



Report to General Manager

Attachments:

1. Small water craft discussion paper
-

SUBJECT: Public Exhibition of the Small Water Craft Storage Strategy Discussion Paper

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The presence of only limited formal storage facilities coupled with the absence of a formal strategy for water craft storage has contributed to the current situation in North Sydney where informal and ad-hoc storage of large numbers of small water craft on the harbour foreshores is reducing visual amenity, causing environmental damage, alienating public open space and restricting public access to, and enjoyment of, some public foreshore areas.

A Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (SWCSS) is needed to ensure that in the future, water craft stored on public land on the harbour foreshore are managed effectively and equitably, for the benefit of water craft owners, and for the convenience and enjoyment of the wider community who wish to access and use North Sydney's foreshore parks for recreation.

The first step in this process is preparation of a Discussion Paper to provoke thought around the various issues associated with the storage of small water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney. Public exhibition of the Discussion Paper will provide the many interested community members and other stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute ideas, and offer thoughts and suggestions about the future of small water craft storage in North Sydney.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

Local Government Act 1993: Section 23A Guidelines - Council Decision Making During Merger Proposal Period

The Guidelines have been considered in the preparation of this report and are not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council endorses public exhibition of the Small Water Craft Storage Strategy Discussion Paper.

LINK TO DELIVERY PROGRAM

The relationship with the Delivery Program is as follows:

Direction: 1. Our Living Environment

Outcome: 1.5 Public open space, recreation facilities and services that meet community needs

BACKGROUND

Council's Recreation Needs Study (RNS) 2015 identified that there was a high level of community demand for water-based recreation activities. It found there was a need to create opportunities for increased participation in water based recreation, including providing additional opportunities to store light vessels (boards, dinghies and kayaks) where possible.

Council currently has 8 formal storage facilities for small water craft. These are:

- Willoughby St Boatshed
- Shellbank Reserve Dinghy Racks
- Folly Point Dinghy Racks
- Tunks Park Dinghy Racks
- Lavender Bay Boatshed (Archway no. 4)
- Gore Cove Dinghy Racks
- Hayes Street Beach
- Kurraba Reserve Dinghy Racks

With the exception of the dinghy racks in Kurraba Reserve, all these facilities are at capacity, and all have waiting lists. Most people are happy to be wait-listed, as there is no fee involved. The vast majority of people on the waiting lists are seeking storage for kayaks.

In addition, the North Sydney foreshores are dotted with numerous dinghies, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUP's). This informal storage has been generally condoned as contributing to the character of the North Sydney harbour foreshores, providing visual interest and diversity. However, in recent years the number of water craft stored informally around the harbour foreshore has increased dramatically. This increase is due to a combination of factors including the relative affordability of kayaks and paddle boards in recent years, the increasing popularity of these activities, and the lack of formal storage facilities that are free of charge (or indeed are available at all).

Publicly-owned open space around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour is not only in limited supply, but it is in high demand for a wide variety of recreational pastimes. While Council is committed to providing opportunities for water-based recreation around the harbour foreshore, including space and facilities where small water craft may be stored, Council's primary obligation is to ensure the general public is able to access and use publicly-owned foreshore open space for general recreation purposes.

The SWCSS Discussion Paper format has been developed to engage the community and other stakeholders in a discussion of issues relating to the future management of small water craft on

the North Sydney foreshores. It is anticipated that feedback on the Discussion Paper will ensure that the final SWCSS is a reflection not only of Council's obligations regarding the management of public open space, but of the community's wants and needs.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The following table provides a summary of the key sustainability implications:

QBL Pillar	Implications
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The principles of ESD guide Council's management of all parks and reserves, allowing users to enjoy North Sydney's open spaces and recreation facilities. Public open space on North Sydney's foreshore has a combination of recreational, visual and environmental significance.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Council's network of foreshore parks and reserves are essential recreation resources for the whole community. They provide access to the harbour for water-based recreational activities, as well as providing attractive and scenic open space areas for general community recreation.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The development, management and maintenance of public open space on the North Sydney foreshores requires significant, continued financial resourcing.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plans of Management are important documents providing clear guidelines for the effective short and long term management of all land owned by North Sydney Council or under Council's care and control.

DETAIL

1. Development of a Small Water Craft Storage Strategy Discussion Paper

The SWCSS Discussion Paper sets out Council's aims, objectives and a series of principles that will guide the future of privately-owned water craft stored on publicly-owned land around the North Sydney foreshores. It aims to provide residents, ratepayers, stakeholders and the wider community with an understanding of these objectives and principles, and to provoke thought and generate discussion about current issues with small water craft storage in North Sydney. Feedback received will assist in the development and implementation of a final SWCSS for North Sydney.

Staff from a number of Council Departments are currently involved in the management of the various issues associated with the storage of small water craft on public land. Consequently, the Discussion Paper has been prepared with input from more than 10 Council staff members

from several Departments, including the Parks Department, Environmental Services, Strategic Planning, Ranger & Parking Services and Property Assets.

2. Aim

Council's aim in preparing a SWCSS is to manage the storage of water craft on public land on the harbour foreshore in an effective and equitable manner, for the benefit of water craft owners and for the convenience and enjoyment of the wider community who wish to access and use North Sydney's foreshore parks and other public open spaces for general recreation.

3. Objectives

The Strategy's objectives with regard to the storage of small water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney are as follows:

- To allow owners of authorised water craft to apply for a Permit to store their vessel on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney
- To identify designated areas suitable for the storage of small water craft in North Sydney
- To ensure that all authorised water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney are stored appropriately
- To facilitate the removal of unauthorised, derelict or abandoned water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney
- To provide additional Formal Storage Facilities for authorised water craft around the North Sydney foreshore
- To publicise and promote Council's aims and objectives re water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land, and to engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure high levels of awareness and involvement in the Discussion Paper, leading to high levels of understanding and compliance with the final SWCSS

4. Public Notification and Engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement with the Discussion Paper is critical if the final SWCSS is to be a success. Consequently, a thorough notification and engagement program has been developed to ensure as many people as possible are made aware of the existence of the Discussion Paper and are provided with the opportunity to have a say.

In addition to general comments, we are particularly seeking community and stakeholder input into the development of procedures for:

- registering all water craft stored on public foreshore land in North Sydney (including informally stored water craft)
- relocating or removing unauthorised water craft from public foreshore land in North Sydney, and
- identifying and prioritising sites capable of accommodating additional storage facilities

Relevant general information is provided in the Discussion Paper around these issues, however we are genuinely seeking input from knowledgeable community members and stakeholders involved in water-based recreational activities into the best ways of developing these procedures and into the identification of additional issues that require consideration.

Table 1 - Notification and Engagement Plan

Activity	Details
Project information and the SWCSS Discussion Paper uploaded to North Sydney Council website	<p>The SWCSS Discussion Paper will be listed in the ‘Have Your Say’ area on Council’s home page.</p> <p>There will be a link to a Project web page which will provide historical and background information about the project, as well as information about the project process and about ways be involved and have a say. The deadline for receiving submissions will also be provided.</p> <p>There will also be a link to the Discussion Paper itself.</p>
Include information about the project in Council’s Corporate Ad in the Mosman Daily.	<p>Information will include a brief description of project, set out key aims and objectives and lists ways for the community and other stakeholders to have a say.</p> <p>The information will direct people to the project page on Council’s website for further information and a link to the Discussion Paper.</p> <p>Information will be included in Council’s Corporate Ad 3 times over the course of the public exhibition period.</p>
Article in the NSC Councillor Bulletin	<p>Providing comprehensive information about the project to Councillors will assist with information dissemination in the community.</p> <p>Information will include a brief history of how the project came about, a description of the project, the key aims and objectives, and a list of ways for the community and other stakeholders to have a say.</p>
Provide information to Communications & Events Department for Council’s twitter feed	<p>Information will go out at the commencement of the project.</p> <p>A reminder that ‘submissions are closing soon’ will be issued when there is a week remaining.</p>
Provide information to Communications & Events Department for Council’s Facebook page	<p>Information will go out at the commencement of the project.</p> <p>A reminder that ‘submissions are closing soon’ will be issued when there is a week remaining.</p>
Provide information to all Precincts	<p>Information will include a brief description of project, set out key aims and objectives and lists ways for the community and other stakeholders to have a say.</p> <p>The information will direct people to Council’s website for further information and a link to the Discussion Paper.</p>
Provide information to all members of Council’s Sport & Recreation Reference Group	As above
Provide information to Communications & Events Department for inclusion in Council’s E-newsletter	As above
Provide information to all Council staff	As above

<p>Display posters on all 65 Community Noticeboards in North Sydney</p>	<p>65 A4-sized posters will encourage people to ‘Have their Say’ about issues associated with the storage of privately-owned water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney. They will direct people to Council’s website for further information and a link to the Discussion Paper, and provide information about how to make a submission. Date for submissions to be received will also be included.</p>
<p>Display posters (same as those for the Community Noticeboards) at all formal water craft storage sites in the North Sydney area</p>	<p>Posters (as above) will be displayed in the following 8 locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willoughby St Boatshed -62 Willoughby St, Kirribilli - Shellbank Reserve Dinghy Racks-Shellbank Parade, Cremorne - Folly Point Dinghy Racks -Folly Point, Cammeray - Tunks Park Dinghy Racks, Cammeray - Lavender Bay Boatshed, Archway no. 4, Lavender Crescent, Lavender Bay - Kurraba Reserve Dinghy Racks, End of Kurraba Rd, Neutral Bay - Gore Cove Dinghy Tie-up Racks, Off Shirley Rd, Wollstonecraft - Hayes Street Beach, Hayes St, Neutral Bay
<p>Display posters (same as those for the Community Noticeboards) at major informal water craft storage sites in the North Sydney area</p>	<p>Posters will be displayed in the following 8 locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Street Open Space, below John St, Waverton - King Street Road Reserve, below King St, Waverton - Sugarworks Reserve, below Horace St, Waverton - Sawmillers Reserve, north end, below Munro St, McMahons Point - Dowling St Reserve, off West Crescent St, McMahons Point - Cremorne Reserve, below 102 Milson Road, Cremorne Point - Cremorne Reserve, below 136 Milson Road, Cremorne Point - Primrose Park (in bush over bridge at north west corner of sportsfield)
<p>Provide information directly to known stakeholders</p>	<p>Known stakeholders to be contacted directly include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People who have previously contacted Council regarding the issue of water craft storage on public foreshore land - Relevant groups and organisations identified via Council’s Community Directory and Council’s Recreation Needs Study 2015 - People who are known to be currently storing small water craft in Council’s formal storage facilities (and for whom Council has appropriate contact details) <p>Information will include a brief description of project, set out key aims and objectives and lists ways for the community and other stakeholders to have a say. The information will direct people to the project page on Council’s website for further information and a link to the Discussion Paper.</p>
<p>Attend Precinct Briefings on request</p>	<p>Information about the project objectives and process and how to make a submission</p>

The SWCSS Discussion Paper will be on public exhibition in the 'Have Your Say' area on Council's website for a minimum period of 6 weeks, and submissions will be welcomed from interested individuals and groups.

Ways to Have a Say

- **Email:** council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
- **Write:** General Manager
North Sydney Council
PO Box 12, North Sydney NSW 2059
- **Fax:** 9936 8177

Once the public exhibition and submission period has closed, a report will be prepared, detailing the content of all submissions received. Depending upon the content of the submissions, it may be appropriate to undertake further consultation prior to finalising the SWCSS. This further consultation could take the form of a public workshop, meetings with stakeholder groups or discussions with (willing) individual submitters. Recommendations as to the best future course of action will be provided in the report to Council.

Note that there will be further opportunities for the community and stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the SSWCS as the individual actions set out in the final Strategy are addressed in coming years.

5. Conclusion

Publicly-owned open space around the North Sydney foreshores is not only in limited supply, but it is in high demand for a wide variety of recreational pastimes. The dramatic increase in informally stored water craft and the high level of demand for formal storage facilities for small water craft has resulted in a situation when better management of public foreshore land, in the form of a Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (SWCSS), is now urgently required.

The first step in the preparation of a SWCSS is public exhibition of a Discussion Paper to provoke thought around the various issues associated with the storage of small water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney. Public exhibition of the Discussion Paper will provide the many interested community members and other stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute ideas, and offer thoughts and suggestions about the future of small water craft storage in North Sydney.

Feedback received regarding the Discussion Paper will assist in the development of a final SWCSS which will enable effective and equitable storage of water craft on public land on the harbour foreshore for the benefit of water craft owners and for the convenience and enjoyment of the wider community who wish to access and use North Sydney's foreshore parks and other public open spaces for general recreation.



Small Water Craft Storage Strategy

Discussion Paper



April 2017
North Sydney Council

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1.0 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Introduction

Publicly-owned open space around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour is not only in limited supply, but it is in high demand for a wide variety of recreational pastimes.

While the public has a right to access and use publicly-owned foreshore open space, there is no requirement for Councils (as the owners and/or managers of the land) to provide storage facilities for privately-owned water craft on public open space. It is essential that people wishing to store water craft on public land for personal benefit recognise that being permitted to do so is a privilege.

Water craft are stored on publicly-owned foreshore land for various reasons, including:

- To access swing moorings
- To avoid the need to transport water craft to and from home
- To avoid the high costs associated with commercial water craft storage facilities
- To gain easy access to the harbour

Council is committed to providing opportunities for water-based recreation around the harbour foreshore (including easy access to the harbour for owners of small water craft), and will therefore continue to permit storage of small water craft in formally constructed facilities, while also permitting informal storage to occur in designated areas. Storage of small water craft around the harbour foreshore is considered appropriate as long as it does not compromise the primary use of the foreshore as an area for public recreation, does not significantly restrict public access to the foreshore and does not have undue impact on the environment.

Council recognises that the absence thus far of a formal water craft storage strategy and the presence of only limited formal storage facilities for small water craft are both factors that have contributed to the current situation where informal and ad-hoc storage of large numbers of small water craft on the harbour foreshores is reducing visual amenity, causing environmental damage, alienating public open space and restricting public access to, and enjoyment of, some public foreshore areas.

1.2 Purpose of the Discussion Paper

This Discussion Paper sets out Council's aims, objectives and a series of principles that will guide the future of water craft storage on publicly-owned land around the North Sydney foreshores. It aims to provide residents, ratepayers, stakeholders and the wider community with an understanding of these, and to provoke thought and generate discussion about current issues with small water craft storage in North Sydney. Feedback received will assist in the development and implementation of a final Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (SWCSS) for North Sydney.

In particular, we are seeking community and stakeholder input into the development of procedures for:

- registering all water craft stored on public foreshore land in North Sydney,
- relocating and/or removing water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney (this may be required for a variety of reasons), and

- identifying and prioritising sites capable of accommodating additional Formal Storage Facilities

Note: All ideas and suggestions submitted in response to this Discussion Paper should be consistent with Council's goals, objectives and guiding principles for the storage of small water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney, as set out in the Discussion Paper.

Following the receipt of submissions, a report to Council will document all submissions received and the changes it is proposed to make to the SWCSS as a result of the submissions. A final SWCSS (incorporating the content of submissions received from the community and stakeholders where appropriate) will then be prepared. We anticipate the final document will be completed in mid-late 2017.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Existing Situation in North Sydney

The North Sydney foreshore is dotted with numerous small water craft. These are predominantly dinghies, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUP's). A lack of formal storage facilities and a lack of regulation of informal storage sites has led to the current situation where informal, ad-hoc and sometimes excessive storage of water craft on publicly-owned foreshore is reducing visual amenity, causing environmental damage and alienating public open space by restricting public access to, and enjoyment of, some public foreshore areas.

The information contained in this document relates only to Council-owned or managed storage facilities and areas which are accessible to the general public. It does not include information relating to private storage facilities such as clubs and marinas in the North Sydney LGA.

2.1.1 Formal Storage Facilities

At present there are 8 formal storage facilities for small water craft in the North Sydney LGA. With the exception of the dinghy racks in Kurraba Reserve which are currently unregulated (no permits issued, no fees charged), hire of storage spaces in Formal Storage Facilities is on a 'first come first served' basis, through registration with North Sydney Council, and upon payment of an annual fee.

Demand is currently much greater than supply, and all the Council-managed facilities listed below are at capacity. Council has a registered waiting list for water craft owners seeking storage spaces and owners are contacted, in order of application, when a space becomes available. Currently the most sought-after facilities (ie those with 15 or more names on the waiting lists) are Willoughby Street Boatshed, Lavender Bay Boatshed, Folly Point Dinghy Racks, Hayes Street Beach and Tunks Park Dinghy Racks. People contacting Council are advised of the approximate number of people ahead of them on the waiting list for each facility. Most are happy to be wait-listed, as there is no fee involved. The vast majority of people on the waiting lists are seeking storage for kayaks.

Table 1 – Existing Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney

	Name/Location	Type of storage	Capacity/Space	Annual Storage Fee*/ Comments
1	Willoughby St Boatshed 62 Willoughby St, Kirribilli	Boatshed	11 kayaks up to 5.2m long 10 dinghies up to 3.0m long	\$1000 p/a \$70 key bond (refundable upon return of key)
2	Shellbank Reserve Dinghy Racks Shellbank Parade, Cremorne	Dinghy Racks	7 dinghies up to 3.3m long	\$200p/a

3	Folly Point Dinghy Racks Folly Point, Cammeray	Dinghy Racks	39 dinghies up to 3.0m long No kayaks	\$300 p/a
4	Tunks Park Dinghy Racks Cammeray	Dinghy Racks	20 dinghies up to 2.5m long No kayaks	\$200 p/a
5	Lavender Bay Boatshed Archway no. 4, Lavender Crescent, Lavender Bay	Boatshed	23 dinghies up to 3.3m long 4 kayaks	\$600 p/a \$70 key bond (refundable upon return of key)
6	Kurraba Reserve Dinghy Racks End of Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay	Dinghy Racks	Dinghies and kayaks up to 4.0m long 15 bays store 30 kayaks (2 per bay)	Currently no fee/ no permits issued
7	Gore Cove Dinghy Tie-up Racks Off Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft	Tie-up Racks	22 dinghies	Currently no fee/ permits issued
8	Hayes Street Beach	Under boardwalk tie up	Approx. 55 vessels (mainly kayaks, dinghies & SUP's)	Currently no fee/ permits issued

Note: Fees are for the 2016/2017 financial year as per Council's Fees and Charges. Fees are reviewed annually through Council's Delivery Program and Budget process.



Existing NSC Dinghy Racks at Folly Point, Cammeray



Dinghy Tie-up Racks, Gore Cove, Wollstonecraft

2.1.2 Informal Storage Areas

Historically, dinghies and other small water craft have been stored informally at numerous locations around the North Sydney foreshore. This has been generally condoned as the presence of dinghies and kayaks was felt to contribute to the character of the North Sydney foreshore, providing visual interest and diversity.

However, in recent years the number of water craft informally stored around the foreshore has increased dramatically. This increase is due to a combination of factors including the relative affordability of kayaks and SUP's in recent years, the increasing popularity of these activities, and the lack of formal storage facilities that are free of charge (or indeed are available at all).

This increase has resulted in a series of negative impacts. In certain areas the storage of too many water craft is not only creating visual clutter, but is causing damage to the fragile foreshore environment, is making access to publicly-owned foreshore land difficult, and is impeding public use of the foreshore for general recreation.



Informal Storage Facilities at John Street, Waverton

2.1.3 Other Public Facilities

There are 3 public boat ramps in the North Sydney LGA. There is a large facility with associated parking for cars and trailers at Tunks Park, Cammeray, and there are 2 small facilities: 1 at the end of Lavender Crescent, in Lavender Bay, and another in Milson Park, Kirribilli.

2.2 **Definitions**

Table 2 – Relevant Definitions

Authorised Water Craft	A single-hulled water craft up to 4.0m in length*. (Typically a dinghy, kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard).
Unauthorised Water Craft	Any vessel that is not an 'authorised' water craft. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Double or triple hulled water craft ○ Water craft over 4.0m in length* ○ Water craft used for commercial operations** ○ Water craft owned by people in residences adjacent to the foreshore***

Formal Storage Facilities	Facilities specifically constructed to store small water craft in an orderly manner. They include boatsheds, 'toaster' style racks, vertical stacked racks, horizontal racks and tie up points.
Informal Storage Areas	Designated areas that can accommodate water craft stored informally. All storage must take place in an orderly manner; consideration must be given to the environment and to the safety of all foreshore users, and the amount of foreshore land occupied must be minimised, as far as possible.
No-Go Zones	Areas of publicly-owned land on the North Sydney foreshores where no water craft may be stored due to a variety of factors including environmental sensitivity, lack of easy access and topography.
Derelict Water Craft	A water craft located on public land which shows evidence of being unseaworthy.
Abandoned Water Craft	A water craft located on public land which shows evidence of being unused for a considerable length of time.

- * Larger vessels are not permitted to be stored on public open space as they alienate a comparatively large area from public use, are harder to store safely in vertical racks and have a greater visual impact. (However, Willoughby Street Boatshed provides storage for kayaks up to 5.2m long)
- ** Commercial operators are not permitted to store water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land, regardless of size
- *** Water craft owned by absolute waterfront property owners are to be stored within the freehold property, not on any adjoining public land. Note that in situations where private waterfront land 'appears' to be public land, owners may apply for a free permit, to ensure their vessels are not inadvertently removed

2.3 Strategy Aim

Council's aim in preparing this Strategy is to manage the storage of water craft on public land on the harbour foreshore in an effective and equitable manner, for the benefit of water craft owners and for the convenience and enjoyment of the wider community who wish to access and use North Sydney's foreshore parks and other public open spaces for general recreation.

2.4 Strategy Objectives

The objectives of this Strategy are:

- a) To allow owners of authorised water craft to apply for a Permit to store their vessel on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.
*Refer **Table 2** for a definition of 'authorised' water craft. All other vessels are considered 'unauthorised' and may not be stored on publicly-owned foreshore land.*

- b) To identify designated areas suitable for the storage of small water craft in North Sydney.
The series of Maps (A – H) show the current location of Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas and the proposed future location of No-Go Zones.
- c) To ensure that all authorised small water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney are stored appropriately.
- d) To facilitate the removal of unauthorised, derelict or abandoned water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.
Removing unauthorised, derelict and abandoned water craft reduces overcrowding, frees up space for authorised water craft and minimises visual clutter on the foreshore.
- e) To provide additional purpose-built Formal Storage Facilities in selected locations around the North Sydney foreshore.
Providing more facilities for water craft storage, will reduce pressure on existing informal storage areas. Formal storage (in toaster-style racks or 'stacked' racks) takes up less open space than water craft stored informally.
- f) To publicise and promote Council's aims and objectives in relation to water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land, and to engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure high levels of awareness and involvement in the Discussion Paper, leading to high levels of understanding and compliance with the final SWCSS.

2.5 Relationship between this Strategy and Council's Community Strategic Plan

This Strategy is consistent with the aims and objectives expressed in the North Sydney Council Community Strategic Plan. The following information, relevant to the storage of water craft on public land, comes from this Plan.

The following outcomes (encompassed in the Community Strategic Plan under Direction 1 – 'Our Living Environment') describe what Council needs to achieve with regard to management of public open space and protection of the environment:

- 1.1 Protected, enhanced and rehabilitated native vegetation communities and ecosystems
The following strategy is derived from this outcome:
- 1.1.2 Implement community education programs regarding protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- 1.5 Public open space, recreation facilities and services that meet community needs
The following strategies are derived from this outcome:
- 1.5.1 Provide a range of recreational facilities and services for people of all ages and abilities
- 1.5.2 Improve equity of access to open space and recreation facilities
- 1.5.3 Provide a welcoming and vibrant waterfront with integrated green public spaces and enhanced foreshore access

2.6 Guiding Principles

Council is committed to providing and/or facilitating a variety of water-based recreational opportunities in the North Sydney area. Providing formal storage facilities and informal storage areas for water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land is a part of this commitment.

However, Council's priority is to ensure that the general public has access to and use of publicly-owned foreshore land for recreation without undue restriction. The following guiding principles have been developed to ensure that all storage of water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney is consistent with this priority.

- 1) Privately-owned water craft that meet Council's definition of 'authorised' water craft are eligible to apply for a Permit to hire space to store their vessel on publicly owned foreshore land in North Sydney.
- 2) All authorised small water craft must be stored in designated areas. Storage must occur in as compact a manner as possible to maximise the amount of foreshore space available for other users. Stored water craft must not:
 - a. Significantly impede public access to and use of the foreshore
 - b. Cause undue damage to the foreshore environment
 - c. Pose a safety hazard to people using the foreshore

3.0 ACTION PLAN

Note: All actions are considered for implementation (in order of priority as set out in the following Table) as part of Council's annual Delivery Planning Process. Time frames for implementation may alter due to a variety of factors including the availability of funds and other Council priorities.

Time Frames

CP – Complete	ST – Short Term (1 year)	MT – Medium Term (1-3 years)	LT – Long Term (4+ years)	O - Ongoing
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Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
Objective A: To allow owners of authorised water craft to apply for a Permit to store their vessel on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	Develop clear definitions for 'Authorised Water Craft' and 'Unauthorised Water Craft'.	Refer Section 2.2 of this document: 'Definitions' for proposed definitions. Authorised water craft will be eligible to hire storage space in either Formal Storage Facilities or Informal Storage Areas, if space is available.		ST
	Review Council's existing registration process and Permit system that operates for people wishing to hire space to store authorised water craft in Formal Storage Facilities.	At present, water craft owners wishing to hire storage space in one of Council's Formal Storage Facilities are required to apply for and obtain a Permit. (Refer Table 1 - Existing Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney). The current system will continue to operate at all Formal Storage Facilities with the exception of Hayes Street Beach, where measures are needed to reduce the number of Permits available. (Refer Section 5.2.2).		ST

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
	Develop and implement a registration process and Permit system for people wishing to hire space to store authorised small water craft in Informal Storage Areas.	In future, people wishing to store small water craft in Informal Storage Areas must obtain approval from Council in the form of a Permit. Refer Section 5.1 for further details. Community and stakeholder input into the development of an appropriate registration process is very welcome. The current arrangement (no fees/no permits required) will continue to operate until a registration process has been developed and adopted by Council.		ST-O
	Introduce fees for people wishing to hire space to store authorised water craft in Informal Storage Areas.	Charging fees should encourage people to relinquish unneeded storage space; reducing overcrowding and visual clutter and freeing up space for other owners of authorised water craft. Fees levels will generally be set to cover Council's costs to administer the registration and Permit process only. As a guide, fees for storing water craft in Informal Storage Areas will be considerably less than for hire of space in Formal Storage Facilities. Refer Section 5.1 for further details.		MT
	Report the new registration process and Permit system to Council prior to implementing it.			ST
	Implement the new registration process and Permit system for storage of authorised water craft in Informal Storage Areas.	Refer 3.0, Objective F for further details on proposed notification processes.		MT-O

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
Objective B: To identify designated areas suitable for the storage of small water craft in North Sydney.	Identify designated areas that are suitable for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal Storage, and - Informal Storage, as well as - No-Go Zones where vessels may not be stored 	Refer 4.0 Maps. Map 1, together with the associated Maps A – H, show all public open space along the North Sydney foreshore that is either owned or managed by Council. The Maps are marked up to show the existing Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas, as well as proposed No-Go Zones. Community input into the mapping information is welcome. By restricting where authorised water craft may be stored, Council aims to improve accessibility and usability of publicly-owned foreshore open space for all, and to minimise environmental damage.		ST
	Install signs as required to control placement and location of water craft, and to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.	Council has authorised officers (Rangers) who can issue infringement notices under the provisions of the Local Government Act. Rangers carry out regular patrols of public spaces, including public roads, parklands, beaches and bushland reserves. Note that enforcement measures will not commence until the new registration process for water craft has been adopted by Council, and is fully operational. (Refer Section 5.1).	Local Government Act 1993.	MT-O

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
Objective C: To ensure that all authorised water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney are stored appropriately.	Develop a brochure explaining why it is important to store small water craft appropriately, how this can be achieved, and the likely results of non-compliance.	<p>Inappropriately stored water craft are those that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causing damage to the environment (eg ropes attached to trees, soil compaction, erosion of existing paths and creation of new informal tracks and destruction of vegetation caused by dragging vessels to and from the water) - Affecting public safety and access to and across public foreshore land (not stored in a compact, controlled and orderly manner) - Alienating a significant percentage of a site from general recreational use (over-crowding) <p>Council's primary concern and obligation is ensuring that the general public can conveniently and safely access and use public open space on the foreshore.</p>		ST
	Circulate brochure to existing Permit holders, and to all new Permit holders, when their Permit is issued.			MT-O

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
	Develop a process for relocating small water craft that are stored inappropriately on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	Refer 5.2 – Process 1. Generally, Council will negotiate with owners of small water craft to overcome particular problems and issues that may develop at various sites from time to time. 'Relocation' may involve moving vessels to another part of the site, or simply storing them in a more compact and orderly manner. Removal of the small water craft by Council will only occur if the owner does not attend to the issues Council has raised within a reasonable period of time. (The definition of 'reasonable' will vary, depending upon the severity of the issue, but will never be less than 28 days).	Impounding Act 1993.	ST
	Respond to reports from the public regarding water craft stored inappropriately.	Members of the public may report issues with stored water craft to Council at any time. Follow up inspections may be carried out by Staff from Council's Parks Department or Bushland Management Team in the first instance (particularly if water craft storage is having a significant negative impact on foreshore areas zoned E2 – Environmental Conservation), or by Council Rangers. Any formal action that is required (such as issuing compliance notices) will be carried out by Council Rangers.	Impounding Act 1993. Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.	MT-O

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
Objective D: To facilitate the removal of unauthorised, derelict or abandoned water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	Develop a process for removing water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney when the water craft are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unauthorised - Derelict or - Abandoned 	Refer 5.2 – Process 2. Note that storing a small water craft in a No-Go Zone will immediately invalidate any Permit, (rendering the vessel unauthorised). Council does not have facilities to store significant numbers of impounded water craft at the one time, and will focus its efforts on educating people storing/wanting to store their water craft on public land, and on ensuring owners remove their water craft. Removal of the water craft from the foreshore by Council, impounding and subsequent disposal or sale will be a last resort.	Impounding Act 1993.	ST
	Commence the process of removing water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney when the water craft are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unauthorised - Derelict or - Abandoned 	Note that removal process will not commence until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and other stakeholder notification and education has been carried out to ensure the community and stakeholders are aware of Council’s new procedures for storing private water craft on public foreshore land. - The registration process for water craft storage in Informal Storage Areas has been adopted and is operational Any water craft without a Permit sticker attached will be considered unauthorised, regardless of whether a Permit has been issued or not.		MT-O
	Respond to reports from the public regarding storage of unauthorised water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land.	Members of the public may report issues to Council at any time. Follow up inspections may be carried out by Staff from Council’s Parks Department or Bushland Management Team in the first instance (particularly if water craft storage is having a significant negative impact on foreshore areas zoned E2 Environmental Conservation), or by Council Rangers. Any formal action that is required (such as issuing compliance notices) will be carried out by Council Rangers.	Impounding Act 1993. Local Environmental Plan 2013. NSC.	MT-O

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
Objective E: To provide additional Formal Storage Facilities for authorised water craft around the North Sydney foreshore.	Identify potential locations where Council could install additional purpose-built Formal Storage Facilities for water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	Although requiring capital to construct and maintain, Council is committed to providing additional Formal Storage Facilities to assist people wishing to participate in water-based recreation. Constructing new Formal Storage Facilities (such as toaster-style racks or vertically stacked racks) will reduce overcrowding in areas currently suffering from over-use as they have a smaller 'footprint' on the land than informally stored water craft. Refer Section 5.3 for further details.		ST
	Assess the identified locations and prioritise them.	When assessing and prioritising potential locations consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ease of getting water craft from the Facility to the water and vice versa - Ease of access to the Facility (parking/walking distance, steps etc) - Main type of small water craft requiring storage in the area (generally kayaks or dinghies) - Approximate number of water craft requiring storage - Approximate number of water craft that could reasonably be accommodated - Most appropriate type of storage facility - Amount and type of open space still available for general public recreation - Visual amenity and views from surrounding properties - Presence of items or sites of Aboriginal or European heritage significance - Ideas and suggestions received from local residents, the general community and other stakeholders Refer Section 5.3 for further details.		ST

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
	Consult with the local community and other stakeholders prior to the installation of new Formal Storage Facilities.			ST-O
	Report results of consultation and recommendations to Council prior to construction of new Formal Storage Facilities. Plilkjl89			ST-O
	Seek grant funding to assist with construction of new Formal Storage Facilities.	Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is a potential source of funding. Other potential sources should also be pursued.		ST-O
	Commence program of constructing new Formal Storage Facilities in foreshore parks and reserves.	New facilities should be constructed in identified order of priority.		MT-O
	Construct additional Formal Storage Facilities in Kurraba Reserve.	Council has funding allocated in the 2017/18 financial year to construct new racks to accommodate an additional 66 kayaks in Kurraba Reserve.	NSC Delivery Plan	ST
	Revisit the need for additional Formal Storage Facilities once several new facilities have been constructed.	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current length of waiting lists at Formal Storage Facilities - Congestion levels at Informal Storage Areas - Ability of foreshore open spaces to accommodate more Formal Storage Facilities 		LT

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
<p>Objective F: To publicise and promote Council's aims and objectives re water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land, and to engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure high levels of awareness and involvement in the Discussion Paper, leading to high levels of understanding and compliance with the final SWCSS.</p>	<p>Identify known stakeholders requiring notification about this new Discussion Paper.</p>	<p>Known stakeholders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current mooring holders in the North Sydney area* - Current permit holders (those storing a water craft in one of Council's Formal Storage Facilities - Owners of water craft currently stored informally on publicly-owned foreshore land - Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) - Known water craft users (groups and individuals) - Other users of the foreshore including walkers, bathers, HarbourCare volunteers etc) - The North Sydney community, generally <p>Community input into the identification of additional stakeholders is very welcome.</p> <p>*Note: contact can only be made with mooring holders via the RMS at the present time. (The RMS will not release this information to Council for privacy reasons).</p>		<p>ST-MT</p>

Objective	Action	Comments	Refer-ences	Time Frame
	Develop a comprehensive notification process to ensure stakeholder and general public awareness of this Discussion Paper and its implications.	Measures will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local media adverts and media releases - Signs at various foreshore locations - Stickers on all water craft currently stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney - Liaising with RMS - Information mailed/emailed to existing Permit holders, mooring holders and other known interested parties and stakeholders who use the foreshore for water craft storage (including kayaking and SUP groups) - Information posted on Council's website and distributed via Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed - Other suggestions for general community notification are very welcome. 		ST

Objective	Action	Comments	References	Time Frame
	Engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure awareness of the final SWCSS and understanding of its implications.	<p>After adoption by Council, and prior to implementing measures detailed in the final SWCSS, Council will assist people storing water craft on public foreshore land, other stakeholders and the general public to understand the implications of this Strategy.</p> <p>This will be achieved using a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brochures distributed to existing Permit holders, people applying for Permits - Brochures distributed at community venues, eg Stanton Library, Council's Community Centers and other public venues - Posters on Council's community noticeboards - General community notification (information in Mosman Daily, press release, information sent to Precincts and other relevant community groups) - Information posted on Council's website - Information distributed via social media (Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed) - Other suggestions are very welcome <p>Note that all stakeholders and interested parties contacted during the notification process, or who make submissions on the Discussion Paper will also be contacted directly.</p>		ST-O
	Install signage at Formal Storage Facilities and at Informal Storage Areas as required to control placement and location of water craft, and to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.	<p>Council has authorised officers (Rangers) who can issue infringement notices under the provisions of the Local Government Act. Rangers carry out regular patrols of public spaces, including public roads, parklands, beaches and bushland reserves.</p> <p>Note that enforcement measures will not commence until the new registration process for water craft has been adopted by Council, and is fully operational. (Refer Section 5.1).</p>	Local Government Act 1993.	MT-O

Objective	Action	Comments	Refer-ences	Time Frame
	Review the objectives and implementation of this Strategy regularly.	Carry out a comprehensive review of the SWCSS to determine whether the stated objectives are being met. The first review will occur 2 years after adoption of the Strategy.		MT

4.0 MAPS

MAP 1 - MAP OF THE NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL AREA



4.1 Map Information

Maps A–H on the following pages show all parks and reserves on the North Sydney foreshore that are either owned or managed by North Sydney Council. The zoning of these parks and reserves (either RE1 Public Recreation or E2 Environmental Conservation) is also shown. More details about land zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' and 'RE1 Public Recreation' are available in **Appendix 1 - Zoning**

Maps A–H locate Council's existing Formal Storage Facilities and the existing Informal Storage Areas. Parks and reserves where only a small number of water craft are currently stored informally (generally less than 5) are not marked on the Maps. Note that the number of permits that will be issued in the future for each Informal Storage Area will vary from location to location, depending upon the number of small water craft that can be accommodated before problems of overcrowding and alienation of public open space occur.

Maps A-H also identify parks and reserves which may be able to accommodate Formal Storage Facilities (or additional Formal Storage Facilities) in the future. It should be noted that only a small part of a park or reserve so identified may actually be suitable for this purpose.

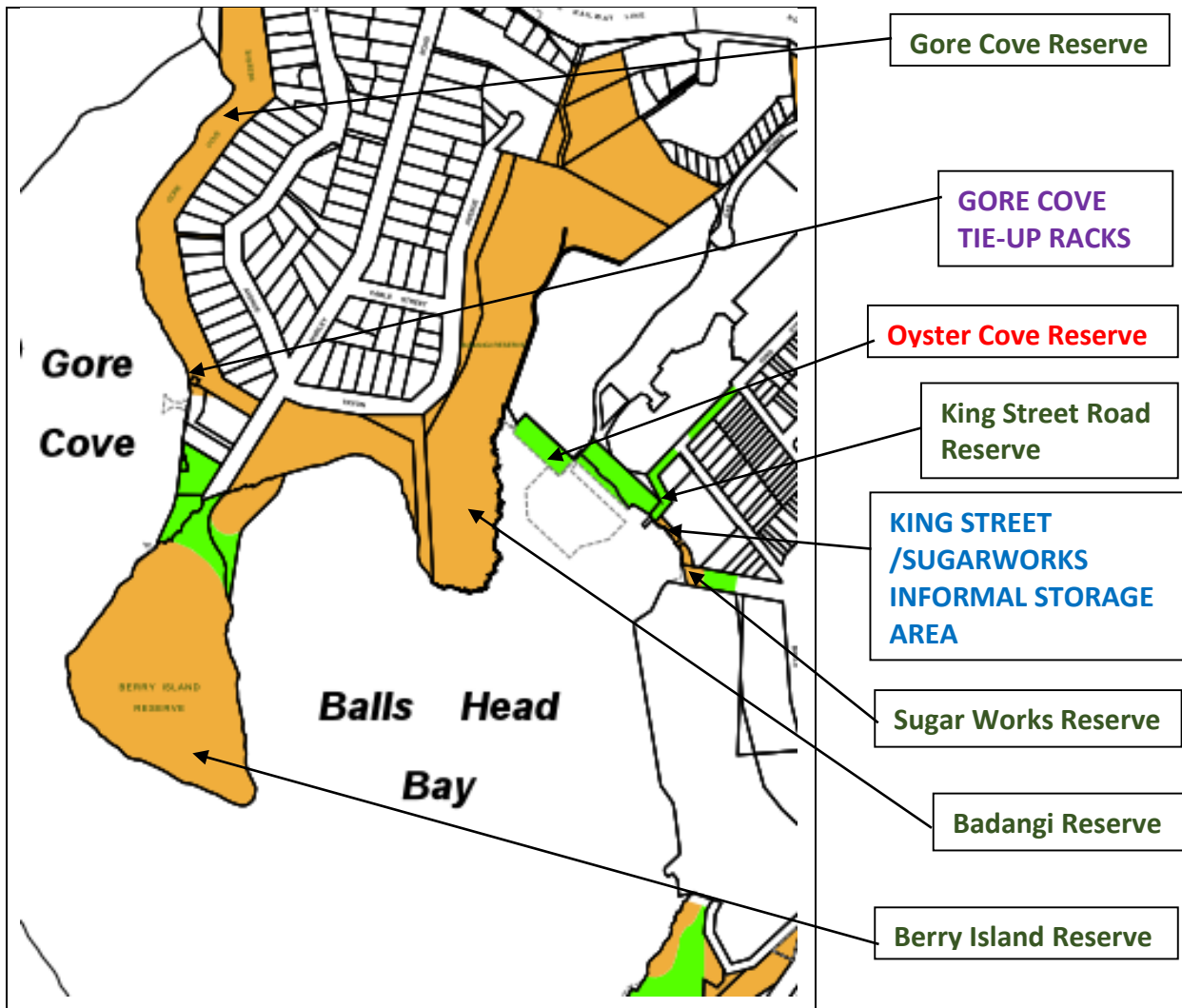
Several parks and reserves are shown as proposed No-Go Zones on Maps A-H. It is proposed to prohibit storage of small water craft in these parks and reserves for a variety of reasons including environmental sensitivity, topography, lack of accessibility etc.

Feedback regarding these Maps is encouraged. Information about where additional small water craft are currently stored, ideas for future Formal Storage Facilities in the various parks and reserves and thoughts on the proposed 'No-Go Zones' are all very welcome.

KEY MAP



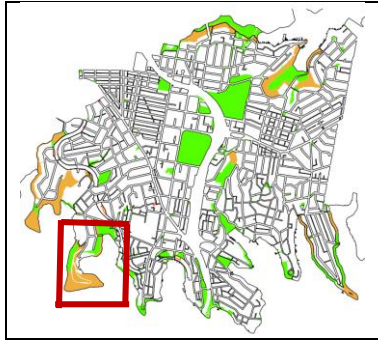
MAP A



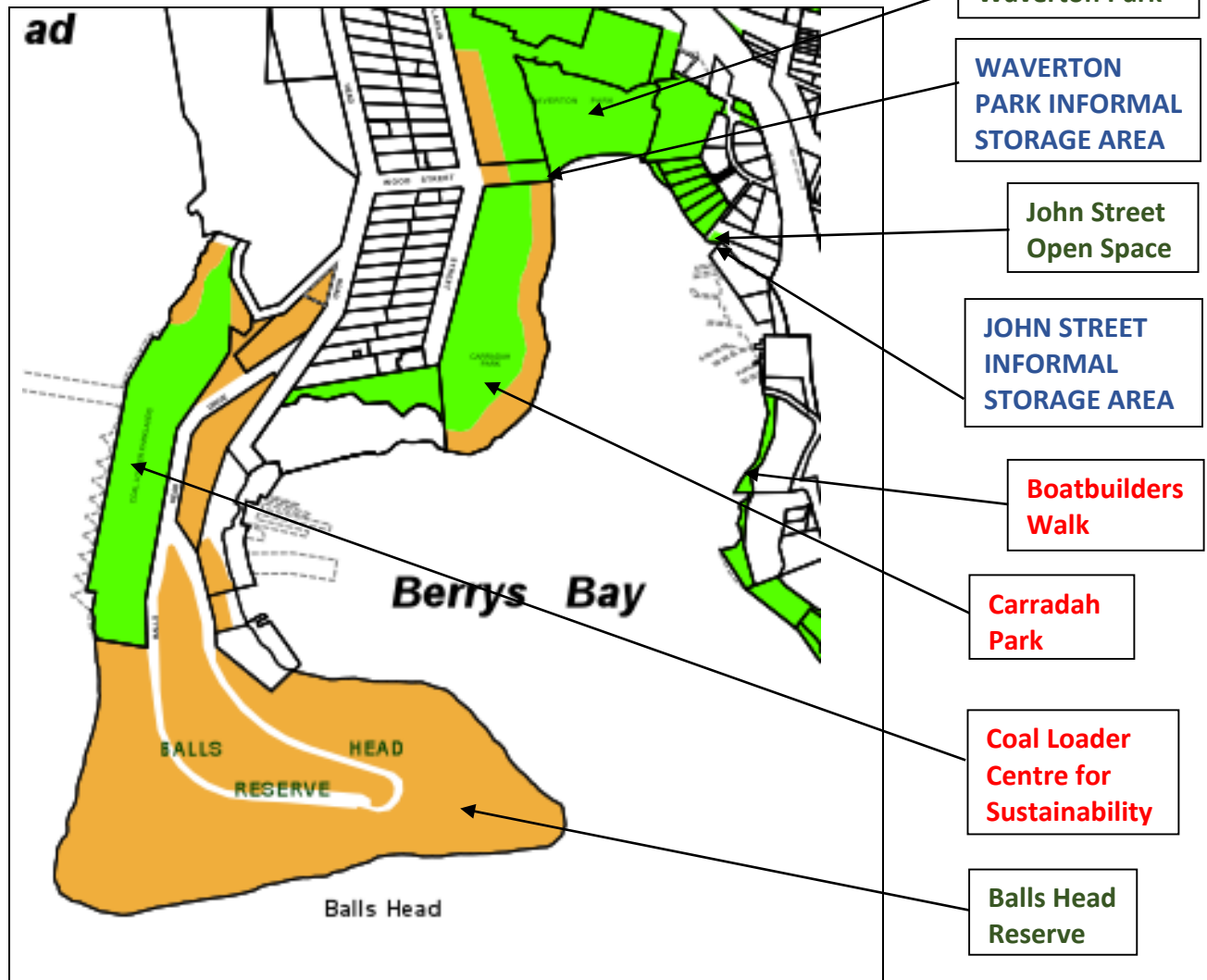
KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



MAP B

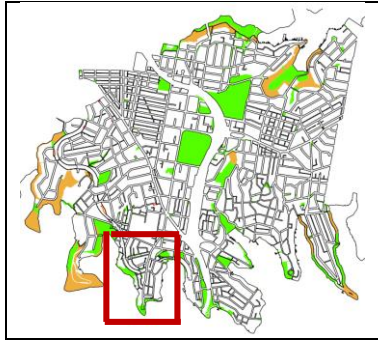


Note: In future there may be opportunities for boats to tie up at the Coal Loader waterfront, however no permanent storage facilities for small water craft are planned for the site at this time

KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



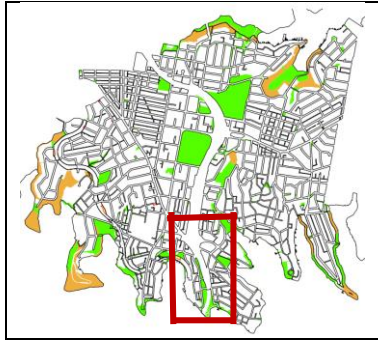
MAP C



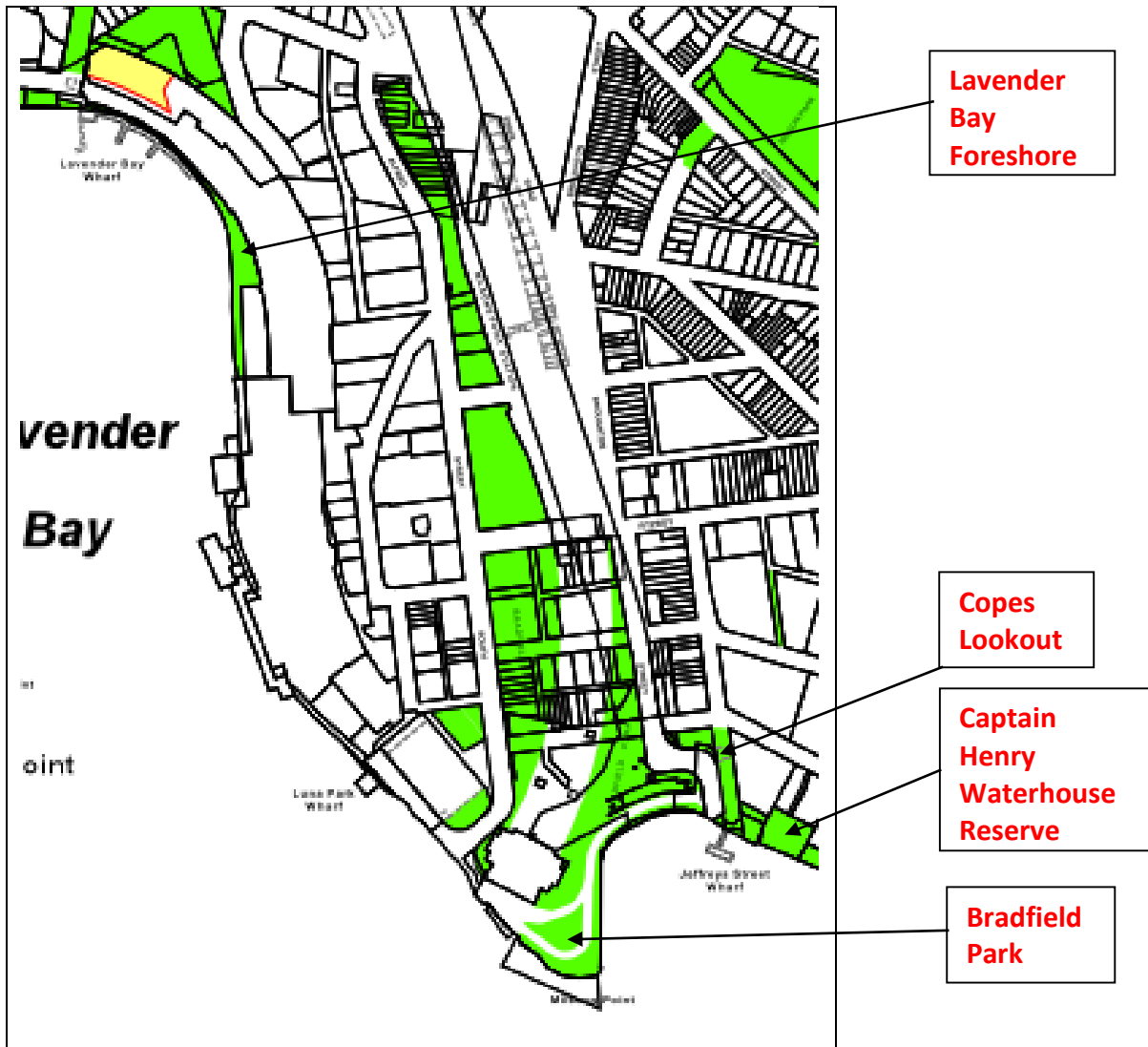
KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



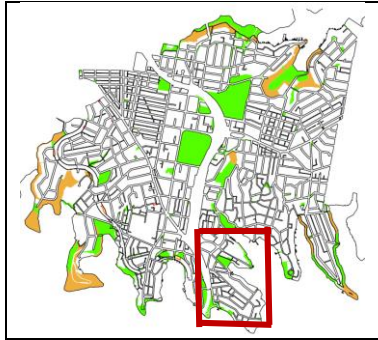
MAP D



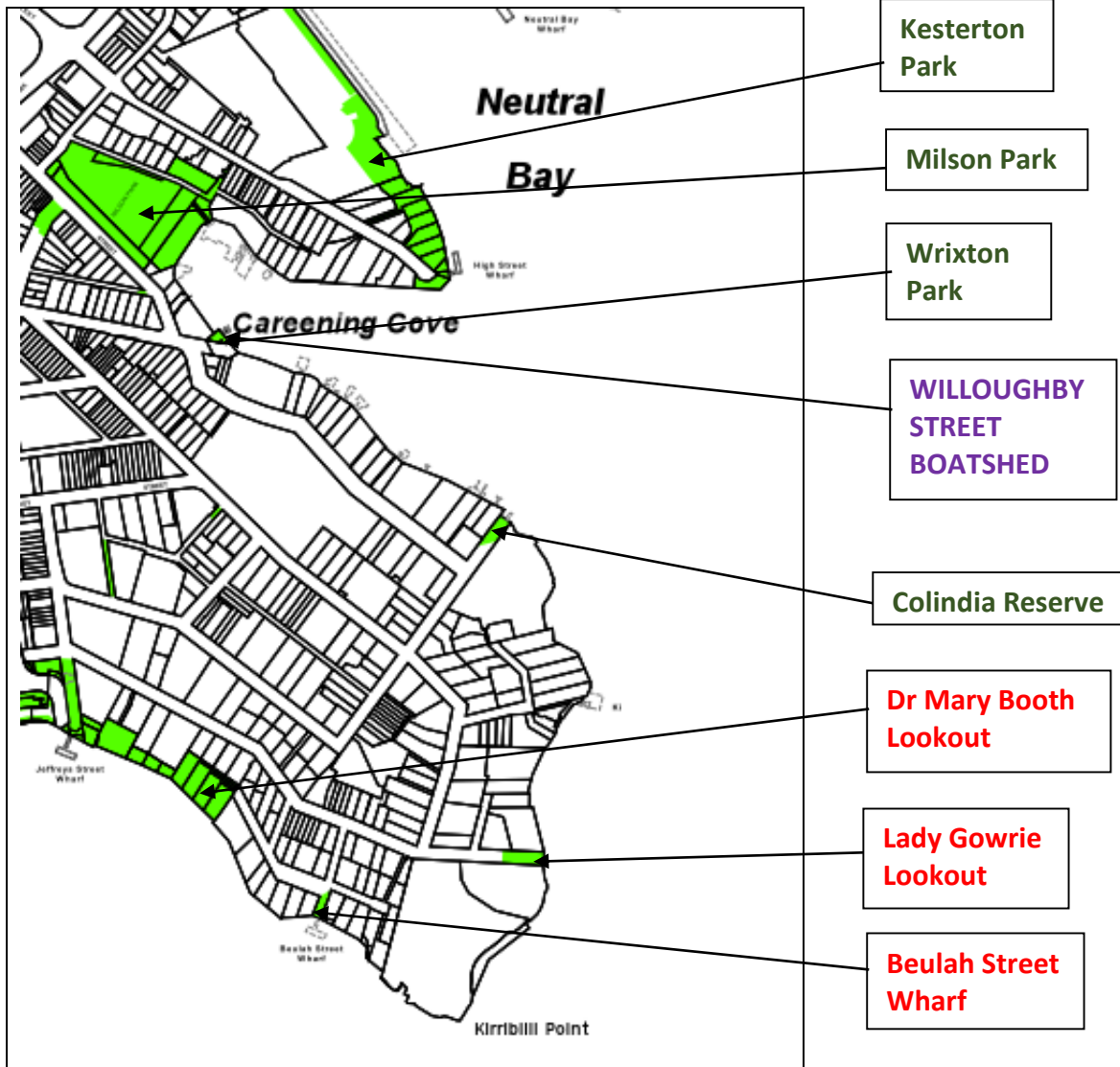
KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	E2 Environmental Conservation
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



MAP E

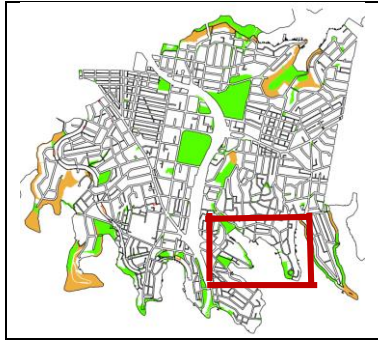


Note: A small, steep boat ramp in Milson Park is currently used mainly by the adjoining sailing club

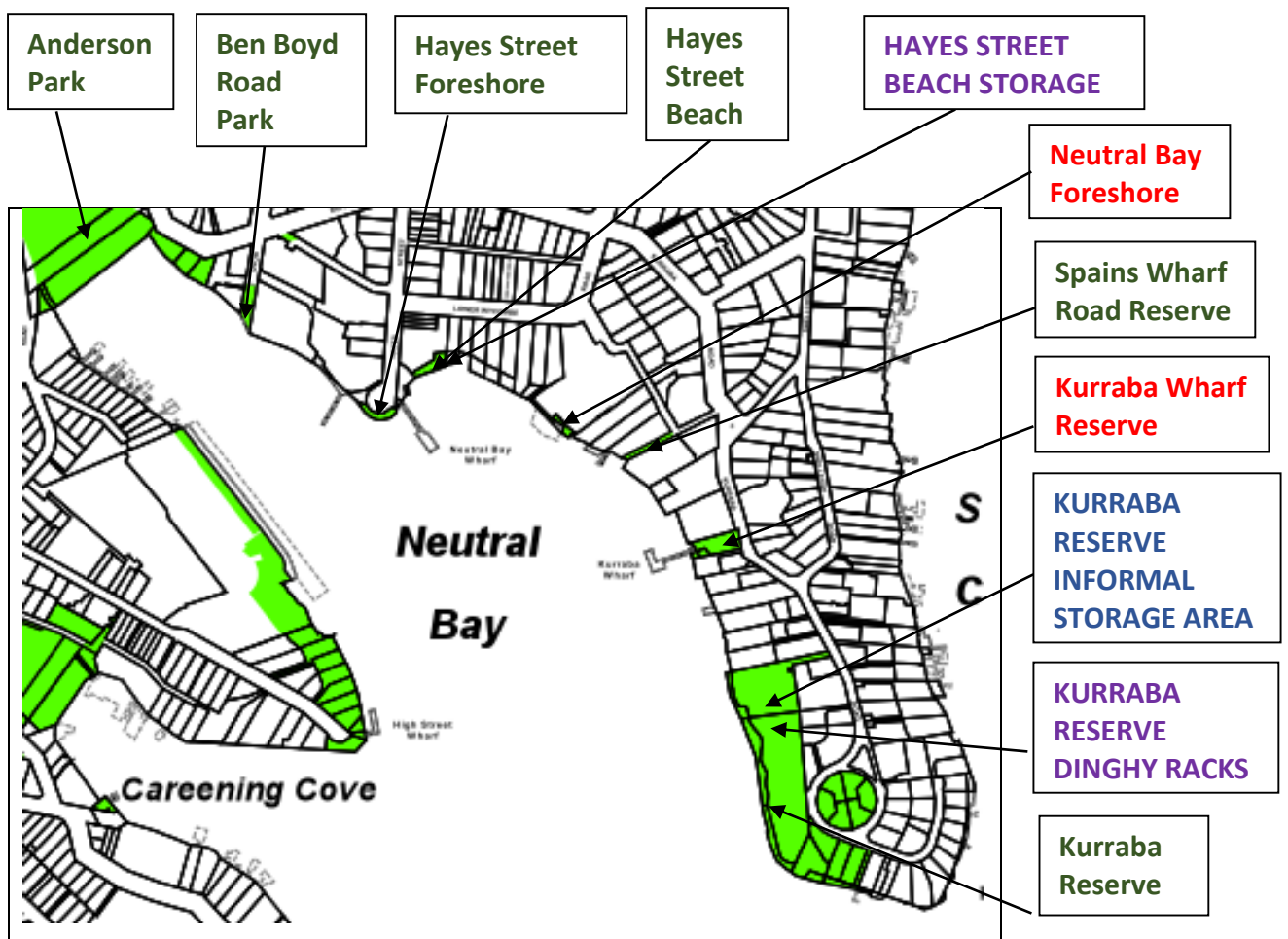
KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



MAP F



Note: Storage at Kurraba Wharf Reserve is not appropriate due to proximity to the ferry stop.
 The small beach to the north east of Anderson Park is not Council land
 A future link to the north of Kesterton Park may provide future opportunities for water craft storage
 The foreshore area at the western end of the Hayes St boardwalk is not zoned RE1 or E2, however it is owned by Council, and it currently hosts informally stored craft

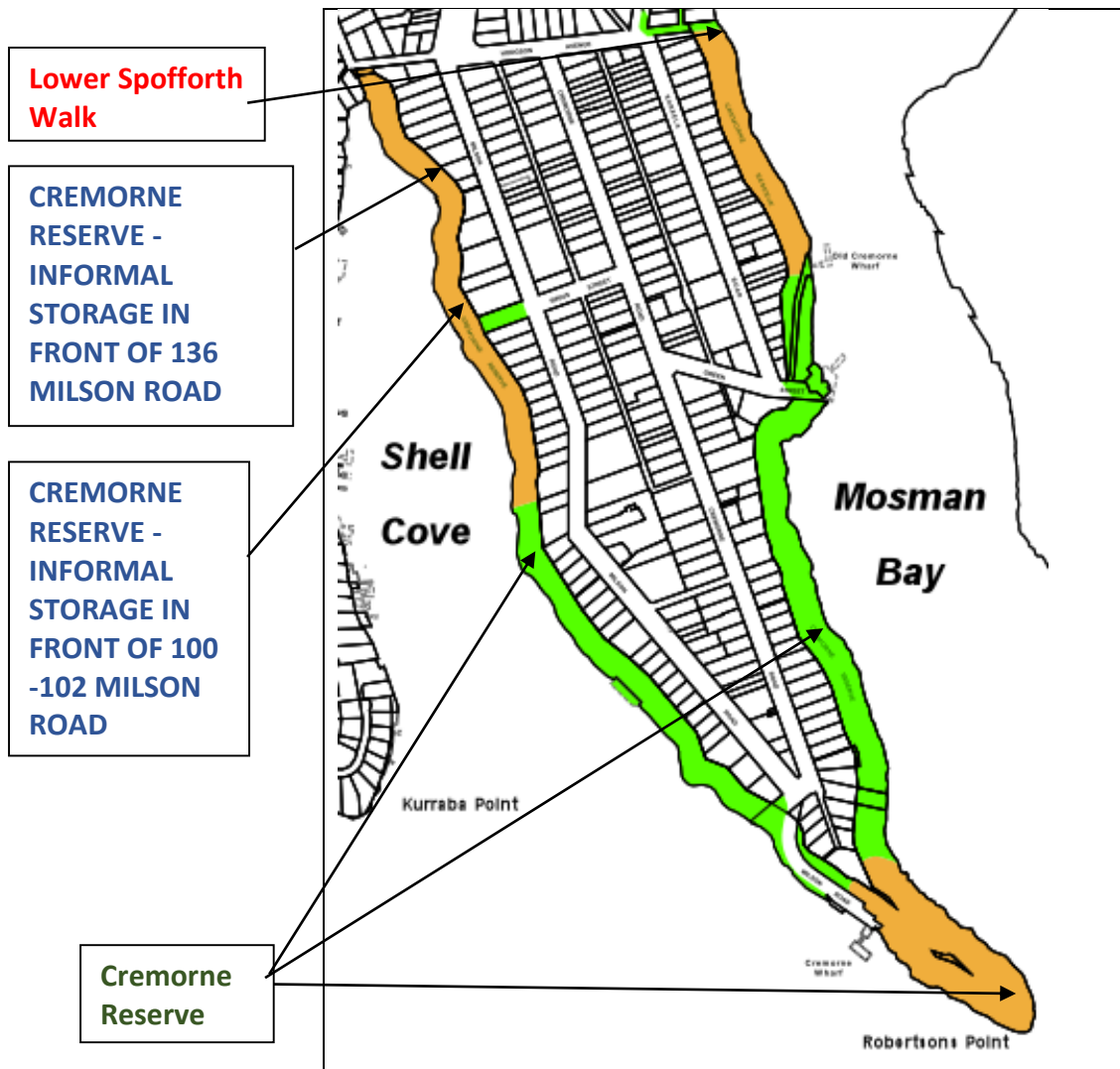
KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



MAP G



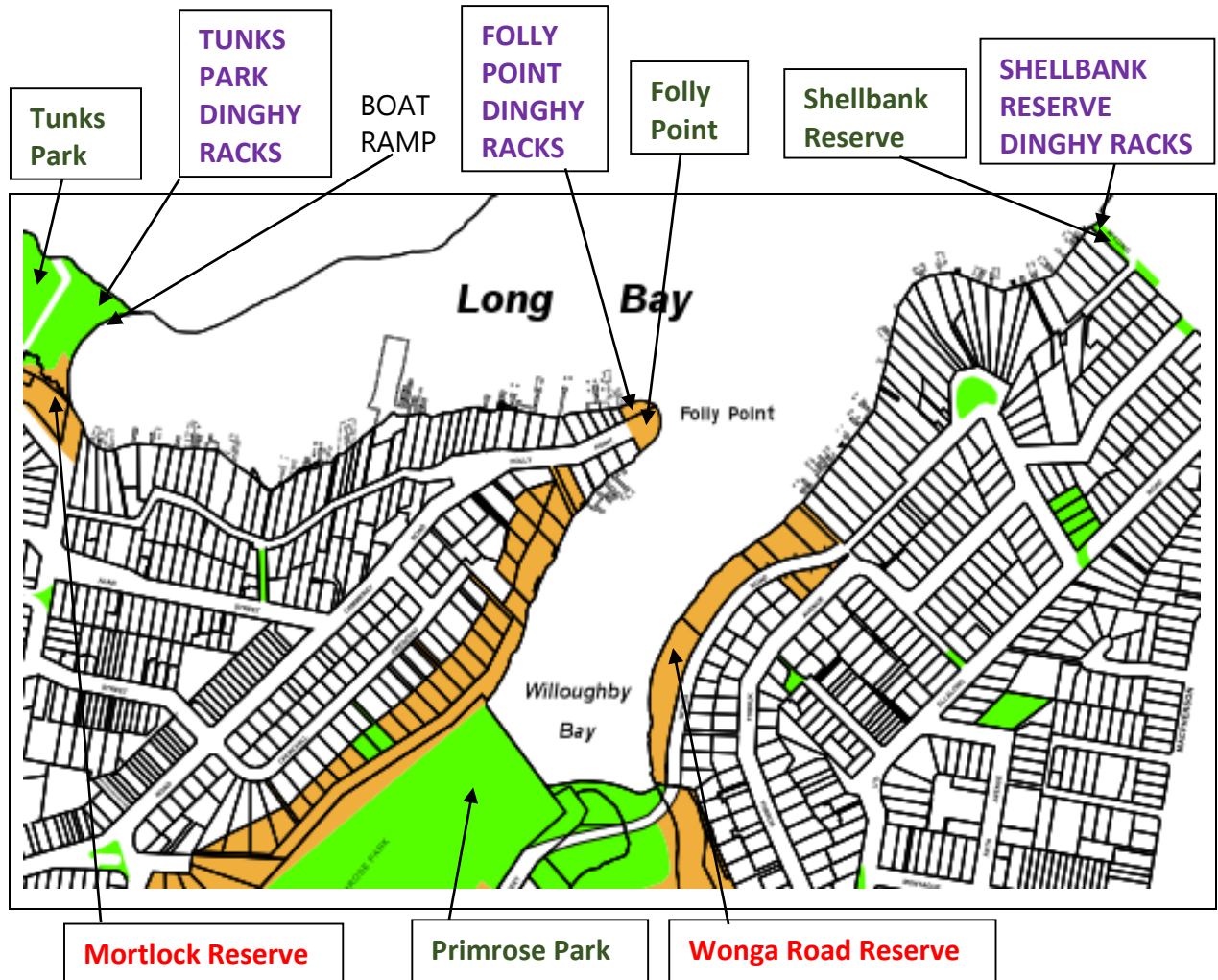
KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

KEY MAP



MAP H



Note: Wonga Road Reserve comprises steeply sloping bushland, there is no easy foreshore access. Several small water craft are stored in the bush area just north of the playing fields in Primrose Park.

KEY

Zoning of Public Open Space areas in North Sydney	RE1 Public Recreation
	E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Existing Formal Storage Facilities
	Existing Informal Storage Areas
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Park/Reserve may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities
	No-Go Zones – unsuitable for small water craft storage

5.0 STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Council is seeking community and stakeholder input into the processes needed to implement the actions set out in section 3.0 - Action Plan, in particular:

- 1) A process for registering all water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney
- 2) A process for relocating and/or removing water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney
- 3) A process for identifying and prioritising sites capable of accommodating additional Formal Storage Facilities

Following is some information relevant to the development of these processes. The information is intended to generate discussion, ideas and suggestions from the community and stakeholders; it is a starting point only and should not be considered definitive or final. However, it is important that all suggestions submitted to Council are consistent with the aims, objectives and guiding principles for the storage of small water craft on public foreshore land, as set out in sections 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6 of this Discussion Paper.

5.1 Developing a process for registering all small water craft stored (either formally or informally) on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney

Guiding Principles

- All small water craft stored on public foreshore land in North Sydney must be registered (have a valid permit affixed to them)
- Only Authorised water craft are eligible to apply to Council to hire storage space in either Formal Storage Facilities or Informal Storage Areas

Step 1:

Determine Location and Capacity of Existing Formal and Informal Storage Areas in North Sydney

Formal Storage Facilities

Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney are shown on Maps A-H. Permits are issued and fees are (generally) charged to hire space in these facilities. With the notable exception of Hayes Street Beach, Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney contain a fixed number of storage spaces. Further information regarding the storage of small water craft on Hayes Street Beach can be found in section 5.2.2.

Informal Storage Areas

- Map existing public foreshore sites where small water craft are stored informally
- Carry out site visits to determine storage capacity for each site (this determines how many Permits will be issued for each site)
- Affix stickers to all existing water craft, inviting them to apply for a permit to store their water craft at this site (only Authorised water craft will be eligible to hire storage space)
- Allow a reasonable time frame (say 6 months) for response
- If site is above capacity, inform water craft owners of this, and inform them that permits for the site in question will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis
- If requests for permits exceed capacity at a site, Council will contact water craft owners and inform them of other nearby sites that are not at capacity

Step 2:

Develop a Permit Application Process

The current processes of applying for a Permit to store a small water craft space in Council's Formal Storage Facilities and for renewing existing Permits will continue to apply for all locations with the exception of Hayes Street Beach (Refer Section 5.2.2).

To apply for a space to store a small water craft in one of Council's Informal Storage Areas, owners will need to:

- Complete an Application Form (indicating 3 preferred locations, in priority order), and send it to Council
- If the Application is approved and space is available, Council will contact the owner
- If no space is available, and if applicants desire it, Applications are placed on the appropriate waiting lists until a space is relinquished by a current hirer
- When a space is available, Council will send a letter advising of the available location and requesting payment of the relevant Annual Storage Fee
- Once the Fee is received by Council, the hirer will be contacted and formally assigned a storage location. They will also be issued with a Water Craft Storage Permit sticker which must be affixed to the water craft in a clearly visible location in order to be valid
- Hirer's wishing to relinquish their storage spot should contact Council in writing with their details, the name of the storage facility (location), the Permit sticker number and the expected date of removal

Implementing a Permit system for all Informal Storage Areas should mean that current problems caused by a gradual build up in the numbers of small water craft stored informally in some locations do not occur in future.

Step 3:

Determine Storage Fees

Council will determine a fee each year for the hiring of a storage space approved via Council's Delivery Program and Budget (fees and charges) process. Annual fees for storage of water craft on public land in the Sydney region show significant variations, and there is no standardised process for determining fee levels. Fee information for North Sydney Council is included in **Table 1** – 'Existing Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney'. Information gathered from several other Sydney Councils who offer storage for small water craft is summarised in the following Table, **Table 3** – 'Sydney Councils Comparison – Annual Fees for Water Craft Storage'.

Table 3 - Sydney Councils Comparison - Annual Fees for Water Craft Storage

Council	Storage Fee Resident/ ratepayer	Storage Fee Non- Resident/ ratepayer	Other Fees/Concessions	Notes
Northern Beaches Council – (Pittwater)	\$176	\$256	Application Fee - \$30 Impound fees - \$105	Information current at Dec 2016
Inner West Council (Leichhardt)	\$86	\$128	Application Fee - \$33	Information current at Dec 2016
Woolhara	\$117	\$215		Information current at Dec 2016
Manly (Now part of Northern Beaches)	\$270	\$540		Information current at Feb 2016 (prior to Council merge)
Ryde	\$293	\$585	Eligible pensioner rate: -Resident/ratepayer - \$146 -Non-resident/ratepayer - \$293 -Impound fees - \$142 -Reinstatement fees - \$142	Information taken from Schedule of Fees & Charges 2015/16
Mosman	Dinghy racks \$256	Dinghy racks \$860	15% Senior's card holder discount TPI pension discount – 50% Storage space at Inkerman Street & Sirius Cove - \$50	Information taken from Pricing Policy, Schedule of Fees & Charges 2016/17

Generally, it is proposed that in the North Sydney area:

- Fees for Informal Storage Facilities will be low, they will be designed to cover Council's administration costs
- Fees for Formal Storage Facilities will be higher and may differ from location to location (as these facilities generally offer higher levels of security, shelter and protection from weather and/or easier access to the water)
- North Sydney residents, ratepayers, pensioners and seniors will be eligible for a reduced hire fee (proof required)
- Fees will be reviewed annually
- An invoice will be forwarded to current permit holders at least 1 month before the annual Permit is due to expire. If the invoice is not paid within the allocated time, the storage space will be considered vacant.

5.2 Developing a process for relocating and/or removing small water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney

Guiding Principles

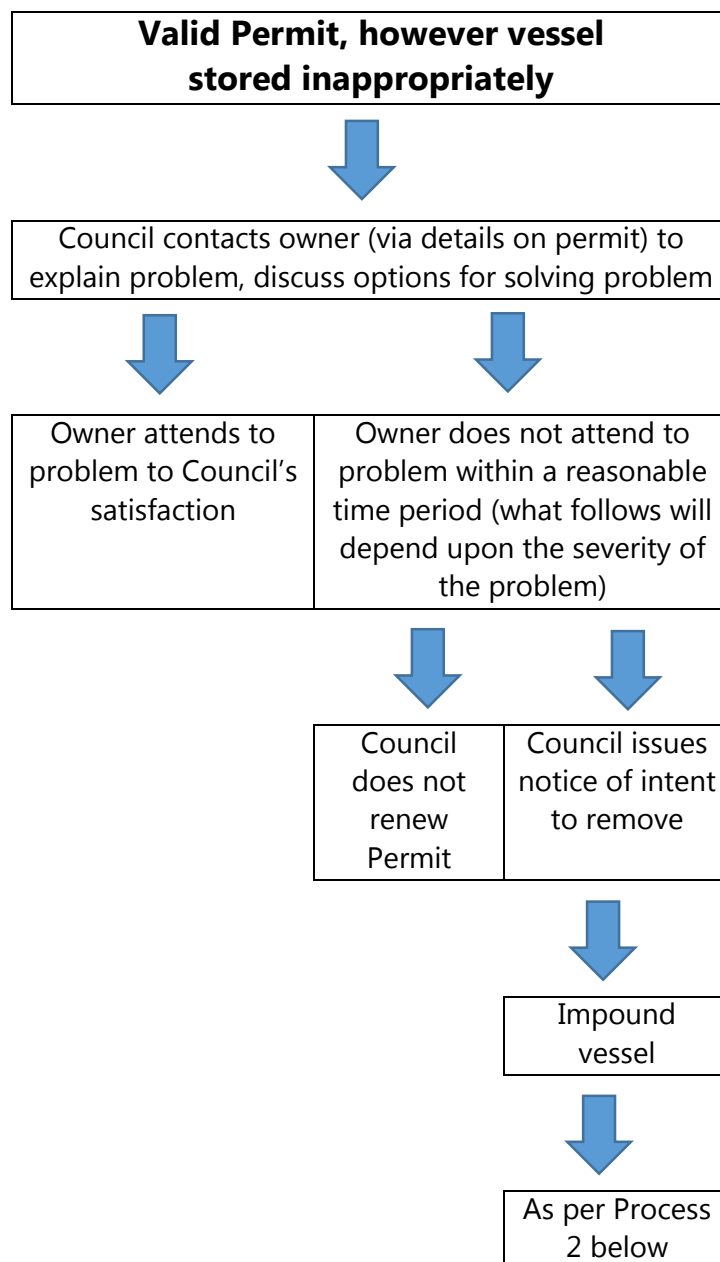
By focusing on informing and educating people storing/wanting to store their water craft on public land, and by issuing warnings and/or infringement notices (as relevant) for non-compliance, it is hoped that removal of water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land by Council is rarely necessary.

The following processes of relocating or removing water craft stored on public foreshore land will be pursued when small water craft:

- 1 – Has a valid permit but is stored inappropriately, or
- 2 – Do not have a permit affixed to them

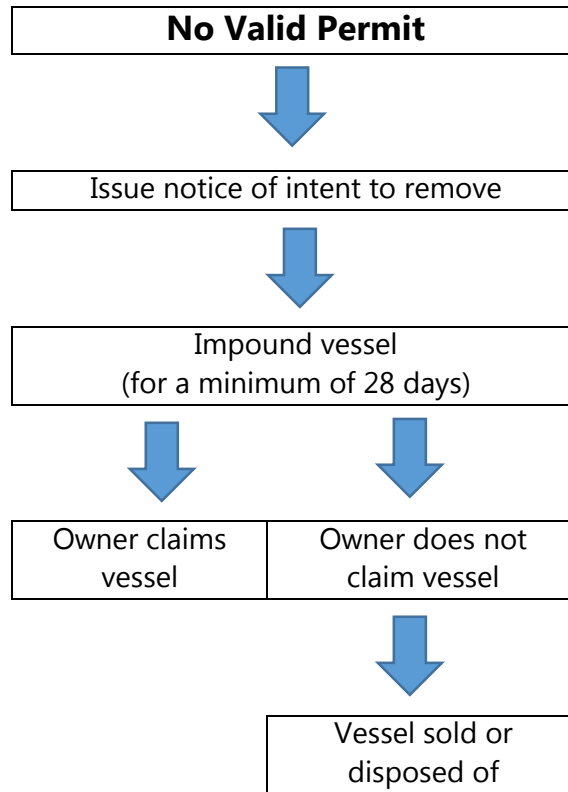
Process 1 – The small water craft is stored inappropriately, ie:

- is causing damage to the environment (as assessed by staff from Council’s Bushland Management Team)
- is affecting public access and safety (storage is disorderly and not suitably compact)
- is contributing to the alienation of a site from general public use (the percentage of a site that can be occupied by small water craft will vary, depending upon each site’s capacity to accommodate other recreational activities, but generally should not exceed 50%)



Process 2 – The small water craft does not have a valid permit affixed to it

- Permits are not valid unless affixed to the small water craft
- Storing a small water craft in a No-Go Zone will immediately invalidate any permit



5.2.1 Enforcement

Council will install signage as required to control placement of water craft in Formal Storage Facilities and at Informal Storage Areas, and to prohibit the storage of water craft entirely in No-Go Zones.

Council has authorised officers (Rangers) who will enforce the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Impounding Act 1993 (see below).

Warnings will be issued to the owners of water craft for non-compliance with the relevant Acts, with the finalised SWCSS, or with any signs placed by Council, prior to action being taken.

1. *Local Government Act 1993*

Infringement notices may be issued by Council in areas where relevant signage is present:

'A person who, in a public place within the area of a council, fails to comply with the terms of a notice erected by the council is guilty of an offence'.

2. *Impounding Act 1993*

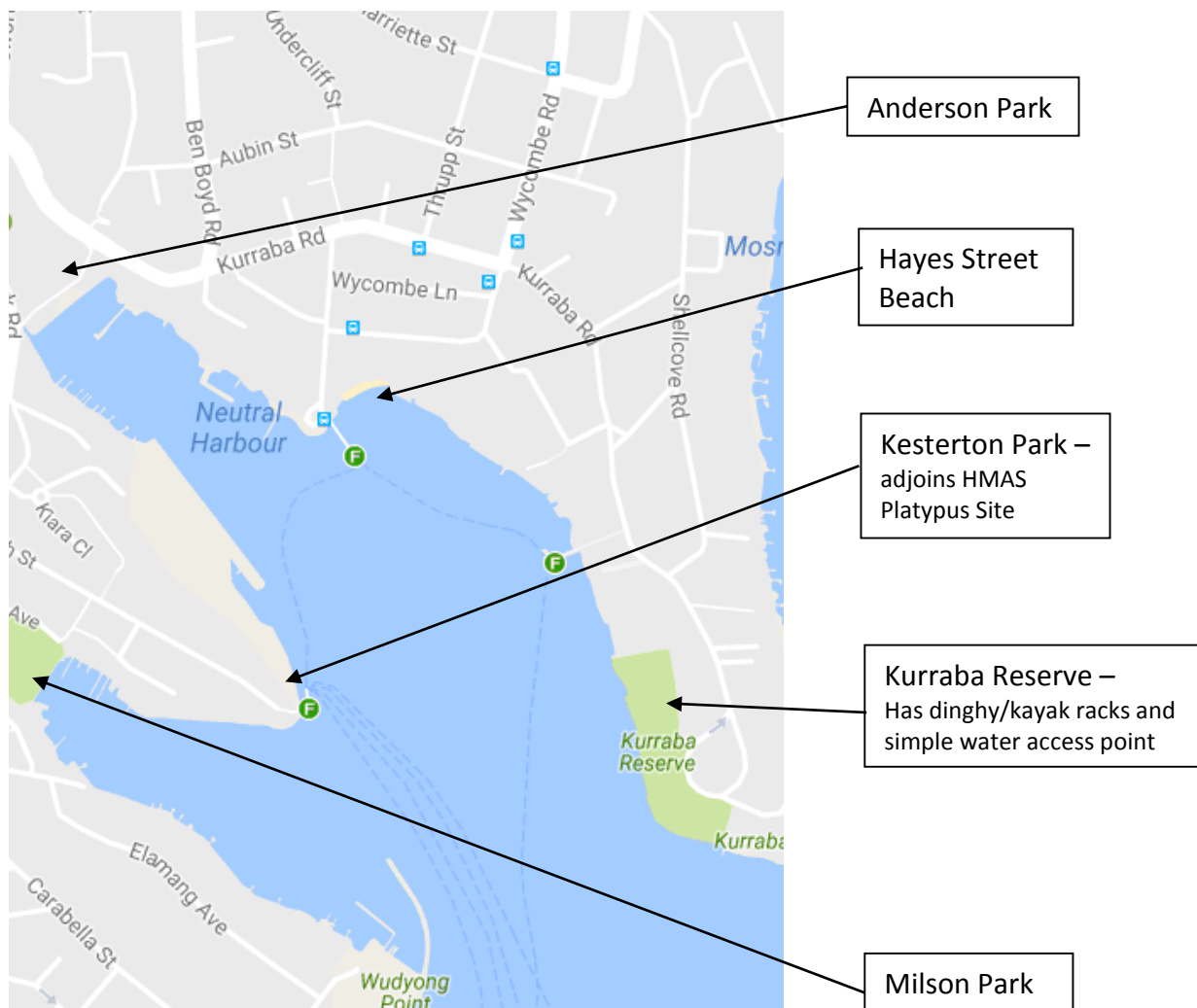
Under the provisions of the Impounding Act 1993, Council may remove small water craft from public open space areas.

Council must make all reasonable efforts to identify the owners of impounded vessels, and will notify owners (in writing) that their vessel has been impounded and will be sold or disposed of within a period of not less than 28 days if not claimed.

The Act also allows Council to charge owners a 'release fee' should they want their vessel back.

5.2.2 Hayes Street Beach

MAP I – HAYES STREET BEACH & ENVIRONS



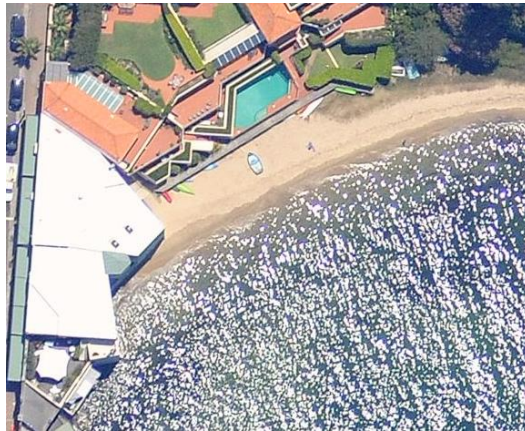
The chronological series of photos that follow clearly show how the number of water craft stored above the high water mark at Hayes Street Beach has ballooned over the past 7 years to the point where the public's ability to access and use the Beach is now significantly compromised, particularly at high tide. The situation at Hayes Street Beach has been the subject of considerable community interest and discussion in recent times, and Council staff member's understanding of relevant issues have been informed by attendance at Precinct meetings, site visits and communication with a number of individuals.



2006 – no water craft visible on Hayes Street Beach



2008 - Hayes Street Beach



2010 - Hayes Street Beach



2012 - Hayes Street Beach



2013 - Hayes Street Beach



2014 - Hayes Street Beach



2016 - there is now only a very small area of the beach above the high water mark available for general public recreation

Following adoption of the final SWCSS by Council, a detailed proposal will be developed to address the high level of alienation of public foreshore land at Hayes Street Beach.

There are currently approximately 55 Permits issued to owners of small water craft that allow them to store their vessels at Hayes Street Beach, however, Council intends to reduce the number of permits issued in this location, and to return a significant area of the beach (above the high tide mark) to the community for general public recreation.

Proposed Process

- Council to determine size and location of area on beach where storage of authorised small water craft will be permitted (current suggestion is for an area at the western end of the beach, adjacent to the steps)
- Affix stickers to all existing water craft that have permits, and that fit the definition of 'authorised', inviting them to apply for a new permit to store their water craft at this site
- Council to determine a fee for the new permits and to provide this information to existing permit holders. Note that fee discounts will be offered to North Sydney rate payers, residents, pensioners and seniors.
- Inform the existing permit holders that new permits for the beach storage sites will be issued under a 'lottery' arrangement if requests for permits exceeds supply of storage spaces
- Allow a reasonable time frame (say 3 months) for response
- Carry out a lottery draw, and offer new permits to successful applicants
- Applicants who are unsuccessful in the lottery draw will be contacted by Council and offered storage space at Kurraba Reserve

5.2.2.1 Provision of Additional Formal Storage Facilities at Kurraba Reserve

Council has allocated funds in the 2017/18 financial year for construction of additional storage racks to accommodate small water craft (predominantly kayaks) in Kurraba Reserve. During the course of this construction project, Council will also take steps to identify derelict and abandoned water craft that are currently in Kurraba Reserve, and initiate the removal of these water craft. (Refer 5.2 – Process 2).

At present 15 kayak bays accommodate 30 kayaks in Kurraba Reserve (2 kayaks per bay). The proposal will add 9 kayak bays (accommodating 18 kayaks), to the existing vertical storage racks, as well as adding 24 new vertical storage bays (accommodating a further 48 kayaks). This will bring the total number of bays to 48, potentially capable of storing 96 kayaks.

The number of water craft stored at Hayes Street Beach will not be reduced until these additional Formal Storage Facilities have been installed in Kurraba Reserve.

Council will also investigate upgrading the existing boat ramp at Kurraba Reserve to provide easier access to the Harbour for people launching small water craft. Input into how this may best be achieved is very welcome.



Existing launching ramp for small water craft at Kurraba Reserve, Neutral Bay

5.2.2.2 Other Storage Options Near Hayes Street Beach

Other options for Formal Storage Facilities in the immediate vicinity of Hayes Street Beach will also be investigated as part of Council's overall identification and prioritization of sites potentially able to accommodate new and/or additional Formal Storage Facilities (Refer Section 5.3).

Potential locations suggested by community members are shown in the following photograph. They include Hayes Street Foreshore (tucked in on southern side of wharf) and the small beach at the western end of Hayes Street boardwalk (the area above the high water mark is currently used for informal storage. Although this site is not zoned RE1 or E2, it is owned by Council).



Small water craft are currently stored informally above the high water mark on Council-owned land **HERE**

Existing water craft storage at Hayes Street Beach

Suggested location for Formal Storage Facility **HERE**

5.3 Identifying and Prioritising sites capable of accommodating additional Formal Storage Facilities

Guiding Principles

Only public open space owned by North Sydney Council, or under Council's care control and management can be considered (ie land zoned either RE1 or E2 under Council's Local Environmental Plan 2013).

5.3.1 List of Potential Sites

Table 4 is a preliminary list of foreshore parks and reserves in the North Sydney area that may be able to accommodate new Formal Storage Facilities

The Table indicates whether the sites currently offer:

- Formal Storage Facilities (FSF)
- Informal Storage Areas (ISA)

Table 4 – Potential Sites that could accommodate Formal Storage Facilities

	Park or Reserve	Street Address	Existing Water Craft Storage
1	Anderson Park	Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay	
2	Badangi Reserve	Wollstonecraft Bay, Wollstonecraft	ISA
3	Balls Head Reserve	Balls Head Drive, Waverton	ISA
4	Ben Boyd Road Park	Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay	ISA
5	Berry Island Reserve	Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft	ISA
6	Blues Point Reserve	Blues Point Road, McMahons Point	
7	Colindia Reserve	Peel Street, Kirribilli	
8	Cremorne Reserve	Milson Road, Cremorne	ISA
9	Folly Point	Cammeray Road, Cammeray	FSF
10	Gore Cove Reserve	Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft	FSF
11	King Street Road Reserve	King Street, Waverton	ISA
12	Hayes Street Beach	Hayes Street, Neutral Bay	FSF
13	Hayes Street Foreshore	Hayes Street, Neutral Bay	
14	Henry Lawson Reserve	Henry Lawson Avenue, McMahons Pt	
15	John Street Open Space	Western end John Street, Waverton	ISA
16	Kesterton Park	High Street, North Sydney	
17	Milson Park	McDougall Street, North Sydney	
18	Primrose Park	Matora Lane, off Young St, Cremorne	ISA
19	Quibaree Park	Lavender Crescent, McMahons Point	FSF
20	Sawmillers Reserve	Munro Street, McMahons Point	ISA
21	Shellbank Reserve	Shellbank Avenue, Cremorne	FSF
22	Spains Wharf Road Reserve	Spains Wharf Road, Neutral Bay	ISA
23	Sugar Works Reserve	Horace Street, Waverton	ISA
24	Tunks Park	Brothers Ave, Cammeray	FSF
25	Waverton Park	Woolcott Avenue, Waverton	ISA
26	Wrixton Park	Willoughby Street, Kirribilli	FSF

* Note: the area above the high water mark at the western end of the Hayes Street Boardwalk will also be considered, even though this land is not currently zoned as public open space.

Comments regarding the suitability (or otherwise) of any of these parks for small water craft storage are most welcome.

5.3.2 Preliminary list of criteria

The following list looks at some of the criteria that could be used to assess the suitability of each site, and to subsequently prioritise the sites

- Ease of getting water craft from the Storage Facility to and from the water
- Ease of access to the Park and the Facility (parking/walking/steps etc)
- Amount of storage spaces that could reasonably be provided at the site (taking into account that most of the site should be retained for general public recreation)
- Visual amenity and views from surrounding properties
- Likely impact on the environment
- Presence of items/sites of Aboriginal and/or European heritage significance
- Availability of existing complementary facilities (public amenities, tap, seats etc)
- Other relevant considerations (will vary from site to site)

5.3.3 Determining the most appropriate type of Formal Storage Facility

Typical types of Formal Storage Facilities include:

- a) Vertical 'toaster style' racks
- b) Vertical, 'stacked' racks
- c) Horizontal storage on racks, or to 'tie-up' (fixing) points
- d) Other options

Generally, the most appropriate option will depend on:

- Number of storage spaces sought
- General topography of the site
- Overall size of the site
- Type of small water craft requiring storage in the area (kayaks, dinghies, SUP's, or a mix of these)

The photographs on the following pages illustrate some of the available options for storing small water craft in formal arrangements. These options reduce the amount of public land occupied by the water craft and/or provide a neat and tidy storage solution.

a) Vertical 'toaster style' racks

Storing small water craft in 'toaster racks' reduces the amount of public land occupied by the water craft and makes access easy. This style of storage is particularly suited to dinghies.





b) Vertical 'stacked' racks

Storing small water craft in stackable racks reduces the amount of public land occupied by the water craft. This type of storage suits lighter-weight craft.



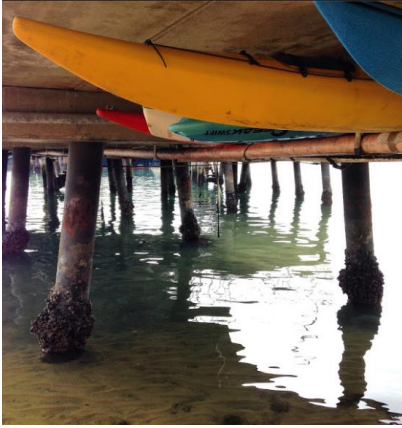
c) Horizontal storage

Using tie-up points ensures that small water craft stored this way stay neat and well-organised



d) Other options

'Under-wharf' and 'below-boardwalk' may be feasible options in some areas



APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 - Zoning

Zone E2 Environmental Conservation

1. Objectives of the Zone

- To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.
- To protect and preserve bushland to provide representation of the natural state and to enable existing animal and plant communities to survive in the long term.
- To allow, where appropriate, for low-impact recreational opportunities, which will protect the value of bushland.

2. Permitted without consent

Environmental Conservation works

3. Permitted with consent

Environmental facilities; Roads

4. Prohibited

Business premises; Hotel or motel accommodation; Industries; Multi dwelling housing; Recreation facilities (major); Residential flat buildings; Restricted premises; Retail premises; Seniors housing; Service stations; Warehouse or distribution centres; Any other development not specified in item 2 or 3

Zone RE1 Public Recreation

1. Objectives of the Zone

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- To ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of residents of, and visitors to, North Sydney.

2. Permitted without consent

Environmental protection works.

3. Permitted with consent

Building identification signs; Business identification signs; Community facilities; Environmental facilities; Information and education facilities; Kiosks; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (outdoor); Roads; Water recreation structures.

4. Prohibited

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

Source: North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013

6.2 Appendix 2 - References & Further Reading

Maritime Infrastructures & Boat Storage in Manly LGA - Baseline Report, 2011, Manly Council

Council Policy - Dinghy Management, 2014, Lake Macquarie City Council

Dinghy & Water craft Storage in Council Open Space Policy, 2011, Leichhardt Municipal Council

Regulating Foreshore Boat Storage, 14 August 2012 (presentation), Woollahra Municipal Council

Water Craft Storage on Public Land Policy, 2007, Woollahra Municipal Council

Dinghy Storage (Information from Pittwater Council ((Northern Beaches Council)) website)

Transport for NSW, Draft Sydney Harbour Boat Storage Strategy April 2013, NSW Government

Dinghies & Other Water Craft Management Policy, 2014, Sutherland Shire Council

Dinghy Storage Management Plan, 2014, City of Nedlands