



# Reserve Activity Plan

2017 - 2021

## BEDLAM WALLS BUSHLAND RESERVE

ADVICE PREPARED BY  
TASFLORA FOR  
CLARENCE CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 2017



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*Weed Control and Native Vegetation Specialists*

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## 1 BACKGROUND

The Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve is a 15 hectare area of bushland and rocky coastline between Geilston Bay and Shag Bay on Hobart's eastern shore. The ownership of the Reserve is mixed between Clarence City Council (Council) and the Crown, with Council generally responsible for its management. It is valued by locals for its natural setting, significant cultural heritage, scenic views and walking tracks. The Reserve also forms part of the 'scenic rim' of vegetated hills on Hobart's eastern shore, which creates an important visual landscape connection of bushland areas from the foreshore to ridges in the Clarence municipality.

Two bushfire management plans have been previously prepared for the Reserve,<sup>1,2</sup> and weed control activities between 2013-2015 have been guided by recommendations developed as part of the East Risdon State Reserve (Bedlam Walls) Protection Project.<sup>3</sup> However no specific overarching management plan has previously been prepared for the Reserve.

Tasflora has been engaged by Council to develop a five year Reserve Activity Plan for on ground management activities within the Reserve, including the development of an implementation plan identifying immediate and ongoing management priorities to be undertaken during the period 2017-2021.<sup>4</sup>

The recommendations contained within this *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021*, which was adopted by Council in June 2017, are intended to provide guidance for on ground activities that can be implemented by Council, community groups and/or volunteers. It is acknowledged that it may not be possible to undertake all recommended activities due to resource constraints; rather the intent of this plan is to provide a guide to management concepts and outcomes that could be achieved if sufficient funding can be obtained.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* are to:

- ensure the Reserve is sustainably managed to preserve and enhance its natural, cultural and social values;
- identify priority management activities to be undertaken within the Reserve by Council, community groups and/or volunteers as resources become available during the period 2017-2021; and

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<sup>1</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2011). *Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.

<sup>2</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2016). *Draft Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.

<sup>3</sup> Pengelly, S., Einoder, L., Whitehead, J., le Sage, L. and Burgess, J. (2013). *East Risdon State Reserve (Bedlam Walls) Protection Project*. Unpublished report.

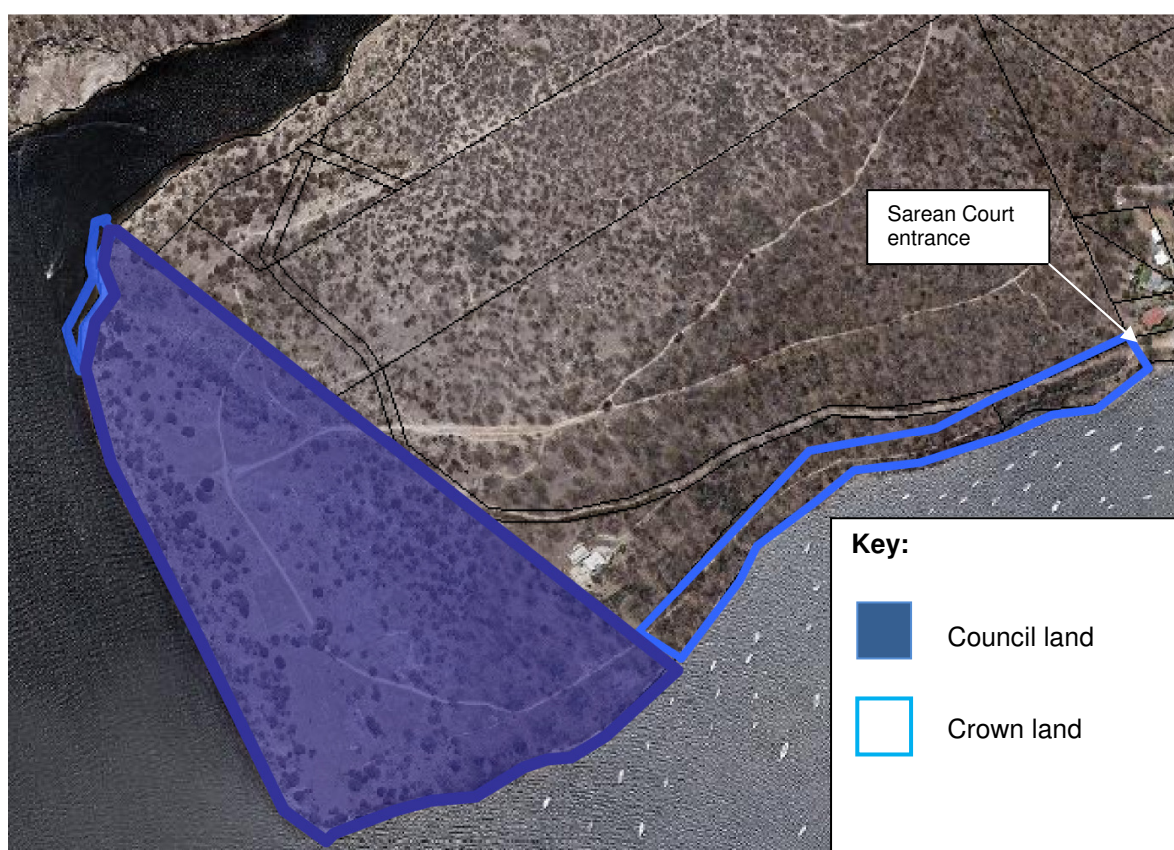
<sup>4</sup> The *Bedlam Walls Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* falls under Council's *Clarence Bushland and Coastal Strategy*, which summarises plans and strategies relevant to Reserves within the Clarence municipality.



- encourage community engagement through raising awareness of the Reserves' values and encourage participation in activities to minimise threats to these values.

### 3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The area covered by the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* is illustrated in Figure 1. Ownership and management of the Reserve is mixed between the Crown and Council. The majority of the Reserve is zoned as Open Space under the Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015,<sup>5</sup> with a small area zoned as Environmental Management along the coastline towards Shag Bay.



**Figure 1:** Area covered by the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* (base map sourced from the LIST).

### 4 SITE VALUES

#### 4.1 Native flora

The Reserve's native vegetation is predominantly comprised of grassy woodland and forest, and six native vegetation communities are present, as described in the Bushfire Management Plan prepared for the Reserve.<sup>6</sup> A full description of each of

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.iplan.tas.gov.au/pages/plan/book.aspx?exhibit=claiaps>

<sup>6</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2016). *Draft Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.

the communities occurring within the Reserve is provided at Appendix 1. Typical native vegetation within the Reserve is illustrated in Figure 2.



**Figure 2:** Typical native vegetation occurring within the Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve, with lowland *Themeda triandra* grassland in the foreground and *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland on mudstone in the background.

One of the communities present within the Reserve, *Eucalypt globulus* dry forest and woodland (TASVEG code DGL), is listed as a threatened native vegetation community under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. This community is located adjacent to the walking track from the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve.

One native grass occurring in the Reserve, *Rytidosperma indutum* (tall wallaby grass), is of high conservation value and is classified as rare under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

## 4.2 Native fauna

The Reserve contains suitable habitat for a range of native wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates), including:

- mature or dead eucalypt trees with hollows, which provide potential den and nest sites for possums, bats and hollow-nesting bird species, including the endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae* subsp. *castanops*);

- mature, flowering eucalypt trees that provide a foraging source for possums and birds, including *Eucalyptus viminalis* trees suitable for the endangered forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*);
- open grassy woodland which provides a foraging source for small mammals (eg bandicoots);
- shrubs and other understorey species that provide nesting, shelter and a foraging source for birds and small mammals;
- fallen timber and leaf litter, which provide shelter and foraging habitat for small birds, reptiles and invertebrates;
- rocky outcrops close to the coastline, which provide potential habitat for reptile species, including snakes and lizards; and
- rocky foreshore habitat for crabs and other marine life living above or near the high tide mark.

While no threatened fauna species have been previously recorded within the Reserve,<sup>7</sup> there are small areas of potential foraging and/or nesting habitat for several threatened species, including the Tasmanian masked owl, the swift parrot, the forty-spotted pardalote and the eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*). Further information on these species is provided at Appendix 1.

## 4.3 Cultural heritage

### 4.3.1 Aboriginal heritage

The municipality of Clarence, including the Bedlam Walls area, was previously occupied by the Mumirimina band of the Oyster Bay tribe.<sup>8</sup> The Reserve contains significant evidence of previous Aboriginal occupation, with 31 known sites recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Register (including shell middens, artefacts, stone quarries and rock shelters).<sup>9</sup>

Under the Tasmanian *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* (the Aboriginal Relics Act), it is an offence to 'destroy, damage, disfigure, conceal, uncover, expose, excavate or otherwise interfere with a relic' unless a permit has been granted. It is therefore important to ensure that no artefacts or other cultural material are exposed or disturbed without a permit during Reserve management activities. In the event that an Aboriginal artefact is inadvertently uncovered, an Unanticipated Discovery Plan should be implemented immediately (refer Appendix 2) and the items reported to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania for advice.

### 4.3.2 Historic heritage

The Reserve contains the remnants of a quince orchard and some building foundations, although the heritage value of these assets is unknown.

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<sup>7</sup> Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (2017). *Natural values report*. Unpublished report for Tasflora.

<sup>8</sup> Alexander, A. (2003). *The eastern shore: a history of Clarence*. Clarence City Council, Rosny Park.

<sup>9</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2016). *Draft Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.



Shag Bay, which is adjacent to the Reserve to the north, hosts an historic quarry and the remains of a fertiliser factory. Originally a bone mill, the factory was established in the mid 1890s and was owned by the Anglo-Australian Guano Company. The Tasmanian Fertiliser Company took over ownership in 1907, and joined forces with the Russell Brothers (manufacturers of fish manure) to form the Tasmanian Fertiliser Company.<sup>10</sup> The factory operated to turn animal by-products (e.g. fish scraps, butchers refuse) into manure. Tallow was produced as a by-product and exported internationally.<sup>11</sup> The mill was later used for the treatment of sanitary waste from New Town, Glenorchy and Sandy Bay. A boiler explosion destroyed the mill in 1915. The remains of a boiler from the factory can still be seen at Shag Bay today.

The quarry in Shag Bay was used to cut stone for the upgrade of Hobart wharf in the early 1900s.<sup>12</sup> Shag Bay also contains the remains of the former HMS Nelson, which was dismantled there in 1926.<sup>13</sup>

#### 4.4 Recreational values

The Reserve is utilised year round by locals and visitors for walking, jogging, dog exercise, fishing and contemplation of the natural environment and views. Community feedback indicated a preference for retaining the area as an off lead area to walk dogs.

#### 4.5 Landscape setting and connectivity

The Reserve forms part of the visual landscape connection of bushland areas from the foreshore to ridges in the Clarence municipality, and contributes to the scenic fringe along the Derwent River's estuarine coastline on Hobart's eastern shore. The Reserve links with remnant native vegetation on private land and the East Risdon Nature Reserve to the north to create an extensive strip of remnant vegetation lining the Derwent when viewed from the western shore. Maintaining and enhancing these landscape settings is important for ongoing visual amenity in the area.

Connectivity between areas of bushland provides an important ecological link for flora and fauna to enable gene flow between populations and to allow animals to move across the landscape for foraging, nesting and breeding. The Reserve is connected to the East Risdon Nature Reserve via Crown land and Government Hills via vegetated private land on Fishers Hill (refer Figure 3), providing an important wildlife corridor. A connection also exists to the Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve via Faggs Gully Creek.

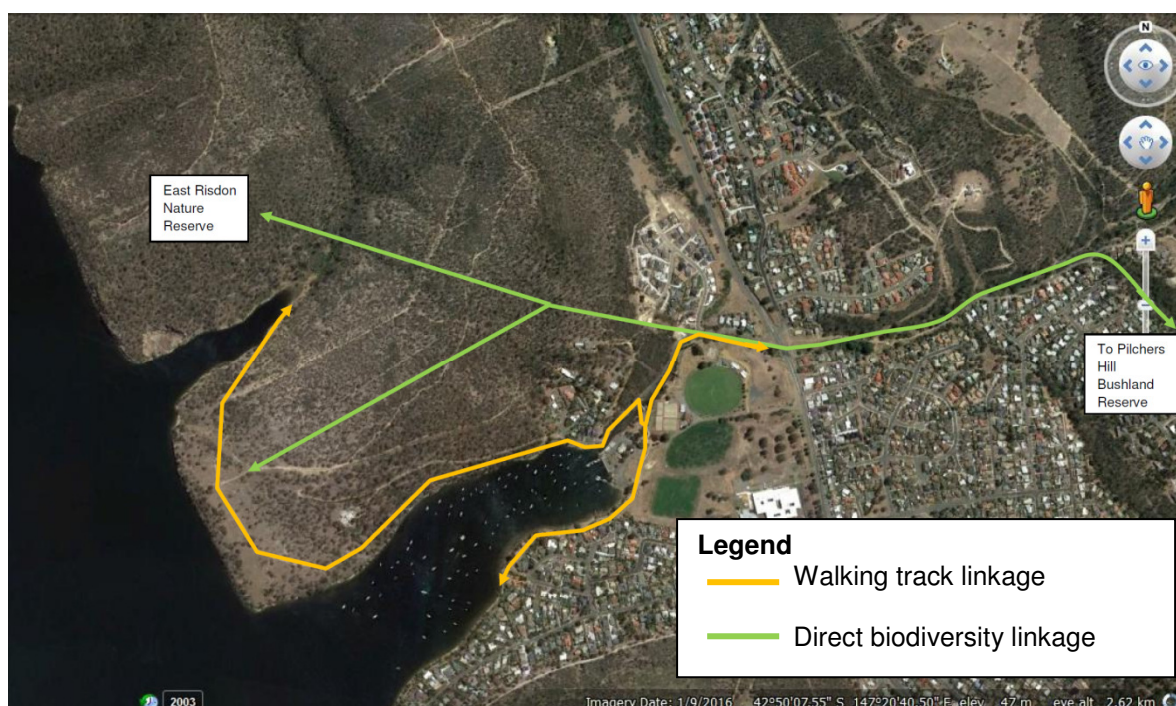
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<sup>10</sup> Grist, J. and Grist, M. (2016). *Early recycling: the fertiliser factories at Shag and Porter Bay, Hobart*. Unpublished report. Available at: <http://www.tasmaniangeographic.com/early-recycling-at-shag-bay/>

<sup>11</sup> Alexander, A. (2003). *The eastern shore: a history of Clarence*. Clarence City Council, Rosny Park.

<sup>12</sup> Grist, J. and Grist, M. (2016). *Ibid*.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspX?base=1799>



**Figure 3:** Connectivity between the Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve and other bushland areas (base map sourced from Google Earth).

Connectivity from a user perspective is currently good, although community consultation has indicated that improvements could be made. There are direct links between the Reserve and the Geilston Bay Coastal Reserve via Geilston Bay Road, although the pedestrian path along Geilston Bay Road is narrow and overgrown (refer section 11). Pedestrian access to the historically important Shag Bay is also possible, although improvements could be made to improve accessibility to Shag Bay and create a coastal walking link through to the East Risdon Reserve (discussed further in section 11).

Landscape setting and connectivity are important for the long term viability of Clarence's bushland areas as well as ongoing visual amenity and recreational opportunities within the municipality. It is important that these linkages be preserved and strengthened through strategic land use planning.

## 5 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

A public meeting and community 'walk and talk' session was facilitated by Council and Tasflora on 23 October 2016 and attended by 16 local residents. The purpose of the session was to seek input from on the values and management issues associated with the Reserve. A feedback form seeking input to the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* was also mailed to local residents and relevant stakeholders.

The draft *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* was released for community consultation in February - March 2017. A Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Report Card was developed as a key tool in encouraging stakeholder feedback on the draft plan and was mailed out to residents and other interested stakeholders.

A summary of the issues raised in the submissions received during both consultation periods is provided at Appendix 3.

Where possible, all relevant community feedback has been considered in the development of the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021*. However some issues identified during the consultation process are beyond the scope of this plan or pertain to management issues outside the Reserve. These issues have been noted by Council and will be addressed through other processes where feasible.

## **6 WEED MANAGEMENT**

### **6.1 Weed species present**

As a result of weed control work conducted in recent years, the Reserve is predominantly free from woody weed infestations, with the exception of limited scattered seedlings. A list of environmental weed species that have been recorded within the Reserve within the last five years, including their status and recommended control methods, is provided at Appendix 4. To assist with identification, a picture of each weed species is also provided. The previously recorded distribution of declared and other environmental weed species within the Reserve prior to the most recent weed control activities in 2016 is provided in Appendix 5.

Weed species previously recorded within the Reserve that are classified as declared weeds under the Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999* (the Weed Management Act) and/or Weeds of National Significance (WONS) are summarised in Appendix 4. Where possible, seedlings of these weeds should be targeted as a priority to prevent their further spread.

### **6.2 Recommendations for weed control work**

Previous weed control activities will not be successful unless a commitment is made to undertaking ongoing follow-up maintenance activities. Due to the limited penetration of weeds resulting from successful previous weed control activities, priority should be given to controlling weed seedlings that might regenerate from the existing soil seed bank and/or wind blown weed seed from neighbouring areas. An annual sweep to remove all new germinants of previously targeted weeds should be undertaken, with ongoing annual follow-up required until the soil seed bank is exhausted. This work could be undertaken by volunteers and/or contractors.

***Recommendation 1: Undertake an annual sweep of the entire Reserve to remove all declared and environmental weeds.***

### **6.3 Non-priority weeds**

Broadleaf weeds and exotic grasses are common through the Reserve and are not considered a priority for control except in revegetation areas and where their removal is desirable as part of an ongoing general Reserve maintenance program (e.g. along track edges) or fuel reduction purposes.

***Recommendation 2: Undertake control of exotic grasses and broadleaf weeds only in revegetation areas and where necessary as part of a general Reserve maintenance program.***

In order to monitor the success of the weed control program, follow-up GPS weed mapping should be undertaken after five years to assess progress and facilitate planning of future weed control activities. As well, GPS mapping by contractors and volunteers as they control weeds should be encouraged, with data to be provided to Council to enable its database to be updated.

***Recommendation 3: Undertake GPS mapping of all weeds in the Reserve after five years to monitor progress and inform future weed control priorities.***

## **7 REGENERATION AND REVEGETATION**

### **7.1 Regeneration**

Natural regeneration should be encouraged within the Reserve as the most cost effective and natural means of restoring their original vegetation in areas where disturbance has occurred. Apart from weed control, management activities in areas of intact native vegetation should be limited to encourage the natural regeneration process.

### **7.2 Revegetation activities**

The primary purpose of undertaking new revegetation activities is to preserve and enhance existing areas of remnant native vegetation, provide habitat for native birds and animals, and improve the visual amenity for users of the Reserves.

Large scale revegetation activities are not considered necessary in the Reserve due to its relatively undisturbed nature. While large areas of grassland are apparent within the Reserve, these are natural, native grassland communities that do not require any further supplanting of trees.

Some native revegetation work has been undertaken near the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve. Ongoing maintenance of this area should be considered a priority before establishing new revegetation sites to ensure that this site remain weed free and is well maintained (ie dead plants removed, tree bags removed over time, etc.). This is particularly important adjacent to high pedestrian traffic areas where visual amenity is desirable.

***Recommendation 4: Undertake regular maintenance of existing revegetation areas to ensure successful establishment and ongoing visual amenity.***

Some additional landscaping with native plants could be undertaken at the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve to improve its visual amenity. This should be planned for once an assessment of the need for additional car parking spaces at this entrance has been completed (refer section 10). Where possible, plants should be grown from the seed or cuttings of plants local to the area to ensure local variants of plants are planted.



Revegetation and landscaping activities will not be successful unless a commitment is made to undertake follow-up maintenance activities. In particular, it is important to ensure that sufficient resources are available for ongoing maintenance (eg weeding, watering) before establishing new sites.

***Recommendation 5: New revegetation and landscaping activities should not be committed to unless sufficient resources are available to undertake ongoing regular maintenance of newly planted areas.***

## 8 FAUNA HABITAT MANAGEMENT

As described in section 4.2, the Reserve plays an important role in providing habitat for a range of wildlife, including mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. A variety of canopy layers, dead trees, hollow logs, fallen timber and leaf litter are required to provide important habitat for wildlife, including mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. Leaf litter and dead wood are often viewed as a fire risk in bushland reserves located in urban areas. However, it is important that fauna habitat requirements are considered when planning any future bushfire management activities in the Reserves. The Reserve's current Bushfire Management Plan recognises this.

Uncontrolled domestic dogs and cats have the potential to harass or kill native wildlife. The Reserve is currently used for off-lead dog exercise (with dogs to remain under effective control) under Council's Dog Management Policy.<sup>14</sup> Council promotes responsible cat ownership, and will continue to encourage local residents to meet their obligations under the *Cat Management Act 2009* through having their cats microchipped, desexed and under effective control (eg indoors at night).

Stakeholders have reported the presence of feral goats in the Reserve. The impact of these animals on the Reserve's native flora and fauna should be monitored to determine whether any action to limit their access to the Reserve is required.

## 9 VEGETATION AND FAUNA MONITORING

An assessment of the condition of the native vegetation within the Reserves has not been previously undertaken. Native vegetation condition monitoring is needed to determine the current condition of the vegetation in the Reserves and to assess trends in vegetation composition and condition over time. Information from regular vegetation condition assessments (VCAs) will enable an evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of management actions on the Reserves' native vegetation. The TASVEG VCA method should be undertaken by trained Council staff or consultants using standard TASVEG VCA forms.<sup>15</sup> Photo points should also be established within each VCA zone to provide further information on vegetation condition and annual regeneration growth.

<sup>14</sup> Clarence City Council (2015). Dog Management Policy. Clarence City Council, Tasmania.

<sup>15</sup> Full details of the TASVEG VCA method can be found at: [http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/flora-of-tasmania/monitoring-and-mapping-tasmanias-vegetation-\(tasveg\)/vegetation-monitoring-in-tasmania](http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/flora-of-tasmania/monitoring-and-mapping-tasmanias-vegetation-(tasveg)/vegetation-monitoring-in-tasmania)

***Recommendation 6: Undertake Vegetation Condition Assessments (VCAs) in the Reserve in 2017 and 2021.***

***Recommendation 7: Establish photo points within each VCA zone to facilitate monitoring of vegetation condition.***

The Reserve contains unique habitat for a range of wildlife species, and it is expected that species diversity could increase over time with ongoing appropriate vegetation management practices. Fauna surveys (including mammal, marsupial, bird, reptile and invertebrate surveys) and habitat assessments to confirm the species present in the Reserves are recommended to be undertaken now and at the end of the plan (i.e. 2017 and 2021) as a basis for monitoring species diversity over time.<sup>16</sup>

***Recommendation 8: Undertake fauna surveys in 2017 and 2021 to assess species diversity and further inform on ground management activities.***

An analysis of all completed VCAs, fauna surveys and photo points should be undertaken in 2020 to determine trends and implications for ongoing vegetation management in the Reserves. This should be undertaken in conjunction with a review of the *Bedlam Walls Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* scheduled for 2021 (refer Section 17).

***Recommendation 9: Undertake an analysis of all photo points, VCAs and fauna surveys in 2020 to determine trends and inform future management activities.***

## 10 RESERVE ENTRANCES

The main entrance to the Reserve is from Sarean Court at the end of Geilston Bay Road. A number of stakeholders suggested that, due to the popularity of the Reserve and limited street parking in the area, additional car parking spaces should be established at this entrance.

***Recommendation 10: Assess the demand for car parking at the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve and if required evaluate the best option to increase the number of car parking spaces***

## 11 TRACKS AND TRAILS

Key management identified with the Reserve's tracks and trails networks are summarised in Table 1.

***Recommendation 11: Improve the Reserves' track networks by improving the condition of existing tracks and installing track signage.***

<sup>16</sup> If possible, bird surveys should be undertaken in conjunction with BirdLife Tasmania using standard BirdLife Australia monitoring techniques. A survey of the Reserve's bat population should also be facilitated, as has been done for other Council reserves.

**Table 1:** Track management issues identified within the Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve.

Issue	Description	Recommendation
Track condition	Some areas along the main walking track are regularly wet.	Identify the source of the permanent seepage along a section of the main Bedlam Walls track, and resurface the track in areas that become boggy after rain.
	Upgrading existing tracks and/or installing track signage to promote a walking track circuit would improve recreational opportunities for users.	Maintain the undeveloped coastal track that branches off the main track to the grove of quince trees then back via the cave entrance onto the main track. Undertake a feasibility study (including cultural heritage and environmental impact assessment, works required and cost estimate) of upgrading the undeveloped walking track link that passes around the quince orchard and continues along the western coastline. Install an improved track network map at the Sarean Court entrance to promote a walking track circuit utilising the walking track link that passes around the quince orchard. Install unobtrusive directional markers at key track junctions to facilitate visitor navigation of the track network.
	Fire trails should meet required bushfire management standards.	Undertake track management activities as detailed in the Reserve's bushfire management plan.
Access from Geilston Bay Coastal Reserve	The roadside gravel pedestrian path along Geilston Bay Road between the bridge and Sarean Court (which affords access to the Reserve from the Geilston Bay Coastal Reserve) is overgrown and very narrow.	Widen, harden and separate the existing path from the road with plastic guide posts installed at regular intervals. Incorporate a more regular maintenance regime of the pedestrian path along Geilston Bay Road into the existing roadside maintenance program
Access to Shag Bay	The foreshore section of track linking the Reserve to Shag Bay is eroding in places making it difficult for some users to access Shag Bay.	In conjunction with Crown Land Services, upgrade the foreshore section of the walking track into Shag Bay.

There has historically been stepped access to the Aboriginal rock shelter in the cliffs at the northern western end of the Reserve. The community consultation process identified a level of desire to restore recreational access to the shelter due to its cultural significance and the attractive cliff setting of this area. Access was closed to the public due to safety reasons, and significant safety works are likely to be required before public access could be restored. However, clear views of the

caves in this area are still possible from the water and there is the opportunity to promote the caves as a viewing attraction for kayakers and other water users (refer section 15).

Consultation during the development of this plan has indicated that there is a level of community desire for a coastal walking track between Shag Bay and Risdon via the Risdon Recreation Area. While this area falls outside the Reserve, the construction of a coastal walking track link through this area would improve connectivity from a user perspective and facilitate a possible extension of the Clarence Foreshore Trail from Geilston Bay to Risdon. The feasibility of developing a coastal walking track in this area should be investigated (including cultural heritage and environmental impact assessment, works required and cost estimate). Liaison with Crown Land Services and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania would be required as part of this process.

***Recommendation 12: Undertake a feasibility study (in consultation with Crown Land Services and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania) into developing a coastal walking track between Shag Bay and Risdon.***

## 12 INFRASTRUCTURE

There is currently limited community infrastructure located within the Reserve, and the natural environment and cultural heritage of the Reserve would be enhanced through minimising significant additional infrastructure installation. This sentiment was reflected during the community consultation process.

Due to the scenic location, and the length of the walking trails throughout the Reserve, it is recommended that new outdoor seats be installed at strategic positions to enable rest opportunities and encourage contemplation of the natural environment and Derwent River views. Depending on the level of funding available, the installation of two seats along the main walking track in locations affording sweeping views across the Reserve and the Derwent River is recommended. Vandal-proof bench seats should be coloured to blend in with the environment (i.e. seat painted green) and set into a concrete foundation with a compacted gravel surface extending in front of the seat. Alternatively, seats could be constructed from natural stone to deter vandalism.

***Recommendation 13: Install new outdoor seats at two scenic locations in the Reserve.***

Any additional installation of new infrastructure within the Reserve will be subject to limited funding. With this in mind, no additional infrastructure is proposed within the next five years (with the exception of signage, as discussed in section 15).

A further review of the infrastructure requirements of the Reserves should be undertaken in 2021.

***Recommendation 14: Undertake a review of the infrastructure requirements of the Reserve in 2021.***



### 13 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

The Reserve is located in a bushfire prone area, as defined by the Clarence Interim Planning Scheme 2015. A five year Bushfire Management Plan encompassing the Reserve was developed for Council in 2011 and was updated in 2016.<sup>17,18</sup> Key recommendations in the plan include:

- no broad scale burning within the next five years;
- maintaining and repairing fire trails to the required standards; and
- ensuring that the cultural heritage assets are not damaged when undertaking bushfire management activities.

The Bushfire Management Plan is scheduled for review in 2021.

### 14 COASTAL EROSION AND INUNDATION

Prior to undertaking any on ground work within the coastal and foreshore sections of the Reserve, the *Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual: A best practice management guide for changing coastlines* should be consulted to ensure best practice coastal management techniques are implemented.<sup>19</sup>

**Recommendation 15: The Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual should be consulted prior to undertaking any on ground activities.**

### 15 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS

Community participation and awareness has an important role to play in protecting the natural, cultural and recreational values of the Reserve.

Interpretation signs provide an important opportunity to display information on the Reserve's natural values and the impact certain activities can have on these. Community consultation indicated a high level of support for interpretation signs to be erected within the Reserve containing information about the Aboriginal and historic heritage of the Reserve and its surrounds. Close consultation with the Aboriginal community is recommended to ensure sensitive and appropriate information is presented.

**Recommendation 16: Install interpretation signage regarding the Aboriginal and historic heritage of the Bedlam Walls area and install a directional sign from the East Derwent Highway.**

As noted in section 11, there has historically been land access (on Crown land) to an Aboriginal rock shelter in the cliffs at the northern western end of the Reserve.

<sup>17</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2011). *Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.

<sup>18</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2016). *Draft Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.

<sup>19</sup> Page, L. and Thorp, V. (2010). *Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual: A best practice management guide for changing coastlines*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

This access has been closed to public access due to safety reasons. However, clear views of the caves in this area are still possible from the water. In 2016, the *Natone Hill Bushland and Geilston Bay Coastal Reserves Activity Plan 2016-2020* recommended the establishment of a kayak launching hub and interpretation signage in Geilston Bay, which could include promote the caves as a viewing attraction from the water. Information could also be included on signs at other locations along the 'eastern shore kayak trail' from Montagu Bay/Lindisfarne/Geilston Bay to Shag Bay.

***Recommendation 17: Promote the Bedlam Walls caves as a viewing attraction from the water in conjunction with an eastern shore kayak trail, and include the cave as a site of interest in information published for the Clarence Kayak Trails Strategy.***

While there is a history of community commitment for caring for the neighbouring Geilston Bay Coastal Reserve, there is currently no formal landcare or other community group regularly undertaking volunteer activities within the Reserve. The formation of a new Landcare or Coastcare group would provide an important opportunity for local residents to contribute to management activities and engender a strong sense of community ownership of the Reserve. Assistance with the formation of a Landcare or Coastcare group should in the first instance be sought from Council's Natural Areas Volunteer Coordinator (Chris Johns, phone 6217 9715 or email [cjohns@ccc.tas.gov.au](mailto:cjohns@ccc.tas.gov.au)).

***Recommendation 18: Facilitate the formation of a Bedlam Walls Landcare or Coastcare Group.***

Under the Tasmanian *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, volunteers are considered 'workers' when working for Council on Council owned land. Council therefore has a duty of care to provide a safe workplace for volunteer workers who may undertake management activities within the Reserves.

- **All volunteers have rights and responsibilities.** Volunteers have the right to a safe work environment, to be treated fairly and with respect, to public liability insurance, to safe equipment, tools and personal protective equipment (PPE), to adequate instruction to perform tasks, to contribute their suggestions and to receive acknowledgement for their contributions. Volunteers also have the right to refuse work if they consider it unsafe.
- **Volunteers also have the responsibility** to care for the health and safety of others, to respect others, to follow policies, procedures and instructions, and to care for their own health and safety.

With this in mind, all volunteers need to refer to the relevant Council Safe Work Method Statements (SWMSs) before undertaking works in the Reserves, including cut and paste work weed control work, brushcutting and spreading of mulch. These are available from Council's Natural Areas Volunteer Coordinator (Chris Johns, phone 6217 9715 or email [cjohns@ccc.tas.gov.au](mailto:cjohns@ccc.tas.gov.au)). All spot spraying should be undertaken by certified operators (eg Council staff, contractors).

## 16 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A map illustrating the location of on ground management activities recommended within the Reserves is provided at Figure 4. This is based on the key recommendations contained within this plan, which are summarised in detail at Appendix 6.

Based on these recommendations, an Implementation Plan with associated performance measures has been developed and is provided at Table 2. It identifies three stages of management activities to be undertaken within the Reserves:

- Priority 1 - immediate (6-12 months) management activities.
- Priority 2 – medium term (1-3 years) management priorities.
- Priority 3 – long term (5 years) management priorities.

The intent of the Implementation Plan is to provide a guide to outcomes that could be achieved within the Reserve by Clarence City Council, contractors and/or volunteer groups within the period 2017-2021 if sufficient resources are available.

The Implementation Plan provides an indication of the level of funding required to achieve these outcomes.<sup>20</sup> While it would be desirable to undertake all the recommended activities, it is acknowledged that this may not be possible due to resource constraints, and implementation will ultimately be guided by what is achievable with resources as they become available. Federal, State and Local Government grants programs may provide an opportunity to obtain resources to implement many of the recommendations contained within this report.

A review of progress against all performance measures should be undertaken annually during the period 2017-2021 to help prioritise available resources.

***Recommendation 19: Review progress against all performance measures identified in the Implementation Plan annually.***

## 17 FUTURE PRIORITIES

A review of the *Bedlam Walls Activity Plan 2017-2021* should be undertaken in 2021. The purpose of this review should be to:

- assess progress towards achieving the objectives of the *Bedlam Walls Activity Plan 2017-2021*;
- assess progress against all performance measures;
- analyse photo point data and all completed flora and fauna assessments to determine trends and implications for ongoing vegetation management; and
- determine ongoing management priorities for the Reserve for the next five years.

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<sup>20</sup> Funding details are based on an internal Council document which provides a detailed five year cost estimate for all planned activities. This has been developed primarily for Council budgetary processes and potential grant applications. Specific details may be sought by contacting Council's NRM Planner (Phil Watson, phone 6217 9713 or email [pwatson@ccc.tas.gov.au](mailto:pwatson@ccc.tas.gov.au)).

***Recommendation 20: Review the Bedlam Walls Activity Plan 2017-2021 in 2021 to assess progress and determine ongoing management priorities for the Reserve.***





**Figure 4:** Overview of key proposed on ground management activities in the Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve (aerial photo from the LIST).

**Table 2:** Implementation Plan for undertaking recommended management activities within the Reserve.

Priority	Rec. No.	Action	Seasonal timing	Performance measure	Responsibility	Estimated funding <sup>21</sup>
<b>Weed control</b>						
1,2,3	R1	Undertake an annual sweep of the entire Reserve to remove all declared and environmental weeds	Spring – summer for spot spraying; all year round for other techniques	All targeted weeds are eradicated from the Reserve	Council, contractor and/or volunteer groups	\$2,000 per annum
3	R3	Undertake follow-up GPS mapping of all weeds	Spring - summer	Weed maps and Council database are updated within 5 years	Council, contractor and/or volunteer groups	\$600
<b>Regeneration and revegetation</b>						
1,2,3	R4	Undertake regular maintenance of existing revegetation areas to ensure successful establishment and ongoing visual amenity	Autumn – winter	Revegetation sites established and maintained for 5 years	Council, contractor or volunteers	\$600 per annum
<b>Vegetation and fauna monitoring</b>						
1,3	R6	Undertake Vegetation Condition Assessments (VCAs) in the Reserve in 2017 and 2021	In season for highly seasonal vegetation (e.g. annuals)	VCAs completed in 2017 and 2021	Council or contractor	\$3,000 (N/A if performed by Council staff)
1,2,3	R7	Establish photo points within each VCA zone	Spring	Photo points established and annual photos taken	Contractor	\$2,000
1,3	R8	Undertake surveys to update the fauna record of the Reserves	N/A	Fauna and bird surveys completed 2017 & 2021	Contractor and/or BirdLife Tasmania and/or University of Tasmania	\$6,000

<sup>21</sup> Funding estimate is based on total costs required to undertake all recommended activities over the period 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Priority	Rec. No.	Action	Seasonal timing	Performance measure	Responsibility	Estimated funding <sup>21</sup>
<b>Reserve entrances</b>						
1	R10	Assess the demand for car parking at the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve and if required evaluate the best option to increase the number of car parking spaces.	N/A	Car park study completed.	Council	N/A
<b>Tracks and trails</b>						
1	R11	Identify the source of the permanent seepage along a section of the main Bedlam Walls track, and resurface the track in areas that become boggy after rain.	N/A	No wet sections along the main walking track.	Council and TasWater	\$2,000
3	R11	Undertake a feasibility study (including cultural heritage and environmental impact assessment, works required and cost estimate) of upgrading the walking track link that passes around the quince orchard and continues along the western coastline.	N/A	Feasibility study completed.	Council or contractor	\$5,000
2	R11	Install an improved track network map at the Sarean Court entrance and unobtrusive directional markers at key track junctions to promote a walking track circuit utilising the walking track link that passes around the quince orchard.	N/A	New trail map and directional markers installed.	Council or contractor	\$2,000
1,2,3	R11	Undertake fire trail management activities as detailed in the Reserve's Bushfire Management Plan.	N/A	Fire trails maintained to required standard as detailed in the Reserve's Bushfire Management Plan	Council	N/A
2	R11	Widen, harden and separate the existing path from the road with plastic guide posts installed at regular intervals.	N/A	Safe pedestrian path established.	Council or contractor	\$10,000

Priority	Rec. No.	Action	Seasonal timing	Performance measure	Responsibility	Estimated funding <sup>21</sup>
1,2,3	R11	Incorporate a more regular maintenance regime of the pedestrian path along Geilston Bay Road into the existing roadside maintenance program	N/A	No complaints about the path being overgrown.	Council	N/A
3	R11	In conjunction with Crown Land Services, upgrade the foreshore section of the walking track into Shag Bay.	N/A	Foreshore walking track upgraded to an appropriate standard.	Council, Crown Land Services and/or contractor	\$10,000
3	R12	Undertake a feasibility study (in consultation with Crown Land Services and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania) into developing a coastal track between Shag Bay and Risdon.	N/A	Feasibility study completed	Council or contractor	\$5,000
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
1	R13	Install new outdoor seats at two locations in the Reserves	N/A	Two bench seats installed	Council or contractor	\$1,000
3	R14	Review the infrastructure requirements of the Reserves in 2021	N/A	Infrastructure review completed in 2021	Council	N/A
<b>Community participation and awareness</b>						
2	R16	Install interpretation signage regarding the Aboriginal and historic heritage of the Bedlam Walls area and install a directional sign from the East Derwent Highway.	N/A	Interpretation and directional signage installed	Council, contractor or volunteers	\$3,000
1,2,3	R18	Facilitate the formation of a Bedlam Walls Landcare or Coastcare Group.	N/A	Bedlam Walls Landcare or Coastcare Group established	Council and volunteers	N/A
<b>Implementation plan</b>						
1,2&3	R19	Undertake annual review against all performance measures.	N/A	Review of all performance measures completed annually	Council	N/A

Priority	Rec. No.	Action	Seasonal timing	Performance measure	Responsibility	Estimated funding <sup>21</sup>
3	R20	Review the <i>Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021</i> in 2021 to assess progress and determine ongoing management priorities for the Reserves.	N/A	<i>Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021</i> reviewed within five years	Council and/or contractor	\$10,000



## APPENDIX 1: CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESERVE'S NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

The native vegetation communities occurring within the Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve are summarised in Table A1.1. Of these, *Eucalypt globulus* dry forest and woodland is listed as a threatened native vegetation community under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

**Table A1.1:** Conservation status of native vegetation communities occurring within the Reserve.

Community name	TASVEG code	Description	Conservation status
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> dry forest and woodland	DGL	Dry sclerophyll community dominated by <i>E. globulus</i> . The ground layer is dominated by grasses. Located adjacent to the walking track from the Sarean Court entrance.	Vulnerable
<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> forest and woodland on mudstone		Occurs on the upper slopes of the Reserve.	Not threatened
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> grassy forest and woodland	DVG	Community dominated by <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> (white gum) with a grassy understorey. Occurs along the coastline of the Reserve.	Not threatened
Lowland <i>Themeda triandra</i> grassland	GTL	Native grassland community. Occurs on the flatter lower slopes of the Reserve.	Not threatened
<i>Bursaria-Acacia</i> woodland and scrub	NBA	Occurs on the southern tip of the Reserve.	Not threatened
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> forest	NAV	Vegetation dominated by <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i> (sheoak) trees with a grassy understorey. Occurs on the western tip of the Reserve.	Not threatened

One native grass occurring within the Reserve, *Rytidosperma indutum* (tall wallaby grass), is listed as rare under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (the TSP Act).<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (2017). *Natural values report*. Unpublished report for Tasflora.



The Reserve contains potential habitat for several threatened fauna species listed under the TSP and/or Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act), including several endangered species. These are summarised in Table A1.2.

**Table A1.2:** Fauna species of conservation significance for which suitable habitat exists within the Reserve.

<b>Fauna species</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Conservation status<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>Habitat / Comments</b>
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	swift parrot	Endangered ENDANGERED	Nesting habitat is hollows in mature eucalypts with stem diameter >70cm at breast height. Forages in mature <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> and <i>E. ovata</i> trees. Potential nesting and foraging habitat exists within the Reserve.
<i>Pardalotus quadrangintus</i>	forty-spotted pardalote	Endangered ENDANGERED	Forages in grassy <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> forest. Potential foraging habitat within the Reserve.
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> subsp. <i>castanops</i>	masked owl (Tasmanian)	Endangered VUNLERABLE	Inhabits dry eucalypt forest and woodland with old growth eucalypts containing hollows. Potential nesting habitat exists within the Reserve.
<i>Perameles gunnii</i>	eastern barred bandicoot	VULNERABLE	Inhabits grassy woodlands, native grasslands and mosaics of pasture and shrubby ground cover. Potential nesting and foraging habitat exists within the Reserve.

<sup>23</sup> Lower case = TSP Act; UPPER CASE = EPBC Act

**APPENDIX 2: UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY PLAN**

## Unanticipated Discovery Plan

### For proponents and consultants dealing with Aboriginal Heritage in Tasmania

This paper provides a Plan that should be followed when dealing with unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage such as sites and objects. The plan provides guidance to project personnel so that they may meet their obligations with respect to Aboriginal heritage in accordance with the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* and the *Coroners Act 1995*.

The Unanticipated Discovery Plan is in two sections. The first section primarily explains mitigation strategies that should be employed when any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites or items are discovered excluding skeletal remains (burials), while the second process deals specifically with skeletal remains (burials).

#### Discovery of Cultural Heritage Items

- Step 1: Any person who believes they have uncovered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage material should notify all employees or contractors that are working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works must cease immediately.
- Step 2: A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 10m x 10m should be implemented to protect the suspected Aboriginal Cultural Heritage site or relics. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected Aboriginal Cultural Heritage relics have been assessed by a recognised Aboriginal Heritage Officer or Archaeologist.
- Step 3: Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) in Hobart (ph 6233 6613) needs to be notified and consulted as soon as possible and informed of the discovery. AHT will then provide further advice in accordance with the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*.

#### Discovery of Skeletal Material

- Step 1: Call the Police immediately. Under no circumstances should the suspected skeletal remains be touched or disturbed. The area must now be considered a crime scene. It is a criminal offence to interfere with a crime scene.
- Step 2: Any person who believes they have uncovered skeletal material should notify all employees or contractors that are working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works must cease immediately.
- Step 3: A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 50m x 50m should be implemented to protect the suspected skeletal remains. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected skeletal remains have been assessed by the Police and or Coroner.
- Step 4: Should the skeletal remains be determined to be of Aboriginal origin, the Coroner will contact the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) to arrange for repatriation of the remains, as per the *Coroners Act 1995*.

## Unanticipated Discovery Plan

**Guide to the most common sites of Aboriginal Significance****Stone Artefact Scatters**

Stone artefacts are the tangible evidence found in regard to past Aboriginal lifeways. Stone artefacts indicate areas that were used by Aboriginal People, either for camping, hunting or other activities such as the manufacture of stone tools. Archaeologists can also determine the duration a site may have been occupied, the amount of times that the site may have been occupied, and the number of people that the area may have supported at any given time.

Some stone artefacts are the result of Aboriginal People fracturing or 'flaking' fine-grained rocks to produce sharp cutting or scraping implements. These were then used, for example, for cutting up animals and then scraping the hides. Volcanic rocks such as basalt were flaked and then ground down to form axes for a number of chopping and cutting tasks. The results of such activities can be seen in the archaeological record (i.e. scatters) in the form of modified stones such as cores, retouched flakes, hammerstones and flaked pieces. From these scatters, by understanding site density and frequency patterns, inferences can be made in relation to past Aboriginal lifeways.

**Shell Middens**

Shell middens by definition are prehistoric refuse pits. They are the leftover waste of resources exploited which formed the basis of Aboriginal diet. Midden sites can range in size from large mounds to small scatters of shell. Middens usually also contain as well as shell, the remains of animals exploited for food as well as artefacts of stone, bone and shell. These sites are usually found near waterways and coastal areas.

**Rockshelters**

Rockshelters can either be shelters which contain archaeological deposits from living floors or art rock shelters, and may occur in any area of rocky terrain. Sediments on the floor of the rockshelter can contain preserved stratified deposits of archaeological material. Art types found in rockshelters can vary greatly. It can be in the form of painting, stencils of body parts, tools and equipment, or engravings. Style variations in painting can cover animal or human figurines, supernatural beings, and geometric patterns. Engravings can have similar variations as they can depict tools, humans, human parts, animals and birds and their tracks, geometric patterns and supernatural beings. Pecking is also a form of engraving.

**Quarries or Stone Procurement Sites**

Quarry sites occur where outliers of suitable tool-making stone appear. A quarry can be generally recognised by evidence of human manipulation and extraction of suitable material and the debris left by the processing of the suitable material. Some quarries can cover vast areas with extremely high amounts of lithic discard. Ochre or pigment was also quarried.

**Burials**

Burials can occur anywhere, though they are generally found close to areas where there was a high population concentration. Burials can occur where there are soft sediments such as sand hills, they can be found in caves and rockshelters and sometimes they can be associated with hollow trees.

### APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

During October – November 2016, identified stakeholders were invited to provide comments relevant to the development of the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021*.

A public meeting and community ‘walk and talk’ session was facilitated by Council and Tasflora on 23 October 2016 and attended by 16 local residents. The purpose of the session was to seek input from on the values and management issues associated with the Reserve.

Key issues raised during the walk and talk included:

- general agreement that minimal changes should be made to the Reserve;
- strong support for interpretation signage regarding the area’s Aboriginal and historic heritage;
- support for investigating a coastal track between Shag Bay and Risdon;
- consider upgrading some of the tracks near the quince orchard and near the coast;
- consider improving the walking track access to Shag Bay;
- concern that access to the Aboriginal rock shelter has been closed;
- an improved map of the track network and linkages to other tracks in the area is needed;
- continue gorse eradication;
- continue to permit off-lead dog walking;
- consider a kayak access area near Shag Bay; and
- concern regarding the response time to remove a fallen tree from the track.

A feedback form seeking input to the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* was also mailed to local residents and relevant stakeholders. Written responses were received from eight stakeholders, and are summarised in Table A3.1.

**Table A3.1:** Summary of written responses received during initial stakeholder consultation on the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021*.

Management issue	Response
<b>Natural values</b>	
Keep the vegetation as natural as possible	The objectives of this plan reflect this intent.
<b>Cultural heritage values</b>	
Be sensitive to indigenous heritage	Section 4.3 outlines measures to protect the Reserve’s Aboriginal heritage assets.

Management issue	Response
Install educational signage about Aboriginal history	Section 15 recommends interpretation signage detailing the rich Aboriginal history of the area.
Consult with their community to avoid confrontation	Consultation with the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania is recommended throughout the draft plan. Feedback will be sought from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre on the draft plan.
Publicise the role of the Russell family in the Shag Bay bone mill	Section 4.3 discusses this history, and it is intended that this would be captured on proposed interpretation signage.
Photograph and document the quince trees for historical purposes then remove them and replace with original grassland habitat and native vegetation	Removal of the quince trees is not recommended due to their likely historic heritage. These trees do not pose a weed threat to the Reserve.
<b>Weed management</b>	
Eradicate invasive weeds	Section 6 recommends ongoing maintenance of weed control work.
Please don't let the yellow bush take over the Reserve	Section 6 recommends ongoing maintenance of weed control work.
<b>Regeneration and revegetation</b>	
Plant more native trees (incl. where death of older trees has left open spaces)	It is not considered necessary to undertake tree planting as open spaces of native grasses are a typical feature of native grassy woodland communities and grassland complexes.
<b>Reserve entrances</b>	
Larger parking area at Sarean Court entrance	Section 10 recommends an assessment of the demand for car parking in this area.
Would be good for boats to moor and explore the bushland and then picnic	This is not considered a priority due to the close proximity of mooring at Geilston Bay.
<b>Tracks and trails</b>	
Need clear directions to the next part of the walking/bike riding experience	Section 11 recommends installation of track signage.
Extend foreshore bike/walking tracks to the Reserve	Section 11 recommends improvements to Reserve access, including coastal track linkages.
Widen track off Sarean Court	This is not considered a priority as it is sufficiently wide for pedestrian access.
Make safe the climb down to the caves	Section 10 addresses this issue.

Management issue	Response
<b>Community participation and awareness</b>	
Install good interpretation signs regarding Aboriginal heritage	Section 15 recommends interpretation signage detailing the rich Aboriginal history of the area.
Information signage at various locations is a good idea	Sections 11 and 15 recommend the installation of track maps and interpretation signage.
<b>General management issues</b>	
Keep area open to dogs off lead	No changes are proposed to the Reserve's dog walking restrictions.
<b>Management issue outside the Reserves / outside the scope of this plan</b>	
Absolutely no further private development	No private development is proposed within the Reserve.

The draft *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021* was released for community consultation in February - March 2017. A Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Report Card was developed as a key tool in encouraging stakeholder feedback on the draft plan and was mailed out to residents and other interested stakeholders. A summary of the issues raised in the submissions received during this consultation period is provided in Table A3.2.

**Table A3.1: Summary of written responses received on the draft *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021***

Issue	Comment
<b>Site values</b>	
1 Information [on the Reserve] would be appreciated.	No change recommended. Section 15 recommends installation of interpretation signage regarding the Aboriginal and historic heritage of the Bedlam Walls area.
<b>Regeneration and revegetation</b>	
2 Planting of native species needs to be supported...all recent plantings have not established as they needed watering.	No change recommended. Recommendation 4 addresses maintenance of existing revegetation areas and recommendation 5 states that new revegetation and landscaping activities should not be committed to unless sufficient resources are available to undertake ongoing regular maintenance of newly planted areas.  Council's Natural Assets Officer has advised that the recent plantings were watered both when planted and post planting, but that the site is extremely harsh and survival rates as a result were not the best. Replacement planting will be undertaken in autumn to allow roots to establish






Issue	Comment
<b>Reserve entrances</b>	before the dry summer period.
3 The parking improvement is needed as it gets very busy at times.	No change recommended. Recommendation 10 proposes an assessment of the demand for car parking at the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve and, if required, an evaluation of the best option to increase the number of car parking spaces.
<b>Tracks and trails</b>	
4 Repair and restore the stairway to the Aboriginal cave site for public access.	No change recommended. Section 11 notes that access was closed to the public due to safety reasons, and significant safety works are likely to be required before public access could be restored.
5 It would be good to access the water... the gravel pathway and access down to the northern bay need attention [too steep].	No change required. Table 1 in section 11 notes that the foreshore section of the walking track into Shag Bay is in poor condition and recommends that this foreshore section of track be upgraded in conjunction with Crown Land Services.
6 A few hundred metres in from the start of the walk there is now a permanent damp spot on the main track.	Table 1 in section 11 notes that some areas along the main walking track are regularly wet and recommends the installation of drainage culverts and investigating water sensitive design where appropriate. However, this recommendation requires reconsideration due to the potential presence of Aboriginal cultural artefacts, which precludes digging into the ground.  It is recommended that Table 1 be amended to recommend that Council liaises with TasWater to identify the source of the permanent seepage along this section of track, and that resurfacing of tracks with gravel be undertaken in areas that are regularly wet or become boggy after rain.
7 Some of the tracks become boggy after rain.	See response to issue 6 above.
8 The main track gets a brush cutter trim every so often but the track that tees off the main track and heads to the point where the old quince trees are then up to the she oaks where the path to the cave walk started doesn't get cut and it is a popular part of the walking area.	Table 1 in section 11 recommends undertaking a feasibility study of upgrading this walking track. It is recommended that Table 1 could include an additional recommendation to regularly slash this walking track in the interim.




Issue	Comment
9 50A Geilston Bay Road should have wider access for bikes and walkers (also good for fire trucks when required)	No change recommended. This is not considered a priority over the next five years as the track is sufficiently wide for pedestrian and bike access. The Reserve's Bushfire Management Plan does not identify that this track requires widening for fire vehicle access as there is appropriate class 3 access to the Reserve via a private road.
10 50 Geilston Bay Road should be a peoples area: dogs free to run, seats, picnic areas, mowed grass & bins, jetty for swimming etc	No change recommended. The plan recommends the installation of two seats in scenic locations and does not propose changes to dog walking arrangements. Community consultation indicated an overall desire for minimal other changes to be made to the Reserve to preserve its natural setting and values.
11 I would hate to see it developed with concrete paths	No change recommended. The plan does not currently propose any concrete paths.
12 Investigate link to Risdon and a circuit via Government Hills	No change recommended. Section 11 recommends undertaking a feasibility study (in consultation with Crown Land Services and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania) into developing a coastal walking track between Shag Bay and Risdon.
13 A boardwalk in regard to the Shag Bay could make it one of the best walks in the area	No change recommended. Table 1 in section 11 notes that the foreshore section of the walking track into Shag Bay is in poor condition and recommends that this foreshore section of track be upgraded in conjunction with Crown Land Services. A boardwalk is not considered a priority over the next five years.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
12 A garbage bin in the car park or near the dog poo bin at the start of the track would be good as some people drop litter in that area.	No change recommended. A rubbish bin is effectively already provided by the dog waste bin in this area.
13 Signage from the East Derwent Highway would be an advantage in locating the walk	This could be included as an additional recommendation if considered desirable by Council.
14 Don't install signage as it is a magnet for vandals...seating would also need to be extremely robust	No change recommended. Community consultation indicated a strong desire for interpretation signage and the walk and talk noted that vandalism is not as prevalent in the Reserve as it once was. Section 12 recommends that any new seating needs to be robust to vandalism.

Issue	Comment
<b>Community participation and awareness</b>	
17 Emphasise to visitors the Reserve's Aboriginal heritage versus the 21 <sup>st</sup> century development across the Derwent River	No change recommended. Section 15 recommends installation of interpretation signage regarding the Aboriginal heritage of the Bedlam Walls area. This feedback could be considered for inclusion on that signage.
<b>Other issues outside the scope of the plan</b>	
18 Consider a bridge across the head of the creek behind the tennis club	No change recommended. A pedestrian bridge has recently been constructed over the creek near this location.
19 Concern regarding development of private land on Fishers Hill, which could have a severe negative impact on the amenity value of the Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve.	No change recommended. This concern should be considered by Council when assessing any development application for this land.
20 Concern that no broadscale fire burning is recommended within five years	No change recommended. The plan refers to the Bushfire Management Plan for the Reserve, which does not propose any fuel reduction burns in the next five years.
21 Wild goats could be an alternative to keeping vegetation down for bushfire management	No change recommended. Section 8 notes the presence of feral goats in the Reserve and that the impact of these animals on the Reserve's native flora and fauna should be monitored.

Where possible, all relevant community feedback has been considered in the development of the *Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021*. However some issues identified during the consultation process are beyond the scope of this plan or pertain to management issues outside the Reserve. These issues have been noted by Council and will be addressed through other processes where feasible.

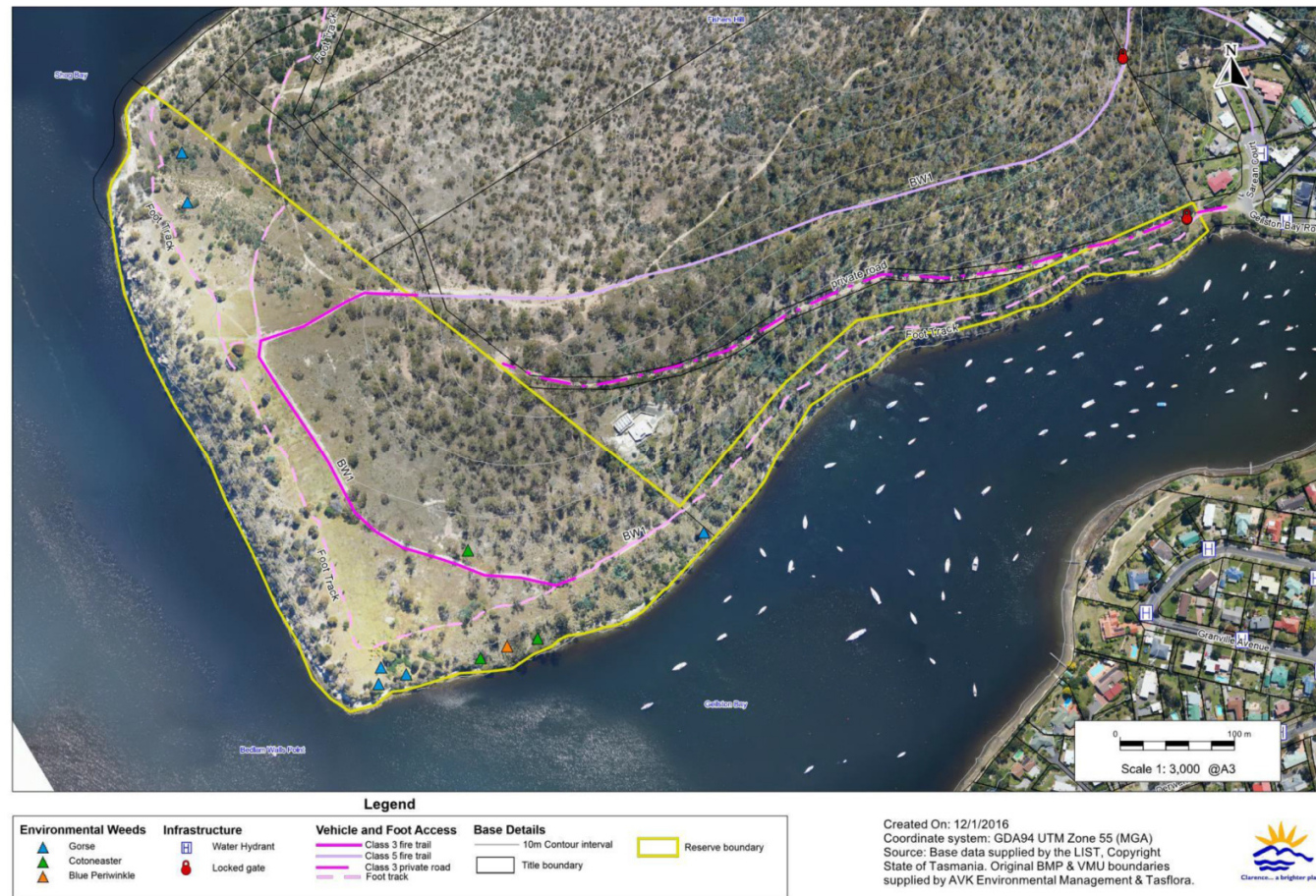
**APPENDIX 4: WEED SPECIES AND RECOMMENDED CONTROL TECHNIQUES**

Common name	Species	Status	Picture	Recommended control technique
<u>DECLARED WEEDS</u>				
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> aggregate	Declared WONS		Large stands - spot spray larger using an appropriate herbicide (as per the DPIPWE Control Guide) in non-fruiting periods Isolated patches - spot spray or cut and paste
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Declared WONS		Hand pull seedlings. Cut and paste larger plants. Fruit should be bagged and disposed of responsibly.
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Declared WONS		Hand pull small plants. Cut and paste larger plants. Spot spraying may be appropriate for larger infestations.

Common name	Species	Status	Picture	Recommended control technique
<u>OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS</u>				
Blue periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>			Brushcut followed by spot spraying. Repeated follow-up spot spraying required.
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.			Hand pull seedlings. Cut and paste larger plants.
Sweet briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>			Cut and paste or spot spray



## APPENDIX 5: LOCATION OF WEEDS PREVIOUSLY RECORDED IN THE BEDLAM WALLS BUSHLAND RESERVE IN 2016<sup>24</sup>



<sup>24</sup> AVK Environmental Management (2016). *Draft Bedlam Walls Bushfire Management Plan*. Unpublished report for Clarence City Council.



## APPENDIX 6: SUMMARY OF ON GROUND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>Weed management</b>	
R1	Undertake an annual sweep of the entire Reserve to remove all declared and environmental weeds.
R2	Undertake control of exotic grasses and broadleaf weeds only in revegetation areas and where necessary as part of a general Reserve maintenance program.
R3	Undertake GPS mapping of all weeds in the Reserve after five years to monitor progress and inform future weed control priorities.
<b>Regeneration and revegetation</b>	
R4	Undertake regular maintenance of existing revegetation areas to ensure successful establishment and ongoing visual amenity.
R5	New revegetation and landscaping activities should not be committed to unless sufficient resources are available to undertake ongoing regular maintenance of newly planted areas.
<b>Vegetation and fauna monitoring</b>	
R6	Undertake Vegetation Condition Assessments (VCAs) in the Reserve in 2017 and 2021
R7	Establish photo points within each VCA zone to facilitate monitoring of vegetation condition
R8	Undertake fauna surveys in 2017 and 2021 to assess species diversity and further inform on ground management activities.
R9	Undertake an analysis of all photo points, VCAs and fauna surveys in 2020 to determine trends and inform future management activities.
<b>Reserve Entrances</b>	
R10	Assess the demand for car parking at the Sarean Court entrance to the Reserve and if required evaluate the best option to increase the number of car parking spaces.
<b>Tracks and trails</b>	
R11	Improve the Reserves' track networks by improving the condition of existing tracks and installing track signage.
R12	Undertake a feasibility study (in consultation with Crown Land Services) into developing a coastal track between Shag Bay and Risdon.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
R13	Install new outdoor seats at two locations in the Reserve.
R14	Undertake a review of the infrastructure requirements of the Reserve in 2021.
<b>Coastal erosion and inundation</b>	
R15	The <i>Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual</i> should be consulted prior to undertaking any on ground activities.
<b>Community participation and awareness</b>	
R16	Install interpretation signage regarding the Aboriginal and historic heritage of the Bedlam Walls area and install a directional sign from the East Derwent Highway.

R17	Promote the Bedlam Walls caves as a viewing attraction from the water in conjunction with an eastern shore kayak trail, and include the cave as a site of interest in information published for the Clarence Kayak Trails Strategy.
R18	Facilitate the formation of a Bedlam Walls Landcare or Coastcare Group.
<b>Implementation Plan</b>	
R19	Review progress against all performance measures identified in the Implementation Plan annually.
R20	Review the <i>Bedlam Walls Bushland Reserve Activity Plan 2017-2021</i> in 2021 to assess progress and determine ongoing management priorities for the Reserve.