

# Draft Reserve Action Plan Beverley Blacklock

2022





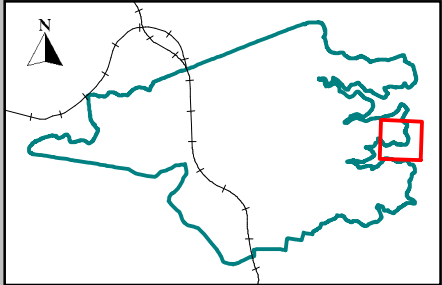
Beverly Blacklock Reserve Bushland Actions

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 Regeneration Contractor to each quarter maintain stabilised decomposed granite walking track adjacent to road, opposite 5 and 31 Cheyne walk, to ensure it is free of weeds and rubbish.
2. Willoughby City Council qualified Arborist to annually inspect the health of trees overhanging the stabilised decomposed granite walking track.
3. Liaise with residents at Cheyne Walk and Linden Way to determine suitable local indigenous plants to be replanted into past unauthorised cleared and/or planted areas.
4. Bushland Regeneration Contractor to remove weeds in and around lower foreshore area. Plant local indigenous shrubs and ground covers where required, to stabilise the embankment to reduce erosion and sediment running directly into Middle Harbour.
5. Bushland Regeneration Contractor to complete regular maintenance of vegetation along track to ensure clear access.
6. Bushland Regeneration Contractor to maintain area previously burnt 2010.
7. BC to complete light thinning of mid-storey vegetation opposite wooden seats near 8 and 15 Cheyne Walk and opposite 19 and 31 Cheyne Walk to provide filtered views of Middle Harbour through trees.
8. Council to Liaise with residents at Cheyne Walk and Linden Way to ensure existing encroachments are not increased and are removed at an appropriate opportunity.
9. Bushland Regeneration Contractor to target woody weed removal adjacent to stormwater lines. Planting of low growing indigenous shrubs and ground covers may be required to assist in stabilising the embankment to reduce erosion.
10. Bushland Regeneration Contractor to complete regular maintenance weeding targeting the removal of Lantana, Fishbone Fern, Asparagus Fern and annuals. Incremental weeding to reduce impact to native wildlife populations.
11. Bushland Regeneration Contractor to target the removal of Asthma Weed, Trad, Turkey Rhubarb, Asparagus Fern, Blackberry, woody weeds and garden exotics in highly disturbed area below 31 Cheyne Walk.
12. Maintain the high tide rock platform to ensure it is stable and secure.



RESERVE ACTION PLAN  
BEVERLEY BLACKLOCK  
RESERVE



Plan details

Status: Final  
Prepared by: N. Yu  
Drawn by: N. Prasad  
Date printed: 19/07/2023  
Approximate Scale: 1:1150 on A3

Legend

- 16 Property number
- 12 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
- Council bush regeneration contractors

Notes:  
\* The accuracy of this data is not guaranteed and must be verified prior to use.  
- Please check with Dial Before You Dig prior to any earth works.

References

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# Beverley Blacklock Reserve Action Plan

## Reserve Profile

Beverley Blacklock Reserve is a long, narrow area of bushland that hugs the south-east corner of the Castlecrag peninsula set on the shores of Middle Harbour. It is approximately 1.9 hectares in size and is adjacent to Cheyne Walk, properties and links to Castlehaven Reserve.

The reserve falls outside the Griffin Heritage Conservation Area but still, plays an important role in maintaining the natural bushland character of Castlecrag and provides connectivity for wildlife to other bushland reserves and across the waters' of Middle Harbour.

The reserve has a history of foreshore recreational use which continues today, with fishing and as a local small boat launch.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Bushland is classified as Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest (S\_DSFO6) consisting of large trees, shrub layer and ground cover of ferns, rushes and grasses. The flora of this community has a maritime influence given its exposure to prevailing sea breezes. The canopy is predominantly Smooth-barked apple with a layer of hardy mesic small trees and shrubs including Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Cheese tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi* var. *ferdinandi*) and Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*). Pittosporums have been over represented here in the past due to changed fire regimes and selective weeding combined with the completion of a controlled burn has reduced their density.

## Statement of Significance

Beverley Blacklock Reserve 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 reserve is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation in the Willoughby Local Environment Plan 2012.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Gamaragal people were the original inhabitants of Willoughby and they had a strong connection to the land and the foreshores of Middle Harbour. They would have used the many rock overhangs as shelters and fished within the harbour for fish and shellfish. There is evidence of Aboriginal sites within the reserve and the locations of these will be kept confidential to ensure they are not disturbed.

NATURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE: Despite its small size and narrowness the remnant tall canopy and understory provide important sheltering sites for many species of reptiles and small birds. There are tree hollows and termite mounds in trees that are providing nesting and shelter sites for kookaburras, parrots, possums and microbats. The steepness of the slope adds to the habitat value creating inaccessible areas to the foreshore that are valuable for terrestrial species. There is good habitat potential for native water rats along the foreshore and avian species traversing across the water.

HISTORIC CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: In March 1927, the south eastern point of the Castlecrag peninsula was purchased by Eric Nicholls, Walter Burley Griffin's partner, and James Irvine, a Melbourne financier. Griffin named these eighteen acres the 'Cape Estate'. Due to financial problems the subdivision of the Cape Estate, as planned by Griffin, was not realised and sold off after 1938.

From the late 1920s, Cheyne Walk has been a destination for people to enjoy the waters of Middle Harbour. A number of small leases were created during this time along the water's edge with the intention they would be used for boatsheds. Most of these boatsheds never eventuated and the leases have expired. However there is one boatshed present adjacent to the reserve at 6 Cheyne Walk and there are remains of boatsheds below 31 Cheyne Walk.

During these early times, informal tracks emerged facilitating public access to the water's edge for boating, fishing and passive recreation. Some of these tracks remain as the reserve is still a popular spot for recreational fishing. More formalised tracks are present opposite 5, 19 and 31 Cheyne Walk.

The reserve is named in recognition of the early bush regeneration work done by Beverley Blacklock, not only in Castlecrag but within the Greater Sydney region.

A group of passionate residents with a keen interest in the reserve formed the Cheyne Walk Reserve Society in 2007. Many of these residents were volunteers with the two former Bushcare groups and were involved in maintaining bushland in the reserve.

## Reserve Impacts

The steep landscape of the reserve encourages runoff and possible erosion in stormwater lines. There are seven major stormwater lines taking water from surrounding roads that discharge into Middle Harbour. These stormwater lines typically have higher concentrations of weeds due to increased moisture and nutrient levels. Soil here has also historically been disturbed from work to the road and the installation of the sewer line.

There are records of unauthorised clearing and/or vandalism of vegetation along Cheyne Walk, which is an impact to bushland integrity. Cutting and/or poisoning of vegetation reduces canopy connectivity and available habitat for native wildlife. It also creates dead material which can become unsafe for visitors.

Recreational fishers have created informal tracks over a long period of time to access the water's edge, which impacts the integrity of habitat for wildlife.

ENCROACHMENTS: Reserve encroachments are recorded at Cheyne Walk and Linden Way. Liaise with residents to ensure existing encroachments are not increased and are removed at an appropriate opportunity.

## Wildlife Habitat Issues

Habitat along stormwater lines is reduced and is highly impacted after heavy rain as large amounts of water flush natural material and pollutants downhill.

Informal tracks to the foreshore may be used by feral animals including foxes and also domestic dogs/cats all of which predate on local wildlife.

Some tree hollows have been lost to pest invasive European honey bees.

Unauthorised clearing and/or vandalism of vegetation reduces available habitat for wildlife.

## Achievements

Post markers were installed in 2019 at the reserve entrances near 5 and 25 Cheyne Walk to indicate public access is permitted. The style is consistent with other reserve posts throughout Castlecrag and the Willoughby local government area.

A Bushland Regeneration Contractor planted *Lomandra Longifolia* and similar tough low ground plants in 2019, adjacent to a metal road barrier opposite 15 Cheyne Walk, to provide a buffer from the steep drop off.

Rock armouring was installed during the development of no. 46 Linden Way. After landslip in 2021, Council restored the path and drainage line below.

Sections of the west track below 31 Cheyne Walk were upgraded in 2018 and 2022 to improve access through the reserve.

A Boardwalk and steel rack installed in 2019 near the high tide rock platform for the community to keep kayaks and dinghies.

## Bushland Management Goals – Beverley Blacklock Reserve

The following management aims from the UBPOM 2014 are priory objectives in this reserve:

5.3c: To reduce sediment loads in stormwater and creek lines throughout catchments;

5.4b: To maintain the integrity of bushland reserves through the reduction of encroachments and other boundary impacts;

5.6c: To protect bushland viability through the control of activities which may cause permanent disturbance or change to bushland;

6.3b: To implement weed control programs which are based on regeneration and restoration principles and which increase the bushland resilience to further weed infestation.

## General Principles and Actions – All Bushland Reserves

- Bush regeneration is a long term process that requires staged weed removal to ensure establishment of native plant communities. Work should proceed from good to degraded areas with techniques that encourage regeneration, including flame weeding, rather than spraying herbicide.
- If possible, all weed refuse and natural debris to be composted or retained on-site.
- When natural regeneration is deemed inadequate, supplementary plantings to mimic local plant communities and landscapes will be used with local provenance species.
- Standing dead trees and forest litter (including logs and branches) to be retained for wildlife habitat unless deemed a risk to public safety.
- Monitor, maintain and enhance vegetation connectivity for wildlife habitat within the reserve and reserve networks.
- 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.
- 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.
- Continue to monitor wildlife habitat requirements and supplement where necessary.
- Monitor feral animal activity and implement appropriate management actions where necessary.
- Bushfire management will be achieved through implementation of a strategic hazard reduction program consistent with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.
- Species diversity will be encouraged through an ecological burn program, where possible.
- Monitor and protect cultural and Aboriginal heritage sites within the reserve 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.
- 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/or signage. If applicable, maintain appropriate signage.
- Formal tracks to be regularly maintained and informal tracks to monitored to prevent damage to habitat.
- Establish photo points to monitor the progress of reserve management actions.
- Reserve Action Plan progress to be reviewed annually and updated after five years.

## Animal List for Beverley Blacklock Reserve

Beverley Blacklock Reserve provides habitat for a number native animals. A list of these species can be found at: <https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Parks-and-recreation/Parks-reserves-and-playgrounds/Beverley-Blacklock-Reserve>.

## Native Plant List for Beverley Blacklock Reserve

CONIFERS	<i>Angophora costata</i> subsp. <i>costata</i>
CUPRESSACEAE	<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i>	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>
PODOCARPACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>
<i>Podocarpus spinulosus</i>	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>
FERNs	OLEACEAE
ASPLENIACEAE	<i>Notelaea longifolia</i> f. <i>longifolia</i>
<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	PHYLLANTHACEAE
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> var. <i>ferdinandi</i>
CYATHERACEAE	PITTOSPORACEAE
<i>Cyathaea cooperi</i>	<i>Billardiera scandens</i>
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
<i>Hypolepis muelleri</i>	PROTEACEAE
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	<i>Banksia ericifolia</i> subsp. <i>ericifolia</i>
GLENICHENIACEAE	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i> subsp. <i>integrifolia</i>
<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>	<i>Banksia marginata</i>
POLYPODIACEAE	<i>Banksia serrata</i>
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	<i>Grevillea linearifolia</i>
PTERIDACEAE	<i>Grevillea sericea</i> subsp. <i>sericea</i>
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i> var. <i>hispidulum</i>	<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>
DICOTS	<i>Hakea sericea</i>
APIACEAE	<i>Persoonia levis</i>
<i>Platysace linearifolia</i>	PRIMULACEAE
APOCYNACEAE	<i>Myrsine variabilis</i>
<i>Marsdenia suaveolens</i>	RUBIACEAE
ARALIACEAE	<i>Crowea saligna</i>
<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> subsp. <i>Long leaflets</i>	<i>Gynochthodes jasminoides</i>
ASTERACEAE	<i>Opercularia aspera</i>
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	RHAMNACEAE
CAMPANULACEAE	<i>Pomaderris intermedia</i>
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	RUTACEAE
CASUARINACEAE	<i>Phebalium squamulosum</i> subsp. <i>squamulosum</i>
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	SAPINDACEAE
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>
CUNONIACEAE	VIOLACEAE
<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	<i>Viola hederacea</i>
<i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i>	MONOCOTS
DILLENIACEAE	AIZOACEAE
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i>	<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>
ELAEOCARPACEAE	ASPARAGACEAE
<i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i>	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>
ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
<i>Epacris longiflora</i>	<i>Lomandra</i> sp.
<i>Woollsia pungens</i>	ASPHODELACEAE
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Dianella caerulea</i> var. <i>caerulea</i>
<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> sp.
FABACEAE-FABOIDEAE	COMMELINACEAE
<i>Pultenaea stipularis</i>	<i>Commelina cyanea</i>
FABACEAE-MIMOSOIDEAE	CYPERACEAE
<i>Acacia linifolia</i>	<i>Causitis flexuosa</i>
<i>Acacia longifolia</i> subsp. <i>longifolia</i>	<i>Lepidosperma</i> sp.
<i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. <i>Long inflorescences</i>	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	JUNCACEAE
GERANIACEAE	<i>Juncus usitatus</i>
<i>Geranium homeanum</i>	ORCHIDACEAE
GOODENIACEAE	<i>Dipodium variegatum</i>
<i>Goodenia heterophylla</i>	POACEAE
LAMIACEAE	<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.
<i>Prostanthera linearis</i>	<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>
MALVACEAE	<i>Entolasia stricta</i>
<i>Lasiopetalum ferrugineum</i> var. <i>ferrugineum</i>	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>
<i>Leptospermum trinervium</i>	<i>Opilsmenus aemulus</i>
MORACEAE	SMILACACEAE
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	<i>Smilax glyciphylla</i>
MYRTACEAE	