



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



FARINGDON FIELDS

AREA OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

LOT 76 DP 832082 - MARSHALL WAY, NAMBUCCA HEADS

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PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES OF THIS PLAN

This Plan of Management has been prepared to:

- Meet Council's obligations under section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993
- Recognise and protect the cultural significance of the site.
- Maintain community assets

BACKGROUND

The Farrington Fields (Lot 76 DP 832082 - Marshall Way, Nambucca Heads) has an area of 5.9 hectares and was originally constructed with a long term development plan as three playing fields with a cycleway, playground and an amenities block. The amenities block and playing fields are the only components of the original development plan which were completed when the land was dedicated in 1995.

There is a sacred initiation site which adjoins the fields which is possibly the most culturally significant Aboriginal site in the Nambucca Valley. This site is known as the Bellwood Sacred Site. The Gumbaynggirr culture disapproves of women or children visiting or discussing the Bellwood Sacred Site or the adjoining land which includes the Farrington Fields. For this reason the playing fields have not been able to be used by schools or junior sports teams.

On 8 April 2019 the Council was notified of a determination made by Melissa Price, Minister for the Environment, "to protect and preserve a significant Aboriginal area that is under threat of injury or desecration". According to the explanatory statement the declared area is currently under threat by, among other things, proposed residential development, forestry activities and public access.

The declared area includes the Farrington Fields. Under the terms of the declaration a person must not do any act in, on or near the declared area that will, or is likely to, injure or desecrate the declared area. Without limiting this general provision a person must not:

- (a) pass through or over, or enter, the declared area; or
- (b) bulldoze, grade, drill, dig, excavate, cut, fill, blast, clear, demolish, tunnel, burn, remove, or otherwise damage land in the declared area; or
- (c) build or construct any road, building or structure in, or intruding into, the declared area; or
- (d) kill, cut down, poison, deface, burn, remove or otherwise damage any tree in the declared area; or
- (e) cause any projectile or aerial device to enter into the declared area.

The restrictions imposed by the declaration do not apply to acts done by an authorised person. An authorised person includes a person who has received permission to do the act from:

- (i) an elder of the Gumbaynggirr Nation; or
- (ii) the Nambucca Heads Local Aboriginal Land Council

In 2023 Gumbaynggirr Nation elders granted permission to Council representatives to be authorised persons under section 6(5)(b)(i) of the declaration to undertake the following activities as permitted by section 6(4) of the declaration:

- Slash the grass
- Collect rubbish and abandoned items.
- Defect maintenance and/or demolition of the existing amenities building.
- Maintenance to stormwater infrastructure.

- Tree pruning and removal where the tree(s) present a safety risk to the movement of traffic on the adjoining public road.
- Erect and maintain information signage for the public associated with the Commonwealth declaration placed on the land.
- Revegetate existing grassed areas of the Farrington Fields with koala use tree species to promote koala habitat and screen view of the Diamond Tree site.

In addition to the above, Gumbaynggirr Nation elders also granted permission to the owners of the adjoining Lot 26 DP 1273809 - Janggal Janggal Road, Nambucca Heads (outlined blue on the below map) to also be authorised persons under the declaration to undertake the following on the Farrington Fields:

- Maintain a 31m wide Asset Protection Zone (APZ) to protect existing and future lots from bushfire impact in accordance with development consent DA2015/099.
- Implement stormwater management devices in accordance with development consent DA2015/099.



In September 2023 Council received notification from the NSW Department of Planning & Environment – Heritage NSW that it is intended to declare the adjoining Bellwood Sacred Site in Nambucca Heads an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. This would include the Farrington Fields. At the time of drafting this plan of management, the place declaration had not yet been made.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The subject land is the Farrington Fields which are legally known as Lot 76 DP 832082 - Marshall Way, Nambucca Heads and can be seen outlined blue on the below maps.



The land is bound by the state forest to the west, Marshall Way to the east, the Bellwood Sacred Site to the north and residential development to the south. The land was established as playing

fields in 1995; however, are unable to be used as sporting fields or as community open space due to the above mentioned Federal declaration which restricts public access to the land in order to protect and preserve the significant Aboriginal area.

Below is a photo of the land looking west from Marshall Way. The amenities building seen in the left of the picture is the only building erected on the land. The building is closed and not in use due to the access restrictions applicable to the land.



CATEGORY OF LAND

The Faringdon Fields are classified as community land in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

Due to the Aboriginal cultural significance of the Faringdon Fields, the community land is categorised as 'an area of cultural significance'.

PERMITTED USES

Due to the Aboriginal cultural significance of the site and the Federal declaration which prohibits public access to the Faringdon Fields, there are no permitted uses of the land or amenities building.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

No development of the land is permitted with the exception of management actions approved by Gumbayngirr Nation elders which includes:

- Slashing the grass.
- Collect rubbish and abandoned items.
- Defect maintenance and/or demolition of the existing amenities building.
- Maintenance to stormwater infrastructure.
- Tree pruning and removal where the tree(s) present a safety risk to the movement of traffic on the adjoining public road.
- Erect and maintain information signage for the public associated with the Federal declaration placed on the land.

- Revegetate existing grassed areas of the Farringdon Fields with koala use tree species to promote koala habitat and screen view of the Bellwood Sacred Site.
- Maintain a 31m wide Asset Protection Zone (APZ) to protect existing and future lots from bushfire impact in accordance with development consent DA2015/099.
- Implement stormwater management devices in accordance with development consent DA2015/099.

MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT ISSUES	OBJECTIVE/PERFORMANCE TARGETS	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE
Maintenance	To allow the maintenance of the site without causing damage to infrastructure or impacting the cultural significance of the site.	Undertake maintenance activities on an as needs basis.	Routine inspections.
Community Awareness	To ensure the community is aware of the cultural significance of the site and associated public access restrictions.	Erect signage to advise the public.	Signage is erected and maintained.
Protection of Aboriginal Cultural Significance	Revegetate existing grassed areas of the Farringdon Fields to screen view of the Bellwood Sacred Site and promote koala habitat.	Obtain funding and undertake revegetation works.	Maintain plantings until mature.
Open Space	Provide an area on the site for public open space if approval is obtained.	Seek approval from the local Aboriginal Community and relevant Government agencies.	An area of open space implemented and maintained.
Asset Protection Zone (APZ)	To provide a 31m wide APZ to assist protect adjoining residential properties to the south from bushfire.	Owners of adjoining properties creating and maintaining the APZ.	Routine inspections.
Stormwater Drainage	To permit the installation and maintenance of storm water infrastructure to treat upslope water before discharge into natural waterways.	Storm water infrastructure installed within managed APZ area by owners of adjoining land to south.	Storm water infrastructure maintained by Council.