

# PROPOSED RECATEGORISATION OF HOLROYD SPORTS GROUND PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

FINAL REPORT

17 JULY 2019







#### **CUMBERLAND COUNCIL**

# PROPOSED RECATEGORISATION OF HOLROYD SPORTS GROUND

### **PUBLIC HEARING REPORT**

FINAL REPORT

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to convey to Cumberland Council the outcomes of a public hearing held on 18 June 2019 and the public exhibition of the proposed recategorisation of community land in the Draft Plan of Management for Holroyd Sports Ground (the site).

This report, as it relates to the public hearing and the proposed community land recategorisation in the Draft Holroyd Sports Ground Plan of Management (the Draft Plan of Management) prepared in April 2019, has been prepared under Section 40A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

#### 1.2 Land covered by this report

#### 1.2.1 Location of Holroyd Sports Ground

This report addresses the proposed recategorisation of Holroyd Sports Ground, which is classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The location of Holroyd Sports Ground is in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Location of Holroyd Sports Ground



Holroyd Sports Ground Boundary Plan

#### 1.2.2 Features of Holroyd Sports Ground

A detailed description of Holroyd Sports Ground is in the Draft Plan of Management. Key features of Holroyd Sports Ground are that it:

- incorporates sports fields used for athletics and rugby union
- ☐ is adjoined by natural and channelised sections of A'Becketts Creek
- incorporates an advertising sign on the northern boundary adjacent to the M4 Motorway.





Sports field

Sports field



Channelised section of A'Becketts Creek



Natural creekline of A'Becketts Creek



Advertising sign

#### 1.3 Background

Holroyd Sports Ground was categorised as Sportsground in the adopted Holroyd Sports Ground Plan of Management (Manidis Roberts Consultants, 2004). However a map of the land which is categorised as Sportsground was not provided in the Plan of Management.

Cumberland Council has prepared an updated Draft Plan of Management for Holroyd Sports Ground, in which community land in Holroyd Sports Ground is proposed to be categorised or recategorised as Sportsground, Natural Area-Watercourse, and General Community Use.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* Council must hold a public hearing, chaired by an independent facilitator, if community land is proposed to be recategorised.

If Council approves the proposed recategorisation, Holroyd Sports Ground will be managed according to the guidelines for and core objectives of the Sportsground, Natural Area-Watercourse, and General Community Use categories.

#### 1.4 This report

The remainder of this report presents:

- the relevant requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 regarding Plans of Management and categorisation/recategorisation of community land
- the outcomes of a public hearing and public exhibition of the proposed recategorisation of community land in Holroyd Sports Ground.

# 2 PLANNING CONTEXT

#### 2.1 What is community land?

The *Local Government Act 1993* sets out a range of requirements that Cumberland Council is legally bound to adhere to, including the management of public land.

Figure 2 Community land categorisation



The Local Government Act requires that all public land owned by Council must be classified as "community" or "operational" land (Section 26).

Community land is intended to be managed for use by the community for purposes including environmental protection, recreational, cultural, social and educational activities. Community land may only be leased or licensed for up to 21 years without the Minister's consent or up to 30 years with the Minister's consent, it cannot be sold, and its use is restricted to the above purposes.

Conversely, operational land is land that can be used for any purposes deemed fit by Council, may be used for commercial purposes, be leased for a longer period of time, and can be sold.

#### 2.2 What are the categories of community land?

The Local Government Act 1993 requires that all land owned by the Council which is classified as community land be categorised.

Community land may be categorised as one or more of the following under Section 36(4):

- a natural area.
- a sportsground.
- a park.
- $\hfill\Box$  an area of cultural significance.
- general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following under Section 36(5) of the Act:

- bushland.
- wetland.
- escarpment.
- watercourse.
- foreshore.
- a category prescribed by the regulations.

#### 2.3 Proposed recategorisation of Holroyd Sports Ground

Part of Holroyd Sports Ground is proposed to be recategorised from Sportsground to Natural Area – Watercourse and General Community Use as shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3 Proposed recategorisation of Holroyd Sports Ground



Cumberland Council is proposing to categorise the natural banks and the channelised section of A'Becketts Creek as Natural Area – Watercourse, because that category best fits Council's intentions for future management of the creek.

Cumberland Council is proposing to recategorise part of Holroyd Sports Ground from Sportsground to General Community Use to reflect that area of land as the location of the advertising sign.

Figure 4 Draft Landscape Masterplan for Holroyd Sports Ground





Holroyd Sports Ground - Draft Landscape Masterplan



#### 2.4 What are the guidelines for categorising community land?

#### 2.4.1 Recommendations for categorising community land

The Department of Local Government's revised Practice Note on Public Land Management (Department of Local Government, 2000) made general recommendations on the guidelines for categorising community land. The Practice Note stated:

"Council must have regard to the guidelines in determining a category (cl.9) but are not required to adopt any category merely because the land fits the description in the guidelines. Council should look at all the circumstances of the land in making a decision as to categorisation. For example, a piece of land may seem to satisfy the guidelines for more than one category. Council has a discretion in this case to look at the land in context, taking into account all relevant material before determining a category. It is important that Council be able to justify a decision."

Also, Council may have a piece of community land, parts of which may be best managed as different categories, for example a piece of land with remnant bushland in one part and children's play equipment in another. Council is able to categorise land as part 'Natural Area – Bushland' and part 'Park'. It is strongly recommended that the land in each category not overlap. Overlapping categories may cause conflict in management objectives and will create confusion in the minds of Council staff and the community."

#### 2.4.2 Guidelines and core objectives for categorising community land

Guidelines for categorising community land as a particular category are in Clauses 102 to 111 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. The guidelines for categorisation of community land as Sportsground, Natural Area-Watercourse and General Community Use under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* are set out in Table 1 below.

Each category and sub-category of community land has core objectives that apply to it under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The core objectives outline the approach to management of the land covered by the particular category. The core objectives for each category of community land are set out in Sections 36E to 36N of the Act. The core objectives for the Sportsground, Natural Area-Watercourse and General Community Use categories under the *Local Government Act 1993* are also set out below.

Table 1 Guidelines and core objectives for categories of community land at Holroyd Sports Ground

Category	Guidelines	Core objectives		
Sportsground	If the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	<ul> <li>encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.</li> <li>ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.</li> </ul>		
General Community Use	Land that may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public.	<ul> <li>promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public in relation to:         <ul> <li>public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Category	Guidelines	Core objectives					
		<ul> <li>purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).</li> </ul>					
Natural Area	If the land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore under section 36(5) of the Act.	<ul> <li>conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area.</li> <li>maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting.</li> <li>provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land.</li> <li>provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion.</li> <li>to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>.</li> </ul>					
	Under Section 36(5) of the Act, Natural Areas are required to be further categorised as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore based on the dominant character of the natural area.						
Natural Area – Watercourse	Land that is categorised as a natural area should be further categorised as watercourse if the land includes:  (a) any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and  (b) associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the <i>Rivers and Foreshores</i> Improvement Act 1948 or State protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> .	<ul> <li>manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows</li> <li>manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability</li> <li>restore degraded watercourses</li> <li>promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.</li> </ul>					

#### 2.5 Plans of Management for community land

Cumberland Council must prepare a Plan of Management for its community land (Section 36(1)). Community land is required to be used and managed according to a Plan of Management applying to the land (Section 35).

Requirements of the Local Government Act for the contents of a Plan of Management are:

a description of the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management

a description of the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at the date of adoption of the Plan of Management

categorisation of community land

core objectives for management of the land

the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used

the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise

a description of the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development

authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

performance targets

means for assessing achievement of objectives and performance targets.

#### 2.6 Public hearing for recategorisation of community land

#### 2.7.1 Why hold a public hearing to recategorise community land?

A public hearing is required under Section 40A of the Local Government Act if the proposed Plan of Management is either categorising (that is, the Plan of Management has not been previously been prepared and adopted by Council, or has not categorised community land), or re-categorising (changing the adopted category) the land covered by the Plan of Management.

Note: Public hearings regarding categorisation or re-categorisation of community land are not related to reclassification. Reclassification is when community land is re-classified as operational land that can then be managed differently and has the ability to be sold by Council. Community land is protected under the Local Government Act and cannot be sold.

#### 2.7.2 Who conducts a public hearing?

An independent chairperson conducts the public hearing, and provides a report to Council with recommendations on the proposed recategorisation of Holroyd Sports Ground.

Under Section 47G of the Act, the person presiding at a public hearing must not be:

- a) A Councillor or employee of the Council holding the public hearing.
- b) A person who has been a Councillor or employee of that Council at any time during the 5 years before the date of his or her appointment.

#### 2.7.3 What happens after the public hearing?

Council must make a copy of the report regarding the outcomes of the public hearing available for inspection by the public at a location within the area of Council no later than 4 days after it has received the final report from the person presiding at the public hearing. This report will be presented to Council for their information when it considers recategorising Holroyd Sports Ground, and adopting any proposed amendments to the Draft Plan of Management for Holroyd Sports Ground.

# 3 THE PUBLIC HEARING

#### 3.1 Advertising and notification

#### 3.1.1 Public notice requirements for draft Plans of Management

Section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that Councils must give "public notice" of a draft Plan of Management, and the length of time that it must be on public exhibition and for submissions to be made. The public notice contents are set out in Section 705 of the Act.

The Draft Plan of Management was on public exhibition for 42 days from 16 May to 26 June 2019.

The public hearing was held on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at the Holroyd Centre in Merrylands from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

The various ways in which Cumberland Council notified the community of the public exhibition and public hearing are outlined below. All notifications invited comments by post, email and online.

#### 3.1.2 Online notification

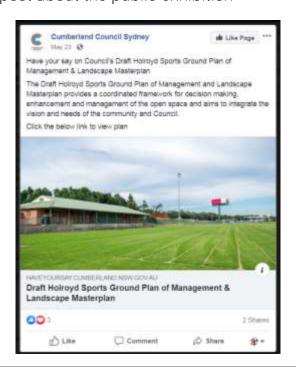
Council notified the community of the public exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management and the public hearing date on its website at https://haveyoursay.cumberland.nsw.gov.au.

Council's online 'Have your Say' page provided further information regarding the draft Plan of Management and public hearing, including downloadable copies of the draft plan, Council Officer contact details, and an online comments register.

#### 3.1.3 Social media

Notice of the public exhibition was posted on social media (Facebook) on 23 May 2019.

Figure 5 Facebook post about the public exhibition



#### 3.1.3 Newspaper notices

The public exhibition period and public hearing notification details were advertised in Council's column in the Auburn Review on 11 June 2019 and in the Parramatta Advertiser on 12 June 2019.

Figure 6 Notification about the public hearing in the Auburn Review



Panels Coordinator at Cumberland Council on 8757 9963.

#### Council's Draft Cumberland Biodiversity Strategy 2019

edimently Strategy 2019 for 26 days from Weedswading

The Draft Combertand Biodimently Strategy 2019 outlines a strategic and considerating approach to manage functionarily in Combinating A has been developed to posted and enhance beodomenty in the Combinating and This Druth Strategy outlines a homework for managing buildward, and out in coors and identifies obsections and actions under three Key

Key Focus Area 2: Hubitat Connectivity and Condition Key Focus Area 3: Planning and Innov

ask may be viewed online at

The transverse may be viewed online at tumberland new.gov.au/have-your-say or at the luxutions listed below under 'Viewing the Exhibitions'.

Any paraon who wishes to make a admission may do no in swring antil Apm on Wednesday 19 June 2019. Phose qual-reference "Continuised Booksenty Strategy 2019" as the elevant subject on your submission

sent Officer at Comberland Council on 8757 9864.

#### Council's Draft Environmental Management Framework 2019

Comberland Council is nebiliting its Draft Environmental Management Framework 2019 for 28 stays from Wednesday 22 May 3019

Council is committed to keeping our organisation and Combedand dean, green and environmentally scattures for our residents, businesses and the wider community.

The Draft Environmental Management Framework millions have Council posteris, instruces and represented environment of the appropriate and future generations. The framework supports our commitment to deliver 'A clean and green community'

#### Making a Submission Submissions may be sent via

Mall: The General Manager, Comberland Council PO Box 42, Merglands MSW 2180.

Website: haveyoursay.cumberland.nsw.gov.au

#### Plan of Management for Holroyd Sports Ground

enterts of the Local Government Act 1992, to quite the management and development of the Historial I Ground Masterplan has been prepared within the

The Public Exhibition of the skall plan will be for a 42-day rood, concluding on Wednesday 26 June 2019, and the renunity a swited to provide comments staring this perced The dish Plan of Management for the Holreyd Sports Groun open space area can be viewed on Councils website at herevyourse; cumberland now, gov.au, or at the Cumborlan Coonof Senior Centre, 16 Memoral Assense, Mernjands. to seemant in such lims because od his prosperdu

#### • Email: council@cumberland.naw.gov.a

Post: The General Manager, Comberland Council, FO Box 42, Merrylands NSW 2160

The disfit Plan of Management defines the future management development priorities as prescribed by its categories under the Local Government Act.

A Public Pleasing for these inclusions will be held between fight and 7.30pm on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at The Holloyd Centre, 17 Miller Steed, Merglands.

Should you have any enquires in relation to the draft Plan of Management, please contact Council's fla Planner, Linda Wright on 8757 9384.

Have Your Say

Proposed Clasure of a Public Road -

of France and Code of Tendering.

Requests for further clarification and evening msw.gov.au

#### Proposed Developments

#### Childcare Centre

The exhibition period for the following application is from 11 June 2019 to 25 June 2019.

File: DA-153/2019

Site: 17 Nottingfull Road, Lidcombe, List 2 DF 962677

Proposed: Demolition of existing structures and o of a 48-place childrane facility with Issuement fesel parking to operate Zanctu fam. Monday to Foday

Contact: Elma Sukuma, 8757 9570

#### Re-Notification

The authorizon period for the following application is from 11 June 2019 to 25 June 2019.

File: DA-290/2017/A

Site: 301 Wascell Street, South Granville: Lots 40/41 Sec 1

Proposed: Ne notification - Section 4.56 application to modify as approved chicksare facility to provide additional al purpose rooms and a nothop outdoor play area

Contact: Harley Processon, 8757 9954

Continuand Council metacquality comment on these Development Proposals before making a decision. Plans for the proposals may be impected at Council's Administration (Suilding, Menylands Office Gustomer Services Counter, 16 Memorial Assesse, Memylands and Aubum Office

#### 3.1.4 Notification of local residents and businesses

Council letterhead and flyer notifications for the public exhibition period and public hearing date were distributed to nearby businesses and residences within a 200 metre radius of the study area.

#### 3.1.5 Notification of Holroyd Sports Ground users

Corflute signage was displayed at Holroyd Sports Ground.

#### 3.1.5 Notification of stakeholders

Council emailed interested stakeholders including the Holroyd Sports Ground Local Park Committee and the Recreation and Sport Advisory Panel about the public exhibition, Have Your Say page, and the public hearing.

#### 3.2 Availability of the draft Plan of Management

The draft Plan of Management for Holroyd Sports Ground showing the proposed recategorisation could be viewed online on Council's website at haveyoursay.cumberland.nsw.gov.au.

Hard copies of the draft Plan of Management were also made available at Council's Merrylands Customer Service Centre.

#### 3.3 Attendance at the public hearing

As required under Section 47G of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council appointed an independent chairperson, Sandy Hoy, Director of Parkland Planners, to chair the public hearing.

Linda Wright, Recreation Planner at Cumberland Council, attended the public hearing to represent Cumberland Council, provide information, and answer questions during the public hearing. Julie Marler from Phillips Marler attended the public hearing to answer any questions about the Landscape Masterplan.

No members of the community attended the public hearing.

#### 3.4 The public hearing

The public hearing was open from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on Tuesday 18 June for questions and comments about the proposed recategorisation and the Draft Plan of Management. However no members of the community attended the public hearing.

#### 3.5 Submissions

No verbal or written submissions were made at the public hearing.

The closing date for written submissions online, by mail or email on the proposed categorisation and the Draft Plan of Management was advertised as Wednesday 26 June 2019. Written submissions could be made by:

Online: haveyoursay.cumberland.nsw.gov.au

	Email: council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
	Post:
	The General Manager Cumberland Council PO Box 42 Merrylands NSW 2160
Wr	itten submissions were received from:
	Holroyd Sports Ground Local Park Committee.
	One community member responding to the public exhibition of the Draft Holroyd Sports Ground Plan of Management wants pedestrian entry to Holroyd Sports Ground from the east, retention of habitat along A'Becketts Creek, planting to screen the channel walls, walking and fitness opportunities, and an enclosed area for exercising dogs separated from the active recreation area.
	One community member responding to the public exhibition of the Draft Holroyd Gardens Plan of Management, who suggested using Holroyd Sports Ground as overflow event parking for Holroyd Gardens users.

These submissions will be considered and addressed in finalising the Plan of Management and Landscape Masterplan for Holroyd Sports Ground.

No written submissions which mentioned the proposed recategorisation of community land in Holroyd Sports Ground were received.

# 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 4.1 Recommendations

No submissions about the proposed recategorisation of community land at Holroyd Sports Ground were made at either the public hearing or during the public exhibition of the Draft Plan of Management. As such, there is no compelling reason to change the proposed recategorisation of Holroyd Sports Ground as Sportsground, Natural Area – Watercourse, and General Community Use which was proposed in the Draft Holroyd Sports Ground Plan of Management.

My recommendations to Cumberland Council regarding the proposed recategorisation of community land in Holroyd Sports Ground are that Council:

- note that no verbal and written submissions were made by the community.
- □ recategorise the community land in Holroyd Sports Ground as Sportsground, Natural Area Watercourse, and General Community Use as shown in Figure 7 of the publicly exhibited Draft Holroyd Sports Ground Plan of Management, and as shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7 Categorisation of Holroyd Sports Ground



Source: Holroyd Sports Ground Draft Plan of Management

#### 4.2 Adoption of proposed categorisation

Council must agree to the proposed recategorisation of community land as set out in the Draft Holroyd Sports Ground Plan of Management before resolving to adopt the proposed amendments to the Plan of Management.

Section 114 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* states that if Council receives any submission objecting to a categorisation of land in the Plan of Management, and the Council adopts the Plan of Management without amending the categorisation that gave rise to the objection, the resolution by which Council adopts the Plan of Management must state the Council's reasons for categorising the relevant land in the manner that gave rise to the objection.

If Council intends to adopt the proposed recategorisation of Sportsground, Natural Area – Watercourse, and General Community Use as was set out in the Draft Plan of Management, it must state the reasons why it did not make changes to the categorisation in response to the objections received in its resolution to adopt the Plan of Management. However, there were no submissions which objected to the proposal to recategorise the community land in Holroyd Sports Ground as Sportsground, Natural Area – Watercourse, and General Community Use.

If Council decides to alter the proposed categorisation of community land from that in the Draft Plan of Management and that considered at the public hearing, Council must hold a further public hearing in respect of the proposed Plan of Management (Section 40A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*).

#### 4.3 Reporting

Within four days of receiving this final report, Council is required under Section 47G(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* to make a copy of this report available for inspection by the public at a location within the area of the Council. It is recommended that Council:

- □ keep a copy of the public hearing report for inspection at Council's Merrylands and Auburn Customer Service Centres and libraries.
- post an electronic copy of the public hearing report on Council's website.

Sandy Hoy Director

Parkland Planners

Nandra Hoy

17 July 2019