



# Small Water Craft Storage Strategy



Dinghy Racks at Folly Point, Cammeray

September 2018  
**North Sydney Council**

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## **1.0 PRELIMINARIES**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Publicly-owned open space around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour is not only in limited supply, but it is in high demand for a wide variety of recreational pastimes.

While the community has a right to access and use public foreshore open space (for picnics, walking, exercising and to access the water) there is no requirement for Councils (as the owners or managers of the land) to provide storage facilities for privately-owned water craft on public open space. It is essential that people wishing to store water craft on public land for personal benefit recognise that being permitted to do so is a privilege.

Water craft are stored on publicly-owned foreshore land for various reasons, including:

- To access swing moorings
- To avoid the need to transport water craft to and from home
- To avoid the high costs associated with commercial water craft storage facilities
- To gain easy access to the harbour

Council is committed to providing opportunities for water-based recreation around the harbour foreshore (including easy access to the harbour for owners of small water craft), and will therefore continue to permit storage of small water craft in formally constructed facilities, while also permitting informal storage to occur in designated areas. Storage of small water craft around the harbour foreshore is considered appropriate as long as it does not compromise the primary use of the foreshore as an area for public recreation, does not significantly restrict public access to the foreshore and does not have undue impact on the environment.

Council recognises that the absence thus far of a formal water craft storage strategy and the presence of only limited formal storage facilities for small water craft are both factors that have contributed to the current situation where informal and ad-hoc storage of large numbers of small water craft on the harbour foreshores is reducing visual amenity, causing environmental damage, alienating public open space and restricting public access to, and enjoyment of, some public foreshore areas.

### **1.2 Development of the Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (SWCSS)**

#### **1.2.1 Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (SWCSS) – Discussion Paper**

The SWCSS - Discussion Paper was prepared in early 2017, and was publicly exhibited for a 10-week period in mid 2017. The Discussion Paper aimed to provoke thought and generate debate about issues relevant to the storage of small water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney. It also aimed to provide residents, ratepayers, stakeholders and the wider community with an understanding of Council's aims and objectives in preparing a Strategy.

In particular, the Discussion Paper sought input into developing procedures for:

- registering all water craft stored on public foreshore land in North Sydney,
- relocating and/or removing water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney (this may be required for a variety of reasons), and

- identifying and prioritising sites capable of accommodating additional Formal Storage Facilities

40 submissions were received on the Discussion Paper. As well as providing ideas and information relating to their specific areas of interest, many of the submissions expressed general support for the Discussion Paper, and appreciation that Council was preparing a Strategy to address the issues associated with small water craft stored on public foreshore land in North Sydney.

Feedback on the Discussion Paper was reported to the 20 November 2017 Council meeting. Council resolved to defer the item to a Councillor Briefing which was subsequently held on 19 February 2018. At the Council meeting which immediately followed the Briefing, Council resolved to continue developing a Draft Small Water Craft Storage Strategy, and to write to all permit holders advising them that their watercraft must be removed from the Hayes Street Beach by 31 August 2018.

### 1.2.2 Draft Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (SWCSS)

The Draft SWCSS was adapted from the SWCSS – Discussion Paper, and incorporated issues and ideas raised by the community and other stakeholders in response to the Discussion Paper. It was publicly exhibited for a 10-week period in mid-2018.

26 submissions and 1 petition (186 signatures) were received, and all feedback on the Draft SWCSS was reported to the 20 August 2018 Council meeting. The report proposed that a number of alterations be made to the Draft SWCSS as a result of the submissions received. Council unanimously resolved to adopt the Small Water Craft Storage Strategy (including the proposed alterations), and to commence implementation of the short term actions listed in the Strategy.

## 1.3 **Existing Situation in North Sydney**

The North Sydney foreshore is dotted with small water craft including dinghies, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards (SUP's), surf skis and canoes. A lack of formal storage facilities and a lack of regulation of informal storage sites has led to the current situation where informal, ad-hoc and sometimes excessive storage of water craft on publicly-owned foreshore is reducing visual amenity, causing environmental damage and alienating public open space by restricting public access to, and enjoyment of, some public foreshore areas.

The proliferation of small water craft on the foreshore that has occurred in North Sydney over the past 10 years is largely due to the increase in kayak ownership. Most dinghies stored on the foreshore are used to access boats on RMS swing moorings. There is a registration and fee system for moored boats, and a corresponding limit on the numbers of tenders that has been in place for many years, meaning that dinghy numbers have remained relatively static.

The SWCSS also recognises that dinghies owners and kayaks/SUP's owners have differing needs. Generally, kayak owners need storage that is relatively convenient to their place of residence, or somewhere they can easily park (for several hours) and gain access to the water. Dinghy owners need to store their vessels somewhere that is accessible by car, and where long term parking is available. They need access to sheltered launch sites, as many dinghies can only be used in relatively calm water.

The information contained in the SWCSS relates only to Council-owned or managed storage facilities and to land which is accessible to the general public. It does not include information relating to private storage facilities such as marinas and sailing clubs in the North Sydney LGA.

### 1.3.1 Formal Storage Facilities

At present there are 7 formal storage facilities for small water craft in the North Sydney LGA. With the exception of the dinghy racks in Kurraba Reserve which are currently unregulated (no permits issued, no fees charged) and the tie-up racks in Gore Cove Reserve (no fees charged as the land is not Council-owned), hire of storage spaces in Formal Storage Facilities is on a 'first come first served' basis, through registration with North Sydney Council, and upon payment of an annual fee.

Demand is currently far greater than supply, and all the Council-managed facilities listed in **Table 1** – 'Existing Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney' are at capacity. Council has a registered Waiting List for water craft owners seeking storage spaces and owners are contacted, in order of application, when a space becomes available. Currently the most sought-after facilities (i.e. those with 15 or more names on the Waiting Lists) are Willoughby Street Boatshed, Lavender Bay Boatshed, Folly Point Dinghy Racks and Tunks Park Dinghy Racks. People contacting Council are advised of the approximate number of people ahead of them on the Waiting List for each facility. Most are happy to be wait-listed, as there is no fee involved. The vast majority of people on the waiting lists are seeking space to store kayaks.

**Table 1** – Existing Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney

	Location	Type of storage	Capacity/Space	Annual Storage Fee/ Comments
1	62 Willoughby St, Kirribilli	Boatshed	11 kayaks (up to 6.5m long) 10 dinghies (up to 3.0m long)	\$1015 p/a \$70 key bond (refundable upon return of key)
2	Shellbank Parade, Cremorne	Dinghy Racks	7 dinghies (up to 3.3m long)	\$205p/a
3	Folly Point, Cammeray	Dinghy Racks	39 dinghies (up to 3.0m long)	\$305 p/a No storage for kayaks
4	Tunks Park, Cammeray	Dinghy Racks	20 dinghies (up to 2.5m long)	\$205 p/a No storage for kayaks
5	Archway no. 4, Lavender Crescent, Lavender Bay	Boatshed	23 dinghies (up to 3.3m long) 4 kayaks	\$610 p/a \$70 key bond (refundable upon return of key)
6	Kurraba Reserve, End of Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay	Dinghy Racks	Temporary storage for 50 small water craft	Currently no fee/ no permits issued. Permanent facilities will be constructed once embankment is repaired
7	Gore Cove Reserve, Off Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft	Tie-up Racks	22 dinghies	No fees (RMS land). Permits allow Council to contact owners if issues arise.

Note: Small water craft are no longer stored on Hayes Street Beach, as per Council's resolution of 19/02/2018.

Note: Fees are for the 2017/2018 financial year as per Council's Fees and Charges. Fees are reviewed annually through Council's Delivery Program and Budget process.



NSC Dinghy Racks at Folly Point, Cammeray



Tie-up Racks, Gore Cove, Wollstonecraft

### 1.3.2 Informal Storage Areas

Historically, dinghies and other small water craft have been stored informally at numerous locations around the North Sydney foreshore. This has been generally condoned as the presence of dinghies and kayaks was felt to contribute to the character of the North Sydney foreshore, providing visual interest and diversity.

However, in recent years the number of informally stored water craft has increased dramatically. This increase is due to factors including the greater affordability of kayaks and SUP's, the increasing popularity of these activities, and the lack of formal storage facilities that are free of charge (or indeed are available at all).

This increase has resulted in a series of negative impacts. In some areas the storage of too many water craft is not only creating visual clutter, but is causing damage to the fragile foreshore environment, is making access to publicly-owned foreshore land difficult, and is impeding public use of the foreshore for general recreation.

**Table 2 – Primary Informal Storage Areas in North Sydney**

	<b>Name/Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Sugarworks Reserve/King St Road Reserve, Wollstonecraft	Predominantly dinghies, some kayaks
2	Carradah Park, Waverton	Small number of water craft stored in bushland adjacent to Waverton Park
3	John Street Open Space, Waverton	Primarily dinghies used to access swing moorings in Wollstonecraft Bay, some kayaks
4	Sawmillers Reserve/Boatbuilders Walk, McMahons Point	Numerous kayaks and dinghies
5	Dowling St Road Reserve, McMahons Point	Several dinghies
6	Kurraba Reserve, Neutral Bay (adjacent to the dinghy racks)	Mainly kayaks (located beside the formal storage facility)
7	Cremorne Reserve (in front of 136 Milson Rd), Cremorne Point	Mainly dinghies
8	Cremorne Reserve (in front of 100-102 Milson Rd), Cremorne Point	Mainly dinghies
9	Primrose Park (in the bushland section of the park), Cremorne	Dinghies and kayaks stored informally in bushland



Informal Dinghy and Kayak Storage at John Street Open Space, Waverton

### 1.3.3 Other Public Facilities

There are several public boat ramps in the North Sydney LGA. There is a large facility with associated parking for cars and boat trailers at Tunks Park, Cammeray, and a smaller facility is located at the end of Lavender Crescent, Lavender Bay. Small ramps suitable for launching smaller water craft are located in Milson Park, Kirribilli, and in Kurraba Reserve, Neutral Bay, however these ramps are not accessible by car.

## 1.4 **Community Engagement**

The SWCSS Discussion Paper 2017 and the Draft SWCSS 2018 provided people involved or interested in water-based recreation and small water craft storage with the opportunity to convey their needs and concerns to Council. The Draft SWCSS incorporated feedback received regarding the Discussion Paper. Submissions on both documents were received from people who:

- Store dinghies in one of Council's formal storage facilities to access RMS swing moorings
- Store dinghies informally on the foreshore to access RMS swing moorings
- Store kayaks or SUP's in one of Council's formal storage facilities (only some of these are available to non-dinghies)
- Store kayaks or SUP's informally on the foreshore
- Store their water craft at home and transport them to and from the foreshore
- Would like formal storage for their water craft, but can't get it (generally due to lack of availability or cost)
- Use the foreshore for other forms of recreation (swimming, picnicking, viewing the harbour etc)

Both the SWCSS – Discussion Paper and the Draft SWCSS were publicly exhibited for 10-weeks to allow plenty of time for residents and stakeholders to respond to them. The following steps were taken to generate widespread awareness of the documents:

- Inserting regular notices in Council's corporate advertisement in the Mosman Daily
- Posting the documents on Council's website for information and comment, and providing a Feedback Form
- Notifying known stakeholders, all Precincts and members of Council's Sport & Recreation Reference Group
- Notifying all people who made a submission on the Discussion Paper and provided contact details, or who had previously registered their interest in this issue with Council
- Distributing information via social media (via Facebook and Twitter)
- Providing hard copies of the draft Strategy to stakeholders, upon request



- Notifying owners of small water craft currently stored on the North Sydney foreshore by installing a total of 20 posters at Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas for the duration of the public exhibition periods

### **Making a Submission**

A link to the project page and a Feedback Form were available in the 'Have Your Say' area of Council's website. Written submissions were also received:

The General Manager  
North Sydney Council  
PO Box 12  
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Attention: Ms Megan White  
Landscape Planner

Fax No: 9936-8177  
Email: [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

The final SWCSS is available on Council's website.

## 2.0 STRATEGY AIM, OBJECTIVES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Definitions

**Table 3 – Definitions**

Authorised Water Craft	A single-hulled water craft; typically, a dinghy, kayak, canoe or stand-up paddle board, up to 4.0m long*. Double-hulled dinghies will be considered if under 4.0m long.
Unauthorised Water Craft	Any vessel that is not an 'authorised' water craft. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Triple hulled water craft</li> <li>○ Water craft over 4.0m long*</li> <li>○ Water craft used for commercial operations**</li> <li>○ Water craft owned by people in residences adjacent to the foreshore***</li> </ul>
Formal Storage Facilities	Facilities specifically constructed to store small water craft in an orderly manner. They include boatsheds, 'toast' racks, vertical stacked racks, horizontal racks and tie up points.
Informal Storage Areas	Designated areas that can accommodate water craft stored informally. All storage must take place in an orderly manner; consideration must be given to the environment and to the safety of all foreshore users, and the amount of foreshore land occupied must be minimised, as far as possible.
No-Storage Zones	Areas of publicly-owned land on the North Sydney foreshores where no water craft may be stored due to a variety of factors including environmental sensitivity and public safety (lack of easy access and rugged topography).
Derelict Water Craft	A water craft located on public land which shows evidence of being unseaworthy.
Abandoned Water Craft	A water craft located on public land which shows evidence of being unused for a considerable length of time.

\* Larger vessels alienate a comparatively large area of land from public use, are harder to store safely in vertical racks and have a greater visual impact. (Note that Willoughby Street Boatshed offers storage for longer kayaks, as does Archway No. 4 in Lavender Bay). In future, other locations capable of storing longer kayaks may also be identified.

\*\* Commercial operators are not permitted to store water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land, regardless of size

\*\*\* Water craft owned by absolute waterfront property owners are to be stored within the freehold property, not on any adjoining public land. Note that in situations where private waterfront land 'appears' to be public land, (for example the land adjoins public land), owners may apply for a free permit, to ensure their vessels are not inadvertently removed

## 2.2 Strategy Aim

To manage the storage of water craft on public land on the harbour foreshore in an effective and equitable manner, for the benefit of water craft owners and for the convenience and enjoyment of the wider community who wish to access and use North Sydney's foreshore parks and other public open spaces for general recreation.

## 2.3 Strategy Objectives

The objectives of this SWCSS are:

- a) To allow owners of authorised water craft to apply for a Permit to store their vessel on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.  
*Refer Table 3 – 'Definitions' for a definition of 'authorised' water craft. All other vessels are considered 'unauthorised' and may not be stored on publicly-owned foreshore land.*
- b) To identify designated areas suitable for the storage of small water craft in North Sydney.  
*Maps A – H show the current location of Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas and the proposed future location of No-Storage Zones and of sites that may be able to accommodate new (or additional) Formal Storage Facilities*
- c) To ensure that all authorised small water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney are stored appropriately.
- d) To facilitate the removal of unauthorised, derelict or abandoned water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.  
*Removing unauthorised, derelict and abandoned water craft reduces overcrowding, frees up space for authorised water craft and minimises visual clutter on the foreshore.*
- e) To provide additional purpose-built Formal Storage Facilities in selected locations around the North Sydney foreshore.  
*Providing more facilities for water craft storage, will reduce pressure on existing informal storage areas. Formal storage (in vertical 'toast' racks or 'stacked' racks) takes up less open space than informally stored water craft.*
- f) To publicise and promote Council's aims and objectives in relation to water craft stored on publicly-owned foreshore land, and to engage with the community and stakeholders to ensure high levels of awareness and involvement in the Draft SWCSS, leading to high levels of understanding and compliance with the final SWCSS.

## 2.4 Relationship between this Strategy and Council's Community Strategic Plan

This Strategy is consistent with the aims and objectives expressed in the North Sydney Council Community Strategic Plan 2018 - 2028. The following information, relevant to the storage of water craft on public land, comes from this Plan.

The following outcomes (encompassed in the Community Strategic Plan under Direction 1 – 'Our Living Environment') describe what Council needs to achieve with

regard to management of public open space and protection of the environment:

1.1 Protected and enhanced natural environment and biodiversity

The following strategy is derived from this outcome:

1.1.2 Implement community education programs regarding protection and enhancement of the natural environment

1.4 Public open space, recreation facilities and services that meet community needs

The following strategies are derived from this outcome:

1.4.1 Maximise use of existing, and protect, enhance and expand public open space

1.4.2 Create a waterfront with integrated green public spaces and enhanced foreshore access

1.4.3 Provide infrastructure to support physical activity

## 2.5 Guiding Principles

Council is committed to providing and/or facilitating a variety of water-based recreational opportunities in the North Sydney area. Providing Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas for water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land is a part of this commitment.

However, Council's priority is to ensure that the general public has access to and use of publicly-owned foreshore land for recreation without undue restriction. The following guiding principles have been developed to ensure that all storage of small water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney is consistent with this priority.

- 1) Privately-owned water craft that meet Council's definition of 'authorised' water craft are eligible to apply for a Permit to hire space to store their vessel on publicly owned foreshore land in North Sydney.
- 2) All authorised small water craft must be stored in designated areas. Storage must occur in as compact a manner as possible to maximise the amount of foreshore space available for other users. Stored water craft must not:
  - a. Significantly impede public access to and use of the foreshore
  - b. Cause undue damage to the foreshore environment
  - c. Pose a safety hazard to people using the foreshore

### 3.0 PLANNING ISSUES

The following discussion of planning issues relating to the storage of small, privately-owned water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney, is based on the information contained in the SWCSS Discussion Paper and the Draft SWCSS as well as feedback received on these documents from the community and other stakeholders.

#### 3.1 Existing Formal Storage Facilities

Currently, Formal Storage Facilities on North Sydney's foreshore cater primarily (and sometimes exclusively) for dinghies; this has contributed to the proliferation of kayaks and SUP's stored informally on the foreshore.

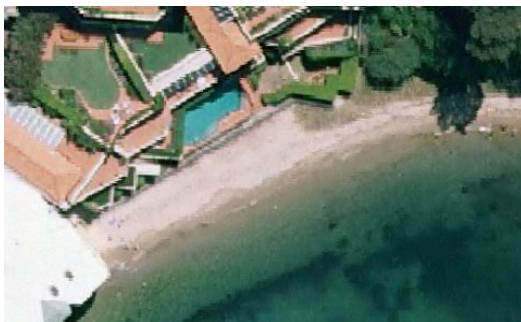
There is a need for Council to provide additional Formal Storage Facilities, as securing a storage space is difficult, and most facilities have waiting lists. There is a particular need for Council to provide purpose-built storage for kayaks and SUP's. Given the narrow dimensions of kayaks and SUP's, dedicated racks could store numerous kayaks/SUP's very efficiently, in a relatively small amount of space. The racks could be provided as an adjunct to existing dinghy storage facilities in some locations.

There are a number of issues with existing Formal Storage Facilities that will be further investigated as the SWCSS is implemented. Currently unseaworthy dinghies and kayaks, many clearly abandoned, are occupying space in Formal Storage Facilities. These vessels are occupying storage space that could be put to better use by people who take their water craft out on the harbour more frequently. Other issues requiring investigation include:

- Whether some form of chain/lock system should be required to secure small water craft and prevent 'borrowing'?
- Measures required to upgrade the boat ramp in Kurraba Reserve; upgrading is needed to make it easier for users, particularly at low tide
- Fees levels and appropriate annual increases for Permits to hire storage space in Formal Storage Facilities - this is explored in detail in Section 3.3.1 – Fees.

##### 3.1.1 Hayes Street Beach

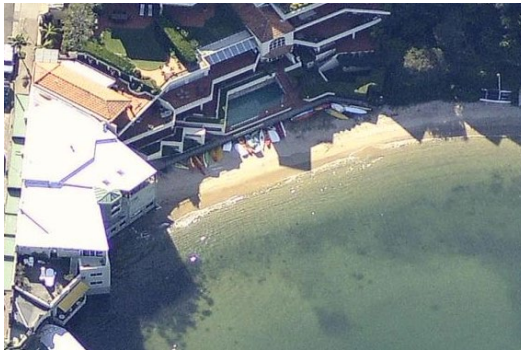
Over the past 10 years, the number of water craft stored above the high water mark at Hayes Street Beach ballooned to the point where the public's ability to access and use the Beach was significantly compromised, particularly at high tide.



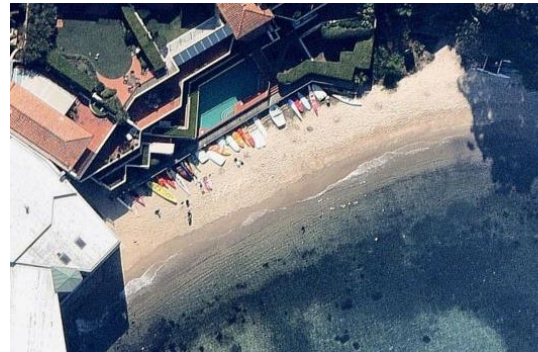
2006



2012



2014



2016

When the SWCSS – Discussion Paper was prepared (in mid-2017), a process of reducing the number of water craft stored on Hayes Street Beach had commenced, and Permits had been issued to allow storage of only 55 water craft only on the Beach. A plan to further reduce this number and to return more of the Beach to general public recreation, was outlined in the Discussion Paper.

Most people who responded to the Discussion Paper appreciated that Hayes Street Beach is one of the few easy launching sites for small water craft in North Sydney, and supported retaining some level of storage on the Beach. However, concern was expressed by many at the number of craft still on the Beach, the fact that some stored vessels appeared to be used very infrequently, and the fact that many of the vessels still on the Beach appeared to be unregistered.

In February 2018 Council resolved to remove all watercraft from Hayes Street Beach. Alternative locations for water craft previously stored on the beach (in particular the dinghies associated with nearby swing moorings) are now being investigated. More information on this issue can be found in Section 3.5 – ‘Additional Sites for Formal Storage Facilities’.

### **3.2 Existing Informal Storage Areas**

Informal Storage Areas are pieces of foreshore land where small water craft are stored in an unregulated and unregimented manner (i.e. no formal storage facilities such as dinghy racks or tie-up points have been provided). Feedback received on both the Discussion Paper and the Draft SWCSS suggests that while overcrowding at some Informal Storage Areas is causing problems, other sites are currently operating satisfactorily.

An area of North Sydney currently experiencing problems caused by an excess of small water craft is the foreshore of Boatbuilders Walk and the northern end of Sawmillers Reserve, below Munro Street, in McMahons Point. Many of the water craft stored in these locations appear unused and unseaworthy, and some are stored in such a way that access to Boatbuilders Walk and the foreshore generally is compromised, and adjacent Council-owned garden beds are regularly damaged.

Sugarworks Reserve and King Street Road Reserve on the foreshores of Wollstonecraft Bay are home to many small water craft, and the small beach here provides easy access to the water. A number of people who store dinghies here noted that the current informal system works well and does not need to change. However, some mentioned

the presence of apparently abandoned water craft at this site, and that fact that kayaks being placed on top of dinghies can be an issue.

It is important that Council takes a consistent and equitable approach to all sites; informal storage of small water craft is on the rise, and sites that are currently operating satisfactorily may experience problems in the future. An overall position and related procedures are needed to ensure all storage sites are dealt with consistently, both now and in the future.

Whilst storage of water craft in foreshore areas zoned E2 Environmental Conservation is not generally recommended, it may occur in selected locations. Strict 'conditions of use' will be imposed on storage sites in bushland, and must be agreed to by potential hirers. Storage must be undertaken in as sustainable a manner as possible, and it must have minimal impact on the natural environment. The number of Permits issued for foreshore bushland sites should also be carefully limited.

**Maps A-H** in Section 5.1 of this Strategy identify appropriate locations for small water craft storage. The Maps take into account:

- The location of sensitive foreshore native vegetation
- The presence of highly erodible soils
- Steep topography, coupled with difficult and unstable access
- The potential presence of Coastal Saltmarsh habitat (an Endangered Ecological Community)
- Proximity to known and potential Aboriginal Heritage sites

By restricting where small water craft may be stored, Council aims to not only improve accessibility and usability of publicly-owned foreshore open space for all, but to minimise damage to the environment.

### **3.3 Registration of Private Water Craft Stored on Public Foreshore Land**

In future, all private water craft stored on public foreshore land must be registered. This is, all people storing/wanting to store their water craft in either Formal Storage Facilities or Informal Storage Areas must apply to Council for a Permit, and pay an annual fee for hire of this storage space. The Permit will specify the location of the storage space, and will only be valid for the specified location. Permits must be affixed to the water craft to be valid. Only authorised water craft are eligible to apply for a Permit. (Refer **Table 3** – Definitions).

#### Step 1: Determine Location and Capacity of Existing Formal and Informal Storage Areas in North Sydney

##### *Formal Storage Facilities*

Council's existing Formal Storage Facilities are shown on **Maps A-H** in Section 5.1. Permits are issued and fees are charged to hire space in these facilities. (The exception to this is the Gore Cove Tie-Up Racks, which are located on RMS land, rather than Council-owned or controlled land). Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney contain a fixed number of storage spaces. Refer **Table 1** – Existing Formal Storage Facilities in North Sydney.

### *Informal Storage Areas*

Council's existing Informal Storage Areas are shown on **Maps A-H** in Section 5.1. Site visits to determine storage capacity are now required to determine how many Permits should be issued at each site. (The site visits will also assess the site's capacity to accommodate Formal Storage Facilities in the future – refer Section 3.6 for further details). Council's Bushland Management Team will assess storage capacity of all sites located on land zoned E2 – Environmental Conservation.

#### Step 2: Develop a Permit Application Process

The current processes of applying for a Permit to store a small water craft space in Council's Formal Storage Facilities and for renewing existing Permits will continue to apply for all these locations. Fees for all locations will be reviewed (refer 3.4.1 – Fees).

A similar process will be developed for owners of small water craft wishing to apply for space to store a small water craft in one of Council's Informal Storage Areas:

- Complete an Application Form (indicating 3 preferred locations, in priority order), and send it to Council
- If the Application is approved and space is available, Council will contact the owner
- If no space is available, and if applicants desire it, Applications will be placed on the appropriate Waiting List/s until a space is relinquished by a current hirer
- When a space becomes available, Council will send a letter advising of the available location and requesting payment of the relevant Annual Storage Fee
- Once the Fee is received by Council, the hirer will be contacted and formally assigned a storage location. They will also be issued with a Water Craft Storage Permit sticker which must be affixed to the water craft in a clearly visible location in order to be valid
- Hirer's wishing to relinquish their storage spot should contact Council in writing with their details, the name of the storage facility (location), the Permit sticker number and the expected date of removal

#### Step 3: Inform owners of informally stored water craft of the new registration process

Once the new registration process for Informal Storage Areas has been developed, Council will:

- Affix stickers to all existing water craft stored informally on the North Sydney foreshore, inviting them to apply for a Permit to store their water craft. (Only Authorised water craft will be eligible to hire storage space)
- Allow a reasonable time frame (say 4 months, depending on the season) for response
- If a site is above capacity (as determined in Step 1), inform water craft owners of this, and inform them that Permits for the site in question will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis
- If requests for Permits exceed capacity at a site, Council will contact water craft owners and inform them of other nearby sites that are not at capacity



Implementing a Permit system for all Informal Storage Areas should mean that current problems caused by a gradual build up in the numbers of small water craft stored informally in some locations do not occur in future.

### 3.3.1 Fees

Charging fees for storage of private water craft on public foreshore land should encourage people who use their water craft infrequently or not at all to relinquish the space and remove their water craft. This should not only reduce overall numbers of water craft stored, but will free up space for people who are regular users of small water craft and wish to store their vessel on the foreshore.

Most submissions on the Discussion Paper and the Draft SWCSS appreciated that paying fees to store private water craft on public land was reasonable, but felt that it was important to keep annual rental rates affordable. The introduction of fees for storage of small water craft at informal storage sites was generally accepted.

**Table 4** – ‘Council Comparison - Annual Fees for Water Craft Storage (April 2018)’ summarises information gathered from several other Sydney Councils who hire space on their foreshores to store small water craft.

**Table 4 - Council Comparison - Annual Fees for Small Water Craft Storage (April 2018)**

<b>Council</b>	<b>Storage Fee</b> Resident/ ratepayer	<b>Storage Fee</b> Non- Resident/ ratepayer	<b>Concessions</b>
Northern Beaches Council –	\$179	\$268	
Inner West Council (Leichhardt)	\$86	\$128	
Woolhara	\$120	\$220	
Ryde	\$202	\$404	Pensioner: -Resident/ratepayer - \$101 -Non-resident/ratepayer - \$202
Mosman	Dinghy racks \$256	Dinghy racks \$860	15% Senior’s card holder discount TPI pension discount – 50%
Hunters Hill	\$170 (open racks) \$480 (enclosed facility)	\$480	

**Table 4** shows clearly that annual storage fees vary widely from Council area to Council area. Generally, it is proposed that in the North Sydney Council area:

- Fees for Informal Storage Facilities will be low, they will be designed to cover Council’s administration costs
- Fees for Formal Storage Facilities will be higher and may differ from location to location depending on the quality of the Facility (These facilities generally offer higher levels of security, shelter and protection from weather and/or easier access to the water)
- North Sydney residents, ratepayers, pensioners and seniors will be eligible for a reduced hire fee (proof required)
- Fees will be reviewed annually

- An invoice will be forwarded to current permit holders at least 1 month before the annual Permit is due to expire. If the invoice is not paid within the allocated time, the storage space will be considered vacant
- As part of future investigations into fees for storage, Council will investigate the value of changing hirers a deposit (refundable upon removal of their water craft at the end of their hire period). This may work as an incentive to prevent the abandonment of water craft on the foreshore.

### 3.3.2 Priority

It is very important that allocation of storage space is fair and equitable, and a 'first-come-first-served' systems ensures this. While it is proposed to give fee discounts to North Sydney residents and rate payers, it is not proposed to give Council residents and rate payers priority for storage.

However, there may be instances when dinghy owners receive priority over owners of other types of small water craft. When Council constructs new Formal Storage Facilities that can accommodate dinghies, priority will be given to people who need to access a nearby RMS swing mooring (and who provide proof of this). Similarly, when Council investigates existing Informal Storage Areas and determines they should remain as such, people who need to access a nearby RMS swing mooring and who currently store their dinghy at the site will receive priority.

### 3.4 **Inappropriately Stored & Unregistered Water Craft**

As part of implementing the SWCSS, a process for dealing with inappropriately stored and unregistered water craft will be developed. By focusing on informing and educating people storing/wanting to store their water craft on public land, and by issuing warnings and/or infringement notices (as relevant) for non-compliance, it is hoped that removal of water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land by Council is rarely necessary.

Council's primary concern and obligation is ensuring that the general public can safely and conveniently access and use public open space on the foreshore. It is proposed generally, that Council will negotiate with owners of small water craft to overcome particular problems and issues that may develop at various sites from time to time. Removal of small water craft by Council is likely to be a last resort, and will only occur if the owner does not attend to the issues Council has raised within a reasonable period of time.

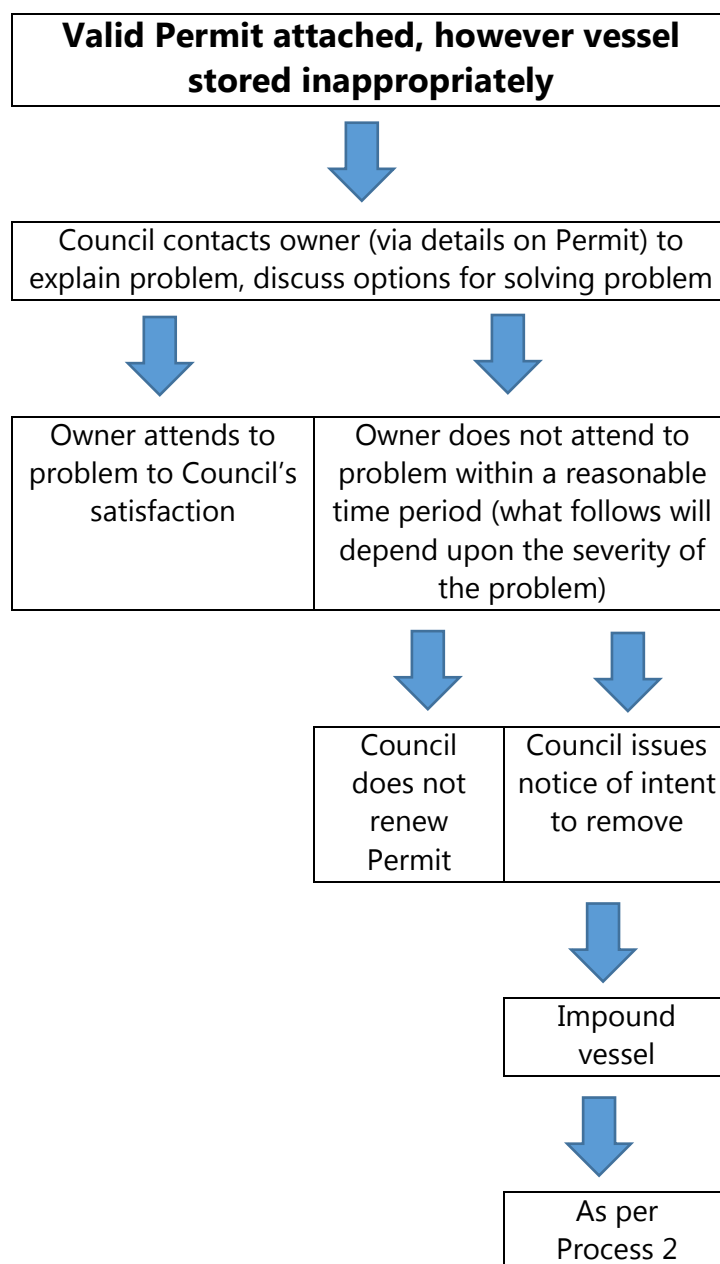
#### Process 1: Dealing with Inappropriately Stored Small Water Craft

Inappropriately stored water craft are those that have a valid Permit, but are:

- Damaging the foreshore environment (eg ropes attached to trees, soil compaction, erosion of existing paths and creation of new informal tracks and destruction of vegetation caused by dragging vessels to and from the water)
- Affecting safety and public access to the foreshore (for example the water craft are not stored in a compact, controlled and orderly manner)
- Not stored in the location specified on the Permit (note that any small water craft stored in a 'No-Storage Zone' as shown on **Maps A-H** will automatically be considered unauthorised, and Process 2 will apply)

The proposed process for dealing with Inappropriately stored small water craft is set out in **Table 5**: 'Process 1: Inappropriately Stored Small Water Craft'.

**Table 5** - Process 1: Inappropriately Stored Small Water Craft



Process 2: Dealing with Unauthorised Small Water Craft

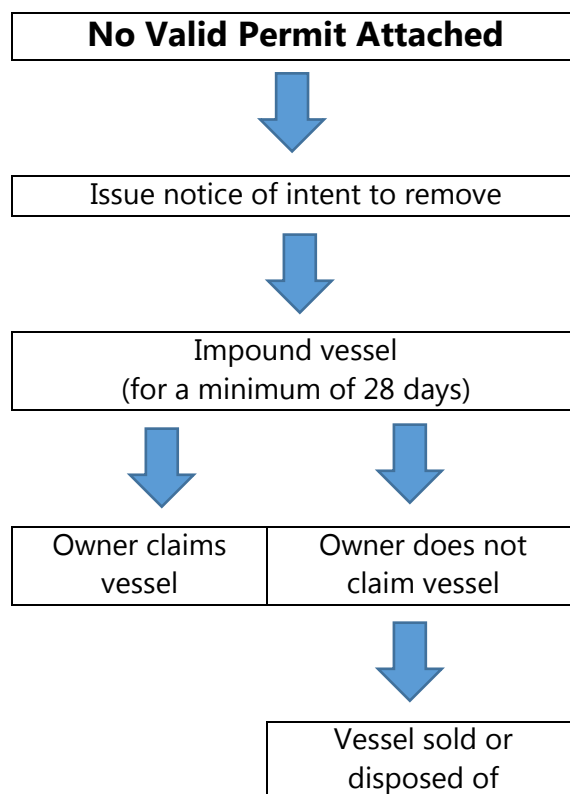
Unauthorised small water craft are those without a valid Permit affixed to them. Additionally, small water craft stored in designated 'No-Storage Zones' as shown on **Maps A-H** will automatically be considered unauthorised.

Owners of unauthorised small water craft currently stored on the foreshore will be encouraged to remove their vessels from public foreshore land voluntarily; removal of the water craft from the foreshore by Council, impounding and subsequent disposal or sale will be a last resort. Removal of water craft will not commence before extensive

stakeholder and community notification has been carried out, and until the registration process for water craft storage in Informal Storage Areas has been adopted by Council and is operational.

The proposed process for dealing with Inappropriately stored small water craft is set out in **Table 6**: 'Process 2: Unauthorised Small Water Craft'.

**Table 6** – Process 2: Unauthorised Small Water Craft



### 3.4.1 Enforcement

Council will install signage as required to control placement of water craft in Formal Storage Facilities and at Informal Storage Areas. Council has authorised officers (Rangers) who can enforce the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Impounding Act 1993 (see below).

Warnings will be issued to the owners of water craft for non-compliance with the relevant Acts, with the finalised SWCSS, or with any signs placed by Council, prior to action being taken:

- Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, infringement notices may be issued by Council in areas where relevant signage is present:  
*'A person who in a public place within the area of a council, fails to comply with the terms of a notice erected by the council is guilty of an offence',*
- Under the provisions of the *Impounding Act 1993*, Council may remove small water craft from public open space areas. Council must make all reasonable efforts to identify the owners of impounded vessels, and will notify owners (in writing) that their vessel has been impounded and will be sold or disposed of within a period of not less than 28 days if not claimed. The Act allows Council to charge owners who want their vessel back a 'release fee'.

### 3.5 Additional Sites for Formal Storage Facilities

There are a number of sites on Council owned or controlled land along the North Sydney foreshores that are capable of accommodating new Formal Storage Facilities. Note that many of these sites currently accommodate informally stored water craft.

Additional Formal Storage Facilities are needed to reduce overcrowding, foreshore clutter and damage to the foreshore. Potential locations are listed in order of most frequently suggested to least frequently suggested in **Table 7** – ‘Sites that may be able to accommodate new Formal Storage Facilities’. The Table also indicates whether the site currently offer Formal Storage Facilities (FSF) or functions as an Informal Storage Area (ISA).

**Table 7** – Sites that may be able to accommodate new Formal Storage Facilities

Note: Sites that currently accommodate small water craft have only been listed in this Table if they have the potential to accommodate additional Formal Storage Facilities.

	<b>Park or Reserve</b>	<b>Street Address</b>	<b>Existing Water Craft Storage</b>
1	Kurraba Reserve	Kurraba Reserve, Neutral Bay	FSF
2	Anderson Park	Kurraba Road, Neutral Bay	-
3	Milson Park	McDougall Street, North Sydney	-
4	Hayes St Foreshore**	Hayes Street, Neutral Bay	ISA
5	Ben Boyd Road Park	Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay	-
6	Sawmillers Reserve	Munro Street, McMahons Point	ISA
7	Boatbuilders Walk	Munro Street, McMahons Point	ISA
8	Spains Wharf Road Reserve	Spains Wharf Road, Neutral Bay	-
9	Primrose Park*	Matora Lane, off Young St, Cremorne	ISA
10	Cremorne Reserve*	Milson Road, Cremorne	ISA
11	Tunks Park*	Brothers Ave, Cammeray	FSF
12	King Street Road Reserve	King Street, Waverton	ISA
13	John Street Open Space	Western end John Street, Waverton	ISA
14	Dowling St Road Reserve	Off West Crescent St, McMahons Pt	ISA
15	Sugar Works Reserve*	Horace Street, Waverton	ISA
16	Kesterton Park	High Street, North Sydney	-
17	Berry Island Reserve*	Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft	-
18	Blues Point Reserve	Blues Point Road, McMahons Point	-
19	Balls Head Reserve*	Balls Head Drive, Waverton	ISA
20	Colindia Reserve	Peel Street, Kirribilli	-
21	Gore Cove Reserve*	Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft	FSF
22	Henry Lawson Reserve	Henry Lawson Avenue, McMahons Pt	-
23	Quibaree Park	Lavender Crescent, McMahons Point	FSF
24	Waverton Park*	Woolcott Avenue, Waverton	-

\* Denotes sites that are partially or fully zoned E2 – Environmental Conservation. Future storage facilities should be considered only in specified parts of these sites (refer Maps A – H), and further on-ground evaluation is required to confirm suitability. If suitable, strict controls will apply in these areas.

\*\* The foreshore at the western end of the Hayes Street Boardwalk is currently inaccessible due to the current poor condition of the boardwalk.

Note that further investigations will be required to assess the capability and suitability of each of the locations identified in **Table 7**, and to determine an appropriate priority order for carrying out new construction works. The site assessments will consider:

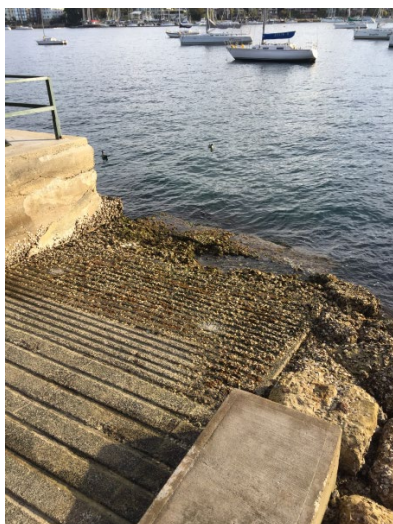
- Main type of small water craft requiring storage in the area
- Length of small water craft that could be accommodated (in some instances, it may be appropriate to accommodate kayaks etc that are longer than 4.0 metres)
- Most appropriate type of storage facility (dinghy racks, kayak racks, tie-up points)
- Number of storage spaces that could reasonably be provided
- Ease of access to the water (are any remedial or new works needed?)
- Appropriate location of storage facility within the site
- Ease of access to the facility (parking/walking distance, steps etc)
- Amount and type of open space still available for general public recreation
- Visual amenity and views from surrounding properties
- Presence of items or sites of Aboriginal or European heritage significance

#### Short-term Provision of New Formal Storage Facilities

Following the removal of all water craft from Hayes Street Beach, Council is committed to providing alternative storage facilities in the vicinity. There is a particular need to assist those who need to access nearby RMS swing moorings.

The SWCSS – Discussion Paper identified Kurraba Reserve and the foreshore at the western end of Hayes Street boardwalk as potential storage locations. However, since the Discussion Paper was prepared, access to the foreshore area beyond the Hayes Street boardwalk has been cut off (due to structural issues with the boardwalk), and a rock fall at Kurraba Reserve has meant plans for additional Formal Storage Facilities at this location have had to be put on hold.

The required stabilisation works at Kurraba Reserve will be undertaken in the 2018/19 financial year, and a temporary Formal Storage Structure has been installed in the Reserve in the interim. Following the completion of the stabilisation works, new, low-key kayak and dinghy storage facilities will be installed. This future storage will be as unobtrusive as possible, tucked against the embankment, while still being convenient to the launching site. The amount and type of storage required will be assessed prior to proceeding with this project.



Existing launching ramp for small water craft at Kurraba Reserve, Neutral Bay

Council has also allocated funding to upgrade the boat ramp at Kurraba Reserve in the short term, to provide easier access to the Harbour for people launching small water craft. Many submissions on the Discussion Paper and the Draft SWCSS pointed out that the current ramp is too short (particularly at low tide), and that rubber matting and other measures such as handrails are required to make it easier to use. The need for Council to regularly remove oysters from the ramp was also noted.



The small beach at the western end of Hayes Street boardwalk is pictured, left. The area above the high water mark is owned by Council, and small water craft have been stored here, informally, in the past.

However, the recent closure of the boardwalk due to structural concerns means this location is not a short term option for small water craft storage.

Following repair of the boardwalk (which will make the site accessible again), work to enable easier access to the water for small craft stored here will also be required. In the past, users have had to lift their water craft up and down the seawall. The small craft launching aids shown in the photographs below show several ways in which this may be achieved.



### 3.5.1 Type of Storage Facilities

It is also important to consider what type of Formal Storage Facilities are required at each site. A quick inspection of the type of water craft currently stored at a site (kayaks, dinghies, SUP's or a combination) will generally indicate what is required. Storing small water craft in any of the following types of Formal Storage Facilities reduces the amount of public land occupied by the water craft, and makes access easier:

1) Vertical 'toast' racks (particularly suited to dinghy storage)



Folly Point



Pittwater



Narabeen Lakes



2) Vertical 'stacked' racks (particularly suited to storing light-weight craft such as kayaks, canoes and SUP's)





3) Horizontal Storage (tie-up points are most suitable for dinghies)



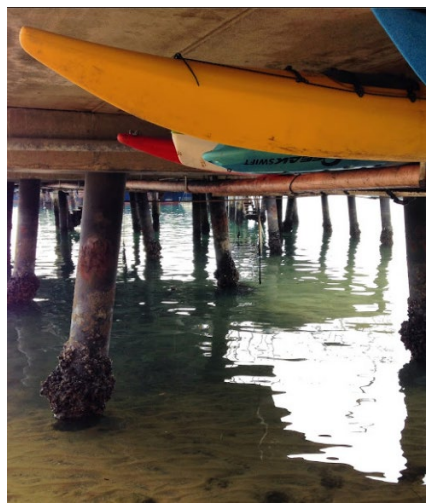
Lake Macquarie



Watsons Bay

4) Other Options

Other options such as under-wharf or below-boardwalk storage may be feasible in some locations



### 3.6 Other Water-based Recreation Opportunities & Issues

Submissions on the Discussion Paper and the Draft SWCSS suggested additional ways in which Council could expand its involvement with the harbour community, and encourage increased participation in water-based recreation. The suggestions that follow are listed for investigation in Section 4 of this Strategy - 'Action Plan'. Some of these actions may be initiated and facilitated by the community, others by Council:

- Establish a kayak-share operation
- Establish affordable kayak, canoe and/or SUP-hiring facilities, possibly in conjunction with a community organisation or charity
- Investigate whether any storage sites (formal or informal) have the potential to provide short term (overnight) accommodation for small water craft, and whether such an arrangement would be desirable and/or feasible
- Advocate for and facilitate use of the waterfront for events, in conjunction with the boating community and clubs
- Establish a 'work-berth' on the foreshore that could be rented by people wanting to carry out boat repairs and maintenance, particularly on older boats
- Establish a Centre for Sustainable Boating (similar and complementary to the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability)

The opportunity to provide storage facilities for small water craft and a well-designed launching ramp as part of the redevelopment and adaptive reuse of the Quarantine Depot in Berrys Bay was mentioned as a 'visionary' objective.

There is also a need to have useful information about water-based recreation facilities and opportunities in North Sydney available on Council's website. Information is needed on a range of topics, including:

- Existing Formal Storage Facilities (location, description of facilities, annual fees, waiting lists, etc)
- Existing Informal Storage Sites (location, description of facilities, annual fees, waiting lists etc)
- The location of other facilities associated with water-based recreation including boat ramps, boat-trailer parking, wharves, beaches, fish-cleaning benches, outdoor showers etc
- How to apply for a Permit to store a small water craft on public foreshore land
- Clubs and organisations involved in water-based activities
- Opportunities for volunteering (such as 'Harbourcare')
- Links to other related subjects (for example 'Walk North Sydney' maps, Harbour Foreshore Bushwalk Guide etc)

#### 4.0 ACTION PLAN

Note: All actions are considered for implementation (in order of priority as set out in the following Table) as part of Council's annual Delivery Planning Process. Time frames for implementation may alter due to a variety of factors including the availability of funds and other Council priorities.

##### Time Frames

CP – Complete	ST – Short Term (1 year)	MT – Medium Term (1-3 years)	LT – Long Term (4+ years)	O - Ongoing
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Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Informal Storage Areas	To plan for the informal storage of authorised small water craft in appropriate locations around the North Sydney foreshores.	Identify existing Informal Storage Areas, together with other sections of public foreshore land that may be able to accommodate informally stored water craft.	Refer Maps A – H. The Maps show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council's foreshore parks and reserves</li> <li>- Existing Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas</li> <li>- Proposed No-Storage Zones</li> <li>- Foreshore areas that may be suitable for (formal or informal) small water craft storage in the future</li> </ul>	CP
	To collect information about Council's existing Informal Storage Areas, to assist with planning for the future.	Inspect all existing Informal Storage Areas to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current number of small water craft stored at each site</li> <li>- How many of the water craft are dinghies/kayaks/other</li> <li>- How many of the currently stored vessels do not meet Council's definition of 'authorised' (too long/type of craft etc)</li> <li>- Whether there are any abandoned or unseaworthy craft</li> </ul>	Note that the definition of 'authorised' may vary from site to site in future if investigations reveal that it is possible and desirable to accommodate kayaks that are longer than 4.0 meters at selected sites.	ST

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Informal Storage Areas (cont)		Determine feasibility of constructing Formal Storage Facilities in areas where small water craft are currently stored informally.	Constructing new Formal Storage Facilities (such as toaster-style racks or vertically stacked racks) will reduce overcrowding as they have a smaller 'footprint' on the land than informally stored water craft.	ST-MT
		Determine what type of Formal Storage Facility is most suitable, and how many small water craft could and should be accommodated.	This would generally be based on the type of water craft currently stored there (most commonly dinghies or kayaks). The type of facility required (ie dinghy racks, kayak racks, tie up points, other) will also depend on the size, shape and features of the site.	ST-MT
		If a Formal Storage Facility cannot be provided, determine how many (if any) informally stored small water craft the site can suitably accommodate.	I.e. how many Permits should be issued for the site. The new facilities may or may not accommodate the number of small water craft currently stored at the site.	ST-MT
		Require all dinghies associated with RMS swing moorings to have license details attached to their water craft (in addition to a Council-issued Permit).	License details must be clear and legible.	ST-MT

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Informal Storage Areas (cont)		Install signs as required to control placement and location of water craft, and to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.	Council has authorised officers (Rangers) who can issue infringement notices under the provisions of the Local Government Act. Rangers carry out regular patrols of public spaces, including public roads, parklands, beaches and bushland reserves. Note that enforcement measures will not commence until the new registration process for water craft has been adopted by Council, and is fully operational.	MT-O

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Formal Storage Facilities	To plan for the storage of authorised small water craft in Formal Storage Facilities around the North Sydney foreshores.	Identify existing Formal Storage Facilities, together with other sections of public foreshore land that may be able to accommodate Formal Storage Facilities.	Refer Maps A – H. The Maps show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council’s foreshore parks and reserves</li> <li>- Existing Formal Storage Facilities and Informal Storage Areas</li> <li>- Proposed No-Storage Zones</li> <li>- Foreshore areas that may be suitable for (formal or informal) small water craft storage in the future</li> </ul>	ST
	To collect information about Council’s existing Formal Storage Facilities, to assist with planning for the future.	Inspect all existing Formal Storage Facilities to confirm or determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current number of small water craft stored at each site</li> <li>- How many of the water craft are dinghies/kayaks/other</li> <li>- How many of the currently stored vessels do not meet Council’s definition of ‘authorised’ (too long/type of craft etc)</li> <li>- Whether there are any abandoned or unseaworthy craft</li> </ul>	Note that the definition of ‘authorised’ may vary from site to site in future if investigations reveal that it is possible and desirable to accommodate kayaks that are longer than 4.0 meters.	ST
		Require all dinghies associated with RMS swing moorings to have license details attached to their water craft (in addition to a Council-issued Permit).	License details must be clear and legible.	ST-MT

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Formal Storage Facilities (cont)	To provide additional Formal Storage Facilities for small water craft around the North Sydney foreshore.	Identify potential locations where Council could install additional purpose-built Formal Storage Facilities for water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney. (Refer Issue: Informal Storage Areas).	Potential locations are listed in <b>Table 7</b> . Although requiring capital to construct and maintain, Council is committed to providing additional Formal Storage Facilities to assist people wishing to participate in water-based recreation.	CP
		Assess the identified locations and prioritise them.	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate location of Formal Storage Facility within the site</li> <li>- Ease of getting water craft from the Facility to the water and vice versa</li> <li>- Ease of access to the Facility (parking/walking distance, steps etc)</li> <li>- Main type of small water craft requiring storage in the area (will determine most appropriate type of storage facility)</li> <li>- Number of water craft storage spaces that could reasonably be provided</li> <li>- Amount and type of open space still available for general public recreation</li> <li>- Visual amenity and views from surrounding properties, areas</li> <li>- Presence of items or sites of Aboriginal or European heritage significance</li> </ul>	ST
		Consult with the local community and other stakeholders prior to the installation of new Formal Storage Facilities and consider all feedback.		ST-O

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Formal Storage Facilities (cont)		Seek grant funding to assist with construction of new Formal Storage Facilities.	Pursue potential sources of funding, including RMS.	ST-O
		Commence program of constructing new Formal Storage Facilities on Council-owned or controlled foreshore land.	New facilities should be constructed in identified order of priority.	MT-O
		Construct additional Formal Storage Facilities in Kurraba Reserve.	Funding for the construction of new Formal Storage Facilities in Kurraba Reserve project has been allocated in Council's current Delivery Program. Construction will occur following the repair of the embankment.	ST/MT
		Install signs as required to control placement and location of water craft, and to facilitate implementation of the Strategy.	Council's authorised officers (Rangers) can issue infringement notices under the provisions of the Local Government Act. Rangers regularly patrol public spaces, including roads, parklands, beaches and bushland reserves. Enforcement measures will not commence until the new registration process for water craft has been adopted by Council, and is fully operational. (Refer Section 3.3).	MT-O
		Revisit the need for additional Formal Storage Facilities once several new facilities have been constructed.	Consider the current length of waiting lists at all small water craft storage areas, and any feedback received from the community.	LT



Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Registration of Private Water Craft Stored on Public Foreshore Land	To ensure all private water craft stored on public foreshore land in North Sydney are registered.	Require all water craft owners wishing to hire storage space on public foreshore land in North Sydney to apply for and obtain a Permit.	Permits are currently only required by owners who store their small water craft in Formal Storage Facilities.	ST-MT
		Review Council's existing registration process and Permit system for Formal Storage Facilities.	The current system (whereby water craft owners hiring storage space in one of Council's Formal Storage Facilities are required to apply for and obtain a Permit), will continue to operate at all Formal Storage Facilities until the review is complete and the findings have been reported to and adopted by Council.	ST
		Review existing fees for storage of water craft in Council's Formal Storage Facilities.	Annual fees vary from facility to facility. Fees are currently charged at all Formal Storage Facilities with the exception of Kurraba Reserve and Gore Cove Reserve (tie-up racks and associated small water craft stored in Gore Cove are located on RMS land).	ST

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Registration of Private Water Craft Stored on Public Foreshore Land (cont)		Develop a registration process and Permit system for people wishing to hire space to store small water craft in Informal Storage Areas.	In future, all people wishing to store small water craft in Informal Storage Areas must obtain approval from Council in the form of a Permit. The location of the storage will be included on the Permit, and the Permit is only valid if the water craft is stored in the correct location. The current arrangement (no fees/no permits required) will continue to operate until a registration process has been developed and adopted by Council.	ST
		Introduce fees for the hiring of space to store small water craft in Informal Storage Areas.	Refer Section 3.3 for further details. Fee levels will generally be set to cover Council's costs to administer the registration and Permit process only. As a guide, fees for storing water craft in Informal Storage Areas will be considerably less than those for Formal Storage Facilities. Charging fees encourages people to relinquish unneeded storage space; reducing overcrowding and visual clutter and freeing up space for other owners of small water craft who wish to store their vessels on the Harbour foreshore.	ST-MT
		Implement the new registration process and Permit system for storage of authorised water craft in Informal Storage Areas.	Refer Section 3.3 for further details.	MT-O

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Inappropriately Stored & Unregistered Water Craft	To remove or relocate inappropriately stored small water craft on public foreshore land in North Sydney.	Develop a process for relocating or removing small water craft that are inappropriately stored on publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	(Refer Section 3.4 for more details about what constitutes 'inappropriate' storage). Generally, Council will negotiate with owners of small water craft to overcome particular problems. 'Relocation' may involve moving vessels to another part of the site, or simply storing them in a more compact and orderly manner. Removal of the small water craft will only occur if the owner does not attend to the issues Council has raised within a reasonable period of time. (The definition of 'reasonable' will vary, depending upon the severity of the issue, but will never be less than 28 days).	ST
		Respond to reports from the public regarding storage of small water craft on publicly-owned foreshore land.	Members of the public may report issues to Council at any time. Follow up inspections may be carried out by Staff from Council's Parks Department or Bushland Management Team in the first instance (if water craft storage is on land zoned E2 Environmental Conservation), or by Council Rangers. Any formal action that is required (such as issuing compliance notices) will be carried out by Council Rangers.	ST-O

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Inappropriately Stored & Unregistered Water Craft	To remove unregistered small water craft from public foreshore land in North Sydney.	Develop a process for removing unauthorised water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	(Unauthorised water craft are those without a valid Permit attached, or any water craft stored in a 'No-Storage Zone', as shown on Maps A-H). Council will issue a notice of 'intent to remove', however, owners of unauthorised small water craft will be encouraged to remove their vessels, as Council does not have facilities to store significant numbers of impounded water craft. Removal, impounding and subsequent disposal or sale of water craft by Council will be a last resort.	ST
		Commence removal of unauthorised water craft from publicly-owned foreshore land in North Sydney.	Removal of any water craft in accordance with this Strategy will not commence until: - The registration process for water craft storage in Informal Storage Areas has been adopted by Council - Community and other stakeholder notification and education regarding Council's new procedures and processes has been undertaken	ST-O
		Investigate the feasibility and practicality of requiring people wishing to hire space to store their small water craft on public foreshore land to pay a deposit, refundable upon removal of the water craft at the end of the hire period.	Potentially losing their deposit may encourage people who were considering 'abandoning' their water craft at the end of the hire period to remove it from the foreshore.	ST

Issue	Objective	Action	Comments	Time Frame
Other Water-based Recreation Opportunities & Issues	To increase community awareness of water-based recreation opportunities in North Sydney.	Update Council's website to include a dedicated section on Water-Based Recreation in North Sydney.	<p>The website will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information about Council's existing storage facilities for small water craft, eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Fees</li> <li>• Impounding Information</li> <li>• Location of Storage Facilities</li> <li>• A brief description of any significant features at each storage site</li> <li>• Online Permit Application Form</li> <li>• Waiting List information and Online Application Form</li> <li>• Process to Relinquish Storage</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Information about public boat ramps, public wharves, fish-cleaning benches etc</li> <li>- Information about opportunities for participation in water-based recreation activities</li> </ul>	ST
		<p>Develop a brochure explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what is an authorised water craft</li> <li>- how to apply for a Permit to store a small water craft on the foreshore in North Sydney</li> <li>- location of and facilities at each of Council's Formal and Informal Storage Sites</li> <li>- why it is important to store small water craft appropriately</li> <li>- the likely results of non-compliance</li> </ul>	<p>Brochure will be available on Council's website, and will also be distributed to known stakeholders include existing Permit holders, all new Permit holders, when their Permit is issued) and people on waiting lists.</p>	ST-MT

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Other Water-based Recreation Opportunities & Issues (cont)	To expand Council's involvement with the harbour community.	Explore opportunities to expand Council's involvement with the harbour community as they arise.	<p>Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing kayak and canoe-share facilities/schemes</li> <li>- Establishing a SUP rental facility</li> <li>- Establishing a swimming pontoon at Hayes Street Beach</li> <li>- Greater use of foreshore areas for events</li> <li>- Establishment of a 'Centre for Sustainable Boating' to complement the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability</li> <li>- Considering the feasibility and desirability of providing short term (overnight) accommodation at selected storage sites</li> <li>- Working with the boating community (eg sailing clubs) and other organisations (eg schools) to encourage greater community involvement in water-based activities</li> </ul>	ST-O

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Monitoring of Management Systems	To foster community understanding of and compliance with the final SWCSS.	Make the final SWCSS available on Council's website.	Supporting information including links to relevant Council reports will also be available.	ST
	To ensure the SWCSS remains current and relevant.	Review the SWCSS regularly to ensure the stated objectives are being met and that implementation is on track.	The first review will occur 2 years after adoption of the Strategy.	MT

## 5.0 MAPS

**MAP 1** - MAP OF THE NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL AREA



## 5.1 Map Information

Maps A–H on the following pages show all parks and reserves on the North Sydney foreshore that are either owned or managed by North Sydney Council. The zoning of these parks and reserves (either RE1 Public Recreation or E2 Environmental Conservation) is also shown. More details about land zoned 'E2 Environmental Conservation' and 'RE1 Public Recreation' are available in **Appendix 1 - Zoning**

Maps A–H locate Council's existing Formal Storage Facilities and the existing Informal Storage Areas. Parks and reserves where only a small number of water craft are currently stored informally (generally less than 5) are not marked on the Maps. Note that the number of permits that will be issued in the future for each Informal Storage Area will vary from location to location, depending upon the number of small water craft that can be accommodated before problems of overcrowding and alienation of public open space occur.

Maps A-H also identify parks and reserves which may be able to accommodate new (or additional) Formal Storage Facilities in the future. Note that only a small part of a park or reserve so identified may actually be suitable for this purpose.

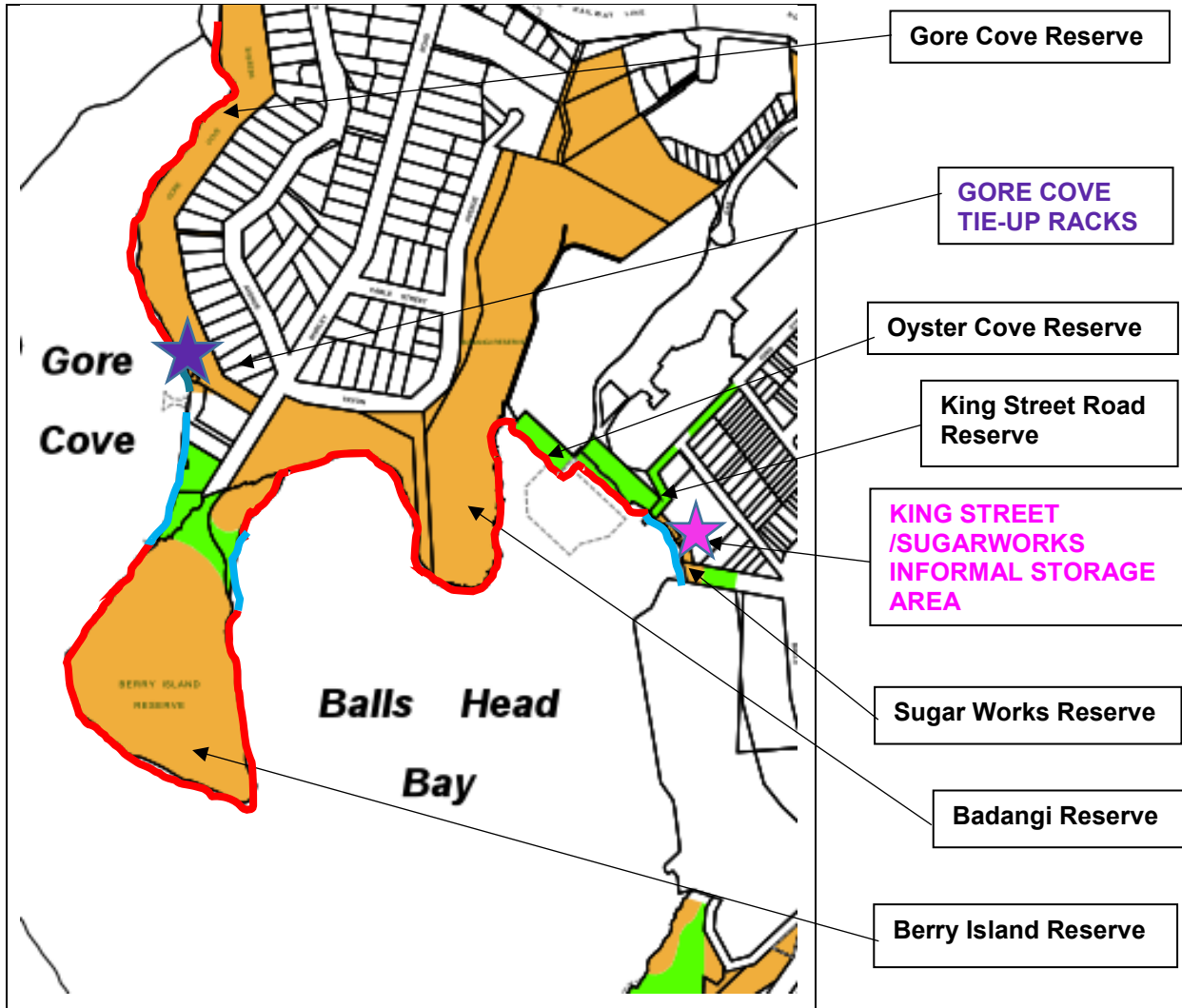
Some (parts of) parks and reserves are shown as proposed No-Storage Zones on Maps A-H. It is proposed to prohibit storage of small water craft in these areas for a variety of reasons including environmental sensitivity, topography and lack of accessibility.





KEY MAP

MAP A



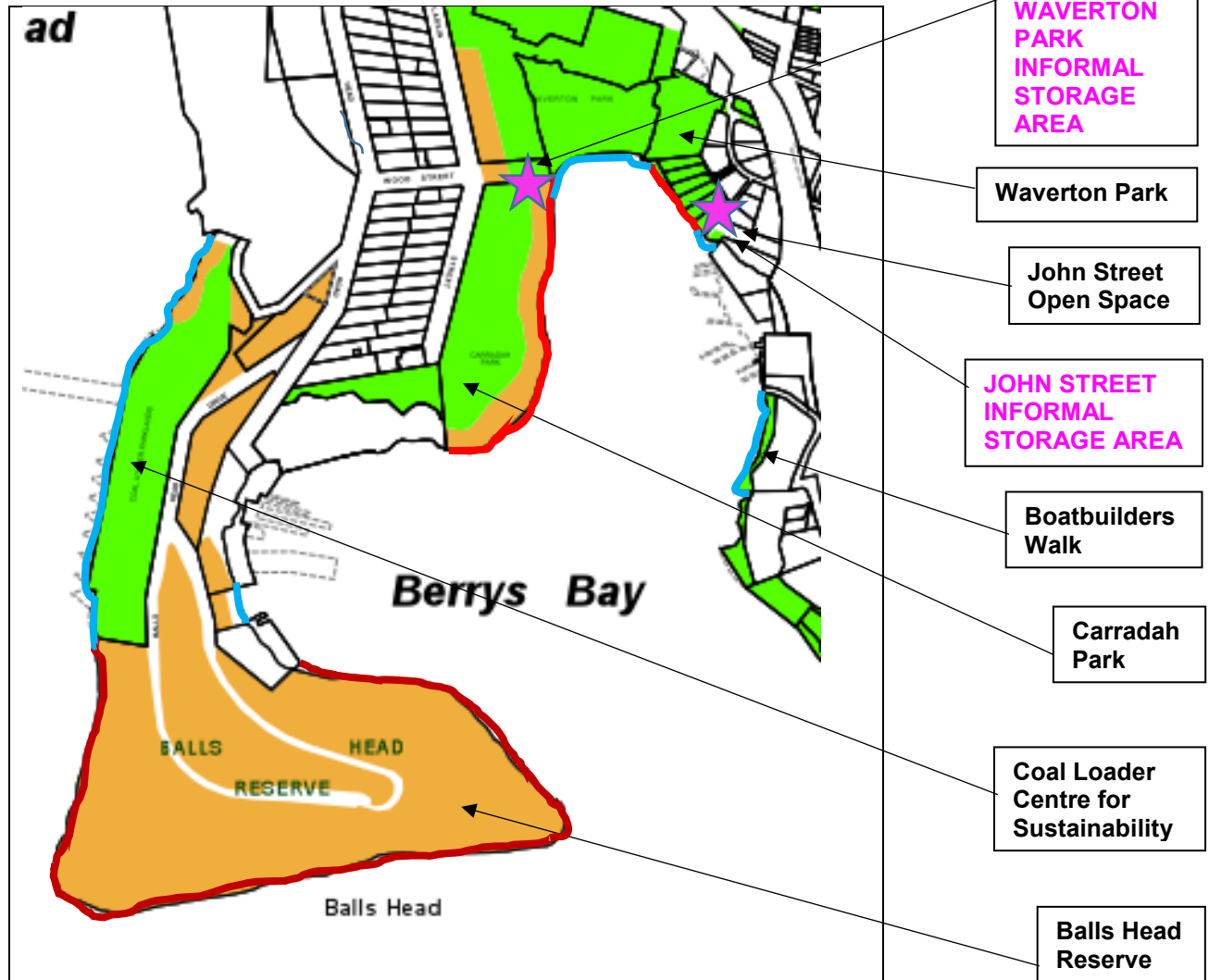
KEY

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



KEY MAP

MAP B



Note: In future there may be opportunities for boats to tie up at the Coal Loader waterfront, however no permanent storage facilities for small water craft are planned for the site at this time

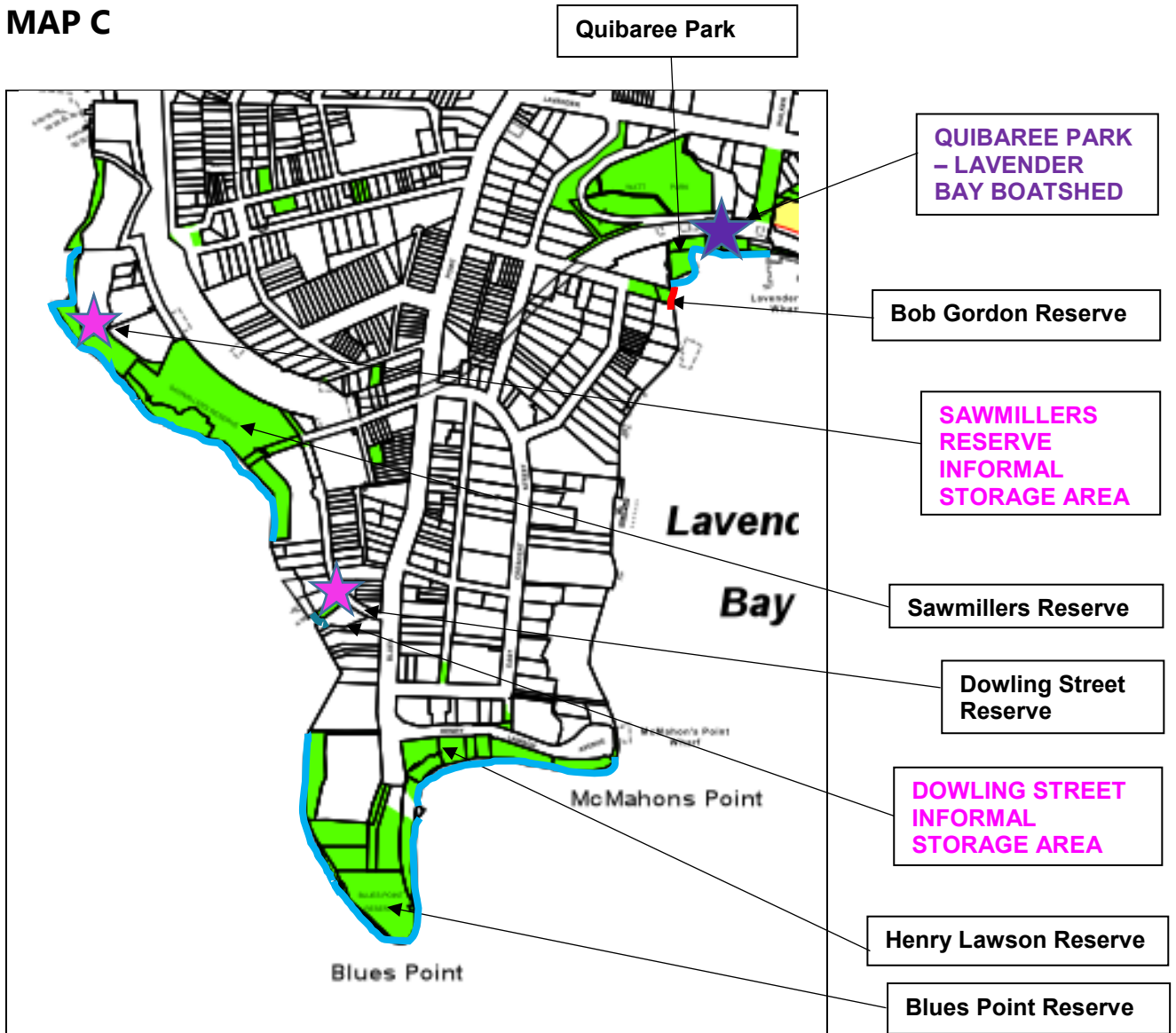
**KEY**

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



KEY MAP

MAP C



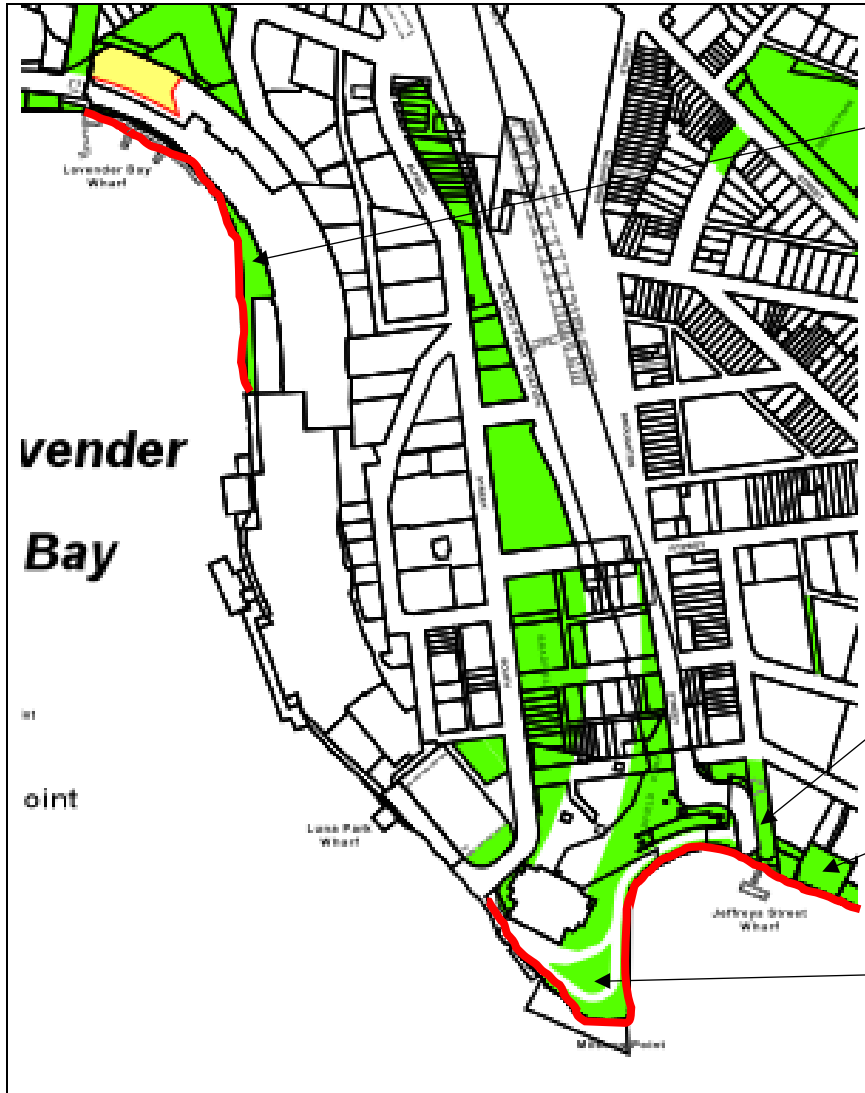
KEY

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



KEY MAP

MAP D



Lavender Bay Foreshore

Copes Lookout

Captain Henry Waterhouse Reserve

Bradfield Park

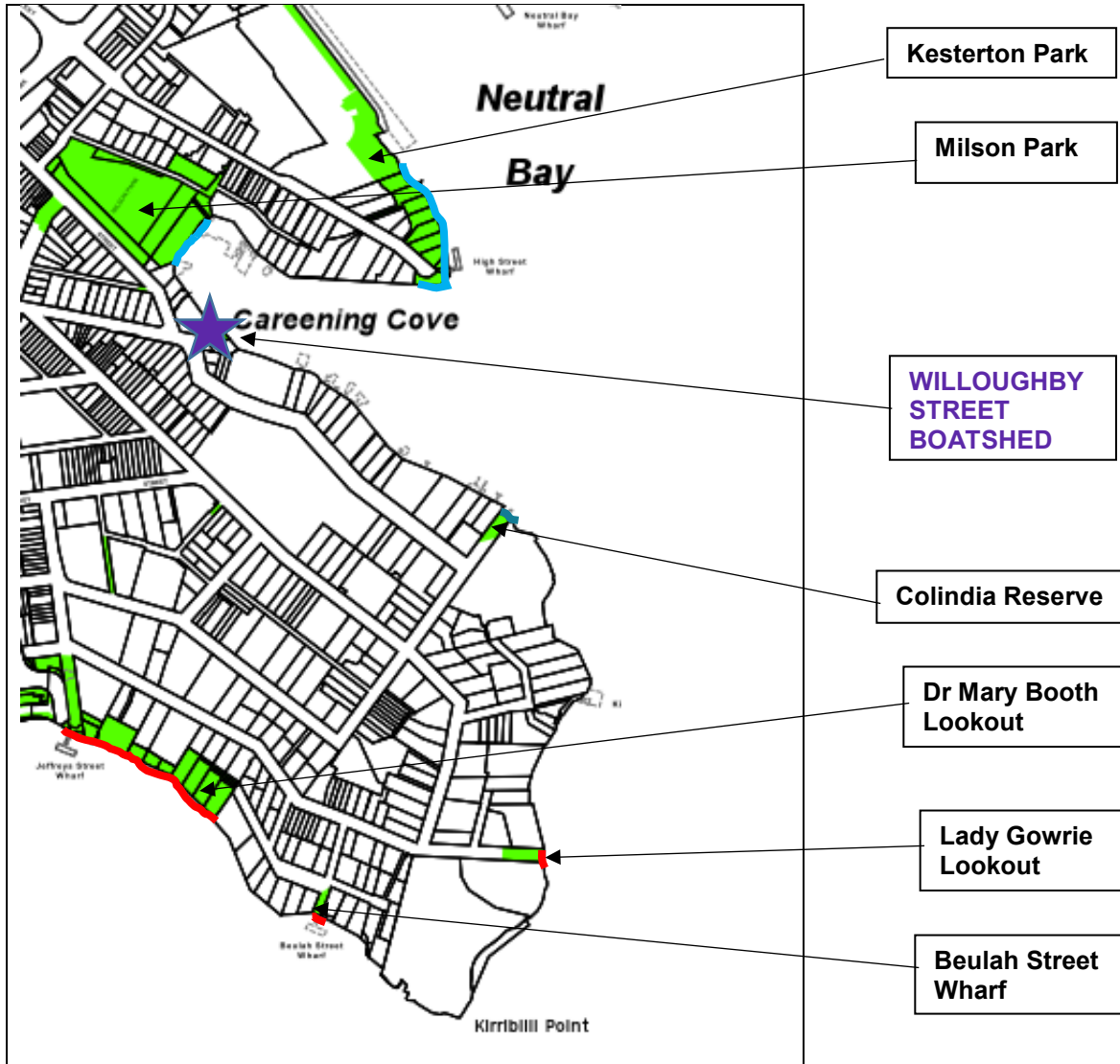
KEY

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



KEY MAP

MAP E



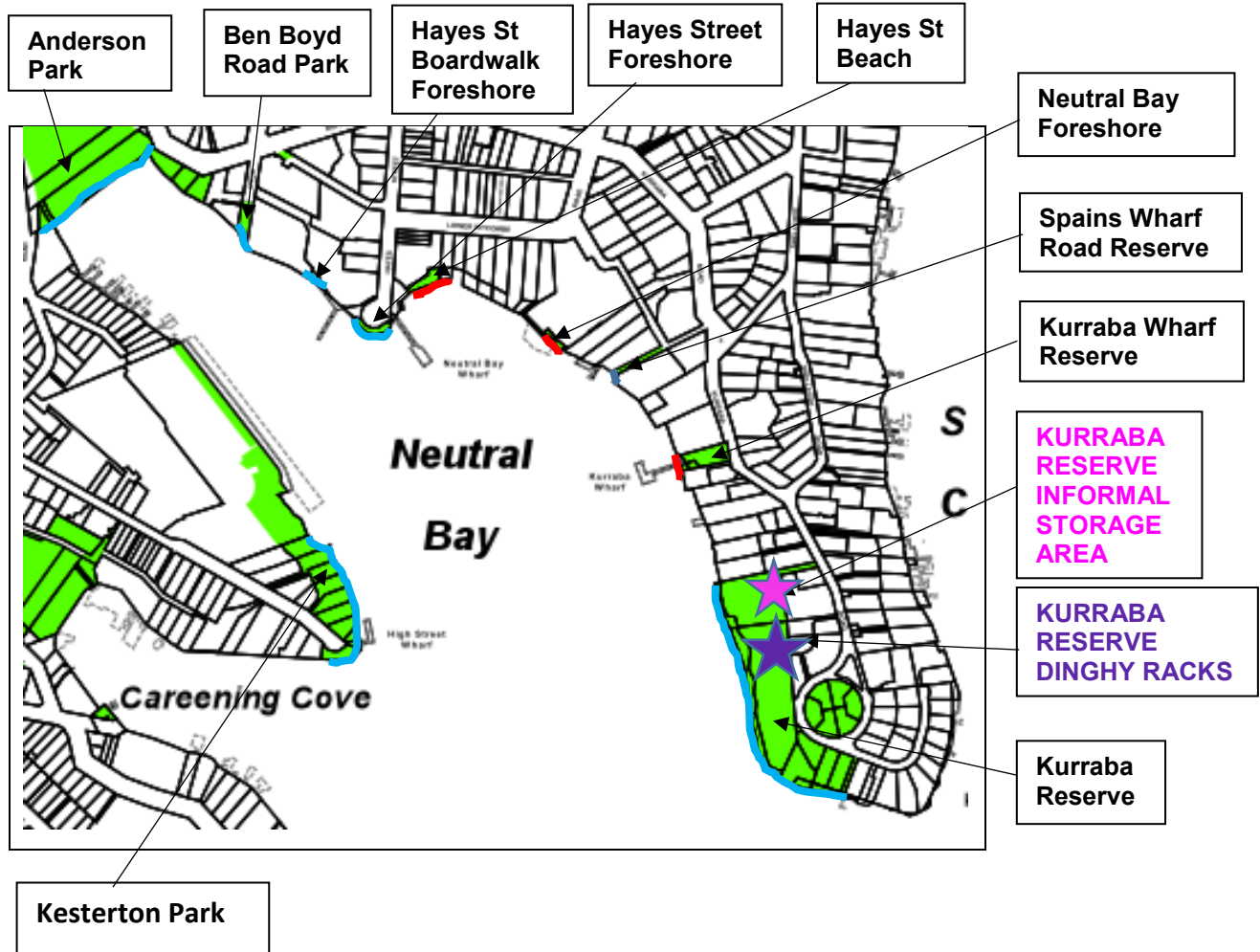
KEY

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



KEY MAP

**MAP F**



Note:

The foreshore area at the western end of the Hayes St boardwalk is owned by Council. It has hosted informally stored craft in the past, and may do so again in the future. It is currently inaccessible due to the poor condition of the boardwalk.

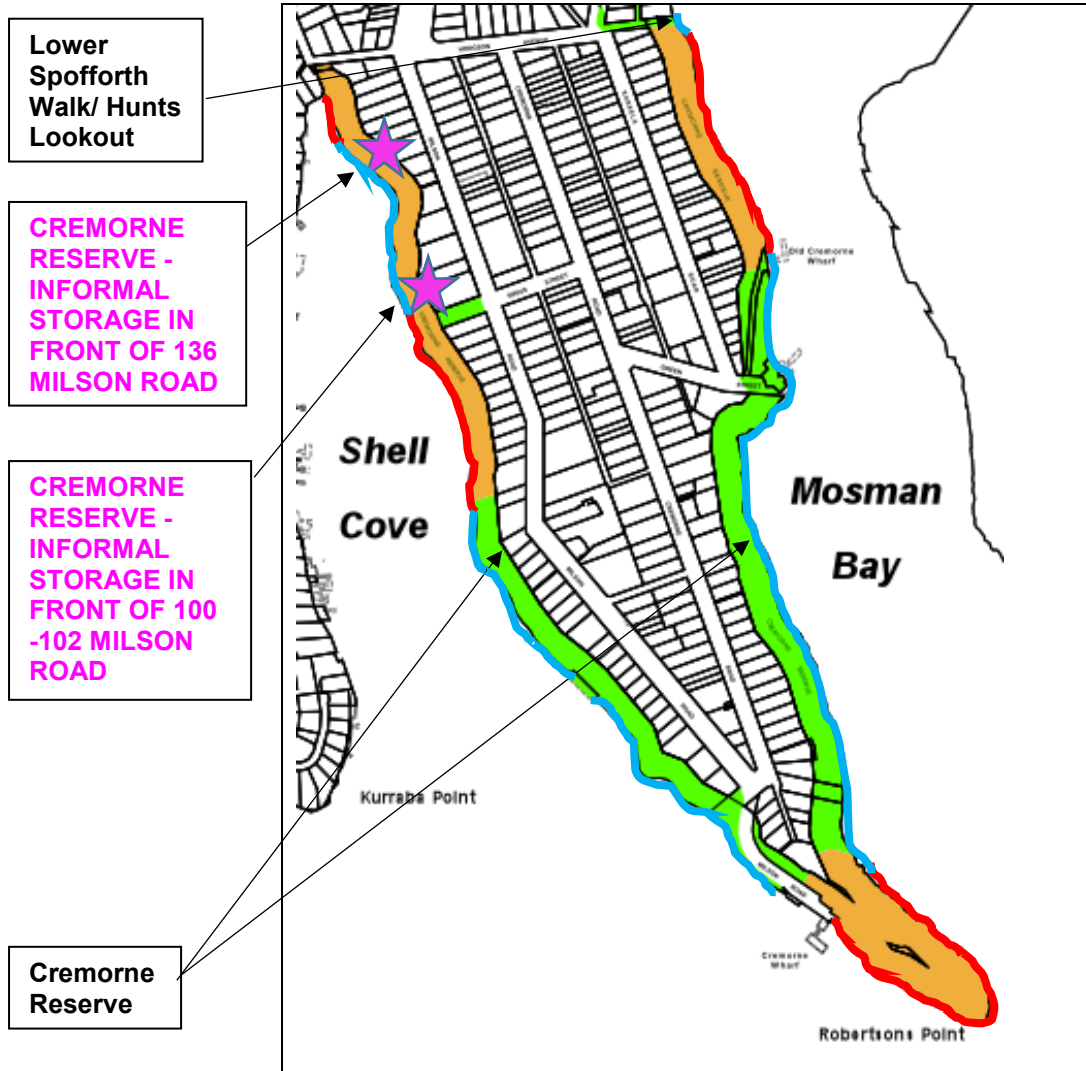
**KEY**

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



KEY MAP

**MAP G**



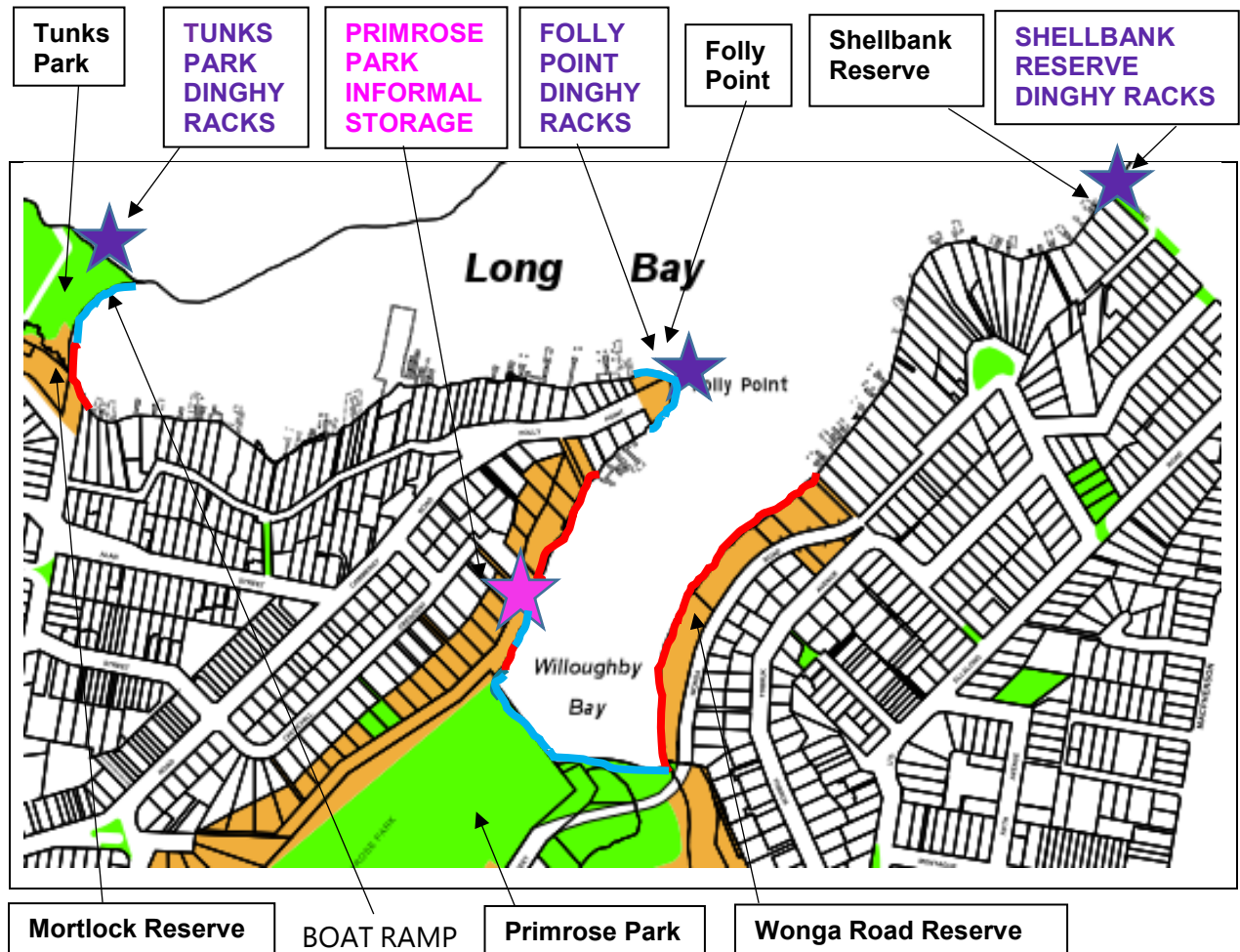
**KEY**

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	<b>RE1 Public Recreation</b> <b>E2 Environmental Conservation</b>
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	<b>Formal Storage Facilities</b> ★ <b>Informal Storage Areas</b> ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	<b>Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities</b> <b>No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage</b>



KEY MAP

MAP H



KEY

Foreshore Parks & Reserves - Zoning	RE1 Public Recreation E2 Environmental Conservation
Existing Water Craft Storage Areas	Formal Storage Facilities ★ Informal Storage Areas ★
Proposed Water Craft Storage Areas	Foreshore may be able to accommodate new or additional Formal Storage Facilities No-Storage Zone – foreshore unsuitable for small water craft storage



## 6.0 APPENDICES

### 6.1 Appendix 1 - Zoning

#### Zone E2 Environmental Conservation

##### 1. Objectives of the Zone

- To protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values.
- To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values.
- To protect and preserve bushland to provide representation of the natural state and to enable existing animal and plant communities to survive in the long term.
- To allow, where appropriate, for low-impact recreational opportunities, which will protect the value of bushland.

##### 2. Permitted without consent

Environmental Conservation works

##### 3. Permitted with consent

Environmental facilities; Roads

##### 4. Prohibited

Business premises; Hotel or motel accommodation; Industries; Multi dwelling housing; Recreation facilities (major); Residential flat buildings; Restricted premises; Retail premises; Seniors housing; Service stations; Warehouse or distribution centres; Any other development not specified in item 2 or 3

#### Zone RE1 Public Recreation

##### 1. Objectives of the Zone

The particular objectives of this zone are to:

- 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.
- To ensure sufficient public recreation areas are available for the benefit and use of residents of, and visitors to, North Sydney.

##### 2. Permitted without consent

Environmental protection works.

##### 3. Permitted with consent

Building identification signs; Business identification signs; Community facilities; Environmental facilities; Information and education facilities; Kiosks; Recreation areas; Recreation facilities (outdoor); Roads; Water recreation structures.

##### 4. Prohibited

Any development not specified in item 2 or 3.

*Source:* North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013

## **6.2 Appendix 2 - References & Further Reading**

Maritime Infrastructures & Boat Storage in Manly LGA - Baseline Report, 2011, Manly Council

Council Policy - Dinghy Management, 2014, Lake Macquarie City Council

Dinghy & Water craft Storage in Council Open Space Policy, 2011, Leichhardt Municipal Council

Regulating Foreshore Boat Storage, 14 August 2012 (presentation), Woollahra Municipal Council

Water Craft Storage on Public Land Policy, 2007, Woollahra Municipal Council

Dinghy Storage (Information from Pittwater Council ((Northern Beaches Council)) website)

Transport for NSW, Draft Sydney Harbour Boat Storage Strategy April 2013, NSW Government

Dinghies & Other Water Craft Management Policy, 2014, Sutherland Shire Council

Dinghy Storage Management Plan, 2014, City of Nedlands

Local Government Act 1993

Crown Lands Act 2016

North Sydney Council Delivery Program 2018 – 2028

North Sydney Recreation Needs Study 2015

Local Environmental Plan, North Sydney Council 2013