



SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT TERALBA RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

This draft Plan of Management has been developed for Teralba Reserve, a 6100m² parcel of community land at 66 Pitt St, Teralba (Lot 200 DP 1254623). Within the reserve is the Teralba Cemetery and a pocket park with a playground. The land is owned and managed by Lake Macquarie City Council and is located next to residential houses.



DRAFT TERALBA RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Summary

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires all community land to be included in a Plan of Management (PoM). The PoM identifies the values and appropriate uses of the land, and identifies the objectives and actions to ensure the values are protected and the reserve is managed for existing and future use.

Teralba Reserve has a range of values including heritage, recreation, biodiversity conservation and public infrastructure provision.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Teralba Cemetery was established on freehold land and was never gazetted as an official cemetery. It operated as a general cemetery for the township that was originally established from construction camps for the development of the Newcastle to Sydney railway.

Figures taken from *Big Tree: A Tribute to the Pioneers Interred at Teralba & District Cemeteries NSW* suggest 241 potential burials with at least 144 children. It is believed the cemetery operated from the c1880s to c1920/1930s although there is anecdotal evidence that burials may have taken place up to 1960/1970s.

Teralba Cemetery is a locally significant heritage place that embodies historic, aesthetic, social and representative heritage values. The cemetery is socially significant as a genealogical resource and as a commemorative place for the descendants of those buried there and the local community in general. The attractive bushland setting and its juxtaposition with the remaining grave structures contribute towards the sites aesthetic values. The design, layout and remaining monumental masonry are typical of the late 19th century and early 20th century and as such, the cemetery is representative of this period.

The pocket park and playground were established more recently as part of the recreational requirements of the Billy's Lookout residential development. This park is predominantly a playground area, with some supporting infrastructure, pathways, fencing and perimeter landscaping.



ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The PoM considers the issues of the site and proposes management responses to facilitate the long-term management of the reserve.

Issues include the poor physical condition of the grave remains and built fabric due to vandalism, neglect and environmental decay over many years; limited resources for improvement, management and maintenance works; the presence and protection of cultural heritage sites and the potential for buried relics; the bushland nature of the Cemetery Park; and integration with adjoining residential development.

Constraints are mainly related to the cemetery activities due to heritage requirements for conservation and

management of graves and their surrounds, landscape features and the bushland setting. The physical condition of the fabric associated with the graves appears to be poor having subject to damage through vandalism, environmental factors and neglect.

Opportunities for heritage interpretation are identified including the recent commemorative signage and improved security, including the recent boundary fencing. As there is strong local community interest in the site, an opportunity exists for community support and engagement in the future management of the cemetery. The playground provides a recreation opportunity for the local residents.

CATEGORISATION AND OBJECTIVES

The Local Government Act 1993 requires all community land to be categorised. Teralba Reserve has two categories of land as illustrated in the adjacent map. They are:

- Area of cultural significance – applied over the cemetery
- Park – applied over the pocket park and playground.

The core objectives of these categorisations are:

Area of cultural significance:

- retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods.

Park:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following tables show the actions identified in the PoM to achieve the management objectives for the two categories of land in Teralba Reserve. Each action has a defined means of achievement, responsibility, assessment and priority to ensure the identified values are protected and that the reserve is managed for existing and future use.

TABLE 2 Management Unit - Teralba Cemetery Action Plan

ACTION	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT	PRIORITY
Explore opportunity for community involvement in the day to day management of the cemetery and historical research	Through Council's Community Partnerships and Arts, Culture and Tourism departments.	LMCC	Compliance with Historic Heritage Assessment as detailed in Conservation Strategy	High
Manage the cemetery in accordance with the Teralba Cemetery Conservation Strategy and its actions	Through Council's Asset Management Department	LMCC	Compliance with Conservation Strategy	Ongoing
Undertake community consultation for heritage interpretation and ongoing management of the site	Through Council's Arts Culture and Tourism and Asset Management Departments	LMCC	Compliance with Historic Heritage Assessment	Medium- High
Commence appropriate management regime upon completion of cataloguing and collection of displaced fabric	Through Council's Asset Management Department	LMCC	Regular inspection and apply PoM requirements by a qualified conservator	Medium
Instigate change of land use zone to better reflect the cultural significance of the cemetery.	Council's intergrated Planning Department to undertake a rezoning of the cemetery from R2 Low Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure or RE1 Public Recreation.	LMCC	Correct land zoning applied	Medium

TABLE 3 Management Unit - Teralba Reserve Children's Playground Action Plan

ACTION	MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	MANNER OF ASSESSMENT	PRIORITY
Park area recognised as a local park	Manage and maintain the park area as a local park	LMCC	Regular inspection and maintenance	Ongoing
Support public use	Provide access Provide and maintain local level playground and ancillary infrastructure	LMCC	Monitor levels of use and reserve condition	Ongoing
Maintain vegetation	Maintain vegetation as planned	LMCC	Regular inspection and maintenance	Ongoing
Instigate change of land use zone to better reflect the recreational uses	Council's Intergrated Planning Department to undertake a rezoning of the park area from R2 Low Density Residential to RE1 Public Recreation.	LMCC	Correct land zoning applied	Medium