Reserve Action Plan
Mowbray Park

2023

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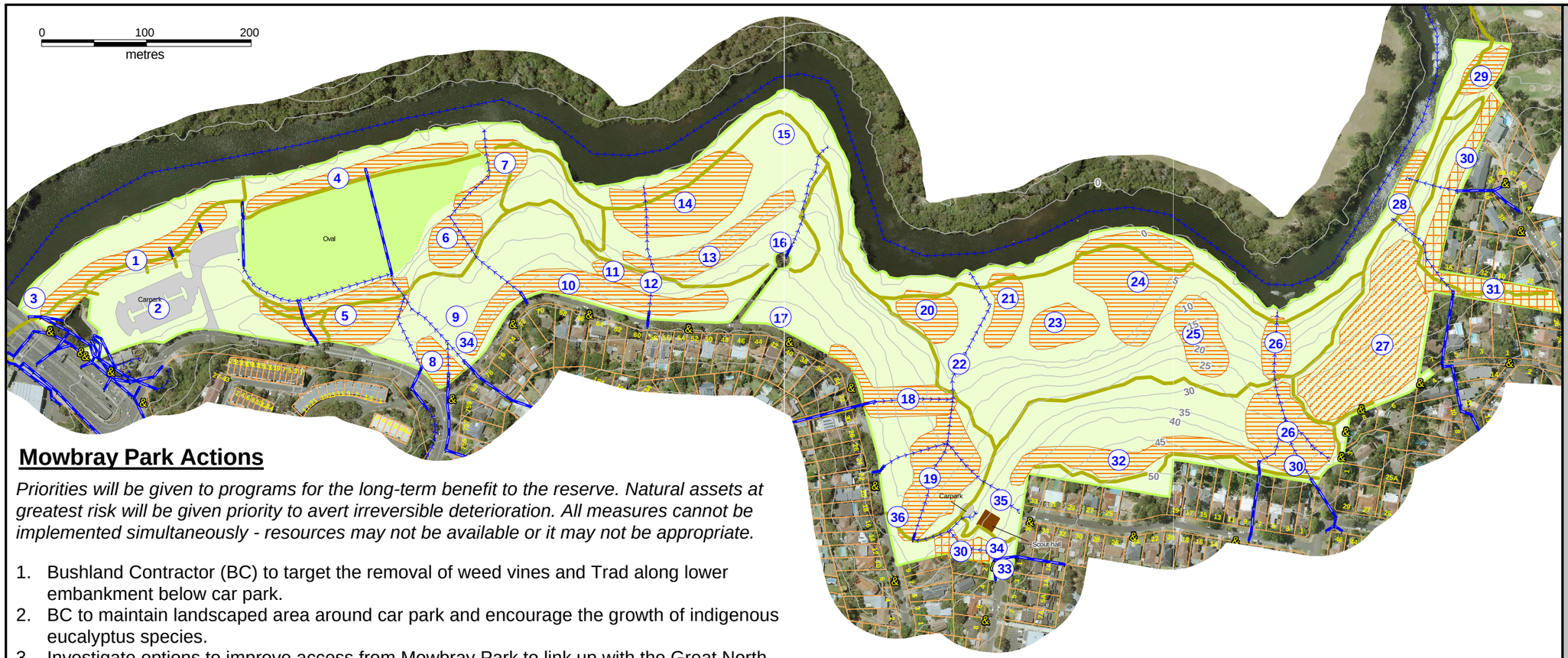

RESERVE ACTION PLAN
MOWBRAY PARK

Plan details

Status:	Final
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Approximate Scale:	1:4500 on A3

Legend

- Property number
- Action plan activity
- Stormwater node
- Approximate fire hydrant location
- 5m contours
- Stormwater network - Underground *
- Stormwater network - Overground / Unknown *
- Bush track / Path *
- Property boundary
- Reserve / bushland
- Bushland Contractors
- Bushland Team Regeneration Site
- Bushcare group

* The accuracy of this data is not guaranteed and must be verified prior to use.

The information contained herein has been provided in good faith. Effort has been made to ensure it's accuracy and completeness.

Willoughby City Council does not take any responsibility for errors or omissions nor any loss or damage that may result from the use of this information.

References

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Mowbray Park Actions

Priorities will be given to programs for the long-term benefit to the reserve. Natural assets at greatest risk will be given priority to avert irreversible deterioration. All measures cannot be implemented simultaneously - resources may not be available or it may not be appropriate.

1. Bushland Contractor (BC) to target the removal of weed vines and Trad along lower embankment below car park.
2. BC to maintain landscaped area around car park and encourage the growth of indigenous eucalyptus species.
3. Investigate options to improve access from Mowbray Park to link up with the Great North Walk around the starch factory including installing sign posts and interpretive signage. Maintain interpretive mural under Epping Road Bridge.
4. BC to target the removal of Trad and Asthma weed along lower embankment below athletics field. Install traps at stormwater lines below the athletics field to analyse rubbish collected.
5. BC to target the removal of woody weeds and annuals. Also maintain existing plantings.
6. BC to complete maintenance sweeps targeting the removal of Asparagus Fern.
7. BC to maintain area around the Aboriginal interpretive site. Also investigate upgrading seating and interpretive signage.
8. BC to remove weeds with a target goal of reducing weed cover to <30%. Bushland Team to complete fine hand weeding.
9. Non-indigenous eucalyptus species to be removed. Logs to be retained onsite as habitat for wildlife.
10. BC to remove woody weeds and target the removal of Turkey Rhubarb in the embankment.
11. BC to complete maintenance sweeps targeting the removal of Asparagus Fern, Fishbone Fern and Spider Plant above boardwalk.
12. Investigate options to include interpretive signage near boardwalk.
13. BC to target the removal of woody weeds and Fishbone Fern in lower saltmarsh area.
14. Bushland Team to target the removal of woody weeds, Fishbone Fern and Buffalo Grass in lower saltmarsh area.
15. Wildlife Officer to monitor for Bell Miner activity and complete surveys for increases in distribution or impacts to vegetation.
16. BC to maintain previously disturbed area. Monitor for illegal dumping at the end of Avro Road and report to Council's Safe City Unit for action.
17. Contractor to target the removal of African Lovegrass.
18. BC to remove weeds in and around stormwater line.
19. BC to target the removal of woody weeds incrementally and over represented Alocasia.
20. BC to complete secondary maintenance weeding targeting Lantana and Privet.
21. BC to incrementally remove Lantana over time to reduce impact to wildlife. Investigate extending boardwalk here to avoid inundation of track along the river
22. BC to incrementally remove Lantana and Privet over time to reduce impact to wildlife and revegetate with mesic plant species.
23. BC Maintain diverse vegetation communities in this zone.
24. BC to complete assisted regeneration and target the removal of Lantana and Privet.
25. BC to complete secondary maintenance weeding.
26. BC to complete woody weed removal in stormwater line.
27. Bushland Team completed post fire weeding in burnt area.
28. BC to Main grass swale.
29. BC to complete incremental removal of Privet.
30. Bushcare group to continue to work according to Bushcare Action Plan.
31. Bushland Team to maintain road reserve by spraying and brush cutting. Some additional native plantings may be required to revegetate degraded areas.
32. BC to complete woody weed removal behind playground and properties. Parks Contractor to continue mowing grass firebreak behind properties at Ulm Street.
33. Bushland Team to work degraded edge targeting the removal of couch and woody weeds.
34. BC to monitor stormwater lines and remove excess sediment that accumulates over time.
35. Bushland Team to reduce fuel around Scout Hall. Property Team to reduce fuel on roof of hall
36. Investigate options to improve the access road to the Park and Hall. Also, monitor for any illegal dumping and report to Council's Safe City Unit for action.
37. Bushland Team to maintain all tracks and monitor boardwalks throughout the Park.
38. Wildlife Officer to investigate installing nest boxes to increase nesting habitat for hollow dependent species.
39. Wildlife Officer to investigate laying larger logs on the ground and add other terrestrial habitats.
40. Council to inform residents and Park users of the requirement to leash dogs and keep cats out of the Park.
41. Encroachments at Avian Crescent, Ulm Street, Melrose Street and Mooney Street to be removed at an appropriate time.

Mowbray Park Reserve Action Plan

Reserve Profile

Mowbray Park is a long continuous area of remnant bushland located along the Lane Cove River in Lane Cove North. It is bounded by Chatswood Golf Course to the north east, almost reaching Swaines Creek and to the west by the Epping Rd Bridge. This Reserve Action Plan includes the areas of Mowbray Park, Burns Park and bushland around the Chatswood Rotary Memorial Athletic Field, totalling 21.2ha.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Mowbray Park is home to large areas of remnant vegetation with varied plant communities. These include: Estuarine Mangrove Forest (S_SW01), Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest (S_DSF04), Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest (S_DSF06), Coastal Sandstone Gully Forest (S_DSF09), Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest (S_WSF02), Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest (S_FoW08), Riverflat Paperbark Swamp Forest (S_FoW05), Estuarine Mangrove Forest (S_SW01), and Estuarine Reedland (S_FrW06).

In elevated areas vegetation is mostly open forest with a heath shrub layer. The canopy is dominated by Smooth-barked apple (Angophora costata) and Blackbutt (Eucalyptus pilularis) with a mix of heath shrub species. Descending closer to the river in low lying areas there are communities of saltmarsh and mangroves with dense stands of Swamp oak (Casuarina glauca), Common reed (Phragmites australis) and salt-tolerant species including Sea rush (Juncus kraussii) and Bare twig-rush (Baumea juncea). The river is lined by Mangroves.

HABITAT: Mowbray Park is dominated by intact dry sclerophyll forest and woodland type habitat above the Estuarine Complex (Mangrove Wetlands and Saltmarsh). There are drainage areas, one of which contains a freshwater pool. There is Eucalypt Gully Woodland & Gully Forest with some hollow bearing trees. Large rock ledges, outcrops and tall rock faces extend along most of the Park's profile from its ridge to sections of foreshore.

Statement of Significance

Mowbray Park is classified as bushland as defined in State Environmental Planning Policy No 19 (*Vol 1, 1.4), and is protected under State and Commonwealth Legislation (*Vol 1, 1.5.2). The majority of the Park is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation, the athletics field and adjacent car park is zoned RE1 Public Recreation and a small section next to Epping Rd is zoned SP2 Infrastructure in the Willoughby Local Environment Plan (WLEP) 2012.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Gamaraygal people originally occupied the area. Mowbray Park contains a number of Aboriginal sites, including middens, shelters, artwork, axe grinding grooves and a campsite. These are protected by State and Federal legislation and the locations of these will be kept confidential to ensure they are not disturbed.

NATURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE: Mowbray Park contains significant continuous remnant vegetation with large rock outcrops and overhangs located along a major waterway, the Lane Cove River. The Park is home to diverse and varied wildlife and has varied plant communities. Mowbray Park is a significant part of the Lane Cove National Park network of ecological linkages connecting remnant habitat between the lower and upper Lane Cove River. Foreshore areas provide feeding and breeding habitat potential to a range of marine and estuarine species including wetland birds and the aquatic mammal, Rakali. Mammals such as possums including sugar gliders and possibly microbats utilise hollows in mangroves. The Short-beaked Echidna and various reptiles like the Lace Monitor, Red-bellied Black snake breed here. The extensive northerly aspect of rock outcrops support a diverse range of smaller reptiles including nocturnal species like the Eastern Small-eyed snake. The Park is a major flyways for a number of microbat species including the threatened Eastern Bentwing-bat and the Large-footed Myotis, which may roost here. Mowbray Park is home to a diverse range of birds with 88 native species recorded including the vulnerably listed, Powerful Owl and Barking Owl. The Powerful and Boobook Owls breed in the Park. Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest provides food sources for the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

HISTORIC CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: After European arrival the Lane Cove Valley was a source of timber for the new colony in Port Jackson. Timber getting first commenced in the area in 1805. There is evidence in the Park of an old shelter carved into a rock ledge that may have been used during this time.

Later, the Lane Cove River was a popular picnic destination for people from Sydney who travelled up the river. Judy's Arm, located below Avro Rd was a cleared and grassy picnic area popular in the 1880s. Another popular picnic spot, located across the river was the Fairyland Pleasure Grounds which commenced in 1913. It had a wharf, dance hall, kiosk and playground.

Burns Park, located adjacent to the Golf Course, was dedicated as parkland in 1929. It was later incorporated into Mowbray Park. Close by the Flat Rock Picnic Area was serviced by the Franstone Wharf, and was demolished due to vandalism in 1952.

The athletics field was constructed and opened in 1966. Another oval and play area was planned for the Park by filling in a wetland in 1972. However this was met with strong opposition by local residents including children who stood in front of a bulldozer to prevent the project from commencing. The plan never eventuated and was later cancelled by Council.

Reserve Impacts

Several major stormwater drainage lines and one sewer line run through Mowbray Park. During peak flow the increased amounts of moisture, nutrients, pollution, erosion and weed invasion are detrimental to the reserve's biological integrity. Increased sedimentation and freshwater content also threaten the vulnerable Estuary Saltmarsh community.

Past activities and subsequent weed infestation are still evident: e.g. turf grass is still persistent in some areas, although canopy species have regenerated. Although Mowbray Park has good connectivity to the Lane Cove National Park across the river, connection to the north is fragmented by the Golf Course.

FIRE HISTORY: A large area of Mowbray Park was burnt by wildfire in 1994. Council has since implemented hazard reduction actions, including prescribed burns, pile burns and manual fuel removal. There have also been some arson burns.

ENCROACHMENTS: Avian Crescent, Ulm Street, Melrose Street, and Mooney Street.

Wildlife Habitat Issues

Tree hollows (especially larger ones) are not abundant and while there are significant rock shelters, little of the diverse layering of rocks important for reptile diversity exists. Firewood collection and too frequent burning of vegetation are potential issues for terrestrial species. Walking tracks and boardwalks throughout the Park run along the foreshore through ecologically sensitive areas and require monitoring to retain their integrity, particularly as track embankments are used for nesting by Pardalotes.

There are a large number of residential properties along the Park edge, which may contain potential predators of native wildlife such as cats, dogs and rats. These properties also impact on the integrity of bushland by weed escape and firewood collection. Wildlife habitat is very narrow adjacent to the golf course due to cleared vegetation behind properties and a pedestrian track running beside the river. This greatly limits the integrity of this habitat corridor for both terrestrial and avian species. Leashed dogs are allowed in the Park however there continue to be issues with unleashed dogs and cats straying into the Park. Mowbray Park is designated as a Wildlife Protection Area and fines apply to dogs unrestrained and cats found in the Park. Fox activity has been recorded and baiting has been conducted.

Achievements

Continued weed control work by regeneration contractors and Council staff has improved bushland quality.

Council received grant funding from the Sydney Coastal Councils Group in 2015-16 to rehabilitate saltmarsh areas in the Park and Swaines Creek. Large areas were weeded followed by native plantings to improve connectivity of saltmarsh. Council matched funds received by the grant.

Track and boardwalk maintenance has improved public access throughout the Park.

Council has completed controlled burns and post fire maintenance for ecological values and asset protection.

Fox control activities have continued for a number of years.

The transfer of the Crown Reserve lease, adjacent to the former Starch Factory, to Council has been requested to align with the objectives of the Lane Cove River Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Bushland Management Goals – Mowbray Park

The following aims from the Urban Bushland Plan of Management 2014 are priority objectives:

5.3b: To maintain conditions in which creek and drainage lines are protected from increased erosion and/or sedimentation due to urban impacts.
6.2f Aim: To preserve and increase ecological links across the LGA and regionally to assist the movement of fauna.
6.3b Aim: To implement weed control programs which are based on regeneration and restoration principles and which increase the bushland resilience to further weed infestation.

Bushland Management – General Principles and Actions

a. Bush regeneration is a long term process that requires staged weed removal to ensure establishment of native plant communities. Work should proceed from good bush to degraded areas with techniques that encourage regeneration, including flame weeding.
b. If possible, all weed refuse and natural debris to be composted or retained on-site.
c. When natural regeneration is deemed inadequate, supplementary plantings to mimic local plant communities and landscapes will be used with local provenance species.
d. Standing dead trees and forest litter (including logs and branches) to be kept for wildlife habitat unless deemed a risk to safety.
e. Monitor, maintain and enhance vegetation connectivity for wildlife habitat within the reserve and reserve networks.
f. *Phytophthera cinnamomi* (a root rot pathogen) is listed as a key threatening process in NSW and has been identified as a threat to a number of species. Bushland workers are to use hygiene protocols to minimise risk.
g. Report and record all reserve encroachments. Also monitor for tree vandalism and/or removal within the reserve and report to Council Compliance for appropriate action.
h. Continue to monitor wildlife habitat requirements and supplement where necessary.
i. Monitor feral animal activity and implement appropriate management actions where necessary.
j. Encourage the community to report wildlife sightings to Council via the Wildlife Watch program to increase the understanding of native wildlife populations.
k. Monitor and protect cultural heritage sites within the reserve with Aboriginal heritage to be protected at all times. Bushland staff to notify Aboriginal Heritage Office prior to each burn to identify sites and implement protection measures and post-fire survey.
l. Establish photo points to monitor the progress of reserve management actions.
m. Reserve Action Plan progress to be reviewed annually and updated after five years.
n. This reserve has a valuable role as an educational resource. Preserve natural features used for educational purposes and continue to inform the community of bushland issues through on-site educational activities and signage. Maintain appropriate signage.
o. Species diversity will be maintained by an ecological burn program in a mosaic pattern.Bushfire management will be achieved through implementation of a strategic hazard reduction program consistent with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.
p. Formal tracks to be regularly maintained and informal tracks closed to prevent damage to habitat and to impede access of feral animals, unless used for access by bushland workers.

Animal List for Blue Gum Reserve

Blue Gum Reserve provides habitat for a number native animals. A list of these species can be found at: https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/ecm/willoughby-council-website/publications-reports-master-plans-strategies-action-plans/publications-reports-master-plans-strategies-action-plans/1-native_fauna_of_lane_cove_river.pdf

Native Plant List for Mowbray Park

SELAGINELLACEAE	*Casuarina glauca*	*Ficus rubiginosa*	SAPINDACEAE
Selaginella uliginosa	CONVOLVULACEAE	MYRTACEAE	*Dodonaea triquetra*
CONIFERS	*Dichondra repens*	*Acmena smithii*	STYLIDIACEAE
CUPRESSACEAE	CUNONIACEAE	*Angophora bakeri*	*Stylidium graminifolium*
Callitris rhomboidea	*Bauera rubioides*	*Angophora costata*	*Stylidium laricifolium*
PODOCARPACEAE	*Callicoma serratifolia*	*Angophora hispida*	*Stylidium lineare*
Afrocarpus falcatus	*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*	*Backhousia myrtifolia*	*Stylidium productum*
Podocarpus spinulosus	DILLENIACEAE	*Corymbia gunnifera*	THYMELAEACEAE
FORK FERNS	*Hibbertia empetrifolia*	*Eucalyptus haemastoma*	*Pimelea linifolia*
PSILOTACEAE	*Hibbertia linearis*	*Eucalyptus piperita*	VIOLACEAE
Psilotum nudum	ELAEOCARPACEAE	*Eucalyptus punctata*	*Hybanthus vernonii*
FERNS	*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*	*Eucalyptus resinifera*	*Viola hederacea*
ASPLENIACEAE	*Tetratheca ericifolia*	*Eucalyptus sieberi*	VITACEAE
Asplenium australasicum	ERICACEAE	*Gaudium trinervium*	*Cayratia clematidea*
Asplenium flabellifolium	*Epacris longiflora*	*Kunzea ambigua*	*Cissus hypoglauca*
BLECHNACEAE	*Epacris microphylla*	*Leptospermum arachnoides*	**MONOCOTS**
Blechnum ambiguum	*Epacris pulchella*	*Leptospermum polygalifolium*	ASPARAGACEAE
Blechnum cartilagineum	*Leucopogon amplexicaulis*	*Tristaniopsis laurina*	*Lomandra glauca*
CYATHEACEAE	*Leucopogon ericoides*	OLEACEAE	*Lomandra gracilis*
Cyathea australis	*Leucopogon microphyllus*	*Notelaea longifolia*	*Lomandra longifolia*
Cyathea cooperi	*Monotoca scoparia*	*Notelaea venosa*	*Lomandra obliqua*
DAVALLIACEAE	*Styphelia longifolia*	OXALIDACEAE	*Thysanotus tuberosus*
Davallia solida var. pyxidata	*Styphelia tubiflora*	*Oxalis corniculata*	ASPHODELACEAE
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE	*Woollsia pungens*	PICRODENDRACEAE	*Dianella caerulea*
Histiopteris incisa	EUPHORBIACEAE	*Micrantheum ericoides*	*Tricoryne elatior*
Hypolepis muelleri	*Homalanthus populifolius*	PITTOSPORACEAE	*Xanthorrhoea arborea*
Pteridium esculentum	*Ricinocarpos pinifolius*	*Billardiera scandens*	*Xanthorrhoea media*
DICKSONIACEAE	FABACEAE-FABOIDEAE	*Pittosporum undulatum*	BLANDFORDIACEAE
Calochlaena dubia	*Bossiaea ensata*	PLANTAGINACEAE	*Blandfordia nobilis*
GLEICHENIACEAE	*Bossiaea heterophylla*	*Veronica plebeia*	COLCHICACEAE
Gleichenia dicarpa	*Bossiaea scolopendria*	POLYGALACEAE	*Burchardia umbellata*
Gleichenia microphylla	*Dillwynia retorta*	*Comesperma ericinum*	COMMELINACEAE
Gleichenia rupestris	*Glycine clandestina*	PRIMULACEAE	*Commelina cyanea*
Sticherus lobatus	*Gompholobium glabratum*	*Samolus repens*	CYPERACEAE
LINDSAEACEAE	*Gompholobium latifolium*	PROTEACEAE	*Caustis flexuosa*
Lindsaea linearis	*Grona varians*	*Banksia ericifolia*	*Caustis pentandra*
Lindsaea microphylla	*Hardenbergia violacea*	*Banksia integrifolia*	*Chaetospora turbinata*
POLYPODIACEAE	*Hovea linearis*	*Banksia marginata*	*Lepidosperma elatius*
Platycerium bifurcatum	*Hovea purpurea*	*Banksia oblongifolia*	*Lepidosperma laterale*
Pyrrosia rupestris	*Kennedia rubicunda*	*Banksia serrata*	*Lepidosperma limicola*
PTERIDACEAE	*Mirbelia rubiifolia*	*Banksia spinulosa*	*Schoenus melanostachys*
Adiantum aethiopicum	*Phyllota phylicoides*	*Conospermum longifolium*	IRIDACEAE
Pteris tremula	*Platylobium formosum*	*Grevillea buxifolia*	*Patersonia glabrata*
SCHIZAEACEAE	*Pultenaea daphnoides*	*Grevillea linearifolia*	*Patersonia sericea*
Schizaea bifida	*Pultenaea flexilis*	*Grevillea sericea*	JUNCACEAE
Schizaea dichotoma	*Pultenaea polifolia*	*Grevillea speciosa*	*Juncus kraussii*
DICOTS	*Pultenaea stipularis*	*Hakea dactyloides*	ORCHIDACEAE
ACANTHACEAE	*Pultenaea tuberculata*	*Hakea gibbosa*	*Acianthus fornicatus*
Avicennia marina	*Viminaria juncea*	*Hakea sericea*	*Cryptostylis erecta*
Pseuderanthemum variabile	FABACEAE-MIMOSOIDEAE	*Hakea teretifolia*	*Dipodium punctatum*
AMARANTHACEAE	*Acacia ulicifolia*	*Isopogon anethifolius*	*Pterostylis nutans*
Alternanthera denticulata	*Acacia linifolia*	*Lambertia formosa*	POACEAE
APIACEAE	*Acacia longifolia*	*Lomatia myricoides*	*Aristida vagans*
Actinotus helianthi	*Acacia myrtifolia*	*Lomatia silaifolia*	*Echinopogon caespitosus*
Actinotus minor	*Acacia parramattensis*	*Persoonia lanceolata*	*Entolasia marginata*
Apium graveolens	*Acacia suaveolens*	*Persoonia levis*	*Entolasia stricta*
Centella asiatica	*Acacia terminalis*	*Persoonia pinifolia*	*Eragrostis trachycarpa*
Platysace linearifolia	GERANIACEAE	*Petrophile pulchella*	*Imperata cylindrica*
Xanthosia pilosa	*Geranium homeanum*	*Telopea speciosissima*	*Microlaena stipoides*
Xanthosia tridentata	GOODENIACEAE	*Xylomelum pyriforme*	*Oplismenus imbecillis*
APOCYNACEAE	*Dampiera stricta*	RANUNCULACEAE	*Oplismenus aemulus*
Marsdenia suaveolens	*Goodenia bellidifolia*	*Clematis aristata*	*Panicum effusum*
ARALIACEAE	*Goodenia heterophylla*	RHAMNACEAE	*Panicum simile*
Polyscias sambucifolia	*Scaevola ramosissima*	*Pomaderris ferruginea*	*Paspalum urvillei*
ASTERACEAE	HALORAGACEAE	*Pomaderris intermedia*	*Rytidosperma longifolium*
Aster subulatus	*Gonocarpus teucrioides*	*Pomaderris lanigera*	*Sporobolus virginicus*
Cassinia denticulata	*Haloragis heterophylla*	RUBIACEAE	*Stipa pubescens*
Cotula coronopifolia	LAMIACEAE	*Opercularia aspera*	*Tetrarrhena juncea*
Ozothamnus diosmifolium	*Chloanthes stoechadis*	*Pomax umbellata*	*Themeda triandra*
BIGNONIACEAE	*Prostanthera linearis*	RUTACEAE	RESTIONACEAE
Pandorea pandorana	LAURACEAE	*Boronia ledifolia*	*Empodisma minus*
CAMPANULACEAE	*Cassytha glabella*	*Boronia pinnata*	*Lepyrodia scariosa*
Lobelia anceps	LOGANIACEAE	*Crowea saligna*	SMILACACEAE
Lobelia purpurascens	*Logania albiflora*	*Phebalium squamulosum*	*Smilax australis*
Wahlenbergia gracilis	*Mitrasacme polymorpha*	*Leionema dentatum*	*Smilax glyciphylla*
CASUARINACEAE	MALVACEAE	*Phebalium squamulosum*	
Allocasuarina distyla	*Lasiopetalum ferrugineum*	*Zieria pilosa*	
Allocasuarina littoralis	MORACEAE	*Zieria smithii*	