation of the site gives Glenlee associative significance to the local community.

- c. **Criterion C (Aesthetic Significance):** The site has cultural significance at a local level under this criterion. The Report states on pages 166 and 167:

Glenlee has aesthetic significance to the Lugarno area as a highly intact representation of a Federation European settlement. Glenlee house, built c1906, is a good representation of a modest weatherboard cottage, constructed on sandstone foundations. Despite the introduction of a kitchen extension in the 1950s, the house is highly intact, retaining significant original details including pressed metal ceilings, a fanlight, and decorative gables. The kitchen is similarly representative of a typical 1950s kitchen retaining original joinery and fixtures.

Typical of early settlements, Glenlee responds to the natural landscape and topography of the site, situated on a slope and oriented to face the river, taking advantages of the sweeping views across the grounds to the waterfront. These views remain undisturbed and represent the relationship between early settlements and the river. The grounds retain early orchards, gardens, vegetable gardens and fruit trees, with associated landscape elements such as stone retaining walls and stairways, paths, irrigation systems, and cultural plantings, which are characteristic of an early settlement.

The scenic character of the site is enhanced by the bushland and tree regrowth which separates the site from surrounding development, preserving its historically isolated setting, as well as a natural water course, and a creek that has been channelled with block sandstone banks. The site has landmark quality in the surrounding area, representing one of the few remaining riverside settlements, and is highly visible along the waterfront, with the boatsheds and jetty visible from Oatley Park.

The site retains an array of Aboriginal archaeological evidence. The grinding grooves, water hole and setting of the creek hold an aesthetic value which has been identified as important to the local Aboriginal community.

- d. **Criterion D (Social Significance):** A thorough, formal social values assessment should be undertaken but it is likely that the site has cultural significance at a local level under this criterion. The Report states on page 167:

The Glenlee site remains one of the most prominent areas in Lugarno. Its aesthetic and historic qualities are well known and appreciated throughout

the local community, whose strong connection to the site is evident in the 'Save Glenlee' campaign, supported by a petition raised by a local MP with over 1,200 signatures. This level of community interest suggests that the site holds social significance in the Lugarno area. Historically, Glenlee had social significance among the community of early settlers residing in the area, and within local immigrant social groups, such as the German Zither Club.

- e. **Criterion E (Research Potential):** With respect to Aboriginal cultural and archaeological heritage, the site has cultural significance at a local level under this criterion. The Report states on page 168:

As part of the local First Nations cultural landscape (criterion A), the range of evidence within the site has the potential to yield new information and understanding of these connections, notably from the middle to late Holocene.

- f. **Criterion F (Rarity):** The site has cultural significance at a State level under this criterion. The Report states on page 169:

Largely established in the early twentieth century, and developed by the Matthei family, Glenlee is a highly intact early European riverfront settlement with an associated cultural landscape. Despite subdivisions, Glenlee retains much of its original estate and is a rare example of an intact riverfront settlement in NSW. Glenlee house is a modest cottage which, despite later extension, is highly internally intact. The house also contains a significant movable heritage collection which encompasses material relating to the Matthei family and the Lugarno area across the twentieth century. The integrity of the interiors of the house and its collection are likely to be rare within Lugarno, and have potential to be rare within regional NSW.

The early orchards, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and cultural plantings introduced by the Matthei family remain legible in the landscape and are revealing of early agricultural practices. The historic relationship between the house, grounds and river has been maintained, and the significant views to and from Georges River, and early access paths and stairs which lead to the river, have been conserved. Glenlee similarly retains evidence of significant marine activity including a jetty, boatsheds and remnants of a cable-pulley system which demonstrate the use of the river for transportation and attest to a significant period of oyster farming undertaken on the site. The integrity of the setting is rare in comparison to similar settlements which remain in NSW.

- g. **Criterion G (Representativeness):** For First Nation's heritage, the site has cultural significance at a local level under this criterion. For European heritage values, the site has cultural significance at a State level under this criterion. The Report states on page 170:

The First Nations archaeological evidence, notably the grinding grooves set within the intact flowing creek, are good representative examples of the site type. The grinding grooves are deeply incised and easily

identifiable; they hold good education potential to demonstrate past Aboriginal lifeways.

The high degree of integrity and intactness of both the house and its setting make the Glenlee site representative of an early European riverfront settlement, both within the Lugarno area, and NSW more broadly. Glenlee house is a typical Federation cottage, showing the regional preference for weatherboard construction. The introduction of the kitchen in the 1950s is typical of the adaptation of early houses to suit modern needs. The interior of the house is otherwise highly intact, retaining significant original fabric and a movable heritage collection which are representative of the typology, and of the evolution of regional housing more generally.

The grounds of Glenlee continue to communicate the site's early function, retaining remnants of the orchard, vegetable garden, and cultural plantings, representative of both the self-sufficiency of the settlement, and the use of the land for commercial agriculture. The important relationship between the river and the settlement is seen in the retention of the jetty and boatshed, providing both transport and industry. The remnants of the cable-pulley system on the site, primarily the shed which housed the system's engine, is a key element which provides evidence of the oyster farming which occurred at the site until 1996. These marine elements are representative of the type and scale of infrastructure employed at oyster farming estates and of the techniques and means by which small growers conducted their farming.

Assessment of the Planning Proposal (PP)

13. The following **Tables 1 to 5** provide a detailed assessment and justification of the proposal's strategic and site-specific merit to determine whether the PP should be supported. The tables contain the 12 questions from the DPE's *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* dated December 2021 which outlines the matters for consideration when describing, evaluating and justifying a proposal.

Table 1 – Section A – Need for the planning proposal

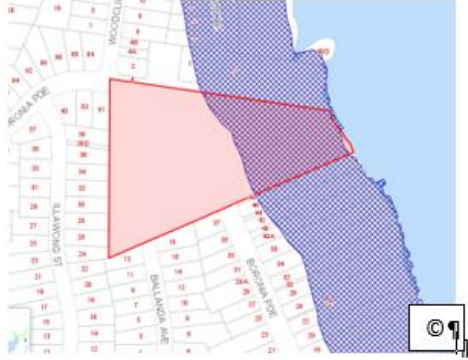
Question	Considerations
1. Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report?	<p>The PP is not the result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report. It is however consistent with the following Council adopted documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 contains Goal 1.4 which requires that "Local heritage is protected and promoted." Strategy 1.4.1 requires that Council Recognise the LGA's local heritage through heritage listings in LEPs and protection policies in DCPs. • Georges River Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 ('LSPS 2040') contains Planning Priority P11. Aboriginal and other heritage is protected and promoted. <p>The PP is the result of the report by GML Heritage titled "Glenlee, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno, Heritage Assessment" updated 11 April 2022. The GML Report assesses the site against the heritage criteria outlined by the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines. The guidelines incorporate the five types of cultural heritage values (being aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual values)</p>

Question	Considerations
	<p>identified in the Burra Charter into a structured framework which is the format required by heritage authorities in NSW. Under these guidelines, items (or 'places' in Burra Charter terminology) are assessed in accordance with a specific set of criteria.</p> <p>Comments on how the site meets the specific heritage criteria outlined by the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines are provided earlier in this report.</p> <p>A Statement of Significance has been prepared for Glenlee and is contained in the Report on pages 174 and 175. The Statement concludes with:</p> <p><i>Glenlee is likely to have exceptional significance within NSW as a rare, intact, early European riverfront settlement, with a high degree of representative significance as a demonstration of an early way of life, and of significant activities in NSW.</i></p> <p>The GML Report recommends that the site be listed as a heritage item in the GRLEP 2021 as well as considered for State heritage listing.</p>
<p>2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?</p>	<p>The PP represents the best means of achieving the intended outcomes.</p> <p>The site is not currently listed as a heritage item in Schedule 5 of the GRLEP 2021. An interim heritage order was made over the site on 28 January 2022 in order for the site to be protected whilst Council follows the planning proposal process to list the site in the LEP. Listing of the site will still allow its redevelopment but will ensure that the significance of the site is assessed in accordance with Clause 5.10 of Council's LEP.</p> <p>The site is classified by the National Trust (NSW) as an item of high cultural heritage significance and value. The site provides uncharacteristically strong and important surviving evidence of the pre-development and urban landscape of the locality with extant vegetation and landscaped character pre-dating 1943. The site contains physical remains of pre-European occupation, including items and remnants of the occupation of the land by Aboriginal people, and has a high potential to yield Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. The natural characteristics of the site, being situated within close proximity to the waterfront and incorporating the land and water interface, together with the relatively undisturbed natural landscape and mature tree canopy, demonstrate high potential for natural historical significance.</p>

Table 2 – Section B – Relationship to the strategic planning framework

Question	Considerations						
3. Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?	<p>The PP will give effect to the objectives and actions of the following plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan</i> - Objective 13: Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced and Objective 28: Scenic and cultural landscapes are protected. <i>Comment:</i> The PP seeks to list the site in Schedule 5 of the GRLEP 2021 and therefore identifying and conserving the significance of the site. • <i>South District Plan</i> - Planning Priority S6: Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage and Action 20: Identify, conserve and enhance environmental heritage. <i>Comment:</i> The PP will respect a significant site in Georges River's history and will conserve its environmental heritage. 						
4. Is the planning proposal consistent with a council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GSC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?	The PP is consistent with the endorsed <i>Georges River Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040</i> ('LSPS 2040') and its Planning Priority P11 which states - <i>Aboriginal and other heritage is protected and promoted.</i>						
5. Is the planning proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?	There are no other applicable State and regional studies or strategies.						
6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable SEPPs?	<p>The PP is consistent with the following SEPPs:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="564 1503 916 1536">SEPP</th><th data-bbox="916 1503 1422 1536">Comment on consistency</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 1536 916 2096">State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021</td><td data-bbox="916 1536 1422 2096"> <p>This SEPP consolidates and repeals the provisions of the following 3 SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011 (State and Regional Development SEPP) • SEPP (Aboriginal Land) 2019 (Aboriginal Land SEPP) • SEPP (Concurrences and Consents) 2018 (Concurrence SEPP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="564 2096 916 2130">State Environmental</td><td data-bbox="916 2096 1422 2130">This SEPP consolidates, transfers and</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	SEPP	Comment on consistency	State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021	<p>This SEPP consolidates and repeals the provisions of the following 3 SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011 (State and Regional Development SEPP) • SEPP (Aboriginal Land) 2019 (Aboriginal Land SEPP) • SEPP (Concurrences and Consents) 2018 (Concurrence SEPP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>	State Environmental	This SEPP consolidates, transfers and
SEPP	Comment on consistency						
State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021	<p>This SEPP consolidates and repeals the provisions of the following 3 SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011 (State and Regional Development SEPP) • SEPP (Aboriginal Land) 2019 (Aboriginal Land SEPP) • SEPP (Concurrences and Consents) 2018 (Concurrence SEPP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>						
State Environmental	This SEPP consolidates, transfers and						

Question	Considerations
	<p>Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021</p> <p>repeals provisions of the following 11 SEPPs (or deemed SEPPs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017 (Vegetation SEPP) • SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020 (Koala SEPP 2020) • SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2021 (Koala SEPP 2021) • Murray Regional Environmental Plan No 2—Riverine Land (Murray REP) • SEPP No 19—Bushland in Urban Areas (SEPP 19) • SEPP No 50—Canal Estate Development (SEPP 50) • SEPP (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011 (Sydney Drinking Water SEPP) • Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 20 – Hawkesbury – Nepean River (No 2 – 1997) (Hawkesbury–Nepean River SREP) • Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 (Sydney Harbour Catchment SREP) • Greater Metropolitan Regional Environmental Plan No 2 – Georges River Catchment (Georges River REP) • Willandra Lakes Regional Environmental Plan No 1 – World Heritage Property (Willandra Lakes REP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>
	<p>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</p> <p>This SEPP consolidates and repeals the provisions of the following 3 SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (Coastal Management) 2018 (Coastal Management SEPP) • SEPP 33 – Hazardous and Offensive Development (SEPP 33) • SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land (SEPP 55) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP. The site is within a coastal use area as identified by the former <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal</i></p>

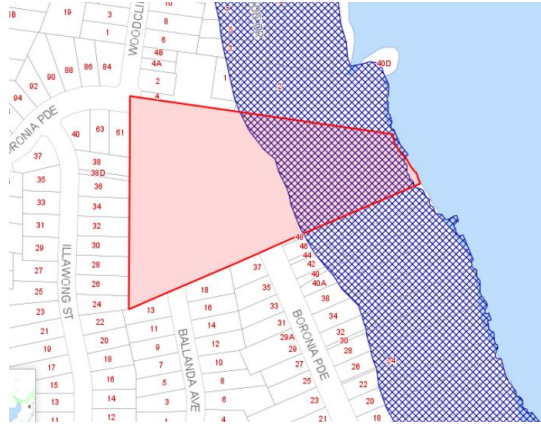
Question	Considerations
	<p><i>Management</i>) 2018. Refer to Figure 5 below. The PP does not propose a rezoning nor intensification of uses permitted. The PP only proposes to amend the Heritage Map to the GRLEP 2021 and not the other maps relating to coastal management.</p>  <p><i>Figure 5 - Area of Site Affected by Coastal Use Area</i></p>
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	<p>This SEPP consolidates and repeals the provisions of the following 4 SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007 (Infrastructure SEPP) • SEPP (Educational Establishments and Childcare Facilities) 2017 (Education and Childcare SEPP) • SEPP (Major Infrastructure Corridors) 2020 (Corridor SEPP) • SEPP (Three Ports) 2013 (Three Ports SEPP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>
State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021	<p>This SEPP consolidates, transfers and repeals the provisions of the following 2 SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP (Western Sydney Employment Area) 2009 (Western Sydney Employment SEPP) • SEPP 64 – Advertising and Signage (SEPP 64) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>
State Environmental Planning Policy	<p>This SEPP consolidates and repeals the provisions of the following 2 SEPPs:</p>

Question	Considerations										
	(Resources and Energy) 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SEPP (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP)Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 9 – Extractive Industries (No 2 – 1995) (Extractive Industries SREP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>									
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021	<p>This SEPP consolidates, transfers and repeals the provisions of the following SEPPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">SEPP (Primary Production and Rural Development) 2019 (Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP)Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 8 (Central Coast Plateau Areas) (Central Coast Plateau SREP) <p>The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.</p>									
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts - Eastern Harbour City) 2021	The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP. The site is not the subject of a Precinct identified by the SEPP.									
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021	The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP. The PP does not change the existing zoning, height and FSR provisions relating to the site.									
	State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	The PP is not inconsistent with the SEPP.									
7. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions)?	<p>The PP is consistent with the applicable Ministerial Directions as follows:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Ministerial Direction</th><th>Comment</th></tr><tr><td colspan="3">1 Planning Systems</td></tr><tr><td>1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans</td><td colspan="2"><p>Consistent – The PP is consistent with:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan - Objective 13: Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced and Objective 28:</td></tr></table>		Ministerial Direction		Comment	1 Planning Systems			1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans	<p>Consistent – The PP is consistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan - Objective 13: Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced and Objective 28:	
Ministerial Direction		Comment									
1 Planning Systems											
1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans	<p>Consistent – The PP is consistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan - Objective 13: Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced and Objective 28:										

Question		Considerations
		<p>Scenic and cultural landscapes are protected. <i>Comment:</i> The PP seeks to list the site in Schedule 5 of the GRLEP 2021 and therefore identifying and conserving the significance of the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>South District Plan</i> - Planning Priority S6: Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage and Action 20: Identify, conserve and enhance environmental heritage. <i>Comment:</i> The PP will respect a significant site in Georges River's history and will conserve its environmental heritage.
	1.2 Development of Aboriginal Land Council land	Consistent – The PP does not affect land shown on the Land Application Map of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Aboriginal Land) 2019</i> .
	1.3 Approval and Referral Requirements	Consistent – The PP does not seek to make any additional provisions that require the concurrence, consultation or referral of development applications to a Minister or public authority.
	1.4 Site Specific Provisions	Consistent – The PP does not allow a particular development to be carried out.
	1 Planning Systems – Place-based	
	1.5 Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy	NA
	1.6 Implementation of North West Priority Growth Area Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	NA
	1.7 Implementation of Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	NA
	1.8 Implementation of Wilton Priority Growth Area Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan	NA

Question		Considerations
	1.9 Implementation of Glenfield to Macarthur Urban Renewal Corridor	NA
	1.10 Implementation of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan	NA
	1.11 Implementation of Bayside West Precincts 2036 Plan	NA
	1.12 Implementation of Planning Principles for the Cooks Cove Precinct	NA
	1.13 Implementation of St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan	NA
	1.14 Implementation of Greater Macarthur 2040	NA
	1.15 Implementation of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy	NA
	1.16 North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy	NA
	1.17 Implementation of the Bays West Place Strategy	NA
	2 Design and Place	
	3 Biodiversity and Conservation	
	3.1 Conservation Zones	Consistent – The PP does not apply to land within a conservation zone or land otherwise identified for environment conservation/protection purposes in a LEP.
	3.2 Heritage Conservation	Consistent - Heritage conservation is covered by a compulsory clause in the <i>Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Order 2006</i> . The GRLEP 2021 has adopted the Standard Instrument and does identify such items, areas, objects or places of environmental heritage significance or indigenous heritage significance as are relevant to the terms of this direction on the Heritage Map and relevant Schedule of the LEP. This PP seeks to add No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno to Schedule 5 of the GRLEP

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Question	Considerations
	2021 and the proposed listing is supported by a heritage assessment.
	3.3 Sydney Drinking Water Catchments
	Consistent – The site is zoned R2 Low Density Residential and is supplied by reticulated water.
	3.4 Application of C2 and C3 Zones and Environmental Overlays in Far North Coast LEPs
	NA
	3.5 Recreation Vehicle Areas
	Consistent – The PP does not enable land to be developed for the purpose of a recreation vehicle area (within the meaning of <i>the Recreation Vehicles Act 1983</i>).
4 Resilience and Hazards	
4.1 Flooding	Consistent – The PP does not create, remove or alter a zone or a provision that affects flood prone land.
4.2 Coastal Management	<p>Consistent - The site is within a coastal use area as identified by chapter 3 of the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i>. Refer to Figure 6 below. The PP does not propose a rezoning nor intensification of uses permitted. The PP only proposes to amend the Heritage Map to the GRLEP 2021 and not the other maps relating to coastal management.</p>  <p><i>Figure 6 - Area of Site Affected by Coastal Use Area</i></p>
4.3 Planning for Bushfire Protection	Consistent – The site and its surrounds has not been mapped as bushfire prone land.
4.4 Remediation of Contaminated Land	<p>Consistent - The land has not been identified as contaminated land in a public register.</p> <p>The site is currently occupied by a dwelling and</p>

Question		Considerations
		<p>outbuildings and does not include activities that are likely to cause contamination. The site is not known to contain any contaminated land.</p> <p>The PP does not rezone the site which is currently zoned R2 Low Density Residential under the GRLEP 2021.</p> <p>Further site investigations can be undertaken as part of any future development application for the site.</p>
	4.5 Acid Sulfate Soils	Consistent – The PP does not seek to change the existing Acid Sulfate Soils Class 5 for the site.
	4.6 Mine Subsidence and Unstable Land	<p>Consistent – The PP does not permit development on land that:</p> <p>(a) is within a mine subsidence district, or</p> <p>(b) has been identified as unstable in a study, strategy or other assessment undertaken:</p> <p>(i) by or on behalf of the relevant planning authority, or</p> <p>(ii) by or on behalf of a public authority and provided to the relevant planning authority.</p>
	5 Transport and Infrastructure	
	5.1 Integrating Land Use and Transport	Consistent – The PP will not create, alter or remove a zone or a provision relating to urban land, including land zoned for residential, business, industrial, village or tourist purposes.
	5.2 Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Consistent – The PP does not seek to reserve land for a public purpose.
	5.3 Development Near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields	Consistent – The PP does not propose to rezone the site.
	5.4 Shooting Ranges	Consistent – The PP does not seek to rezone land adjacent to and/ or adjoining an existing shooting range.
	6 Housing	
	6.1 Residential Zones	Consistent – The PP does not propose changes to the existing R2 Zone of the site.
	6.2 Caravan Parks and Manufactured Home Estates	Consistent – The PP does not propose to permit development for the purposes of a caravan park to be carried on the site.
	7. Industry and Employment	
	7.1 Business and Industrial Zones	Consistent - The PP does not affect land within an existing or proposed business or industrial zone (including the alteration of any existing

Question		Considerations
		business or industrial zone boundary).
	7.2 Reduction in non-hosted short-term rental accommodation period	Consistent – The PP does not identify or reduce the number of days that non-hosted short-term rental accommodation may be carried out within the LGA.
	7.3 Commercial and Retail Development along the Pacific Highway, North Coast	NA
	8 Resources and Energy	
	8.1 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries	Consistent – The PP does not have the effect of: (a) prohibiting the mining of coal or other minerals, production of petroleum, or winning or obtaining of extractive materials, or (b) restricting the potential development of resources of coal, other minerals, petroleum or extractive materials which are of State or regional significance by permitting a land use that is likely to be incompatible with such development.
	9 Primary Production	
	9.1 Rural Zones	Consistent – The site is zoned R2 Low Density Residential under the GRLEP 2021.
	9.2 Rural Lands	Consistent – The PP does not: (a) affect land within an existing or proposed rural or environment protection zone (including the alteration of any existing rural or environment protection zone boundary) or (b) change the existing minimum lot size on land within a rural or environment protection zone.
	9.3 Oyster Aquaculture	Consistent – The PP does not propose a change in land use.
	9.4 Farmland of State and Regional Significance on the NSW Far North Coast	NA

Table 3 – Section C – Environmental, social and economic impact

Question	Considerations
<p>8. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected because of the proposal?</p>	<p>The PP seeks to amend the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listing No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage; and • mapping No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as “Item – General” on the Heritage Map. <p>The PP is not seeking a rezoning, nor inserting new land uses into the R2 Low Density Residential zoning affecting the site. There will be no impacts on critical habitat or threatened species.</p>
<p>9. Are there any other likely environmental effects of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?</p>	<p>The PP seeks to amend the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listing No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage; and • mapping No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as “Item – General” on the Heritage Map. <p>The PP is not seeking a rezoning, nor inserting new land uses into the R2 Low Density Residential zoning affecting the site. There will be no adverse environmental impacts from the PP.</p>
<p>10. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?</p>	<p>The PP seeks to list the site as a heritage item in Council’s LEP so that any development on the site will need to consider Clause 5.10 of the LEP and the impacts on the heritage significance of the item. The heritage listing of the site in Schedule 5 of the LEP will not sterilise the site. The site can be developed.</p> <p>With respect to social impacts, the heritage assessment by GML Heritage states that it is likely that Glenlee has cultural significance at a local level under Criterion D (Social Significance) of the NSW Heritage Office Guidelines. The Report states on page 167:</p> <p><i>The Glenlee site remains one of the most prominent areas in Lugarno. Its aesthetic and historic qualities are well known and appreciated throughout the local community, whose strong connection to the site is evident in the 'Save Glenlee' campaign, supported by a petition raised by a local MP with over 1,200 signatures. This level of community interest suggests that the site holds social significance in the Lugarno area. Historically, Glenlee had social significance among the community of early settlers residing in the area, and within local immigrant social groups, such as the German Zither Club.</i></p> <p>Not protecting the site through a listing in Schedule 5 of the GRLEP 2021 will have an adverse social impact on the history and development of Lugarno and the wider community.</p>

Table 4 – Section D – Infrastructure (Local, State and Commonwealth)

Question	Considerations
11. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?	<p>The PP seeks to amend the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> listing No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage; and mapping No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as “Item – General” on the Heritage Map. <p>The PP is not seeking a rezoning, nor inserting new land uses into the R2 Low Density Residential zoning which may result in an increase in the demand for public services and facilities.</p>

Table 5 – Section E – State and Commonwealth Interests

Question	Considerations
12. What are the views of state and federal public authorities and government agencies consulted in order to form the Gateway Determination?	<p>On 24 January 2022 Council was advised that the Minister had decided to make a local Interim Heritage Order (IHO) over the site as it has potential local and State heritage values and is at imminent risk when the existing local IHO expires on 13 February 2022. The decision was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 28 January 2022. Council has the support of Heritage NSW.</p>

State Heritage Listing

- Given that the GML Report recommended that the Site be considered for State Heritage Listing, Council also resolved at its meeting held 28 March 2022 to support the State listing of Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade, Lugarno.
- The '*Heritage Assessment Final Report*' compiled by GML was provided to NSW Heritage via Council letter dated 4 April as per Council the Council resolution dated 28 March 2022.
- The Heritage Council of NSW's State Heritage Register is currently considering a nomination to list "Glenlee" on the State Heritage Register.

Public Exhibition of the Planning Proposal (PP)

- The PP was placed on public exhibition from 4 May 2022 to 3 June 2022. The notification for the public exhibition included the following:
 - 187 letters sent to affected landowners, adjoining landowners and government authorities advising of the PP being placed on public exhibition;
 - Advertisement in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader Newspaper (4 May 2022 and 18 May 2022);
 - Dedicated page on Council's Your Say website;
 - Displays in Council's Customer Service Centres and libraries including the PP and supporting documentation;
 - 2x Facebook and 2x Instagram posts; and
 - Availability of telephone and face to face contact with planning officers.
- During the exhibition, a total of 120 community submissions were received, including 112 via Council's dedicated Your Say website and 8 via direct email. Repeat/duplicate

submissions from the same submitter were counted as one submission. Of the 120 community submissions, one submission was received from a community group (Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society) and one submission was received from a Councillor in their capacity as a resident.

19. Public authority submissions were received from Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment) and National Trust of Australia (NSW), raising the total submissions to 122. No response was received from the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council.
20. For the purposes of reviewing and summarising the key issues raised, the submissions received during the public exhibition are grouped in the following categories:
 - Community submissions; and
 - Public authority submissions.
21. A breakdown of submissions is provided in **Table 6** while the position of community submissions is provided in **Table 7** below:

Table 6 – Breakdown of Submissions

Submission	Number of submissions received
Community	120 (including one submission from a Councillor in their capacity as a resident)
Public Authority	2
Total	122

Table 7 – Position of Community Submission Authors

Position on Proposal	Number	Percent
Support	119	99%
- <i>Direct support for the PP/heritage listing</i>	67	56%
- <i>Support by inference (e.g. support for retaining/preserving the site for the benefit of the community, but no specific reference to the PP/heritage listing)</i>	52	43%
Neutral – <i>Would like to see netted baths at Lugarno</i>	1	1%
Objects	0	0%

Community Submissions

22. A total of 120 submissions were received from members of the community during the exhibition period, primarily from Lugarno (33%), Oatley (27%) and Mortdale (12.5%) residents. One community submission was also received from Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society.
23. A summary of the matters raised in the community submissions is provided in **Table 8** below.

Table 8 – Summary of Matters Raised in Community Submissions

Matter Raised	Council Response
<p>Support for the PP for reasons including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve the environmental heritage of the site including early settler and oyster farming history, settlement and development of Lugarno by German immigrants, and notable features including original homestead and paths built by the Matthei family, cultural plantings, orchard and vegetable gardens. • To preserve the site's environmental and Aboriginal cultural values and Aboriginal features of the site, including (but not limited to) sandstone bowl and grinding grooves that potentially indicate an Aboriginal women's site, Aboriginal rock engravings. • To maintain the shared history of the area for present and future generations. • To achieve the stated objectives and intended outcomes of the PP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ So that the provisions of Clause 5.10 will apply to any proposed development. ○ To conserve the heritage significance of the site, including associated fabric, settings and views. ○ To conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance. ○ To assist in conserving the environmental heritage of the Georges River LGA. 	<p>These reasons for support are noted.</p>
<p>Support for retaining/preserving the site as is and for it to remain in its current state, for reasons including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To retain the existing vegetation, trees and green space on the site, notably mature eucalypt, smooth-barked apple blackbutt and red bloodwood. • Ecological values – providing habitat, breeding/feeding areas and territory for a range of species including threatened 	<p>These reasons for support are noted.</p> <p>The proposed heritage listing of the site in Schedule 5 of the GRLEP 2021 will not sterilise the site and prevent future development from happening. Any future development would be subject to Clause 5.10 Heritage conservation of the LEP and any future development application would need to be accompanied by a heritage management document that considers the effects of the</p>

Matter Raised	Council Response
<p>species, notably migratory and threatened shorebirds, mammals, swamp wallabies, echidnas, reptiles, frogs, red crowned toadlet (potentially) powerful owl, osprey, sea eagles, square tailed kite and varied sittella, grey headed flying fox, micro bats, bees, swift parrot, little lorrieket.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain the stormwater filtration functions of the site. • Natural beauty and scenic amenity. • To ameliorate against climate change as a carbon sink. 	<p>proposed development on the heritage significance of the item.</p> <p>Some development of the site may still be possible and would be considered on its merits at the development application stage.</p>
<p>Requests for Council or State/Federal government to purchase/acquire the site.</p> <p>Concern the PP doesn't go far enough and wants the site to be acquired for greater protection, to be managed by Council or the National Trust.</p> <p>Requests for the property to be purchased at market price as the family who owns the property is entitled to realise the value of their inheritance.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Council at its meeting on 23 May 2022 resolved (NM047-22 Acquisition of Glenlee):</p> <p><i>That Council notes the NSW Government's continuing support for the acquisition and preservation of Glenlee, namely:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>The Private Member's statement tabled in the NSW Parliament by the Member for Oatley, Mr Mark Coure on 9th June, 2021. Mr Coure stated "I understand the costs and procedures involved make this process difficult, but it is not impossible. The benefits of this potential community and environmental precinct far outweigh these restricting factors".</i> (b) <i>That, in response to the petition tabled in Parliament on 12th October, 2021 by Mr Coure which sought to "save the historic Glenlee, Lugarno Farm, dedicate the property as a public reserve and create a community centre" which contained 2,096 signatures, Mr Rob Stokes MP, former Minister for Planning and Public Spaces acknowledged "the significance of the site and community attachment and advocacy for it" and that the government was committed to the prioritisation of "greater access to quality green, open public spaces";</i> (c) <i>The advice given by Mr Stokes that the government lacked funding to acquire the site under its programs which were current as at November, 2021;</i> (d) <i>The announcement by Mr Stokes that</i>

Matter Raised	Council Response
	<p><i>“representatives from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are happy to meet with Georges River Council to discuss the matter further”; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) The granting of a 12-month Interim Heritage Order by Mr James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage in January 2022.</i></p> <p><i>Further, that Council now calls on Mark Coure MP, Member for Oatley, to:</i></p> <p><i>(i) approach Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, to ascertain what programs are now currently available for the purchase of Glenlee for open space and/or as a community hub, and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) facilitate discussions between Council officers and staff from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, for the purpose of acquiring Glenlee by the NSW Government, so that it is incorporated into the Georges River National Park. As a consequence of that, the auspicious National Parks and Wildlife Service will be entrusted with the safe stewardship of this unique property and its environmental, historical and cultural attributes into the future.</i></p> <p>Council wrote to Mr Coure on 7 June 2022 outlining the above resolution and requested his attention to items (i) and (ii) above, noting that Council does not have a funding source for the purchase of Glenlee.</p> <p>At the time of writing this report, no further correspondence had been received.</p>
<p>Request for the property to be rezoned to RE1 Public Recreation / C1 National Parks and Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Suggestions for possible alternative community uses, e.g:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation (canoeing/kayaking, river foreshore walkway, walking tracks, birdwatching). 	<p>Noted, however the zoning is not proposed to be changed. Any change to the zoning would be subject to a separate PP.</p> <p>The site is in private ownership and zoned R2 Low Density Residential which permits a range of land uses with consent including: Bed and breakfast accommodation; Boat sheds; Business identification signs; Car parks; Centre-based child care facilities; Community</p>

Matter Raised	Council Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's group/men's shed and carpentry workshops. Small café. Community gardens/native nursery. Education (environmental, Aboriginal, historical). To retain existing vegetation on the site and for it to be a green space for the community to use. To provide foreshore access for the community. To be added to existing reserves such as Gannons/Heinrich Reserve or Georges River National Park. Netted baths. 	<p>facilities; Dual occupancies; Dwelling houses; Early education and care facilities; Educational establishments; Emergency services facilities; Environmental facilities; Environmental protection works; Group homes; Health services facilities; Home businesses; Home industries; Jetties; Oyster aquaculture; Pond-based aquaculture; Public administration buildings; Recreation areas; Respite day care centres; Roads; Secondary dwellings; Semi-detached dwellings; Seniors housing; Tank-based aquaculture.</p> <p>Future use of the site will be dependent on the site's landowners and may be subject to a development application (DA) and consideration of the impacts of the development on the heritage significance of the site (subject to the PP proceeding).</p>
<p>Concerns about the future development of the site and development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about traffic impacts of more development. Concerned about potential subdivision. Objection to more high rise development. Concern about tree removal and loss of mature and hollow bearing trees which take around 100 years to form and are not easily replaced. Concern about overdevelopment. Concern that there are not enough schools to support increased densities. Additional private access along Georges River are not needed. 	<p>Should the PP proceed, any future development will be subject to Clause 5.10 of the GRLEP 2021, requiring Council to consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item.</p> <p>The PP does not seek to amend the zoning, FSR, height nor any other LEP provisions relating to the site.</p> <p>Other comments relate to the Development Application (DA2021/0181) lodged for the site which is a separate matter to the PP. This DA was subject to a court appeal with the NSW Land and Environment Court. The applicant discontinued proceedings and formally withdrew the DA on 24 May 2022.</p>
<p>Request for the recommendations made by GML to be adopted, and a comprehensive conservation management plan be prepared for the site.</p>	<p>Noted. The GML recommendations and their status are outlined below:</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Georges River Council list Glenlee, at 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno, on Schedule 5 of the GRLEP 2021. <p><i>This is in progress via the subject Planning Proposal.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report be provided to Heritage NSW to assist in its consideration of the current nomination to list Glenlee on the SHR.

Matter Raised	Council Response
	<p><i>Completed.</i></p> <p>3. A comprehensive conservation management plan be commissioned to provide guidance for appropriate future use and conservation of the heritage values of the site.</p> <p><i>A conservation management plan (CMP) normally accompanies a development application (DA). CMPs identify opportunities and problems and defines solutions. It is up to the applicant to prepare a CMP that looks at the future uses.</i></p> <p>4. The Inventory Sheet at Appendix B be added to the State Heritage Inventory database once the site has been listed as a heritage item.</p> <p><i>Pending the outcome of this PP to list the site as a heritage item and NSW Heritage's processes for State listing.</i></p> <p>5. Further consultation be undertaken with the local Aboriginal community to better understand local social and intangible connections.</p> <p><i>A referral to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council was sent on 12 April 2022 however no response was received at the time of writing this report. Council will refer the matter to its own Aboriginal Advisory Committee.</i></p> <p>6. The Aboriginal objects held within the house be inspected (these were not sighted by GML or the MLALC), confirmed to be Aboriginal objects (or otherwise), and an attempt at understanding provenance be made.</p> <p><i>This will be undertaken at a future date. The matter will be referred to Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Council officers will work with the owners of the site and any future applicant in relation to this.</i></p>
<p>Requests that Council identify and protect important forested river foreshore corridors such as Glenlee.</p>	<p>Noted. Council's 'Georges River Foreshore Access and Improvement Plan' (March 2021) identifies public land along the Georges River foreshore within the LGA to be planned and managed for an optimal balance of environmental health and ecological resilience, and access use and enjoyment by the community. It applies to areas of foreshore</p>

Matter Raised	Council Response
	<p>owned, managed or controlled by Georges River Council within the Georges River LGA.</p> <p>The PP does not propose any development. Any future development application will be required to consider environmental impacts and may be required to undertake further environmental assessments of the site.</p>
<p>Questions about the status of the Interim Heritage Order for the site and whether it has been extended by 12 months to 2023.</p>	<p>The PP proposes to list the site as a local heritage item. Heritage NSW are undergoing a separate process to consider listing the site as a State Heritage Item.</p> <p>An interim heritage order was made over the site on 13 August 2021 and lapsed on 14 February 2022.</p> <p>On 24 January 2022 Council was advised that the Minister had decided to make a local IHO over the site as it has potential local and State heritage values and was at imminent risk when the existing local IHO expired on 14 February 2022. The decision was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 28 January 2022. The IHO is for a period of 12 months unless otherwise revoked.</p>
<p>Concern about the lack of Commonwealth consultation in relation to the environmental assessment of the site.</p> <p>Urge Council consult with the Commonwealth agency for Environment and Water concerning the heritage status of Glenlee as a vulnerable site.</p>	<p>Noted. Section E of the PP considers State and Commonwealth interests in the PP. No consultation with Commonwealth government agencies was required as part of the Gateway Determination issued by the Department of Planning and Environment.</p> <p>The PP does not propose any development. Any future development application will be required to consider environmental impacts and may be required to undertake further environmental assessments of the site.</p>
<p>Requests for the highest possible heritage listing.</p>	<p>Noted. There are four levels of heritage: Local, State, National and World. The majority of heritage listings are at the local level, which Council has control of through Schedule 5 of its Local Environmental Plan (LEP). This PP seeks to list the site in the GRLEP 2021 as a local heritage item.</p> <p>Based on the findings and recommendations of the Heritage Assessment undertaken for the site by GML Heritage Pty Ltd, Heritage NSW</p>

Matter Raised	Council Response
	are undergoing a separate process to consider listing the site as a State Heritage Item. The site is not being considered for heritage listing higher than the State level.
<p>Question why developer contributions aren't used for the purchase of the site.</p> <p>Where are those funds and where is the proof that proper use of those funds is being made?</p>	<p>Noted. Section 7.11 contributions require a clear nexus between the demand generated by development and the public infrastructure that is to be funded by the contributions. Previous contributions plans at Georges River Council had very limited land acquisitions included and did not include the purchase of the Glenlee site. The recently adopted GRC Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2021 details the strategy for acquisition of additional land for open space, which is to provide additional land in areas of higher density or in areas which are deficient in open space by comparison to the remainder of the LGA. In addition, the population projection for the Peakhurst Ward, and Lugarno in particular, is lower than other areas within the LGA and so no clear nexus exists. It is unreasonable to use such a large amount of funds collected from development in the Kogarah or Hurstville suburbs to fund an acquisition in an area which is already well serviced and does not have a relationship to the development.</p> <p>Council reports on development contributions income and expenditure in accordance with the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021</i>. Council's audited income and expenditure is contained in the Annual Report.</p>
<p>Request that this needs to be made a priority and that Council needs more qualified personnel to undertake preservation and rehabilitation measures for our area. Instead of just destroying any habitat that is left.</p>	<p>Council considers the conservation of the heritage significance of the site as a priority in progressing this PP to list the site as a local heritage item in the GRLEP 2021.</p> <p>The heritage listing will require any future development to be subject to Clause 5.10 of the GRLEP 2021, requiring Council to consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item.</p> <p>Furthermore, the process of considering listing the site as a State Heritage Item and the protection of the site under an interim heritage order demonstrates the priority of conserving the heritage significance of the site.</p>

24. A detailed summary of the submissions received is provided in **Attachment 2 – Summary of Community Submissions**.
25. No changes are recommended to the Planning Proposal as a result of the community submissions.
26. Acknowledgement letters were sent to all submission authors advising them the date of this report to be considered by the Environment and Planning Committee.

Public Authority Submissions

27. In accordance with the Gateway Determination, the following public authorities were invited to comment on the Planning Proposal during the public exhibition:
 - Heritage NSW (Department of Planning and Environment)
 - Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - National Trust of Australia (NSW)
28. No response was received from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
29. A detailed summary of the comments received and a response to the submissions is provided in **Attachment 3 – Summary of Public Authority Submissions**, however a summary of the main issues is provided below.

Heritage NSW

30. Heritage NSW acknowledges the PP and supporting Heritage Assessment prepared by GML Heritage Pty Ltd which concludes that 'Glenlee' has heritage significance at a State level under criteria (f) and (g), and Local level under criteria (a), (b), (c) (d) and (e). Heritage NSW encourages the listing of 'Glenlee' on Council's LEP and noted that the Heritage Council of NSW is also considering a nomination to list 'Glenlee' on the State Heritage Register (SHR). Noted that a heritage item cannot be identified as having 'State' significance under an LEP unless it is listed on the SHR. Until a decision is made on whether to list "Glenlee" on the SHR it should be identified as 'nominated item of State significance' in Schedule 5 of the LEP. If the property is listed on the SHR, Council should then make an administrative amendment to its LEP to identify that the item is of 'State' significance.
31. **Council response:** Heritage NSW's comments in relation to the PP are noted. Council will identify the site in Schedule 5 as a 'Nominated item of State significance' (or as 'State Nominated' as per the Standard Instrument LEP) until such time as a determination on the State heritage listing is made.

Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

32. No response received at the time of writing this report.

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

33. National Trust strongly support the PP and congratulated Georges River Council on the actions taken to date on this matter. The National Trust view the fact that Glenlee was not listed on the Hurstville LEP 2012 as an anomaly, considering that two items to the north of the site were listed in Schedule 5 of the *Hurstville LEP 2012* including "The Hermitage" at 1 Bayside Drive, and "Woodcliffe" at 12 Woodcliff Parade. The National Trust note that "Glenlee", together with "Woodcliffe" and "The Hermitage", forms a key element of the historic significance of the site and in itself contributes to the significance of these other two listed heritage items. The listing of Glenlee on the GRLEP 2021 will be a key move towards protecting the future of this unique and special place.

34. **Council Response:** The National Trust's comments in relation to the PP are noted.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

35. Council exhibited the PP to list Lot 1 DP10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno (also known as 'Glenlee') as a local heritage item within Schedule 5 of the Georges River LEP 2021 from 4 May 2022 to 3 June 2022.
36. Council received 120 submissions from the community and two (2) public authority submissions in relation to the Planning Proposal. Of the community submissions, 56% (67) provided direct support for the PP and/or heritage listing. A further 43% (52) provided general support for Glenlee (e.g., retaining/preserving the site for the benefit of the community, but did not specifically mention the PP or heritage listing). Only one (1) submission provided a neutral response, and no submissions were received objecting to the PP. The public authority submissions received from Heritage NSW and the National Trust of Australia both supported the PP.
37. No changes are required to the PP as a result of the submissions received.
38. It is recommended that Council adopt the proposed amendments to the GRLEP 2021 as exhibited in relation to Lot 1 DP10359, 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno and forward the PP for gazettal to the DPE in accordance with Section 3.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

39. Subject to Council endorsement of the PP for forwarding to the DPE for finalisation, the anticipated next steps are included in **Table 9** below:

Table 9 – Anticipated Project Timeline for Completion of the Planning Proposal

Task	Anticipated Timeframe
Report to Council on community consultation and finalisation of the Planning Proposal	July 2022
Submission to the Department to finalise the LEP	July/August 2022
Anticipated date for notification/gazettal	August/ September 2022

40. It is noted that the Gateway Determination requires the PP to be completed by 6 September 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

41. No budget impact for this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

42. No risks identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

43. The PP and supporting documentation were publicly exhibited from 4 May 2022 to 3 June 2022.




NEXT STEPS

44. If the PP is endorsed by Council, it will be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment for finalisation.

FILE REFERENCE

PP2022/0002

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1  Planning Proposal - PP2022/0002 - *published in separate document*
- Attachment [↓](#)2  Summary of Community Submissions
- Attachment [↓](#)3  Summary of Public Authority Submissions

Attachment 2 – Summary of Community Submissions

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
1	28/04/2022	Support for preserving the area for future generations and retain green spaces for humans and wildlife. Concern over so many areas being lost to development.
2	28/04/2022	Support for retaining the site for the community and generations to come. Noted the site's history and suggested possible community uses for the site to educate people about the area.
3	27/04/2022	Support for the PP to conserve the environmental heritage of the site. Noted the need to maintain a shared history of the area and suggested that additional built out, private access only areas along the Georges River are not needed.
4	27/04/2022	Objection to more high rise and commented that there are not enough schools to support greater density.
5	28/04/2022	Requested the location be left as is.
6	28/04/2022	Support for the PP to conserve the area for future generations. Noted that local students lack a facility to celebrate Aboriginal heritage and suggested this site would be suitable for community, recreational and cultural use.
7	29/04/2022	Support for the PP to preserve the site's environmental and Aboriginal cultural values. Strongly object to any future development proposed for the site.
8	29/04/2022	Support for the PP to preserve the site for the community and future generations.
9	29/04/2022	Support for the PP to preserve the site for the community. Concerned about multiple dwellings creating environmental and traffic disruptions.
10	29/04/2022	Suggested to purchase and preserve the land for the community and environment.
11	29/04/2022	Noted it is a beautiful site that could be enjoyed by all; the community, wildlife and future generations. Does not want to see it developed with housing.
12	30/04/2022	Support for the PP and would like to see all of Glenlee permanently heritage listed and protected. Noted early settler history, Indigenous history, biodiversity, bushland links, walking corridors, oyster farming history as reasons it should be protected. Suggested kayak and canoe hire and a small cafe as possible future uses.
13	30/04/2022	Support for the PP to preserve the site for future generations and recognise the cultural and heritage significance of the site. Concerned about potential subdivision and development of the site.
14	30/04/2022	Support for the PP to retain the heritage of the site and keep as much green space as possible. Concern about overdevelopment and traffic issues.
15	29/04/2022	Does not want to see the land developed due to its cultural and ecological values.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
16	1/05/2022	Support for the PP to maintain heritage/public space and suggested possible extension of the existing Gannons/Heinrich Reserve.
17	2/05/2022	Support for the PP and suggested preserving the site for community use, e.g. environmental education/conservation, canoe hire, café. Does not want to see it developed for housing.
18	3/05/2022	Support for the PP to protect and preserve the land for its local and regional history.
19	5/05/2022	Support for retaining the area for public use. Concern over tree removal and suggested finding the resources to secure this important ecosystem.
20	6/05/2022	Support for the PP and heritage listing. Concern that development will destroy the nature of the area, lead to overdevelopment and demolish the foreshore.
21	6/05/2022	Support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item so that Clause 5.10 will apply to any proposed development.
22	8/05/2022	Provided support for another submission which supports the Planning Proposal.
23	9/05/2022	Support for the PP to protect the heritage value of the buildings and surrounds. Noted the significant environmental, wildlife and historic value that should be managed for the benefit of the community. Concern that plans to develop the site are not in keeping with the surrounding area and will have negative environmental impacts.
24	6/05/2022	Support for the PP to preserve the historical, Aboriginal and wildlife features of the site for the future. Concern that development will put a strain on current services and lead to overdevelopment. Suggested use as a place of education, recreation and wildlife habitat.
25	6/05/2022	Support for the PP and suggested it remain a green corridor for biodiversity and open space for the community with possible canoe hire and native nursery.
26	9/05/2022	Noted they would like to keep Glenlee as is and not sold to developers to build 31 residential sites.
27	10/05/2022	Support protecting Glenlee for future generations for habitat for native fauna, flora and historical significance.
28	10/05/2022	Support for the PP noting the historical and environmental value of the site and noted that planning must allow for the preservation of the site and to enable community benefit.
29	10/05/2022	Support for preserving the site for community uses, e.g. parkland, canoe/boat hire, kiosk, Aboriginal education. Also noted wildlife that depends on the bush on the site.
30	12/05/2022	Does not want any development on the site. Suggested the heritage order doesn't adequately protect the site. Wants Council to acquire the site for community use.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
31	12/05/2022	Support for the PP/heritage listing. Also suggested Council needs to buy the property to preserve its significance.
32	12/05/2022	Wants to see Glenlee preserved as park/recreational land, not developed into any kind of housing. Noted environmental, wildlife and Aboriginal importance.
33	10/05/2022	Strong support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item. Noted the site is a vital link to the foreshore corridor that extends from Oatley to the Georges River National Park and its importance for birds and mammals. Also noted the need to protect the historical and cultural heritage of the indigenous people of the area.
34	14/05/2022	Noted that every effort must be made to save Glenlee due to environmental, heritage and Aboriginal significance. Urged Council to purchase the site for community use.
35	15/05/2022	Support protecting Glenlee for future generations. Suggested uses such as canoe/kayak hire, café. Noted variety of bird life present in the area, remnant native forest, river frontage, scenic amenity and wildlife.
36	16/05/2022	Support for the PP and State heritage listing. Concern that development would destroy the site. Noted the site's cultural, historic and environmental significance and natural appeal. Suggested possible use as an environmental education space and would love to see Council be leaders in the preservation of existing reserves and implementing green infrastructure.
37	15/05/2022	Submitter grew up in the 1940s where there were few units/terraces and now more people are housed in high-rise and the need for garden space has increased. Suggested that Heinrich Reserve be extended into Glenlee, and restore the canopy.
38	15/05/2022	Support for the PP to list Glenlee as a local heritage item. Noted the National Trust's classification and Aboriginal cultural significance of the site as justification.
39	16/05/2022	Support the PP and heritage listing as well as any opportunity to purchase Glenlee for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Noted First Nation and early European heritage in need of preservation, as well as native trees for habitat and to combat the effects of climate change.
40	17/05/2022	Glenlee must be saved and preserved. Noted wildlife and natural beauty.
41	17/05/2022	Suggested purchasing Glenlee would be beneficial to the community and future generations.
42	17/05/2022	Urged Council, State or Federal Governments to purchase Glenlee as a beautiful piece of history for locals and visitors to enjoy.
43	18/05/2022	Submission supportive of retaining the site for open space and foreshore access for all residents, not just the wealthy few. Protection of historically significant bushland and flora and fauna habitat should be a priority.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
44	18/05/2022	Strongly opposed to development of Glenlee for housing. Stated there is a need to protect the existing green corridor for native animals. Also noted the site's cultural and environmental significance. Suggested community uses such as Men's Group, community gardens and kayaking.
45	19/05/2022	Supportive of preserving the area for its natural and historical significance. Concern over loss of significant trees on private property.
46	19/05/2022	Buy it, maintain it, keep it.
47	19/05/2022	Submitter would like to see netted baths at Lugarno which could be part of Glenlee and open to the public.
48	20/05/2022	Support for the PP. Also wants the site joined with other parks to retain foreshore access and natural beauty of the area.
49	21/05/2022	Support for preserving the site for future generations. Concern about development on the site.
50	21/05/2022	Support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item so that Clause 5.10 will apply to any proposed development. Noted the historical importance of the site, vegetation/habitat corridor. Also urged Council to purchase the property.
51	22/05/2022; 23/05/2022	Support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item so that the provisions of Clause 5.10 will apply to any proposed development. Support for conserving the heritage significance of the site, including associated fabric, settings and views; conserving Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance; and assisting in conserving the environmental heritage of the Georges River LGA.
52	20/05/2022	Support for retaining the site for its historical and environmental importance.
53	23/05/2022	Strong support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item. Noted the site has been in the ownership of one family for more than a century and National Trust significance. Cited early settler and Aboriginal significance and environmental values including native remnant vegetation, habitat for migratory and threatened shorebirds. Also requested Council to acquire the site for inclusion in Heinrich Reserve, and creating a river foreshore walkway to provide community access.
54	23/05/2022	Support for the PP and heritage listing. Noted early settler history, National Trust listing, Aboriginal cultural heritage and wildlife corridor.
55	24/05/2022	Support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item. Noted the cultural and ecological significance of the site that must be preserved for the community. Concerned about tree removal on the site. Suggested Council must continue to work towards securing the site for the community and future generations.
56	24/05/2022	Support for protecting the area. Noted the site provides an insight into the history of Sydney's settlement and original homestead and paths built by Otto Matthei. Noted Aboriginal artefacts, trees, flora and fauna, remnant native forest as reasons for the site to be cherished and protected.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
57	25/05/2022	Support for the PP and heritage listing to protect and preserve the site. Noted natural, historical, cultural and environmental aspects needing preservation for future generations.
58	26/05/2022	Support for the PP and heritage listing to preserve the site for future generations. It should not be developed into housing. Suggested recreational/other uses instead.
59	27/05/2022	Support for the PP to list Glenlee as a local heritage item and to preserve the site for future generations. Noted the site's historical value, presence of Aboriginal objects and places of significance, and wildlife as reasons for supporting the PP and heritage listing. Asked that Council continues to support preserving the space for generations to come.
60	29/05/2022	Requested to save the beautiful heritage house and land for generations to come. Concern about redevelopment of the site.
61	30/05/2022	Glenlee should be preserved for its significant ecological and environmental values. Glenlee provides a habitat for various species of animals and Council should see it as a precious resource for future generations. Glenlee needs to be safeguarded as a wildlife corridor and carbon sink.
62	30/05/2022	Support for preserving the property's environmental and cultural significance. However the family who owns the property is entitled to realise the value of their inheritance. Requested Council to purchase the property at market price and control its future use.
63	31/05/2022	Glenlee should be protected and preserved for future generations and inclusion as a heritage item in Council's LEP would help guarantee this. Noted importance of vegetation corridor for various fauna species. Council should identify and protect these forested river foreshore corridors. Glenlee could be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history is preserved.
64	31/05/2022	Support for preserving Glenlee for environmental, cultural and heritage reasons. Noted habitat and feeding area for various fauna species that use the site. Suggested Glenlee could be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history is preserved. Requested Council acquire the site for community use.
65	31/05/2022	Glenlee is an important part of the area's history, both early settlement and Aboriginal. Noted wildlife which must be preserved and protected alongside our past.
66	31/05/2022	Support for protecting and preserving Glenlee's history and flora and fauna.
67	29/05/2022	Support for the PP to list Glenlee as a local heritage item. Noted Aboriginal and early settler historical, cultural and heritage values.
68	1/06/2022	Support for the PP to list Glenlee as a local heritage item so that it can be protected and preserved for future generations. Resident of >40 years and concerned about the loss of local important heritage sites and biodiversity. Reasons included heritage (e.g. Aboriginal significance, early settlement history) and biodiversity (native vegetation corridor, wildlife species habitat and feeding areas).

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
69	2/06/2022	Support for conserving the site. Glenlee is an extremely important heritage site. Noted early European settlement and wildlife refuge/habitat present on the site which should be conserved.
70	2/06/2022	Support for preserving and conserving the site for all to enjoy. Also noted wildlife and waters to be enjoyed.
71	2/06/2022	Support for heritage listing Glenlee.
72	2/06/2022	Support for heritage listing Glenlee.
73	2/06/2022	Support for heritage listing Glenlee.
74	2/06/2022	Support for conserving the site. Concerned about possibility of multiple dwellings and tree removal.
75	2/06/2022	Support for heritage listing Glenlee.
76	31/05/2022	Support for the PP to list Glenlee as a local heritage item. Noted Aboriginal and early settler history, native bushland/tree canopy and wildlife. Provided photos of osprey that reside in Glenlee for the past 7 years. Noted local support group that is concerned about the potential loss of the site and request Council to preserve it. Suggested a range of community uses e.g. kayak service, men's shed, community centre.
77	2/06/2022	Support for the PP. Reasons include early settler history, environmental values/vegetation and Aboriginal heritage.
78	2/06/2022	Support for the PP. The site is important for the Georges River LGA and the wider Sydney metropolitan area. Noted significant indigenous and cultural heritage values, and natural landscape that provides a corridor and wildlife refuge.
79	2/06/2022	Noted Glenlee is an opportunity for residents to have access to the river while retaining the natural environment and historic buildings on site. Suggested community uses e.g. canoeing, community gardens, community mental health activities such as carpentry/workshops, and teaching the history of the area, both pre and post colonial settlement.
80	2/06/2022	Support for the site to be heritage listed. Also requested the site be purchased by Council and State Government so it is not developed but conserved.
81	2/06/2022	Support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item. Suggested Council or the State government purchase the site. Noted National Trust's listing, history of the Mattei family, environmental and wildlife importance that is vital to be preserved.
82	2/06/2022	Support for the heritage listing. Also suggested it be made a public space.
83	2/06/2022	Support for the heritage listing. Noted unique aspects such as Aboriginal and early European settlement, and high ecological value. Request Council consider the long term benefits of protecting Glenlee.
84	3/06/2022	Support for protecting Glenlee and urged Council to acquire the land. Noted the site is an environmental treasure for its natural beauty, wildlife and

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
		potential for community to gather and learn. Concern over what has already been lost through development.
85	3/06/2022	Noted that the land should be retained and added to existing wildlife corridors to provide habitat for wildlife and balance development and loss of trees in the area.
86	3/06/2022	Resident of 30 years and concerned about the development of Glenlee. Requested the site be preserved for future generations to enjoy what nature has provided.
87	2/06/2022	Former resident of Peakhurst with a Master of Environmental Studies. Supportive of GML's recommendations and noted Council's justification to list Glenlee as a local heritage item is exceeded by the evidence. Also noted the assessment of cultural significance at a State level. Called for a comprehensive conservation management plan and other work. Raised a number of questions about the Interim Heritage Order and if it has been extended to 2023. Concern about lack of Commonwealth consultation in relation to the environmental assessment of the site and urged Council to consult with the Commonwealth agency for Environment and Water and other Commonwealth agencies concerning the heritage status of Glenlee as a vulnerable site and its heritage and environmental values. Glenlee is well known as a significant habitat for threatened species and a riverine environment.
88	3/06/2022	Supportive of the PP to list Glenlee as a heritage item and congratulated Council for putting the proposal forward.
89	3/06/2022	Supportive of saving Glenlee to preserve the natural environment and local flora and fauna. Also believes the Aboriginal heritage of the site is highly significant and sees value in educational opportunities for local children. The funds must be found to lock in this opportunity and noted the costs of losing it are far greater.
90	3/06/2022	Requested to keep it heritage.
91	3/06/2022	Requested to keep this historical site.
92	3/06/2022	Requests Glenlee be saved from development and preserved for environmental, cultural and heritage reasons. Noted habitat and feeding area for various fauna species that use the site. Suggested Glenlee could be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history is preserved. Council should identify and protect important forested river foreshore corridors. Suggested community uses for the site. Glenlee should be protected and preserved for future generations and inclusion as a heritage item in Council's Local Environmental Plan would help guarantee this.
93	3/06/2022	The site should be preserved by Council and then National Trust for future generations.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
94	3/06/2022	Requests Glenlee be saved from development and preserved for environmental, cultural and heritage reasons. Noted habitat and feeding area for various fauna species that use the site. Suggested Glenlee could be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history is preserved. Council should identify and protect important forested river foreshore corridors. Suggested community uses for the site. Glenlee should be protected and preserved for future generations and inclusion as a heritage item in Council's Local Environmental Plan would help guarantee this.
95	3/06/2022	Request that Council protect Glenlee as a site of cultural, environmental and heritage significance. Noted habitat and feeding area for various fauna species that use the site. Suggested Glenlee could be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history is preserved. Council should identify and protect important forested river foreshore corridors. Suggested community uses for the site. Glenlee should be protected and preserved for future generations and inclusion as a heritage item in Council's Local Environmental Plan would help guarantee this.
96	3/06/2022	Support the heritage order as an interim measure and urged Council or the NSW Government to purchase the site for preservation as open space. Suggested possible amalgamation with adjacent bushland reserves to balance the loss of local bushland through higher density residential development.
97	3/06/2022	Requested Glenlee be protected as an area of environmental importance. Noted animal and bird species needing protection and that Glenlee provides an important habitat. Requested to put development elsewhere.
98	3/06/2022	Glenlee should be preserved as bushland/parkland and fully restored to its native state. Noted high visibility of the site and forms a green belt. Once built they can never be returned to their original state. All trees should be retained. Also noted signs of indigenous occupation and cultural heritage.
99	3/06/2022	Requested to preserve the site as a once in a lifetime opportunity. Noted historical and Indigenous significance, home to native flora and fauna and opportunity for it to be a learning resource and green space for the community.
100	3/06/2022	Strong support for the proposed preservation of Glenlee, citing early settlement history, original forest, connection to First Nations people, and opportunity to complement the adjoining Heinrich Reserve. Noted it is a once off opportunity to preserve the area for present and future generations, that could be lost forever if redeveloped for housing.
101	3/06/2022	Strongly supports the intended outcomes of the Planning Proposal to: (a) List No. 80 Boronia Parade Lugarno as a local heritage item in the GRLEP 2021 so that the provisions of Clause 5.10 – Heritage Conservation apply to any proposed development; (b) Assist in conserving the environmental heritage of the Georges River LGA; (c) Conserve the heritage significance of the site, including associated fabric, settings and views; and (d) Conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance. The importance of the site and the overwhelming need to protect its

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
		<p>heritage value to local and State communities are well described in the submission in terms of early settler history, environmental heritage and Aboriginal heritage reasons.</p> <p>Early settler history - The site provides uncharacteristically strong and important surviving evidence of the pre-development and urban landscape of the locality, together with strong surviving evidence of the early occupation of the site by the Matthei and Chislett families and their involvement in oyster farming in the Georges River.</p> <p>Environmental heritage - The site contains significant remnant native vegetation, including mature Smooth-barked Apple-Blackbutt-Red Blackwood open forest and a wide variety of native fauna. Endangered populations of flora and fauna are recorded in the Georges River LGA on the NSW Government's BioNet Atlas and may be present on the site. The site is positioned on the foreshore of Boggywell Creek (Lime Kiln Bay) on the Georges River, an important estuarine ecosystem. The large areas of remnant native vegetation on the site within close proximity to the waterfront yield potential for high natural heritage significance. Without protection from development that the proposed heritage listing would help provide, the following specific flora and fauna species will continue to be threatened:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The loss of native vegetation such as the Smooth barked Apple Blackbutt and Red Bloodwood. 2.Threatened bird species including the Powerful Owl, Osprey and Sea Eagles 3.Other threatened bird species including the Square Tailed Kite and Varied Sittella. 4.Threatened Grey Headed Flying Foxes. 5.Twenty species of micro bats including 8 threatened species have been recorded in Lugarno. 6.Threatened nectar feeding parrots such as the Swift Parrot and the Little Lorikeet. 7.Many frogs and the threatened Red-Crowned Toadlet. 8.The native vegetation which forms part of a forested corridor along the Georges River foreshore between Oatley Park, Lugarno, Salt Pan Creek and the Georges River National Park. A continuous tree canopy is vital to form an effective wildlife corridor. Animals known to use this existing corridor include Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, reptiles and frogs. <p>Aboriginal heritage - The National Trust (NSW) listing card for the site states that it 'has historic significance because of the presence of rare Aboriginal rock engravings'. The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) records four sites located within or adjacent to the development. Given the array of middens and rare Aboriginal rock engravings, the creek bed and freshwater stream on Glenlee need to be included in the heritage listing as strong evidence of Aboriginal life on the site.</p> <p>The whole site at 80 Boronia Pde, Lugarno needs to be listed as a local heritage item in the LEP to protect it from any further, ongoing threat of obliteration and to secure its position as a high value social, cultural, environmental, and Aboriginal heritage site for local and State communities.</p>

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
102	3/06/2022	Requests to save the site for the health and prosperity of future generations of humans, animals and flora. Noted the value of heritage cannot have a price on it.
103	3/06/2022	Support the PP and the highest possible heritage listing.
104	3/06/2022	Requests Council to protect Glenlee as a heritage item noting the surrounding heritage items. Opposed to development on the site.
105	1/06/2022	Support for the site to be included as a heritage item in Council's LEP. Glenlee should be protected in its existing natural state. Noted vegetation that is a habitat and feeding area for a range of species. Suggested Glenlee could be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history is preserved. Requested that Council identify and protect important forested river foreshore corridors such as Glenlee. Inferred that Council should acquire Glenlee for community uses that would maintain the integrity of the whole site.
106	3/06/2022	Supports the PP to list the site as a heritage item. Noted the historic significance and that it is a pity that land in this area cannot be retained for public use.
107	3/06/2022	Supports the PP to list the site as a local heritage item and for the adoption of GML's recommendations.
108	3/06/2022	Objects to developing Glenlee given historic significance - both Aboriginal and European, and concerned about impacts of development on flora and fauna in the area.
109	3/06/2022	Supports the PP and believes conserving the environmental and historical heritage of the site is important to local and national history. Noted Aboriginal sites on the property and history of early settlers and oyster farming. Also noted importance of connectivity of remnant bushland along the Georges River for fauna and ecological stability. Also supports the recommendation to engage Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal conservation professionals to form a conservation management plan for guidance on appropriate future use.
110	3/06/2022	Noted Glenlee has been widely documented as a place of immense historical, environmental, ecological and community importance. Noted vegetation provides vital habitat and cannot be replaced. Suggested site could be used as a community hub.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
111	3/06/2022	Support for the PP to list the site as a local heritage item. Glenlee is just as important as the neighbouring Heinrich Estate and Hermitage which Council has already heritage listed. The features of the site need to be preserved and protected in the interests of the environment, our history and community. Wholeheartedly supports Council's PP to list the whole of the site at No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno (Lot 1 DP10359) (also known as "Glenlee") as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage of the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021, with the following intended outcomes: List No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno as a local heritage item in the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 so that the provisions of Clause 5.10 – Heritage Conservation apply to any proposed development; Assist in conserving the environmental heritage of the Georges River local government area; Conserve the heritage significance of the site, including associated fabric, settings and views; and Conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.
112	3/06/2022	Support for the PP for Glenlee, noting the significant environmental and historical values as per GML's heritage assessment, with several reasons including early settler and Aboriginal cultural heritage, significant bushland/habitat, wildlife corridor, scenic amenity and character. Also requested Council to further this action by rezoning the property to RE1/C1 and securing funds from all levels of government to purchase Glenlee in its entirety.
113	3/06/2022	Support for preserving the site for its unique Indigenous and early settler history. Also noted habitat for fauna species, wildlife corridor, and topography that provides a filter for stormwater. Suggested use as a community hub and requested Council to take all steps necessary to ensure that Glenlee is heritage listed and purchased as a public asset.
114	3/06/2022	Support for preserving the site for future generations and the heritage order over the site. Concern about development on the site.
115	3/06/2022	Support for listing Glenlee as a heritage item, noting its Aboriginal and historic importance. The heritage listing would complete the connection between The Hermitage, Woodcliffe and the environmental and historical connection that this area shares.
116	3/06/2022	Noted the importance of Glenlee being preserved to safeguard the site's historical and natural importance. Noted its habitat to a range of species, ability to filter stormwater and protect the integrity of the foreshore, scenic values and opportunities for community use and access to the foreshore.
117	3/06/2022	Support for the PP - Glenlee should be protected and preserved for future generations and be included as a heritage item in Council's LEP. Noted the site is a vital forested foreshore corridor, home to a wide range of wildlife. Cited climate emergency, time of drought and severe bushfire and that a site like Glenlee is crucial to wildlife and for refuge habitats. Noted evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the site. Suggested it be incorporated into Heinrich Reserve or the Georges River National Park so that its Aboriginal and European history can be preserved.

Submission No.	Date Received	Summary of Submission
118	3/06/2022	Noted the site should remain as natural bush land for the future and for remaining wildlife. Concern about development of the site. Request that this has to be a priority with more qualified personnel at Council to undertake preservation and rehabilitation.
119	3/06/2022	Noted the LGA has insufficient open space and that this is an opportunity to obtain a wonderful heritage site that could be available for the community to use. Questioned why contributions for high rise development aren't used for the purchase and where are those funds and proof that proper use of those funds is being made.
120	3/06/2022	Supports the PP for reasons including wealth of Aboriginal and European artifacts, habitat for various endangered flora and fauna, and filtration for stormwater flowing into the Georges River.

Attachment 3 – Summary of Public Authority Submissions

Submission No.	Public Authority	Date Received	Summary of Submission	Council Response
1	Heritage NSW	29/04/2022	Heritage NSW acknowledges the Planning Proposal and supporting Heritage Assessment prepared by GML Heritage Pty Ltd which concludes that 'Glenlee' has heritage significance at a State level under criteria (f) and (g), and Local level under criteria (a), (b), (c) (d) and (e). Heritage NSW encourages the listing of 'Glenlee' on Council's LEP and noted that the Heritage Council of NSW is also considering a nomination to list 'Glenlee' on the State Heritage Register (SHR). Noted that a heritage item cannot be identified as having 'State' significance under an LEP unless it is listed on the SHR. Until a decision is made on whether to list "Glenlee" on the SHR it should be identified as a 'nominated item of State significance' in Schedule 5 of the LEP. If the property is listed on the SHR, Council should then make an administrative amendment to its LEP to identify that the item is of 'State' significance.	Heritage NSW's comments in relation to the Planning Proposal are noted. Council will identify the site in Schedule 5 as a 'Nominated item of State significance' (or as 'State Nominated' as per the Standard Instrument LEP) until such time as a determination on the State heritage listing is made.

Submission No.	Public Authority	Date Received	Summary of Submission	Council Response
2	National Trust of Australia (NSW)	6/06/2022	<p>The National Trust strongly support the Planning Proposal to list the whole of the site at No. 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno (Lot 1 DP10359) as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage of the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021. The National Trust listed the Lugarno Early Settler Cultural Landscape (80 Boronia Parade and 3A Brewer Place, Lugarno) on the National Trust (NSW) Register in April 2020. The listing records that the site: Has historic significance for its association with the early settler families, the Heinrich, Matthei and Chislett families and the strong surviving evidence of their occupation and works. The Cultural Landscape has historic significance for its evidence of the use of Georges River as a transport route in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for local residents and businesses and the survival of the wharves, boatshed and the MV Edelweiss (movable heritage). The Cultural Landscape has historic significance because of the presence of rare Aboriginal rock engravings on the Matthei property. The Heinrich Reserve and large areas of remnant native vegetation on the Matthei property have natural heritage significance. The Cultural Landscape has aesthetic significance for its scenic character and views to and from the Georges River and Lime Kiln Bay. Both the Heinrich Reserve and the Matthei property have research potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Lugarno's cultural and natural history. The National Trust view the fact that Glenlee was not listed on the Hurstville LEP 2012 as an anomaly, considering that two items to the north of the site were listed in Schedule 5 of the Hurstville LEP 2012 including "The Hermitage" at 1 Bayside Drive, and "Woodcliffe" at 12 Woodcliff Parade. The National Trust note that Glenlee, together with "Woodcliffe" and "The Hermitage", forms a key element of the historic significance of the site and in itself contributes to the significance of these other two listed heritage items. The listing of Glenlee on the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021 will be a key move towards protecting the future of this unique and special place.</p>	The National Trust's comments in relation to the Planning Proposal are noted.

Item: ENV018-22 Review of Georges River Keeping of Animals Policy 2020

Author: Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services

Directorate: Environment and Planning

Matter Type: Committee Reports

ENV018-22

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council endorse the Draft Keeping of Animals Policy 2022, contained in Attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.
- (b) That a further report be provided to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Council receives service requests from the community regarding impacts on amenity (noise and odour impacting upon adjoining premises) regarding the keeping of animals. Whilst acknowledging the positive benefits that animal ownership brings, Council needs to balance this against the potential impacts that may be caused to adjoining premises due to the type of animal, number of animals or condition by which animals are kept. To assist Council staff in resolving these matters it is best practice to have Policy guidance.
2. The *Local Government Act, 1993* (the Act), Section 124 (Orders) provides Council with the ability to regulate the keeping of animals on private premises via an Order 18; "Not to keep birds or animals on premises, other than of such kinds, in such numbers or in such manner as specified in the order".
3. To assist Council staff with their regulatory functions, Council, at its meeting on 23 March 2020, considered report ENV006-20 and adopted the - Georges River Keeping of Animals Policy (2020). This Policy was the result of the harmonisation of two existing policies from the former Kogarah and Hurstville Councils and extensive community consultation which resulted in 131 submissions being received.
4. Section 165 the Act specifies that any local policy is automatically revoked at the expiration of 12 months after the declaration of the poll for a Local Government election, therefore for the requirements of this Policy to continue, the Policy must be adopted by Council prior to the expiration date.
5. This draft Policy outlines the minimum requirements regarding the number, type and standard by which animals should be kept on premises so as not to create unhealthy or unsafe conditions or nuisance to others. Council is to note that these requirements only apply as a means to manage a verified complaint and are not a blanket restriction on the number or type of animal that can be kept within the LGA. Once adopted Council can use the requirements contained within this Policy to issue Orders (Order18) under the *Local Government Act, 1993* to require compliance with the Policy but only where a customer request has been investigated and verified by an Authorised Council Officer.
6. When Council adopted the Policy in 2020, it removed the requirement contained in the publicly exhibited version which limited the maximum number of cats and dogs permitted to be kept on a property due to the weight of public submissions. Apart from editorial changes, the only proposed change to the draft Policy 2022 to that adopted in 2020 is the reintroduction of the requirement to limit the numbers of cats following a verified complaint as a result of a protracted and costly case involving a resident with over 20 cats.

7. Whilst Council does not receive a significant number of requests regarding animal amenity, those that are received often take considerable time and resources to resolve and having the benefit of an overarching Policy to assist with the timely resolution of these matters is most beneficial to Council staff and members of the community affected by the nuisance. Therefore, this report recommends that the Draft Keeping of Animals Policy in Attachment 1, be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

BACKGROUND

8. The *Local Government Act, 1993* (the Act) under Section 124 (Orders) provides Council with the ability to regulate the keeping of animals on private premises via an Order 18 - Not to keep birds or animals on premises, other than of such kinds, in such numbers or in such manner as specified in the order – where a verified complaint occurs.
9. The *Local Government (General) Regulation, 2005* (the Regulation) in Schedule 2, contains standards only for the keeping of swine, poultry, horses and cattle that may be enforced by any Order 18 issued by Council, where a verified complaint occurs. These standards specify the conditions by which each animal type must be kept on a premises and the distance of any enclosure used to house animals is located from a property boundary or a specified type of premise, i.e., a dwelling, shop, office, factory, church or other place of public worship, workshop, school or public place in a city, town, village or other urban part of an area.
10. As the type of animals listed in the Regulation is rather limited and not reflective of the current types of pet animals, Council used the provisions in Section 159 of the Act to prepare a Local Orders Policy (LOP) on the keeping of Animals which was adopted in March 2020.
11. Prior to the adoption of the 2020 Policy a draft Policy was publicly exhibited from 28 June 2019 to 2 August 2019 via the 'Your Say portal, Council's Public Exhibition web page and the Council Notice in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader. The Draft Policy also attracted local media attention with articles appearing in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader on 30 May (electronic) and 26 June 2019. In addition, Council directly contacted the following organisations by mail/email seeking their comment:
- Birds Australia
 - The Avicultural Society of NSW
 - Australian Pigeon Fanciers Association
 - Australian Pigeon Fanciers Protection Union
 - RSPCA
 - The Cat Protection Society of NSW
 - Department of Primary Industries
 - NSW Apiarists' Association
 - Amateur Beekeepers Association NSW
 - Office of Environment & Heritage
 - Illawarra Reptile Society
 - Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation Inc.
12. A total of 131 submissions were received with 104 of those objecting to the restriction on the number of cats and dogs that can be kept and limiting dog numbers based on size of dog/premises. It was clear from reviewing the submissions that there is a theme across many of the submissions that appeared to support a misunderstanding within the

community that the Draft Policy applied a blanket limit on the number of animals that can be kept across the LGA. Upon further review of the Draft Policy, it was acknowledged that this interpretation could be made as there are a number of sections of the exhibited Draft Policy that discussed the maximum number of animals that can be kept which may have been confusing. Therefore, in order to clarify that the Draft Policy was not intended to set a blanket limit, amendments were made to the Purpose, Scope, Objectives and Application of the Draft Policy to clarify that the restrictions on numbers only applied when a complaint regarding the keeping of an animal has been verified by an authorised officer of Council

13. After considering report ENV006-20 - Georges River Keeping of Animals Policy (2020) at its meeting on 23 March 2020 Council resolved:
 - “(a) That Council adopt the Georges River Keeping of Animals Policy (2020), contained in Attachment 3 to this report, subject to:*
 - (i) The removal of the maximum number of cats and dogs permitted to be kept on the property.*
 - (ii) The addition of the following note under the keeping of bees section – ‘Beekeepers are encouraged to contact their immediate adjoining neighbours prior to establishing beehives to consider any impacts that may arise from persons vulnerable to bee stings.’*
 - (iii) Council is to be notified of the keeping of pigeons, construction of the loft of greater than 10 sqm, and any activity not considered a hobby.*
 - (b) That Council write to each individual/organisation that made a submission on the Draft Keeping of Animals Policy to advise of the amendments made to the Draft Policy received.*
 - (c) That Council rescind the following policies:*
 - (i) Local Orders Policy – Keeping of Animals (former Hurstville Council).*
 - (ii) Local Orders Policy No. 18 – The Keeping of Birds and Animals (former Kogarah Council).”*
14. The Policy was subsequently amended in accordance with Council's resolution and placed on Council's website. A written response was provided to each individual/organisation that made a submission on the Draft Keeping of Animals Policy and the Policies of the two former Councils were rescinded.
15. Since the adoption of the Policy in 2020, Council has received numerous complaints regarding odour and behavioural nuisances arising from the keeping of over 20 cats by one owner who over this time period has occupied two separate premises within the LGA. The investigation of these matters has been significantly impeded by Council's inability to limit the number of cats which has exacerbated the odour and nuisance impacts on the adjoining residents.
16. The purpose of this report is to request Council's adoption of an amended Draft Keeping of Animals Policy 2022 which seeks to reintroduce the requirement to limit the numbers of cats on a premises where a complaint has been verified by an Authorised Officer of Council.
17. The Policy's adoption by Council is required to ensure that the requirements of this Policy continue beyond the automatically revocation date of 12 months after the declaration of the poll for the last Local Government election.

Report

18. Since the adoption of the Keeping of Animals Policy 2020 on 23 March 2020 the following requests have been received from the community regarding animal amenity issues:

Year (Calendar)	Number of Requests	Most Common Animal Types
2020	19	Roosters, Chickens, Cats
2021	29	Roosters, Cats, Chickens
2022	13	Cats, Roosters

19. The Draft Keeping of Animals Policy 2022, contained in Attachment 1, has been prepared for the purpose of:
- publicly notify the circumstances that the Council will consider in determining whether to serve an Order No. 18 under Section 124 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to prohibit, restrict or in some other way, require things to be done regarding the keeping of animals
 - minimising nuisance caused by noise, odour or vermin through the keeping of animals and to maximise residential amenity, and
 - ensuring the keeping of animals does not compromise the environment or minimum standards of building, public health, safety and convenience.
20. It is important to note that this draft Policy only applies to the occupier of a premises within the LGA where a complaint regarding an amenity impact from the keeping of an animal has been verified by an Authorised Officer of Council. The Policy does not apply to commercial or business premises operating under a Development Consent or strata managed premises where the amenity impact is contained to within that premises.
21. Any regulatory action relating to the enforcement of this policy will be in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy. Council staff will consider the impact of any Policy non-compliance on community amenity before deciding to take regulatory action. A breach of the numerical standards contained within this Policy alone will not necessarily result in regulatory action being taken by Council. Council will consider on its merits any request to vary to the numerical standards contained within this Policy for the keeping of animals on a premises on the submission of substantive supporting evidence.
22. The draft Policy maintains the existing provisions to address a situation where the number of animals kept on a premises before the commencement of the Policy exceeds that shown for each animal, i.e., there is no immediate requirement to reduce animal numbers to comply with this Policy unless there is a complaint regarding an amenity impact from the keeping of an animal has been verified by an Authorised Officer of Council.
23. The draft Policy contains criteria in Section 4 which may be applied when amenity impacts are verified and lists these for each pet animal type that may be reasonably expected to occur within the LGA. There has been a subtle change to the wording within the draft Policy regarding the application of the criteria with the substitution of the words 'to be' with 'that may' to reflect the current practice that not all of the criteria will be applied, only those that are necessary to resolve the specific amenity issue. With the exception this and the requirements for the keeping of cats none of the other requirements are proposed to be changed from the existing 2020 version of the Policy. The proposed changes to the draft Policy are shown in red text in Attachment 1.

The Keeping of Cats

24. As indicated previously the only proposed change to the draft Policy is the reintroduction of requirements to limit the numbers of cats following a verified complaint. The reason for the

inclusion of these requirements is because Council's Rangers have been involved in an ongoing investigation since May 2020 relating to the negative impact upon surrounding neighbours caused by the number of cats being kept by a resident.

25. The initial investigation related to a premises in Connells Point and was conducted over a nine-month period, resulting in Council's Rangers identifying 21 unregistered cats at the premises. The resolution of this matter also required the assistance of the Environmental Health Officers due to the extremely pungent smell of faeces that could be clearly smelled from neighbouring properties as well as the associate swarms of flies attracted to the faeces.
26. Whilst Council commenced the regulatory process required by the *Local Government Act 1993*, the occupant moved from this premises in early 2021, prior to Council commencing enforcement action, to a property in Hurstville.
27. Council began to receive complaints from neighbours around April 2021 regarding the offensive smell emanating from the property, due to the number of cats being kept at the property. Rangers have continued to investigate this matter and issued notices to identify/register the cats and were successful in having the occupant identify a total of 49 cats. Despite this, the owner failed to correctly register 18 of these cats or identify a further 14, that resulted in the issue of penalty notices for each of these offences.
28. As council's Keeping of Animals Policy 2020 did not contain restrictions on the maximum number of cats that could be kept on a premises, legal advice was sought from Lindsey Taylor lawyers in relation to what was deemed a reasonable number of cats that could be kept on a residential premises. The advice received in December 2021 sighted the RSPCA document from May 2018 titled - *Identifying Best Practice Domestic Cat Management in Australia* which recommends a limit of four cats, provided that all cats are desexed, microchipped, contained and receive appropriate care. Council subsequently initiated the regulatory process required by the *Local Government Act 1993* to make the premises safe and healthy and to reduce the number of cats kept on the property to four. Again, the occupant of the property failed to comply with Council's Orders which resulted in the issue of two further fines. Currently the occupant is in the process of moving from the area to a property which is large enough to house the number of cats. As a safeguard measure, Council has again commenced the regulatory process required by the *Local Government Act 1993* in the event that the anticipated move does not occur.
29. Based on the above experience and the legal advice received it is proposed to amend the draft Keeping of Animals Policy 2022 to include the following provisions in relation to the keeping of cats:
 - The maximum number of cats permitted to be kept on any property is four.
 - All cats kept on any property must be desexed, microchipped and receive appropriate care.
30. The above requirements would prevent a recurrence of the situations that previously occurred and would significantly assist Council staff in rapidly resolving future cat amenity complaints.

Conclusion

31. Whilst Council does not receive a significant number of requests regarding animal amenity, those that are received often take considerable time to resolve and having the benefit of an overarching Policy to assist with the resolution of these matters is most beneficial to Council staff. The additional provisions proposed for inclusion into the draft Poly in relation to the keeping of cats will address a significant gap in the current Policy and will enable the rapid resolution of any similar matters in the future.

32. Therefore, it is proposed to seek the views of the community by placing the draft Keeping of Animals Policy on exhibition for 28 days via Council's website and customer service centres and writing to those previously contacted organisations seeking comment. A further report will be provided to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

33. No budget impact for this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

34. Operational risk/s identified, and management process applied.


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

35. Community engagement will be conducted via the public exhibition of the draft Policy via Council's website and customer service centres.
36. During the public exhibition period Council staff will write to previously contacted organisations seeking comment on the draft Policy 2022.

FILE REFERENCE

SF22/84, D22/128058

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1  Pol-071-01 - Draft - Keeping of Animals Policy - June 2022



DRAFT KEEPING OF ANIMALS POLICY

Draft Policy for Public Exhibition July – Aug 2022

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Dates	Policy approved xx/xx/2022 (Version 2) This policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review xx/xx/2022
Approved by	Council Meeting xx/xx/2022 (Version 2)
Policy Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy
Exhibition Period	Draft Version 2 of the policy to be placed on public exhibition July – Aug 2022
Policy Owner	Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services
Related Documents	Georges River Council - Enforcement Policy, 2021
Appendices	Appendix A – List of web links to applicable reference documents (other than Legislation or Council documents)
References and Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) • Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) • Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) • Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (NSW) • Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997(NSW) • Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; (NSW) • Impounding Act 1993(NSW) • Food Act 2003 (NSW) • Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) • Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW) • NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 • Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding dogs and cats Department Primary Industries(DPI) • Beekeeping Code of Practice (DPI) • Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice (DPI) • NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No. 4 – Keeping and Trading birds (DPI) • Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Reptiles, Office Environment & Heritage (OEH) • Hygiene Protocol for the Control of Disease in Captive Snakes (OEH) • Model Code of Practice: Domestic poultry Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) • Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Intensive Husbandry of Rabbits (Australian Agricultural Council) • NSW Pest fish list (DPI)

Document Identifier	Policy #: Pol-071.02 – Draft for public exhibition Doc Number: D20/117168
Breaches of Policy	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy.
Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this policy will be kept in accordance with the NSW State Records Act 1998, Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.

PURPOSE

This Policy specifies the criteria which Council must take into consideration prior to issuing an Order (Order 18) of Section 124 of the [Local Government Act 1993](#), relating to the keeping of animals within any premises. This policy seeks to inform the community of Council's regulatory powers concerning the keeping of animals within the Georges River Local Government Area (LGA).

A nuisance may arise from the keeping of animals. This Policy details criteria of reasonable limits on maximum numbers, and circumstances under which certain animals may be kept in the interest of amenity and public health when amenity impacts are verified.

SCOPE

This policy does not apply to the keeping of animals for business or commercial purposes where prior Development Consent of Council is required under the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 \(NSW\)](#).

This policy should be read in conjunction with Council's Enforcement Policy.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Meaning
Amenity Impact	Includes disturbance from the keeping of animals due to noise, odour, dust, vermin, effluent or the unsightliness of structures used to house animals
Animal	'Animal' includes a mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish. 'Animal' does not include a human being (as defined by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, NSW).
Authorised Officer	An employee of Georges River Council provided with delegated authority to act under the Local Government Act 1993
Council	Georges River Council
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Livestock	Includes cattle, horses, donkeys, mules asses, camels, sheep, goats and deer; including any that are a 'mini' breed
Prescribed premises	An adjoining dwelling, school, shop, office, factory, workshop, church or other place of public worship, public hall or premises used for the manufacture, preparation or storage of food

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Policy objectives

- 1.1. The objective of this Policy is to publicly notify the circumstances that the Council will consider in determining whether to serve an Order No. 18 under Section 124 of the [Local Government Act 1993](#) to prohibit, restrict or in some other way, require things to be done regarding the keeping of animals
- 1.2. In achieving the above objective the following associated objectives will also be achieved:
 - To minimise nuisance caused by noise, odour or vermin through the keeping of animals and to maximise residential amenity, and
 - To ensure the keeping of animals does not compromise the environment or minimum standards of building, public health, safety and convenience.

2. Application

- 2.1. This policy applies to the occupier of all premises within the LGA where a complaint regarding an amenity impact from the keeping of an animal has been verified by an Authorised Officer of Council.
- 2.2. The Policy does not apply to commercial or business premises operating under a Development Consent or strata managed premises where the amenity impact is contained to within that premises.

3. Principles

3.1. Keeping of Animals generally

- 3.1.1. Animals are usually kept by residents without difficulty or nuisance. However, on occasion a nuisance may arrive that has an adverse impact on the surrounding amenity, resulting in the lodgement of a complaint. When a complaint is verified by Council, the Authorised Officer **may** apply the criteria outlined in section 4 in order to resolve the complaint (i.e. to mitigate any nuisance or improve the amenity of neighbours).
- 3.1.2. Generally, the number and kind of animal that is suitable to be kept on any premises will be determined having regard to the size of the available yard (free land mass area) and the distance to the nearest dwelling or other prescribed premises, and the likely impact upon the amenity of any neighbouring premises.
- 3.1.3. Where the number of animals kept on any premises before the commencement of this Policy exceeds that shown for each animal, there is no immediate requirement to reduce animal numbers to comply with this Policy. Should a nuisance be caused as a result of the additional animals, then this exemption does not prevent Council from issuing an order to comply with this Policy.
- 3.1.4. Council will consider on its merits any request to vary the numerical standards contained within this Policy for the keeping of animals on a

premises subject to the Policy on the submission of substantive supporting evidence.

- 3.1.5. Animals are to be kept in a manner which does not:
- a) create unsanitary or unhealthy conditions,
 - b) attract or provide harbourage for vermin,
 - c) create offensive noise or odours,
 - d) cause a drainage or dust nuisance,
 - e) create a waste disposal problem,
 - f) unreasonably affect the amenity of neighbouring residents,
 - g) cause nuisance due to proliferation of flies, lice, fleas or other insects, and
 - h) cause any ill health or distress to the animals.
- 3.1.6. All animals are to be housed in suitable shelters complying with specific keeping requirements for specified animals as contained in this Policy. Animal shelters, not deemed exempt development under State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 will require approval via a complying development certificate or development consent.
- 3.1.7. Design guidelines for the size, layout and construction of animal shelters are produced by various animal welfare organisations including the NSW Department of Primary Industries and may be referenced by this policy. These documents are accurate of the time of adoption of this policy, however nothing in this policy prevents the use of an updated version of these documents.

3.2. Council's Powers to Control and Regulate the Keeping of Animals

- 3.2.1. Council's power to control and regulate the keeping of animals is provided under Section 124 of the [Local Government Act 1993](#) and [Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2005](#).
- 3.2.2. Council may, (although not limited to) issue an Order to:
- a) prohibit the keeping of various kinds of animals,
 - b) restrict the number of various kinds of animals,
 - c) require that animals are kept in a specific manner,
 - d) demolish animal shelters built without prior approval, and
 - e) require the occupier to do or to refrain from doing such things as are specified so as to ensure that land or premises are placed or kept in a safe or healthy condition.

3.3. Breaches and Sanctions

- 3.3.1. Any regulatory action relating to the enforcement of this policy will be in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy. Council staff will consider the impact of any Policy non-compliance on community amenity before deciding to take regulatory action. A breach of the numerical

standards contained within this Policy alone will not necessarily result in regulatory action being taken by Council.

4. Criteria **that may** be applied when amenity impacts are verified

- 4.1. The following criteria **may** be utilised by Council Authorised Officers when seeking to resolve verified complaints regarding the keeping of animals.

4.2. The Keeping of Bees

Criteria **that may** be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.2.1. Beekeepers must be registered with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and must comply with the Beekeeping and Bee Biosecurity Codes of Practice for NSW.
- 4.2.2. Beehives must be identified by branding all brood boxes with their registration number.
- 4.2.3. Beekeepers must notify the NSW DPI within 24 hours if they become aware that their hive/s are infected with a disease.
- 4.2.4. Complaints about beehives are to be directed to the Director-General of the NSW DPI.

Residential Areas:

- 4.2.5. In urban areas, the number of hives permitted to be kept on a premises of certain sizes is specified in the table below:

Free land mass area (metres square)	Max. number of hives
< 400	2
>400 and less than 1000	4
>1000	8

- 4.2.6. Beekeepers must obtain permission from the owners of private lands or from the authority of government controlled lands before placing beehives on such lands.
- 4.2.7. Beehives should not be located within 100m of schools, child care centres, hospitals or other public facilities.
- 4.2.8. A suitable barrier must be erected close to the landing board to force flight paths above two metres.
- 4.2.9. Beehives are not to be positioned in the front yard of domestic premises.
- 4.2.10. Swarming must be controlled. This may be achieved by re-queening regularly with a reduced swarming strain, population control or temporarily splitting into smaller hives.
- 4.2.11. A permanent water source suitable for bees is to be provided at the property storing the beehive.
- 4.2.12. The beehive is not to be located within nine metres of any neighbouring swimming pool.
- 4.2.13. Beehives are to be regularly monitored for signs of disease.

4.2.14. The keeping of bees in unit and townhouse developments is not permitted.

Note (i): Beekeepers are encouraged to increase and update their knowledge by attending training and/or belonging to a beekeeping association.

Note (ii): Beekeepers are encouraged to contact their immediate adjoining neighbours prior to establishing beehives to consider any impacts that may arise from persons vulnerable to bee stings.

Wild Hives

4.2.15. Any person having a wild beehive on their property must consult the NSW DPI for advice on controlling the beehive.

Note: A wild beehive is described as introduced bees not in a domesticated situation and not kept within a bee frame or a beekeeper's box.

4.3. The Keeping of Birds (other than poultry or pigeons)

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

4.3.1. There is no maximum number of birds permitted however numbers kept may be required to be reduced to mitigate any nuisance or improve the amenity of neighbours.

4.3.2. Aviaries and cages must be:

- a) constructed of appropriate materials (new or good quality second hand materials) and maintained to these standards during their use.
- b) constructed to be vermin proof, well ventilated, have an impervious surface and not cause or be likely to cause injury to birds.
- c) maintained by the owner so as to avoid the escape of birds.
- d) managed to prevent excessive noise and odour.
- e) operated in accordance with the Code of Ethics produced by the Associated Bird-Keepers of Australia Incorporated, approved by the Canary and Bird Federation of Australia and NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 4 - Keeping and Trading of Birds.

4.3.3. Vermin proof food storage facilities must be provided.

4.3.4. A continuous rodent and pest control program must be in place.

4.4. The Keeping of Cats

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

4.4.1. The maximum number of cats permitted to be kept on any property is four.

4.4.2. All cats kept on any property must be desexed, microchipped and receive appropriate care.

4.4.3. Where Council receives verified complaints regarding a roaming cat, the cat is to be prevented from leaving from the property at which it is ordinarily kept by being kept indoors (house, enclosure, shed or garage).

4.4.4. Any enclosure used for housing cats shall be in accordance with Section 6, Table 2: Minimum Sizes for Cat Enclosures; DPI Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding dogs and cats.

Note: Owners of cats are encouraged to de-sex their cats to prevent unwanted litters and keep them contained to minimise the impact on native wildlife or nuisance to neighbouring residents.

4.5. The Keeping of Dogs

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.5.1. There are no specific limitations for the number of dogs permitted however numbers kept may be required to be reduced to mitigate any nuisance or improve the amenity of neighbours.

Note: Owners of dogs are encouraged to de-sex their animals to prevent unwanted litters.

4.6. The Keeping of Fish

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.6.1. There are no specific limitations for the number of fish permitted however numbers kept may be required to be reduced to mitigate any nuisance or improve the amenity of neighbours.
- 4.6.2. Species listed in Schedule 2 of the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) and DPI Pest Fish list, are classed as prohibited matter and must not be kept.
- 4.6.3. Ponds are to comply with the NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 requirements.
- 4.6.4. Pond water is to be maintained to prevent the harbouring of mosquito larvae.
- 4.6.5. Pond water filtration pumps must not be used in a manner that creates a noise nuisance to adjoining properties.
- 4.6.6. Ponds must be provided with shade which includes aquatic plants.
- 4.6.7. Food must be provided that suits the species of aquatic organism(s) being kept.
- 4.6.8. Ponds must be provided with fencing or a cover to protect fish from predation.
- 4.6.9. All deceased or unwanted fish and aquatic plants must be disposed of via an approved waste disposal system. Fish and aquatic plants must not be disposed of into any type of waterway, pond or dam.

4.7. The Keeping of Ferrets and Guinea Pigs

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.7.1. No more than four adult animals may be kept at any one premises.
- 4.7.2. Hutches and cages must be:
- a) kept clean at all times; and
 - b) of a construction standard that will prevent escape.
- 4.7.3. Ferrets and Guinea Pigs must be caged and/or secured at all times from escape and are not permitted to free range.

- 4.7.4. It is recommended that ferrets are de-sexed from four to six months of age.
- 4.7.5. Waste material, including litter and bedding, must be disposed of via an approved waste disposal service or composted.

4.8. The Keeping of Livestock

Criteria to be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.8.1. Livestock are not permitted to be kept within the LGA.

4.9. The Keeping of Pigeons

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.9.1. The keeping of domestic homing, show or fancy class pigeons by hobbyists and racing enthusiasts in the LGA is permitted and the following conditions may apply:

Standard Requirements:

- 4.9.2. A maximum 20 pigeons except as permitted for Racing Pigeons (see below) may be kept.
- 4.9.3. Pigeons must be housed in purpose built facilities at least 15m from prescribed premises.
- 4.9.4. Aviaries (Lofts) must be constructed on hard paving of a smooth surface, or with a suspended floor elevated 0.8m above the ground. Lofts must be enclosed to prevent food or waste becoming wet.
- 4.9.5. Positioning of pigeon lofts must be such that the amenity of adjoining premises is preserved, with no inconvenience or nuisance resulting from the loft or from flying birds. The pigeons' owner or the occupier of those premises must control feral pigeons attracted to captive managed flocks.
- 4.9.6. Keeping of pigeons is only permissible on residential properties that have single dwelling or dual occupancy development.
- 4.9.7. Pigeons must be fed within the aviaries/lofts.
- 4.9.8. Free lofting of pigeons (that is allowing pigeons to freely roam outside of their Aviary (loft) in a residential area is not permitted at any time, except as permitted for Racing Pigeons (see below)
- 4.9.9. Pigeons are not allowed to roost on neighbouring buildings. Aviary (Loft) doors and traps must be locked at all times except as permitted for Racing Pigeons (see below).
- 4.9.10. Food must be stored in sealed vermin proof containers and must not be left uncovered.
- 4.9.11. Waste material, including litter and bedding, must be disposed of via an approved waste disposal service or composted.
- 4.9.12. Council is to be notified of the keeping of pigeons, construction of the loft of less than 10 sqm, and any activity not considered a hobby.

Racing Pigeon Requirements:

- 4.9.13. In addition to the above controls the following requirements **may** apply specifically to the keeping of Racing Pigeons:
- a) The maximum number of racing pigeons that may be kept on premises within a residential area is 120 birds, provided that the keeper is a certified member of a recognised pigeon racing club, federation or association, is an active member of the sport and otherwise complies with other provisions of this Policy.
 - b) Racing pigeon Aviaries (lofts) are to have adequate visible landing platforms.
 - c) Pigeons must have a leg band with the club name, and unique ID number.
 - d) Exercising/free flight is to occur between 7:00am and 8:00am and between 4:00pm and 5:00pm give or take 15mins either side of the time restrictions at all other times the pigeons must be kept within their enclosure. All exercise should be conducted under close supervision by the owner.
 - e) The exit and entry of these birds from the Aviary (loft) must be controlled by the keeper. Provision must be made for all released birds to return through a one-way entrance that will not permit uncontrolled exit.

4.10. The Keeping of Pigs (Swine)

Criteria to be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.10.1. Pigs are not permitted to be kept within the LGA.

4.11. The Keeping of Poultry

Criteria **that may** be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.11.1. Poultry must be kept in accordance with the [Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2005](#), Part 5, Schedule 2 – Division 2, clauses 19 and 20.
- 4.11.2. Poultry must be housed in purpose built facilities.
- 4.11.3. Food must be stored in sealed vermin proof containers and must not be left uncovered.
- 4.11.4. Waste material, including litter and bedding, must be disposed of via an approved waste disposal service or composted.
- 4.11.5. Outside runs must be free draining, not discharge onto neighbouring properties and not be allowed to become muddy.
- 4.11.6. The total numbers of poultry (excluding pigeons and other birds) kept on premises must not exceed the maximum amount specified below.

Type	Maximum Numbers
Peacocks	Nil
Roosters	Nil
Ducks	2
Geese	Nil

Swans	Nil
Turkeys	Nil
Fowls (female chickens)	5
Pheasants	5
Quails	5
Pea Fowls	2
Total Combined Number per property	10 maximum

4.11.7. The slaughtering of poultry is not permitted.

4.12. The Keeping of Rabbits

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.12.1. No more than two adult domestic rabbits may be kept on premises.
- 4.12.2. Rabbits being kept in residential areas must not be kept closer than 9 metres to a prescribed premises.
- 4.12.3. Waste material, including litter and bedding, must be disposed of via an approved waste disposal service or composted.
- 4.12.4. Rabbits must be of a recognised domestic breed and be kept in a rabbit proof enclosure.
- 4.12.5. Rabbits are to be kept in accordance with the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Intensive Husbandry of Rabbits.
- 4.12.6. Rabbits should be de-sexed to prevent unwanted litters.

4.13. The Keeping of Reptiles

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.13.1. There is no maximum number of reptiles permitted however numbers kept may be required to be reduced to mitigate any nuisance or improve the amenity of neighbours.
- 4.13.2. Reptiles may only be kept if in accordance with the Code of Practice for the private Keeping of Reptiles and Hygiene Protocol for the Control of Disease in Captive Snakes, this includes obtaining a licence to keep reptiles.

Note: Reptiles must be obtained from a licensed breeder and not taken from the natural environment.

4.14. The Keeping of Rodents

Criteria that may be applied to verified complaints:

- 4.14.1. No more than 4 adult rats or 10 adult mice are permitted on a premises.
- 4.14.2. Only domesticated breeds of rats and mice are permitted to be kept.
- 4.14.3. Cages must be of a construction standard that will prevent escape.
- 4.14.4. Rodents must be caged and/or secured at all times from escape and are not permitted to free range.

- 4.14.5. Waste material, including litter and bedding, must be disposed of via an approved waste disposal service or composted.
- 4.14.6. The keeping and breeding of rodents as food animals for reptile feeding is prohibited.

5. General Notes

- 5.1. Policy details may change prior to review date due to legislative changes.
- 5.2. Further information regarding the keeping of dogs and cats can be found in the [Companion Animals Act 1998](#).

RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibility
Authorised Officer (within the Environment Health and Regulatory Services Section)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively participate in policy training. To follow the policy outlined. To report any barriers or concerns relating to policy implementation to the Coordinator without undue delay. To effectively participate in document review. To make decisions relating to the investigation of alleged unlawful activity with the support of the Coordinator.
Coordinator (within the Environment Health and Regulatory Services Section)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively train, guide and monitor staff in policy implementation. To effectively respond to reported concerns or barriers to policy implementation. To be an active advocate for policy implementation. To effectively coordinate and participate in policy review. To ensure policy requirements remain consistent with Council Policy and Organisational objectives. To review decisions relating to investigation of alleged unlawful activity made by an Authorised Officer.
Manager Environment Health and Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To effectively respond to reported concerns or barriers to policy implementation. To be an active advocate for policy implementation. To effectively coordinate and participate in policy review. To ensure policy requirements remain consistent with Council Policy and Organisational objectives.
Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To refer customers that have allegations of unlawful activity to appropriate Council officers/Managers to ensure appropriate action is taken. Councillors are not to make decision around the way unlawful activities are investigated and/or prosecuted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors are prohibited from involvement in the day to day operation and management decisions around enforcement and prosecution. Councillors can assist individuals who raise concerns with them by satisfying themselves that the Council's policies are being carried out correctly.
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VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
KCC	Kogarah City Council – Local Orders Policy No. 18 – The keeping of Birds and Animals	Kogarah Governance	14/12/2015 – 20/04/2020
HCC	Hurstville City Council – Local Orders Policy – Keeping of Animals.	Hurstville Governance	01/07/2015 – 20/04/2020
1.0	<p>New Georges River Council Keeping of Animals Policy 2020</p> <p>Publicly exhibited 28/06/2019 – 2/08/2019</p> <p>Approved by Council Resolution CCL013-20 (ENV006-20)</p>	Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services	20/04/2020 – TBC
2.0	<p>Review of policy within 12 months of ordinary election as required under section 165 of the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>Seeking approval of the Council to place draft Georges River Council Keeping of Animals Policy (Version 2) on public exhibition July – Aug 2022</p>	Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services	TBC

APPENDIX A – ADDITIONAL WEB BASED RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/299803/Breeding-dogs-and-cats-code-of-practice.pdf

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/270679/Beekeeping-Code-of-Practice-for-NSW.pdf

<http://beeaware.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Australian-Honey-Bee-Industry-Biosecurity-Code-of-Practice.pdf>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/general/welfare-of-birds/aw-code-4>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Licences-and-permits/keeping-private-reptiles-code-of-practice.pdf>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Licences-and-permits/captive-snakes-hygiene-protocol-disease-control.pdf>

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/3451>

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/369>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/general/welfare-of-horses/awfact16>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/pests-diseases/freshwater-pests/ornamental-fish>

Item: ENV019-22 Wildlife Protection Area Policy 2022 - Report of Public Submissions

Author: Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services

Directorate: Environment and Planning

Matter Type: Committee Reports

ENV019-22

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council endorse the Georges River Wildlife Protection Area Policy 2022 as exhibited and contained in Attachment 1 to this report.
- (b) That a further report be provided to Council outlining the costs to enforce the Wildlife Protection Area Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Council at its meeting on 26 April 2022 resolved:

- “(a) That the draft Georges River Wildlife Protection Area Policy 2022 (Attachment 1) be publicly exhibited for a period of at least 28 days with the exhibition outcomes reported to Council.*
- (b) That Council declare the Council-managed land at the following sites as Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW):*
 - i. Bald Face Reserve*
 - ii. Carss Bush Park*
 - iii. Clarendon Road Reserve*
 - iv. Cedar Street and Moons Avenue Reserve*
 - v. H.V. Evatt Park*
 - vi. Gannons Park and Heinrick Reserve*
 - vii. Kyle Williams Reserve*
 - viii. Moore Reserve*
 - ix. Myles Dunphy Reserve*
 - x. Neverfail Bay Reserve*
 - xi. Oatley Park and Lime Kiln Bay Reserve*
 - xii. Oatley Pleasure Grounds Oatley Point Reserve*
 - xiv. Peakhurst Foreshore Reserve and Jinna Road Reserve*
 - xv. Poulton Park, Redin Place Reserve and Quarry Reserve*
 - xvi. Ray Street Reserve*
 - xvii. Riverwood Park and Basil Street Reserve*
 - xviii. Shipwrights Bay Reserve; and*
 - xix. Yarran Road Reserve.”*

2. The Wildlife Protection Area Policy 2022 (the Policy) was publicly exhibited between 2 May and 31 May 2022. During the public exhibition period, a total of 12 submissions were received, including 11 from the Georges River community and one from the Australian Wildlife Society (AWS). The comments are summarised and addressed individually in Table 1 of this report, and as follows:
 - Eleven (11) submissions indicated support for the Policy with varying levels of feedback; and
 - One (1) submission indicated that the Policy was inadequate in addressing native vegetation protection.
3. This report provides a detailed summary of the public exhibition process, the submissions received and Council's response to address the submissions. No amendments to the Wildlife Protection Area Policy are proposed.
4. This report seeks Council endorsement and adoption of the Wildlife Protection Area Policy 2022 as exhibited and contained in Attachment 1, following the review of public submissions.

BACKGROUND

5. Council at its meeting on 28 June 2021 noted the findings and recommendations of the Biodiversity Study 2021 (The Study) as a technical study which included recommendations for the declaration of priority biodiverse areas as Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) (the Act) to protect the local environment through the better regulation of roaming cats and off-leash dogs.
6. The Study made these recommendations due to the frequently documented presence of roaming cats (*Felis catus*) in Council reserves alongside several observations of threatened species predated upon by cats, including the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) and Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).
7. Wildlife Protection Areas may be declared as one of two categories:
 - (a) Category 1 lands prohibit both cats and dogs as per S.30 c.1(b) and S.14 c. 1(h) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW).
 - (b) Category 2 lands prohibit cats as per S.30 c.1(b) of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW). Dogs that are on a leash will be permitted on formed tracks, pathways or roads in Category 2 lands.
8. Currently, Section 30 of the Act specifies that local authorities can only seize roaming cats in specific public places, being food preparation areas, or Wildlife Protection Areas, which must be formally declared by local authorities.
9. The Policy outlines Council's management of declared Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas at the 19 sites, including where enforcement will be prioritised, being sites that are Level 3 (High Conservation priority) and meet all three of the following criteria from the Study:
 - (a) Threatened species identified on site;
 - (b) Council managed land in its entirety; and
 - (c) Cat and/or off-leash dog, or predation threat recorded at the site.
10. Council currently operates a Fox Management Program that was adopted at its meeting on 23 April 2019. This Program attempts to limit the impact of foxes on native fauna through an integrated program of ongoing community education, monitoring, fox control and reporting throughout the Local Government Area.

11. Georges River Council has a history of effective feral animal management through various partnerships with other agencies, including a trial trapping program for the feral Red-Eared Slider Turtle in Lime Kiln Bay Reserve with Local Land Services in 2019, and the coordination of a Feral Animal Control Services tender panel (T2020-08) with Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) in 2020-2021. The scope of this tender panel includes both cats and foxes as target species and can be utilised in enforcing wildlife protection areas.
12. On 3 June 2022, Council's Environmental Sustainability and Waste team submitted a grant application for the amount of \$30,000 to the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) 2022-23 program for feral animal control in Crown reserves. This feral animal control is proposed to include cage-trapping and impoundment followed in the first instance by rehoming or where not possible the euthanasia of roaming unidentified cats trapped in Council-managed Crown reserves.
13. Council-managed Crown reserves targeted in this grant (if successfully awarded to Council) include:
 - (a) Lime Kiln Bay Reserve;
 - (b) Moore Reserve, Hurstville Grove;
 - (c) Oatley Park; and
 - (d) Riverwood Park.
14. These four locations are also classified as Wildlife Protection Areas as per the April 2022 Council resolution.
15. If Council is successful in obtaining this funding, it will allow the engagement of a feral animal management contractor to enforce the Wildlife Protection Area Policy and roaming cat presence sooner than expected, alongside the ongoing Fox Management Program.
16. Detail on the estimated costs associated with enforcement including undertaking patrols, trapping and impounding activities at the 14 recommended sites for enforcement priority (as reported in April 2022) will be provided in a future report should Council adopt the attached Policy.
17. Council will promote the creation of the Wildlife Protection Areas and Policy through a Communications Campaign that will include: a local press release, social media posts, an update to the existing Feral and Roaming Cats tab on Council's webpage ([Georges River Council - Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.georgesrivercouncil.nsw.gov.au/environment)) and the distribution of printed materials to all residents living within one kilometre of a declared Wildlife Protection Area.

REPORT

Community Engagement and Public Exhibition of the Plan

18. Community feedback on the Policy was sought for a period of 29 days via the following methods:
 - (a) Online at Council's Your Say webpage;
 - (b) In hard copy at Kogarah Library and Service Centre; and
 - (c) In hard copy at Hurstville Library and Service Centre
19. A total of 12 submissions were received, including 11 from the Georges River community and one from the Australian Wildlife Society (AWS) which has its national office in Hurstville. The submissions are summarised as follows:
 - Eleven (11) submissions indicated support for the Policy with varying levels of feedback; and

- One (1) submission indicated that the Policy was inadequate in addressing native vegetation protection.

20. The submissions alongside Council's response to the submissions is detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Submissions and Council Responses relating to the Wildlife Protection Area Policy exhibition

No.	Submission Comment	Council Response
1	I support the designation of Class three level reserves as wildlife protection areas.	Support for the Policy noted.
2	Hope this goes ahead, our wildlife needs as many protected sites as possible, their environment shrinks every week.	Support for the Policy noted.
3	Supportive of a policy that keeps cats indoors at night to reduce the destruction of native wildlife	Support for the Policy noted.
4	I believe this is a good idea, but difficult to police. Also wondering why many reserves maintained by Bushcare volunteers are not included on the list?	<p>General support for the Policy noted. Rents efforts have been undertaken to obtain funding from external sources and grant programs for feral animal control.</p> <p>Reserves recommended for declaration as Wildlife Protection Areas have been directly identified through the Biodiversity Study 2021, which made evidence-based recommendations due to the presence of cats and/or due to high biodiversity value at the nominated reserves.</p>
5	Please save the native forest, because wildlife need forests or they will go extinct. Bushland is under threat from development. Save the koalas along the Georges River from extinction, protect and restore habitat for the powerful owls.	<p>Support for the Policy noted.</p> <p>Although the 2021 Biodiversity Study found no records of koalas in the Georges River LGA, there were several records of Powerful Owls. Council continues to enhance habitats through retention of dead trees as habitat trees for hollows, provided the surrounding area is declared safe to do so by Council staff. Council is also selective with native tree replacement species, ensuring trees favourable to supporting biodiversity are planted where appropriate, including Grey Ironbarks (<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>) and Blackbutt trees (<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>) being planted in parks through the grant-funded Carlton Canopy Corridor project.</p>
6	The policy does not go far enough to "encourage" people to keep their cats inside. In my neighbourhood I see cats roaming in the day and I also hear them at night. I see them attacking blue tongue lizards and other native wildlife. Please have the courage to fine cat owners that let their cats roam. If we are	<p>Section 5 of the Policy details Council's ability to not just educate but also enforce non-compliant roaming cat owners, specifically the following sub-sections:</p> <p><i>5.1. Sections 14 and 30 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 give Council the authority to impose fines on non-compliant owners of</i></p>

	<p>to restore natural habitats and encourage native wildlife in our area we need to do something real about the damage cats create, not just soft words to try and tick a box.</p>	<p><i>companion animals found in declared Wildlife Protection Areas.</i></p> <p><i>5.4. Where roaming cats or off-leash dogs can be caught, impounded and the owner identified, the owner will be sent a notice of seizure advising them that they will need to claim their animal from Council's designated impound facility.</i></p> <p><i>5.5. Penalty notices may be issued to owners of roaming cats or off-leash dogs found in Wildlife Protection Areas.</i></p> <p><i>5.6. Where roaming cats or off-leash dogs cannot be caught by Council staff, Council may engage an animal management contractor to trap the animal.</i></p> <p>There are no restrictions on roaming cats under the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> except for those that relate to Wildlife Protection Areas. The adoption of this Policy will make it an offence for cats to roam in Wildlife Protection Areas within the LGA.</p>
7	<p>I strongly support the introduction of the Draft Wildlife Protection Area Policy. I live opposite Poulton Park where we have monitored the bird population for over 30 years and recorded a sharp decline in species and numbers of birds. We have often seen cats wandering at night on the adjacent streets and there is no barrier to them entering the Park. As a member of Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society I contributed to the Georges River Biodiversity Study 2021 and am delighted that some of the recommendations of that study are being implemented.</p>	<p>Support for the Policy noted.</p>
8	<p>Major concern about the trees lopped on entry to the soccer playing fields in Poulton Park (Morshead Drive) side, as I have not noticed much replanting of trees to conceal or screen these playing fields, thus therefore habitat for fauna. Native trees need to be re planted on mass to try to reproduce the destruction these playing field have caused to the what once was a fairly thick bush screen to these fields. Planting bee weekends would be something the community would be up for and eager to participate in. Again to add, a tree lined screen is essential along Morshead Drive to give back to the local wide life some sort of haven they once had.</p>	<p>The comments in this submission are outside the scope of the Policy.</p> <p>The removal of vegetation was necessary on the slope adjacent to the new playing fields due to several trees being dead or dying. This area is part of planned remediation and revegetation works which will take place in Spring 2022 when growing conditions are more favourable. Council understands that native tree replacement is important within the LGA and has been actively planting more than 1,500 native mature trees since 2019 through grant-funded tree planting projects.</p>
9	<p>I support the declaration of these bushland areas as Wildlife Protection</p>	<p>Support for the Policy noted.</p>

	Areas. This will facilitate the management of the reserves by Council to mitigate threats to wildlife. Roaming cats and dogs are significant threats to native animals. As a birdwatcher I am particularly aware of the negative effect of feral and roaming domestic cats on birds.	
10	Sounds inadequate. What about education campaigns to locals about how to better protect our species when walking amongst it all? What about roped off area's allowing things to re-grow? What about replanting of species in short supply or weed eradication? No plan for that?	<p>Feedback on protecting native flora is noted, however comments in relation to flora are outside the scope of the Policy.</p> <p>The Policy is focused on exclusion of roaming cats and off-leash dogs for native fauna protection. Regarding native flora protection from trampling, signage for Wildlife Protection Areas is expected to include notice that pedestrians, dog-walkers and cyclists must remain on designated, formal tracks at all times and not deviate through informal tracks.</p> <p>Council notes that exclusion zones in revegetated areas are best-practice and currently being employed by Council in Bushcare sites such as Black Forest Reserve, Beverly Hills among others, supported by application site Plans of Management.</p>
11	In full support of Council protecting our bushland reserves...Oatley Park in particular has invasion of weeds and a family of powerful owls who come back each year to have their babies and feed on other wildlife in the park. Finding many tracks through the bush that are being created by people, cant remember it looking as sparse. Maybe some signage to minimise the foot traffic to allow for regeneration.	<p>Support for Policy and records of weed and Powerful Owls are noted.</p> <p>Council's Bushcare team will continue an active program of weed removal and bush regeneration in Oatley Park. Signage for Wildlife Protection Areas will include notice that pedestrians, dog-walkers and cyclists must remain on designated, formal tracks at all times and not deviate through informal tracks.</p>
12	<p>We are in favour of the stated nineteen bushland reserves being listed as wildlife protection areas due to conservation classification of the sites, presence of threatened fauna species, council management of the land, and presence of cat and/or off-leash dog, or predation threat recorded at the sites.</p> <p>The Society commends the Council's commitment to improving public land conservation by reducing threats to native wildlife within these nineteen bushland reserves – wildlife protection areas. We encourage the enforcement of wildlife protection areas with Council Rangers implementing compliance by the community.</p> <p>We feel that the 90-day delay between signage installation and active</p>	<p>General support for the Policy noted. Recent efforts to obtain grant funding for expanded feral animal control have been sought from both internal and external funding sources.</p> <p>The 90-day delay mirrors the Wildlife Protection Area Policy of Blue Mountains Council, a local government area which contains world-heritage recognised environmental values. Georges River Council believes that the delay is adequate as it provides the community with an appropriate timeframe in which to adjust behaviour – the Policy encourages behaviour change in conjunction with enforcement principles. The Policy is aimed at improving responsible pet ownership, it is believed that the 90-day delay combined with an education program targeting residences within 1 kilometre of the wildlife protection areas is conducive to this aim.</p>

<p>enforcement to give the community time to be made aware of the wildlife protection areas is too generous and should be reduced to 30-days to increase the protection of threatened species in the area.</p> <p>Furthermore, from 1 July 2022, the Australian Capital Territory will implement a territory-wide cat containment. Residents will be required to keep their cats confined to their premises, regardless of their suburb. The Australian Wildlife Society encourages Council to implement similar cat containment regulations taking an educative approach to compliance to further protect native wildlife.</p>	<p>It is for this reason that the 90-day delay between signage installation and active enforcement is retained in the Policy contained in Attachment A.</p> <p>The comment regarding recent legislative change in the ACT would require an amendment to the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> and should therefore be addressed to the NSW government.</p>
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ENV019-22

21. Considering the above submissions are in principle supportive of the Policy and issues relating to vegetation removal are not within the scope of the Policy as prescribed by the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW) and do not necessitate Policy amendment, the Policy contained in **Attachment 1** remains unchanged from the draft Policy publicly exhibited.
22. Adoption of the Policy will assist Council in achieving goals and strategies consistent with the Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028, specifically:
 - 1.1.3 *Help everyone to contribute to a more environmentally sustainable Georges River LGA.*
 - The Policy achieves this strategy by involving and encouraging the Georges River community to properly contain cats and report on improperly roaming cats through the use of Feral Scan.
 - 1.1.4 *Develop and implement programs to protect and conserve the natural environment.*
 - The Policy achieves this strategy by enabling the expansion of feral animal management programs to include monitoring and enforcement of roaming cats and off-leash dogs to support native wildlife and the natural environment, as well as working to protect wildlife through signage.
 - 1.3.1 *Ensure all public parks and open spaces are accessible, well-maintained and managed to meet the recreational needs of current and future residents.*
 - The Policy achieves this strategy by improving accessibility of public reserves by reducing unwanted interactions between the community and roaming cats and/or off-leash dogs.
 - 5.5.2 *Manage public spaces to ensure legislative compliance and promote a safe and healthy environment for the community.*
 - The Policy achieves this strategy by being compliant with the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998* which requires dogs to be restrained on leashes except in designated off-leash areas, and cats to be prohibited from declared wildlife protection areas. Public spaces will also be safer as a result of this Policy, due to reduced unwanted interactions between the community and roaming cats and/or off-leash dogs.

23. The Policy will also help to achieve the following strategic environmental objectives:

- Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 (Our Vision) “*Our biodiversity corridors are well connected and our bushland and biodiversity is diverse and healthy*”.

Conclusion

24. Public exhibition of the Policy revealed a high level of support from the community for the improved management of natural areas through mitigation of the predation threat presented by roaming cats and off-leash dogs.
25. Several submissions on the draft Policy state that it does not provide enough protection for native plants, through exclusion and revegetation. This issue has been addressed in the Council responses to submissions 10 and 11 in Table 1, noting that vegetation management is outside the scope of a Wildlife Protection Area Policy under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW).
26. It is also noted that the Council will ensure that pedestrians, dog-walkers and cyclists are advised through signage to remain on designated, formal tracks at all times and not deviate through informal tracks, exhibited by Council at the major entrances to Wildlife Protection Areas.
27. The Policy focuses on exclusion of roaming cats and off-leash dogs from areas of high conservation value, and that revegetation of natural areas, although not a focus within the scope of the Policy, remains an important priority for Council and is addressed by Council separately through numerous programs, such as (but not limited to) the following:
- ongoing Bushcare programs
 - site specific weed removal and regeneration activities
 - management of canopy through routine tree planting programs and implementation of Council’s Tree Management Policy
 - progression of the Biodiversity Study recommendations.
28. Through the adoption of the Policy and associated declaration of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas, Council will improve the conservation of public land by reducing threats to wildlife by prohibiting roaming cats and off-leash dogs. Any cat, either desexed, owned, semi-owned or unowned can kill native wildlife and for this reason, any cat will be prohibited from Wildlife Protection Areas within the LGA. The declaration will provide Council with management options for cats (ability to impound) that it currently does not have under existing legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

29. Whilst there will be no budget impact for this report, there will, however, be a financial impact as a result of implementing the Wildlife Protection Areas, should Council adopt the attached Policy.
30. It is estimated that a budget of \$22,000 will be required to implement Wildlife Protection Areas through signage.
31. Further detail on the estimated costs associated with enforcement including undertaking patrols, trapping and impounding activities at the 14 recommended sites for enforcement priority (as reported in April 2022) will be provided in a future report should Council adopt the attached Policy.

32. Funds to implement and enforce Wildlife Protection Areas and their associated Policy will be sought through the annual operational budget process and eligible external grant funding.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

33. There is a risk to the protection of biodiversity within the Georges River Local Government Area in the event that areas of high biodiversity value are not declared as Wildlife Protection Areas. Council can reduce this risk and actively protect native, threatened and vulnerable species through the management of roaming cats and off-leash dogs in Wildlife Protection Areas as outlined within the Policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – NOT FINISHED

34. Community engagement was conducted using Council's YourSay platform as outlined in detail within this report. REVISIT
35. Council will promote the creation of the Wildlife Protection Areas and Policy through a Communications Campaign that will include: a local press release, social media posts, an update to the existing Feral and Roaming Cats tab on Council's webpage ([Georges River Council - Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.georgesrivercouncil.nsw.gov.au/environment)) and the distribution of printed materials to all residents living within one kilometre of a declared Wildlife Protection Area.

FILE REFERENCE

SF22/84, D22/128486

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment [↓](#)1  Georges River Wildlife Protection Area Policy 2022



WILDLIFE PROTECTION AREA POLICY

Approval / active date xx/2022

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Dates	Policy approved xx/xx/2022 This Policy is effective upon its approval. Policy is due for review xx/xxxx
Approved by	Council Meeting xx/xx/2022 Council Resolution
Policy Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Policy
Exhibition Period	2 May 2022 – 31 May 2022 (Council Resolution ENV011-22)
Policy Owner	Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services
Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges River Council Biodiversity Study 2021 (Volumes 1 & 2) • Oatley Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2021 • Georges River Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028 • Georges River Council Keeping of Animals Policy 2020 • Georges River Council Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals Policy 2021 • Hurstville City Council Neverfail Bay and Oatley Point Reserve Fauna Study 2010 • SSROC Connected Corridors for Biodiversity 2018
Appendices	Appendix A – Map of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas
References & Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> • <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats 2008</i> • <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act (NSW) 2016</i> and associated <i>Biodiversity Regulation 2017</i> • <i>Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998</i> • <i>Local Government Act (NSW) 1993</i> • <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act (NSW) 1974</i> • <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (NSW) 1979</i>
Document Identifier	Policy #: Allocated once policy is approved Doc #: D22/123094
Breaches of Policy	Breaches of any policy will be dealt with and responded to in accordance with adopted codes and/or relevant legislation.

Record Keeping	All documents and information obtained in relation to the implementation of this Policy will be kept in accordance with the NSW State Records Act 1998, Georges River Council's Corporate Records Policy and adopted internal procedures.
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PURPOSE

This Policy aims to protect local biodiversity, domestic companion animals and the local environment through the declaration of Wildlife Protection Areas (WPA).

The Policy grants Council the ability to control and manage roaming cats and off-leash dogs in designated WPA's outlined within this Policy for the protection of native fauna.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to public land declared as a Wildlife Protection Area (WPA) as identified in Appendix A - Map of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas.

This Policy applies to all cat and dog owners within the LGA, particularly those who live within 1km of a declared WPA.

This Policy identifies specific parks and reserves as a WPA and provides criteria for the creation of additional WPA's.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (the Act), local authorities can prohibit cats and dogs from public lands through the declaration of Wildlife Protection Areas for the purpose of wildlife protection.

Wildlife Protection Areas can be declared as one of two categories under the Act:

- Category 1 lands prohibit both cats and dogs as per section 30(1)(b) and section 14(1)(h).
- Category 2 lands prohibit cats as per section 30(1)(b). Dogs that are on a leash will be permitted on formed tracks, pathways or roads in Category 2 lands.

The Georges River Council Biodiversity Study 2021 (the Study) provided recommendations for the perpetual conservation of areas of biodiversity value in the LGA, including several bushland reserves identified as having high priority. The Study recommended the following action be taken within two years:

"Classify the Council managed sites, or sections of site(s), as a (*Category 2*) 'wildlife protection area' as defined under section 30 (1)(b) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and undertake appropriate cat control".

Council already has the ability to regulate the presence of off-leash dogs in public places under the Act, requiring that all dogs be kept on leashes unless in designated off-leash dog parks, which are listed on Council's website. As such, this Policy will only impose declarations of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas at the sites contained in Appendix A - Map of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas.

Council's current Keeping of Animals Policy contains regulations for cat owners to abide by to prevent cats roaming if they are proven to be a nuisance. Specifically, section 4.4.2. of the Policy states "Where Council receives verified complaints regarding a roaming cat, the cat is to be prevented from leaving from the property at which it is ordinarily kept by being kept indoors (house, enclosure, shed or garage)". Section 4.4. also contains a note stating that "Owners of cats are encouraged to de-sex their cats to prevent unwanted litters and keep them contained to minimise the impact on native wildlife or nuisance to neighbouring residents".

The Keeping of Animals Policy however does not allow enforcement orders to be issued to owners of cats found roaming in public areas. This is due to limitations in the *Companion Animals Act 1998* whereby local authorities can only prohibit cats being in public areas if they are in food preparation areas or Wildlife Protection Areas.

Several declared Wildlife Protection Areas border bushland that is part of Georges River National Park. Domestic dogs and cats are prohibited in National Parks per the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Pets in Parks Policy 2021, associated with the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, which clarifies that:

- A pet cannot be brought into a national park or other land reserved or acquired under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), except that a dog can be walked on a leash in regional parks within designated dog walking areas.

This is consistent with Wildlife Protection Areas declared in sites which border areas of Georges River National Park.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Meaning
Biodiversity Values	Defined in the Georges River Biodiversity Study 2021 as the natural variety and variability of all living organisms, and the ecological and environmental complexes in which they occur. It incorporates multiple levels of complexity including diversity of genetics, species and ecological communities as well as the ecological services provided by the biodiversity (i.e. pollination, regulation of climate, nutrient cycling). Biodiversity values also include social, economic, ethical and aesthetic features of the environment and are interconnected with human health and wellbeing.
Companion Animal	As defined in the <i>NSW Companion Animals Act 1998</i> as a dog, a cat, or any other animal that is prescribed by the Act's regulations as a companion animal or is registered on the Companion Animals Register. Note: All dogs are treated as companion animals, even guard dogs, police dogs and corrective services dogs.

Term	Meaning
Domestic Companion Cat	Cats that are identified with and cared for by a specific person and are directly dependent on humans. Ownership is evidenced through microchipping and/or identification on the cat.
Feral Animal	As defined in the Management of Feral and Infant Companion Animals Policy, a Wild Companion Animal that has escaped domestication. It is born outside human society and has had no or minimal contact with people.
Feral Cat	As defined in the Commonwealth Threat Abatement Plan for Feral Cats, are those cats that live and reproduce in the wild (e.g. forests, woodlands, grasslands, deserts) and survive by hunting or scavenging; none of their needs are satisfied intentionally by humans.
LGA	Local Government Area, defined in the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> as an administrative division of a country that a local government is responsible for.
Off-leash Dog	A dog, as outlined within the Companion Animal definition, that is roaming unrestricted by a leash or other means preventing its free movement.
Resident	A person permanently residing in the Georges River LGA.
Roaming Cat	Any cats, domestic, stray or feral, found roaming in declared Wildlife Protection Areas that are not microchipped and desexed.
Stray Cat	As defined in the Commonwealth Threat Abatement Plan for Feral Cats, are those found in and around cities, towns and rural properties; they may depend on some resources provided by humans but are not owned.
Visitor	A person permanently residing outside the Georges River LGA and visiting a bushland reserve applicable to this Policy.
Wildlife Protection Area (WPA)	Areas declared by local authorities through the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> for the purpose of protecting local wildlife by prohibiting companion animal(s).

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Council's Commitment

- 1.1. Council is committed to maintaining healthy and biodiverse bushland and open space areas, available to all residents and visitors with equal and unprohibited access within the Georges River Council LGA. This is achieved by:

- Maintaining bushland and open space areas free from roaming cats and off-leash dogs.
- Facilitating the relocation or removal of roaming cats and off-leash dogs from bushland areas identified in the Georges River Biodiversity Study 2021 as high conservation priority areas and subsequently declared as Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas in Appendix A of this Policy.

2. Policy Principles

- 2.1. This Policy aims to enable additional regulatory provisions to assist in improving the welfare of threatened native animals. The declaration of Wildlife Protection Areas will permit authorised Council Officers to issue penalty notices and/or seize roaming cats and off-leash dogs found in these areas.

3. Identifying Wildlife Protection Areas

- 3.1. Areas of Council managed land declared as Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas are listed in Appendix A - Map of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas, and as follows:

- Bald Face Point Reserve
- Carss Bush Park
- Cedar Street Reserve (including Cedar Street Reserve South) and Moons Avenue Reserve
- Clarendon Road Reserve and Ogilvy Street Reserve (North and South)
- Gannons Park and Heinrick Reserve
- H.V. Evatt Park, Evatt Park Foreshore and Banksia Place Reserve
- Kyle Williams Reserve
- Moore Reserve
- Myles Dunphy Reserve and Meyer Reserve
- Neverfail Bay Reserve
- Oatley Park, Lime Kiln Bay Reserve and Oatley Heights Park
- Oatley Pleasure Grounds
- Oatley Point Reserve
- Peakhurst Foreshore Reserve, Jinna Road Reserve and Hurstville Golf Course (southern vegetated portion only)
- Poulton Park, Redin Place Reserve and Hurstville Quarry Reserve (North and South)
- Ray Street Reserve
- Riverwood Park, Lillian Road Reserve and Basil Street Reserve
- Shipwrights Bay Reserve
- Yarran Road Reserve.

- 3.2. Selection of these areas has been based on the conservation classification of the site, the presence of threatened flora and fauna, the recorded presence of roaming cats or off-leash dogs as recorded in the Georges River Biodiversity Study 2021 and whether Council manages the area.
- 3.3. The identification of additional Wildlife Protection Area sites will only be considered if the following two criteria have been met:
- Three (3) separate verified reports of roaming cats are recorded at the subject site on three (3) separate dates by Council staff and/or community members; and
 - The subject site can appropriately be signposted at all public access points.
- 3.4. Once the above criteria has been met, and if the presence of roaming cats or off-leash dogs is confirmed, the Manager Environment Health and Regulatory Services will propose the site be declared a Wildlife Protection Area by Council.
- 3.5. The proposal will be submitted to Council via Council's Environment and Planning Committee and will include:
- A map identifying the proposed area
 - Information on how the proposal meets the criteria listed in section 3.2.

4. Declaring Wildlife Protection Areas

- 4.1. Under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, local authorities can prohibit cats and dogs from public lands for the purpose of wildlife protection.
- 4.2. Once a Wildlife Protection Area has been formally declared by Council through this Policy and its supporting documents, it will come into effect 30 days after declaration by Council.
- 4.3. Following formal declaration Council will:
- install permanent signage at all achievable public access points at each of the designated Wildlife Protection Areas; and
 - advise residents within a 1km radius of the new Wildlife Protection Area site by letter.

5. Managing Wildlife Protection Areas

- 5.1. Sections 14 and 30 of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* give Council the authority to impose fines on non-compliant owners of companion animals found in declared Wildlife Protection Areas.
- 5.2. Council operational staff can monitor declared Wildlife Protection Areas for the presence of roaming cats or off-leash dogs.

- 5.3. The trapping of animals is governed under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (NSW) 1979*. Council (or contractors on behalf of Council) will only seize roaming cats and off-leash dogs in accordance with the Act using humane and approved methods.
- 5.4. Where roaming cats or off-leash dogs can be caught, impounded and the owner identified, the owner will be sent a notice of seizure advising them that they will need to claim their animal from Council's designated impound facility.
- 5.5. Penalty notices may be issued to owners of roaming cats or off-leash dogs found in Wildlife Protection Areas.
- 5.6. Where roaming cats or off-leash dogs cannot be caught by Council staff, Council may engage an animal management contractor to trap the animal.
- 5.7. If no microchip or other identification can be found and the roaming cat or off-leash dog is not claimed by its owner it will be offered to a rehoming organisation or may be euthanised after the required holding period.
- 5.8. Additionally, if a roaming cat or off-leash dog is in a poor state of health it may be euthanised in accordance with section 26AA of the NSW *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

6. Compliance with Wildlife Protection Areas

- 6.1. Residents living within one kilometre of a declared Wildlife Protection Area are recommended to:
 - i. Keep cats contained on private property to minimise the negative impact on native wildlife or nuisance to neighbouring residents. This can be done by keeping cats indoors/in an enclosure (house, enclosure, shed or garage), and removing any cat-flaps on doors, or by any means that prevents the animal from leaving the premises on which it is ordinarily kept.
 - ii. Keep dogs contained on their premises and whilst in a public area keep the dog on an appropriate chain, cord or leash under the effective control of a person over the age of 16.
 - iii. Carefully read and adhere to any signposted instructions positioned at entrances to declared Wildlife Protection Areas.
- 6.2. All residents and visitors to a site that is a declared a Wildlife Protection Area are encouraged to be aware of roaming cats or off leash dogs and report any sightings to Council on Council's website homepage or to Council's Customer Service Team.

7. Impounding of Roaming Cats or Off-leash Dogs Found in Wildlife Protection Areas

- 7.1. Cats found unattended in Wildlife Protection Areas may be seized and impounded in accordance with section 30 (1)(b) and 32 (1) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Off-leash dogs can be impounded under section 13 & 14 of the Act.
- 7.2. Any person identified to have abandoned an animal in a Wildlife Protection Area may be referred to the appropriate regulatory authority for prosecution in accordance with section 11 of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.
- 7.3. Any person identified to have liberated an animal covered by this Policy from a trap may be referred to the appropriate regulatory authority for prosecution in accordance with section 2.6 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

8. Review of Policy

- 8.1. This Policy will be subject to review and amendments by the Policy Owner after four years following the date of adoption, or at such time that any sites declared or undeclared as Wildlife Protection Areas are considered to be added or removed from the list contained in Appendix A - Map of Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Position	Responsibility
Manager Environment, Health and Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee ownership of the Policy. Actively encourage Policy implementation amongst staff. Respond to reported concerns or barriers to policy implementation. Ensure Policy procedure and objectives remain consistent with leading Council strategic objectives and goals. Coordinate and participate in Policy review.
Executive Manager City Operational Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate awareness of Policy to staff. Enable installation of signage at Wildlife Protection Areas as outlined within this Policy.
Coordinator Parking and Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively train, guide and monitor staff in Policy implementation. Communicate with partner organisations and businesses relating to policy implementation, specifically relating to impoundment and euthanasia of trapped animals. Consistently monitor the presence of companion animals in Council public reserves so that Policy amendments can be explored.
Coordinator Environmental Sustainability and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead engagement of independent consultants to monitor subject sites for presence of companion animals should a site meet the criteria in section 3 c.

Team Leader Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively train, guide and monitor staff in policy implementation. Consistently monitor the presence of companion animals in Council public reserves so that Policy amendments can be explored.
Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and become aware of policy objectives and procedure. Adhere to and carry out policy procedure. Report any barriers or concerns relating to policy implementation to the relevant Coordinator.
Senior Environment Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider interaction between this Policy and Council's routine Feral Animal Control Program.
Operational Staff working in declared Wildlife Protection Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report sightings of companion animals in declared Wildlife Protection Areas to Environment, Health and Regulatory Services staff.

VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Amendment Details	Policy Owner	Period Active
1.0	New Georges River Council Wildlife Protection Area Policy	Manager Environment Health and Regulatory Services	TBA

Item: ENV020-22 Zero Litter to Georges River - Progress Update Report

Author: Manager Environment Health & Regulatory Services

Directorate: Environment and Planning

Matter Type: Committee Reports

ENV020-22

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the progress made towards Council's aim for a target of zero litter originating from terrestrial locations above the high-water mark within the Georges River Local Government Area by 2030.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. At its meeting on 22 June 2020, Council resolved the following:
 - (a) *That Council aims for a target of zero litter originating from terrestrial locations above the high-water mark within the Georges River Local Government Area entering the Georges River by 2030.*
 - (b) *That to reduce litter entering the Georges River and to support the zero litter target, Council:*
 - i. *maintains the existing litter reduction programs and infrastructure systems delivered by Council and regional groups as outlined within this report.*
 - ii. *implements the mechanisms/approaches/programs recommended for additional litter reductions as contained in this report subject to the identification/allocation of funding.*
 - iii. *continues to investigate future funding opportunities from the NSW Environment Protection Authority and other agencies or industry bodies to fund the implementation of the additional litter reduction initiatives.*
 - (c) *That further reports detailing the progress of the actions outlined above be provided to Council every two years commencing in 2022.*
2. This report provides the first of the progress update reports, to address Section (c) of the above recommendation.
3. Georges River Local Government Area (LGA) is one of eight LGA's in the Georges River catchment and is located in the Lower Estuary of the catchment. There are 11 estuarine areas as classified by the Georges Riverkeeper above the Lower Estuary, and dozens of joining tributaries. This means that litter arrives in the waters adjacent to the Georges River LGA from highly urbanised and polluted areas upstream, primarily Salt Pan Creek and the Mid Estuary, encompassing Canterbury-Bankstown and Fairfield LGA's.
4. It is for this reason that a regional approach to litter reduction coordinated at a catchment-level by Georges Riverkeeper will have the greatest effect on litter reduction. This report provides an update on:
 - Existing litter reduction programs and infrastructure systems delivered by regional groups or other external stakeholders, such as the Georges Riverkeeper including their litter removal activities and river health monitoring

and the NSW Governments ban on single use plastics and strategic management of litter;

- Council's existing programs relating to waste management, including education programs on littering and healthy waterways, such as the delivery of the Waste Education Program, Gross Pollutant Trap management and enforcement activities relating to abandoned vehicles, development and building compliance and provision of the waste collection service;
- Upgrades to the location and effectiveness of infrastructure such as Gross Pollutant Traps on reducing litter entering the river;
- Additional mechanisms/approaches/programs that could be implemented to reduce litter entering the river, including infrastructure upgrades and further education projects; and
- Potential sources of funding to implement any proposed mechanisms, approaches or programs that may be identified, considering both internal and external funding sources.

BACKGROUND

5. The responsibility for litter within the Georges River varies between numerous governments and Council is only responsible for litter within terrestrial locations above the high-water mark within the Georges River Local Government Area. As such, Council cannot assume responsibility for all water-borne litter within the Georges River, particularly given the extent of the Georges River catchment.
6. Table 1 below demonstrates the varied responsibilities for litter prevention and litter removal in the Georges River:

Table 1: Responsibilities for Litter Management

Location of Litter	Responsibility
Terrestrial locations above the high-water mark	Local government agencies and NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
Aquatic locations in natural tributaries and rivers below the high-water mark	NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
Aquatic locations in channelised infrastructure below the high-water mark	Sydney Water
Mangrove locations below the high-water mark	NSW Department of Primary Industries* (DPI)

*Due to mangroves being classified as ecologically important fisheries

7. Litter can be blown, dropped, washed or deposited by other means into the Georges River directly, or into a portion of the Georges River catchment. Therefore, it is impossible to determine the total volume of solid litter entering the entire Georges River catchment over any given time period. It is also impossible to determine the source of all litter collected (or not collected) from the Georges River, given the possibility of numerous sources of litter detailed within Table 1.
8. Council is able to quantify volumes of litter collected through only solid waste collections of street and park litter bins, as well as stormwater infrastructure, as outlined further within this report.

REPORT

9. This report contains updates detailing the progress of litter prevention and reduction actions at a local and catchment level. These updates are formatted in order of sub-

heading as they appeared in the ENV019-20 report 'Zero Litter to Georges River by 2030 presented to Council on 22 June 2020.

10. Since July 2020, Georges River Council has continued to coordinate individual litter prevention and reduction programs, as well as contribute to broader, catchment-wide litter prevention and reduction initiatives coordinated by the Georges Riverkeeper non-government organisation.

1. Update on existing litter reduction programs and infrastructure systems delivered by regional groups or other external stakeholders

11. Georges River Council is one of eight members of the Georges Riverkeeper, and one of seven 'full' fee paying members, with the eighth member, Wollondilly Shire Council, paying a reduced fee due to their limited local government area existing within the Georges River catchment.
12. Council contributes to several catchment wide initiatives and services overseen by the Georges Riverkeeper, resulting in a reduction in litter entering the river throughout the catchment. Following is a list of these initiatives including an update on their progress since June 2020.

(a) Georges Riverkeeper's Catchment Actions Program (CAP)

The CAP is overseen and implemented by Georges Riverkeeper in partnership with:

- the Riverkeeper's member Councils along the Georges River, including Georges River Council, which provide site assessments and undertake litter removal services, and
- Corrective Services NSW, which provide offenders to complete the litter pick-up labour. The CAP removed 3,416kg of litter from 25 sites within the Georges River LGA in the year ending 30 June 2021 and 4,195kg of litter from 25 sites within the Georges River LGA in the year ending 30 June 2022. Council has also requested two additional sites be added to the CAP since July 2020, both located at Murdock Crescent, Lugarno to address the presence of litter in the mangroves. These sites have been incorporated into the CAP since March 2021.

(b) Georges Riverkeeper's Education and Capacity Program

This program continues to provide capacity building to the Georges River community to discourage littering and encourage environmentally conscious activities. Since June 2020, the Education and Capacity Program has been responsible for implementing milestones of the Riverkeeper's Environment Restoration Fund (ERF) project 'Zero Litter in Georges River' through working with one selected primary school per LGA within the Georges River catchment. The project provides education modules and activities on reducing litter entering drains as stormwater. These modules have been developed in partnership with the Georges River Environmental Education Centre (GREEC). In the Georges River LGA, Connells Point Public School is the selected school which will introduce these education modules in Term 4 2022, including lesson plans and a field activity placing temporary anti-litter stickers on selected stormwater drains in Hurstville and Connells Point.

(c) Stormwater and Gross Pollutant Trap Management (GPT) Audit

This audit is connected to the ERF 'Zero Litter in Georges River' grant project. The funding initially allowed for a GPT audit in the Georges River LGA, however following confirmation from Assets and Infrastructure staff in October 2020 that

a contemporary GPT audit had been recently completed by Council, Georges Riverkeeper is instead expending funding in assisting with an upgrade of crucial stormwater management infrastructure at Depot Road, Mortdale, where a GPT was constructed between December 2021 and March 2022. Funding is also being used on education and capacity building in partnership with the local Connells Point Public School. Further information is provided below.

(d) River Health Monitoring

Assessment of water quality within the Georges River is undertaken at regular intervals by Georges Riverkeeper and Beachwatch volunteers. The Riverkeeper monitors water quality every two years through its River Health Monitoring Program, which collects environmental data to guide waterway management and inform the community about the condition of waterways across the catchment. The Program applies scientifically rigorous methods to the assessment of freshwater tributaries and estuarine sections of the Georges River.

Complex data is then simplified into river health grades, such as those reported in the State of the Georges River 2020 Report (Attachment 1) and the Georges Riverkeeper Annual Report 2020/21 (Attachment 2).

The State of the Georges River 2020 report gives river health grades to estuarine creeks including Dairy Creek, Myles Dunphy Reserve Creek, and Poulton Creek, among grades for other creeks throughout the catchment not located adjacent to the Georges River LGA. These grades assess vegetation, water quality and macroinvertebrate levels. For instance, water quality grades are given to the aforementioned creeks respectively as B-, B- and C+. River health grades are representative of river health at one point in time. For this reason, Council continues to work with numerous stakeholders such as to manage waterway health.

Importantly, the lowest performing creek within the LGA, Poulton Creek, has experienced significant environmental works since 2020 at lower Poulton Park with completed construction of stormwater remediation and naturalisation, vegetated bio-swales and detention ponds. Given the environmental works undertaken, it is presumed there will be an improvement in the grade applied to Poulton Creek in the next State of the Georges River report, which like the 2020 Report, will also be made available on Council's website.

A more complete summary of river health grades is provided in the State of the Georges River 2020 report contained in Attachment 1.

The Program has been valuable in providing information on where to apply GPT and stormwater infrastructure upgrades, such as at Depot Road, Mortdale.

(e) Coastal Zone Management Plan Scoping Study

The Georges River Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study has recently been completed by the Georges Riverkeeper in mid-2022.

The scoping study is Stage 1 of the development of the CMP which is a long-term strategy for managing the coastal zone which takes into account historical events, current conditions, and future trends including population growth, environmental conditions, and climate change.

The scoping study:

- Identifies the community and stakeholders to the coastal zone and prepares an engagement strategy

- Determines the strategic context of coastal management
 - Establishes the purpose, vision, and objectives
 - Determines the key coastal management issues and the spatial extent of management areas
 - Reviews current coastal management arrangements
 - Establishes roles, responsibilities, and governance
 - Determines where action is required through a first-pass risk assessment
 - Identifies knowledge gaps and information needs
 - Prepares a preliminary business case for the CMP
 - Determines whether a planning proposal will be prepared to amend coastal management area maps and the Local Environmental Plan
 - Develops a forward program for subsequent stages of the coastal management program, including a fast-tracking pathway.
13. A further update on the progress of the CMP once it has been developed is expected to be provided in the 2024 report to Council.
14. Georges Riverkeeper has been successful in receiving grant funding from government agencies in the last two years for projects focused on litter prevention. Those projects and their progress as they relate to litter prevention and management in the Georges River catchment are detailed below.
- i. Georges River Litter Prevention Strategy – using \$60,000 in funding from the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Litter Prevention Grant and currently in early stages of development, Georges Riverkeeper has recently appointed a consultant to produce a Litter Prevention Strategy that will seek to reduce litter and contribute to the EPA's State targets of litter reduction, being a 30% reduction in plastic litter items by 2025 and an overall reduction of 60% in litter by 2030.
 - a. The Riverkeeper will be further investigating litter hotspots within the Georges River LGA and others, evaluating past litter prevention projects, assisting the capacity of member Councils and partners to deliver litter prevention projects and proposing further litter prevention projects.
 - b. The future Litter Prevention Strategy is estimated to be complete by February 2023 and its findings will be communicated in the Georges Riverkeeper 2022-23 Annual Report.
 - ii. Zero Litter in Georges River – using \$700,000 in funding from the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund (ERF), the Zero Litter in Georges River project is tackling the stormwater pollution problem with a four-phase approach and support from local councils. The funding came about following research evidencing that the vast majority of pollution in Georges River catchment comes from unfiltered stormwater. In the Georges River LGA, following an earlier GPT audit, Council has constructed a ski-jump GPT with additional erosion works including a sandstone embankment to ensure the integrity of the creek at Depot Road, Mortdale. This new GPT will improve functionality and demonstrate maximised litter collection and removal from the catchment and ease of maintenance. The volume of litter collected within the GPT was not available at the time of compiling this report and will therefore be provided in the 2024 progress report.

Plastics Ban

15. The NSW State Government from 1 June 2022 be enforcing a ban of single-use plastics under the *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* as a means of preventing litter.
16. The Act currently bans the supply of the following items in the course of carrying on a business, including compostable or bioplastic alternatives:
17. From 1 June 2022:
 - lightweight plastic bags (excluding barrier bags, such as bags designed and intended to be used to contain food waste, household waste or human or animal waste)
18. From 1 November 2022:
 - single-use plastic straws*
 - single-use plastic cutlery (including plastic chopsticks and sporks)
 - single-use plastic stirrers
 - single-use plastic bowls (excluding bowls with a spill-proof lid whether separate or attached, for example those used for a take-away soup)
 - single-use plastic plates
 - single-use plastic cotton buds
 - expanded polystyrene (EPS) food service items
 - plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care products

* An exemption relating to the supply of single-use plastic straws for people with a disability or other medical need is expected to be confirmed by the NSW Government.
19. While Council is not the regulatory authority for the plastics ban, Council will assist with educating the community and procuring appropriate replacement materials to ensure compliance with the ban. Council's Procurement Policy will be updated to reflect the legislative amendments with revised sustainability considerations in line with the Environmental Resilience Action Plan. In addition, the new requirements will be incorporated into procurement planning activities across the organisation.

2. Update on Council's existing programs relating to waste management – including education programs on littering and healthy waterways

20. Council undertakes various ongoing resource recovery, waste management and litter reduction activities, summarised as follows:

Hurstville Litter Reduction Program

21. In early 2019 Council's Environmental Sustainability and Waste team pioneered a targeted litter reduction program in the Hurstville CBD. The program was delivered under a trial basis and involved a partnership with Hurstville Public School and resulted in the delivery of a Litter Art Competition and a Schoolyard Litter Audit.
22. A future roll-out of the Litter Reduction Program to schools across the entire LGA is likely to be considered from 2023 onwards once access to schools within the LGA resumes post COVID-19. The proposed program will incorporate a similar combination of education and awareness, infrastructure, regulation, enforcement, and evaluation and monitoring as per the 2019 trial.

Return and Earn Litter Reduction Education and Enforcement Program

23. The Return and Earn scheme was introduced across NSW on 1 December, 2017 and since its launch, has collected 7,584,742,533 containers through its 616 return points and has helped reduce the volume of eligible drink container litter across the state.
24. Educational activities relating to the Return and Earn scheme include signage, social media messaging and articles in Council's 'Community' newsletter, as well as enforcement through CCTV monitoring and regular physical patrols.
25. Council continues to offer Return and Earn facilities for the community at the Carss Bush Park carpark, adjacent to Todd Park, which is heavily utilised by the community. Since the program began, there has been an overall reduction by 50% in littering incidents and a 100% reduction in the dumping of household waste around the collection point.

Environmentally Sustainable Event Guidelines

26. Council's Environmental, Sustainability and Waste team drafted sustainable event guidelines for the Events team during 2019-20. Due to COVID-19 related impacts on events, the guidelines are due for presentation to Council's Executive Team in mid-2022. The guidelines, if approved, will be provided to event stallholders and suppliers at all Council organised or hosted events. The Guidelines address the environmental sustainability of promotional material and solid waste and litter related to event operation. The Guidelines also outline recommendations for event organisers to adhere to the recent single use Plastics Ban, implemented by the NSW EPA.

Contributions to the Georges Riverkeeper

27. Council continues to be an active member of the Georges Riverkeeper. Until September 2020, Council hosted the Georges Riverkeeper within the Hurstville Civic Centre and provided in-kind support enabling the groups delivery of programs, procurement, recruitment and grant applications now the group is hosted at Sutherland Shire Council.
28. Further, as outlined previously in this report, Council has utilised GPT audit information to make infrastructure upgrades in order to further prevent litter to the Georges River.

Contributions to Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad

29. Council continues to support the RID Squad since its launch by the NSW EPA in July 2015, established to combat illegal dumping of waste across Sydney. Council's use of the RID Squad has been optimised over the last two years with significant improvement made in ensuring a regional collaborative approach is undertaken to preventing and managing illegal dumping
30. Results (available at the time of compiling this report) over the last two years are as follows:
 - a. Incidents reported to RID for investigation
 - i. 2019/20 – 362
 - ii. 2020/21 – 584
 - b. Penalty Notices issued
 - i. 2019/20 – 12
 - ii. 2020/21 - 50
 - c. Clean-up Notices issued
 - i. 2019/20 – 41
 - ii. 2020/21 - 53

d. Cautions issued

- i. 2019/20 – 30
- ii. 2020/21 - 36

31. The primary categories of illegal dumping incidents within the Georges River LGA consist of bulky materials presented outside of Multi-Unit Developments, in Industrial areas and laneways, or involve the depositing of mulch.

Waste Education Program

32. Council's Waste Education Program offers a combination of enforcement and education programs to actively prevent litter within the community, such as:

- Providing education and information within the annual Waste Calendar and guide
- Mandating closed lids on all residential waste, recycling and garden organics bins presented for servicing, and commercial bins whereby Council provides the collection service
- Offering, controlling and monitoring the clean-up service to enable efficient removal of bulky waste from kerbsides to prevent litter
- Preventing and enforcing illegal dumping
- Providing free e-waste collection services
- Providing Responsible Café's education program
- Providing free chemical cleanout recycling services
- Providing composting and worm farming infrastructure such as worm farms, compost bins and bokashi bins to the community at discounted rates through the Compost Revolution program, and delivering education workshops to the community (COVID-19 restrictions permitting)
- Providing free schools education programs to schools (and students) within the LGA by providing events and resources and offering annual workshops
- Providing free community repair sessions with the Bower Reuse and Repair Café service, encouraging repairing items rather than disposal to landfill
- Enforcing clean and litter-free bin bay storage areas at large developments within the LGA
- Preventing overuse of collection services within the business community via the Business Information Pack
- Redesigning the public litter bin collection service to consider seasonal variations in litter bin use to prevent litter within public spaces such as parks, CBD's and near foreshore areas
- Providing an effective, efficient and sustainable waste collection service for the timely removal of waste and litter throughout the LGA.

Installation, Maintenance and Monitoring of Street Litter Bins

33. Council maintains over 700 park and street litter bins, with materials collected in these bins placed there by members of the public. Council regularly reviews locations for additional infrastructure and identifies infrastructure that requires upgrade, repairs or maintenance as required. During the 2019/20 Financial Year, Council collected 1,012 tonnes and during the 2020/21 Financial Year, Council collected 1,097 tonnes of litter within these bins and ensured best-practice disposal of the material at a licensed waste management facility.

34. Council will continue to provide a regular and reliable collection service, removing materials contained within these bins as required and installing new technology to monitor bin capacity to further prevent the spread of litter within the LGA.

Clean-Up Australia Day

35. Council is an annual supporter of Clean-Up Australia Day, a national litter clean-up event that encourages Australians to clean up their local parks, reserves, waterways and streets. Council facilitates the removal of litter collected across the LGA, free of charge, for all groups performing a clean-up.
36. Held in March 2021, Clean-Up Australia Day in the Georges River LGA recorded 1,669 volunteers across 36 sites (parks, beaches and rivers/creeks).
37. Held again in March 2022, Clean-Up Australia Day in the Georges River LGA recorded 1,832 volunteers across 28 sites (parks, beaches and rivers/creeks).

Council's Abandoned Vehicle Management

38. Council Rangers investigate reports of abandoned vehicles (articles) in order to reduce litter and illegal dumping instances, predominantly on public land, within the LGA. After attempting to identify and locate the owner of an abandoned vehicle, and if after the appropriate notice is provided, the abandoned vehicle is not removed within the specified time period, the vehicle will be removed and taken to Council's contracted impound yard. If, at the impound yard, the article is not claimed by the owner after a specified period, the abandoned vehicle will be sold by Council's contractor. Council on average receives between 900 and 1,050 reports of abandoned vehicles within the LGA each year, of which 77 vehicles sold were sold by Council's contractor in 2020 and 49 in 2021. Complete figures for 2022 were not available at the time of developing this report and will be provided in 2024.

Council's Prevention of Construction and Demolition Litter

39. Council provides waste education to both residential and commercial sectors within the Georges River LGA through the Waste Education program, providing specific resource recovery and disposal requirements via Council's website. Additionally, all Development Applications require consideration of the management of waste materials during demolition, construction and on-going management of the proposed development. Considerations are outlined within a Waste Management Plan, to be approved during Development Application.
40. All developers within the LGA are required to adhere to the Waste Management Plan as approved or otherwise required by Council and will be subject to compliance by Council's Development Compliance team. A Certifier and/or Builder is required to ensure adherence to such conditions and are required to manage waste following best-practice procedures on-site and to dispose of all materials at a licensed Waste Management Facility

3. An update on the location and effectiveness of infrastructure on reducing litter entering the river

Infrastructure Improvements

41. Since July 2020, Georges River Council has actioned the following stormwater infrastructure improvements which will each have a flow-on effect to reduce litter ending up in the river:
- Installed a new GPT located at Depot Road, Mortdale assisted by Georges Riverkeeper's 'Zero Litter to Georges River' grant project. This GPT includes a trash-rack, balustrade and a naturalised and vegetated sandstone embankment to reduce run-off. The GPT will significantly reduce gross pollutants flowing into Lime Kiln Bay.

- Completed stormwater remediation and naturalisation works at lower Poulton Park. This project focused on Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles including the redirection of stormwater to the surface to be treated by a number of vegetated bio-swales and detention ponds, along with the use of permeable paving for carpark areas.
- Completed a wetland health assessment report for the Lime Kiln Bay constructed wetlands. This work was completed to understand the current performance and ecological health of the wetland system and will inform future Council environmental infrastructure projects.

4. Update on additional mechanisms/approaches/programs that could be implemented to reduce litter entering the river

42. Several additional approaches are to be implemented in order to reduce litter entering the Georges River. In developing these approaches Council will continue to investigate various sources of funding for litter reduction projects, especially State and Commonwealth grant opportunities. These additional approaches include:
- Reducing litter from overflowing bins through the:
 - Installation of ten smart sensors on litter bins in certain litter hotspots along Forest Road, Hurstville and consideration of bin sensor and radio-frequency detection (labelling and scanning) technology in the next waste collection tender;
 - Location-specific education campaigns at litter hotspot areas within CBD's.
 - Addressing illegal dumping surrounding residential strata buildings through a targeted education and enforcement program commencing in 2022/23 and being delivered on an ongoing basis each year through the RID Squad.

Litter Education, Engagement and Enforcement Projects

43. Council's Waste team proposes a program to proactively encouraging the community to avoid littering, report littering offences and to encourage 'clean-up' actions across the community until 2030 by continuing regional partnerships and expanding existing initiatives, particularly where external grant funds are available to Council.

5. Update on potential sources of funding to implement any proposed mechanisms, approaches or programs that may be identified.

Internal Funding Sources

44. As outlined within this report, Council maintains the waste collection service as funded through the Domestic Waste Management Charge. Routine and regular waste collection services, such as domestic and commercial bins, provision of the clean-up and illegally dumped waste services, and public litter bin collections continue to occur

Litter Prevention Grant Programs

45. Council may from time to time be eligible for external grant funding from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the NSW EPA and/or the Environmental Trust. Council will seek funding where suitable funds are available to enable Council to deliver local litter prevention programs.
46. As part of its new Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041, the NSW Government has set new litter targets: 30% reduction in plastic litter by 2025, 60% reduction of all litter items by 2030. The Strategy's focus is also firmly on cigarette butt litter, supporting the Strategy's 50% reduction target for butt littering by 2030.

47. Council therefore anticipates future grant funding being available for litter prevention activities that focus on plastics and cigarette butts and the Environmental Sustainability and Waste team will continue to monitor potential grant funding opportunities.

Summary

48. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and La Nina impacts during early 2022, progress has been maintained by Council in working towards reducing litter to the Georges River within the scope of Council's control i.e. litter originating from terrestrial locations above the high-water mark within the LGA.
49. Georges River Council will continue to assist the work of Georges Riverkeeper and neighbouring Council's in coordinating catchment-wide litter prevention and reduction initiatives and programs, such as the newly commenced Litter Prevention Strategy. Council will also advocate to the Riverkeeper for the Georges River LGA to be further involved in ground-based projects, including piloting litter reduction projects.
50. Council will continue to advocate for litter prevention and management within the LGA through liaisons with all governments as stakeholders and seek external grant funding sources to further progress towards the zero-litter target.
51. Council continues to monitor and report on water quality and litter levels to various organisations, including the Georges Riverkeeper via their Research and Monitoring Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

52. No budget impact for this report. External grant funding will be sought in line with the details of this report to enable further litter projects and campaigns being delivered within the LGA.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

53. Operational risk/s identified, and management process applied.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

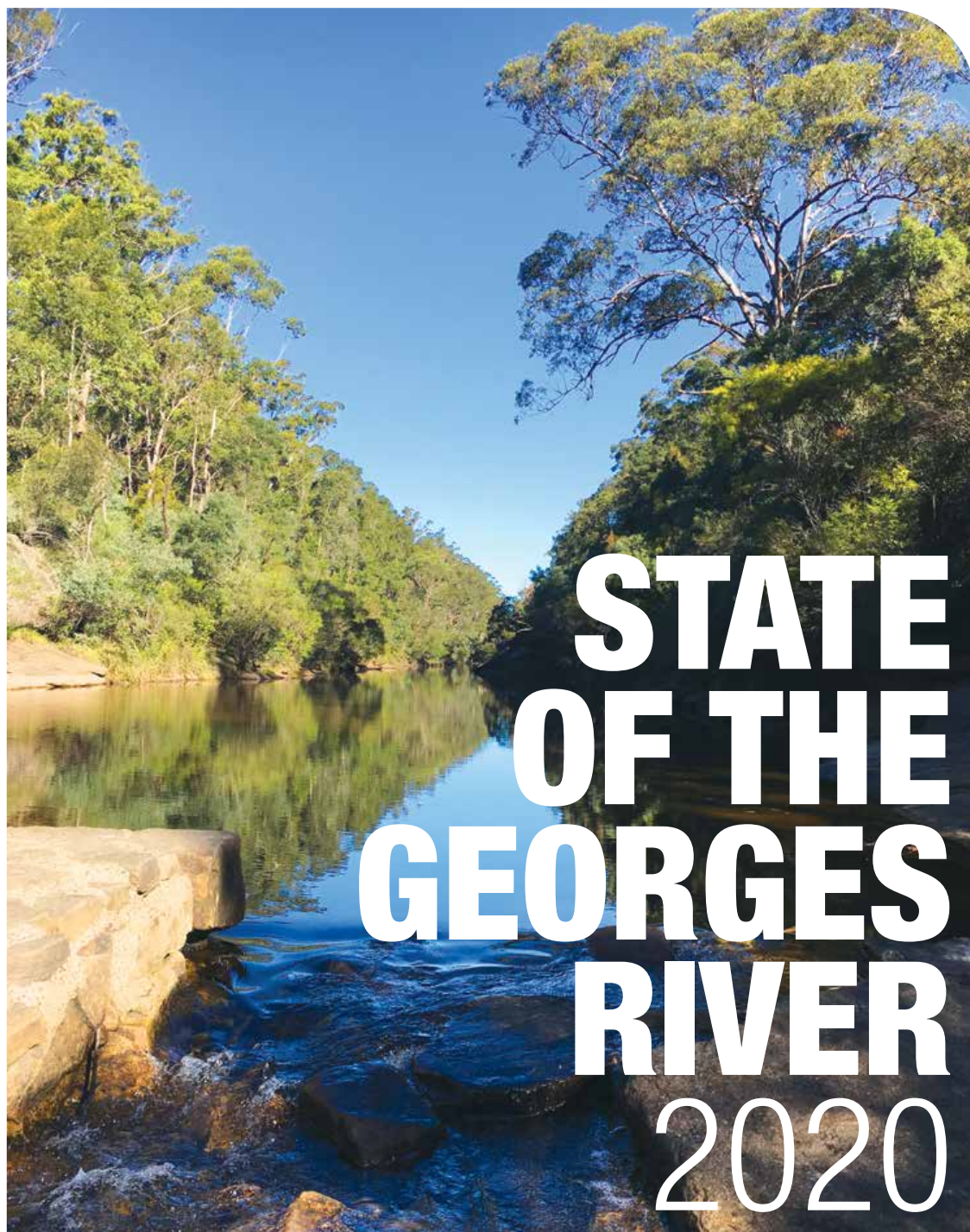
54. Community engagement and education for the initiatives coordinated by the Riverkeeper have been undertaken by Georges Riverkeeper's Communications Officer through updates to their website, social media posts and community events.
55. Community engagement for other initiatives such as Council's GPT upgrades and improvements at lower Poulton Park have been undertaken by several Council Officers through media releases in the St. George Leader, social media posts, website pages and community events.

FILE REFERENCE

SF22/84, D22/132887

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1  Georges Riverkeeper State of the Georges River 2020 report
- Attachment 2  Georges Riverkeeper Annual Report 2020-2021





The Georges River catchment stretches from Botany Bay on the east coast of New South Wales west towards Prospect Reservoir and south into bushland around Campbelltown and Appin. The northern and western parts of the Georges River catchment are dominated by the expanses of Sydney's urban sprawl, with natural areas and National Parks taking up much of the upper catchment to the south. The total length of the Georges River is around 100 km, with the tidal limit delineated by Liverpool Weir. The water is fresh above the weir and then increasingly saline as the river approaches Botany Bay.

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT ABOUT?

The State of the Georges River 2020 gives an overview of the ecological condition of the Georges River and details actions that are being taken to improve the 'state' or 'health' of the river.

It also tells the story of events that have impacted the river through history, highlights the need for continued waterway management in the face of ongoing challenges, and showcases projects that are being undertaken by Georges Riverkeeper and Councils to pursue improvements in the river's health.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE GEORGES RIVER?

Where the river flows through forested areas in the upper catchment, it is in very good health. In the middle, more populated and developed areas of the catchment, the health of the river is degraded by impacts of urbanisation, and in the lower estuarine catchment, the tidal influence has a positive impact on the health of the river.

The map of river health grades is on page 7 and 8.

WHAT DO THE GRADES MEAN?

RIVER HEALTH

River Health grades for the Georges River are determined using scientifically rigorous methods to measure the

condition of riparian vegetation and channel structure, water quality and macroinvertebrate communities (i.e. waterbugs).

For 2019/20, as in past years, the grades reflect the ecological damage of urban creeks. This ecological degradation is consistent with the worldwide phenomena known as the 'Urban Stream Syndrome'.

The main cause of this syndrome is the much larger volumes of stormwater that are delivered from impervious urban landscapes than are delivered from forested landscapes, whilst sewage overflows and legacy pollutants also contribute. The Georges River catchment, with a population of close to 1.5 million people and extensive urban and industrial development, generates major stormwater inflows into urban creeks.



During rain events, these function not as creeks should, but as stormwater canals which rapidly transfer the pollutant loaded stormwater into the river. For the freshwater creeks, symptoms include altered channel morphology, highly eroded banks, widespread weeds, elevated waterborne pollutants (including litter), reduced native biodiversity and increased dominance of tolerant aquatic species, including non-natives.

Fortunately, ecological health has been maintained in the forested creeks in the upper Georges River catchment. Also, the water quality in the Georges River estuary (tidal areas) was good at most sites. This reflects that monitoring events in the estuary in 2019/20 did not coincide with large storms, during which poorer quality water enters the estuary.

COUNTERING RIVER DAMAGE

As the majority of the Georges River catchment consists of urban areas, the potential for degradation is high. Fortunately, environmental challenges in the catchment are being tackled by the community, government and a host of organisations. One such challenge is litter. As well as causing ecological damage and contributing to poor water

quality, accumulated litter also limits the way people can use and enjoy the river. The most effective way to reduce litter from entering the environment is through stopping it at the source through programs that seek to reduce the amount of waste produced and ensure what is produced is disposed of appropriately. However, it is also important to address the litter that enters waterways.

The Georges Riverkeeper partnership with NSW Justice - Corrective Services has been operating for many years to remove litter from the environment. Since 2007, we have removed 1,300 tonnes from the catchment, that's equivalent in weight to over 43 hump back whales; we have removed 180 tonnes between 2018/19 to 2019/20.

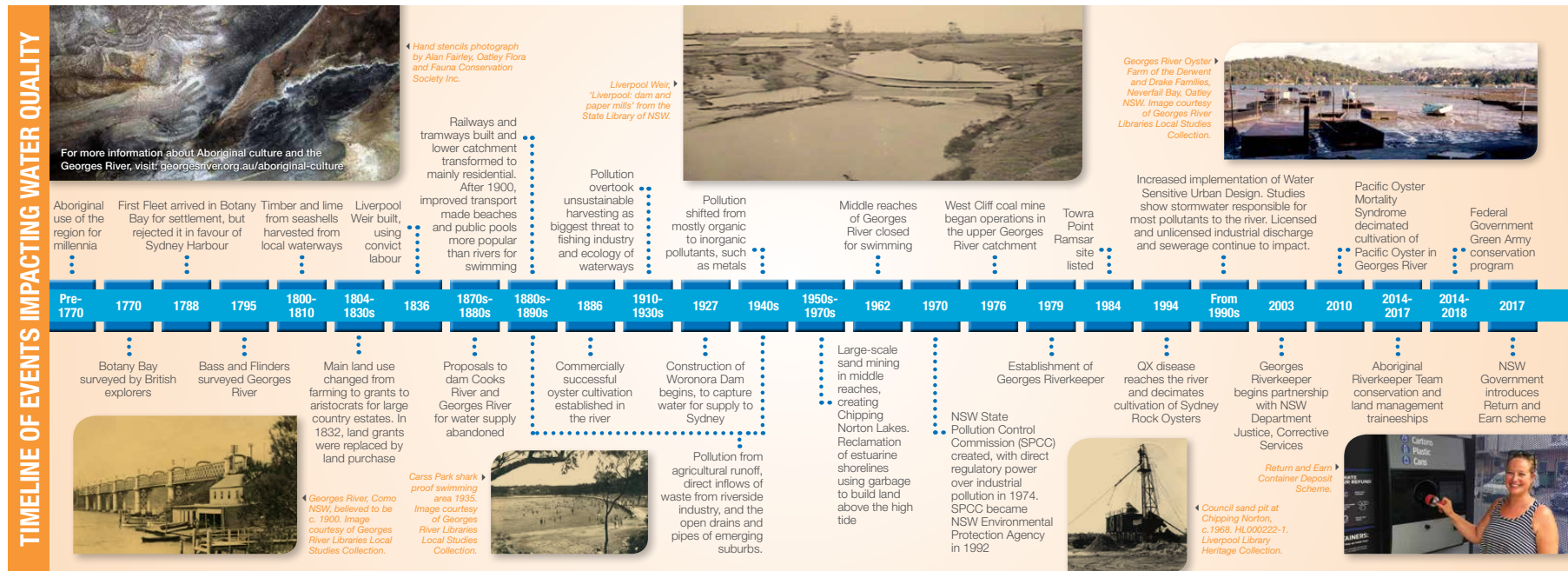
Georges Riverkeeper acknowledges and thanks the groups and individuals who advocate for a cleaner river and remove rubbish from the catchment and waterways, including member Councils, Clean Up Australia Day participants, Ocean Crusaders, and environmental groups.

Bush regeneration goes hand-in-hand with litter removal for river rehabilitation. While it may not be realistic to return the Georges River to a pristine condition, Bushcare and bush regeneration are important to restore habitat and biodiversity in the catchment. Georges Riverkeeper has helped to rehabilitate 12.7 hectares between 2018/19 to 2019/20. There are currently approximately 103 Bushcare sites operating in the catchment and they always welcome new volunteers.

Ongoing management of stormwater flow and urban creeks is also vital to the health of the river. Some of the projects that have been undertaken by Georges Riverkeeper and Councils over the past two years to help rehabilitate the river and improve liveability in the catchment are profiled on page 9 and 10.

We encourage all 1.5 million people living in the Georges River catchment to enjoy the river, learn about the river and help the river. We need your help to keep making progress.





ONGOING CHALLENGES FOR THE URBANISED GEORGES RIVER



DEFORESTATION AND HABITAT LOSS

Much of the Georges River catchment is highly urbanised, with the clearing of significant areas of native forest resulting in loss of habitats and reduced biodiversity. Cleared landscapes lack the ability to trap and filter pollutants before they flow into waterways. Large-scale sandmining and dredging have also dramatically altered the morphology of the Georges River.



HIGH STORMWATER FLOWS

Impervious urban surfaces prevent infiltration of water into the ground, as occurs in forested landscapes. Most runoff from storms in the catchment is directed into stormwater channels and urban creeks, then into the Georges River. The resulting high flows wash many pollutants into waterways, erode creeklines and flood low-lying areas.



POOR WATER QUALITY

Rainwater flowing across urban landscapes can pick up oils, detergents and tyre residue from roads; fertilisers, pesticides and lawn clippings from gardens; sediment from poorly maintained construction sites; litter; and other pollutants carelessly disposed of down outdoor drains. Most stormwater is not treated before entering the Georges River.



SEWAGE

Sewage leaks and overflows occur from broken pipes and blockages, and when high flows overwhelm the system during high rainfall. As well as smelling awful, sewage leaks have pathogens that are harmful to human health, and high nutrient concentrations that can result in fish kills.



LITTER

Litter is washed or blown into waterways, including creeks, rivers and the ocean. Much of the litter entering the Georges River that is plastic does not degrade, it just breaks up into small pieces that persist in the environment. Plastic litter reduces amenity, harms wildlife and can enter food webs.



EXOTIC SPECIES

Some introduced plants and animals thrive in highly altered urban landscapes, with highly diverse native ecosystems being replaced by a few hardy exotic species. In addition to the loss of native biodiversity, simplified ecosystems do not provide the same range of beneficial ecosystem services as more complex ecosystems.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is a global phenomenon with local consequences. Changing climatic conditions will require adjustments in our way of life and threaten many species' survival. Reduced rainfall, more intense storms, sea level rise and flooding will have significant impacts on property and life in the Georges River catchment.



HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

The Georges River catchment has approximately 1.5 million residents. Most people value maintaining clean and healthy waterways for their intrinsic natural values, beauty and amenity. However, a large urban population that feels increasingly disconnected from nature can lose sight of how their actions can affect river health.

For more information about the Georges River, see georgesriver.org.au/learn-about-the-river

RIVER HEALTH CONDITIONS



River Health grades are a useful way to communicate the condition of waterways and are now widely used across the world. The grades provide an easy to understand indication

of the relative environmental health of waterways across the Georges River catchment. The grades are useful for highlighting the effects of surrounding land uses on waterways in the Georges River catchment.

Although it is within the Sydney metropolitan region, the river health remains 'Good' to 'Excellent' in the upper Georges River catchment and other freshwater subcatchments with minimal urban development. Those subcatchments include O'Hares Creek, Woronora River and Mill Creek.

The highly urbanised freshwater subcatchments include Bunbury Curran, Cabramatta and Prospect Creeks and most of the smaller creeks flowing directly to the estuary. The river health in those waterways is usually rated 'Fair' to 'Poor', which is reflective of degraded riparian vegetation (e.g. often only narrow strips of weedy vegetation along creeks), poor water quality and low diversity of macroinvertebrates.

Grades were mostly 'Good' to 'Excellent' within the Georges River estuary (from below Liverpool Weir to Botany Bay). This reflects that sampling did not directly follow major stormwater runoff events. Also, we have consistently found that during droughts and periods of low rainfall (as has been experienced in 2018-20) that water quality in the upper estuary is better than in wetter periods.

For further detail see the map on pages 7 and 8. For a summary of 2019/20 river health grades for the Georges River, visit: georgesriver.org.au/2020grades

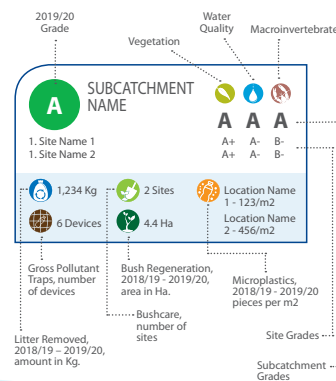
HOW TO READ THE MAP GRADING SYSTEM

River Health Indicators are assessed against environmental guidelines allowing the award of a grade between A+ and F-.

GRADE	CONDITION
A+	EXCELLENT
A - B+	GOOD
B - C-	FAIR
D+ - F-	POOR

INTERPRETING MAP ICONS

This diagram shows an example grading box.



INDICATORS EXPLAINED

RIPARIAN VEGETATION

Riparian vegetation are plants living along the edges of waterways. They contribute to maintaining the condition of waterways by stabilising banks with roots, dropping leaves and wood that act as important habitat for native animals, nutrient processing as they grow, regulation of temperature via canopy shade and filtration of pollutants that may otherwise enter waterways in overland flow.

WATER QUALITY

All aquatic plants and animals have specific water quality requirements. They will not survive in water where depleted amounts of desirable materials or elevated amounts of undesirable materials are outside of their tolerance limits. River Health monitors water quality indicators in the main channel, tributaries and estuary of the Georges River catchment throughout the year. Determining which water quality indicators are depleted and elevated at different locations provides valuable information about effects of other land uses on waterways across the Georges River catchment.

FRESHWATER MACROINVERTEBRATES

Macroinvertebrates are small animals without backbones, such as worms, snails and insects. They have diverse habits and life histories. Organisms that live in freshwater streams vary in their sensitivities to changes in water quality and habitat. River health surveys macroinvertebrates in spring and autumn. Determining which macroinvertebrates can and can't live at particular locations provides valuable information about freshwater health across the Georges River catchment.

LITTER REMOVED

Georges Riverkeeper has a long term relationship with NSW Justice - Corrective Services with Teams conducting rubbish and litter removal at over 214 sites across the catchment. Riverkeeper Teams target litter aggregation hot spots and exposed areas where littering is a problem. Aggregation hot spots include mangrove forests, saltmarsh and reed beds all of which are important ecological communities vital to the ecosystem functions of a healthy river. The quantity of litter removed over the past two years is presented on the map over the page. The works being conducted to keep the river clean not only benefit the environment and public amenity but provide meaningful activities for offender rehabilitation.

BUSH REGENERATION

Georges Riverkeeper has implemented a number of projects to improve the condition of remnant bushland throughout the catchment. Projects have focused on regenerating riparian lands along the river and its tributaries. Major projects over the past two years have included regeneration projects at Oyster Creek Gully and Simmos Beach, and saltmarsh revegetation. Georges Riverkeeper has also piloted a program with NSW Justice - Corrective Services and Fairfield City Council where Corrective Service offenders conduct bush regeneration in the Fairfield Local Government Area. These projects complement extensive member Council bush regeneration programs and other organisations' activities that are helping to improve urban bushland and the river. The area regenerated by Georges Riverkeeper programs is reported for each subcatchment.

BUSHCARE SITES

Threats including weed invasion diminish the quality of remnant bushland in our urban areas. This, in turn, reduces the vital ecosystem service functions that bushlands perform including: maintaining biodiversity, soil formation and retention, pollination, provision of wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and public amenity. Bushcare volunteers play a vital role in helping to manage urban bushland. Their efforts rehabilitating and regenerating natural areas ensures that urban bushland can be enjoyed by future generations. The number of Bushcare sites is reported for each subcatchment.

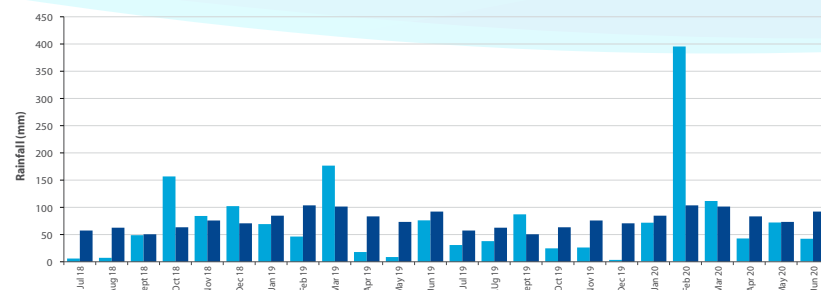
GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS (GPT)

Gross pollutants generally consist of litter, debris and coarse sediments. When these gross pollutants, in particular litter, enter waterways, they reduce the recreational amenity and aesthetic value of the environment, reducing public enjoyment and liveability while increasing negative environmental impacts. Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) capture and remove large particles in waterways before they further impact the environment. The number of GPTs managed by Councils is reported for each sub-catchment.

MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics are small particles of plastic, often formed from the breakup of larger plastic pieces. They are a problem for the environment as they persist for a long time, can harbour toxic chemicals and are easily ingested by wildlife. Georges Riverkeeper has documented microplastic contamination at a number of sites throughout the estuary using AUSMAP methods (see www.ausmap.org). These figures represent the average results of microplastic surveys conducted in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

GEORGES RIVER CATCHMENT SEASONAL RAINFALL ■ Rainfall July 2018 - June 2020 ■ Long term mean rainfall





PROJECTS THAT ARE IMPROVING RIVER HEALTH

GEORGES RIVERKEEPER PROJECTS



SPOROBOLUS PLANTING

In 2019 Georges Riverkeeper and Conservation Australia Volunteers delivered a project to help revegetate saltmarsh in the Georges River. The project, assisted with funding by NSW DPI Fisheries' Recreational Fishing Trust's "Habitat Action Grant Program" saw the installation of 9,000 *Sporobolus virginicus* seedlings at six sites. The project has the potential to boost fish productivity in the Georges River as *Sporobolus virginicus* has been found to provide the greatest contribution to the diet of key fish species.

<https://georgesriver.org.au/learn-about-the-river/targeted-improvement-the-georges-river-estuarine-food-web>



OYSTER CREEK GULLY

This joint project with Sutherland Shire Council funded through the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program is regenerating 7.35 hectares of remnant bushland. The riparian corridor has been degraded by high flow stormwater, increased nutrients and contaminants, weed populations and decreased native biodiversity. To combat these effects, on-ground works have included control of invasive weeds and revegetation which has been assisting natural regeneration.

<https://georgesriver.org.au/learn-about-the-river/rehabilitation-the-oyster-creek-gully-habitat-corridor>



SIMMOS BEACH

Partnering with Campbelltown City Council, this project funded through the NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program, has improved environmental assets within the Simmos Beach catchment. This area is home to threatened flora and fauna, including koalas, and features a heavily weed infested creek line. In-stream sediment build up and weed infestations have been removed along the 4.14 hectare riparian corridor. Natural regeneration and assisted plantings are contributing to the regeneration of the Simmos Beach catchment area.

<https://georgesriver.org.au/learn-about-the-river/simmos-beach-restoration-grant>



MEMBER COUNCIL PROJECTS



WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Bayside Council has adopted a Water Management Strategy to drive water management over the next 10 years. This plan will guide Council towards its vision: *Bayside's waterways and foreshores are healthy, its water management systems and infrastructure are smart and resilient, and the community is actively engaged in water management.*

www.bayside.nsw.gov.au



LOWER GANNONS PARK

Georges River Council's large-scale landscape and stormwater naturalisation project within Lower Gannons Park is a great win for the community and the environment. Boggywell Creek now flows through constructed wetlands, swales and bioretention systems, which treat and remove pollutants before entering the river. The project was partly funded by state and federal government grants and a significant contribution by council.

www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

MEMBER COUNCIL PROJECTS (CONT.)



LAKE GILLAWARNA

Lake Gillawarna bordering Prospect Creek has been affected negatively by its urban catchment.

City of Canterbury Bankstown has improved the condition of this wetland area through installing native plants, increasing wetland vegetation and improving the edge of the waterways. These changes will improve water quality by reducing the sediment levels, reducing the impacts of excessive nutrients as well as improving the dissolved oxygen levels by improved circulation of water over shallow wetland areas.

www.cbccity.nsw.gov.au



AMALFI PARK

Liverpool City Council has developed and implemented

integrated water management initiatives to improve water quality throughout the Local Government Area. The recent \$4.7M Amalfi Park project, partly funded by the OEH State Floodplain Management Program, was awarded an Excellence in Environmental Award for the trash racks, flood detention basin, boardwalk and wetlands that now assist in improving water quality and flood conveyance in Brickmakers Creek.

www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au



GREEN VALLEY CREEK

This joint project with Fairfield City Council, funded by the NSW Government through the

Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program, is rehabilitating 5 hectares of the upper reaches of Green Valley Creek that have been impacted by urban development. With funding assistance from a NSW Environmental Trusts' Restoration and Rehabilitation grant, weeds have been treated, erosion prone banks stabilised and 35,000 native plants have been installed, increasing the width of this important riparian corridor.

www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au



PLATYPUS PALS

As part of Campbelltown City Council's Platypus Pals citizen

science program, water samples will be collected from sites along the Georges River and its key tributaries to test for the presence and strength of platypus DNA. With funding support from The Australian Government and Oz Fish this project will shed light on the distribution of platypus for further surveys, and help Council and the community to ensure platypus are helped to thrive.

www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au



WOOLLOOWARE BAY SHARED PATHWAY

Sutherland Shire Council's

multifaceted Woollooware Bay Shared Pathway has increased shorebird habitat in the bay. The project jointly funded by the NSW Government has seen an artificial shorebird island installed and a heritage-listed wharf restored. These features can be viewed from the new boardwalk and viewing platform. Other environmental benefits of the project include treatment of contaminated land, installation of environmentally-friendly seawalls and saltmarsh plantings.

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au



INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Wollondilly Shire Council's

Integrated Water Management Policy and Strategy aims to drive smarter water management outcomes in the area, focusing on protecting the health of the aquatic ecosystems and increasing biodiversity, recreation, liveability, climate resilience and flood management, and promoting water conservation and reuse.

www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

HOW CAN I HELP THE RIVER?



Visit and enjoy the river.



Get involved in local groups
such as Bushcare.



Place litter in bins as rain carries
litter pollution to the river.



Plant native plants, install
a rainwater tank or build a
raingarden at your house.



Use Council Chemical CleanUps
to dispose of unwanted paints,
chemicals and solvents.



Report river pollution to the
Environment Protection Authority.
CALL 131 555



Georges Riverkeeper acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Georges River, the Kamegal, Bedigal, Cabrogal, Cannemegal, Gweagal and Norongerral people of the Eora, Dharug and Dharawal nations and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Georges Riverkeeper represents member Councils in the Georges River catchment of southern Sydney, NSW, including Bayside Council, Campbelltown City Council, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Fairfield City Council, Georges River Council, Liverpool City Council, Sutherland Shire Council and Wollondilly Shire Council.

Georges Riverkeeper have undertaken River Health monitoring since 2009 and reported litter collection on Riverkeeper Report Cards since 2014.

For a PDF of this report, as well as previous River Health Report Cards, visit www.georgesriver.org.au

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CONNECT WITH US

- Georgesriver.org.au
- contact@georgesriver.org.au
- [georgesriverkeeper](https://www.facebook.com/georgesriverkeeper)
- [GeorgesRiverkeeper](https://www.instagram.com/GeorgesRiverkeeper)
- [georges-riverkeeper](https://www.linkedin.com/company/georges-riverkeeper)

MEMEBER COUNCILS



PARTNERS



Justice
Corrective Services



GR Georges
Riverkeeper
ANNUAL REPORT
2020/21

GEORGES RIVERKEEPER EXECUTIVE GROUP'S REPORT



**Councillor
Adrian Wong**
Georges Riverkeeper
Chairperson



**Councillor
Michael Banasik**
Georges Riverkeeper
Vice Chairperson



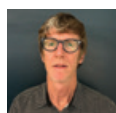
**Councillor
Rey Manoto**
Georges Riverkeeper
Treasurer



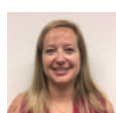
Andrew Spooner
Georges River Council
Host Manager
July - September 2020



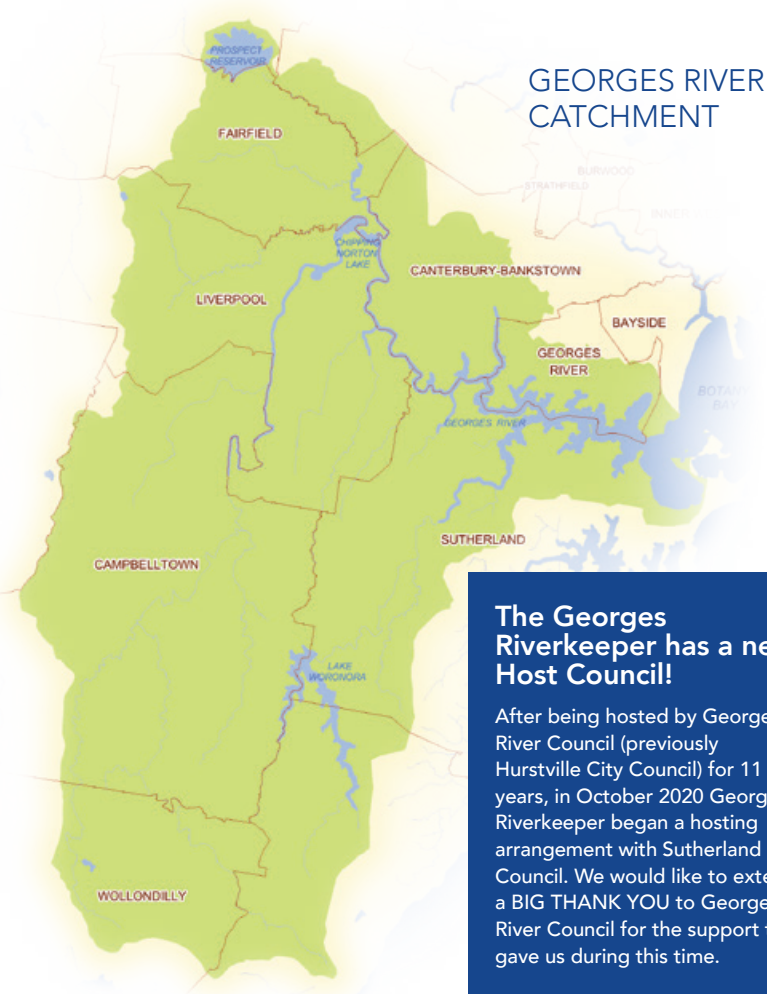
Ian Drinnan
Sutherland Shire Council
Host Manager
October 2020 - June 2021



Peter Ryan
Georges Riverkeeper
Acting Program Manager
July - December 2020



Beth Salt
Georges Riverkeeper
Program Manager
January - June 2021



The Georges Riverkeeper has a new Host Council!

After being hosted by Georges River Council (previously Hurstville City Council) for 11 years, in October 2020 Georges Riverkeeper began a hosting arrangement with Sutherland Shire Council. We would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to Georges River Council for the support they gave us during this time.

The Georges Riverkeeper Executive Group comprises our Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer, supported by the Program Manager, Host Manager and Administrative and Project Support Officer. The Executive Group Office Bearers are members of our Committee elected by member Council Councillors. Meeting monthly, the Executive Group is responsible for the management and functioning of the Georges Riverkeeper, reviewing its financial management, operations and programs, and keeping member Councils informed so that key decisions can be made at General Committee Meetings.

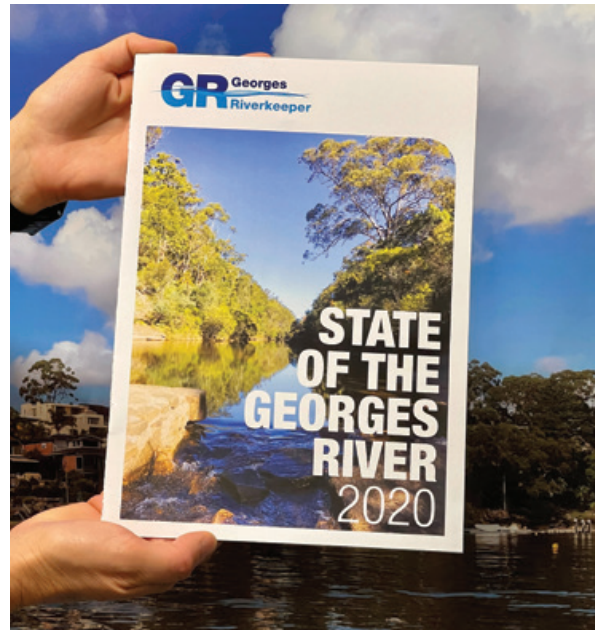
Georges Riverkeeper have implemented the third year of the Georges Riverkeeper Strategic Plan which saw the development of an advocacy policy and an environmental policy, production of the *State of the Georges River 2020* Report, adoption of an amended Constitution, and continues to implement the Zero Litter to Georges River Environmental Trust Grant with our member Councils.

The Executive Group would like to thank our member Councils, Council staff, our stakeholders and community representatives, and our partners for their support and contribution throughout the year.

THE STATE OF THE GEORGES RIVER 2020

The *State of the Georges River 2020* gives an overview of the ecological condition of the Georges River and actions that are being taken to improve the 'state' or 'health' of the river. It also tells the story of events that have impacted the river through history, highlights the need for continued waterway management in the face of ongoing challenges, and showcases projects that are being undertaken by Georges Riverkeeper and Councils to pursue improvements in the river's health.

The report gives the health of the Georges River an overall "B-" grade for the freshwater part of the river, and an overall "A" grade for the estuary. In addition to providing River Health grades for each subcatchment in 2020, the results of Georges Riverkeeper's litter removal, bush regeneration and microplastics sampling (between 2018-2020) in each sub-catchment is also reported. Download the report at georgesriver.org.au/SOGR2020



GEORGES RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT



Beth Salt
Georges Riverkeeper
Program Manager
January - June 2021

Georges Riverkeeper successfully implemented the Georges Riverkeeper Strategic Plan this year, with a number of achievements, which are detailed throughout this report. This year was a year of change for Georges Riverkeeper. After more than a decade of being hosted at Georges River Council, we moved to Sutherland Shire Council. Our arrangement with councils includes rotating hosting responsibility of Georges

Riverkeeper and we have settled in nicely in our new home. Thank you to everyone who helped make this transition as smooth as possible.

In addition, David Reid our Program Coordinator - Aquatic Ecologist and Lisa Smith our Administrative and Project Support Officer left Georges Riverkeeper. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Georges River and Georges Riverkeeper. I would also like to thank Peter Ryan who replaced me as Program Manager while I was on maternity leave.

Georges Riverkeeper welcomed Marion Huxley and Kalynda Georgiades, our new Program Coordinator - Aquatic Ecologist and Administrative and Project Support Officer, respectively. Marion and Kalynda are great additions to our team and provide new perspectives as we implement our Programs and look to create our next Strategic Plan (2022-2026).

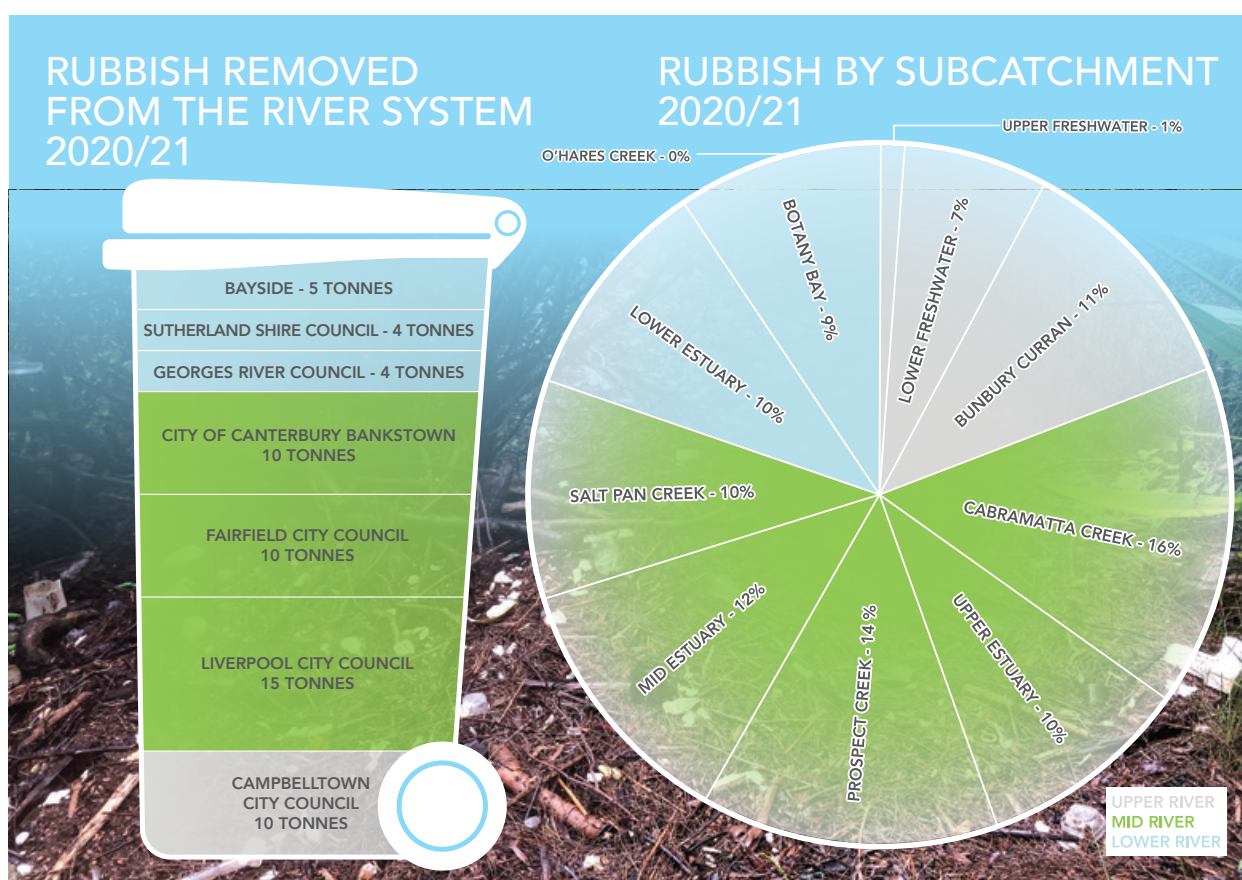
I look forward to continuing to implement our Programs with our members and stakeholders to strive to achieve best practice management for a liveable urban river.



CATCHMENT ACTIONS PROGRAM LITTER REMOVAL

LITTER REMOVAL

58 tonnes! The amount of litter removed from the catchment through our partnership with Corrective Services NSW in 2020-21! That's the equivalent of 17 full garbage trucks of litter prevented from causing further damage across the river. The number of beaches, parks, mangroves and creek-lines where litter is removed has increased, to 234, as has the number of buses going out to conduct this important community service work.



COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS

Georges Riverkeeper has been supporting the great work of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) through their #SeaToSource Program. Georges River was announced as one of the eight waterways included in the initiative which seeks to engage and educate the community in ocean litter prevention coupled with hands-on clean-ups, litter surveys and monitoring as well as source reduction initiatives. The program is funded as part of the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund. Georges Riverkeeper has been assisting CVA by suggesting clean-up and monitoring sites, promotion and attendance at events.





CATCHMENT ACTIONS PROGRAM BUSH REGENERATION

The two NSW Environmental Trust Grants that Georges Riverkeeper has been co-managing with member councils have progressed well during 2020/21, heading towards sign off in October 2021.

REHABILITATION OF OYSTER CREEK GULLY

At Oyster Creek Gully in Kirrawee contractors have continued to treat woody weeds along the creek line improving the ability of natives to regenerate. Contractors have planted local species from the Sutherland Shire Council Nursery and installed erosion control measures. On social media we have been busy educating the broader community about the benefits of the project and encouraging participation in the site's three bushcare groups. We co-hosted a bush-bugs event at the site with locals and their kids and grandchildren.



SIMMOS BEACH RESTORATION

The once weed infested corridor draining into Simmos Beach Reserve in Macquarie Fields has been given a new lease on life. The 7,500 plants installed during the project have assisted in increasing biodiversity. As the installed plants mature, contractors have been maintaining the site thanks to additional funding from Campbelltown City Council. Corrective Services NSW teams have supported the works, removing 500 kg of litter while the local bush-care group has helped with weed control. Campbelltown City Council also hosted a clean-up Australia Day event at the site in March 2021. In 2020/21 we have promoted the project through our social media channels and hosted two workshops with a school group and members of the local community.



CAMPBELLTOWN



CORRECTIVE SERVICES BUSH REGENERATION

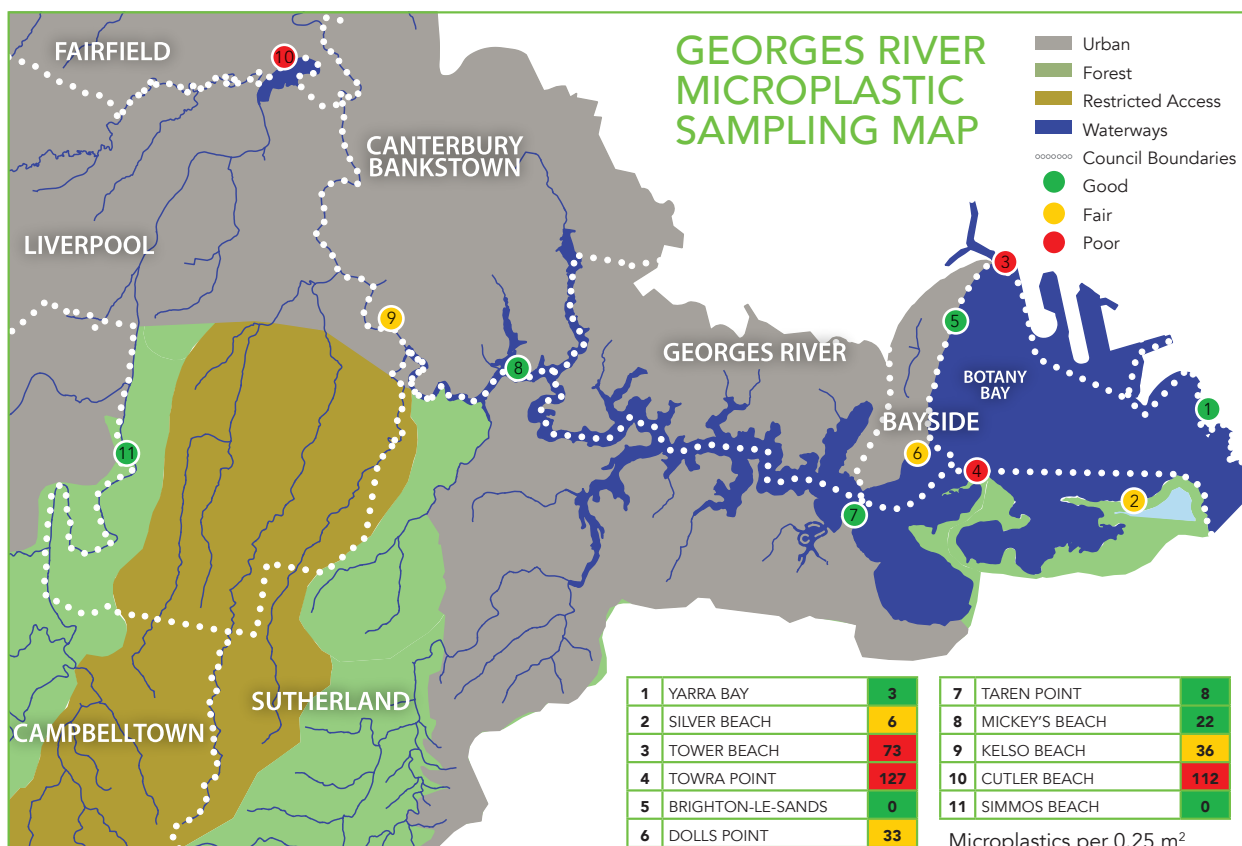
Our partnership with Corrective Services NSW has continued to expand within the Fairfield City Council Local Government Area. Outside of COVID lockdowns teams have spent 1,245 hours working at seven endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland sites, hand removing invasive weeds. We look forward to expanding this partnership with other member councils in 2021/22.





RIVER HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM

The River Health Monitoring Program was established in 2009 by using scientifically rigorous methods for ongoing monitoring of freshwater tributaries and estuarine sections of the Georges River. Communication of this evidence base to Councils facilitates efficient and effective use of management resources directed towards waterway improvements. River Health data is also used to communicate the relative condition or health of waterways to the general public.



In 2020-21 results from the previous year's sampling conditions were collated and published in the Georges Riverkeeper *State of the Georges River Report 2020*. We look forward to continuing biennial sampling of waterway health in 2021/22.

The AUSMAP (Australian Microplastics Assessment Project) methods were used to assess microplastic pollution across 11 shorelines throughout the catchment. Results from the latest assessment can be seen above.

In 2020 Georges Riverkeeper began a partnership with the Australian Waders studies group and Greater Sydney Local Land Services to assist with the monitoring of endangered migratory shorebird populations at the internationally recognised Towra Point Nature Reserve Ramsar Site and adjacent to council managed shorelines. Counts at ten locations took place during 2020/21 with the results sent to the federal government to satisfy international monitoring obligations.



STORMWATER PROGRAM

Georges Riverkeeper's Stormwater Program focuses on improving stormwater management towards regulatory and best practice management standards to improve the quality and quantity of stormwater entering the Georges River.

GET THE SITE RIGHT

Get the Site Right is an education and compliance campaign focusing on keeping sediment from building sites out of stormwater by ensuring proper erosion and sediment controls are in place. Now in its sixth year, the campaign is a joint program between Georges Riverkeeper, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Cooks River Alliance, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Environmental Protection Authority, a number of Sydney Councils and Lake Macquarie Council.



Although compliant sites were down it's good to see that corresponded to an increase in fines being issued.



	JUNE 2020	MAY 2021	CHANGE
🏠 SITES INSPECTED	641	762	↑ 121
✓ SITES COMPLIANT	470 (73%)	510 (67%)	↓ 6%
✗ SITES DID NOT COMPLY	171 (27%)	252 (33%)	↑ 6%
💰 FINES ISSUED	\$189,484	\$383,167	↑ \$193,683

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE GEORGES RIVER - ZERO LITTER TO GEORGES RIVER

Georges Riverkeeper received a \$700,000 grant to help reduce the amount of litter in the Georges River over three years! Campbelltown City Council, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Fairfield City Council and Georges River Council have received funds to address problem Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) and Liverpool City Council is conducting a GPT audit to gain more information about their GPTs so they can operate better and be maintained more appropriately. Sutherland Shire Council is helping us lead the research component of this project by looking at the performance of GPTs and developing a process for Councils to use. Finally, we're bringing this project to a number of schools to teach students about litter, GPTs and stormwater. The students will develop a campaign about the problem and create drain art to be installed in the community. Keep an eye out for the student's creations!



Australian Government

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund program.

GEORGES RIVERKEEPER FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE

Phase 1 of the Georges River catchment-wide Floodplain Risk Management Study progressed through this financial year and will be wrapped up next financial year. This study will collate flood modelling, flood risk, floodplain risk management and emergency response data across the catchment and review for gaps, consistency, adequacy and reliability.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Under the Coastal Management Act 2016, Georges Riverkeeper is in the process of finalising our Georges River Catchment Coastal Management Program - Scoping Study. This has and will continue to include consultation with member Councils, stakeholders and community representatives.



RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Research Program was established in 2018 to improve our knowledge of the impacts of urbanisation on our rivers and creeks, how best to mitigate these impacts and to explore the features that define a liveable urban river system. It will also guide how to overcome the barriers which hinder progress to make Georges River catchment a liveable, environmentally sustainable urban waterway.



GEORGES RIVERKEEPER

In 2020/21, Georges Riverkeeper had two publications in Regional Studies in Marine Science: 'A review of intensified land use effects on the ecosystems of Botany Bay and its rivers, Georges River and Cooks River, in southern Sydney, Australia', and 'A review of the 'natural' ecological features of waterways in the Botany Bay catchment, in southern Sydney, Australia'.

Georges Riverkeeper co-authored published papers including 'Culturally inclusive water urban design: a critical history of hydrosocial infrastructure in Southern Sydney' and 'Australia in Blue Green Systems and What will happen to them? Notes on some

dragonfly (Odonata) species that are susceptible to the impacts of global warming-induced climate change' in The Victorian Naturalist.

Part of the Research Program includes working with students to conduct research in the Georges River and catchment. Due to COVID, the number of students and projects has decreased. Despite this, we have co-supervised University of Newcastle honour project investigating: 'Heavy Metal Pollution within the Georges River Using Mangrove Leaf Bio-indicators'. Georges Riverkeeper has also assisted a PhD student looking at metal uptake in saltmarsh species, and have started looking into a

student project looking at a River Plastic Collection System.

Finally, Georges Riverkeeper has partnered with some researchers at the University of New South Wales to explore community values through Council perceptions, which includes compiling existing information about community values from past relevant Plans and Strategies. We also attended The Stormwater 2021 National Conference and co-authored a paper which was presented by the University of New South Wales.



EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

The goal of the Education and Capacity Building Program is to develop and disseminate education materials and provide opportunities to foster a shared understanding of issues and solutions facing environmental management of the Georges River waterways.

ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS DURING 2020/21

COMMUNICATIONS

Georges Riverkeepers' activities and projects were communicated via the website, social media channels, e-newsletters and press. This included campaigns for Paddle Against Plastic, Get The Site Right (GTSR), Plastic Free July, and recreation areas along the river; and promotion of Conservation Volunteers Australia's #SeaToSource program, Georges Riverkeeper's published papers, Simmos Beach and Oyster Creek grant projects, and numerous citizen science projects including AUSMAP. The *State of the Georges River 2020* Report was developed and released and has been downloaded 395 times. (see page 10 for details).

EVENTS

Georges Riverkeeper arranged and ran several exciting events this year with Paddle Against Plastic (see page 10 for details) a clear highlight! We partnered with Ocean Crusaders for a hardcore Clean Up in March 2021 which was supported by Fairfield City Council, Liverpool City Council and Canterbury Bankstown City Council. Georges Riverkeeper participated in the following: Cooks River PAP (City of Canterbury Bankstown event); Clean-up Australia Day (Campbelltown City Council event); Sea to Source National Day of Action (Bayside Council event); Conservation Volunteers Australia's Sea to Source Clean-ups (City of Canterbury Bankstown and Campbelltown City Council sites); Liverpool City Council Environment Advisory Committee, Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board site visit to Taren Point (Sutherland Shire Council site); Platypus Pals Sampling events (for Campbelltown City Council), and Chipping Norton Masterplan Workshop (for Liverpool City Council), Lady Robinsons Beach Design and Investigation Workshop (Bayside Council).

CAPACITY BUILDING

Webinars to share knowledge between member Council staff have included:

- 'Koalatown' (Campbelltown City Council)
- 'Fresh Ideas for Stinky Creeks' (Sutherland Shire Council)
- 'WSUD waterscape with community culture at its heart', from Taylor Coyne, UNSW
- 'Clogging up our creeks' the environmental impacts of sediment in waterways by Marion Huxley from Georges Riverkeeper.
- A visit to the Simmos Beach grant site for member councils was also held and presentations at committee meetings included 'Platypus Pals', Liverpool City Council's Water Quality Management Framework
- An overview of mosquito expert, Dr. Cameron Webb's research at Olympic Park presented by Robert Dixon from Georges Riverkeeper.

EDUCATION

Promotion of factsheets on fishing, mosquitos, pollution, pollution prevention, flooding and Water Sensitive Urban Design resulted in 1,449 downloads from the website; promotion of ten 'Water...WOW' free online education modules for Stage 3 primary school teachers resulted in 166 website downloads; promotion of ten 'Topic Starters' to support lesson planning for Education Modules resulted in website 96 downloads. 'Topic Starters' were also included on the NSW Government Environmental and Zoo Education Centres Primary Resources website, one of the portals regularly accessed by teachers. New content for 'Learn about the river' section of the Georges Riverkeeper website has been developed.



MEDIA

10 PRESS RELEASES
820,526 PEOPLE REACHED*
*Estimated



WEBSITE

35,680
 USERS



SOCIAL MEDIA

2,169 FACEBOOK FANS
333 FACEBOOK POSTS
383 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

FINANCIAL REPORT GEORGES RIVERKEEPER 2020/21

	LAST YEAR (2019/20)	THIS YEAR (2020/21)
INCOME	\$	\$
Membership and Program fees	469,268	479,582
Operating Grants	34,400	491,800
Interest	9,136	2,908
Other Revenue		
TOTAL INCOME	512,804	974,290
EXPENSES		
Employee benefits expense	452,462	361,203
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8,425	5,898
Materials & Contracts	160,350	368,366
Other expenses	36,234	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	657,471	735,467
NET OPERATING RESULT	(144,667)	238,823

GEORGES RIVER PADDLE AGAINST PLASTIC

The Paddle Against Plastic event, held on 17 April 2021, was to celebrate Clean Up Australia Day. Volunteers on foot and in kayaks worked hard to remove litter pollution from the Georges River to help ensure a safer and more enjoyable river for everyone. Although the event initially had to be postponed due to heavy rainfall, Georges Riverkeeper was joined by 86 community volunteers and removed an estimated 267 kilograms of rubbish from the river. Event partners included City of Canterbury Bankstown and the River Canoe Club, with valued support from Oatley Flora and Fauna members and Conservation Volunteers Australia.



MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Georges Riverkeeper acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Georges River, the Kamegal, Bedigal, Cabrogal, Cannemegal, Gweagal and Norongerral people of the Eora, Dharug and Dharawal nations and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

EXECUTIVE GROUP

- Chairperson: Clr Geoff Shelton, Liverpool City Council; Clr Arian Wong, Fairfield City Council
- Vice-Chairperson: Clr Peter Scaysbrook, Sutherland Shire Council; Clr Michael Banasik, Wollondilly Shire Council
- Treasurer: Clr Adrian Wong, Fairfield City Council; Clr Rey Manoto, Campbelltown City Council
- Georges Riverkeeper Program Manager: Peter Ryan; Beth Salt
- Georges Riverkeeper Host Manager: Andrew Spooner, Georges River Council; Ian Drinnan, Sutherland Shire Council

COUNCILLORS OF MEMBER COUNCILS

- Bayside Council: Clr Andrew Tsounis
- Campbelltown City Council: Clr Ben Moroney, Clr Rey Manoto
- City of Canterbury Bankstown: Clr Khal Asfour, Clr Alex Kuskoff
- Fairfield City Council: Clr Adrian Wong
- Georges River Council: Clr Warren Tegg
- Liverpool City Council: Clr Geoff Shelton, Clr Peter Harle
- Sutherland Shire Council: Clr Peter Scaysbrook, Clr Tom Croucher
- Wollondilly Shire Council: Clr Michael Banasik

GEORGES RIVERKEEPER STAFF

- Program Managers: Peter Ryan; Beth Salt
- Program Coordinator, Environmental Officer: Robert Dixon
- Program Coordinator, Aquatic Ecologist: Dr David Reid; Marion Huxley
- Administration Officer: Lisa Smith; Kalynda Georgiades
- Communications Officer: Kirsten Spry

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER COUNCILS

- Bayside Council: Colin Mable, Enis Ruzdic, Judith Betts, Madeline Hourihan
- Campbelltown City Council: Mathew Misdale, Michael Ellison, Michaela Beattie, Mitchell Clark
- City of Canterbury Bankstown: Asad Suman, Catarina Fraga Matos, David Lowery, Paul Angel
- Fairfield City Council: Helen Pollard, Leonie Gray, Nona Ruddell, Rob Stevenson, Scott Reyes
- Georges River Council: Andrew Spooner, Elyse Ballesty, Erin Fardy, Lachlan Prentice
- Liverpool City Council: Alexi Gilchrist, Joel Daniels, Madhu Pudasaini, Maruf Hossain, Roshan Khadka, Sai Natarajan
- Sutherland Shire Council: Brendan Graham, Erin Sellers, Ian Drinnan, Kevin Seymour, Nathan Varley
- Wollondilly Shire Council: Alex Stengl, Bianca Klein, Ian Berthon

STAKEHOLDERS

- Australian Government
- Botany Bay Catchment Alliance
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Cooks River Alliance
- Friends of Oatley
- Georges River Environmental Alliance
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Member Councils' Aboriginal Advisory Groups
- NSW Department of Education – Georges River Environmental Education Centre
- Corrective Services NSW
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
- NSW Environmental Trust
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services
- Parramatta River Catchment Group
- Sydney Coastal Councils Group
- Sydney Water
- University of Newcastle
- University of Sydney
- UNSW Sydney
- Western Sydney University
- Macquarie University





Georges Riverkeeper is an alliance of Councils with collective responsibility for the Georges River and its catchment.
www.georgesriver.org.au



Georges Riverkeeper is the business name of Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Incorporated (ABN: 182 467 92704)