

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## What is a Plan of Management?

A Plan of Management (PoM) is a strategic framework that guides the use and management of Community and Crown Land (public land) under Council ownership or management. It is based on core objectives prescribed in the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act), community values and key management issues to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to decision-making. The *LG Act* requires that a PoM identifies:

- the category for the land
- objectives and performance targets for management of the land
- the means (actions) by which Council proposes to achieve the objectives and performance targets
- measures by which council proposes to assess its performance.

A PoM must also 'expressly authorise' the purposes for which the land can be leased or licenced. While a Plan of Management may authorise an activity or use of Community land, all proposals will be subject to individual merit assessment to ensure consistency with:

- public interest and land carrying capacity
- environmental and community context
- core objectives and performance targets
- environmental planning instruments e.g. LEP
- other Council strategies, plans and policies.

## What is Community Land?

Council is required to classify all public land as either 'Community' or 'Operational' under the *LG Act*. Community land is that which is set aside for public purposes and community use, such as parks, sporting fields and bushland. It includes land under Council ownership as well as land owned by other government agencies under the care, control and management of Council. The development and use of Community Land must be in accordance with a PoM and be consistent with the core objectives prescribed under the *LG Act* for the category assigned to the land.

## What is Operational Land?

Operational land is that which provides a commercial or operational function for Council, such as a carpark or depot. It is not subject to the restrictive provisions or plan of management requirements that apply to Community Land.

## Why is a revision of the Plan of Management needed?

The current PoM was developed in 2008 and needs updating to reflect current and potential future land use, and constraints such as flooding.

The full extent of the Community Gardens operations is not covered in the current PoM and this is causing difficulties with approving development applications such as the Men's Shed.

A revised Plan of Management will ensure legislative compliance whilst also providing appropriate Community land management that meets the needs of the community.

## How is Land Categorised?

The *LG Act* requires that Council categorise Community land based upon its characteristics and use/s as one or more of the following:

- Sportsground
- Park
- General Community Use
- Natural Area (Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Watercourse, Foreshore)

Land categorisation is in accordance with the guidelines prescribed in the Local Government Regulation 2005. Multiple categories can apply to an individual park or reserve, and these are identified in maps within the Draft PoM.

## What has been updated?

- the boundary of the Community Garden has been extended to align with their current footprint
- this section of land is being re-categorised from Sportsground to General Community Use
- the High Environmental Value vegetation on the northern boundary is being categorised to Natural Area - Bushland
- retain Sportsground category for the remainder of the land
- references to affordable housing have been removed
- the location of the dog park has been included
- it has also been reformatted and refreshed to ensure it complies with and acknowledges current legislation, policies and strategies

## Is the lands zoning changing?

No. The lands zoning will remain as Public Recreation (RE1). The zone objectives are:

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

## Why is a public hearing needed and what is it?

When new or amended categorisations are applied to Community land a public hearing during the public exhibition period is required under the *LG Act*. This will be chaired by an independent facilitator to provide the community with an opportunity to present their submissions.

## Does the sportsground categorisations provide for an Aquatic Facility?

No. The Sportsground categorisation does not provide for an Aquatic Facility. To support an Aquatic Facility the land would need to be re-categorised to General Community Use. This would occur later should Council proceed with an Aquatic Facility on this site. A public hearing is also required when the lands categorisation is changed.

## What happens next?

Your feedback will inform refinement of the draft PoM prior to reporting the final draft to Council for endorsement.