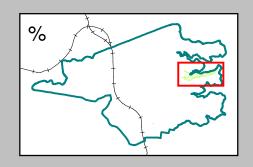


Castlecrag Northern Escarpment Actions

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. Willoughby City Council (WCC) Bushland Regeneration Contractor to complete regeneration and revegetation work to re-establish a stable native plant community.
- 2. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to target Box Elder trees (Acer negundo) below Sugarloaf Creek waterfall along Camp Creek.
- Council Contractor to continue to conduct water and macroinvertebrate sampling every six months.
- WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to continue monitoring for pest Red-eared Slider Turtle (Trachemys scripta elegans) in Sugarloaf Creek and report to WCC Wildlife Officer for further action.
- 5. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to protect Swamp She-oak (Allocasuarina glauca) plantings on alluvial flat from weedy vines. Maintain informal access track for bush regeneration work.
- 6. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to target Coral trees (Erythrina x sykesii) in Camp Creek area. Monitor and report Powerful Owl sightings to WCC's Wildlife Officer.
- 7. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to complete weed control in saltmarsh zone.
- 8. Liaise with Fire and Rescue NSW to plan hazard reduction burning in this area
- 9. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to control weeds on rock platform targeting Mother of Millions (Bryophyllum delagoense) and African lovegrass (Eragrostis curvula) preventing them from spreading down slope. Also target weed annuals along Sunnyside Crescent edge with reserve.
- 10. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to continue weed control in the area.
- 11. WCC Parks Contractor to continue to mow grass area at entrance to the reserve.
- 12. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to complete weed removal work along foreshore to improve local biodiversity and maintain bushfire APZs behind foreshore cottages where applicable.
- 13. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to continue maintaining vegetation surrounding the path for public access to lookout.
- 14. WCC Bushland Regeneration Contractor to continue targeting woody weeds, including non-indigenous species (Acacia elata).
- 15. WCC Bushland Team to continue weed control in this area.
- 16. Torquay Estate Bushcare Group to work in accordance with Bushcare Action Plan, targeting Bamboo (Phyllostachys spp.), Asparagus Fern (Asparagus aethiopicus), Lantana (Lantana spp.), Trad (Tradescantia fluminensis), Mother of millions and annual weeds.
- 17. Weed control required in some areas to assist regeneration and improve public access.
- 18. Monitor and report encroachments at Sunnyside Crecent, Edinburgh Road and Sugarloaf Crescent to Compliance Team for further action.
- 19. Council Surveyors to survey reserve boundaries where known encroachments exist and to place permanent markers on public reserve to outline reserve boundary in these locations.
- 20. WCC's Bushland Regeneration Contractors, Wildlife Officer and Habitat Restoration Officer to monitor nest boxes.
- 21. Sunnyside Bushcare Group to work in accordance with Bushcare Action Plan.
- 22. Contractors to conduct periodic litter clearing along Sugarloaf Creek, Camp Creek, estuary and foreshore, and on all drainage lines into the reserve, approximately alternate months, with adjustment for rain events that overflow rubbish past the gross pollutant traps.





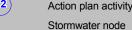
Plan details

Status: Final N. YU Prepared by: Drawn by: N. Prasad Date printed: 12/05/2022 Approximate Scale: 1:5000

Legend



Property number





5m contours

Stormwater network -Overground / Unknown *

Bush track / Path *

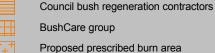


Reserve / bushland



Council staff regeneration site

Stormwater network - Underground



BushCare group

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

References

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Castlecrag Northern Escarpment Reserve Action Plan

Reserve Profile

The Castlecrag Northern Escarpment is a 23.3ha of steeply inclined bushland reserve which rises precipitously from Sugarloaf Bay in Middle Harbour on the Castlecrag Peninsula. The reserve is abundant in bluffs and rock outcrops comprised of Hawkesbury sandstone and rises to approximately 80 metres above sea level at its highest point. Soils are generally shallow with some pockets of clay. Sugarloaf Creek flows into the reserve from the western escarpment with a small but significant stand of rainforest species forming a closed forest over the creek. Most of the entire northern escarpment of the Castlecrag Peninsula is included in the reserve. It is bordered by Harold Reid Reserve to the north (Camp Creek acts as a boundary) and edges of properties and roads to the east and south. The reserve surrounds the south arm of Sugarloaf Bay and is located in the Sugarloaf Creek catchment, part of the larger Middle Harbour water catchment.

PLANT COMMUNITY: The reserve consists predominantly of Coastal Sandstone Gully Forest [S_DSF09]. To the south-west along the ridgetop are several small pockets of Hornsby Enriched Sandstone Exposed Woodland. In the low-lying areas to the north are several small pockets of Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest [S_FoW08] and an area of Coastal Sandstone Foreshores Forest [S_DSF06]. Along the foreshore is an area of Coastal Upland Wet Heath Swamp

HABITAT: Large trees are numerous and contain many hollows for a variety of wildlife species. Sandstone overhangs, escarpments, and outcrops heavily fractured by weathering support an abundance of invertebrates. Mangrove forest and estuarine tidal flats provide shelter and food for migratory birds and breeding areas for marine species.

Statement of Significance

The fundamental objective of the Reserve Action Plan is to conserve the significant heritage values of the Reserve. The Castlecrag Northern Escarpment 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). It is zoned E2 Environmental Conservation in the Willoughby Local Environment Plan (WLEP) 2012. The reserve is designated as a Level 1 Wildlife Protection Area (*Companion Animals Act* 1998), with no cats or dogs permitted at any time.

NATURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE: The reserve is an important ecological linkage for wildlife and is a significant part of a nearly continuous reserve system along the Middle Harbour foreshore. The steep topography, large size, minimal disturbance, and lack of a formal track network has allowed many native fauna species including Swamp Wallabies, Brush Turkeys and Lyre Birds to increase and extend their range. Birds like Dollarbirds and the Powerful Owl (listed as vulnerable in NSW), kookaburras and parrots access tree hollows for nesting habitat. Large reptile species have also been recorded at the northern escarpment, including Brown Tree Snakes and Lace Monitors. Numerous small reptile species have an abundance of crevices to hide in. The Buff-banded Rail and Nankeen Night-Heron can be found close to dense vegetation along creeklines. Sugarloaf Creek is also an important freshwater resource for resident populations of Long-nosed Bandicoots and Short-beaked Echidna, and it is providing habitat for a population of Red-bellied Black Snake.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Containing many large rock outcrops, bluffs, rock ledges and proximity to estuarine food sources and fresh water, the reserve was significant for the Gameraygal people. There are several Aboriginal shelters featuring middens and artworks which are recorded on the Aboriginal Heritage Office Site Register. These provide evidence of how Aboriginals used to live. Unfortunately some of the shelters have been vandalised with graffiti and some significant middens have been disturbed.

HISTORIC CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: By 1860 most land on the

Castlecrag Peninsula had been auctioned and was privately owned. However due to the steep topography, rugged landscape, and access only by water, the northern escarpment was sparsely settled with only a few cottages and boatsheds built in the late 19th/early 20th century along the foreshore. Sea baths were constructed by Council in 1930 and public access was made possible by a flight of steps descending from Edinburgh Rd. The remains of the baths are heritage listed on the Sydney Harbour Catchment Regional Environmental Plan2005. Also, heritage listed in this plan are stone walls, steps and baths at 213-217B Edinburgh Rd, Horsley's Boatshed and a sea wall at 217 and other stonewalls at 297A Edinburgh Rd. Most boatsheds were demolished but

cottages remain at 217, 227, 233 and 297A and are heritagelisted in the WLEP 2012. Council owns and leases cottages at 217 and 227 Edinburgh Rd.

In 1948 much of the Castlecrag Northern Escarpment was designated by the state government to form part of the proposed Warringah Expressway. This was to include a bridge linking Seaforth and Castlecrag, with the expressway continuing and running along the northern escarpment. An intense campaign by local residents forced the abandonment of the project officially in 1987.

Reserve Impacts

The large size and steepness of the terrain means there are less impacts than other reserves in the Willoughby LGA. However adjacent residential properties encourage excess water and nutrient runoff, illegal dumping and clearing of vegetation for views. Stormwater entering Sugarloaf Creek Sailors Bay impacts on the riparian ecosystem by increasing nutrient and contaminant levels. Rubbish collects along creek banks and sediments have accumulated at the creek mouth increasing the distribution of mangroves and even the total area of the reserve. Seagrass in Sugarloaf Bay is also negatively affected by stormwater run-off. Reserve impacts caused by infrastructure, such as sewage and electricity, will be managed in conjunction with the responsible agencies. ENCROACHMENTS: Encroachments in the Reserve are recorded at Sunnyside Crescent, Edinburgh Road, and Sugarloaf Crescent, Castlecrag. Most encroachments consist of extensions of lawns, gardens and removal of vegetation for views. Residents will be requested to remove all encroachments at an appropriate time.

Wildlife Habitat Issues

To reduce impacts to wildlife it is important that maintenance tracks are discreet and kept informal to maintain large core areas of habitat.

The reserve is designated as a level 1 wildlife protection area to reduce the potential impact to wildlife from dogs and cats, however off-leash dogs and cats are still found in the reserve. Signage at main entry points is required. Other human impacts include disturbance of vegetation and the removal of dead wood and bush rock.

Achievements

A maintenance path between 193 and 197 Edinburgh Road was created to a nearby lookout. A seat and signage have also been installed.

Interpretive signage has been installed at the reserve entrance adjacent to 317 Edinburgh Road.

Structural works down at the foreshore between 329 and 333 Edinburgh Road have been completed to prevent the collapsing of the foreshore edge. The timber staircase going to the foreshore was replaced with sandstone steps. Informal storage of dinghies in that area has greatly reduced.

Council has consulted with the Aboriginal Heritage Office regarding best practice maintenance and management of the Aboriginal rock shelters in the reserve.

A heritage consultant was hired to produce a report that documented three heritage cottages in the reserve.

Bushland Management Goals

This bushland reserve action plan for the Castlecrag Northern Escarpment has identified the following management aims from the Urban Bushland Plan of Management 2014 policy as priority objectives:

4.2c - Provide a high level of planning, support, training and supervision of existing and future community volunteers;

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

5.6e - To provide recreational facilities in bushland without significant adverse effects on flora and fauna:

6.2e - All management of vegetation will have regard to habitat Values;

6.2j - Control of domestic and feral animals that impact on native fauna populations;

7.1b - To implement a strategic hazard reduction program;

7.1c - Strategic fuel management;

7.1g - To manage fire such that the fire regime and implementation of the burn is beneficial to flora and fauna, diversity and habitat;

8.1c - To plan and provide recreation facilities consistent with the need to facilitate public enjoyment of the bushland compatible with its conservation;
12.1b - To protect cultural heritage items and places in bushland

Bushland Management - General Principles and Actions

- a. Bush regeneration is a long-term process. Staged weed removal is required to ensure the conservation of native plant communities and provide habitat protection for local wildlife. Work should proceed from good bush to degraded areas. Spraying with herbicide is a high-risk, last- resort approach to weed removal. Techniques conducive to regeneration, including flame weeding, are preferred (*Vol 1: 6.3).
- When natural regeneration processes are deemed inadequate or landscaping is undertaken, reinstatement of plant communities should imitate suitable nearby, natural ecosystems (*Vol 1: 6.3).
- c. To maintain the genetic integrity of native vegetation, all plant material used for supplementary plantings and related landscaping is to be locally sourced (*Vol: 1, 6,3).
- Identify threatened and locally rare flora and fauna species and their habitat and conserve these populations (*Vol 1: 6.1.1, 6.2.6).
- As far as possible, all weed refuse to be composted on-site, and other natural debris to be retained on site in accordance with Council's principles of ecological sustainability (*Vol 1: 6.3).
- f. Phytophthera cinnamomi (an introduced root rot pathogen) is listed as a key threatening process in NSW. It has been identified as athreat to a number of listed species. Those working in bushland areas are to use hydiene protocols to minimise risk (*Vol 1: 6.1.5).
- g. Keep dead standing trees and forest litter (including logs and branches) for habitat purposes. Removal of dead wood and dead trees has been listed by the NSW Government as a Key Threatening Process (*Vol1 5.6.3).
- h. Monitor, maintain and enhance vegetation connectivity for wildlife habitat within the reserve and reserve networks (*Vol 1: 6.1.2, 7.1.3, 11.1.1).
- Bushfire management will be achieved through implementation of a strategic hazard reduction program consistent with the Bushfire Risk Management Plan (*Vol 1: 7.1.8).
- Species diversity will be maintained by an ecological burn program in a mosaic pattern to retain wildlife habitat, refuges and corridors (*Vol 1: 7.1g).
- Tall trees and shrubs growing under electricity wires to be monitored in conjunction with Ausgrid.
- Community and staff are encouraged to report wildlife sightings online through the Wildlife Watch site to assist targeted conservation programs for local native fauna (*Vol 1: 6.2.5).
- m. Continue to monitor wildlife, their needs, and supplement natural habitat where necessary (*Vol 1: 6.2.8).
- Monitor feral animal activity and wandering domestic animals, implement appropriate management actions where necessary (*Vol 1: 6.2n).
- Monitor reserve track network for condition, maintenance and improvements. Formal tracks to be well defined. Informal and superfluous tracks to be closed to prevent damage to habitat and to impede access of feral animals (*Vol 1: 4.1).
- Monitor and report all encroachments. Record on encroachment register (*Vol 1: 5.4.2 & 5.4.3).
- q. Monitor tree vandalism and removal within reserve and take swift and appropriate action (*Vol 1: 4.2).
- r. Monitor and protect cultural heritage sites within the reserve. Aboriginal heritage to be protected at all times. Bushfire Management Officer to notify Aboriginal Heritage Office of each burn to identify cultural sites and implement protection measures and post-fire survey (*Vol 1: 5.5 & 7.5.1).
- s. Remove old and no longer applicable signs and seating (*Vol 1: 10.3).
- Continue to inform the community of bushland issues by on-site educational activities and signage. Install, review and maintain appropriate signage (*Vol 1, 4 1c)
- u. Establish Photo Points to monitor the progress of reserve management actions.
- From time to time it may be necessary to remove trees in the reserve for ecological or safety reasons.
- The collection of rubbish from bushland is carried out by council contractors and bushland field staff as required (*Vol 1: 5.2 & 5.4).
- x. Reserve Action Plan progress to be evaluated annually.

Animal List for Castlecrag Northern Escarpment

The Castlecrag Northern Escarpment 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 bantry bay sugarloaf bay catchments.pdf

Native Plant Species List for the Castlecrag Northern Escarpment

	3	
FORK FERNS	Styphelia laeta subsp. laeta	Banksia serrata
PSILOTACEAE	Styphelia tubiflora	Banksia spinulosa
Psilotum nudum	Woollsia pungens	Conospermum ericifolium
CONIFERS	EUPHORBIACEAE	Grevillea buxifolia
CUPRESSACEAE	Homalanthus populifolius	Grevillea linearifolia
Callitris muelleri	FABACEAE-FABOIDEAE	Grevillea speciosa
Callitris rhomboidea	Aotus ericoides	Hakea dactyloides
FERNS	Bossiaea heterophylla	Hakea teretifolia
ASPLENIACEAE	Dillwynia floribunda	Lambertia formosa
Asplenium flabellifolium	Dillwynia sp.	Hakea gibbosa
BLECHNACEAE	Glycine clandestina	Lomatia myricoides
Blechnum cartilagineum	Hardenbergia violacea	Lomatia silaifolia
Blechnum nudum	Hovea linearis	Persoonia lanceolata
CYATHEACEAE		
	Hovea purpurea Pultenaea daphnoides	Persoonia levis
Cyathea australis	Pullenaea daprinoides	Persoonia linearis
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE	Pultenaea flexilis	Persoonia pinifolia
Histiopteris incisa	Pultenaea stipularis	Telopea speciosissima
Pteridium esculentum	Viminaria juncea	Xylomelum pyriforme
	FABACEAE-MIMOSOIDEAE	
DICKSONIACEAE		RHAMNACEAE
Calochlaena dubia	Acacia elata	Pomaderris lanigera
GLEICHENIACEAE	Acacia floribunda	RUTACEAE
Gleichenia dicarpa	Acacia linifolia	Crowea saligna
· ·		Phebalium squamulosum
Sticherus flabellatus	Acacia longifolia var. longifolia	ssp squamulosum
LINDSAEACEAE	Acacia suaveolens	SANTALACEAE
Lindsaea linearis	Acacia terminalis	Leptomeria acida
Lindsaea microphylla	Acacia ulicifolia	SAPINDACEAE
OSMANDACEAE	GERANIACEAE	Dodonaea triquetra
Todea barbara	Geranium neglectum	THYMELIACEAE
PTERIDACEAE		Pimelea linifolia
	GOODENIACEAE	
Adiantum aethiopicum	Goodenia sp	VITACEAE
Pteris tremula	LAMIACEAE	Cissus hypoglauca
DICOTS	Clerodendrum tometosum	MONOCOTS
ACANTHACEAE	Prostanthera linearis	ASPARAGACEAE
Avicennia marina var.	LAURACEAE	Lomandra glauca
australasica		
ARALIACEAE	Cassytha pubescens	Lomandra longifolia
Polyscias sambucifolia	MALVACEAE	Lomandra obliqua
ASTERACEAE	Lasiopetalum ferrugineum	Sowerbaea juncea
	var. ferrugineum	
Cotula australis	MORACEAE	Eustrephus latifolius
Ozothamnus diosmifolium	Ficus rubiginosa	ASPHODELACEAE
AIZOACEAE	MYRTACEAE	Dianella longifolia var. longifolia
Tetragonia tetragonioides	Acmena smithii	Dianella revoluta
APIACEAE	Angophora bakeri	Stypandra glauca
Actinotus helianthi	Angophora costata subsp. costata	Thelionema caespitosum
Actinotus minor	Angophora hispida	Xanthorrhoea arborea
Platysace linearifolia	Corymbia gummifera	Xanthorrhoea minor subsp. minor
Xanthosia pilosa	Eucalyptus haemastoma	COMMELINACEAE
BIGNONIACEAE	Corymbia maculata	Commelina cyanea
Pandorea pandorana	Eucalyptus piperita	CYPERACEAE
CAMPANULACEAE	Eucalyptus sieberi	Caustis flexuosa
Lobelia gibbosa	Kunzea ambigua	Caustis pentandra
Lobelia andrewsii	Leptospermum polygalifolium	Cyperus gracilis
Wahlenbergia gracilis	Leptospermum squarrosum	Cyperus polystachyos
CASUARINACEAE	Leptospermum trinervium	Lepidosperma filiforme
Allocasuarina distyla	Melaleuca styphelioides	Anthelepis paludosa
Allocasuarina littoralis	Micromyrtus ciliata	IRIDACEAE
Allocasuarina verticillata	OLEACEAE	Patersonia glabrata
Casuarina glauca	Notelaea longifolia f. longifolia	ORCHIDACEAE
CUNONIACEAE	Notelaea ovata	Dendrobium linguiforme
Bauera rubioides	PHYLLANTHACEAE	Pterostylis sp
Callicoma serratifolia	Breynia oblongifolia	POACEAE
Ceratopetalum apetalum	Glochidion ferdinandi	Cymbopogon refractus
Ceratopetalum gummiferum	PITTOSPORACEAE	Rytidosperma sp
DILLENIACEAE	Billardiera scandens	Entolasia marginata
Hibbertia dentata	Pittosporum revolutum	Imperata cylindrica
Hibbertia diffusa		Oplismenus imbecillis
	Pittosporum undulatum	
	POLYGALACEAE	Paspalidium criniforme
ELAEOCARPACEAE	Comesperma ericinum	Austrostipa mollis
Elaeocarpus reticulatus		Tetrarrhena juncea
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia	Comesperma volubile	retrammenta junicea
Elaeocarpus reticulatus		Themeda triandra
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia	Comesperma volubile	
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE Epacris longiflora	Comesperma volubile PRIMULACEAE Aegiceras corniculatum	Themeda triandra
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE Epacris longiflora Epacris microphylla	Comesperma volubile PRIMULACEAE Aegiceras corniculatum Myrsine variabilis	Themeda triandra RESTIONACEAE Chordifex fastigiatus
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE Epacris longiflora Epacris microphylla Epacris pulchella	Comesperma volubile PRIMULACEAE Aegiceras corniculatum Myrsine variabilis PROTEACEAE	Themeda triandra RESTIONACEAE Chordifex fastigiatus SMILACACEAE
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE Epacris longiflora Epacris microphylla Epacris pulchella Leucopogon amplexicaulis	Comesperma volubile PRIMULACEAE Aegiceras corniculatum Myrsine variabilis	Themeda triandra RESTIONACEAE Chordifex fastigiatus
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Tetratheca ericifolia ERICACEAE-EPACRIDOIDEAE Epacris longiflora Epacris microphylla Epacris pulchella	Comesperma volubile PRIMULACEAE Aegiceras corniculatum Myrsine variabilis PROTEACEAE	Themeda triandra RESTIONACEAE Chordifex fastigiatus SMILACACEAE