

# Centennial Parklands



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

January 2020

# Centennial Parklands

## PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Prepared For

Glen Innes Severn Council

By

Environmental Partnership NSW Pty Ltd

January 2020

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Background	7
1.2 Study area at a glance	9
1.3 Objectives of this Plan of Management	13
1.4 Consultation	13
Values	14
Pressure and Opportunities	14
Other Management Issues	17
2 CONTEXT	19
2.1 Significance	19
2.2 Cultural and Historical Significance	20
2.2.1 Aboriginal heritage	20
2.2.2 European heritage	20
2.2.3 Australian Standing Stones Monument	20
2.2.4 Interpretation of heritage values	22
2.3 Access	23
2.3.1 Vehicular access and parking	23
2.3.2 Pedestrian and cycle access	23
2.4 Physical Site Factors	25
2.4.1 Climate	25
2.4.2 Landform and drainage	25
2.4.3 Soils	25
2.4.4 Vegetation	25
2.4.5 Fauna	29
2.4.6 Maintained grassland areas	29
2.5 Facilities	32
2.5.1 Buildings and structures	32
2.5.2 Services Infrastructure	32
2.5.3 Playspace	32
2.6 Visual Character	34
2.7 Current Recreational Usage	38
2.9 Planning Considerations	40
2.9.1 Adjacent land use	40
2.9.2 Zoning and planning controls	40

2.10 Statutory Requirements	42
2.10.1 Crown Lands Act 2016	42
Principles of Crown Lands Management	43
Categorisation of Crown Lands	43
Plans of management and native title	43
2.10.2 Local Government Amendment Act 1998	44
2.10.3 Other relevant legislation and policy	44
2.10.4 Categorisation and core objectives for community land management	45
2.11 Management	48
The Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB)	48
2.12 Maintenance	48
2.13 Current Leasing Agreements	49
2.14 Staffing	49
2.15 Community Involvement	49
2.16 Funding	49
3 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	50
3.1 Introduction	50
3.2 Management Philosophy	50
3.3 Community Values, Roles	50
The highlands	50
Aboriginal cultural heritage	50
Celtic cultural heritage	50
Environment	50
Family recreation	50
Fitness, exercise, and adventure	51
Tourism	51
Education	51
Events	51
3.4 Framework for management	52
3.5 Planning and Management Strategies	58
3.5.1 Standing Stones Monument Management	58
3.5.2 Native Title	59
3.5.3 Management of park edges	59
3.5.4 Access and Circulation	59
Recreational Access	59
Vehicular access and parking	60
Emergency access	60
3.5.5 Buildings and structures	60

Crofters Cottage	60
Multi purpose building as staged development	61
Water Treatment facility	61
Hill top walk / boardwalk	62
Maintenance facilities	62
3.5.6 Grassed recreation areas	62
3.5.7 Drainage	63
3.5.8 Provision of Facilities	63
Picnic facilities	63
Seating and bins	64
Playground	64
Multi purpose bush tracks	64
Fitness equipment	64
3.5.9 Interpretation	65
3.5.10 Events	65
Multi- function parklands centre	65
The Western Green	65
The Northern Paddocks	66
3.5.11 Health & Safety Issues	66
3.5.12 Landscape Improvement	66
Introduction	66
Shade Tree canopy	66
Vegetation management around facilities	66
Habitat management	68
Visual enhancement of poor views	68
3.5.13 Maintenance	68
Maintained parkland areas - general recurrent reserve maintenance	68
3.5.14 Park management	69
4 IMPLEMENTATION	70
4.1 Introduction	70
4.2 Management Structure	70
4.2.1 Glen Innes Severn Council	70
4.2.2 The Community	70
4.3 Funding	71
4.4 Priorities	71
4.4.1 High priority (short-term)	71
4.4.2 Moderate priority (medium-term)	71
4.4.3 Low priority (long-term)	71
4.4.4 Implementation schedule	72
4.5 Concept Masterplan	72
4.5.1 Site Masterplan	72
4.5.2 Precinct proposals	74
Proposed centralised parking	74
Proposed central facilities hub adjoining Nowlan Green	75
Proposed Hilltop Walk	76
Proposed timber screen cladding to WTP east and south edges	78

4.6 Action List	79
4.6.1 Centennial Parklands	79
4.7 Staffing	81
4.8 Commercial Development Opportunities	81
4.9 Leases and Licenses	81
4.9.1 What are leases, licences and other estates?	81
4.9.2 Existing and proposed leases, licences and other estates	82
4.10 Plan of Management	83

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

A Plan of Management is a document that provides a means to control the future use, development and maintenance of Community and / or Crown Land under Council's care, control and management. This Plan of Management (PoM) will identify issues relevant to the future management of Centennial Parklands, including the accommodation of various proposed and existing features of the site. The PoM will establish Council's goals, strategies and desired outcomes that will guide the timing, shape and nature of developments.

This PoM is supported by a masterplan which has been developed for the site, accompanied by recommendations for the staged implementation of proposals for the various park elements. This PoM has been prepared in accordance with and seeks adoption under the LGA.

The preparation of this PoM is intended to represent the culmination of Council's investigations aimed at determining an appropriate character and scale for the development and management for Centennial Park.

The preparation of this PoM also enables Council to strategically address recreation needs in a staged manner. It will enable commencement of the development of open space facilities at Centennial Parklands, and will help identify a program of development and ongoing maintenance works.

### **What Development is Allowable under the Plan of Management?**

A Plan of Management must define the existing and future uses of community land as required under the Local Government Act, 1993. Future uses and development proposed for Centennial Parklands are outlined in Sections 3.0 of this plan. As Council considers necessary, development allowable under this PoM may include:

- Provision of recreational facilities associated parking, access roads and amenities buildings;
- Provision of playgrounds;
- Provision of facilities ancillary to use including seating, picnic and barbeque facilities, shelters, lighting, drainage, irrigation, fencing, pathways, and new signage.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure), 2007 enables the above development works be carried out by or on behalf of a council without consent on a public reserve.

Where minor works are undertaken, proposals may still require assessment under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, and may require exhibition of the proposal.

This plan of management also authorises the following uses on the park which will require development consent under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1974 or approval of development that does not require consent under Part 5 of the EP&A Act.

- Provision of kiosk / cafe facilities supporting the Standing Stones Monument and recreational uses
- Provision of events infrastructure
- Provision of community meeting rooms

If there is any further development of the community land other than that authorised by this PoM, or a change in the categorisation of Centennial Parklands is proposed, amendment and re-exhibition of the PoM is required.



Figure 1.1 Centennial Parkland site

## 1.2 Study area at a glance

The table following summarises existing features and management of the study area. Refer to Figure 1.2 for the extent of land parcels referred to lot and deposited plan references below.

Item	Description
Site Name:	Centennial Parklands
Address:	Watsons Drive off Meade Street Glen Innes
Ownership	Crown Reserve
Overall area	Centennial Parklands: 17 hectares (169,752m <sup>2</sup> approx)
Lot & DP, area and zoning: Refer to Figure 1.2 over page)	<p>Centennial Parklands (Lot 733 DP 40198 – north portion and Lot 515 DP 753282 - southern portion) are zoned RE1 Public Recreation under the provisions of the <i>Glen Innes Severn Local Environmental Plan 2012</i>. The land is a Crown Reserve for Public Recreation.</p> <p>The Water treatment Plant is located on Lot 515 DP 753282 are zoned RE1 Public Recreation under the provisions of the <i>Glen Innes Severn Local Environmental Plan 2012</i>. The land is classified Operational land under the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>The area where the sludge ponds and shipping containers (Lot 732 DP 40198) is zoned RU1 Primary Production under the provisions of the <i>Glen Innes Severn Local Environmental Plan 2012</i>. The land is classified Operational land under the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>The unformed section of Buddee Street is road reserve and Travelling Stock Reserve and is zoned E3 Environmental Management under the provisions of the <i>Glen Innes Severn Local Environmental Plan 2012</i>..</p>
Community land categorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Park</li> <li>- General Community use</li> <li>- Area of Cultural Significance</li> </ul> refer section 2.10.4
Care, control, management:	Glen Innes Severn Council



Figure 1.2 Land Parcels

Item	Description																
<p>Conditions of park:  <i>Note – general comments only - Refer to section 2.8 for specific information</i></p>	<p><b>Grassed areas:</b> Fair condition generally.            -Low rainfall has limited grass condition  <b>Tree cover:</b> Fair to Good condition generally            -Low rainfall has impacted tree condition  <b>Understorey:</b> extensive weed encroachment along eastern slopes of site  <b>Roads and parking areas:</b> Generally fair condition.  <b>Gravel tracks:</b>            Bourke Street track: Fair to poor condition – stabilised gravel surface wearing and surface erosion from drainage            North carpark track: Poor condition surface and edge erosion from drainage  <b>Play equipment:</b> fair condition generally  <b>Play softfall:</b> fair condition generally            -Organic softfall requires regular maintenance  <b>Fencing</b>            Water treatment plant: fair condition generally            Water treatment plant backwash ponds: fair condition generally            Site boundary</p>																
Maintenance:	<p>Glen Innes Severn Council            Maintained gassed area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mowing and edging</li> <li>• Tree planting and weeding of garden beds</li> <li>• Litter patrol/removal</li> <li>• Fence maintenance</li> </ul>																
<p>Condition of Buildings / structures:  <i>Note – general comments only - Refer to section 2.8 for specific information</i></p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Standing Stones memorial</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standing Stones signage</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crofters Cottage</td> <td>Fair to Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Picnic shelters</td> <td>Good</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toilet block</td> <td>Fair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playground</td> <td>Fair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Wall</td> <td>Fair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martins Lookout</td> <td>Fair</td> </tr> </table>	Standing Stones memorial	Good	Standing Stones signage	Good	Crofters Cottage	Fair to Good	Picnic shelters	Good	Toilet block	Fair	Playground	Fair	Family Wall	Fair	Martins Lookout	Fair
Standing Stones memorial	Good																
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Picnic shelters	Good																
Toilet block	Fair																
Playground	Fair																
Family Wall	Fair																
Martins Lookout	Fair																
Existing Uses:	<p>Standing Stones Monument            Australian Celtic Festival            Passive recreation</p>																
Leases / licenses / bookings:	Stone Cottage Café License																
Caveats / easements:	Nil																

Item	Description
<p>Assets: Areas are <i>approximate only</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained grassland 5 ha approximately</li> <li>• Gravel pavement / path (134 lin/m)</li> <li>• Asphalt pavement / path (7,765 m<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>• Concrete pavement / path (34 lin/m)</li> <li>• Park seats</li> <li>• Bin stands</li> <li>• Timber bollards</li> <li>• Chain wire fencing</li> <li>• Boom gates</li> <li>• Wood fired BBQs</li> <li>• 2 custom picnic shelters</li> <li>• Martins Lookout marker obelisk</li> <li>• Interpretive sign</li> <li>• Electrical switchboards</li> </ul>
<p>Related management Bodies :</p>	<p>The Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB) is a Section 355 Community Committee of Glen Innes Severn Council. As such, the ASSMB comprises representatives from the community and Council and is responsible for advising Council on the management of the Standing Stones monument and are key supporters of the Australian Celtic Festival Event.</p>
<p>Related management Strategies :</p>	<p>The Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB) has in place a Business Plan 2008-12 and Adopted Constitution for the Standing Stones Monument that identifies a strategic plan under key objectives including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Standing Stones site</li> <li>ii. Operational Management</li> <li>iii. Promotion</li> </ol> <p>This plan of management should be read in conjunction with the ASSMB Business Plan and will act in conjunction with the Business Plan to guide management of the Standing Stones site.</p>

### 1.3 Objectives of this Plan of Management

Glen Innes Severn Council's 2018/19 Operating Plan requires the preparation of a Centennial Parklands Plan of Management (PoM) to facilitate the future orderly development of the Standing Stones site and surrounding parklands. In tandem with a review of the Australian Celtic Festival Strategic Plan and in consultation with the Australian Standing Stones Management Board, priorities for enhancement and management of the site were determined which have been integrated to this PoM and Master Plan.

This PoM seeks to define a sustainable direction for the parklands that integrates multiple recreational roles and the ongoing role of the Standing Stones Monument site. It aims to facilitate and guide a management approach whereby recreational and other community uses can effectively co-exist with heritage and environmental values of the park.

General objectives addressed in this plan include the programs and strategies that are expressed in documents such as Glen Innes Severn Council Policies and Codes including the Glen Innes Severn Community Strategic Plan. In addition to addressing the Local Government Act, Council's specific objectives of this POM are to:

- Guide the future management and development of the study area
- Identify the appropriate land categorisation/s for the study area
- Meet the legislative requirements for community land under the Crown Lands Management Act 2016 Local Government Act 1993
- Clarify and prioritise how Council will manage the land, and in particular indicate how the current land may be developed
- Identify relevant planning instruments
- Identify future assets, upgrade works and maintenance requirements
- Provide a list of actions and priorities
- Incorporate site analysis, research and diagrammatic information
- Provide short term and long term landscape master planning
- Incorporate appropriate contributions raised in consultation with stakeholders

### 1.4 Consultation

The Plan of Management has incorporated stakeholder liaison in its development as outlined following. A public exhibition period in accordance with statutory requirements will also be provided

#### **Stakeholder Forum (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018)**

Community and Internal Council stakeholders were given the opportunity to discuss values of the park and pressures and opportunities for ongoing park development and management. Stakeholders included:

- Internal council technical staff including Parks & Gardens, Dept Infrastructure & Dept Development, Planning & Regulatory
- Open Spaces Committee
- Australian Standing Stones Management Board
- Aboriginal Lands Council, Glen Innes

This consultation identified the following values and related pressures and opportunities:

<i>Values</i>	<i>Pressure and Opportunities</i>
<b>The highlands</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique geological history of area</li> <li>• Landform – highest point of highest major town in Australia</li> <li>• Outlook and viewing point to landscape and significant landmarks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for feature lookouts and / or elevated walkway to east and south sides of hill top – added potential to integrate this with broader track network and with other park facilities</li> <li>• Attractive outlook from lower park to north west – from area of Standing Stones and Hill of Tara</li> <li>• Potential to interpret and celebrate natural history in particular geological influences on the landscape</li> </ul>
<b>Aboriginal cultural heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal history in the area - Glen Innes as a meeting place for coastal and inland peoples</li> <li>• The significance of the hilltop location – meeting place and outlook</li> <li>• Opportunity for interpretation and celebration of Ngorabul peoples history and culture</li> <li>• Opportunity for ongoing Ngorabul involvement in Centennial Parklands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Aboriginal interpretation on site currently other than Aboriginal flag pole location within Standing Stones precinct which is flown during the Australian Celtic Festival. There is also an Aboriginal Mural located on Tynwald Hill between the three stoned seats and the rock-wall – this was created through the friendship agreement with Mosman Council and was created by local Ngorabul women..</li> <li>• Hilltop provides potential point of orientation to a variety of Aboriginal sites in the region including The Willows and Ochre pits. Jaden to provide advise as to an indicative list of locations that could be identified from lookout on the hill</li> <li>• Potential for bush tucker plantings on site – and integration to interpretation</li> <li>• Journals of John McPherson provide a reference for Aboriginal / European interactions in the 1800's</li> <li>• Need for Land Council involvement in future conception and development of Aboriginal interpretation</li> </ul>
<b>Celtic cultural heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing Stones are an emblem and monument to the Celtic history and influences on the northern tablelands</li> <li>• Standing stones are a nationally significant monument – representing Celtic Australia – for the nation</li> <li>• Australian Celtic Festival is a major annual event for Glen Innes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10m exclusion zone has been in operation to protect monument from any incursion by facilities or services – this should be formalised in the Plan of Management.</li> <li>• The Standing Stones Management Board is a 355 Committee of Council responsible for management of the monument and related curtilage area and are key supporters of the Australian Celtic Festival Event.</li> <li>• Responsibilities for ongoing maintenance of Standing Stones monument lies with the Glen Innes Severn Council and should be formalised in the Plan of Management.</li> </ul>

<i>Values</i>	<i>Pressure and Opportunities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Standing Stones Management Board provide recommendations to Glen Innes Severn Council to ensure visitor safety to the location.</li> <li>• Crofters Cottage built to support the visitation of the Standing Stones Monument and opened in 1994.</li> <li>• Currently used as Café open Thursday to Sunday 10-2pm – lack of doors / windows are constraints to cafe use / amenity</li> <li>• POM to review what is optimum use of building in relation to the Standing Stones – could it potentially be the site of an orientation centre / interpretive display that serves the Standing Stones and potentially the overall site.</li> <li>• Related to this could café type activities better be accommodated in a purpose designed multi purpose structure on the site. This structure may also be able to cater for smaller functions / booked events.</li> <li>• POM to note some maintenance issues related to the Crofters Cottage building: log roof overhang, extraction fan.</li> <li>• New toilet facilities are required to replace the existing from a functional and aesthetic perspective</li> <li>• Also need to incorporate a baby change table POM to review options integrated with other functions</li> <li>• Additional covered space is desirable to serve the park day to day but particularly for the Celtic Festival – POM to review options</li> <li>• The Celtic Festival uses several other areas for activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-western grassed platform for tug of war</li> <li>-upper grassed platform for jousting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potential for integration of event with emerging / current technologies if infrastructure available on site (eg broadband)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ribbon Gum and Yellowbox woodland fringing the hilltop</li> <li>• Habitat potential of woodlands with native understorey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is significant weed infestation of the peripheral vegetated slopes to the eastern and southern boundaries. Mid storey weeds species also constrain views out from hilltop whereas native condition of woodland (trees in lower understorey) would enable views out.</li> </ul>

<i>Values</i>	<i>Pressure and Opportunities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The periphery of the Water treatment plant is visible to adjoining areas of the park and to views into the site. In particular the eastern and southern edges are highly exposed to the adjoining access road. Some form of visual buffer is desirable</li> <li>• Water recycling off rooftops of all structures should be investigated</li> <li>• There is erosion on a number of existing tracks within steeper slopes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -Tregurtha Way walkway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Track from Celtic Festival parking zone in north</li> <li>-Review of track surfacing to key routes required</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Family recreation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong natural character attractive to families</li> <li>• Variety of activities possible in natural setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centennial parklands is favoured by many locals of family recreation / picnics etc over the parks within the town centre</li> <li>• Play equipment is aged and will need renewal within next 2-5 years. POM to review optimum location for the playground in the context of adjoining activities.</li> <li>• BBQ's are rustic but do suit the character of the park. Discuss whether timber burning is best option going forward for BBQ;'s, and review locations / number to suit park needs</li> <li>• On hot days availability of shade can be an issue – review fixed shade / shelter and tree canopy</li> </ul>
<b>Fitness, exercise, and adventure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for path and track access network</li> <li>• Slope and level changes are good for exercise</li> <li>• Attractive setting for exercise close to town</li> <li>• Existing use for mountain bike trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tregurtha Way track is eroded and does not meet compliancy for access into site. Council has developed options for a revised alignment that can provide grade compliance – surface to be reviewed to meet access requirements</li> <li>• High potential for site to be improved for fitness / exercise activities building on existing use</li> <li>• Potential to integrate fitness nodes</li> <li>• Potential to integrate MTB suitable sections of track that can enable this activity on site</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing Stones are a tourism draw card for Glen Innes and to the parklands</li> <li>• Potential to offer additional experiences for visitors to the parklands</li> <li>• Potential to support tourism and recreational uses with appropriate commercial activities (eg café, temporary or “bump in” activities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing stones and Celtic Festival are major draw cards for Glen Innes</li> <li>• How can other facilities complement these draws and encourage further visitation</li> <li>• Review potential for an improved visitor and interpretive experience, along with improved Café type services to serve tourism market</li> </ul>

<i>Values</i>	<i>Pressure and Opportunities</i>
<b>Education</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education potential integrating natural heritage with Aboriginal and Celtic heritage streams in one place</li> <li>• Potential for outdoor classrooms</li> <li>• Potential for on site interpretive centre supported by external interpretation mediums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for coordinated interpretive programme that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-orientation / visitors centre / display</li> <li>-interpretive mediums round the site</li> <li>-interpretive artworks</li> <li>-on line interpretation</li> <li>-range of scales of events that can be themed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potential to collaborate with / involve schools during ongoing implementation of strategies to improve concepts and to build ownership of the park</li> </ul>
<b>Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Celtic Festival draws visitation from over Australia and internationally</li> <li>• Potential for use of site for other events</li> <li>• Natural amphitheatres landscapes on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to use the site for other events is to be explored. Review existing areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-western grassed platform</li> <li>-northern grassed slopes</li> </ul> For potential as event venues </li> <li>• Review potential for event servicing to cater for various scales and locations of events – this may include provisions for permanent and bump in power water and toilets</li> <li>• Diagram of Celtic Festival setup has been drafted – this is being drawn at scale by Council and will be provided to consultants</li> </ul>
<i>Other Management Issues</i>	
<b>Vehicular access and parking</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing sealed parking area is a large expanse of asphalt for limited numbers of parking spaces However it does provide a bus turning circle. Previously there was a large tree within the area</li> <li>• POM to review layout to improve if possible</li> <li>• Road area just above toilets – provides an outlook area to Standing Stones – but is part of the roadway – POM to review potential to provide a pedestrian space with outlook adjoining the road</li> <li>• 4WD vehicles occasionally do runs up steep slopes – POM to consider future management of vehicles adjoining gassed areas as uses and visitation of park grows</li> <li>• There is no public parking allowed in the upper area of the park for the public during the Celtic Festival. Cars are directed to enter the northern slopes of the site off Shannonvale Rd where a shuttle bus is available. Issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-management of disabled attendees</li> <li>-illegal car access up into upper park</li> <li>-poor quality of track access for pedestrians</li> <li>-arrangement / management of parking on the day</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Maintenance / management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an extensive area of grass to be mown in the park currently, although limited rainfall has constrained grass growth this summer. POM to consider options for grass management and whether maintenance load could be reduced</li> <li>• Previous underground of some of the power provisions within the site was carried out in the area of the monument. Several power cabinets are now available for events</li> <li>• There are proposals to extend the undergrounding of power and facilitate additional permanent lighting within the park – POM to consider how this might best be pursued and ensure that the integrity of Standing Stones monument is maintained.</li> </ul>	

## Public Hearing

A public hearing will be provided during the public exhibition period in accordance with the Local Government Act. The public hearing provides an opportunity for the community to discuss the proposed categorisation of community lands.

## Public Exhibition

The plan was placed on public exhibition for 28 days plus a 14-day ongoing response period (42 days total) in accordance with the Local Government Act. The exhibition period allowed for interested parties to comment on the Draft Plan. Council considered all comments and the final document has been amended where appropriate.

## 2 CONTEXT

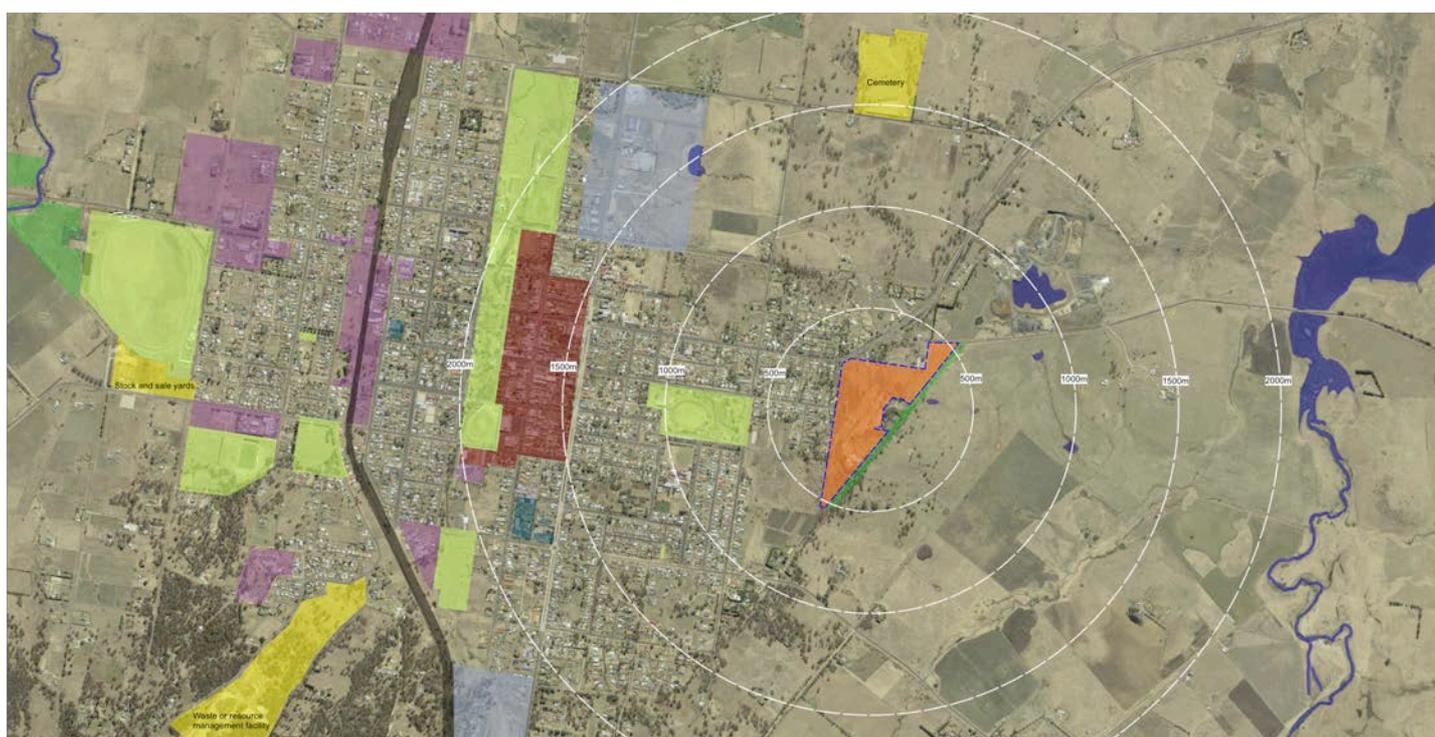
### 2.1 Significance

#### District and Regional Significance

Centennial Parklands (CP) is situated 1 kilometre east of the main township of Glen Innes. It is accessed off the Gwydir Hwy and Meade St on Watsons Drive which runs through the site. The parklands primary roles are to house the main Water Treatment Works & overflow dam for Glen Innes, and being the site of Australian Standing Stones (ASS) Site including 'Crofters Cottage', Toilet Block, Family Wall, 2 x covered picnic tables and Martin's Lookout.

In the early 1990's, Glen Innes was chosen as the site for the Australian Standing Stones – a monument designed to honour the Celtic contribution to Australia and one of the first such megalithic circles to be built anywhere in the world in more than 3000 years. The Standing Stones site is the annual home of the Australian Celtic Festival which sees around 8,000 participants, performers and stall holders access the site annually

Centennial Parklands are scenically elevated above the township providing 360 degree views to the surrounding landscape and some major geographical and cultural landmarks for Aboriginal and European heritage.



#### Legend

--- Site Boundary	Enterprise corridor
Existing features	Industrial uses
Grey Rail infrastructure facilities	Environmental management
Light green Open space	Yellow Public facilities/infrastructures
Blue Water body	Teal Mixed use
Red Local centre	

Figure 2.1 Context within Glen Innes

## **2.2 Cultural and Historical Significance**

### *2.2.1 Aboriginal heritage*

The Ngoorabul people are the traditional owners of the Glen Innes Highlands area. The traditional name of the area of Glen Innes was Eerindii. The arrival of European settlers in the 1800's saw the significant disruption of the life of these first peoples, with widespread loss of life through massacres, disease and poisoning.

The Ngoorabul's territory covered an estimated 1,000 square miles (2,600 km<sup>2</sup>) of land, from Tenterfield to Glen Innes including the Beardy River. The Ngoorabul lived on the highlands in the summertime and adapted to the highland weather in the winter months. Ngoorabul was reported to still be spoken in the area around Glen Innes, Stonehenge, Wellingrove and Emmaville when John MacPherson practiced as a doctor in northern New South Wales in the late 1890s

Today, Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council manages around 3000 hectares of land near Emmaville, including The Willows and the adjoining property Boorabee. Both Boorabee and The Willows have deep spiritual significance for the Ngoorabul people. The Willows is near Strathbogie Station, known as a safe place for many Ngoorabul people, and the former Nucoorilma Mission, where many Ngoorabul people lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Conservation of bush food and medicine is important to the Ngoorabul. Boorabee and The Willows contain endangered white box, yellow box and Blakely's red gum woodlands.

The Ngoorabul traditionally passed down creation stories to younger people in their community, and they share the story of the Severn River Gorge with visitors to The Willows to connect them to the land. The story tells of a giant greedy cod named Goodoo and a powerful magic man, Biamme, who punished Goodoo for his greed – in the process creating the gorge. Today, Yellow Belly and Cod are caught in season in the river.

### *2.2.2 European heritage*

In about 1838 Archibald Boyd registered the first run in the Glen Innes district. Two stockmen known as "the Beardies" because of their long beards took Boyd to this area to establish his run. 'The Beardies' later introduced other squatters to the best runs in the area to become known as the Land of the Beardies or Beardy Plains.

The name Glen Innes is believed to have been bestowed by Archibald Mosman in honour of Major Archibald Clunes Innes an early landholder. Glen Innes was gazetted as a town in 1852 and the first lots were sold in 1854. The post office was established in August 1854 and the court in 1858. In 1866 the population was around 350, with a telegraph station, lands office, police barracks, courthouse, post office and two hotels. There was still no coach service at this time until in the 1870s a road was constructed to Grafton.

The Glen Innes district has been a producer of wool, sheep and beef cattle since it was first settled. Sapphires are mined in the creek valleys immediately west of town, and while tin is no longer commercially mined, mineral exploration is ongoing

### *2.2.3 Australian Standing Stones Monument*

The Standing Stones are conferred with the title of Australian Celtic Centre by the Celtic Council of Australia, this official acknowledgment recognises the Glen Innes district's contribution to highlighting its Celtic origins and keeping the traditions alive. The Glen Innes tartan was only the second district tartan to be registered with the Scottish Tartans Society, first was Dunedin in New Zealand. The striking blue, red and white tartan features on a range of arts and crafts available in Glen Innes and district.

In the early 1990's, Glen Innes was chosen as the site for the Australian Standing Stones – a monument designed to honour the Celtic contribution to Australia and one of the first such megalithic circles to be built anywhere in the world in more than 3000 years.

The Australian Standing Stones site was established to serve as a cultural gathering place for people of all the Celtic groups – Irish, Welsh, Cornish, Scottish, Manx, Breton, Galician and Asturian and as such, was seen as a major historic event with global implications. Until early 1990's, there was no single place anywhere in the world that is designated for the purpose of uniting all branches of Celtic peoples; for the accurate recording of the festivals that mark the annual calendar of the Celtic races. It is intended to enable people, particularly the young, living in various Celtic countries to learn and appreciate our Australian culture and way of life, plus provide historic focus for young and old alike to learn about and understand their Celtic heritage. The Australian Standing Stones layout is distinctively Australian, with several quite unique design features which owe nothing to any older megalithic stone circles.

Key aspects of the layout as identified on the Standing Stones interpretive signage are indicated on Figure 2.2 below and listed on the following page:



**Figure 2.2 The Standing Stones Monument**

The stones represent features of early Celtic life and celebrate the Celtic nations whose descendants contributed to Australian life. The thirty eight stones include a circle of twenty four stones representing the twenty four hours of the day. Three stones mark the centre of the circle. The central stone is the Australis Stone for all Australians. The Gaelic Stone to the north of the Australis Stone is for Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. The Brythonic Stone to the south of the Australis Stone is for Wales Cornwall and Brittany. Seven stones mark where the rising and setting sun shows the high point of summer (the summer solstice) and deepest winter (winter solstice) important times for early Celtic farmers. Four extra stones mark north south and east and west. Together with the summer solstice sunrise stone they also mirror the five stars of the Southern Cross a welcoming constellation in the Australian sky which symbolises the old world meeting the new. The circle of stones plus the four stones of the compass also form the Celtic or Ionic Cross a symbol of the early Christian church which is still used today by the Roman Catholic Church.

Other points of interest include:

### **Tynwald Hill**

Overlooks the stones and honours the contribution of Manx people from the Isle of Man. The Manx parliament called Tynwald is the longest continually serving parliament in the world.

### **The Celtic family wall**

On Tynwald Hill holds stones from Celtic places around the world which societies and families have placed here – symbolically cementing our ties. The rock of remembrance at the north of the wall honours the forward thinking people that helped to make the Australian Standing Stones a reality.

### **The Irish Stone**

Sits south of the main array and displays Ogham markings. These stick like markings represent an ancient written language. The inscribed message translates to Glen Innes.

### **The Gorsedd Stone**

Copies the stone used by the Cornish and Welsh communities as a welcoming site to show friendship between tribes. It was also used in festivals where winners or Bards were officially celebrated on a stone stage.

### **Excalibur**

Dedicated to the Welsh, is located to the east of the Irish stone

### **The Hill of Tara**

Was the traditional seat of the King of Ireland. This small hill to the north of the site recognises the Irish contribution to Australia.

### **Tregurtha Way**

Honours the contribution of the Tregurtha family and is a walkway link to town via Bourke Street.

### **Crofters Cottage**

Is modelled on a traditional “black house”(taigh dubh) which was common in Scotland and Ireland. Small landholdings known as crofts were farmed by the crofter living in a cottage such as this.

### **Martins Lookout**

400m further south provides a good outlook of Glen Innes and surrounds

## *2.2.4 Interpretation of heritage values*

The cultural heritage of the local area and of the site specifically offers high potential for interpretation that can enhance the experience of park users and provide a resource for the local community. There is limited interpretation currently with the exception of the Standing Stones information sign panel..

## 2.3 Access

### 2.3.1 Vehicular access and parking

The park is accessed off Meade Street along the sealed asphalt roadway of Watson Avenue which runs centrally through the park climbing steeply from the turning circle just off Mead Street. A main carpark and some angle parking to the roadway is located at the Crofters Cottage catering for approximately 31 vehicles. A major tree that was previously located within the carpark has been removed and the carpark now presents an extensive area of hardstand and relatively inefficient parking layout. There are a further 5-7 parking spaces in the road margins adjoining the entry to the Water Treatment plant compound, and informal parking adjoining the road reserve at Martins Lookout.

During the Australian Celtic Festival public vehicle access via Watson Avenue is closed. Public parking is available in the northern paddocks which are accessed through private property from Shannonvale Road with a shuttle bus operating to bring visitors back into the site

### 2.3.2 Pedestrian and cycle access

The park has limited pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. The only formed pedestrian paths are "Tregurtha Way" a steep stabilised gravel pathway leading up from Bourke Street which is a direct pedestrian and cycle corridor to town. The path gradients are not DDA compliant and an alternative access was recommended in Councils Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAAMP), and has been investigated by Council.

A second gravel track access is provided from near the play space down to the northern paddocks and is aimed at providing pedestrian access from the event parking in the paddocks. However this track is also steeply graded and has been subject to erosion by inadequate drainage during heavy rainfall



Watsons Avenue entry to Centennial Parklands

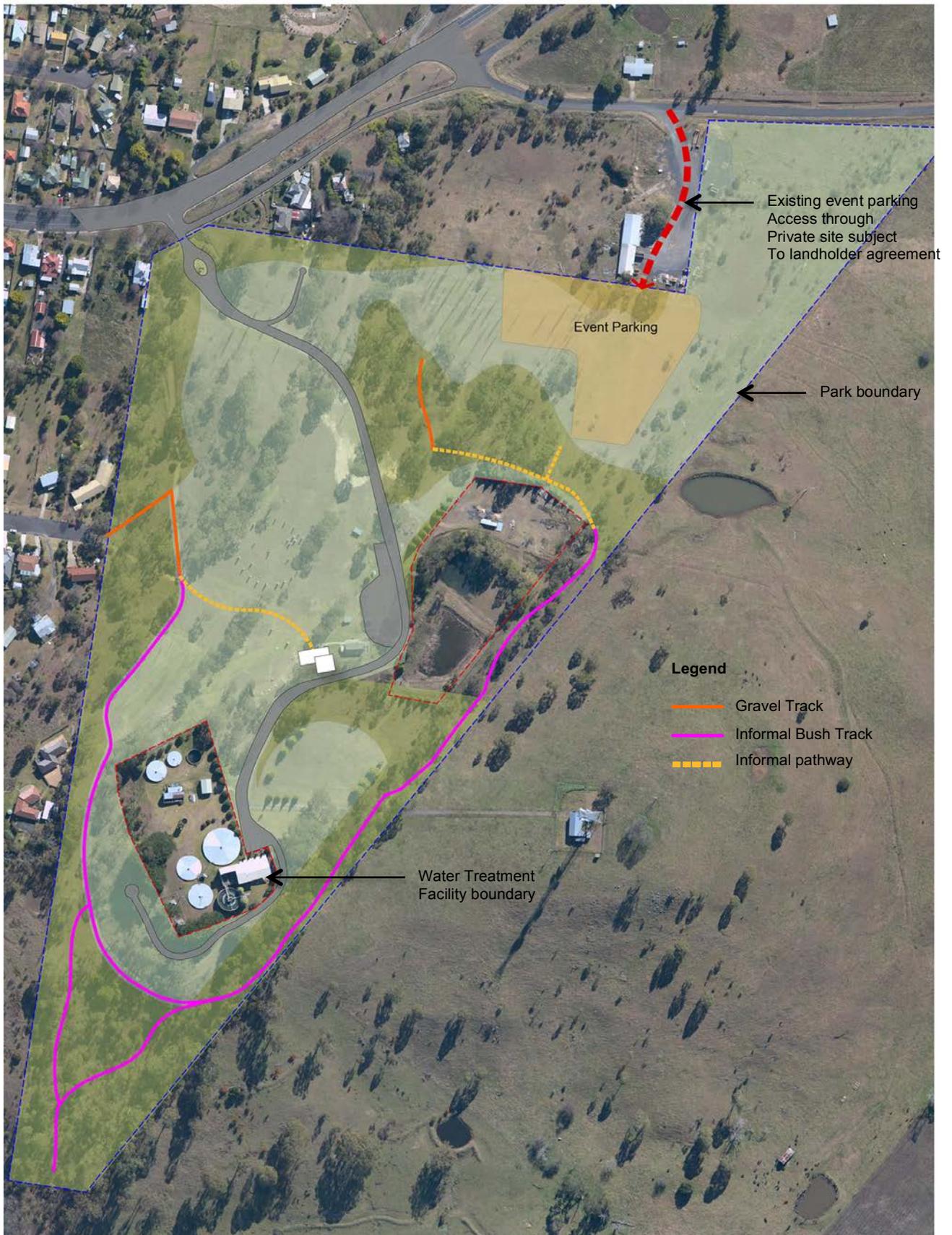


Figure 2.3 Park access

## 2.4 Physical Site Factors

### 2.4.1 Climate

Glen Innes is 1,062 metres AHD with an average annual rainfall of 857 mm. The area has one of Australia's coldest climates outside the Snowy Mountains and Tasmania,[citation needed] with mild to warm summers and cold, windy winters with regular frosts and occasional snowfalls, though many snowfalls do not settle. Glen Innes's highest recorded temperature was 37.0 °C (98.6 °F) on 4 January 2014, and its coldest was −12.8 °C (9.0 °F) on 8 July 2002.[13] Rainfall is heaviest in late spring, owing to the effects of the surrounding mountains, causing uplift which in turn causes frequent, heavy storms during this period.

Climate data for Glen Innes Airport													[hide]
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	37.0 (98.6)	36.9 (98.4)	32.7 (90.9)	28.7 (83.7)	23.9 (75.0)	22.1 (71.8)	20.4 (68.7)	27.7 (81.9)	29.0 (84.2)	32.0 (89.6)	35.2 (95.4)	35.1 (95.2)	37.0 (98.6)
Average high °C (°F)	26.4 (79.5)	25.8 (78.4)	24.0 (75.2)	20.8 (69.4)	16.9 (62.4)	13.8 (56.8)	13.3 (55.9)	14.9 (58.8)	18.5 (65.3)	21.2 (70.2)	23.1 (73.6)	25.0 (77.0)	20.3 (68.5)
Average low °C (°F)	12.9 (55.2)	12.9 (55.2)	10.9 (51.6)	6.8 (44.2)	2.0 (35.6)	0.4 (32.7)	−1.1 (30.0)	−1.0 (30.2)	2.5 (36.5)	5.6 (42.1)	9.1 (48.4)	11.3 (52.3)	6.0 (42.8)
Record low °C (°F)	2.3 (36.1)	2.8 (37.0)	−3.4 (25.9)	−6.0 (21.2)	−9.8 (14.4)	−11.6 (11.1)	−12.8 (9.0)	−12.8 (9.0)	−8.0 (17.6)	−5.2 (22.6)	−1.1 (30.0)	0.0 (32.0)	−12.8 (9.0)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	100.8 (3.97)	85.8 (3.38)	79.3 (3.12)	50.5 (1.99)	44.3 (1.74)	56.5 (2.22)	47.4 (1.87)	50.0 (1.97)	58.9 (2.32)	81.8 (3.22)	122.9 (4.84)	112.8 (4.44)	891 (35.08)

Source: Bureau of Meteorology<sup>[14]</sup>

Figure 2.4 Climate data for local area (source BOM)

### 2.4.2 Landform and drainage

The Centennial Parklands site sits up to 100m (1153m) or so above the town proper (1072m). The site is typified by undulating to steep slopes away from the high point at which the Water Treatment plant is located. The slopes range around 1:4 to 1:10 with the steepest slopes around the south and west boundaries. Hills in the Ben Lomond and Deepwater District rise up to 1500m.

### 2.4.3 Soils

The underlying geological characteristic of the Glen Innes area is granite with older Claystones or Slates. The older sedimentary geology was laid down under a former water body and formed rock under pressure. Significant volcanic activity injected large masses of molten rock into the sedimentary rock. These masses consolidated at a considerable depth from the earth's surface at that time, and formed the granites of to-day. Rainfall and other processes operating on the new structures slowly wore away the hard rocks, cutting valleys here and there, and gradually exposing the granite underlying the claystones. Source: Leo A. Corrow, B.A., B.Sc., Linnean Macleny Fellow in Geology.

The soils of the site have been subject to some modification through past clearing for agriculture. The pre existing soils would have been variable in depth lying at the top of the remnant volcanic formation. The low lying soils below the hilltops are extremely fertile.

### 2.4.4 Vegetation

The site is typified by Ribbon Gum and Yellowbox woodland fringing the hilltop. Ribbon Gum—Mountain Gum—Snow Gum Grassy Forest/Woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion is characterised by a tree layer that is usually 20 metres tall and reaches up to 30 metres in resource-rich sites, but is considerably shorter than 20 metres on exposed or damp sites or where past clearing has removed mature trees. Common overstorey species include *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Ribbon Gum), *E. dalrympleana* subsp. *heptantha* (Mountain Gum), *E. pauciflora* (Snow Gum or White Sallee) and occasionally *E. stellulata* (Black Sallee). The mid-layer and understorey comprise sparse layers of small trees and shrubs, including *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Pultenaea microphylla* and *Pimelea linifolia* (Slender Rice-flower) and a dense to very dense grassy ground cover dominated by *Poa sieberiana* var. *sieberiana* (Snowgrass), *P. labillardieri* (Tussock), *Themeda australis* (Kangaroo Grass)

and *Elymus scaber* (Common Wheatgrass), with herbs such as *Acaena* spp. (Bidgee-widgees and Sheep's-burrs), *Ammobium alatum* (Tall Ammobium), *Asperula conferta* (Common Woodruff), *Geranium solanderi* (Native Geranium), *Ranunculus lappaceus* (Common Buttercup) and numerous other species. Ribbon Gum—Mountain Gum—Snow Gum Grassy Forest/Woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion provides important habitat for the nationally vulnerable plant species *Thesium australe* (Austral Toadflax).

Ribbon Gum—Mountain Gum—Snow Gum Grassy Forest/Woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion may co-occur with White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland, also listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. The two endangered ecological communities may intergrade where they adjoin and in intermediate habitats. Throughout the range of this community, most of the understorey is highly modified, with many weeds present and a reduced native species richness.

The site also has several planting of exotic species including *Cupressus sp* (Cypress Pines) adjoining the west edge of the WTP settlement ponds and the west edge of the hilltop green grassed area, and Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra italica*) to the northern paddocks.



**View south east – weed understorey limits views – native typical woodland understorey would enable views through**



**View east – exotic weed growth has overtaken large areas of the Ribbon Gum woodland**

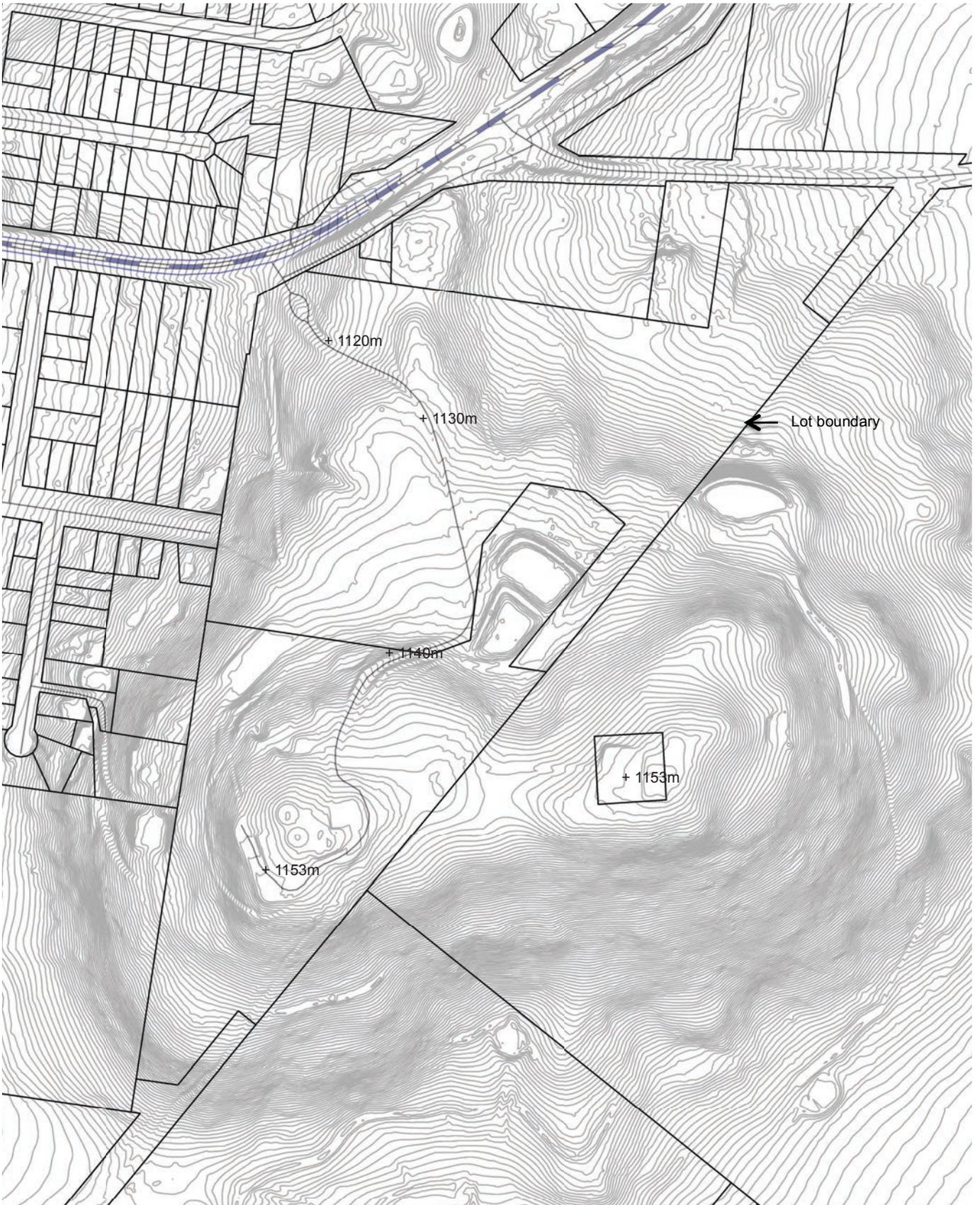


Figure 2.5 Landform



Figure 2.6 Vegetation Cover

### 2.4.5 Fauna

A Data of TSC Act and EPBC Act threatened species, populations and communities undertaken by Eco Logical in its Flora and habitat assessment for Councils Hunter Street development site just north of Centennial parklands produced a total of eight threatened fauna species, and 30 threatened fauna species known to occur, or considered likely to occur, within five km of the subject site (note that marine fish, sea birds, marine mammals, marine reptiles and migratory wetland birds were excluded from this search).

*Ribbon Gum-Mountain Gum-Snow Gum Grassy Forest/Woodland* of the New England Tableland Bioregion EEC exists within the Centennial Parklands site. Ribbon Gum is a Preferred Koala Food Tree (PKFT) listed under Schedule 2 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 44 – Koala Habitat Protection.

The native vegetation of the post agricultural lands in the area typically supports the following fauna habitat features:

- Ribbon Gum Koala present as PKFT;
- Clusters of basalt rocks as potential reptile habitat;
- Small to medium sized farm dams;
- Scattered small to medium logs on the ground (coarse woody debris); and
- A seasonal nectar resource in parts of the overstorey canopy such as various eucalypts.

### 2.4.6 Maintained grassland areas

One of the key attractions of the parkland is the availability of open grassed areas in a variety of scales and landforms that cater for unstructured use and activities. Each of these has individual implications for ongoing use and management and maintenance as outlined following (refer to Section 2.6 for Park condition commentary). The titles used below are working titles for the purposes of the plan of management. Potential names for these areas as suggested by the SSMB have been listed for future consideration:

#### The Nowlan Green

11,550 m<sup>2</sup> in area this zone is the largest flat to undulating area on the site, and is the location of the Standing Stones Monument. It is strongly defined by tree canopy to the slopes to the west and dissected by a broken line of native canopy trees. The major site facilities comprising Crofters Cottage and the toilet block and associated carparking adjoin the green to the south east. The site slopes up steeply from the southern edge of the green offering good views across the green and the Standing Stones Monument



#### The western green

3,728 m<sup>2</sup> in area the western green is a levelled platform enclosed by tree canopy the slopes falling away from the green to the west and by steep grassed slopes to the south. The fence line of the Water Treatment Plant to the hill above is highly visible from this area



Top: Nowlan Green  
Bottom: Western Green

### Watsons Drive slopes

11,422 m<sup>2</sup> in area this area is undulating to moderately sloping to the north and down to Meade Street and the vehicular entry to the parklands. This zone is an important part of the arrival experience for visitors arriving by car but otherwise is subject to limited use currently

### Hilltop Green

5,481m<sup>2</sup> in area this level grassed area is largely enclosed by surrounding tree canopy to the north and west. It closely adjoins Watsons Ave winding its way to the hilltop – the western interface of which is planted with several Cypress Pine plantings. To the south the area adjoining the site boundary and panoramic views out to the east / south east. During the Celtic Festival this area has been used for jousting.

### Northern Paddocks

16,610m<sup>2</sup> in area this zone lines along the northern slopes of the parklands up to the adjoining private lands. The area has undulating to steep slopes oriented to the north.

The zones of native tree canopy and understorey to the upper slopes are of conservation importance and for a strong visual buffer between the northern paddocks and the remainder of the parklands

### Potential naming for future consideration

The following potential names of the grassed spaces were suggested by the SSMB for future consideration.

Area Naming for consideration	
Nowlan Green	"Nowlan Green" in honour of Ted Nowlan, who donated a significant amount of time and machinery to the creation of the Standing Stones
Western Green	"Jelly Beans Green" recognising the Glen Innes Tug o War team. This field was initially set up for this purpose
Watsons Drive slopes	Northern Entry Slopes

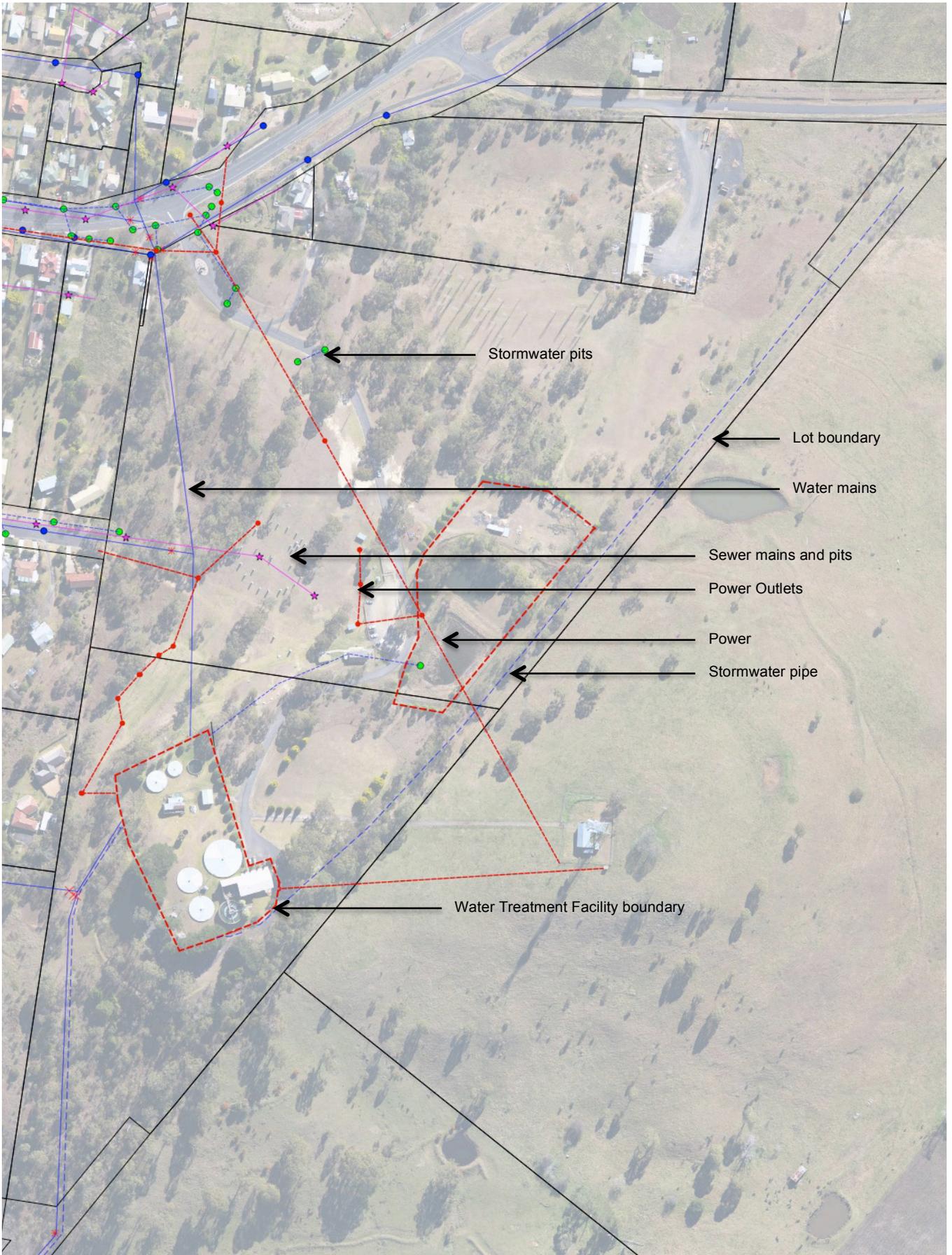


Top: Watsons Drive Slopes  
Centre: Hilltop Green  
Bottom: Northern Paddocks



Figure 2.7 Maintained grassed areas





The above diagram is indicative only and should not be interpreted as a full description of all site services

**Figure 2.8 Indicative site services**

## **2.6 Visual Character**

The parklands are situated approximately 100m above the Glen Innes Township at RL 1153 AHD and offer panoramic views 360 degrees to the surrounding landscape modulated by tree canopy and understorey.

The key locations where views are most available currently are indicated on Figure 2.9:

### **1. Martins Lookout**

Panoramic views to the south - south west to Stonhenge and One Tree Hill with the southern township in the foreground.

### **2. Hilltop Green**

Panoramic views to the south-south east to red range (part of the Great Dividing Range) with undulating pastoral character in the foreground.

### **3. Tynwald Hill**

Roadside viewing area looking out over the Standing Stones Monument with some dappled views through tree canopy to the town below.

### **4. Northern Paddocks**

Views to north east from higher ground to undulating pastoral character. Equipment and container storage to the private lands immediately to north are highly visibly and detract somewhat from this view.

There are a number of edges and interfaces which have poor visual qualities and detract from the character of the parklands. These are also described:

### **5. Hilltop Water Treatment Plan (WTP)**

The fenceline to the WTP is an industrial chainwire fence in varied condition which is fully permeable and allows views through the WTP infrastructure. The degree of impact on park character varies but the key areas are adjoining Watsons Drive at the hilltop to the south and east edges and when viewed upslope from the western green. Some mitigation of this edge would be desirable.

### **6. Toilet Blocks**

The white masonry and cladding toilet blocks are highly visible structure forming a less than ideal backdrop to views to the south across the Standing Stones. They are municipal in character and do not compliment the Standing Stones setting and Crofters Cottage.

### **7. WTP Settling Ponds**

The dam walls that form the settling ponds directly adjoin a chainwire fence which in turn directly adjoining Watson Drive and is highly visible to visitors. The dam wall has only minimal grass cover and presents as a relatively sparse view in combination with the fence line. Some buffering would be desirable.

### **8. Carpark**

The main carpark was created around several mature Gum trees which have since been removed due to poor condition and which leave this area an open expanse of asphalt with limited shade.



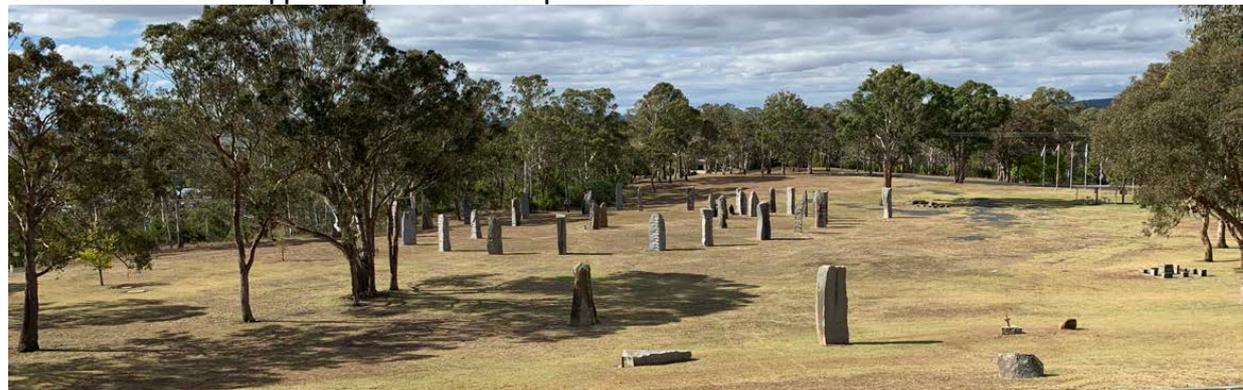
**View south west from Martins Lookout.**



**View south-east from Watsons Drive near Hilltop Green.**



**View north east from upper slopes of northern paddocks.**



**View from Tynwald Hill across Nowlan Green.**



**View towards water Treatment Plant from south**



**View of Crofters Cottage associated café storage and existing toilet blocks**



**View towards WTP settlement ponds dam walls adjoining Watsons Drive**



**View from upper slopes of Northern paddocks to adjoining private site**

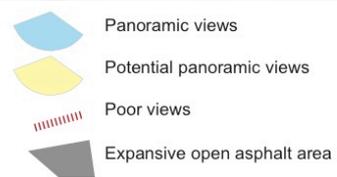
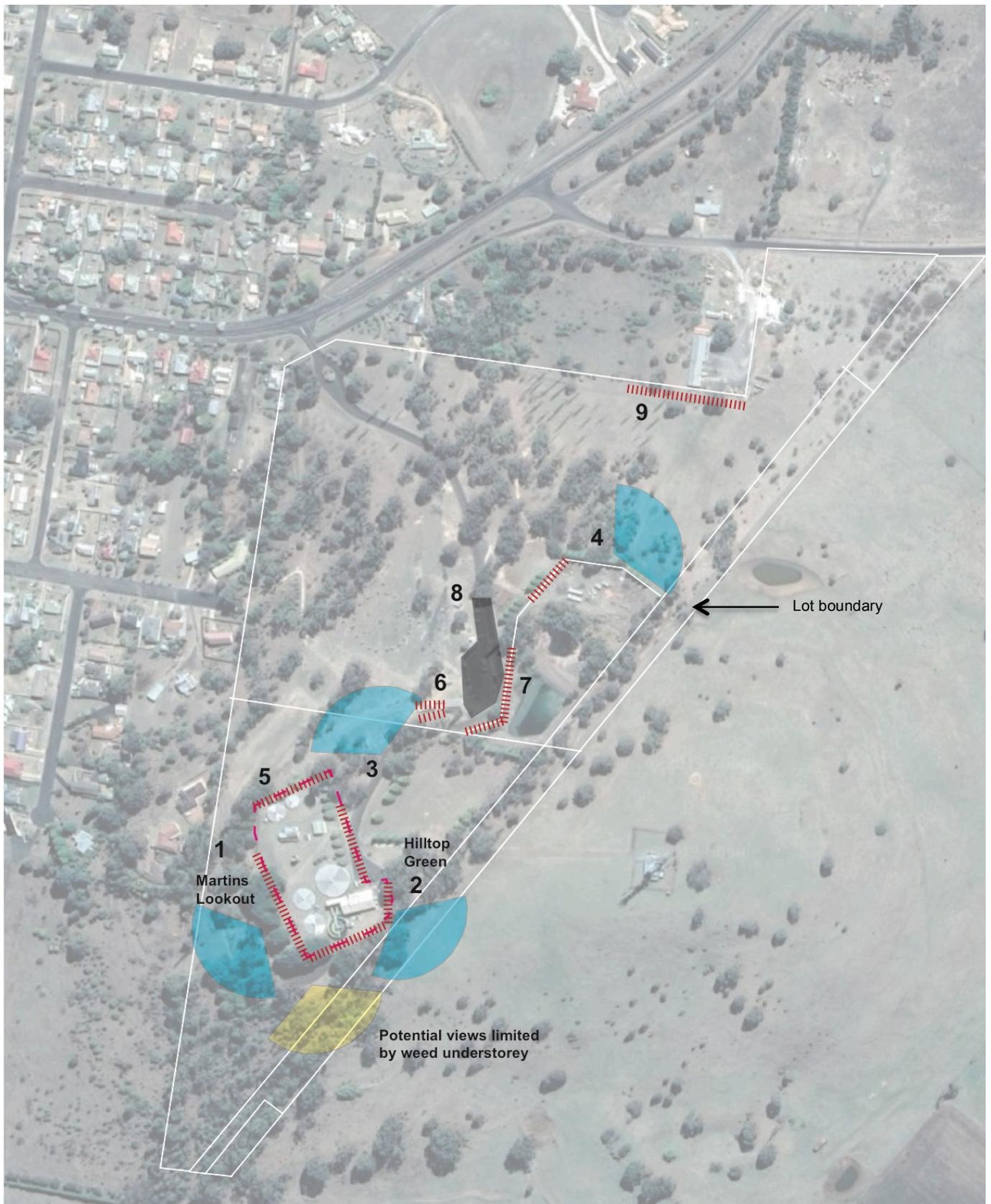


Figure 2.9 Views

## 2.7 Current Recreational Usage

There are a number of zones across the park that are of different character and provide for varied uses by the community. These are reviewed in the table following and indicated on Figure 2.10:

Location	Facilities	Current activities	Factors influencing use
1. Nowlan Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standing Stones monument</li> <li>- Open grassed area</li> <li>- Scattered native tree canopy</li> <li>- Two picnic shelters</li> <li>- BBQ settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Viewing standing stones</li> <li>- Viewing Standing Stones signage</li> <li>- Crofters Cottage Café</li> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- Jogging</li> <li>- Picnic use</li> <li>- ACF activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worn grass / gravel in area of ACF market stalls</li> <li>- Shade is mostly to the edges</li> <li>- Café is constrained and does not operate 7 days</li> <li>- Interpretation / tourism support is limited</li> </ul>
2. Western Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grassed area (735m2 approx)</li> <li>- Steep embankment to east</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACF activities</li> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- Jogging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shade is mostly to the edges</li> <li>- Embankment is very steep for viewing</li> </ul>
3. Watsons Drive Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grassed slopes</li> <li>- Intermittent native tree canopy</li> <li>- Oak Nemeton plantings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival to site by car</li> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oriented to north west away from main area</li> <li>- Lack of defined walking routes</li> </ul>
4. Playspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central tower with two slides off</li> <li>- Climbing frame</li> <li>- BBQ setting</li> <li>- Picnic table</li> <li>- Cypress tree plantings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Family play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location is somewhat isolated from main area of Standing Stones</li> <li>- Separated from toilet and kiosk by roadway</li> <li>- Limited size</li> </ul>
5. Hilltop Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open grassed area</li> <li>- Native tree canopy</li> <li>- Cypress tree plantings</li> <li>- Picnic shelter</li> <li>- BBQ settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ball games</li> <li>- Picnic use</li> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- ACF activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Somewhat isolated feel</li> <li>- Need to walk along road to get to it</li> </ul>
6. Northern paddocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open grassed area</li> <li>- Native tree canopy to south and west</li> <li>- Lombardy Poplar tree canopy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- Jogging</li> <li>- Event parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Somewhat isolated from main park area</li> <li>- Lack of track routes</li> </ul>
7. Eastern Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loosley formed tracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- Jogging</li> <li>- Mountain biking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spatially "blurs" with the adjoining Stock Route corridor</li> <li>- Definition of track routes</li> <li>- Awareness of tracks</li> </ul>
8. Western Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loosley formed tracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- Jogging</li> <li>- Mountain biking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of track routes</li> <li>- Awareness of tracks</li> </ul>
9. Southern Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loosley formed tracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking / dog walking</li> <li>- Jogging</li> <li>- Mountain biking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of track routes</li> <li>- Awareness of tracks</li> <li>- Woody weed understorey</li> </ul>



Figure 2.10 Park usage / activities precincts

## 2.9 Planning Considerations

### 2.9.1 Adjacent land use

The land surrounding Centennial Parklands is typified by residential uses to the west and agricultural lands to the east as illustrated on Figure 2.11 Zoning next page:

- to the west is R2 General Residential
- to the north and east is RU1 Primary Production
- the WTP settling ponds are RU1 Primary Production

The park site is also adjoined to the east by a major Telecommunications Tower as indicated on Figure 2.9. This facility is accessed by a track from Watsons Drive. There are also understood to be services crossing Centennial Parklands to the facility which should be verified in the future.

### 2.9.2 Zoning and planning controls

The parklands are zoned RE1 – Public Recreation under Glen Innes LEP 2012. Notwithstanding that they are Crown Land they are classified as community land under the Local Government Act 1993 to identify their relative planning status. The hilltop WTP is classified as operational land under the Local Government Act 1993

The Glen Innes LEP identifies the objectives of the RE1 Public Recreation zone as follows:

- (a) To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- (b) To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- (c) To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.

Within these areas the following works can be undertaken without development consent:

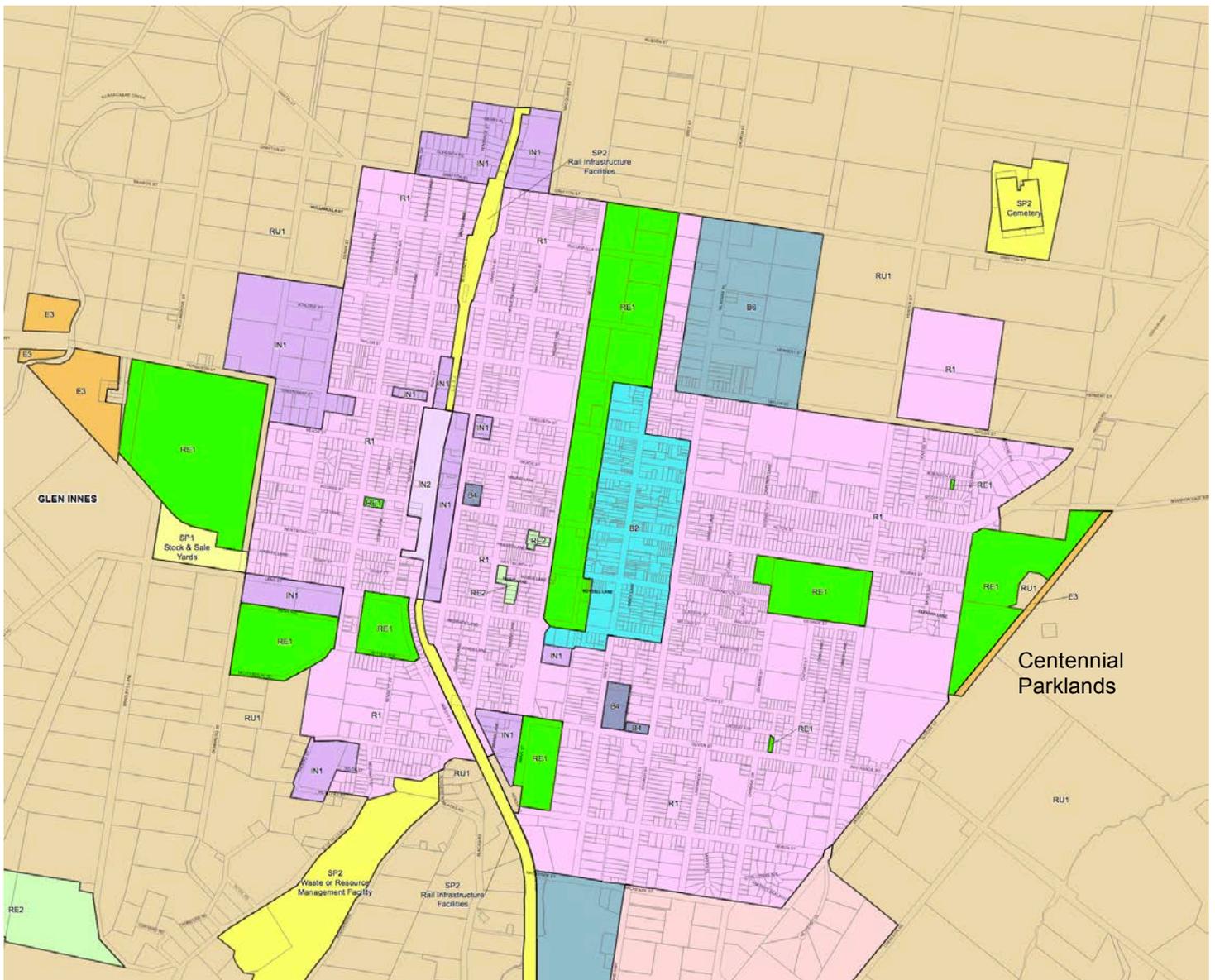
- Environmental protection works

The following activities are only permitted with Council consent

- Child care centres; Community facilities; Environmental facilities; Information and education facilities; Kiosks; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (indoor); Recreation facilities (major); Recreation facilities (outdoor); Respite day care centres; Roads; Signage; Water recreation structures

Any other works or activities other than those listed above are prohibited in areas zoned RE1 - Public Recreation.

In addition other prohibited activities for users in Centennial Parklands are communicated via signage and include: Golf practice, use of motorised vehicles, using firearms, flying model aeroplanes, horses and unleashed dogs, lighting of fires.



**ZONE**

- B2 Local Centre
- B4 Mixed Use
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves
- E3 Environmental Management
- IN1 General Industrial
- IN2 Light Industrial
- R1 General Residential
- R5 Large Lot Residential
- RE1 Public Recreation
- RE2 Private Recreation
- RU1 Primary Production
- RU3 Forestry
- RU5 Village
- SP1 Special Activities
- SP2 Infrastructure

**Figure 2.11 Zoning**  
 Source: Glen Innes LEP 2012 (Map LZN\_03A)

## 2.10 Statutory Requirements

### 2.10.1 Crown Lands Act 2016

#### Reservation or Dedication

Centennial Parklands is a Crown Reserve. Where Crown land is set aside for a public purpose, it can be either 'reserved' or 'dedicated', which makes it available only for a use that will deliver some public benefit or good, and unavailable for private uses. Reservations and dedications are generally all grouped under the name 'Crown reserves'.

Crown land that has been dedicated as a Crown reserve is a more enduring form of reserve. Dedication can only be revoked with the agreement of both Houses of the NSW Parliament. On the other hand, where Crown land has been reserved, the Minister can decide to revoke that reservation without the matter being considered by Parliament. Parts of these reserves may be changed without affecting the remaining parts of the reserve.

#### Public Purpose

A Crown Lands Plan of Management will have close regard for the lands identified "public purpose". The government notification or dedication of a reserve sets out the purposes for which that reserve may be used. Generally, a reserve's use can only be consistent with or supporting the purposes stated in the reservation or dedication. However, the Crown Lands Regulation 2006 lists various additional purposes for which reserves can be used under temporary licences. Where possible, multiple uses of reserves are encouraged, where those uses are consistent with the purpose of the reserve. Changes in circumstances or in a community's needs may require a change in the way in which a reserve is used.

A change in the stated purpose of the reserve may need the existing reservation or dedication to be replaced with a new reservation or dedication. This process will usually require consultation with the local community. Discussions with the CLD should cover the appropriate means and scale of public consultation and whether land assessment will be needed.

Under the changes introduced by the 2005 amendments to the Crown Lands Act 1989, a reserve may be authorised to be used for a purpose which is additional to the purpose for which the land was reserved or dedicated, if the new purpose is generally compatible with the existing purpose, consistent with the principles of Crown land management and in the public interest.

Additional uses of Crown reserves can be authorised by a plan of management or by order of the Minister. In both cases, the Minister for Lands will consult with the reserve trust managing the reserve and with any other Minister who has an interest in the reserve. A reserve trust, or Crown Lands Act trust, is the legal body which enables the temporary ownership of reserved or dedicated Crown land so it can be managed by the trust on behalf of the public. A trust can only make decisions and take actions concerning the reserve in the interests of the reserve itself, and the public.

#### Reserve Trusts

A reserve trust is set up under the Crown Lands Act 1989 (the Act) to have responsibility for the care, control and management of a Crown reserve. While a reserve trust is a legal entity in its own right, it cannot operate without having someone appointed to manage its affairs. A reserve trust can be managed by an incorporated body, though this is usually a local council.

A reserve trust can now also be managed by more than one manager, with the different management responsibilities being determined on either a geographical or functional basis. This will provide increased flexibility in establishing the most appropriate management structure for reserves, particularly where a number of different uses are located on the reserve. A reserve trust manager must not receive any personal benefit from fulfilling their role as manager or through their dealings with the trust property.

When a council or a corporation is appointed as manager, decisions regarding the operation of the reserve must be made in accordance with the rules which govern the council's operations or the

corporation's own constitution, as applicable, as well as the Crown Lands Act 1989. As reserve trust manager, a council has all the functions of a council under the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to public reserves. However the council has no power to classify the Crown reserve under the Local Government Act. Consequently the plan of management affecting Crown reserves is made under the Crown Lands Act 1989, not the Local Government Act 1993. Local councils as reserve trust managers can be authorised by the Minister for Lands to grant leases, licences and related easements over the Crown reserves they manage in certain circumstances (as defined by the Minister for Lands) without the need to obtain the Minister for Lands' consent.

In making the decision to grant this power, the Minister for Lands can take into account the council's performance in managing public land, and may request information on this performance from the Minister for Local Government. This authority does not apply to agreements longer than 21 years, which will still require the Minister for Lands' consent. The provision enables councils, where it is warranted and appropriate, to have similar levels of autonomy and accountability over Crown land as they have under the community land provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

### **Management of Crown Land**

Crown Land will be managed in accordance with the Principles of Crown Lands Management and the lands Gazetted Public Purpose.

#### *Principles of Crown Lands Management*

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged,
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

#### *Categorisation of Crown Lands*

The document "Developing plans of management for community land Crown reserves— guidelines" December 2018 identifies that Council managers of Crown Reserves must ensure there is a compliant POM for all Crown land that they manage as community land within three years of the commencement of Part 3 of the CLM Act (that is, by 30 June 2021). This is to ensure that Crown land is lawfully used and occupied, which is an essential part of councils' role as the manager of Crown land. Under the CLM Act, council managers must assign to all Crown land under their management one or more initial categories of community land referred to in section 36 of the LG Act. The initial category must be assigned as soon as practicable after a council's appointment as a Crown land manager.

It is important that the initial category aligns closely with the original reserve purpose, and should be the over-arching consideration of a council manager when notifying the initial category.

#### *Plans of management and native title*

As outlined in Guidelines For Council Crown Land Managers – December 2016, it is imperative that POMs for Crown reserves be compliant with the statutory requirements prescribed by the both CLM Act and LG Act. This includes a requirement for council crown land managers to obtain written advice from a qualified native title manager that any POM covers Crown land that is not 'excluded land'.

Excluded land is defined in the CLM Act to include:

- a) land subject to an approved determination of native title (as defined in the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth) that has determined that:

- i. all native title rights and interests in relation to the land have been extinguished, or
- ii. there are no native title rights and interests in relation to the land,
- b) land where all native title rights and interests in relation to the land have been surrendered under an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (as defined in the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth) registered under that Act,
- c) an area of land to which section 24FA protection (as defined in the Native Title Act 1993 of the Commonwealth) applies,
- d) land where all native title rights and interests in relation to the land have been compulsorily acquired,
- e) land for which a native title certificate is in effect.

Section 8.7 of the CLM Act and the Native Title Manager Workbook (available from [industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/what-we-do/our-work/native-title](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/what-we-do/our-work/native-title)) clearly set out that written native title manager advice is required before a council Crown land manager does any of the following:

- a) grants leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements or rights of way over the land
- b) mortgages the land or allows it to be mortgaged
- c) imposes, requires or agrees to covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use (or removes or releases, or agrees to remove or release, covenants, conditions, or other restrictions on use) in connection with dealings involving the land
- d) approves (or submits for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c). Accordingly, native title manager advice must be obtained prior to the approval (or submittal for approval) of a POM that allows a dealings in (a)–(c) and the execution of any lease, licence, permit, etc. that may be authorised under that plan.

### **2.10.2 Local Government Amendment Act 1998**

The Local Government Act and related amendments and guidelines provide the legislative framework for a council's day-to-day operation. The Act emphasizes through the Community Land Management amendments of 1998 a council's responsibility to actively manage land and to involve the community in developing a strategy for its management. Of particular relevance is the requirement for all council property classified as community lands to be categorised in accordance with the guidelines for the categorisation listed in the Local Government (General) Regulation (cl.6B-6JA).

### **2.10.3 Other relevant legislation and policy**

#### **Glen Innes Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2018**

Glen Innes Severn Council has prepared an updated Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) to guide the development and implementation of new or improved pedestrian facilities. This PAMP builds on the previous PAMP developed in 2012 and the existing footpath register. The plan recommends improving equal access into the park from Bourke Street (project ID 1850).

#### **Glen Innes Principles for Recreation 2017**

Glen Innes Severn Council has developed a Principles for Recreation statement to guide recreational use and open space planning. The principles include:

1. Access for all
2. Fairness equality and balance
3. Beneficial outcomes
4. Quality and safety
5. Sustainability
6. Multi use and efficiency
7. Community building and social capital
8. Community health
9. Partnerships and shared responsibility
10. Organisational capacity

## 2.10.4 Categorisation and core objectives for community land management

As noted in section 2.10.1 under the CLM Act, council managers must assign to all Crown land under their management one or more initial categories of community land referred to in section 36 of the LG Act. The following table outlines the applicable community land categories for Centennial Parklands including the Guidelines for Categorisation as listed in the Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 Part 3 - Categorisation, use and management of community land and core objectives from the Local Government Act 1993 clauses 36E-N:

Guidelines for Categorisation	Core objectives for management
<b>Natural Area Bushland</b>	
The land is used or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment on the land by others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and</li> <li>(b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and</li> <li>(c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and</li> <li>(d) to restore degraded bushland, and</li> <li>(e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and</li> <li>(f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and</li> <li>(g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface</li> </ul>
<b>Park</b>	
The land is used or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment on the land by others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and</li> <li>(b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and</li> <li>(c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.</li> </ul>
<b>General Community Use</b>	
<p>The land may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public; and</p> <p>The land is not required to be categorised as a natural area and does not satisfy the guidelines for categorisation as a natural area, sportsground, park or an area of cultural significance</p>	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) In relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and</li> <li>(b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).</li> </ul>

Guidelines for Categorisation	Core objectives for management
<b>Area of cultural significance</b>	
<p>Land should be categorised as an area of cultural significance under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land is:</p> <p>(a) an area of Aboriginal significance, because the land:</p> <p>(i) has been declared an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, or</p> <p>(ii) whether or not in an undisturbed state, is significant to Aboriginal people in terms of their traditional or contemporary cultures, or</p> <p>(iii) is of significance or interest because of Aboriginal associations, or</p> <p>(iv) displays physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation (for example, items or artifacts such as stone tools, weapons, engraving sites, sacred trees, sharpening grooves or other deposits, and objects or materials that relate to the settlement of the land or place), or</p> <p>(v) is associated with Aboriginal stories, or</p> <p>(vi) contains heritage items dating after European settlement that help to explain the relationship between Aboriginal people and later settlers, or</p> <p>(b) an area of aesthetic significance, by virtue of:</p> <p>(i) having strong visual or sensory appeal or cohesion, or</p> <p>(ii) including a significant landmark, or</p> <p>(iii) having creative or technical qualities, such as architectural excellence, or</p> <p>(c) an area of archaeological significance, because the area contains:</p> <p>(i) evidence of past human activity (for example, below-ground features such as building foundations, occupation deposits, features or artifacts or above-ground features such as buildings, works, industrial structures, and relics, whether intact or ruined), or</p> <p>(ii) any other deposit, object or material that relates to the settlement of the land, or</p> <p>(d) an area of historical significance, because of the importance of an association or position of the land in the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history, or</p> <p>(e) an area of technical or research significance, because of the area's contribution to an understanding of Australia's cultural history or environment, or</p> <p>(f) an area of social significance, because of the area's association with Aboriginal life after 1788 or the area's association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons. life after 1788 or the area's association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons.</p>	<p>(1) The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to 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.</p> <p>(2) Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods:</p> <p>(a) the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance,</p> <p>(b) the restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material,</p> <p>(c) the reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state,</p> <p>(d) the adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact),</p> <p>(e) the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land.</p> <p>(3) A reference in subsection (2) to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land.</p>

The multiple categorisations for the Centennial Parklands reflect its day to day family recreational role whilst recognising the particular heritage significance of the hilltop site to Aboriginal peoples and as the home of the Standing Stones monument

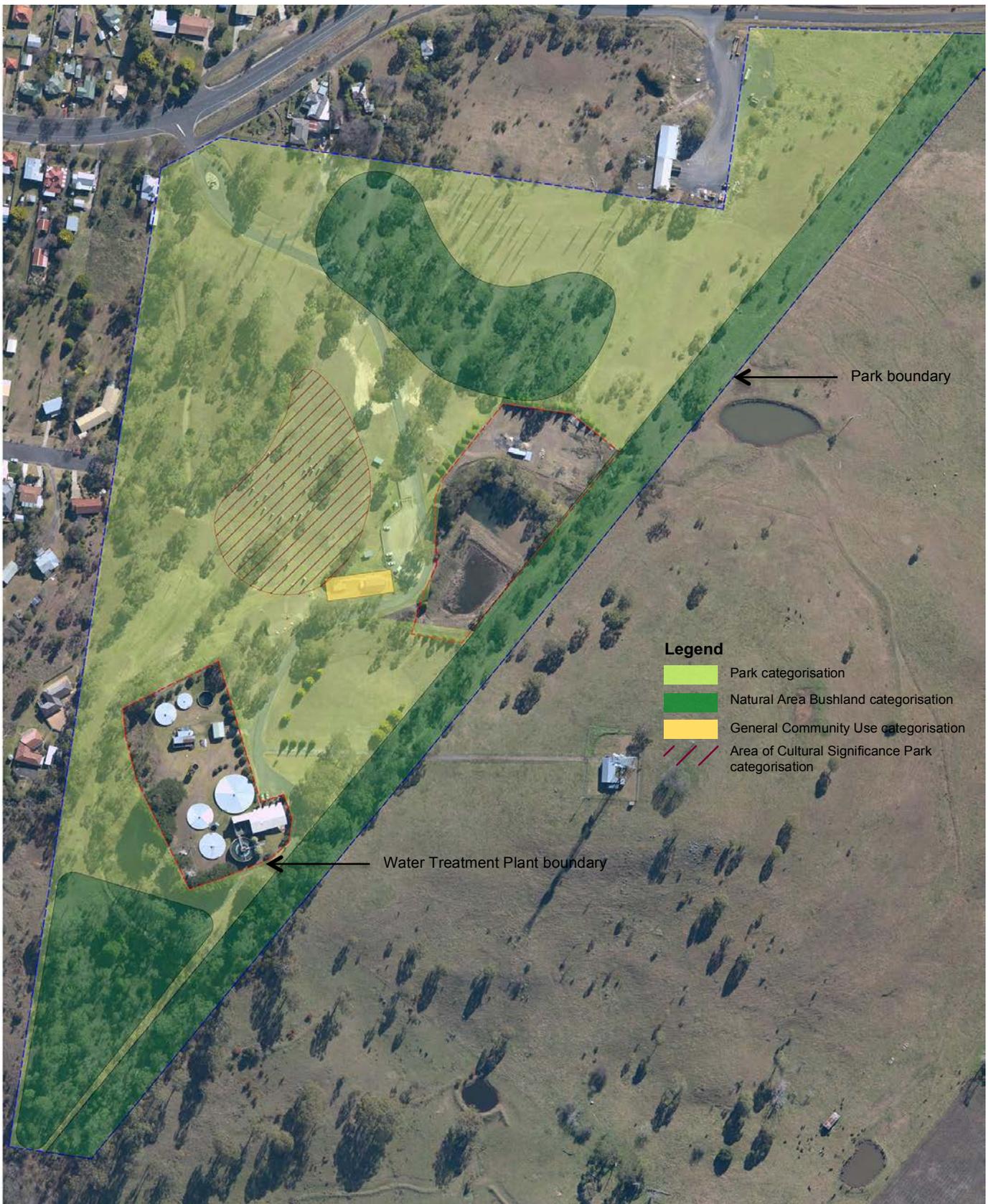


Figure 2.12 Proposed Categorisations

## 2.11 Management

Glen Innes Severn Council has the statutory responsibility for the management of the Centennial Parklands. Aside from the standard regulations that apply to the site, groups using the park are generally regulated through Council. Large groups need to apply to Council in order to hold formal gatherings within the park.

### *The Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB)*

Under the Local Government Act 1993 Council is able to delegate some of its functions to a committee of Council. Council uses this delegation and appoints community people to manage its facilities or functions through a committee of management. The Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB) is a Community Committee of Glen Innes Severn Council. As such, the ASSMB comprises representatives from the community and Council.

The objectives of the ASSMB are identified in its 2017-2018 Business Plan as:

#### **1. The Australian Standing Stones site**

- a. To maintain and enhance the Australian Standing Stones as Australia's National monument to the Celtic nations in consultation with the Celtic Council of Australia.
- b. To assist Glen Innes Severn Council in maintaining and developing the necessary tourist infrastructure required in the promotion of the Australian Standing Stones.
- c. To promote and undertake future development of the site and surroundings of the Australian Standing Stones, whilst maintaining the integrity of the monument.

#### **2. Operational Management**

To ensure that the ASSMB of Glen Innes Severn Council provides effective, appropriate delivery and management of the Australian Standing Stones in accordance with Council and regulatory requirements.

#### **3. Promotion**

- a. To ensure the organisation communicates effectively with stakeholders and effectively market and promote opportunities and initiatives.
- b. To maintain in consultation with our strategic partners, an effective management system for all key elements.

A series of detailed outcomes are outlined in the Business Plan under each of these objectives and guide the ongoing role of the ASSMB in the management of the parklands

## 2.12 Maintenance

The park is currently being maintained in accordance with the Parks Asset Management Plan. As Glen Innes Severn Council consolidates and refines its parks management framework it is expected that the classifications may change, however it is unlikely that the maintenance framework applicable to this type of site would change significantly.

### Maintenance Service Levels

Typically, cyclical maintenance activities are as follows:

Maintenance categories applicable to the Centennial Parklands would be:

- Parks and Reserves
- Natural Area

Routine maintenance of Parks and Recreation facilities comprises:

- Removal of unsafe trees and branches
- Maintenance of utility service e.g. irrigation, flood lighting
- Repair of minor defects within parks areas e.g. seats, play equipment
- Council's response to maintenance requests is based on staff experience, judgment and current industry practice.

Council's officers assess the requests or defects against the potential to cause harm to public property and life. High hazard defects are responded within 24 hours with a view to at least making the asset safe. Other defects requiring work are assessed against other operational priorities considering staff experience and judgment and responded within regular operational procedure.

There are no other agencies who now have responsibilities related to the open space area.

## Buildings

The Crofters Cottage and any future buildings should be subject to a separate asset management programme for its maintenance and upkeep based on a detailed building condition assessment. It is noted that the Water Treatment Plan (WTP) including the settlement ponds facility are excluded from this plan of management.

## **2.13 Current Leasing Agreements**

Crofters Cottage was built in 1998 to support the Australian Standing Stones monument. It has been largely used since this time to house kiosk facilities which have been licensed to various operators. The current Stone Cottage café operation is subject to a month to month agreement. Any future café tenant would be subject to a 5 year license agreement.

## **2.14 Staffing**

The maintenance of Centennial Parklands is currently carried out by Glen Innes Severn Council as identified in Section 2.9. If new facilities are developed then additional staff may be required to provide an acceptable standard of maintenance.

## **2.15 Community Involvement**

The preparation review and updating of this Plan of Management has incorporated community stakeholder input as outlined in section 1.4. A public exhibition period will be provided in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. Outcomes of these forums have and will continue to be integrated with the Plan of Management strategies.

## **2.16 Funding**

The majority of funding for general maintenance and improvement works in Centennial Parklands will come from rate revenue and partnerships with Government grant funding providers.

## 3 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 3.1 Introduction

The primary objective of this Plan of Management (POM) is to provide a framework for the future management of the open space. Decision making for the enhancement and management of Centennial Parklands aims to integrate the vision and needs of the community and Glen Innes Severn Council.

This Plan describes a basis for the ongoing care and development of Centennial Parklands in response to demand and the availability of funding. As such funding will be a major factor determining the timing of implementation of actions identified in the POM.

### 3.2 Management Philosophy

The management philosophy recognises the need for open space to be responsive and adaptable to ongoing and evolving community needs for passive recreational and active experiences. In addition the park must be sustainable in terms of its level of use and related maintenance demands.

### 3.3 Community Values, Roles

Community values and roles have guided the development of the Plan of Management. Values are the qualities and roles of the parklands that we wish to protect conserve and enhance. In brief these are identified as:

#### *The highlands*

- Unique geological history of area
- Landform – highest major town in Australia
- Outlook and viewing point to landscape and significant landmarks

#### *Aboriginal cultural heritage*

- Aboriginal history in the area - Glen Innes as a meeting place for coastal and inland peoples
- The significance of the hilltop location – meeting place and outlook
- Opportunity for interpretation and celebration of Ngoorabul peoples history and culture
- Opportunity for ongoing Ngoorabul involvement in Centennial Parklands

#### *Celtic cultural heritage*

- Standing Stones are an emblem and monument to the Celtic history and influences on the Northern Tablelands
- Standing stones are a nationally significant monument – representing Celtic Australia – for the nation
- Australian Celtic Festival is a major annual event for Glen Innes

#### *Environment*

- Ribbon Gum and Yellowbox woodland fringing the hilltop
- Habitat potential of woodlands with native understorey

#### *Family recreation*

- Strong natural character attractive to families
- Variety of activities possible in natural setting

### *Fitness, exercise, and adventure*

- Potential for path and track access network
- Slope and level changes are good for exercise
- Attractive setting for exercise close to town
- Existing use for mountain bike trails

### *Tourism*

- Standing Stones are a tourism draw card for Glen Innes and to the parklands
- Potential to offer additional experiences for visitors to the parklands
- Potential to support tourism and recreational uses with appropriate commercial activities (eg café, temporary or “bump in” activities)

### *Education*

- Education potential integrating natural heritage with Aboriginal and Celtic heritage streams in one place
- Potential for outdoor classrooms
- Potential for on site interpretive centre supported by external interpretation mediums

### *Events*

- Australian Celtic Festival draws visitation from over Australia and internationally
- Potential for use of site for other events
- Natural amphitheatres landscapes on site

### 3.4 Framework for management

The following Framework for Management lists a series of pressures and opportunities listed against the identified values for Centennial Parklands that were identified through consultation with stakeholders and study team investigations. From these a series of preferred management outcomes are identified. These underpin the planning and management strategies listed in section 3.5. The Action Plan outlined in section 4.6 of this document provides a prioritised list of the proposed actions arising for ongoing implementation

*Definitions:*

**Values** are the qualities and roles of the parklands that we wish to protect conserve and enhance

**Pressures** are the influences that adversely affect the use, appearance and management of an open space. Opportunities are the possibilities to make improvements to how the park is used, enjoyed and managed

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Pressure and Opportunities</b>	<b>Preferred management outcomes</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>The highlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Unique geological history of area</i></li> <li>• <i>Landform – Glen Innes is highest major town in Australia</i></li> <li>• <i>Outlook and viewing point to landscape and significant landmarks</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for feature lookouts and / or elevated walkway to east and south sides of hill top – added potential to integrate this with broader track network and with other park facilities</li> <li>• Attractive outlook from lower park to north west – from area of Standing Stones and Hill of Tara Potential to interpret and celebrate natural history in particular geological influences on the landscape</li> </ul>	<p>1.1 A new park feature and city destination is provided that takes advantage of a range of views and complements and expands existing uses and activities.</p> <p>1.2 Improved opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the overlook of the Standing Stones are provided</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aboriginal history in the area - Glen Innes as a meeting place for coastal and inland peoples</i></li> <li>• <i>The significance of the hilltop location – meeting place and outlook</i></li> <li>• <i>Opportunity for interpretation and celebration of Ngoorabul peoples history and culture Opportunity for ongoing Ngoorabul involvement in Centennial Parklands</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Aboriginal interpretation on site currently other than Aboriginal flag pole location within Standing Stones precinct which is flown during the Australian Celtic Festival. There is also an Aboriginal Mural located on Tynwald Hill between the three stoned seats and the rock-wall – this was created through the friendship agreement with Mosman Council and was created by local Ngoorabul women..</li> <li>• Hilltop provides potential point of orientation to a variety of Aboriginal sites in the region including The Willows and Ochre pits. GILC to provide advice as to an indicative list of locations that could be identified from lookout on the hill</li> <li>• Potential for bush tucker plantings on site – and integration to interpretation</li> <li>• Journals of John McPherson provide a reference for Aboriginal / European interactions in the 1800's</li> <li>• Need for Land Council involvement in future conception and development of Aboriginal interpretation</li> </ul>	<p>2.1 The new hilltop park feature (1.1).embeds a strong Aboriginal cultural influence in its design and in the interpretation of the views available and related natural and cultural features</p> <p>2.2 Land Council involvement is at the core of ongoing conceptualisation and design of Aboriginal interpretation on site</p> <p>2.3 An ongoing Aboriginal involvement of site is provided through art installations, bush tucker gardens, and other ideas and opportunities that may arise</p>

Value	Pressure and Opportunities	Preferred management outcomes
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Celtic cultural heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing Stones are an emblem and monument to the Celtic history and influences on the northern tablelands</li> <li>• Standing stones are a nationally significant monument – representing Celtic Australia – for the nation</li> <li>• Australian Celtic Festival is a major annual event for Glen Innes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10m exclusion zone has been in operation to protect monument from any incursion by facilities or services – this should be formalised in the Plan of Management.</li> <li>• The Standing Stones Management Board is a 355 Committee of Council responsible for management of the monument and related curtilage area and are key supporters of the Australian Celtic Festival Event.</li> <li>• Responsibilities for ongoing maintenance of Standing Stones monument lies with the Glen Innes Severn Council and should be formalised in the Plan of Management. EP to liaise with Council to work up description</li> <li>• The Standing Stones Management Board provide recommendations to Glen Innes Severn Council to ensure visitor safety to the location.</li> <li>• Crofters Cottage built to support the visitation of the Standing Stones Monument and opened in 1994.</li> <li>• Currently used as Stone Cottage Café open Tuesday to Sunday– lack of doors / windows are constraints to cafe use / amenity</li> <li>• POM to review what is optimum use of building in relation to the Standing Stones – could it potentially be the site of an orientation centre / interpretive display that serves the Standing Stones and potentially the overall site.</li> <li>• Related to this could café type activities better be accommodated in a purpose designed multi purpose structure on the site. This structure may also be able to cater for smaller functions / booked events.</li> <li>• Maintenance issues related to the Crofters Cottage building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -log roof overhang, extraction fan.</li> <li>• New toilet facilities are required to replace the existing from a functional and aesthetic perspective</li> <li>• Also need to incorporate a baby change table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• POM to review options integrated with other functions</li> <li>• Additional covered space is desirable to serve the park day to day but particularly for the Celtic Festival – POM to review options</li> <li>• The Celtic Festival uses several other areas for activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -western grassed platform for tug of war</li> <li>• -upper grassed platform for jousting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potential for integration of event with emerging / current technologies if infrastructure available on site (eg broadband)</li> </ul>	<p>3.1 The plan of management has integrated the ongoing role of the ASSMB to guide management of the Standing Stones Monument</p> <p>3.2 Council maintains and enhances the Standing Stones monument as a key tourism attraction for Glen Innes</p> <p>3.3 Crofters Cottage is re-purposed and upgraded to provide visitor orientation for Centennial Parklands compatible with its capacity and character</p> <p>3.4 A new multi purpose structure is investigated that can serve café, toilet, storage, and community function roles that contributes to the site as an architectural feature compatible with site character</p> <p>3.5 The ACF remains an “all of site” event effectively coordinating use of various park spaces</p> <p>3.6 Site toilet infrastructure is enhanced upgraded to enhanced the quality and scope of the ACF event and to add value to day to day park use where possible</p> <p>3.7 A Standing Stones Monument exclusion zone is documented through the plan of management and implemented through site improvements</p>

4	Value Environment	Pressure and Opportunities	Preferred management outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ribbon Gum and Yellowbox woodland fringing the hilltop</li> <li>Habitat potential of woodlands with native understorey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is significant weed infestation of the peripheral vegetated slopes to the eastern and southern boundaries. Mid storey weeds species also constrain views out from hilltop whereas native condition of woodland (trees in lower understorey) would enable views out.</li> <li>The periphery of the Water treatment plant is visible to adjoining areas of the park and to views into the site. In particular the eastern and southern edges are highly exposed to the adjoining access road. Some form of visual buffer is desirable</li> <li>Water recycling off rooftops of all structures should be investigated</li> <li>There is erosion on a number of existing tracks within steeper slopes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tregurtha Way walkway</li> <li>Track from Celtic Festival parking zone in north</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review of track surfacing to key routes required</li> </ul>	<p>4.1 weed encroachment in particular to the eastern and southern slopes of the park is controlled</p> <p>4.2 Views through woodland are made possible from hilltop by removal of weeds such as Hawthorne, Privet, Cotoneaster</p> <p>4.3 A screening element that is a design feature in its own right and offers potential for temporary activities (eg art displays) is provided that buffers WTP facilities to the south west sides from adjoining park spaces and reduces fence maintenance demand</p> <p>4.4 Use understorey and tree planting to west and north boundaries of WTP to reduce visual impact of fence edge</p> <p>4.5 Erosion is reduced and accessibility enhanced to key access routes by provision of hardened paths that meet DDA requirements</p> <p>4.6 Bush tucker vegetation integrated into revegetation programmes within the park in particular to the Hilltop walk route to eastern / south edge of park</p>
5	<p><b>Family recreation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong natural character attractive to families</li> <li>Variety of activities possible in natural setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centennial Parklands is favoured by many locals of family recreation / picnics etc over the parks within the town centre</li> <li>Play equipment is aged and will need renewal within next 2-5 years. POM to review optimum location for the playground in the context of adjoining activities.</li> <li>BBQ's are rustic but do suit the character of the park. Discuss whether timber burning is best option going forward for BBQ's, and review locations / number to suit park needs</li> <li>On hot days availability of shade can be an issue – review fixed shade / shelter and tree canopy</li> </ul>	<p>5.1 A destination playspace is provided that works with the Standing Stones character (possible references to standing stones form/ elements)</p> <p>5.2 Park furniture complements the natural and heritage character of the park</p> <p>5.3 Park furniture is provided where it will be used and can enhance the user experience</p> <p>5.4 Shade and shelter provision is enhanced compatible with the parklands natural and heritage character</p> <p>5.5 Access network extended and improved to enhance the family usage and enjoyment of the park</p>

	Value	Pressure and Opportunities	Preferred management outcomes
6	<p><b>Fitness, exercise, and adventure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for path and track access network</li> <li>• Slope and level changes are good for exercise</li> <li>• Attractive setting for exercise close to town</li> <li>• Existing use for mountain bike trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tregurtha Way track is eroded and does not meet compliancy for access into site. Council has developed options for a revised alignment that can provide grade compliance – surface to be reviewed to meet access requirements</li> <li>• High potential for site to be improved for fitness / exercise activities building on existing use</li> <li>• Potential to integrate fitness nodes</li> <li>• Potential to integrate MTB suitable sections of track that can enable this activity on site</li> </ul>	<p>6.1 The path and track network through the parklands is enhanced for walking, exploring and fitness (including hard surfacing of select routes)</p> <p>6.2 pedestrian access between the lower (Nowlan Green) and upper (hilltop green) park areas is enhanced</p> <p>6.3 Fitness nodes related to the track network are provided that reference the site's natural and heritage character</p> <p>6.4 The track network can support Mountain Bike (MTB) use and integrates off shoots for specific MTB use - both encouraging MTB use of parklands</p>
7	<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing Stones are a tourism draw card for Glen Innes and to the parklands</li> <li>• Potential to offer additional experiences for visitors to parklands</li> <li>• Potential to support tourism and recreational uses with appropriate commercial activities (eg café, temporary or "bump in" activities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celtic Festival event to be sustained and enhanced</li> <li>• How can other facilities complement these draws and encourage further visitation</li> <li>• Review potential for an improved visitor and interpretive experience, along with improved Café type services to serve tourism market</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>7.1 ACF optimises use of site for ACF as per 3.5</p> <p>7.2 A new hilltop walk "destination feature" (that will create a drawcard to the park in its own right) as outlined at 1.1 adds to the visitor and local attraction of the parklands</p> <p>7.3 A purpose designed and multi function building investigated for café and toilet facilities as per 3.4 – potentially staged;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stage 1 Lower level café toilets</li> <li>- Stage 2 Upper level multi purpose space</li> </ul> <p>7.4 Crofters Cottage repurposed for visitor orientation as per 3.3</p>

	Value	Pressure and Opportunities	Preferred management outcomes
8	<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education potential integrating natural heritage with Aboriginal and Celtic heritage streams in one place</li> <li>• Potential for outdoor classrooms</li> <li>• Potential for on site interpretive centre supported by external interpretation mediums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for coordinated interpretive programme that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-orientation / visitors centre / display</li> <li>-interpretive mediums round the site</li> <li>-interpretive artworks</li> <li>-on line interpretation</li> <li>-range of scales of events that can be themed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potential to collaborate with / involve schools during ongoing implementation of strategies to improve concepts and to build ownership of the park</li> </ul>	<p>8.1 The new hilltop walk destination integrates facilitation of outdoor education as a key design principle</p> <p>8.2 Consult and involve local schools in planning and design of outdoor education facilities</p> <p>8.3 Bush tucker education programmes provided – potentially integrated with the hilltop walk</p>
9	<p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Celtic Festival draws visitation from over Australia and internationally</li> <li>• Potential for use of site for other events</li> <li>• Natural amphitheatres landscapes on site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to use the site for other events is to be explored. Review existing areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- western grassed platform</li> <li>-northern grassed slopes</li> </ul> </li> <li>For potential as event venues</li> <li>• Review potential for event servicing to cater for various scales and locations of events – this may include provisions for permanent and bump in power water and toilets</li> <li>• Overlay of Celtic Festival setup has been added to Masterplan – this indicates that current layout can be accommodated with some minor adjustments within the future recommended proposals of the masterplan.</li> </ul>	<p>9.1 The northern paddocks are used as a major event location (5000 person plus concerts etc) including provision of event power)</p> <p>9.2 Park improvements consider and support the ongoing function of the parklands for the ACF</p>

	Value	Pressure and Opportunities	Preferred management outcomes
	<b>OTHER MANAGEMENT FACTORS</b>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Vehicular access and parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing sealed parking area is a large expanse of asphalt for limited numbers of parking spaces</li> <li>However it does provide a bus turning circle</li> <li>Previously there was a large tree within the area</li> <li>POM to review layout to improve if possible</li> <li>Road area just above toilets – provides an outlook area to Standing Stones – but is part of the roadway – POM to review potential to provide a pedestrian space with outlook adjoining the road</li> <li>4WD vehicles occasionally do runs up steep slopes – POM to consider future management of vehicles adjoining gassed areas as uses and visitation of park grows</li> <li>There is no public parking allowed in the upper area of the park for the public during the Celtic Festival. Cars are directed to enter the northern slopes of the site off Shannonvale Rd where a shuttle bus is available.</li> </ul> <p>Issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-management of disabled attendees</li> <li>-illegal car access up into upper park</li> <li>-poor quality of track access for pedestrians</li> <li>-arrangement / management of parking on the day</li> </ul>	<p>10.1 A new primary site parking area is provided that reduces the impact of car and bus movements and parking on parklands safety and character</p> <p>10.2 Vehicular management adjoining roadways is improved</p> <p>10.3 Event parking arrangements for the site are improved in particular for disabled attendees</p> <p>10.4 Vehicle access including 4WDs to be banned other than that publicly available vehicle access roads and tracks</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>Maintenance / management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an extensive area of grass to be mown in the park currently, although limited rainfall has constrained grass growth this summer. POM to consider options for grass management and whether maintenance load could be reduced</li> <li>Previous underground of some of the power provisions within the site was carried out in the area of the monument. Several power cabinets are now available for events</li> <li>There are proposals to extend the undergrounding of power and facilitate additional permanent lighting within the park – POM to consider how this might best be pursued and ensure that the integrity of Standing Stones monument is maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>11.1 Recurrent mowing maintenance is reduced by consolidating native grassed zones under trees in areas where mowing is not required for recreational amenity</p> <p>11.2 Undergrounding of power in parkland areas to reduce visual and tree management impact of power lines to be pursued - having regard for the long term park masterplan and Standing Stones Exclusion zone</p>

### 3.5 Planning and Management Strategies

The Action Plan outlined in section 4.6 of this document provides a prioritised list of the actions arising from this Plan of Management and is based on consultation, review of background information and site investigations. The proposed Action Plan is supported by the Landscape Concept Masterplan (refer Figure 4.1) in describing the recommendations of this Plan of Management. The Plan of Management seeks to guide ongoing improvement and maintenance of the park. The recommended actions are based on a sequence of tasks required to successfully complete the work. Council will seek to undertake those actions of high priority first as well as implement any investigations that are needed to inform detailed planning and design.

#### 3.5.1 Standing Stones Monument Management

Management of the Standing Stones monument is overseen by the Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB) which is a Community Committee of Glen Innes Severn Council and comprises representatives from the community and Council. The Board's role includes the day to day management of the monument as well as the ceremonial events associated with the Australian Celtic Festival held in May every year.

It is recommended that:

1. The Australian Standing Stones Management Board (ASSMB) continues its current management role for the Standing Stones monument and remains a key supporter of and protocol advisor to the Australian Celtic Festival
2. The average 10m exclusion zone around the monument is recognised and enforced in all future park improvements
3. The Australian Celtic Festival continues to be a whole of site event sustainably and temporarily using different areas of the site for festival purposes
4. Manage tree canopy within Exclusion Zone to conserve views to monument but retain amenity of parkland – noting that trees are important to the park setting and can enframe views positively.



Figure 3.1 Standing Stones Monument Exclusion Zone

### 3.5.2 Native Title

As outlined in Guidelines For Council Crown Land Managers – December 2016 as referred to in section 2.10.1, it is imperative that POMs for Crown reserves be compliant with the statutory requirements prescribed by the both CLM Act and LG Act. This includes a requirement for Council Crown Land managers to obtain written advice from a qualified native title manager that the POM covers Crown land that is not 'excluded land', namely that is land for which a native title certificate is in effect, or is land or land subject to an approved determination of native title

It is recommended that:

1. The Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council GILALC is consulted with regards to the Centennial Parklands site and provides written advise with regards to the site and native title status
2. Consultation with Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council GILALC continues and that the GILALC reviews and agrees with the draft and final plans of management

### 3.5.3 Management of park edges

The park has a number edge conditions:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| - Western boundary to residential allotments   | 713 lin/m or 33%  |
| - Northern boundary to residential allotments  | 100 lin/m or 5%   |
| - Northern boundary to rural gass and workshop | 263 lin/m or 12%  |
| - Eastern boundary to rural pastures           | 1035 lin/m or 50% |
- (Note immediately adjoining by travelling stock route)

Each condition raises different ongoing management issues with the residential edge being that requires the most significant ongoing monitoring

It is recommended that:

1. Existing fencelines are maintained to all park edges.
2. All boundaries are monitored for potential encroachment of adjoining uses, escape of garden species, domestic pet access, and if identified these are actioned in accordance with Council policies.

### 3.5.4 Access and Circulation

#### *Recreational Access*

The level of path and track access to and through the park presently is limited. It is proposed over time to extend the path and track network and to upgrade the surface finish to key connections to be accessible and / or to harden the surface to be erosion resistant

It is recommended to:

1. Upgrade the Tregurtha Way access path to concrete all weather surface
2. Extend the Tregurtha Way access path to the north to create a more accessible grade path access into the park and loop around the Nowlan Green to connect to the existing / future facilities
3. Upgrade the path access to the northern paddocks and temporary carpark to concrete all weather surface. Link to the proposed new carpark to the north of the WTP settling ponds
4. Formalise existing tracks to east and south slopes as worn track surface – provide gravel hardening to erodable or steeper sections
5. Investigate and implement if feasible a hilltop walk to the east and south perimeter of the hill. Walk may be a combination of on ground garvel track and boardwalk with deck viewing and inyerpretive / education areas and possible higher vantage points
6. Investigate potential for mountain bike trail (MTB) extensions to the broader track netywork along the east and southern boundaries that can integrate with the track network to provide for MTB use.

### *Vehicular access and parking*

Vehicular access is provided to the site along Watsons Drive. Parking capacity within the park is limited and impacts on the visual amenity of the area adjacent Crofters Cottage. Improvements seek to provide a larger permanent parking facility in an area accessible to the Nowlan Green

It is recommended to:

1. Provide new 127 space carpark to the area to the north of WTP settling ponds. Potential to be staged for phased provision of parking capacity. Potential that carpark could be closed on low use days
2. Design carpark to enable a coach / bus turn around
3. Provide link road access to carpark integrating bus drop off / lay over lay by
4. Maintain and extend 90 degree parking provision adjoining Watsons Drive to cater for weekday parking and for RV parking. Provide extended space length (nominally 10m)
5. Reconfigure parking adjoining Watsons Drive for the WTP to the edge of the carriageway to enable a planted buffer zone
6. Provide 90 degree parking spaces adjoining the hilltop green to serve the green and hilltop walkway

### *Emergency access*

Watsons drive provides a vehicular access spine through the site. All recreational areas are accessible via Watsons Drive for emergency access, and the proposed all weather concrete path to the northern paddocks can provide emergency access to that area

It is recommended to:

1. Maintain Watsons Drive as 24 hour access to the site
2. Provide emergency access to northern paddocks via the proposed all weather concrete path

### *3.5.5 Buildings and structures*

#### *Crofters Cottage*

Crofters Cottage was built to support the visitation of the Standing Stones Monument and opened in 1994. It currently is licensed to an external operator for the operation of the Stone Cottage café which operates from Tuesday to Sunday. The cottage structure has limitations for café type uses, having poor access and natural light and needing a storage annex adjoining. It would be desirable to upgrade the facilities to address optimum café use. Alternatively the café use could be located in a purpose built structure integrated with toilets to be more efficient. There is potential existing to re purpose the cottage for other purposes if alternative café / kiosk facilities were available

It is recommended to:

1. Investigate opportunities to upgrade kiosk / café facilities. In addition to optimising café amenity this includes potential for a commercial kitchen and storage / refrigeration as part of a new building to the west of Crofters Cottage.
2. Investigate potential for provision of visitors orientation within the cottage and café facilities which enables visitors to self guide / orientate through displays and information related to a variety of these including:
  - the nature environment of the site
  - Aboriginal cultural values of the area and site and contemporary aboriginal culture
  - the Standing Stones Monument
  - Celtic history of the region generally

### *Multi purpose building as staged development*

Potential has been identified for a multi- purpose building that integrates a variety of functions into an architecturally designed / purpose built structure can serve the Standing Stones Memorial and the park into the future and provide a valuable community resource in its own right. A first stage lower level can replace the existing toilet structure and support the adjacent Crofters Cottage Café. A longer term upper level multi-purpose space could provide for day to day event use to serve Glen Innes as well as during the Australian Celtic Festival. Such a facility would be expected to cater for dinners and another events catering for food and alcohol consumption on the premises.

The existing toilet amenities are located to the west of Crofters Cottage adjoining the Nowlan Green. These are shed like structures with limited architectural or materials reference to any other structures on site. They detract from the visual character of the precinct and would ideally be consolidated with other service facilities into a purpose designed structure.

It is recommended to:

1. Investigate feasibility of a new building on site addressing the Nowlan Green and adjacent to the Crofters Cottage, that could accommodate the following objectives. Broadly there is potential for a building to be developed in stages with a,lower level addressing short term needs and potential upper level implemented subject to ongoing business case and design appraisal:

#### **Stage 1**

- Covered connection to Crofters Cottage
- Toilet facilities
- Commercial kitchen to serve Crofters Cottage café or future café within this new building – in addition to future Function Centre uses (as part stage 2 below)
- Storage and refrigeration for café / kiosk
- Park storage and space for park management / event management activities
- Shaded seating areas with views to Standing Stones

#### **Stage 2**

- Provide business case and feasibility assessment of potential Function Centre use as stage 2 development of building
- Potential to extend building at ground level and / or to second level – subject to conservation of views and visual character from upper roadway and viewing area
- Function and Conference room for general events as well as use during Australian Celtic Festival

### *Water Treatment facility*

The Glen Inness Water Treatment facility treats the water supply of the town which is pumped to the hilltop, treated and stored for piping to the town under gravity. The complex comprises the hilltop facility which is Crown land but excluded from the park area and classified by Council as Operational Lands, along with the settling ponds zone to the north east of the hill and likewise excluded from the park area. Although excluded from this plan of management there are several important issues to be addressed to each of these parcels, including land tenure and the use of the northern section of the Settlement Ponds site for a permanent carparking facility for the park.

It is recommended to:

1. Investigate potential acquisition of the Water Treatment Plan site from the State. This is essential city infrastructure and this would secure its ongoing use and management with Council. The land could retain its current status on Council's system as "operational land".
2. Investigate provision of a carparking facility serving the park to the northern zone of the Settling Ponds area (refer also Vehicular Access and Parking item 1.)

### *Hill top walk / boardwalk*

This plan has identified that there is an opportunity to take advantage of the panoramic views to the east and south from the hilltop of Centennial Parklands. A walkway that links a series of rest and viewing points is envisaged. The walks could be a combination of at grade pathway and elevated boardwalk that offers enhanced viewing through and over vegetation, and a defined location for interpretation and outdoor education. The aim is provide an additional experience when visiting the parklands that compliments the existing features such as the Standing Stones and other natural and cultural values such as the natural elevated outlook and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

It is recommended to:

1. Investigate further design options for a hilltop walk facility
2. Investigate funding and potential staging options
3. Design in integration with environmental interpretive and educational objectives and strategies
4. Design in integration with Aboriginal interpretive and educational objectives and strategies and including Bush Tucker on the site

### *Maintenance facilities*

There is no permanent maintenance facility on site. Currently the area to the north of WTP settling ponds is used for short term equipment storage with several containers located in the area for maintenance and festival related storage. It is proposed to

It is recommended to:

1. Provide a purpose built storage shed for maintenance related purposes to the new carparking area
2. Provide a dedicated office area to any new park facilities building to accommodate site management activities as required for special events and potentially to busy holiday / weekend periods. Integrate minor maintenance storage for Nowlan Green area

### *3.5.6 Grassed recreation areas*

The parklands provides a series of grassed "rooms" each with its own character and uses for the community. Recommended improvements for each of the grassed spaces are listed below.

It is recommended to:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>
1. Nowlan Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Accessible concrete (all weather) path access linking to Bourke Street and looping around the green to existing / new facilities</li><li>- New play facility based around Aboriginal and Celtic themes</li><li>- Shade tree planting adjoining paths and seating</li><li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of west boundary / slopes under remnant trees</li><li>- Formalise existing elevated viewing area adjoining roadway – create road verge pedestrian zone with seating and existing stair link to Green</li></ul>
2. Western Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide terracing of existing grassed bank to enable more effective use for picnics and play and for small scale events</li><li>- Gravel track access connecting to overall parklands loop</li><li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of west boundary / slopes under remnant trees</li></ul>
3. Watsons Drive Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of entry and along north boundary</li></ul>
4. Playspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- New playspace (1400m<sup>2</sup>) with seating and picnic tables integrated and a series of age zones and design themes (Aboriginal and Celtic)</li></ul>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Recommended Improvements</b>
5. Hilltop Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of north slopes and slopes adjoining Watsons Drive</li> <li>- Provide parking adjoining Watsons Drive</li> <li>- Provide a concrete all weather path link along road edge to Nowlan Green</li> </ul>
6. Northern paddocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central amphitheatre event space catering for up to 5000 people (eg concert)</li> <li>- Concrete all weather path link up hill to Nowlan Green</li> <li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of north boundary / slopes under remnant trees</li> <li>- Consider selective culling of deciduous Lombardy Poplars to assist with events</li> </ul>
7. Eastern Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidate as bushland conservation zone</li> <li>- Gravel track access connecting to overall parklands loop</li> <li>- Hilltop walk</li> </ul>
8. Western Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of west boundary / slopes under remnant trees</li> <li>- Gravel track access connecting to overall parklands loop</li> </ul>
9. Southern Slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce area of recurrent grass maintenance through conversion to native grassland of west boundary / slopes under remnant trees</li> <li>- Gravel track access connecting to overall parklands loop</li> </ul>

### 3.5.7 Drainage

The parklands are a natural high point and as such only need to deal with the localised catchment of the park area. Overland flow exits the site at the centre of the northern boundary and the north western boundary.

It is recommended to:

1. Provide bioremediation beds as part of the new carpark development to treat runoff from the new hardstand area prior to dispersing across the northern paddocks

### 3.5.8 Provision of Facilities

Consultation generally indicated a reasonable level of satisfaction with the provision of recreational facilities such as shelters, picnic facilities, barbeques and seating within the park. However there are some limited but targeted needs for additional facilities to meet current day to day community needs, and the potential for recreational use to be grown. These requirements are outlined under the specific facilities groupings following.

#### **Picnic facilities**

It was identified through consultation that picnic facilities are popular at weekends and during events. This includes those around the Nowlan Green (where the play facilities are nearby) and at the Hilltop Green (where pleasant views to the east are available). The barbeque fire places have a rustic feel in keeping with the overall informal character of the park.

It is recommended to:

1. Maintain the existing rustic fire place barbeque pads
2. Consider some additional barbeque pads to Hilltop Green
3. One existing shelter will get integrated within the proposed play space
4. Consider an additional shelter based on the existing typology / design to the west side of the Nowlan Green

### **Seating and bins**

Seating within the park is primarily focussed on existing picnic shelters and the block seating to the barbeque pads. A demand for additional fixed seating was not identified during the plan of management process. The implementation of the Hilltop Walk would create the opportunity to integrate some additional seating as part of the structure with attractive outlooks to views

It is recommended to:

1. Implement a variety of seating opportunities to the proposed Hilltop Walk
2. Provide seating to the elevated outlook over the Nowlan Green adjoining Watsons Drive
3. Monitor demand for fixed park seating in the future – consider limited provision to high use areas of a type that compliments the overall park character
4. Centralise bins to collection points where bins can be stored against a low masonry wall echoing the other walling on site to reduce visual impact of stand lone bins and make more effective for maintenance

### **Playground**

The existing playspace is nearing the need for some renewal and is limited in its provision of facilities. It is also isolated from the main use area of the park. It is proposed to develop a new major play facility integrated with the Nowlan Green that can compliment existing values of the park and enhance the park's recreational value for families

It is recommended to:

1. Investigate and develop design options for a major play space that integrates custom play elements with off the shelf equipment. Elements should reference as appropriate a variety of park values including the natural environment, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and Celtic cultural heritage
2. Integrate careful consideration of the

### **Multi purpose bush tracks**

The park is already used as a place for walking including dog walking. It is proposed for formalise a main parklands loop that will include a concrete surface to provide at grade access from Bourke Street and to steeper erodible links integrated with gravel track sections

It is recommended to:

1. Provide an overall parklands loop accessible to the various park spaces, facilities and key entry points

### **Fitness equipment**

The park is used currently as a place for fitness and exercise. It is proposed to recognise this value and develop further the path / track network to provide recreational trails that link to routes beyond the site

It is recommended to:

1. Consolidate the park's track network
2. Investigate provision of small scale outdoor fitness hubs to several zones of the park adjoining the track network. Ensure location will not impact on other uses. Potential to integrate natural elements of rock and timber to create exercise elements building on the overall character of the park. Selective integration of off the shelf items should not be the dominant character

### 3.5.9 Interpretation

Interpretive information through the park is focussed on the Standing Stones monument, which is well designed and effective. With the future enhancement of park facilities the opportunity exists to do a major upgrade across the site to fully explore and take advantage of its natural and cultural history.

It is recommended to:

1. Compile site historical information from previous sources
2. Liaison with the Glen Inness LALC to identify and develop Aboriginal cultural themes including bush tucker and contemporary Aboriginal culture
3. Develop an updated and integrated plan for interpretation on the site to include a range of interpretive elements and mediums
4. Develop educational packages for use of local schools potentially visiting the site
5. Facilitate small scale community events on site that leverage off local culture and history and take advantage of park spaces such as the Nowlan Green and proposed Hilltop Walk

### 3.5.10 Events

The park has evolved as a major local venue being the venue for the Australian Celtic Festival in May each year. This is an important event for the town and region and it is proposed that the parklands continue to support this event and enhance and improve it where possible.

Beyond the ACF there is also potential for the parklands to act as a venue for other events across a range of scales.. The plan has identified potential for several alternative and supporting event locations including:

The following event related recommendations are provided:

#### *Multi- function parklands centre*

Approximately 340m<sup>2</sup> – indicative event capacity 250 people for seated event

As outlined in 3.5.5 potential for multi purpose function space developed above café kitchen and toilets as architect designed purpose built structure sympathetic to the character of the site

#### **Potential use:**

- Events as part of the ACF
- Lunch / dinner functions with outlook over the Standing Stones
- Conferences / seminars

#### *The Western Green*

Approximately 1700m<sup>2</sup> – indicative event capacity 1500 people

Potential to provide terracing to grassed slopes to the east that provide for amphitheatre style seating as well as picnics. Constraints include proximity to adjoining residences (noise controls required) and orientation to the west (setting sun) for late afternoon events

#### **Potential use:**

- Events as part of the ACF
- Small gatherings / activities at other times

### *The Northern Paddocks*

Approximately 5500m<sup>2</sup> – indicative event capacity 5000 people

Potential to provide outdoor concert event space with adjacent event parking to grassed area

#### **Potential use:**

- Events as part of the ACF
- Major concerts outdoor performances

### *3.5.11 Health & Safety Issues*

Centennial Parklands is maintained and managed in accordance with Council's accepted maintenance and Work Health and Safety standards.

It is recommended to:

1. Provide visually permeable handrails to sections of retaining wall that exceed 1m
2. Provide monitoring of fencelines to WTP facility and WTP setting ponds
3. Meet all requirements for storage of hazardous materials
4. Provide and maintain adequate rubbish bins
5. Provide accessible path routes across and around park and to facilities
6. Limit night time access due to scale of park – provide gated management of carparking area
7. Provide well lit night route from any future facilities (such as function space) to carparking
8. Provide temporary event lighting of night route from event spaces to carparking
9. Monitor site tree canopy for health and condition

### *3.5.12 Landscape Improvement*

#### *Introduction*

The parklands are typified by a combination of remnant native tree canopy, regenerating and planted native canopy and some areas of exotic tree canopy planted during park development. Understorey quality is varied but is generally heavily weed infested in particular to the park's eastern edge.

#### *Shade Tree canopy*

Generally the park has a reasonable shade tree coverage creating a strong natural character.

It is recommended to:

1. Monitor tree health and plan replacement plantings where mature trees reach senescence (end of useful life)
2. Identify opportunities to enhance native tree canopy for shade purposes with new facilities
3. Consider limited deciduous plantings in the vicinity of new buildings to provide winter sun and summer shade to outdoor sitting spaces

#### *Vegetation management around facilities*

Tree canopy and in some cases lower level vegetation has generally thrived across the park.

It is recommended that:

1. In some cases this vegetation may need selective trimming to avoid damage to built facilities. Such maintenance should have regard for the health and form of the tree and should be undertaken by a qualified Arborist. It is recommended to selectively trim lower branches and understorey to areas adjoining picnic tables to increase passive surveillance. Consider minor trimming where agreed necessary to protect integrity of Standing Stones Monument.

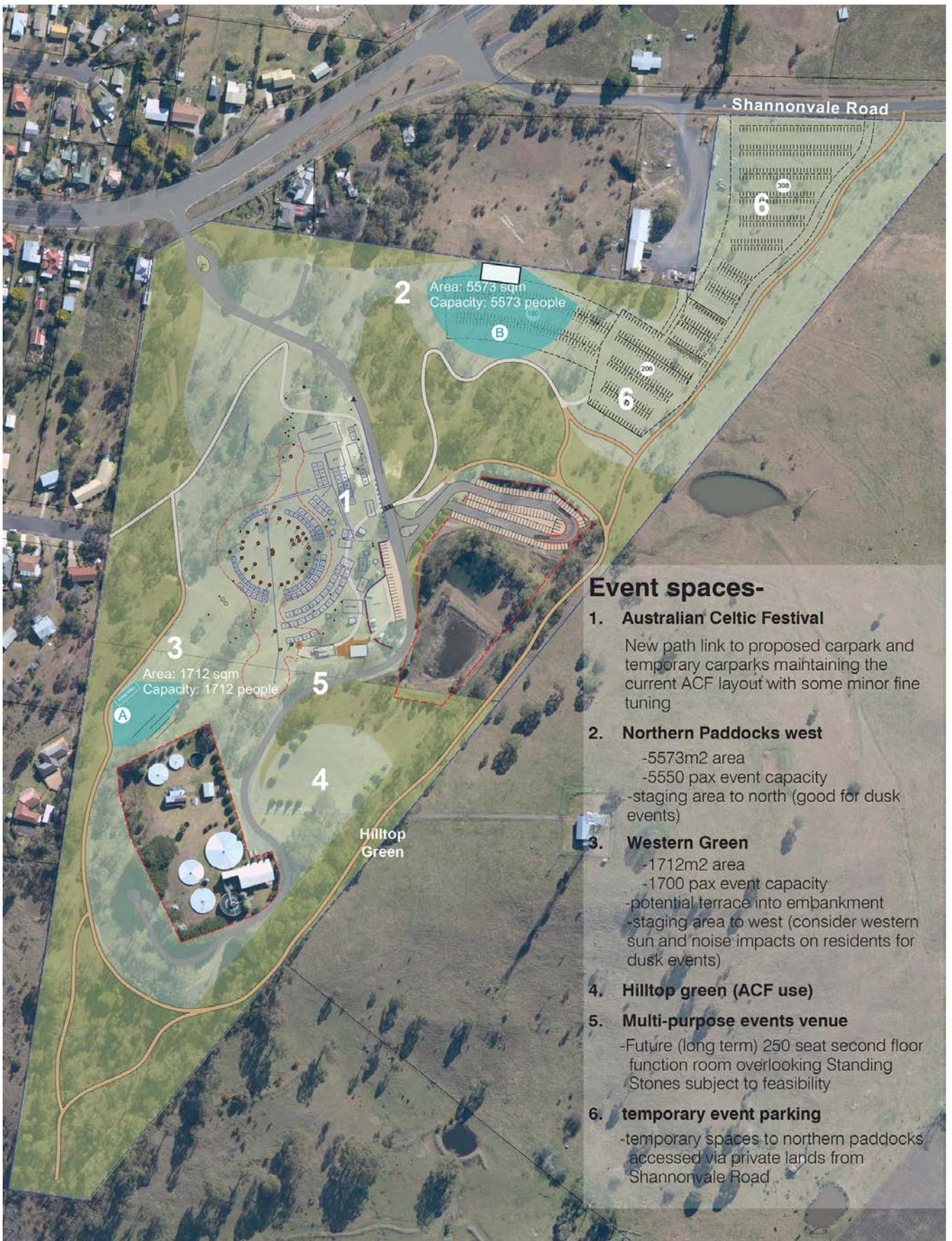


Figure 3.1 Event management recommendations

### *Habitat management*

There are several areas previously identified by Council as quality habitat important to local biodiversity. These include the slopes above the northern paddocks and the southern slopes. The eastern slopes are degraded by weeds but provide potential to be enhanced as a biodiversity corridor. The following general bushland management recommendations are proposed:

<b>Terrestrial habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limit access with formalised paths and boardwalks to the edge – avoid going through the middle of these areas</li><li>• Leave leaf litter and dropped branches</li><li>• Maintain / enhance veg species diversity</li><li>• Dense understorey layer</li><li>• Control feral animals</li><li>• Provide education</li></ul>
<b>Weed management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phased weed removal and revegetation – ongoing programme</li><li>• Weed removal along east boundary including environmental weeds such as Hawthorne, Privet, Cotoneaster to open up under storey views for Hilltop Walk</li></ul>
<b>Domestic animals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage resident management of domestic pets</li></ul>

### *Visual enhancement of poor views*

There are a number of locations where the STP facilities are highly visible to adjoining park areas and can detract from the use and enjoyment of adjoining areas. It is proposed that several types of measures can be considered

It is recommended that:

1. A structured screen element be provided to the eastern and southern frontages of the WTP where Watsons Drive directly adjoins and WTPO facilities are highly visible. Potential to use a rustic / agricultural themed timber fence that could integrate temporary arts displays for themes such as Aboriginal Art, local youth and the like
2. Landscape screening be provided to the western / northern boundary of the WTP by ways of trees and shrubs
3. Landscape screening of the road edge and embankment zone of the west edge of the WTP settling pond dam adjoining Watsons Drive.

### *3.5.13 Maintenance*

#### *Maintained parkland areas - general recurrent reserve maintenance*

Council will seek to provide an appropriate level of maintenance to the park within the constraints of funding and with the inputs and assistance of organised user groups. Particular issues to be addressed in the future include:

#### **Access and Open Space Equipment**

1. Ongoing management of graffiti and general vandalism of reserve furniture and structures is applicable
2. Check fixings to reserve furniture and structures
3. Ensure weed management is implemented to WTP lands including the hilltop facility and settling ponds area

### **Grass and planting bed maintenance**

1. Mow, weed and top up mulch regularly to provide a safe and enjoyable open space area

### **Mulched areas**

1. Mulch is to be topped up on a regular basis not exceeding 75mm depth to ensure it continues to suppress weed regrowth with potential for establishment of native grass groundcover.

### **Rubbish Bins**

Council could initiate a litter education programme at Centennial Parklands. This can involve a community awareness programme at the park including encouraging park users to take a "litter pledge".

It is recommended to:

1. Provide consolidated bin stations with masonry element to integrate with park character to high use areas
2. Integrate recycling station
3. Monitor and encourage use of recycling station

### **3.5.14 Park management**

Management of the parklands will continue to be undertaken by Council for the overall site. For the Standing Stones Monument and the protocol of the Australian Celtic Festival Council will collaborate with the Standing Stones Management Board.

It is recommended to:

1. Continue the existing role and relationship of the Standing Stones Management Board
2. Develop an ongoing collaborative relationship with the Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council for development of the park and in particular the enhancement of Aboriginal values and interpretation on the site

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION

### 4.1 Introduction

Future management decisions for Centennial Parklands will need to be addressed in the context of this Plan of Management. Implementation of improvement works within the open space will be an ongoing process in response to community expectations, user requirements, the availability of funding and other circumstances as they arise.

### 4.2 Management Structure

As the management and development of the open space involves the cooperation of several user groups it is essential to have a clear definition of management responsibilities as well as the involvement of a range of people with the necessary management skills and experience.

These groups and their respective responsibilities are summarised below. It should be noted that some of the responsibilities described below represent current management practices.

#### **4.2.1 Glen Innes Severn Council**

- Responsible for planning, development and management
- Budget allocation for development and maintenance
- Allocation of resources (financial, human and physical) for effective development
- Assessment of applications for development of commercial recreation facilities
- Maintenance of landscape works and passive recreation facilities
- Maintenance of grassed area, planted areas and associated facilities.

#### **4.2.2 The Community**

- Report maintenance requirements and vandalism to Glen Innes Severn Council
- Liaison with Council regarding use
- Written requests and proposals to Council for development or upgrading of facilities and submitted to Council for consideration.

## 4.3 Funding

The timing for implementation of this POM will be directly dependent on the availability of funding. Such funding is required to cover capital expenditure as well as recurrent costs for repairs and maintenance. In allocating funds, Council needs to consider such expenditure within the context of its overall annual budget limits and priorities.

Glen Innes Severn Council provides funding for regular maintenance in its annual budget. Council's annual budget allocation is aimed at achieving a satisfactory level of maintenance and facility provision for all Community Land areas.

Funding grants are available upon application to the relevant State Government Departments. The submission of an application for government funding is to be based on the prioritised schedule of actions.

## 4.4 Priorities

In order to provide guidance to commencement of implementation of the Plan of Management, a prioritised schedule of actions has been prepared. Prioritisation of works assists Council in allocating the financial, human and physical resources required for implementation of the Plan.

The following list of criteria has been used as a guideline when determining the priority rating for each action:

### 4.4.1 High priority (short-term)

- Stage 1 capital works improvements with current funding
- Safety issues where there is high probability of injury occurring
- Work needed to ensure the essential function of the reserve is not compromised
- Work needed to eliminate/reduce severe environmental problems, eg. erosion, water pollution, vegetation pests and diseases.

### 4.4.2 Moderate priority (medium-term)

- Other capital works improvements
- Ongoing preventative and remedial maintenance of existing assets
- Work needed to ameliorate adverse environmental conditions, (eg. insufficient shade, visual and noise intrusion, poor circulation and access)
- Works aimed at reducing ongoing maintenance costs

### 4.4.3 Low priority (long-term)

- Works aimed at improving aesthetic quality
- Works aimed at enhancing habitat value

The above criteria may require modification over time in response to special circumstances as well as changing community attitudes and expectations.

#### **4.4.4 Implementation schedule**

The following schedule lists each proposed management action, giving it a priority rating as determined from criteria listed earlier (High, Medium or Low). Each activity is also listed against a performance indicator and its current status is noted. These activities are described in more detail in section 3 Management Strategies.

The status rating is as follows:

O - Ongoing - this denotes activities that take place as part of the normal maintenance routine of the reserve.

P - Proposed - these activities have been proposed by the Plan of Management, but work on these activities has not been commenced.

Co - Commenced - this refers to proposed activities for which work has already begun.

Cp - Complete - this refers to activities that have been completed (their performance indicators have been fulfilled) since the last Plan of Management Review.

#### Index for symbols

CC Glen Innes Severn Council

H High priority

M Medium priority

L Low priority

The following schedule should be reviewed annually for the purpose of scheduling works for inclusion in Council's annual works program, as well as for monitoring of performance indicators.

### 4.5 Concept Masterplan

#### *4.5.1 Site Masterplan*

The following Concept Masterplan illustrates the key physical improvement actions recommended by this Plan of Management. These supplement and should be read in conjunction with the Action List provided in section 4.6.



Figure 4.1 Concept Masterplan

#### 4.5.2 Precinct proposals

The following precinct proposals illustrate and elaborate on the recommended actions identified in section 3.5 management Strategies.

##### *Proposed centralised parking*

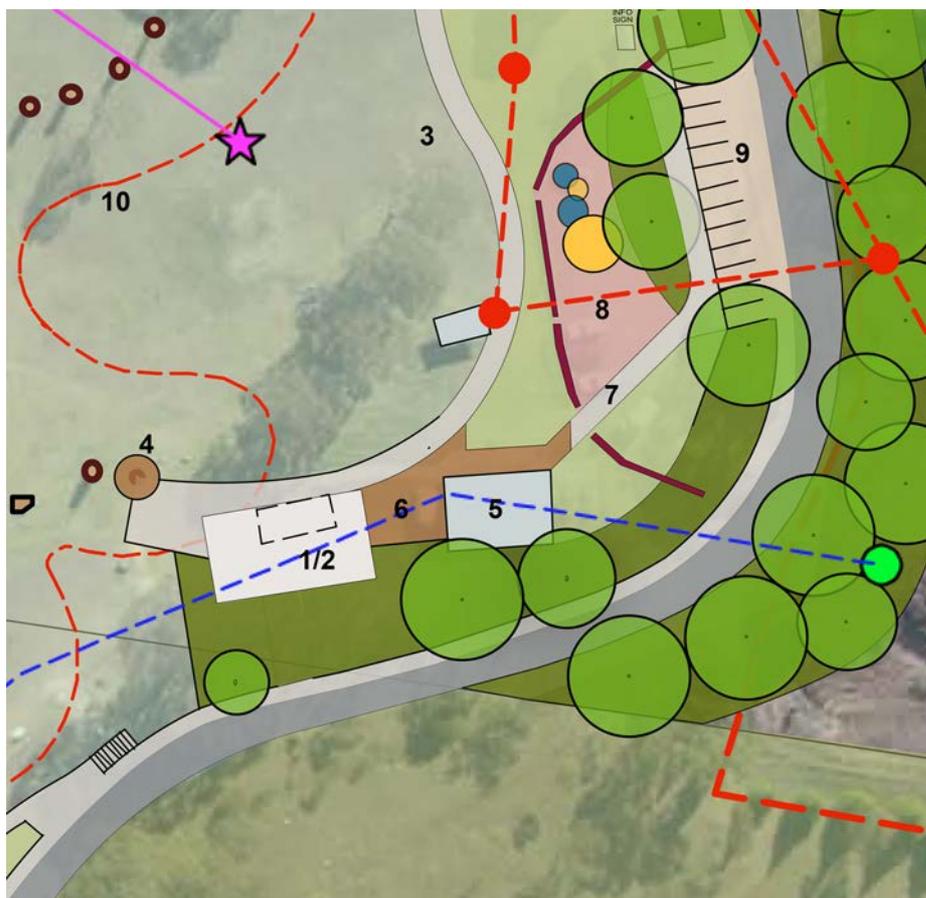
- Focus main parking to new parking area below settlement ponds - asphalt or gravel surface (125 -130 spaces) Implementation can be staged with an interim road base treatment.
- Bus turn around in carpark
- Concrete path access to Nowlan Green
- Maintain 90 degree parking directly adjoining Nowlan Green for quiet week days
- 90 degree parking to cater for RV parking along with central bays to permanent carpark
- Main carpark could be locked during week



**Figure 4.2 Central carparking area and event parking zone to North Paddocks**

### Proposed central facilities hub adjoining Nowlan Green

- New 2 storey multi purpose building integrated into slope west of Crofters Cottage - lower level (250-300m2):
  - kiosk,
  - bathrooms,
  - storage,
  - ACF support facilities
- Upper level (internal: 340m2 / viewing deck 150m2):
  - Viewing deck and cafe / restaurant seating
  - Possible cafe / restaurant / function room
  - Path link to overflow carpark
- Coach drop off and turn around at new carpark
- Excalibur sword integrated into landscape feature - connecting the new facility to the Standing Stones Monument (this is not essential - but excalibur would be quite close to currently proposed footprint)
- Crofters Cottage upgraded as café facility or converted to self guided visitors / orientation centre (or potentially both)
- Shaded courtyard between Crofters Cottage and new building
- Standing Stones 10m exclusion zone - the proposal currently encroaches on this but could be adapted to avoid if necessary
- New play space implemented within Nowlan Green precinct integrating existing picnic shelter
- Standing Stones signage relocated to adjacent Crofters Cottage
- Angle parking for quiet weekdays close to facilities



1. Multi purpose building stage 1 – Toilets and Kitchen
2. Stage 2 – Upper level Function Room and viewing deck
3. Path to central carpark
4. Excalibur in new mounting
5. Crofters Cottage
6. External seating / garden spaces
7. Path to existing parking
8. Low key play space
9. Ninety degree parking spaces (22)
10. Standing Stones exclusion zone

Figure 4.3 Central facilities hub

### *Proposed Hilltop Walk*

- Create a walkway experience integrating track and boardwalk (extent of boardwalk subject to budget)
- Aim to provide a walking experience, perspective and outlook otherwise not available
- Viewing and outdoor classroom decks - also have potential for evening dinner events
- Boardwalk or track where grades allow and budget requires
- Widening / pooling points with seating - handrails where drop over 1m
- "Treehouse" lookout winding up to high vantage point
- Lookout deck at Martins Lookout
- Interpretation integrated to deck along route
- Bush tucker vegetation along walk



**View east from proposed start of Hilltop Walk**



**View south from Martins Lookout**



1. Viewing and outdoor classroom decks (as above) - also have potential for evening dinner events
2. Boardwalk or track where grades allow and budget requires
3. Widening / pooling points with seating - handrails where drop over 1m
4. "Treehouse" lookout winding up to high vantage point
5. Lookout deck at Martins Lookout
6. Interpretation integrated to deck along route

Figure 4.4 Indicative Hilltop Walk Plan



Figure 4.5 Indicative illustrative view and boardwalk examples

*Proposed timber screen cladding to WTP east and south edges*

- Timber batten screen integrated to existing fence line - provides day to day buffer integrated with natural look and feel of site
- detailing could be quite rustic - top height could vary
- can be canvas for temporary artwork eg annual project focussed on Aboriginal youth - artworks could be graphic or sculpture related - temporary may be preferable to maintain interest



**Figure 4.6 Indicative illustrative view of screen and materials examples**

## 4.6 Action List

### 4.6.1 Centennial Parklands

No.	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPON SIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	STATUS
<b>0.0</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Management</b>				
0.1	Use POM to source funding for capital works improvements	H	GISC	Budget for capital works improvements	P
0.2	Undertake feasibility investigations of potential multi purpose building on site – determine preferred staging approach	H	GISC	Feasibility established.	P
0.3	Investigate potential to allocate northern zone of WTP settling ponds are to proposed carpark	H	GISC	Feasibility established.	P
0.4	Liaise with Crown Lands Division regarding potential acquisition of WTP and TSR lands	H	GISC	Feasibility established.	P
0.5	Liaise with GILALC to develop integrated Aboriginal cultural heritage approach to site including design of Hilltop Walk, site interpretation and bush tucker	H	GISC	Approach established	P
0.6	Undertake design path and track upgrades and extensions	H	GISC	Brief prepared. Detailed drawings prepared.	P
0.7	Investigate Hilltop Walk concept further to determine preferred approach to alignment and surfacing – review funding potential and requirement for staging	H	GISC	Feasibility established and design / staging approach established	P
08	Pursue funding for major capital works projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• multi purpose building</li> <li>• central carpark</li> <li>• hilltop walk</li> <li>• playspace</li> </ul>	H	GISC	Funding scope confirmed	P
09	Develop and refine management strategy for multi purpose building and liaise with potential partners as applicable	H	GISC	Management approach confirmed	P
010	Develop design of multi purpose building adjoining Nowlan Green and Crofters Cottage	M	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
011	Develop adaption design for Crofters Cottage for improvement as a café / kiosk or to establish a site orientation centre	M	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
012	Develop design of centralised carpark including drop off access road and maintenance shed	H	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
013	Develop design of hilltop road edge carparking including landscaping	H	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
014	Develop design of hilltop walk	M	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
015	Develop design of play space	H	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
017	Develop design of terracing to Western Green	H	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
018	Develop design of fitness nodes	M	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
019	Develop design of centralised bin stations	H	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
020	Develop design of WTP screen fence integrated with consultation with GILALC and schools	H	GISC	Brief / Detailed dwgs prepared.	P
021	Develop design of landscape screening to WTP and settling ponds	H	GISC	Detailed drawings prepared.	P
022	Develop design of landscape screening to WTP and settling ponds	H	GISC	Detailed drawings prepared.	P
023	Develop design of viewing area over Standing Stones adjoining Watsons Dve	H	GISC	Detailed drawings prepared.	P
024	Plan coordinated site wide interpretation integrated with orientation centre and hilltop walk	H	GISC	Detailed drawings prepared.	P

No.	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY	RESPON SIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	STATUS
025	Further investigate and map services running through site prior to any works. In particular investigate potential telecommunications servicing that may influence the site	H	GISC	Services identified	P
026	Consider naming protocols for grassed "green" areas for potential themed naming	L	GISC	Naming confirmed	P
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Site Facilities</b>				
1.1	Implement mutli purpose building project	L	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.2	Implement central carpark project including RV parking to Watsons Drive adjoining Nowlan Green	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.3	Implement hilltop parking including landscaping	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.4	Implement fitness nodes project	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.5	Implement playspace project	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.6	Provide additional 2 picnic shelters to Nowlan Green	M	GISC	Additional picnic capacity	P
1.7	Provide additional 1 picnic shelters to Hilltop Green	M	GISC	Additional picnic capacity	P
1.8	Provide centralised bin stations	H	GISC	Project completed and operating	O
1.9	Upgrade lighting to kiosk and toilets through any new building works	H	GISC	Appropriate lighting available	P
1.10	Implement WTP screen fence project	M	GISC	Screen implemented Art use implemented	P
1.11	Implement viewing area over Standing Stones adjoining Watsons Dve	M	GISC	Viewing area implemented	P
1.12	Implement improvements to Crofters Cottage	L	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.13	Implement coordinated site wide interpretation integrated with orientation centre and hilltop walk	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
1.14	Remove existing BBQ immediately south of WTP as it is isolated, seldom used and a bushfire risk	H	GISC	BBQ removed	P
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Landscape / Open space</b>				
2.1	Implement landscape screening to WTP and settling ponds	H	GISC	Screening implemented	P
2.2	Implement terracing to Western Green project	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
2.3	Implement weed management to eastern boundary	H	GISC	Works implemented	P
2.3	Implement additional shade tree planting	H	GISC	Works implemented	P
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Access &amp; Circulation</b>				
3.1	Implement all weather accessible path link from Bourke Road to Nowlan Green	H	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
3.2	Implement all weather accessible path link from northern paddocks to Nowlan Green	M	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
3.3	Implement loop track network – gravel track surfacing	H	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
3.4	Implement hilltop walk project	L	GISC	Project completed and operating	P
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>				
4.1	Preventative maintenance to park areas	H	CC	Park adequately maintained	O
4.2	Remedial maintenance to park areas	H	CC	Park adequately maintained	O
4.3	Sustainable maintenance costs	H	CC	Maintenance costs monitored	O

## 4.7 Staffing

The park will be maintained by Council staff undertaking rolling maintenance for parks as defined by operational plans.

## 4.8 Commercial Development Opportunities

Glen Innes Severn Council has no current plans for development of commercial facilities within the riparian corridor. Glen Innes Severn Council is not currently considering any applications by private or community organisations to develop commercial facilities.

## 4.9 Leases and Licenses

### 4.9.1 What are leases, licences and other estates?

Clause 46 (Leases, licences and other estates in respect of community land-generally) of the Local Government Act 1993 states

- (1) A lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land:
  - (a) may be granted for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities, or
  - (a1) may be granted for the purpose of providing pipes, conduits or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or other public utility provider, or
  - (b) may be granted, in accordance with an express authorisation in the plan of management and such provisions of the plan of management as apply to the granting of the lease, licence or other estate:
    - (i) for a purpose prescribed by subsection (4), or for a purpose prescribed by any of sections 36E to 36N as a core objective of the categorisation of the land concerned, or
    - (ii) for a purpose prescribed by the regulations, if the plan of management applies to several areas of community land, or
    - (iii) for a short-term, casual purpose prescribed by the regulations, or
    - (iv) for a residential purpose in relation to housing owned by the council, or
  - (c) may be granted in order to allow a filming project to be carried out, whether or not the project is in accordance with the plan of management or is consistent with the core objectives of the categorisation of the land concerned, but may not otherwise be granted.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land may be granted for a purpose mentioned in subsection (1) (b) only if the purpose for which it is granted is consistent with the core objectives of its categorisation.
- (3) A council must not grant a lease or licence for a period (including any period for which the lease or licence could be renewed by the exercise of an option) exceeding 30 years.
- (4) The following purposes are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1) (b) (i):
  - (a) the provision of goods, services and facilities, and the carrying out of activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within the local community and of the wider public in relation to any of the following:
    - (i) public recreation,
    - (ii) the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons,
  - (b) the provision of public roads.

- (5) Purposes prescribed by subsection (4) in relation to the matters mentioned in subsection (4) (a) (ii) include, but are not limited to, maternity welfare centres, infant welfare centres, kindergartens, nurseries, child care centres, family day-care centres, surf life saving clubs, restaurants or refreshment kiosks.
- (5A) A council must grant an application under subsection (1) (c) for a lease, licence or other estate in respect of community land in order to allow a filming project to be carried out on the land unless:
- (a) the community land is land referred to in section 47AA (1), or
  - (b) the plan of management for the land expressly prohibits use of the land for the purposes of filming projects, or
  - (c) the council is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances that warrant refusal of the application.
- (5B) Before refusing an application on a ground referred to in subsection (5A) (c), the council must consider whether any concerns it has could be addressed by imposing conditions on the grant.
- (5C) If the council refuses an application, it must:
- (a) inform the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after it is made, and
  - (b) give the applicant reasons in writing for its decision within 3 business days after it is made.
- (6) A plan of management is void to the extent that it purports to authorise the grant of a lease, licence or other estate in contravention of this section.

Licences allow multiple and non-exclusive use of an area. A licence may be required where intermittent or short-term use or control of all or part of the park is proposed. A number of licences for different users can apply to the same area at the same time, provided there is no conflict of interest.

The definition of "estate", under Section 21 of the Interpretation Act, 1987, includes other rights over land, such as easements, including "interest, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien and encumbrance, whether at law or in equity".

#### **4.9.2 Existing and proposed leases, licences and other estates**

Existing leases: Stone Cottage cafe

Proposed leases/ licences:

- Function centre
- Café Kiosk
- Orientation Centre
- One off or regular events to event spaces
- Other events or activities that comply with the land categorisations of the site and the relevant legislation

#### **4.9.3 Authorisation of future leases, licences and other estates**

To comply with the Local Government Act, 1993 this Plan of Management must clearly specify the leases, licences and other estates that are authorised on community land within the park. Occupation of community land by leases, licences and other estates that apply to the park are set out in Sections 46, 46A, 47, 47A, 47C and 47D of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Council may also consider leases or licences for uses that are compatible with the recreational values of the reserve.

Operation of such uses must be on the condition that fees / profits gained contribute to the park maintenance and enhancement.

These and any other applications for granting of lease or license or for conducting of a temporary activity on site not addressed expressly by this plan must be assessed by Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993.

Generally leasing or licensing other than that addressed will require revision and re-exhibition of this Plan of Management.

#### 4.10 Plan of Management

As noted in Section 4.4, priority works will be considered by Council each year for budgeting and setting of implementation targets as well as for consideration of other works as needed or determined.

Reviews of the Plan of Management will be undertaken as determined by Council.