



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



MIDDLERIDGE RESERVE

2019 - 2029

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1 Introduction

1.1 Reserve Description

Middleridge Reserve is located near the centre of Norfolk Island at the intersection of Middlegate Road and Queen Elizabeth Avenue (Figure 1 and Figure 2). With an area of 1990 square metres, it one of the Norfolk’s smallest Reserves. The reserves is located in a highly modified area, with the land having been subject to clearing and development over many years. The most significant feature and reason for the promulgation of this small Reserve is the large Banyan tree or Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) which was planted in the early 1900's. This tree has cultural significance and is a local landmark. The reserve does not contain any significant native habitat, but some native vegetation has been planted.



Figure 1: Middleridge Reserve: Features and Boundaries

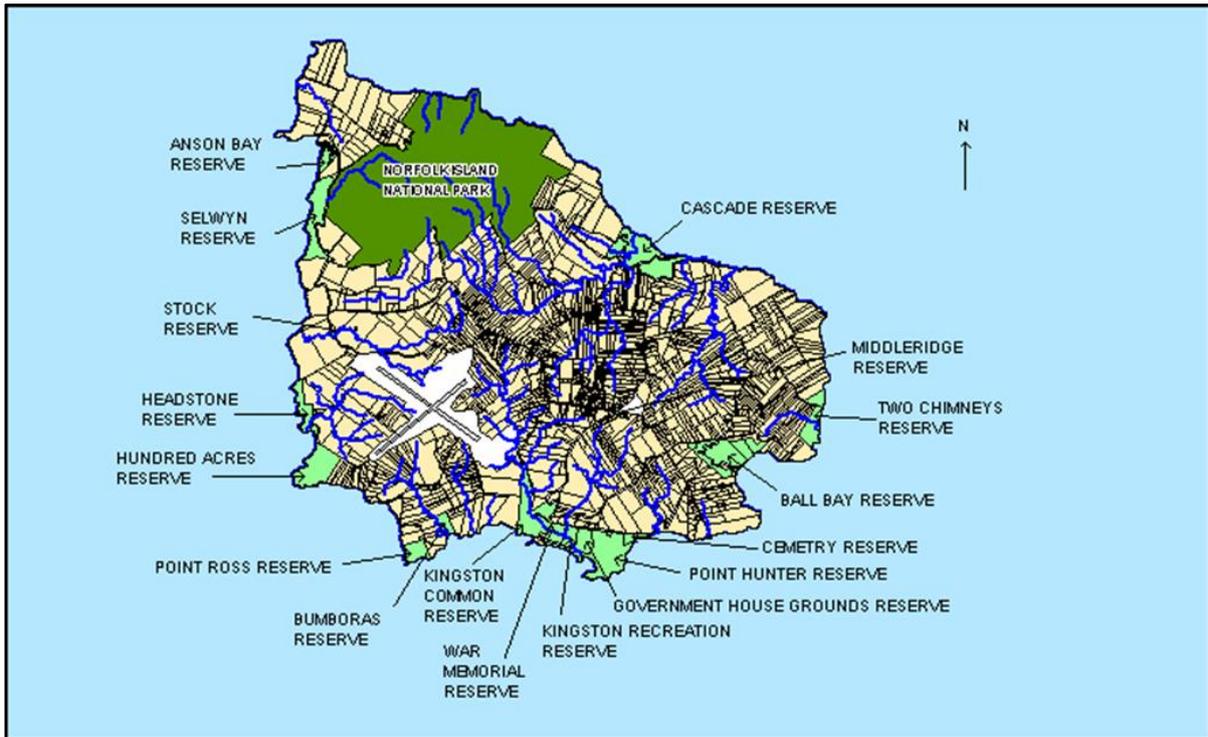


Figure 2. The Norfolk Island Reserve Network (Note: Figure excludes Nepean Island)¹

1.2 Public Consultation and Planning Framework

Middleridge Reserve was proclaimed a Reserve under the Commons and *Public Reserves Act 1936* on 21 October 1976 for the purposes of recreation.

Middleridge Reserve is located in the Open Space Zone. The *Norfolk Island Plan 2002* states:

- (1) The intent of the Open Space Zone is to:
 - a) provide a limited range of low intensity and low impact use or development opportunities within areas that have natural, cultural and heritage values that should be maintained;
 - b) provide the open space and wilderness habitat that is vital to life systems on Norfolk Island; and
 - c) provide land that may buffer certain incompatible uses.

The *Public Reserves Act 1997* states that each of the Norfolk Island Public Reserves will have a management plan. The plans must promote the objects of the Act which are 'to protect and conserve public reserves so as to —

- (a) promote the conservation of the natural environment and landscape beauty of Norfolk Island;
- (b) promote the conservation of the heritage of Norfolk Island; and
- (c) preserve the way of life and the quality of life of the people of Norfolk Island.'

The first Plans of Management for the Reserves were made in 2003. In 2017, these original Plans of Management were placed on public display, with an invitation to provide feedback to produce updated plans of management. No comments specific to the Middleridge Reserve Plan of

¹ This map shows all Public Reserves, including those that may be subject to changes in ownership as per Appendix 3.

Management were received, but the following comments were received from multiple respondents with regard to the Reserves in general:

- No expansion of cattle grazing in the Reserves. Protect current and proposed rehabilitated areas from cattle grazing. Native replanting is needed.
- Better management of waterways, including work to desilt the drainage channels in Kingston area to prevent coral deaths.

This is the first full revision of the Plan of Management for Middleridge Reserve.

The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* applies to Norfolk Island and is relevant in a number of ways to the management of the public reserves. In particular, the Act recognises a number of native and endemic plant and animals as threatened species. These species are afforded protection under the Act, and are the subject of the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan (Director of National Parks, 2010).

2 Significance of Middleridge Reserve

The most significant feature of the Reserve is the veteran Banyan tree (*Ficus macrophylla*) which is somewhat of a local landmark. Whilst not native, the tree has cultural heritage significance. Middleridge Reserve was created when vacant Crown land at Middlegate was subdivided in 1968.

2.1 Geology and Landform

Middleridge Reserve is located in a large flat area originally known as 'Middleridge'. This ridge is the highest point on the Island's plateau between the coastal cliffs and Mt Pitt/Mt Bates. The reserve sits in the centre of the ridge that separates the Town Creek catchment from the Cascade Creek/ Simon's Water catchment. Town Creek catchment drains south toward Kingtson and the Cascade Creek/Simon's Water catchment drains to the north.

2.2 Flora and Fauna

The Reserve is dominated by a very old Banyan tree (*Ficus macrophylla*), a native of north-eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland. The tree was planted on the site of an old well by Albert Edward 'Barty' Quintal in the early 1900's. A small number of native species have been planted in the southern section of the Reserve, including a Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*), which is critically endangered under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiverstiy Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*. The Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) on the Northern boundary of the Reserve are part of the row of pines planted along the Queen Elizabeth Avenue/ Collins Head Road to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953. Much of the rest of the reserve is mown grass and low herbaceous plants that are maintained as lawn.

There are only a very small number of weeds in the Reserve including a medium-sized African Olive (*Olea europa*) in the southern corner of the Reserve, together with a medium-sized Privet tree (*Ligustrum lucidum*).

2.3 Cultural Heritage

No evidence of early Polynesian use of the reserve area has been found; however, as with many other parts of the island, it is likely that Polynesian people would have at least visited the area during the long period they inhabited Norfolk Island. Archaeological excavations at Kingtson have shown that Norfolk Island was occupied, perhaps continuously, by Polynesian people for about 500 years from perhaps as early as 1200AD (Anderson, undated).

One of the earliest public works on Norfolk Island in the First Colonial Settlement was the clearing of a walking track between the settlement at Kingston and the landing area at Cascade. Middlegate and Cascade Roads today roughly follow the route of that 1789 track.

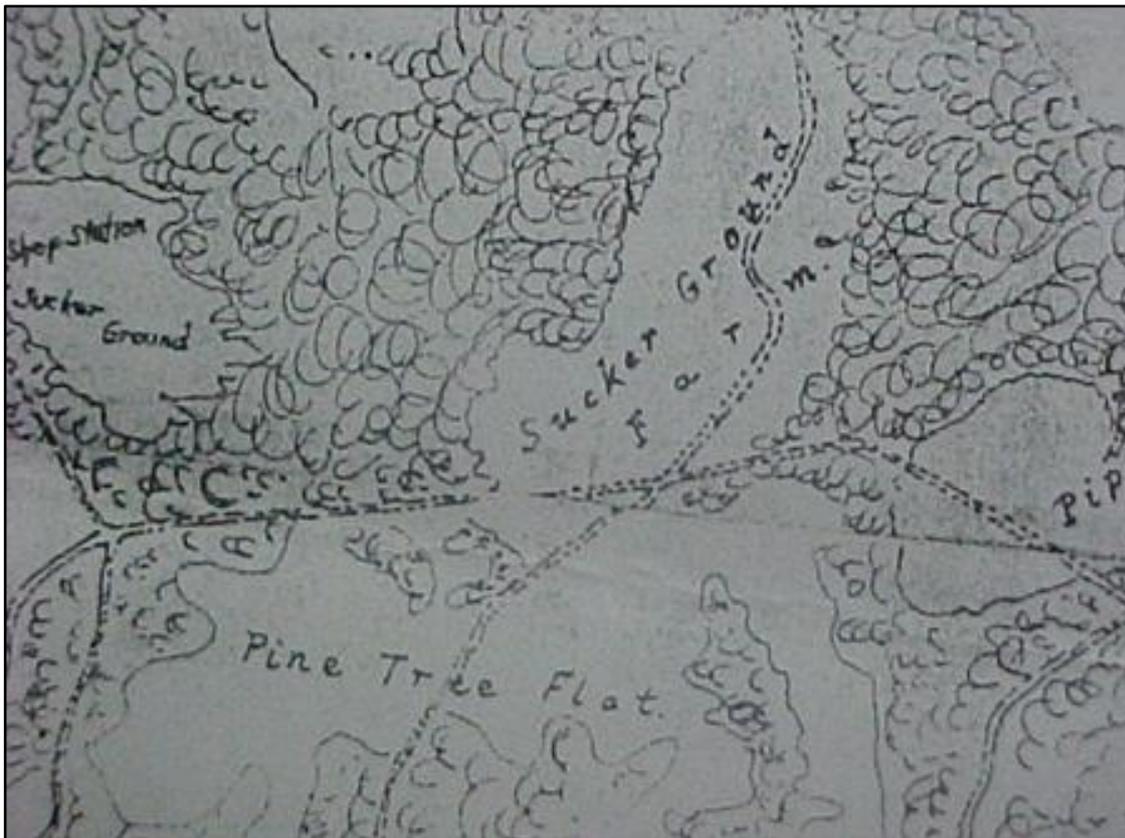


Figure 3: The 1840 Arrowsmith Map of Norfolk Island. Note that the area around Middleridge Reserve was already cleared of vegetation

A plan of grants and leases of land on Norfolk between 1791 and 1804 shows that the land now known as Middleridge Reserve was neither granted nor leased prior to 1804. The 1840 'Arrowsmith'² map (Figure 3) indicates that the Middleridge area had already been extensively cleared, and was known as 'Pine Tree Flat', with 'Sucker Ground Farm' to the north of the intersection of what is now Middlegate/Cascade Road and Queen Elizabeth Avenue/Collins Head Road.

² *Plan of Norfolk Island Shewing the General Nature of the Ground*. Often referred to as the 'Arrowsmith' map, 1840. However John Arrowsmith was the lithographer who copied the map prepared or drawn by Major Barney, Royal Engineers Corp. The map accompanied a letter dated 20 February 1840 from Major Barney to the Colonial Secretary and was printed by James and Luke J. Hansard on an order of the House of Commons dated 15 June 1841.

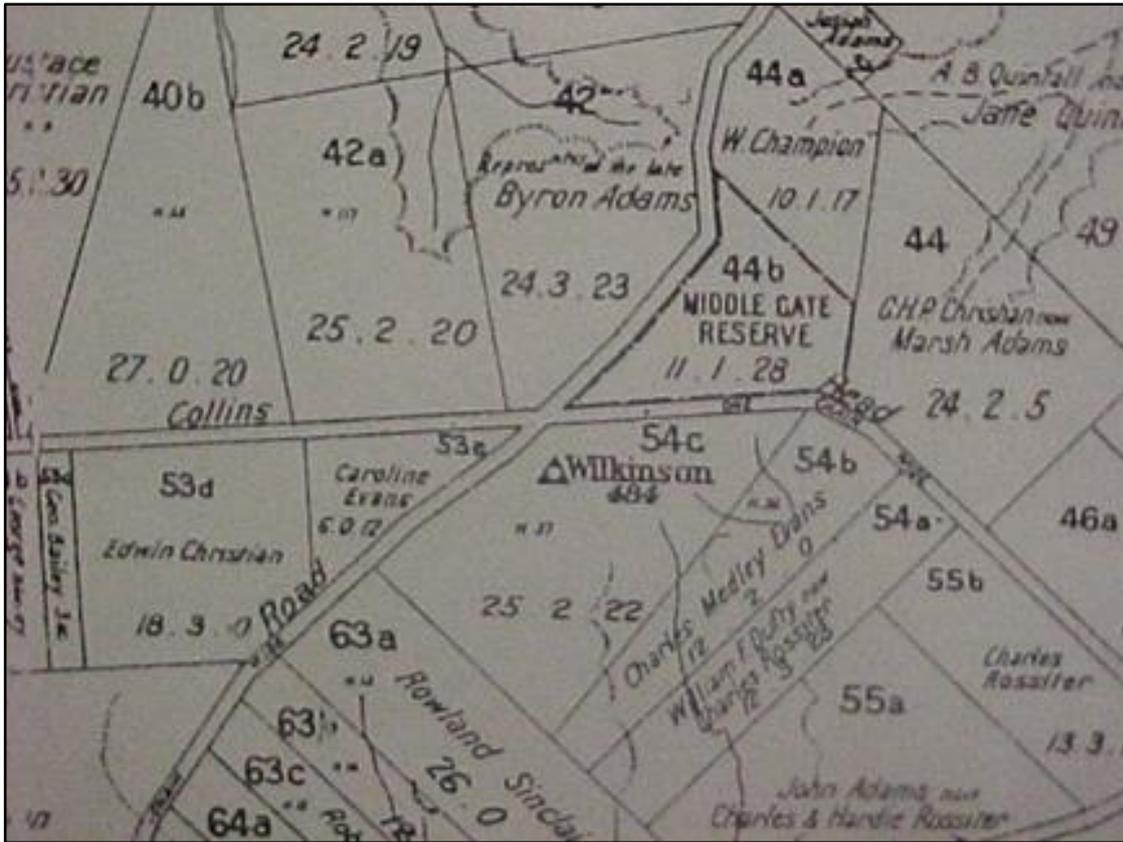


Figure 4: 1904 Survey Plan of Norfolk Island: Reserve area and Wilkinson Trigonometric Station

In 1856, the Pitcairn Island population relocated to Norfolk Island, and families were granted allotments of land of approximately 50 acres in size. By 1887, the area now known as Middleridge Reserve was situated in Portion 54, which had been granted to the Quintal family. Figure 4 shows that by 1904, Portion 54 had been divided into 3 smaller portions, of which 54c includes the area now known as Middleridge Reserve. On 1 January 1906, Albert Edward 'Barty' Quintal was granted a lease over portion 54c. Barty built a home on that land, and dug a deep well on the present Middleridge Reserve. He later filled the well because of the loud thundering noises which used to emanate from it and he planted the Banyan tree on the site of that well. Barty died on 10 December 1926 and his wife, Dorothy Quintal lived there until her death in April 1963. In March 1968 the Minister for External Territories approved the forfeiture of Crown lease portion 54, with a half acre block (now 54c9) containing the residence being leased in the name of the Estate (because portion 54 was one of the original 1856 grants). That lease was revoked on 10 November 1975.

In December 1968, the bulk of the land which Albert and Dorothy Quintal had leased was subdivided to form the 'Middleridge subdivision'. Middleridge Reserve was part of that sub-division, and was proclaimed a reserve for the purposes of recreation in 1976.



Figure 5: Early 20th Century View looking northwest over Barty Quintal's land at Middlegate

3 Management Issues

3.1 Ecological Restoration

There is a small area in the south of the reserve where some native plants have been installed. These have added conservation value to the reserve, and provide amenity and shade. They may also offer future protection from the harsh southerly winds that have negatively impacted on the Banyan tree.

3.2 Cultural Heritage including the Historic Banyan Tree

In the mid 1990's, dense stands of woody weeds on the vacant Crown land immediately to the south and the east of the reserve were cleared to make way for the planting of Norfolk Island Pines. This exposed the reserve to strong southerly and south-easterly winds and by mid-2001, it became evident that the Banyan tree was declining in health. This was probably a combination of the effects of age; soil compaction and damage to roots from vehicles and cattle; and increased exposure to wind.

3.2.1 Previous Arboricultural Treatment of the Historic Banyan Tree

In 2004 a car park was provided on the western side of Banyan Park Playcentre and Middelridge Reserve was closed to vehicles. Previously, Middelridge Reserve had been used as overflow parking for Banyan Park Play Centre, located next door which would have compacted the ground around the tree. The tree however continued to decline, with increasing dead limbs and decreased growth and foliage, particularly on the eastern side and in the upper half of the tree. Strong winds also damaged new adventitious roots and prevented most of these roots from growing into the ground.

In June 2010, adventitious roots that were being damaged by the wind and had not attached to the ground were wrapped in hessian and tethered to stakes to minimise damage and promote growth into the ground as shown in Figure 6. This was to increase the ability of tree to access water and

nutrients via aerial roots. Topsoil was spread under the tree in August 2010 and hand watering was undertaken during subsequent dry periods. Since this time, the tree has showed some signs of recovery, but it is still a very old tree in declining health as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 6: Yvan Boudan fixing hessian to Banyan tree roots April 2010

3.3 Recreation and Access

The reserve is fenced to exclude cattle and to prevent vehicles entering the reserve. This also restricts pedestrian access somewhat. There are no public facilities provided in Middleridge Reserve, and at present there appears to be little demand for such.

4 Management Strategy

Management Vision: To improve the scenic amenity and natural features of Middleridge Reserve

4.1 Ecological Restoration

Strategic Objective: To improve the natural values of the Reserve.

A small number of native trees and shrubs have been planted in the southern part of the Reserve, and this planting could be expanded. This is a small, flat, fully fenced reserve with good road access and water available nearby. It is therefore an easy location for the planting of further native trees. Such trees will also offer habitat to native birds and improve the ecological value of the reserve. Plantings in the south of the reserve will also help to reduce the southerly winds impacting on the Banyan tree.

4.1.1 Management Actions: Ecological Restoration

- (a) Plant more native trees in the south of the reserve, particularly fast growing species that will block the southerly winds which impact on the Banyan tree. (Medium priority)
- (b) Mulch the area around the native plantings on the southern boundary of the reserve to reduce the impact of water stress. (Medium priority)



Figure 7: Banyan tree in 2017 showing good vigour at main tree, but many dead limbs beyond the now reduced healthy canopy line

4.2 Cultural Heritage including the Historic Banyan Tree

Strategic Objective: To conserve the veteran Banyan tree and the well on which it was planted

The Banyan tree planted by Barty and Dorothy Quintal is the most notable cultural heritage feature of the reserve. Arboricultural interventions aimed at restoring the health of the Banyan, including protecting and assisting adventitious roots have previously been undertaken. This included, for example wrapping aerial roots in hessian and pinning this to the ground, as shown in Figure 6. This reasonably successfully resolved the issue of strong winds preventing aerial roots from reaching the soil. An annual arboricultural inspection should be undertaken to ensure that management is appropriate for this veteran tree, and to ensure the level of risk of falling limbs is acceptable given the reasonably low level of use of the reserve. It is also suggested that well composted mulch be spread around the base of the tree and out to the dripline to a depth of 100mm. This will assist in retaining moisture and reducing competition with grass under the tree for resources.

Cuttings will be taken from the tree so that when it does eventually die, offspring can be replanted to replace this historic tree. When the Banyan dies, the site will be investigated for evidence of the well dug by Barty Quintal for possible conservation, interpretation and risk assessment.

4.2.1 Management Actions: Cultural Heritage including Management of the Banyan Tree

- (a) Prune the deadwood from the canopy of the Banyan tree to reduce the risk presented by falling limbs. (High priority)
- (b) Spread well composted mulch around the Banyan tree, out to the canopy dripline and to a depth of at least 100mm. (Medium priority)
- (c) Take cuttings to propagate the Banyan tree for a replacement planting. (Low priority)
- (d) When the Banyan tree dies, undertake a cultural heritage and risk assessment of the well upon which the tree was planted. (Low priority)

4.3 Recreation

Strategic Objective: To provide for appropriate public access to the reserve.

The reserve is fenced, to exclude cattle. Whilst there is a pedestrian gate into the Reserve from Banyan Park Play Centre next door, there is no other formal pedestrian access into the Reserve. This probably discourages pedestrian access to the reserve. That said, there is probably limited demand for such access.

Currently there are no rubbish bins or other public facilities in the reserve. The low level of use of the Reserve does not currently justify such facilities.

The Banyan tree is very old, and in declining health, and the reserve is open to the public. It is therefore recommended that an annual arboricultural inspection be carried out to ensure that it is still acceptable to allow public access to the area around the base of the tree.

4.3.1 Management Actions: Recreation

- (a) Carry out an annual arboricultural assessment of the Banyan tree to ensure public access is still acceptable around the Banyan tree and to monitor the health of the tree. (High priority)

4.4 Grazing Management

Strategic objective: To allow for sustainable grazing where it does not cause unacceptable environmental damage

The reserve is very small, and with the existing ground compaction having already impacted upon the Banyan tree, cattle grazing is not considered an appropriate activity in the Reserve. There are also young native have been planted in the south of the Reserve, with further plantings recommended. These would be eaten by stock should grazing be allowed.

4.4.1 Management Actions: Grazing Management

- (a) Maintain cattle exclusion at Middleridge Reserve. (Ongoing)

4.5 Planning for Efficient Reserve Management

Strategic Objective: To deliver the best possible outcomes by efficiently allocating management resources across the Norfolk Island Public Reserves.

The Norfolk Island Public Reserves network currently consists of 12 reserves³, each of which has a Plan of Management. Within each Plan there are many actions, and Council needs a method to determine which actions are funded first. These management actions have been prioritised as high, medium or low (or ongoing), which will help in determining which actions to fund first. However, there are many reserves and Council must determine which actions from which reserves are to be funded in each successive annual budget. To do this, the high, medium and low priority actions for one reserve need to then be compared against the high, medium and low value actions for all other reserves.

To enable management actions to be compared against one another across the entire reserve network, the reserves themselves need to be prioritised. All of the reserves are intrinsically valuable, for many different reasons including conservation, recreation and heritage values. Spatial prioritisation of land for conservation and land management is a well-established science that allows land managers to direct funding to where it is most needed (Moilanen *et. al.* 2009). It is recognised that this is a complex process, and one which is generally performed by computer modelling software. Therefore, a full prioritisation project is recommended. In the interim, a draft prioritisation of the reserves has been prepared during the management planning process, and is presented in Appendix 2.

It is recommended that all actions from all management plans be pooled, and sorted into high, medium, low or ongoing status. This list of actions then needs to be further filtered using the priority assigned to each reserve. High priority actions in high priority reserves would generally be considered for funding before low priority actions in lower priority reserves. The highest priority actions would then be considered for funding in the annual Council operational plan. Obviously, this is only a starting point as Council's annual budget will need to consider a broad range of other factors and other projects competing for funding.

4.5.1 Management Actions: Planning for Efficient Reserve Management

- (a) Determine the priority of each reserve in the Public Reserves network for budget and resource allocation purposes. Amongst other things, this prioritisation should consider the objects of the *Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI)*, the zoning and gazetted purpose of the reserve and on ground observations. Priorities will change over time, so this is a dynamic process. In the interim, draft priorities have been assigned to each reserve in Appendix 2 of this Plan of Management. (High priority)
- (b) Combine the management action priority (e.g. high, medium or low) with the reserve priority to determine which actions across the entire reserve network are funded in each successive Council annual Operational Plan. (High priority)
- (c) Track the progress of each of the actions in the annual Operational Plan as a measure of the success of the Plan of Management. (Medium priority)

³ Potentially subject to change, as per Appendix 3

SUMMARY TABLE OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR MIDDLELRIDGE RESERVE 2018 - 2028

Management Vision: To improve the scenic amenity and natural features of Middleridge Reserve

Theme	Strategic Objectives	Management Actions (How will we get there?)	Priority
4.1 Ecological Restoration	To improve the natural values of the Reserve	4.1.1 (a) Plant more native trees in the south of the reserve, particularly fast growing species that will block the southerly winds which impact on the Banyan tree.	Medium
		4.1.1 (b) Mulch the area around the native plantings on the southern boundary of the reserve to reduce the impact of water stress.	Medium
4.2 Cultural Heritage the Banyan Tree	To conserve the veteran Banyan tree and the well on which it was planted	4.2.1 (a) Prune the deadwood from the canopy of the Banyan tree to reduce the risk presented by falling limbs.	High
		4.2.1 (b) Spread well composted mulch around the Banyan tree, out to the canopy dripline and to a depth of at least 100mm.	Medium
		4.2.1 (c) Take cuttings to propagate the Banyan tree for a replacement planting.	Low
		4.2.1 (d) When the Banyan tree dies, undertake a cultural heritage and risk assessment of the well upon which the tree was planted.	Low
4.3 Recreation	To provide for appropriate public access to the Reserve	4.3.1 (a) Carry out an annual arboricultural risk assessment of the Banyan tree to ensure public access is still acceptable around the Banyan tree.	High
4.4 Grazing Management	To allow for sustainable grazing where it does not cause unacceptable environmental damage	4.4.1 (a) Maintain cattle exclusion at Middleridge Reserve.	Ongoing
4.5 Planning for Efficient Reserve Management	To deliver the best possible outcomes by efficiently allocating management resources across the Norfolk Island Public Reserves.	4.5.1 (a) Prioritise the many Public Reserves against each other. Amongst other things, this prioritisation should consider the objects of the Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI), the zoning of the reserve and on ground observations. This type of prioritisation is a dynamic process that will change over time, so the priorities will need to be updated over time.	High
		4.5.1 (b) Use the priority of the actions within the reserve management plan together with the priority of the reserve within the network to determine which actions are entered into Council's annual operational plan.	Ongoing
		4.5.1 (c) Track the progress of each of the actions in the annual Operational Plan as a measure of the success of the Plans of Management.	Medium

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Appendix 1: Controlled Activities

Some activities are only permitted in the public reserves by obtaining a permit as per Part V of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*. These activities are known as controlled activities, and the permit must be either:

- specified by a plan of management; or
- by notice published in the Gazette by the Conservator of Public Reserves; or
- by a permit granted to an individual by the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Should a proposed activity be inconsistent with a plan of management, a permit is required. All activities undertaken in a reserve must be consistent with the objects of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*, regardless of whether a permit is required or not. The objects of the *Public Reserves Act 1997* are 'to protect and conserve public reserves so as to –

- (a) promote the conservation of the natural environment and landscape beauty of Norfolk Island;
- (b) promote the conservation of the heritage of Norfolk Island; and
- (c) preserve the way of life and the quality of life of the people of Norfolk Island'

Table 1 lists controlled activities across all public reserves on Norfolk Island and it includes references to the reserves located in the KAVHA area (i.e. Cemetery Reserve, Government House Domain Reserve, Kingston Common Reserve, Kingston Recreation Reserve, Point Hunter Reserve and War Memorial Reserve). Appendix 3 describes the transitional arrangements in place while the Commonwealth of Australia and the Council negotiate ownership and management of the reserves following the removal of internal self-government on Norfolk Island in 2016. It is anticipated that the KAHVA reserves will be managed in a partnership between Council and the Commonwealth of Australia. Until the details of this partnership are determined, the requirements for controlled activities in these reserves still apply as per Table 1.

Table 1. Controlled Activities in all Norfolk Island Public Reserves

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
1. Hazardous Activities	<p>No person shall undertake any activity within a reserve that may reasonably be expected to expose them or any other person to injury or death. Any other activity that may reasonably be expected to pose some hazard or nuisance to any person or to nuisance to the Reserve or adjoining land or sea may not be undertaken in a Reserve without a permit.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if he or she is satisfied that reasonable measures can and will be taken by the person proposing the activity to ensure that the hazard or nuisance is minimised and likely to be reduced to an acceptable level.</p>
2. Firearms, other Weapons, Traps and	<p>No member of the public shall possess, carry or use within a Reserve any form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • firearm, hunting bow, spear, slingshot, or any other weapon; • any type of trap, net, or snare, other than would reasonably be used and is intended to be used in rock fishing without a permit.

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
Snares	The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.
3. Explosive Devices	<p>No person shall possess, carry or use within a Reserve any form of explosive device, including pyrotechnic devices such as fireworks of any kind, without a permit.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so. A permit can only be granted if the proposed activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is an integral and important part of a community celebration that has been agreed by the Norfolk Island Regional Council; • is to be conducted by a properly licensed person; and • meets the safety standards for that activity that would have to be met in an Australian State or Territory. <p>Any person proposing to possess, carry or use any explosive device within a Reserve when applying for a permit shall provide the Conservator of Public Reserves with written details and plans of the proposed activity, proof of licences, a copy of appropriate standards and any other relevant technical details. A permit to conduct these activities shall not be granted unless the applicant holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy for at least \$20 million and meets the requirements in relation to certificates of currency and indemnity forms set out in this table at 20. Commercial Activities.</p>
4. Artefacts	<p>A person shall not interfere with any artefact in a Reserve without a permit. An 'artefact' is any man-made object, thing or item and includes but is not restricted to any object, thing or item that in some way has been protected or that may be capable of being protected under any other legislation. 'Artefact' includes any man-made object, thing or item that can reasonably be construed to be or to have been the property of a person or persons unknown.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.</p>
5. Metal Detecting	<p>No person shall use a metal detecting device in any public Reserve without a permit.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.</p>
6. Native and Other Animals	<p>No member of the public shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have in their possession, interfere with, damage, injure or destroy an animal whether alive or dead in a Reserve; • feed any animal in a Reserve; or • take an animal into, leave an animal in or knowingly permit an animal to enter a Reserve without a permit. <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management.</p>
7. Protection of Individuals of All Species	<p>No member of the public shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take an individual of any species in a Reserve; or • remove an individual of any species from a Reserve without a permit.

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management.</p> <p>Despite anything in this paragraph, plants or parts of plants may be picked or removed in accordance with Sections 10 (Exotic Fruit), 11 (Traditional Craft Materials), 12 (Pine Seed Collection), and 13 (Firewood) of this table.</p>
8. Dogs	<p>Except as otherwise provided here, or provided in the <i>Dogs Registration Act 1936</i> and the <i>Dogs Registration Regulations 1994</i>, a person shall not take a dog into a Reserve unless that dog is under the control of and is in the company of that person. A dog that is accompanied by and is under the control of a person is permitted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those areas in public Reserves to which cattle normally have access for grazing; • all of Point Hunter, Kingston Common and Kingston Recreation Reserves except for those parts of those Reserves between the seaward side of Bay Street and high water mark and between the seaward side of the road around Emily Bay and high water mark; and • those parts of Government House Domain Reserve generally to the south of the wall on the south and south east of Government House grounds and driveway to which the public normally have access. <p>A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to go onto a tee, green or bunker that is part of Government House Domain Reserve or Point Hunter Reserve that is maintained and used by the Norfolk Island Golf Club as part of the golf course. A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to enter the graveyard in Cemetery Reserve. A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to interfere with any native animal or the habitat of any native animal. A person who could reasonably be expected to be responsible for exercising control over a dog in a Reserve must carry means for removing and disposing of dog faeces. If a dog over which a person could reasonably be expected to be exercise control defecates in a Reserve that person must remove the faeces from the Reserve. A person shall not feed a dog in a Reserve.</p>
9. Plants	<p>No member of the public shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have in their possession, interfere with, damage, injure or destroy any plant whether alive or dead in a Reserve; or • take a plant into or leave a plant in a Reserve without a permit. <p>Despite anything in this paragraph, plants or parts of plants may be picked or removed in accordance with Sections 10 (Exotic Fruit), 11 (Traditional Craft Materials), 12 (Pine Seed Collection), and 13 (Firewood) of this table.</p>
10. Exotic Fruit	Hand picking of fruits from exotic plants, such as peach, guava and lemon, for personal consumption is permitted in all public Reserves.
11. Traditional Craft Materials	Picking and removing by hand of foliage of <i>Typha orientalis</i> (Flags, Drain Flax, Bulrush) within Headstone Reserve, Kingston Recreation Reserve, Kingston Common Reserve and Bumbora Reserve for making traditional handicrafts is permitted. Picking and removing by hand of foliage of <i>Cyperus lucidus</i> (Moo-oo) and <i>Phormium tenax</i> (Flax) within all public Reserves for making traditional handicrafts is permitted. 'Traditional handicrafts' does not include items made for sale. Persons must ensure that they do not cause damage to any other plants when picking and removing the foliage of <i>Typha orientalis</i> (Flags, Drain Flax, Bulrush), <i>Cyperus lucidus</i> (Moo-oo) and <i>Phormium tenax</i> (Flax).
12. Pine Seed Collection	Pine seed collection is not permitted in the Reserves without a permit

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may grant a permit for the collection of pine seed or cones from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unfenced areas in public Reserves to which cattle normally have access; and • picnic areas in public Reserves; <p>only if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of a public Reserve to do so.</p>
13. Firewood Collection	<p>Firewood collection is not permitted in the Reserves without a permit.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may permit the collection of firewood only if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of a public Reserve to do so.</p>
14. Monuments and Memorials	<p>A person shall not erect or place a monument, memorial or commemorative marker of any kind in a public Reserve without approval from the Conservator of Public Reserves.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may grant approval for a person to erect or place a monument, memorial or commemorative marker only if the proposed monument, memorial or commemorative marker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is of a style and structure appropriate to the local setting in the Reserve; • is a reminder of a person who, or a group or organisation which, made a major contribution to conserving the area or its biodiversity; • reflects cultural associations with the area by individuals or groups; and • marks a significant event in the history of the Reserve. <p>A proposal to erect or place a monument, memorial or commemorative marker in memory of a deceased person may only be approved if the deceased had a strong, long-standing involvement with conserving the area or its biodiversity. In considering a proposal to erect or place a monument, memorial or commemorative marker, the Conservator of Public Reserves shall also have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential impacts on the amenity of the Reserve including but not limited to visual obtrusiveness taking into account materials, size, design and content; and • satisfactory maintenance arrangements or commitments, including costs, by the proponent. <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.</p>
15. Research	<p>A person shall not undertake any research for an archaeological, scientific or any other purpose or take, measure or in any other way mark or tag any samples of air, water, soil, rock or take, measure or in any other way mark or tag any biological item, organism or material within a Reserve without a permit.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management. Unless a formal agreement has been reached that ensures that the Norfolk Island community will share appropriately in any profits or other benefits from the proposed access to biological resources, permits granted for scientific research purposes will not convey to the permit holder or any other person, institution or corporation any rights whatsoever to any benefits that may flow from intellectual property obtained by the permit holder as a result of the permit holder's activities. In such cases, every permit granted for scientific research purposes shall include the following condition:</p>

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<p><i>This permit is issued for scientific research and educational purposes only and does not convey to the permit holder or any other person, institution or corporation any rights whatsoever to any benefits that may flow from intellectual property obtained by the permit holder as a result of the permit holder's activities pursuant to this permit, such intellectual property and benefits remaining vested in the Norfolk Island Regional Council and or the Commonwealth of Australia as the case may be.</i></p>
16. Horse-riding	Horses may be ridden in those areas in public Reserves to which cattle normally have access for grazing.
17. Motor Vehicles	<p>A person shall not use or leave a motor vehicle in a Reserve except in or on an area approved for the purpose. Motorised wheelchairs or mobility aids may be used to convey disabled persons in public Reserves. Motor vehicles required for emergency services response purposes, or for conservation and management will be permitted in a Reserve. Conservator of Public Reserves must be informed by the responding emergency service coordinator as soon as practicable of any entry of an emergency service response vehicle to a Reserve.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may permit commercial plant and equipment in the Reserve only if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve.</p>
18. Lighting Fires	<p>As per the <i>Public Reserves Act 1997</i>, a person shall not light, use or maintain a fire in a Reserve except in –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a fireplace approved for the purpose; or (b) a portable barbeque, or portable stove in which heat is provided by the burning of liquefied petroleum gas <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may approve the lighting of a fire or fires in a Reserve if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.</p>
19. Non-commercial Sporting and Other Community Events	<p>Unless otherwise specifically approved in a plan of management, non-commercial sporting and other community events shall not occur in a Reserve without a permit.</p> <p>A permit shall not be granted for any non-commercial sporting or other community events unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such event will not adversely affect the amenity of the Reserve for other users and will not damage the Reserve.</p>
20. Commercial Activities	<p>As per the <i>Public Reserves Act 1997</i>, a person shall not undertake a commercial activity in a Reserve except in accordance with an approval for the activity. A permit to conduct a commercial activity in a Reserve shall not be granted unless the applicant provides a certificate of currency showing that he or she holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy for at least \$20 million. The certificate shall have endorsed upon it the Norfolk Island Regional Council's interest in granting the permit and shall specifically refer to the activities intended to be conducted pursuant to the permit. It will be presumed that in issuing the certificate of currency the insurer has been advised of the activities to be conducted and that those activities are not the subject of any exclusion under the policy held. The permit to conduct these activities will cease to be valid immediately if the permit holder's public risk liability insurance lapses for any reason during the period for which the permit has been issued or if a certificate of currency appears to be defective in any manner.</p> <p>A permit shall not be granted for any commercial activity unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activity will not adversely affect</p>

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<p>the amenity of the Reserve for other users and will not damage the Reserve. Filming and photography of any kind other than for private purposes and the use of any part of a public Reserve for promotions of any kind are considered to be commercial activities. Wedding ceremonies are detailed in part 21 of this table. A permit shall not be granted for commercial activities, other than bus tours, off-road vehicle tours, walking tours, horse rides or picnics in a Reserve unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activities are in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve, or are essential to the interpretive and education aims outlined in a plan of management. Commercial tour operators shall in all cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide sufficient cooking equipment, tables and seating to cater for all of the persons on their tour; and • remove all rubbish and other wastes, including used cooking oil, generated by their activities.
21. Weddings	<p>Weddings are not permitted in Cemetery Reserve, Government House Domain Reserve and War Memorial Reserve without a permit.</p> <p>A wedding ceremony may be conducted, including by a wedding celebrant in the course of a business, trade, profession or calling, without a permit in a public Reserve other than Cemetery Reserve, Government House Domain Reserve and War Memorial Reserve, provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confetti or rice is not thrown; • hire equipment of any description is not used; • wedding parties use their own catering supplies: no commercial catering; • catering supplies are limited finger food and to non-alcoholic drinks; • no gazebos, marquees or other structures are erected; • there are no 'lanterns' and/or candles (or similar paraphernalia) with naked flames and no lighting of fires outside of a designated fireplace, or during a fire danger period declared under s21 of the Fire Control Act 2000; • no balloons or other non-biodegradable materials or paraphernalia are released into or left in the environment; • generators, electrical lighting and public broadcast equipment is not used; • the site and any facilities used are left clean and rubbish is removed prior to leaving the site; • the event does not conflict with the use or enjoyment of the Reserve by others; and • if the ceremony is conducted by a wedding celebrant in the course of a business, trade, profession or calling, that celebrant holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy in accordance with section 20 of this table
22. Camping	<p>As per the <i>Public Reserves Act 1997</i>, a person shall not camp overnight in a Reserve except in an area approved for the purpose. Camping will not be permitted in any Reserve except Government House Domain Reserve other than on or in the immediate vicinity of the Polynesian settlement site and Point Hunter Reserve in the pines between Emily Bay and the golf course.</p> <p>Camping shall be permitted in Government House Domain Reserve and Point Hunter Reserve at times between 1 December and 1 March as specified in the Gazette. Camping in Government House Domain Reserve and Point Hunter Reserve at other times may be permitted only if the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the management plan to do so.</p>
23. Structures	A person shall not erect, place or leave a structure in a Reserve except in accordance with an approval.

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
24. Chemicals	<p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.</p> <p>No chemical pesticide, herbicide or toxic or noxious substance shall be used, left or deposited in a Reserve without a permit from the Conservator of Public Reserves.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve to do so.</p>
25. Quarrying and Mining	<p>Quarrying and or mining in any form, other than for sand, shall not be permitted in any Reserve.</p> <p>Sand mining in Cemetery Reserve will be permitted by the Conservator of Public Reserves provided the sand is for an essential building or construction purpose, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastering; • block and brick laying; • installation of water storage tanks; and • tiling for bathrooms, toilets and kitchens; <p>Each removal of sand must be from within an area specified by the Conservator of Public Reserves, and in accordance with any conditions that the Conservator of Public Reserves may set from time to time; and an appropriate fee must be paid.</p> <p>In granting each permit for the removal of sand, the Conservator of Public Reserves shall have regard to archaeological advice, the advice of the KAVHA Site Manager, the KAVHA Conservation Management Plan and, in the case of requests for significant amounts of sand, any recommendation of the Norfolk Island Regional Council. A permit for the removal of sand for other than an essential building or construction purpose shall only be granted if it is in the overriding public interest to do so. Sand may not be removed elsewhere from within Cemetery Reserve or from within any other public Reserve.</p>
26. Spoil Stockpiles	<p>The dumping and or stockpiling of soil, spoil or fill shall not be permitted in a Reserve unless that stockpile is in accordance with a plan of management, or in the opinion of the Conservator of Public Reserves, is essential to undertaking or completing works in a public Reserve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure public safety; and or • conserve the environment.

Definitions for Controlled Activities

‘Animal’ means:

(a) any invertebrate or vertebrate individual, organism or biological specimen alive or dead that is not a member of the plant kingdom or fungi kingdom, other than a domestic female bovine of the genus *Bos* to which a pasturage right⁴ applies or its dependent calf up to 6 months old; or a registered⁵ domestic dog of the genus *Canis*; or

⁴ In accordance with the *Pasturage and Enclosure Act 1949*.

⁵ In accordance with the *Dogs Registration Act 1936*.

- (b) any part of such an individual, organism or biological specimen; or
- (c) embryos, eggs or any other part of the reproductive cycle of such an individual, organism or biological specimen.

'Commercial activity' has the same meaning as 'commercial activity' in section 46 of the Public Reserves Act 1997, which states:

'commercial activity' means –

- (a) supplying, or offering to supply, goods or services; or*
- (b) producing goods;*

in the course of a business, trade, profession or calling.

'Interfere' has the same meaning as 'interfere' in section 42 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*, which states 'interfere' includes remove, move, damage, deface, obscure and tamper.

'Nuisance' includes noise, or environmental harm to the Reserve or potentially to adjoining land or sea.

'Plant' means a member of a 'species' as defined here of the plant kingdom or the fungi kingdom.

'Species' means a group of biological entities that:

- (a) interbreed to produce fertile offspring; or
- (b) possess common characteristics derived from a common gene pool; and includes:
- (c) a sub-species.

'Take' means take, catch, capture or keep and includes, in relation to a live individual of any species, kill or injure (whether or not for the purpose of taking)

Appendix 2: Preliminary Reserve Prioritisation for Resource Allocation

Table 3 presents the draft prioritisation of the reserves. In prioritising the reserves against one another, the draft prioritisation considered the criteria in Table 2. Note that this is a preliminary prioritisation only, and that one of the high priority management actions from this plan is to formally prioritise the reserves using solid scientific methodology.

Table 2. Criteria for determining the priority of reserves for budget allocation

Criteria	Notes on Assessing the Reserves using Criteria
The objects of the <i>Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI)</i>	The objects of the Public Reserves Act 1997 (NI) are 'to protect and conserve public reserves so as to- a. promote the conservation of the natural environment and landscape beauty of Norfolk Island; b. promote the conservation of the heritage of Norfolk Island; and c. preserve the way of life and the quality of life of the people of Norfolk Island.' The reserves have been compared against the objects of the Act. Those reserves with greater environmental or heritage values have been assigned a higher priority than those with lower values.
On ground observations and survey results	Field values may include the presence of threatened species, amount of remnant vegetation cover, level of weed invasion, habitat for native fauna, presence of pest animals, etc. The reserve may also have heritage values such as evidence of Polynesian use, Pitcairn heritage use or European convict heritage.
Land zoning and overlay maps applicable under the NI Plan 2002; Reserve purpose when originally gazetted	Is the land in the open space, conservation or another zone? The more protected the land zoning, the higher the conservation potential of the land. Consideration should also be given to the Norfolk Island Strategic Plan Map (e.g. is the land in the High Rural/Conservation Value area?) and the Norfolk Island Heritage Overlay Map. The purpose of the reserve when it was first gazetted is also important. For example, was the reserve gazette for the conservation of flora and fauna, forestry, watering stock, common, or some other purpose?
Land use in adjoining allotments	Does the land adjoin areas with high conservation values, such as the National Park, or is it surrounded by small, heavily modified allotments? This will increase or reduce the conservation value of the land respectively.

Table 3. Draft prioritisation of Norfolk Island Public Reserves for allocation of management resources

Reserve Name	Priority (1 =Low to 10 = High priority)
Selwyn Reserve	9
Hundred Acres Reserve	9
Bumbora Reserve	8
Nepean Island Reserve	8
Two Chimneys Reserve	7.5
Anson Bay Reserve	6
Ball Bay Reserve	6
Cascade Reserve	5
Headstone Reserve	5
Point Ross Reserve	4
Middleridge Reserve	3
Stock Reserve	1

Appendix 3: Transitional Reserve Management Arrangements Following Changes to the *Norfolk Island Act 1979* in 2016

The first plans of management were prepared for most of the Reserves in 2003. At this time there were 18 reserves managed by the former Administration of Norfolk Island. Each reserve had a plan of management including the 6 reserves located in KAVHA (i.e. Cemetery Reserve, Government House Domain Reserve, Kingston Common Reserve, Kingston Recreation Reserve, Point Hunter Reserve and War Memorial Reserve). There was also a separate overarching KAVHA Conservation Management Plan, which took precedence over the Public Reserves Plan of Management in the case of any inconsistencies.

Between 1978 and 2016, Norfolk Island had a form of internal self-government under the *Norfolk Island Act 1979 (Cth)*. The Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly was responsible for governing the island and managing the reserves. In 2015 – 2016 however, changes were made under the Act to remove internal self-government and it was determined that many services would be delivered by a newly elected Regional Council, including management of the Public Reserves. There were also changes to the ownership of a number of the public reserves as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Changes to ownership and management of Norfolk Island Public Reserves

1. Reserves transferred from the Commonwealth to the Norfolk Island Regional Council ⁶	2. Interests yet to be transferred from the Commonwealth of Australia to the Norfolk Island Regional Council	3. Interests to be retained by the Commonwealth of Australia ⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anson Bay Reserve • Ball Bay Reserve • Bumbora Reserve • The portion of Cascade Reserve previously known as the Quarantine Reserve • Headstone Reserve • Hundred Acres Reserve • Middleridge Reserve • Point Ross Reserve • Stock Reserve • Two Chimneys Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepean Island • Selwyn Reserve • The remainder of Cascade Reserve not previously known as the Quarantine Reserve (includes Philipsburg Cemetery) 	<p>All KAVHA reserves including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery Reserve • Government House Domain Reserve • Kingston Common Reserve • Kingston Recreation Reserve • Point Hunter Reserve • War Memorial Reserve

During 2017-2018, updated Public Reserve Plans of Management were prepared for the 10 reserves in Column 1 (includes part of Cascade Reserve) plus the reserves in Column 2 (includes the remainder of Cascade Reserve). The KAVHA reserves in Column 3 will be managed under a new arrangement with the KAVHA Heritage Management Plan 2016 still guiding the overall heritage management of the area. Instead of having individual public reserve management plans for the KAVHA reserves, it is anticipated that a Memorandum of understanding or a similar will be used to specify the management of the significant natural values of the reserves. Day to day operational work including mowing, issuing of camping permits and dog restriction enforcement will also need to be captured in this arrangement, as it is assumed that such works will be the responsibility of Council.

⁶ As per the *Norfolk Island Land Transfer Ordinance 2016 (Cth)*

⁷ As per advice from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, 2016