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ROSNY HILL NATURE RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Prepared for Clarence City Council



Photo: Bruce Chetwynd, 2010

inspiring place






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prepared for
Clarence City Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Section 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1. Background | 1 |
| 1.2. Project Aims | 4 |
| 1.3. Approach | 5 |
| 1.4. Limitations | 5 |
| 1.5. Acknowledgements | 6 |
| Section 2 Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area..... | 7 |
| 2.1. Physical, Biological and Cultural Characteristics | 7 |
| 2.2. Existing Use and Facilities | 14 |
| 2.3. Planning and Management Framework | 16 |
| Section 3 Challenges and Opportunities | 21 |
| Section 4 Management Strategy | 25 |
| 4.1. Management Vision | 25 |
| 4.2. Management Principles..... | 26 |
| 4.3. Management Strategies and Master Plan..... | 26 |
| 4.3.1. Rosny Hill Master Plan and Site Plans..... | 27 |
| 4.3.2. Supportive Partnerships and Management Capacity | 35 |
| 4.3.3. Sustainable Management of Reserve Values | 36 |
| 4.3.4. Best Practice Bushfire Management..... | 37 |
| 4.3.5. Improved Visitor Infrastructure Quality and Experience | 39 |
| 4.3.6. Enhanced Recreation Trail Network | 42 |
| 4.3.7. Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour and Safety..... | 45 |
| 4.3.8. Regular Maintenance Works | 46 |
| Section 5 Action Plan | 47 |

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area (or the reserve) is located within the suburb of Rosny in the City of Clarence on the eastern shore of the Derwent River (see Map 1.1.). The reserve covers 21.4ha, encompassing the prominent wooded hill to the south of the Tasman Bridge. The reserve is an 'island' of remnant vegetation entirely surrounded by residential subdivision. Access by vehicle is from Akuna Street and a sealed loop road on top of the hill. Pedestrians access the reserve from the surrounding residential areas via several informal trails.

The reserve incorporates the Rosny Hill Lookout – a well-known scenic vantage point providing expansive views to the north and south along the Derwent River and its estuary, and to the western shore, including the Hobart city centre, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and Government House, the Tasman Bridge, and Mount Wellington and its foothills. Views of the Meehan Range to the east and of the South Arm Peninsula coastline in the south-east can also be seen. The lookout is frequented daily by tourist coaches, as well as by residents of the Greater Hobart Area, and is particularly popular during events on the River (e.g. the Regatta). The Rosny Lookout is considered to be one of the best scenic lookouts in the Greater Hobart Area.

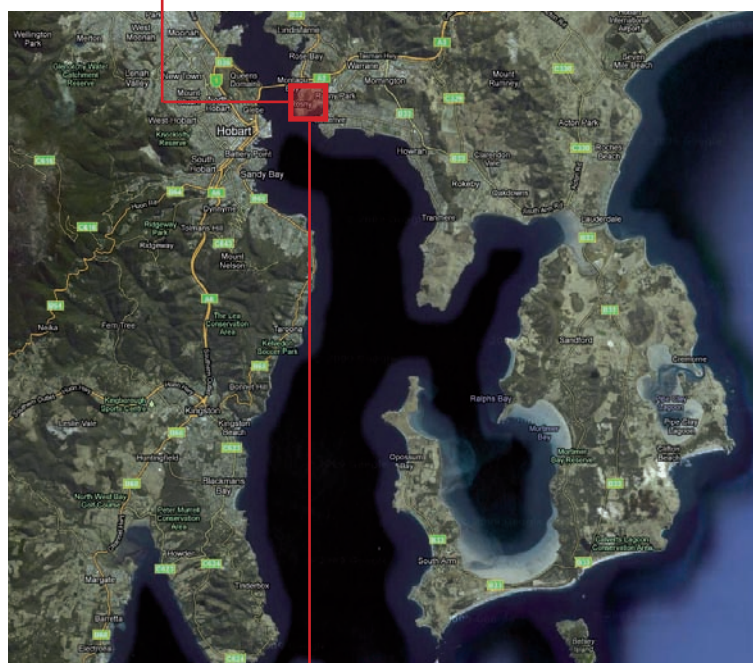
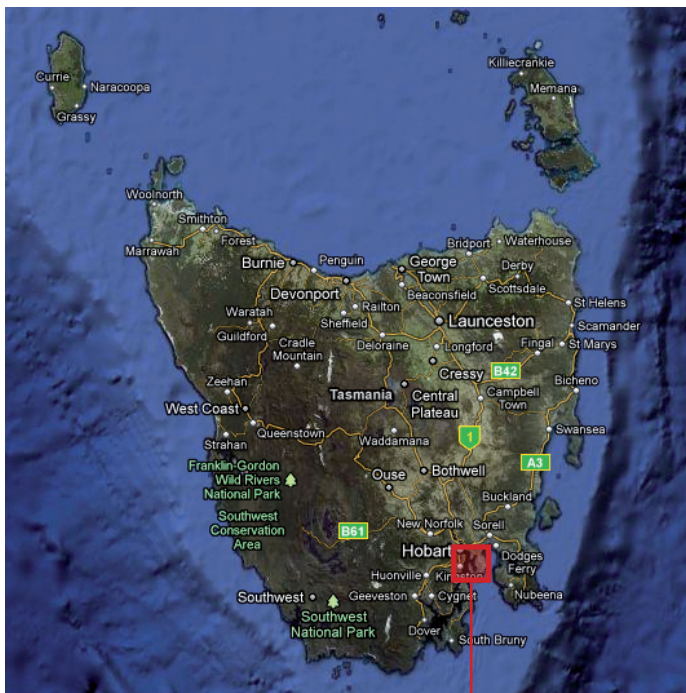
The significance of the reserve can be attributed to its:

- expansive views;

- role in the broader landscape setting of the eastern shore (Rosny Hill is particularly important from a visual perspective, as it can be seen from so many locations throughout the Greater Hobart Area);

- natural and cultural values, including rare and threatened species, and remnant patches of native vegetation in what is essentially an urban environment;

- informal recreational opportunities, in particular walking; and



Map 1.1. Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area

associated 'sense of place' values (e.g. as a familiar land mark, for its role as a backdrop for the daily lives of nearby residents, and for the memories people associate with it).

Clarence City Council have been responsible for the management of the reserve since 30th September 2009, when it was transferred from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. The reserve is not managed under a statutory management plan, however a non-statutory plan, *Rosny Hill Management Plan*, was prepared for the reserve in 1997 by Jerry de Gryse.

The original impetus for the *Rosny Hill Management Plan*, which was driven by the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group, was to "protect and conserve the Rosny and Montagu Bay area with the objectives to:

- minimise disturbance;
- maximise biodiversity; and
- optimise recreational opportunities."

The 1997 Management Plan described a wide range of management issues and strategies aimed at improving the overall management of the reserve, and set management vision and objectives to achieve sustainable care of the reserve. Whilst many of the recommendations made have not been implemented, they remain valid today, provide a platform from which to consider the future management of the reserve.

Clarence City Council have recognised the need to prepare a management strategy for the Reserve. This is a guiding document only and does not have any statutory role. The term 'management plan' cannot be used as it has a legal definition in relation to reserved land owned by the Crown.

Inspiring Place have been engaged by Council, therefore, to prepare the Management Strategy for the reserve, for the next 10 years.

¹ Rosny and Montagu Bay Landcare Group (1997) *Rosny Hill Management Plan*, page1.

1.2. PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the project is to prepare a Rosny Hill Management Strategy given:

a change in land manager, from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to Clarence City Council;

limited on-ground implementation of the recommendations outlined in the 1997 Management Plan;

potential changes in the use of the reserve, and the expectations of users since 1997;

the continued popularity of the Rosny Hill Lookout as an attraction for visitors to the Greater Hobart Area;

continued pressure from visitors and surrounding residents to see improvements in the management and maintenance of the reserve;

concern from surrounding residents about bushfire risk, and the need to improve fire management; and

the presence of significant natural values, such as threatened plants.

It is intended that the Strategy will guide decision-making as it relates to the reserve over the next 10 years, and:

document community views, suggestions and concerns;

identify the critical issues and challenges that need to be addressed;

identify potential opportunities to improve the appearance, function, safety, and environmental management of the reserve;

provide a strategic direction for the use, management, development, and promotion of the reserve, based on sound sustainability principles; and

provide a practical and prioritised plan of action, with realistic timelines, to maximise available funding and resources.

1.3. APPROACH

Review of the *Rosny Hill Management Plan 1997* was undertaken in five main stages (Table 1.1):

| Project Stage | Summary of Tasks |
|--|--|
| 1. Project Start-up | Initial briefing, review of background information and initial site visit |
| 2. Community Consultation | Community 'walk and talk', review and consider public comments about the project, and contact other stakeholders by phone |
| 3. Key Findings | Follow up site visit, identify issues and opportunities, prepare a draft vision and strategic directions, and present to the Project Steering Group and Council aldermen |
| 4. Preparation of the draft <i>Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area Management Strategy</i> | Prepare draft Strategy for public exhibition, review and prepare a response to the submissions |
| 5. Preparation of the final <i>Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area Management Strategy</i> | Prepare the final Strategy, incorporating any amendments from the public exhibition and review by the Steering Committee, Council aldermen, and other stakeholders, and present to the Project Steering Committee and Council aldermen |

Table 1.1. Summary of the Project Approach

1.4. LIMITATIONS

The information within the Strategy has been gathered from a number of sources, including:

the *Rosny Hill Management Plan 1997*;

the *Bushfire Management Plan for Rosny Hill Reserve 2010*;

previous studies and reports prepared on behalf of the Rosny/Montagu Bay Landcare Group (e.g. weed plans);

the Natural Values Atlas (Natural Values Report);

LISTmap – Land Information System Tasmania website;
and

site investigations undertaken by the consulting team.

This information provided a good background for the purposes of this report. No further investigations were, therefore, deemed to be necessary for the purposes of the current project.

1.5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Inspiring Place would like to acknowledge the support of the Clarence City Council, the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group, local residents who attended the community 'walk and talk', and others who took the time to submit comments and suggestions via email, phone and in writing.

SECTION 2

ROSNY HILL NATURE RECREATION AREA

2.1. PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Table 2.1 provides a brief summary of the natural and cultural values of Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area. It is not intended to be a comprehensive assessment, but rather highlights some of the central values to be considered in the future planning and development of the reserve. More detailed information can be found in the *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan*, and the *Rosny Hill Management Plan 1997*.

A brief description of the relevance of each category of value within the context of the development of the management strategy is also provided, as a lead-in to the strategic management direction and recommendations described in Section 4.

| Characteristics and Values | Summary | Relevance to the Management Strategy |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Geology and Topography | <p>The study area is within the Stony Hills Land System², and is characterised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dry, lowland hills of Jurassic Dolerite bedrock; crests and upper slopes of very shallow stony clay loam developed on bedrock, which are relatively resistant to erosion; stony mid-slopes of shallow duplex soil consisting of clay loam or loam surface over a brown to dark brown heavy clay; lower slopes with deeper soil profile – light clay surface overlying a black heavy clay; drainage lines that are susceptible to gully erosion; and flooding and water-logging can occur on drainage flats³. <p>The stony nature of this type of geology is evident within the study area - stones and larger rocks are commonly found on the surface.</p> <p>Rosny Hill rises approximately 100m in elevation at its highest point. The top of the hill is characterised by a small, grassed plateau in the area of the trig point, fragmented from the main lookout by a sealed road. Another small level and cleared area is located to the north of the lower car park. The remainder of the NRA is sloping ground, being slightly steeper in places below the sealed road on the south-eastern side.</p> | <p>The geology/soil type is relatively robust, with the capacity to sustainably support recreational trail development and use. However, gully erosion could occur as a result of poorly located and constructed trails on the upper slopes of the hill.</p> <p>For example, the steep section of informal trail traversing the hillside from the lower car park to the perimeter fire trail is essentially a 'fall line' trail, in that it follows the path of least resistance down the hill, rather than winding its way more gently, and making use of the natural contours of the hill. It is likely that this informal trail acts as a channel for water during heavy rain.</p> <p>The stony nature of the local geology may be a design element that could be incorporated into facility upgrades and landscaping, with the potential to utilise stone from the site.</p> |

Table 2.1. Summary of the Physical, Biological and Cultural Values.

² Davies, J.B (1988), *Land Systems of Tasmania Region 6: South, East and Midlands – A Resource Classification Survey*, Department of Agriculture, Tasmania.

³ Ibid, pages 100-101.

| Characteristics and Values | Summary | Relevance to the Management Strategy |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Vegetation | <p>Native Vegetation</p> <p>The <i>Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010</i> indicates that there are five distinct vegetation communities within the reserve:</p> <p>(DVG) Grassy <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> woodland – small remnants below the sealed road on the eastern and south-eastern side of the reserve, as well as on the western reserve boundary;</p> <p>(NAV) Inland <i>Acacia verticillata</i> low forest – covering the majority of the reserve on the western, northern, and north-eastern sides;</p> <p>(GTL) Lowland <i>Themeda</i> grassland – to the north/north-west of the lower lookout;</p> <p>(GCL) Lowland grassland complex – a very small patch bordering the western side of the lower car park; and</p> <p>(NBA) Bursaria-acacia woodland and scrub – interspersed with the grassy <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> woodland on the eastern side of the reserve.</p> <p>Rosny Hill NRA provides habitat for several rare and threatened native plant species, including⁴</p> <p>Leafy sun orchid (<i>Thelymitra bracteata</i>)</p> <p>Grassland flax lily (<i>Dianella amoena</i>)</p> <p>Spear grass (<i>Austrostipa nodosa</i>)</p> <p>Tall wallaby grass (<i>Austrodanthonia induta</i>)</p> <p>Shade peppergrass (<i>Lepidosperma pseudotasmanicum</i>)</p> <p>Narrow leaf New Holland daisy (<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>)</p> <p>The above list is indicative only - other threatened flora species could occur within the reserve.</p> | <p>None of these vegetation communities are listed as threatened under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>. However, it is noted that all communities, with the exception of the Inland <i>Acacia verticillata</i> low forest, are considered to be inadequately reserved at state level⁵.</p> <p>The small size of remnant vegetation communities, the minimal capacity for increase, and the density of urban development surrounding the reserve, mean that they need to be well-managed to ensure long-term viability. Preventing further fragmentation (e.g. formalising the trail network, and limited further development impact) is addressed in Section 4 of the Strategy. Similarly, the recommendations have been drafted with consideration to the location of individual threatened plant species.</p> <p>Poor fire management could also significantly alter the composition of native vegetation within the reserve. For example, repeat fires at intervals of less than 10 years could result in long-term changes⁶. Implementing the recommendations of the <i>Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan</i> (e.g. Section 2.4.2 Bushfire and Habitat Management) is recognised as a key management strategy.</p> |

Table 2.1. Summary of the Physical, Biological and Cultural Values.

⁴ Clarence City Council (2010) *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan*, page 14.⁵ Ibid, page 14.⁶ Clarence City Council (2010) *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan*, page 18-19.

| Characteristics and Values | Summary | Relevance to the Management Strategy |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Vegetation (continued) | <p>Exotic Species</p> <p>Reserves within urban landscapes, and with histories of previous agricultural use, commonly incorporate a suite of invasive exotic species.</p> <p>The current project did not include a detailed weed survey, however, the following common weeds have been observed within the reserve⁷:</p> <p>Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)</p> <p>Boneseed (<i>Chrysanthemoides monolifera</i>)</p> <p>Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>)</p> <p>Mediterranean daisy (<i>Urosperma dalchampii</i>)</p> <p>Tree lucerne (<i>Cytisus prolifer</i>)</p> <p>English broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)</p> <p>Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>)</p> <p>Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>)</p> <p>Briar rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>)</p> <p>Canary broom (<i>Genista monspessulana</i>)</p> <p>Wandering Creeper (<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>)</p> <p>Exotic pasture species</p> <p>Other garden escapees, such as daffodils, freesias, and Agapanthus.</p> | <p>Blackberry, boneseed, fennel, Mediterranean daisy, and gorse are declared weeds under the <i>Weed Management Act 1999</i>. Land managers are required by law to carry out management of these weeds.</p> <p>The Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group have undertaken weed management works within the reserve over the last 18 years. The Strategy recognises the Group as a valuable resource, with knowledge, skills and enthusiasm, and an important element in achieving improved environmental management.</p> <p>An increased regime of Council maintenance, and minimising fragmentation of vegetation communities will also aid in limiting further invasion of exotic species.</p> |

Table 2.1. Summary of the Physical, Biological and Cultural Values.

⁷ Rosny/Montagu Bay Landcare Group (1997) *Rosny Hill Management Plan*, Appendix A, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment and the Rosny/Montagu Bay Landcare Group (2003) *Bridal Creeper Survey of Montagu Point Reserve, Rosny Point Reserve, Rosny Hill Recreation Area, and Gordons Hill State Recreation Area*, page 5.

| Characteristics and Values | Summary | Relevance to the Management Strategy |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Fauna | <p>The Natural Values Report indicates that the following threatened fauna species have been recorded from within 500m of the reserve:</p> <p>Swift parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>); and</p> <p>Tasmanian devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>).</p> | <p>The reserve provides habitat for common vertebrate and invertebrate species, primarily restricted to those species typical of urban reserves where habitat fragmentation and competition with introduced species is great. However, the presence of threatened fauna species further emphasises the importance of maintaining the native vegetation communities.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the Tasmanian devil would be found within the reserve, given its isolation from other bushland area.</p> |
| Aboriginal Heritage Values | <p>The Rosny Hill NRA is within the original territory of the Oyster Bay people, once the largest tribe in Tasmania. The Band most closely associated with the Rosny Hill area was the Moomairremener⁸.</p> <p>A map of known Aboriginal archaeological sites reviewed during the preparation of the 1997 Management Plan, indicated that there are 30 known sites along Montagu Bay foreshore between Kangaroo Bay and the Tasman Bridge. There are no known sites within the boundary of the NRA.</p> <p>However, given the density of evidence of occupation along the Montagu Bay foreshore, it is likely that Rosny Hill would have been frequented by the Moomairremener people on their way between coastal and inland locations. It is also likely that the Moomairremener would have made use of the hill as a vantage point.</p> | <p>All sites or artefacts of Aboriginal significance are protected under the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975⁹. To date, there are no known sites or artefacts of significance in the study area – such sites or artefacts are more likely to be associated with the nearby coastal areas.</p> <p>However, in the event that sites or artefacts are discovered during the course of on-ground management or development works, the artefacts should be left <i>in situ</i>, photographed, and referred to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Office for advice.</p> <p>Works that involve significant modification of use and/or ground disturbance may require the completion of an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment prior to commencement.</p> |

Table 2.1. Summary of the Physical, Biological and Cultural Values.

⁸ Rosny Montagu Bay Landcare Group (1997) *Rosny Hill Management Plan*, page 7.

⁹ Note a review of this act is currently underway.

| Characteristics and Values | Summary | Relevance to the Management Strategy |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Historic Heritage Values | <p>Section 2.2.2 of the <i>Rosny Hill Management Plan 1997</i> summarises the historic heritage values of the reserve, and:</p> <p>describes a number of early paintings and photographs of Rosny Hill and surrounds, for example, a painting from 1856 shows a white house on the lower slopes of the Hill (in the area of 31 Balaka Street and once part of the Rosny Estate) with the upper slopes of the Hill generally tree-covered;</p> <p>aerial photography from 1946 shows two farms and 14 houses on Rosny Hill;</p> <p>clearing and grazing – in 1957 there was only one farm remaining, and the lower slopes had been subdivided; and</p> <p>limited development on top of the hill (being the general location of the present day reserve), and therefore limited likelihood of there being sites of historic heritage significance.</p> <p>A Convict Trail interpretive panel is located within the area of the main lookout. The panel focuses more on the convict era use of the Derwent River and surrounds, rather than directly with the local history of Rosny Hill.</p> | <p>Although Rosny Hill does not contain any known tangible evidence of historic cultural heritage, its prominence in the landscape (particularly when seen from the western shore), as illustrated in paintings and photographs throughout the history of European settlement within the Greater Hobart Area, suggests it has always been an important element of the cultural landscape.</p> <p>The significance of the Hill as a vantage point would also have attracted early Europeans, particularly as the Derwent River was central to life in the new settlement - as a means of transport, economy, sustenance, and potential route of attack.</p> <p>At a utilitarian level, the Hill and surrounding land formed part of an early agricultural estate - primarily used for grazing, which continued until the 1950's. These stories of the historic use and development of the land surrounding and incorporating the present day reserve could form part of new interpretation installations within the reserve.</p> |

Table 2.1. Summary of the Physical, Biological and Cultural Values.

| Characteristics and Values | Summary | Relevance to the Management Strategy |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Contemporary Social Values | <p>Contemporary social values include recreation – both active and passive, tourism, aesthetic, and environmental values.</p> <p>These values can be briefly summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the range of recreational users the reserve currently caters for, including walkers (including dog walking), jogging, cycling (primarily limited to the sealed road), and passive pursuits such as driving to the lookout/s, picnicking, and social gatherings; the capacity of the reserve to better cater for recreational users, with improved trail and lookout infrastructure; the tourism value of the main lookout, and to a lesser extent, the informal lookout provided by the lower car park – tourist buses visit the reserve most days, and the lookout is also popular with independent travellers to the State, as well as a location for viewing events; the prominence of Rosny Hill when viewed from surrounding areas - the 'naturalness' of the hill in the context of an intensively developed landscape (the natural skyline, unencumbered by development seems to be valued by many people). the significance of the reserve as a remnant of native vegetation within the urban landscape, providing habitat for native species – some of which are threatened; and the community values and environmental benefits associated with Land and Coastcare activities within the reserve over the years; and providing a 'green' space – a place of respite from urban life. | <p>The strategic directions and recommendations in Section 4 respond to the identified contemporary social values, and aim to balance the needs and potential impacts of users, with the maintenance of natural and aesthetic values.</p> <p>The proposed recommendations identify practical and achievable ways to enhance recreation (primarily walking opportunities), low-level tourism (e.g. improvements to the quality of the lookouts), aesthetic values (e.g. maintenance, landscaping, and the visual values of the reserve when viewed from surrounding areas), and environmental management.</p> <p>Any new infrastructure must be designed located with consideration to the potential visual impact when viewed from outside the reserve.</p> |

Table 2.1. Summary of the Physical, Biological and Cultural Values.

2.2. EXISTING USE AND FACILITIES



Photo 2.1. Community Walk and Talk, January 2011

ROSNY HILL LOOKOUT

Rosny Hill is a well-established lookout, providing impressive views of the Derwent River, Hobart City, Mt Wellington and the Meehan Range. Residents of the Greater Hobart Area visit the lookout to view special events (e.g. the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, New Years Eve fire works). Non-local residents, both intrastate, interstate and international are directed to the lookout for its expansive views. The lookout is considered to be highly significant, with some claiming that it offers some of the best vantage points in the Greater Hobart Area.

Community feedback suggests that the significance of the lookout is not reflected by the current appearance or maintenance of the area around the lookout, and that the scenic values are compromised by increasingly dense vegetation screening the views across the Derwent.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that short visits to the main lookout is the main purpose for visiting the reserve, and that these types of visitors make up the majority of current users.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

Recreational use is an important function of the reserve, particularly for nearby residents. Currently, the recreational opportunities within the reserve are informal and very low-key (e.g. generally only local residents know the layout of the trail network), with a high proportion of recreational users being walkers.

The types of recreation and leisure activities regularly undertaken within the reserve include:

recreational walking, including walking for fitness, and walking the dog;

jogging and fitness training;

relaxation;

play – the reserve is popular with local children, and is used by some as an extension of their backyards, as a safe place to explore;

picnicking and a place to eat lunch (visitors commonly sit in cars at the lookouts during lunch);

social gatherings, such as picnics; and

bike riding (less frequent, and generally limited to the sealed road, or local children, although bike jumps/obstacles have been constructed in the vegetation below the main lookout);

The Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare ran a regular program of conservation activities within the reserve in previous years, including weeding, planting, and general clean-up. The Group has a continuing interest in the reserve, and are willing to be involved in new projects.

There are opportunities to strengthen the recreational role, and better integrate the reserve into Councils open space and trail network.

TOURISM

Rosny Hill is one of the developed and promoted scenic lookouts points for visitors to the Hobart area, and in particular when visiting the eastern shore. The other main scenic lookouts on the eastern shore are Kangaroo Bluff Historic Site, Mt Rumney lookout, Cape Deslacs (mutton bird viewing) and the Iron Pot Lookout¹⁰.

There are no reliable data sources on the total number of visitors to the Rosny Hill lookout¹¹. Consultation with local residents indicated that the lookout attracts a regular stream of visitors throughout the day and into the evenings. High use times coincide when cruise ships are in port, and when various bus

¹⁰ Clarence : A Brighter Place brochure.

¹¹ For instance the site is not included within the Tasmanian Visitor Survey conducted by Tourism Tasmania

tours stop at the lookout on-route to other locations in southern Tasmania. The fireworks display during the Hobart Regatta attracts a high number of local residents to the site. It is also been indicated that the lookout is a popular spot for local residents to bring visiting family and friends on day outings. The visitor time spent at Rosny Hill lookout is relatively brief (less than 10 minutes) and is typically passive viewing only.

2.3. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES MANAGEMENT ACT 2002

Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area is reserved land under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. The reserve was previously managed by the PWS as a State Recreation Area, prior to a Partnership Agreement between the State Government and Clarence City Council. Clarence City Council is now the declared Managing Authority under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

Whilst the reserve is for all intents and purposes, managed as part of Council's open space system, it is a declared public reserve under state legislation, and subject to the statutory management objectives listed in the *National Parks and Reserves Act 2002*.

The statutory management objectives for Nature Recreation Areas declared under the Nature Conservation Act are:

- to conserve natural biological diversity;
- to conserve geological diversity;
- to preserve the quality of water and protect catchments;
- to conserve sites or areas of cultural significance;
- to encourage tourism, recreational use and enjoyment consistent with the conservation of the nature recreation area's natural and cultural values;
- to encourage education based on the purpose of reservation and the natural and cultural values of the nature recreation area, or both;
- to encourage research, particularly that which furthers the purpose of reservation;

to protect the nature recreation area against, and rehabilitate the nature recreation area following, adverse impacts such as those of fire, introduced species, diseases and soil erosion on the nature recreation area's natural and cultural values and on assets within and adjacent to the nature recreation area;

to encourage cooperative management programs with Aboriginal people in areas of significance to them in a manner consistent with the purpose of reservation and the other management objectives; and

to provide for exploration activities and utilisation of mineral resources.

The proposed actions outlined in this plan are consistent with the objectives of a *Nature Recreation Area under the Act*, particularly those relating to the management of the reserve's core natural and cultural, and the encouragement of appropriate tourism, recreational use and enjoyment, and education.

CLARENCE PLANNING SCHEME 2007

The reserve is zoned 'Recreation' under the *Clarence Planning Scheme 2007*. The relevant purposes of the Recreation Zone are:

to implement the Planning Policy Framework;

to recognise public and private land which may be used for open space or recreation; and

to provide for uses which support recreational activities or which may be interim uses that do not prejudice future recreational activities.

The reserve is surrounded by urban land zoned 'Residential'.

Section 6.11.4 of the Planning Scheme outlines the Specific Decision Requirements for the Recreation Zone. The requirements of particular relevance to the use, development and management of the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area include:

a variety of styles, material and colours is encouraged for development within the zone. Architectural expression is preferred to ensure the zone reflects currency with modern design and construction techniques;

development should be compatible with the recreational uses;

buildings should be located in unobtrusive locations, and in particular:

- be located well below the ridge line so as not to be prominent against the skyline when viewed from a public place;

- grouped together on the site; and

- located where existing native vegetation can be retained to screen the development.

areas of significant vegetation, habitat, threatened species or threatened communities should be maintained where possible;

development should maintain existing significant views from the surrounding area;

sufficient car parking is to be provided on site to meet differing levels of service and recreational needs. Safe and convenient access is to be provided to all parking areas;

signage is to be well-designed and sensitively located; and

development should be of a design, height, scale and siting compatible with the recreation use of the land and its surroundings.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Other policy and legislation of relevance to the management and development of the reserve includes:

- State Coastal Policy* (the reserve is located within 1km of the coast on it's western side);

- Nature Conservation Act 2002*;

- National Parks and Reserves Act 2002*;

- Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*;

Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (one threatened flora species and one threatened fauna species listed under this Act occur within the reserve); and

Aboriginal Relics Act 1975.

SECTION 3

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following table summarises the main issues and challenges raised by the community at the 'walk and talk', in written and electronic submissions, and as a result of site investigations. Each broad issue/challenge is associated with a potential response(s).

The issue/challenge categories in Table 3.1 with many of the potential responses forming the basis for the proposed strategies in Section 4.

| Issue/Challenge | Potential Response |
|--|---|
| Management of Environmental and Cultural Values | |
| The restricted size and its isolated nature from other bushland areas (e.g. surrounded by urban development, and fragmented from surrounding bushland) mean that it is difficult to maintain natural values, including threatened species and the mix of vegetation types on the site without management inputs. | <p>Investigate vegetation types/areas where revegetation will be beneficial (e.g. <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>)</p> <p>Implement the recommendations relating to the Vegetation Management Units (VMU) identified in the <i>Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010</i>. Identification of VMU's aid in the management of bushfire hazard, whilst promoting biodiversity</p> <p>Ensure that any new infrastructure, or improvements to existing infrastructure (including trails) are located so as to minimise disturbance or fragmentation to existing vegetation</p> |
| The presence and spread of weeds within the reserve | <p>Prepare a weed management action plan to aid in the prioritisation of on-ground control works (e.g. identify the location of declared weeds and control methods, and plan any disturbance activities to include rehabilitation)</p> <p>Support the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare to play an active role in weed management</p> |

Table 3.1. Issues and Challenges

| Issue/Challenge | Potential Response |
|---|--|
| Bushfire Management | |
| Concern about bushfire and the adequacy of the current fire management program (e.g. debris left behind from the construction of the fire trail, limited fuel reduction burns in recent years, threat of arson, maintaining adequate cleared space at the rear of residences backing onto the reserve, and ensuring access for the fire service). | Remove all debris resulting from the construction/maintenance of the perimeter fire trail considered to pose a bushfire risk Implement the <i>Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010</i> |
| The unsightly appearance of, and general environmental damage along sections of the perimeter fire trail (e.g. excessive cleared areas, soil and debris left behind) | Work with the Fire Service to improve the management of the perimeter fire trail (e.g. ensure that contractors are aware of the maintenance works required to meet fire vehicle access standards, debris to be removed, and where care should be taken with machinery) |
| Visitor Infrastructure | |
| Height of trees and shrubs screening the view from the lookout | Undertake regular pruning of trees and shrubs, with the possibility of removing a small number of selected trees to more permanently open up the view. Clearing of trees should be offset by planting of lower growing shrubs to reduce potential for weed invasion Re-design the lookout to incorporate 'landings' or low profile platforms (e.g. constructed from local stone) which allow visitor to get closer to view/above some of the trees and shrubs |
| Poor general appearance of the lookout (e.g. large, sealed area, presence of litter, tyre marks, poorly pruned vegetation) | See above. Regular maintenance to include collection of litter in the main lookout area |
| Differing opinion about the potential to further develop the lookout area (e.g. installation of viewing platforms and interpretation, relocating the lookout to the top of the hill, and the potential for a café/coffee van on-site). Concerns included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential adverse impact on the skyline values of the reserve associated with structures high costs associated with development of infrastructure and ongoing maintenance – further burden placed on rate base to cover ongoing costs the potential adverse impact of further development on the natural values | Re-design the lookout to improve its function, amenity, general appearance, and safety. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new platforms or landings improved delineation between pedestrian and vehicular spaces introduction of design elements (e.g. stone) to create a visual interest, be in combination with public art and interpretation installations improved maintenance of vegetation |

Table 3.1. Issues and Challenges

| Issue/Challenge | Potential Response |
|---|--|
| Visitor Infrastructure (continued) | |
| Limited visitor infrastructure (e.g. seating/interpretation, signage, picnic and barbeque facilities, short walk, toilets) | Determine the level of visitor infrastructure that is appropriate and viable in relation to the type and intensity of use, ongoing maintenance costs, the values of the reserve, and public opinion (e.g. low-level recreational use, with larger numbers of visitors at the lookout for short periods of time) |
| Limited interpretation (the existing signage does not relate directly to Rosny Hill, or the major land marks that can be seen from it), and poor general signage | Consider the addition of an interpretive and/or public art installation in the lookout area (e.g. interpretation incorporated into the structure of the lookout) – quality interpretation can significantly enhance the visitor experience Improve general signage (e.g. entry, directional, vehicular movement, use restrictions, and track signage) |
| Trail Network | |
| Lack of formalisation of walking tracks (e.g. some trails are simply 'desire lines' rather than planned routes with some poor connections, and lack of signage/markers) | Formalise walking tracks to create a circuit for the recreation/health and wellbeing needs of the local community, including installation of low-key signage and trail markers where required – close and rehabilitate duplicate tracks Improve track entries (e.g. there are a couple of places where steps are required) Install a trailhead with map of the reserve trail network Investigate the potential to construct a new section of path along the road side between the two main lookouts |
| Poor surface, including steep/slippy sections in some places, and over-grown vegetation | Upgrade primary tracks within the network (e.g. the perimeter fire trail, and two main connections onto the perimeter trail), including re-surfacing with compacted gravel where required, improving drainage and pruning of over-grown vegetation |
| Unauthorised use of tracks, including construction of jumps and obstacles by trail bikes and BMX/mountain bike riders | Removal of unauthorised jumps/obstacles Use of pictograms on track signage to communicate use restrictions within the reserve Increased surveillance which may come about as a result increased use associated with improvements to the track network and the lookouts |

Table 3.1. Issues and Challenges

| Issue/Challenge | Potential Response |
|---|---|
| Anti-social Behaviour and Safety | |
| Prevalence of anti-social behaviour, including 'hooning', loud noise, vandalism and littering – particularly at night | <p>To investigate the feasibility of installing a gate to be locked at night, preventing vehicular access after dark – this would need to be in combination with a small car park and safe pedestrian path to the lookout</p> <p>Increased police presence (e.g. patrols Friday and Saturday night)</p> <p>Potential to install CCTV camera at the main entrance</p> <p>Reserve signage to include the Bushwatch phone number</p> |
| Concerns regarding the mix of pedestrians and vehicles in the area of the main lookout area, and along the loop road | Clearly delineate pedestrian and vehicular spaces through the re-design of the main lookout area, construction of a path linking to two lookouts, installing bollards and wheel stops to formalise parking and turning areas, and installing warning signage where tracks cross the loop road |
| General Maintenance | |
| Poor general appearance of the reserve | Consider landscaping treatments that will improve the appearance of the lookout area (e.g. native plantings, use of materials to add a textural element, 'breaking up' the large sealed space, and replace large boulders with bollards or other barriers) |
| Presence of litter, particularly around the lookout area | <p>Better communicate the need for visitors to take their rubbish with them – education program</p> <p>Regular clean-up of litter, particularly in the area of the main lookout</p> |

Table 3.1. Issues and Challenges

SECTION 4

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This section sets out the vision, principles, and strategies comprising the management framework for the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area. The framework will guide the future planning, development, management and promotion of the reserve.

The management framework captures many of the values and views expressed by the community, and attempts to encapsulate ‘best practice’ environmental management, with practical and achievable strategies.

A Master Plan and three site plans (Section 4.3.1) have been prepared for Rosny Hill Nature Recreation to assist in the resolution of access, safety and design challenges on the site, and to graphically illustrate some of the management strategies and associated actions.

4.1. MANAGEMENT VISION

The vision for Rosny Hill described in the 1997 management plan was for the reserve to:

“be managed as an urban nature area where people can experience a natural setting whilst undertaking a range of recreation activities”

The following statement builds on the above vision, but specifically recognises the importance of the lookout and the visual prominence of the reserve, and the need for sustainable management.

The proposed management vision for the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area is:

Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area will be sustainably managed as an integral part of Council’s open space network, with particular focus on enhancing the reserves significant natural, scenic and recreational values, and the provision of a memorable visitor experience.

4.2. MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The following management principles are intended to aid in the realisation of the vision:

Manage the natural and cultural values of the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area on a sustainable basis (e.g. environmentally, socially, and economically);

Maintain the 'natural' qualities of the reserve, to allow residents and visitors to continue to easily experience nature within the urban setting;

Provide quality visitor infrastructure, which caters for the range of users, facilitates a memorable visitor experience, and does not significantly impinge on natural and visual values;

Communicate the values and stories unique to Rosny Hill through quality interpretation and information;

Ensure a high standard of design, safety and maintenance of visitor infrastructure, including the trail network; and

Continue to support management partnerships, which contribute to the management and enjoyment of the reserve, including with community organisations such as the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group.

4.3. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND MASTER PLAN

The Rosny Hill Master Plan and Site Plans are described in Section 4.3.1.

The issue/challenge categories summarised in Section 3 form the basis for the seven management strategies that follow:

Supportive partnerships and management capacity (Section 4.3.2);

Sustainable management of reserve values (Section 4.3.3);

Best practice bushfire management (Section 4.3.4);

Improved visitor infrastructure quality (Section 4.3.5);

Enhanced recreation trail network (Section 4.3.6);

Addressing anti-social behaviour and safety (Section 4.3.7);

and

Regular maintenance works (Section 4.3.8).

A brief discussion of the issues, challenges, and opportunities associated with each strategy, and a suite of proposed actions, are provided below.

4.3.1. Rosny Hill Master Plan and Site Plans

This section summaries the proposed actions illustrated on the Master Plan, and the three site plans. Site plans have been prepared for the:

Main (upper) lookout (Inset A);

Lower lookout/car park (Inset B); and

Main entrance (Inset C).

ROSNY HILL MASTER PLAN

The key features shown on the Master Plan are:

a formalised recreation trail network, which makes use of existing trails and foot pads, indicates where duplicate trails should be closed, and where low-key supporting infrastructure such as signage, trail markers and seating should be located (Section 4.3.6 provides further detail about the recreation trail network);

the location and formalisation of pedestrian access points into the reserve from the surrounding residential areas;

an exposed aggregate concrete footpath connecting the main lookout to the lower lookout, with the potential to continue as a compacted gavel path on the western side of the sealed access road to the reserve entrance, which will improve pedestrian safety and providing a short walk experience for short-term visitors (e.g. those on a tour bus);

installation of a gate at the entrance to the reserve, to be locked at a designated time in the evenings, to minimise anti-social behaviour associated with vehicle access at night; and

Intentionally blank



Existing Native Vegetation
 Existing Residential Vegetation
 Existing Residences (does not represent all)
 Proposed Viewing Platforms
 Walking Trails
 Proposed Compacted Gravel Footpath
 Existing Sealed Road
 Park Boundary
 Pedestrian/Emergency Vehicle Connections from Roads to Park
 Perimeter Fire Trail
 North-West Link Trail
 South-East Link Trail

1. Proposed minor entry signage at pedestrian access way.

2. Proposed minor trail signage / trail marker at trail intersection.

3. Existing perimeter fire trail. To be kept clear at all times for bush fire prevention management purposes and be upgraded to improve walking opportunities.

4. Existing informal link trail. To be upgraded to improve walking opportunities.

5. Existing native casuarina vegetation.

6. Pedestrian crossing (eg. raised/coloured pavement) to improve safety.

7. Proposed formalised car parking at reserve entry.

8. Investigate the feasibility for a proposed gated entry to restrict vehicular access after hours.

9. New viewing platform with potential to incorporate seating/interpretation and/or art.

10. Formalised car parking for seven cars.

11. Proposed picnic facilities.

12. Proposed temporary bus drop-off / pick-up.

13. Proposed compacted 1500mm gravel footpath to connect the main lookout and the lower lookout, with potential to extend to the main entry.

14. Proposed area for revegetation.

15. New viewing platform with potential for interpretation/information board.

16. Formalised car parking for 25-30 cars.

17. To Seabird Lane foreshore.

18. Potential for development of tourism facilities at or near the carpark and/or lookouts subject to meeting all statutory approval processes.

THREATENED PLANT SPECIES
Austrostipa nodosa
Dianella amoana
Vittadinia muelleri

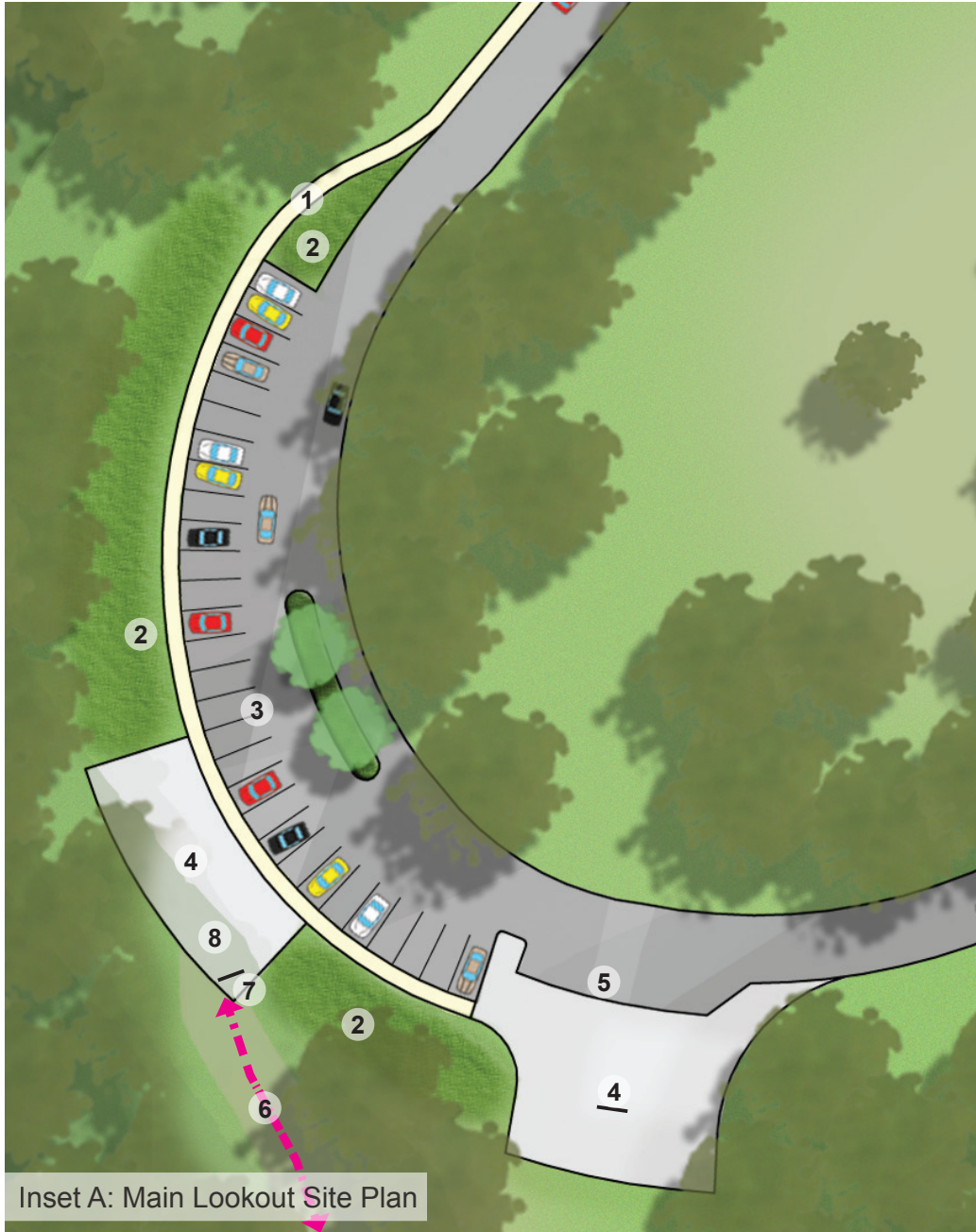
Thelymitra bracteata
Lepidium pseudotasmanicum
Austrodanthonia induta

INSPIRING PLACE

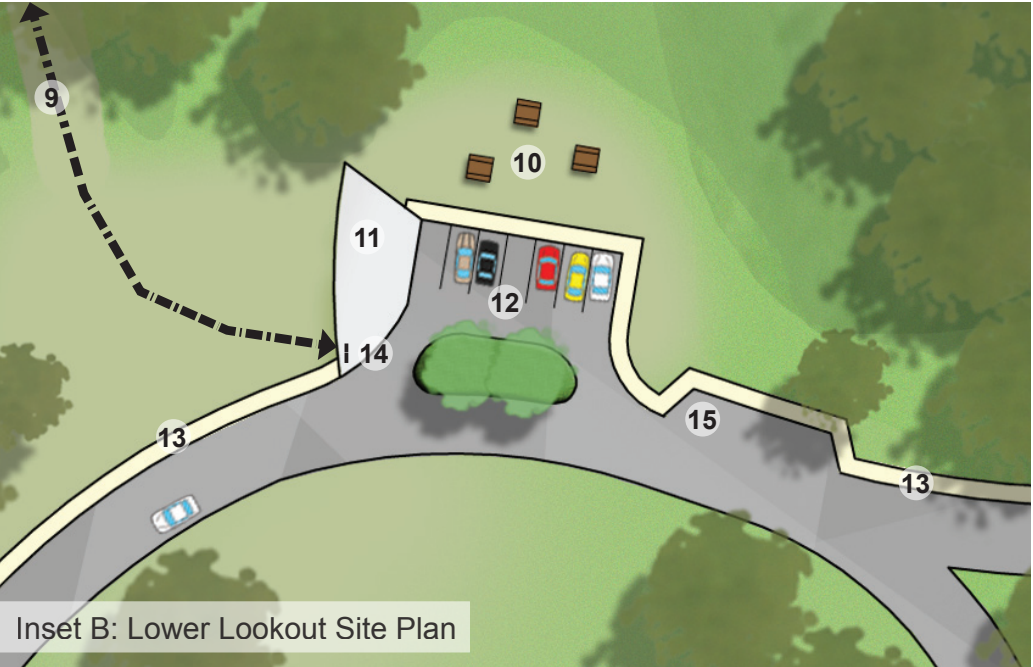
Rosny Hill Master Plan

Back of A3

- INSET A:
1. Proposed 1500mm wide exposed aggregate concrete footpath to connect upper main lookout to the lower lookout and potentially to the main entrance and lower carparking.
 2. Proposed area for revegetation.
 3. Formalised carparking for 25-30 vehicles.
 4. Proposed new viewing platforms with opportunities for seating, interpretation board, information and art.
 5. Proposed bus parking drop-off / pick-up.
 6. South-east link trail.
 7. Trailhead signage including basic map and description of trails.
 8. Potential for redevelopment of tourism facilities at or near the car park and/or lookouts subject to meeting all statutory approval processes.



Rosny Hill Master Plan



- INSET B:
9. North-west link trail to be upgraded.
 10. Proposed picnic facilities.
 11. Proposed viewing platform.
 12. Formalised car parking for 7 cars.
 13. Proposed 1500mm wide exposed aggregate concrete footpath to connect upper lookout and main entrance.
 14. Trailhead signage, including basic map and description of trails.
 15. Proposed bus parking drop-off / pick-up.
- INSET C:
16. Proposed 1500mm wide exposed aggregate concrete footpath to connect upper lookout and main entrance.
 17. Formalised carparking and turn around area at reserve entrance.
 18. Existing fire trail to be kept clear and maintained for bush fire management, walking and access to residences.
 19. Proposed pedestrian crossing to safely connect exposed aggregate concrete footpath to carpark and perimeter trail (eg. raised and coloured pavement).
 20. Connection footpath to lower carparking.
 21. Investigate the feasibility for a proposed gated entry to restrict vehicular access to reserve after hours.
 22. Proposed minor entry signage at pedestrian access way.

- Existing Park Vegetation
- Existing Residential Vegetation
- Existing Buildings (does not represent all)
- Proposed Viewing Platforms
- Walking Tracks
- Proposed Compacted Gravel Path
- Existing Road
- Connection from Park to Local Roads
- Perimeter Fire Trail
- North-West Link Trail
- South-East Link Trail
- Park Boundary

Back of A3

a small formalised car park at the reserve entrance to allow visitors to park and walk on the proposed footpath to the lookout – this will be particularly relevant when the proposed entry gate is installed; and

the general location of the development zones as defined by Council (e.g. covering the immediate areas of the main lookout and lower car park).

Site plans have been prepared for the main (upper) lookout, the lower lookout/car park and the main reserve entrance.

MAIN LOOKOUT SITE PLAN

The key features of the redesigned Main (upper) Lookout Site Plan include:

the construction of a low-profile compacted gravel platform in the area of the main lookout and car park, allowing visitors to gain an elevated position over the vegetation, with view towards Hobart City centre/Mt Wellington;

the construction of a second, smaller platform in the area of the existing Convict Trail information panel, to allow viewing to the Kangaroo Bay area, and down river to Bruny Island and beyond;

indicative views lines, and areas where vegetation needs to be removed or regularly pruned;

an indication of the way in which features, such as low natural stone walls could be incorporated into the design of the lookout;

improved delineation of pedestrian and vehicular space, improving visitor safety and amenity, and provision for the mobility impaired;

improved visitor amenity within the main lookout area, including visitor seating, information and interpretation, and trailhead signage (e.g. incorporating a basic map of the trail network);

providing for bus drop-off and pick-up;

where landscaping may be incorporated, to 'soften' the lookout and surrounding road surface;

the design and alignment of a footpath connecting the main lookout to the lower lookout; and

and the potential to introduce an 'artistic' element of interest.

LOWER LOOKOUT SITE PLAN

The key features of the redesigned Lower Lookout/Car Park Site Plan include:

the construction of a small viewing platform in the same design as the main lookout, to improve viewing up river, of the Tasman Bridge, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, and the Meehan Range;

improved delineation between pedestrian and vehicular space (e.g. between the parking and viewing areas);

formalisation of the trail and footpath entry points from this location, including simple trail signage;

bus pick-up and drop-off;

improved visitor amenity, such as seating and information signage and interpretation; and

landscaping.

MAIN ENTRANCE SITE PLAN

The key features of the Main Entrance Site Plan are:

development of a small formal car park and turning area on the eastern side of the main entrance road into the reserve (within the open grassed area managed by Council) – this area is already used informally for parking;

using a different pavement treatment to indicate where pedestrians will be crossing;

consider the feasibility of installing a gate, to allow the reserve to be locked at night, whilst allowing pedestrian access at all times;

connecting the entrance car park to the main lookout via a compacted gravel path; and

allowing adjoining residents to have a process to seek access to the rear of their properties through the site, via the fire trail by permit or some approval arrangement with Council.

4.3.2. Supportive Partnerships and Management Capacity

Council are responsible for carrying out all maintenance and development works required within the reserve, and have a limited budget with which to do this. This management strategy recognises the opportunities that exist within the community and other government and non-government organisations, to assist Council, and to ensure that the reserve's values are adequately managed.

The Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group are a valuable source of skills and knowledge, and have a long association with the reserve. The original group formed to undertake conservation works specifically on Rosny Hill. The group have a strong working relationship with both previous and current land managers, who have supported the groups efforts to date. Over the last eight years, the group have focused their efforts primarily along the Rosny foreshore. However, members of the group indicated that they are keen to again be involved in conservation projects within the reserve, such as rehabilitation/revegetation of disturbed areas, and weeding. The group also indicated their preference for smaller-scale and distinct projects that are manageable given the limitations of their membership and meeting times (e.g. the group meets to undertake works once a month).

This management strategy also acknowledges other partnership opportunities that may aid Council in the long-term management of the reserve, including other volunteer conservation organisations, and school programs.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Continue to support, and work in partnership with the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group, to aid in the achievement of on-ground conservation works within the reserve, including through the provision of materials and external expertise where required.

Specific tasks and responsibilities should be incorporated into a Reserve Activity Plan for Reserve Hill, to provide both the Council and the Coastcare Group with further detail about on-ground works, and a means of forward planning.

2. Investigate the potential to work with other conservation organisations, such as Conservation Volunteers Australia and Green Corp, to achieve some of the

environmental and infrastructure management actions outlined in the Strategy, including upgrading of trails, pruning of vegetation, revegetation, and weed management.

3. Investigate the potential for local school groups to be involved in the environmental management of the reserve, and for the reserve to host educational programs and activities (e.g. environmental education and/or outdoor recreation activities).

4. Liaise with other land managers (e.g. the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service) and other organisations and government departments, to ensure that the natural values of the reserve are understood and managed for. This action is particularly relevant to the management of threatened species.

4.3.3. Sustainable Management of Reserve Values

Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area encompasses a number of remnant native vegetation communities, providing habitat for threatened flora and fauna species. The reserve is an 'island' of 'nature' within an urban landscape, and is therefore vulnerable to impacts from both within and outside the reserve, including:

disturbance resulting from trail and other infrastructure development;

weed/plant pathogen invasion and spread;

unplanned fire; and

intensive use at 'hot spots' (e.g. the main lookout area).

The management strategy recognises the significance of the natural values of the reserve, and the need to balance their management with use and development for recreation and visitor infrastructure, to achieve a sustainable outcome.

Council have recently prepared a *Draft Clarence Bushland and Coastal Management Plan* (2011), which, when finalised, will act as a higher-level framework to guide the management of natural and recreational values of reserved land within the municipality, including Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Minimise further fragmentation of native vegetation communities within the reserve. This may be achieved by upgrading existing infrastructure, and

utilising existing footprints (e.g. existing trails and lookouts) for new developments.

2. Implement the recommendations relating to vegetation management in the *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010* (e.g. management burning), including manual thinning of the She Oak vegetation on the western side of the reserve.

3. Investigate the need to actively manage the threatened flora species in the reserve (e.g. determine ecological needs such as disturbance requirements), including monitoring changes over time.

This may require liaison with the Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

4. Prioritise weed management works in the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill, in consultation with the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group, with priority given to managing declared weeds listed under the *Weed Management Act 1999*.

The scheduling of weed management works should be devised with consideration to the planned burning schedule for the reserve.

5. Work with the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group to rehabilitate disturbed areas within the reserve.

Priority sites for rehabilitation should also be identified and scheduled, in the Reserve Activity Plan.

6. Implement the *(Draft) Clarence Bushland and Coastal Management Strategy*, as a guide for the management of the natural and recreational values within the Reserve.

4.3.4. Best Practice Bushfire Management

Bushfire management was identified as one of the major issues by the community – particularly by those residents whose properties adjoin the reserve boundary, or who live within close proximity to it. Specific issues included a concern about a bushfire originating or spreading from within the reserve, the adequacy of the current fire management program, and the condition and appearance of the perimeter fire trail and surrounds (e.g. the prevalence of debris left behind following clearing of the fire trail). Residents were particularly concerned about the fire risk posed by the flammable debris around the perimeter of the reserve.

In 2010, Council commissioned AVK Environmental Management to prepare a bushfire management plan for the reserve. The *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan* provides a strategic and thorough approach to improved bushfire management, and when implemented, will address the concerns raised by the community. The final Plan is yet to be fully endorsed by Council.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Implement the *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010*, included actions such as:

developing a community bushfire education program, including informing the public about planned burns, and ensuring that adjoining residents understand their responsibilities in relation to bushfire management;

maintaining a fuel modified buffer zone along the reserve boundary, to minimise fire risk to residences. Section 2.4.3 of the *Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010* details minimum buffer zone widths based on the location of residences and other built assets surrounding the reserve;

upgrading the perimeter fire trail to a bushfire management standard, including regular inspection and maintenance, and signposting of entrances;

thinning of the She Oak community on the western side of the reserve in accordance with the guidelines described in Section 4.4.1 of the Bushfire Management Plan; and

coordinate bushfire management with other management activities (e.g. weed and native vegetation management, and trail network upgrades).

2. Ensure that fallen trees and debris resulting from the construction and upgrade of the perimeter fire trail is removed, in conjunction with the maintenance of the reserve boundary fuel modified buffer zone.

3. Liaise with the Tasmanian Fire Service and the local fire brigade throughout the implementation of the Bushfire Management Plan, and ensure access procedures (e.g. keys to locked gates within the reserve) are in place.

4.3.5. Improved Visitor Infrastructure Quality and Experience

Community feedback indicates that there is a general community desire to maintain the reserves natural bushland qualities, and keep development to a minimum. However, some people expressed a desire to see the lookout area further developed, including the relocation of the lookout to the top of the hill (in the area of the trog point), and the potential for the development of a café/restaurant.

The main lookout is considered to be highly significant in a regional tourism sense, however, its general appearance is unlikely to live up to the expectations of visitors. Litter and debris are often found in the area, and vegetation screens view corridors. The community indicated that an improved lookout could boost the profile of the reserve, and more broadly the Eastern Shore, and the Greater Hobart Area.

In the past, there has been interest expressed in the potential commercial tourism development of a café/restaurant at the lookout. However the proposal failed to gain approval or significant support within the community.

The Council has indicated that the option for future development at or near the car park and/or the lookouts should not be prohibited within the Management Strategy, and that the Strategy should refer to the planning and development process required to be met for any potential future developments. Council expressed a desire to define development zones within the reserve as part of the current document. The development zones are non-statutory areas, intended to direct potential development into previously disturbed sites that are considered to be generally appropriate for further development. The location of the development zones are illustrated on the Rosny Hill Master Plan below.

Any proposal for development would need to:

- have the approval of Crown Land as owners of the Reserve;

- meet all other statutory provisions including *State Coastal Policy*, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, *National Parks and Reserves Act 2002*, *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, *Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*;

be approved under the statutory processes of the Tasmanian planning system and in particular meet the specific provisions of the *City of Clarence Planning Scheme* (refer to Section 6.11.4 of the Scheme); and

be located within the development zone areas defined by Council.

Any future development within the reserve should support visitor use and provide appropriate public facilities (e.g. public toilets, interpretation and information services) in a manner that is in keeping with the statutory objectives for the reserve, as well as the management vision and principles outlined in this Strategy.

Council would need to consider the capacity of the site to sustain increased car and coach parking associated with any development, given the likely increase in duration of stay by visitors. Council may also request that a business feasibility plan and an environmental impact assessment be undertaken to indicate what impacts and mitigation measures will be required. The proposal for a development in the reserve may trigger the requirement for a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA), which incorporates an environmental impact assessment process. Any future development should be limited to the car park, lookout areas and previously disturbed sites.

Some of the issues/challenges raised by the community relating to the visitor infrastructure and quality of the experience included:

the view from the main lookout being screened by vegetation, and not regularly maintained by Council;

poor general appearance of the reserve at times – particularly the main lookout (e.g. large, sealed area, presence of litter, tyre marks, poorly pruned vegetation);

general lack of planned visitor infrastructure, including seating, information/interpretation, picnic and barbeque facilities, short walks and toilets; and

the informal nature of the trail network.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Maintain the bushland character of the reserve by designing sympathetic infrastructure to cater for passive recreation and sight-seeing uses, making use of existing disturbed sites, and maintaining the integrity of the skyline.

2. Implement the proposed visitor infrastructure actions illustrated on the Master Plan and Site Plans, and described elsewhere in Section 4.

Priority should be given to:

upgrading the main (upper) lookout;
upgrading the recreational trail network; and
improving information signage, trail markers, and interpretation.

3. Improve visitor amenity through the introduction of well-designed furniture such as seating and picnic tables.

4. Ensure that any proposal for development at or near the car park and/or lookout areas meet all statutory planning requirements and processes, and that a business feasibility plan and environmental impact assessment to be prepared.

5. Use universal pictograms on signage to communicate information to visitors, including use the types of facilities and activities provided for within the reserve, and any use restrictions.

6. Prepare an interpretation strategy for Rosny Hill, to identify themes, messages, and communication mediums (e.g. panels, art etc).

7. Implement revegetation works and/or landscaping to improve the appearance of the lookout areas and car parks, and 'soften' the look of the road, car park and other hard surfaced areas.

8. Implement the development zones defined by Council, and illustrated on the Rosny Hill Master Plan, as a general guide to directing where any future development proposals must be located within the reserve.

More specifically, Development Zone A is to be restricted to upgrades and developments that improve the current use of the main lookout area (e.g. enhanced lookout, parking, visitor safety and access, and interpretation). Development Zone B provides for a broader range of potential development options consistent with the relevant legislation and planning guidelines.

The following proposed actions have been included at Councils request to provide for future investigation of the development options within the reserve:

9. Council to explore the market potential for development consistent with Council's Planning Scheme and the site's status under the *National Parks and Reserve Management Act 2002*.

10. The General Manager to pursue any identified developments in consultation with the State Government.

4.3.6. Enhanced Recreation Trail Network

The recreation trail network is one of the most significant assets within the reserve, providing opportunities to exercise and walk the dog in a natural setting. Walkers are the dominant recreational user group accessing the reserve. Currently the trail network is relatively informal, with foot pads (unmade paths worn into the vegetation through frequent use) developed along 'desire lines' over many years. Some sections of footpad are in poor condition (e.g. steep, with evidence of erosion, rough/uneven underfoot, or difficult to locate), however, they do provide a good basis for an upgraded network suited primarily to walkers, with the options for shorter or longer circuits.

Some of the issues expressed by the community relating to the trail network included:

- lack of formalisation of the trail network, including missing connections;

- poor surfacing and maintenance (e.g. rough, steep and slippery sections, and over-grown vegetation);

- inappropriate and unauthorised use of trails, including by motorised trail bikes and BMX/mountain bikes (e.g. construction of jumps and obstacles); and

- some of the trails are not considered to be sustainable (e.g. where trails follow the fall line of the hill, rather than the contours).

The trail network within the reserve is poorly connected to surrounding areas (e.g. residential streets and the Kangaroo Bay and Montagu Bay foreshores). Improving pedestrian access and connections between the reserve and the broader urban trail network will facilitate increased use of the reserve, and provide opportunities for longer walking circuits around the Rosny/Bellerive area.

In conjunction with the development of this Strategy, Council recently commissioned John Hughes – walking track design and construction specialist, to undertake a detailed review of the trail network within the reserve. The proposed actions below are consistent with, and respond to, the recommendations arising from his review.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Develop the Rosny Hill trail network primarily with a recreational walking focus, and install signage (e.g. with pictograms to communicate that trail bikes and mountain bikes are prohibited) to indicate which trails are suitable for bikes (e.g. the perimeter fire trail).

2. Implement the proposed improvements to the trail network outlined in the report *Rosny Hill Track Network 2011* prepared by John Hughes, specifically:

realigning and upgrading the existing perimeter fire trail (the lower circuit trail) to reach an AS2156.1 – 2001 Walking Track Class 2 standard, including achieving lower grades through techniques such as bottom walling;

formalising the existing footpad that connects the lower lookout/car park to the north-western section of the perimeter fire trail¹²;

realigning an informal foot pad that connects the main lookout to the south-eastern section of the perimeter fire trail¹³; and

constructing a new section of nature trail below the main lookout on the western side of the hill, providing an off-road connection between the two lookouts, and between the two linkage trails.

3. Consider constructing an exposed aggregate concrete footpath (1.8 m width) between the main lookout and the lower lookout/car park along the road edge, to improve amenity and pedestrian safety within the lookout areas, connect to other trails without requiring pedestrians to walk on the road, and provide an interesting short walking opportunity for visitors who only have a short amount of time.

¹² The Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010 requires that that trail be accessible to fire vehicles. Therefore, the upgrade of this link will need to consider the placement of a locked gate to prevent public vehicle access, as well as the way in which the link can provide a pleasant walking experience, whilst catering for fire vehicle access in the event of a bushfire, or for management purposes.

¹³ This link trail may also be required to cater for fire vehicle access.

The proposed footpath will provide a short loop when combined with the proposed new section of nature trail below the main lookout.

4. Consider constructing a compacted gravel footpath from the lower lookout/car park to the reserve entrance, to facilitate access when the gate is locked in the evening.

5. Reinforce and upgrade trail entrances (e.g. improve physical and visual connections to the link trails from the lookouts).

6. Install basic trailhead signage (e.g. basic trail network map, and information about trail difficulty and length) at the main lookout, the lower lookout, and the reserve entrance.

7. Install low-key trail markers (e.g. coloured arrows with the trail name) at trail entrances and intersections to aid in way finding. Trail markers should also be installed at the main pedestrian entrances into the reserve.

All signage should be of a design consistent with that in other Council reserves and open space areas.

8. Formalise pedestrian access via public right of ways into the reserve from the surrounding residential and foreshore area at:

Montagu Bay Road;

Akuna Street;

Haven Court;

the end of Bastick Street, via Seabird Lane;

Kellatie Road; and between

36 Leura Street and Bastick Street.

Formalisation may include the installation of entry signage to highlight access and development of formal trails/pathways.

9. Ensure that the trail network is regularly maintained (e.g. debris removed, surfaces inspected, and vegetation trimmed where required).

Trail maintenance works may also be incorporated into the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill.

10. In the longer-term, consider developing new trails if there is demonstrated demand.

11. Ensure that improvements to the trail network are consistent with bushfire management requirements (see Section 4.3.4).

4.3.7. Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour and Safety

Public reserves within close proximity to urban areas, and with unrestricted access often attract anti-social elements, or visitors who are wanting to engage in activities not tolerated in more populated locations. The types of anti-social behaviour occurring on a regular basis within the reserve include 'hooning'/dangerous driving, loud noise and intimidating behaviour, vandalism, and littering. The activities take place both during the day and at night, but are much more prevalent during the night.

In addition to anti-social behaviour, other safety issues were raised by the community, including concerns about:

- the lack of definition of pedestrian and vehicular space in the main lookout area;

- visitors walking/jogging on the sealed loop road in order to form circuits; and

- pedestrians crossing the main sealed road (e.g. when walking the perimeter fire trail), at locations that are not marked as designated crossing points.

It is intended that the reserve infrastructure and management improvements recommended in this report will lead to increased visitation, and therefore increased passive surveillance and higher level of real and perceived safety within the reserve.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Investigate the potential, under the relevant legislation, to trial a locked gate system (e.g. as occurs at Waterworks Reserve in Hobart) at the main entrance to the reserve, to prevent vehicular access at night.

It is expected that arrangements could be made for the gate to be locked and unlocked each day, and to allow vehicle access at night for special events (e.g. New Years Eve fire works). Pedestrian access would be maintained at all times.

2. Implement the recommended upgrades to the trail network, including minimising road crossings and improving safety of road crossing points, and improving the continuity of the network to discourage visitors from walking on the road.
3. Consider increased police surveillance of the reserve.

4.3.8. Regular Maintenance Works

This management strategy responds to the need to establish a formal maintenance regime for the reserve, which incorporates bushfire management, infrastructure condition inspections, and on-ground works undertaken by the Land and Coastcare Group, with regular tasks such as collection of litter, pruning, and weeding.

Coordinating reserve maintenance will improve efficiency, the appearance and safety of the reserve. A formal operational plan or maintenance schedule may need to be drafted specifically for the reserve, or maintenance tasks integrated into an existing Council maintenance document.

When the proposed entry gate is installed, Council staff will need to be scheduled to lock and unlock the gate at advertised times each day.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Ensure that regular maintenance works within the reserve are incorporated into Council's operational plans/maintenance schedules and/or into the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill, including regular:

pruning of vegetation in front of the main lookout to maintain view corridors (there may be a need to remove the canopy vegetation directly in front of the proposed viewing platforms to more permanently open up the view corridors);

removal of litter, particularly within and around the two lookouts – it is intended that visitors will continue to be required to remove their own rubbish, rather than Council installing and maintaining bins;

maintenance of revegetated sites and soft landscaping, including weeding, establishment watering, and re-planting where required.

2. Coordinate maintenance works where possible (e.g. trail inspections and repairs with fire inspections) via the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill.

SECTION 5

ACTION PLAN

This Section sets out the basis for implementation of the Rosny Hill Management Strategy over the next 10 years. It identifies the proposed actions and priorities for each of the strategies identified in Section 4 of the report.

The priority for implementation of each action is based on:

High – should be implemented within the next 2 years;

Moderate - should be implemented within the next 5 years;

Low - should be implemented within the next 10 years; and

Ongoing – this action may be required on an ongoing basis.

It is expected that the Council will take the lead role in the implementation of the recommended actions but will seek the support and involvement of other organisations, agencies and community groups where required to achieve a successful outcome.

The 10 Year Action Plan is considered to be an 'active' management tool and it is recognised that the implementation process may vary over time and in response to new opportunities. The Action Plan can easily be updated reflect changes in funding, community priorities or other circumstances.

| Strategies | Actions | Priority |
|---|---|------------------|
| Section 4.3.2. Supportive Partnerships and Management Capacity | 1. Continue to support, and work in partnership with the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group, to aid in the achievement of on-ground conservation works within the reserve. | High-Ongoing |
| | 2. Investigate the potential to work with other conservation organisations to achieve management requirements. | Moderate-Ongoing |
| | 3. Investigate the potential for local school groups to be involved in the environmental management of the reserve. | Moderate-Ongoing |
| | 4. Liaise with other land managers and organisations and government departments, to ensure that the natural values of the reserve are understood and managed. | High-Ongoing |
| Section 4.3.3. Sustainable Management of Reserve Values | 1. Minimise further fragmentation of native vegetation communities within the reserve. | High-Ongoing |
| | 2. Implement the recommendations relating to vegetation management in the <i>Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010</i> . | High-Ongoing |
| | 3. Investigate the need to actively manage the threatened flora species in the reserve. | Moderate |
| | 4. Prioritise weed management works in the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill, with priority given to the management of declared weeds. | Moderate |
| | 5. Work with the Rosny/Montagu Bay Land and Coastcare Group to rehabilitate disturbed areas within the reserve. | High-Ongoing |
| | 6. Implement the Draft Clarence Bushland and Coastal Management Strategy, as a guide for the management of the natural and recreational values within the Reserve. | High |
| Section 4.3.4. Best Practice Bushfire Management | 1. Implement the <i>Rosny Hill Bushfire Management Plan 2010</i> . | High |
| | 2. Ensure that fallen trees and debris resulting from the construction and upgrade of the perimeter fire trail is removed, in conjunction with the maintenance of the reserve boundary fuel modified buffer zone. | High |
| | 3. Liaise with the Tasmanian Fire Service and the local fire brigade throughout the implementation of the Bushfire Management Plan. | High-Ongoing |

Table 5.1. 10 Year Action Plan

| Strategies | Actions | Priority |
|---|---|---------------|
| Section 4.3.5. Improved Visitor Infrastructure Quality | 1. Maintain the bushland character of the reserve by designing sympathetic infrastructure development to cater for passive recreation and sightseeing uses, making use of existing disturbed sites, and maintaining the integrity of the skyline. | High |
| | 2. Implement the proposed visitor infrastructure actions illustrated on the Master Plan and Site Plans. | High-Moderate |
| | 3. Improve visitor amenity through the introduction of well-designed furniture such as seating and picnic tables. | Moderate |
| | 4. Ensure that any proposals for develop within the Reserve meets all statutory planning requirements. | High-Ongoing |
| | 5. Use universal pictograms on signage to communicate information to visitors. | High |
| | 6. Prepare an interpretation strategy for Rosny Hill, to identify themes, messages, and communication mediums (e.g. panels, art etc). | Moderate |
| | 7. Implement revegetation works and/or landscaping to improve the appearance of the lookout areas and car parks. | High |
| | 8. Implement the development zones defined by Council, and illustrated on the Rosny Hill Master Plan, as a general guide to directing where any future development proposals must be located within the reserve. | High |
| | 9. Council to explore the market potential for development consistent with Council's Planning Scheme and the site's status under the <i>National Parks and Reserve Management Act 2002</i> . | Moderate-High |
| | 10. The General Manager to pursue any identified developments in consultation with the State Government. | Moderate-High |
| Section 4.3.6. Enhanced Recreation Trail Network | 1. Develop the Rosny Hill trail network primarily with a recreational walking focus, and install signage to indicate which trails are suitable for bikes. | High-Ongoing |
| | 2. Implement the proposed improvements to the trail network outlined in the report <i>Rosny Hill Track Network 2011</i> prepared by John Hughes. | High-Moderate |
| | 3. Construct an exposed aggregate concrete footpath between the main lookout and the lower lookout/car park along the road edge. | High |
| | 4. Consider constructing a compacted gravel footpath from the lower lookout/car park to the reserve entrance, to facilitate access when the gate is locked in the evening. | High-Moderate |
| | 5. Reinforce and upgrade trail entrances. | High |
| | 6. Install basic trailhead signage at the main lookout, the lower lookout, and the reserve entrance. | High |

Table 5.1. 10 Year Action Plan

| Strategies | Actions | Priority |
|---|---|---------------|
| Section 4.3.6. Enhanced Recreation Trail Network (continued). | 7. Install low-key trail markers at trail entrances and intersections to aid in way finding. | High |
| | 8. Formalise pedestrian access via public right of ways into the reserve from the surrounding residential and foreshore area. | High |
| | 9. Ensure that the trail network is regularly maintained. | Ongoing |
| | 10. In the longer-term, consider developing new trails if there is demonstrated demand. | Low |
| | 11. Ensure that improvements to the trail network are consistent with bushfire management requirements. | High-Ongoing |
| Section 4.3.7. Addressing Anti- social Behaviour and Safety | 1. Investigate the potential, under the relevant legislation and logistically, to trial a locked gate system at the main entrance into the reserve, to restrict vehicular access at night. | High |
| | 2. Implement the recommended upgrades to the trail network, including minimising road crossings and improving safety of road crossing point, and improving the continuity of the network to discourage visitors from walking on the road. | High-Moderate |
| | 3. Consider increasing police surveillance of the Reserve. | High-Moderate |
| Section 4.3.8. Regular Maintenance Works | 1. Ensure that regular maintenance works within the reserve are incorporated into Council's operational plans/maintenance schedules, and/or within the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill. | High-Ongoing |
| | 2. Coordinate maintenance works where possible (e.g. trail inspections and repairs with fire inspections) via the Reserve Activity Plan for Rosny Hill. | High-Ongoing |

Table 5.1. 10 Year Action Plan