



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



ANSON BAY RESERVE

2018 - 2028

DRAFT

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1 Introduction

1.1 Reserve Description

Anson Bay Reserve covers an area of 5.4471 hectares and is located on the north-western coast of Norfolk Island (Figure 1). The reserve includes part of the steep amphitheatre above Anson Bay, and the remainder of the land above the bay is Commonwealth land associated with the Cable Station.

The Reserve includes coastal cliffs, steep slopes, and Anson Bay beach, which is one of the few sandy beaches on the Island and is a popular location for surfing and body boarding. Mainly coastal vegetation is found on the cliffs, with good quality pine forest in the south and beach vegetation behind the beach in the north.

Pedestrian access to the beach is via a grassy vehicle track that winds through the Reserve down steep slopes from Anson Bay Road.



Figure 1: Anson Bay Reserve Location and Boundaries

1.2 Public Consultation and Planning Framework

Anson Bay Reserve was proclaimed a reserve under the Commons and Public Reserves Act 1936 on 4 February 1937 for the purposes of communication cable, landing, shipping and recreation.

The Reserve's boundaries were extended on 4 November 1999 to include the cliff top and picnic area (portion 110a[rem]), and a narrow coastal portion between Anson Bay and Selwyn reserves (portion 113d[rem]). The seaward boundary of the reserve extends to the high water mark.

The pedestrian and emergency service access track to Anson Bay beach traverses the coastal section of freehold portion 110c (west of Anson Bay Road).

The *Norfolk Island Plan 2002* states:

'The intent of the Conservation Zone is to:

(a) provide a very limited range of low intensity and low impact use or development opportunities in the areas under this zone that are considered to have very high natural and/or heritage conservation values;

(b) ensure that the areas within the Conservation Zone that have very high natural conservation values continue to provide the aesthetic backdrop for Norfolk Island and continue to provide the open space and wilderness habitat that is vital to life systems on the Island;

(c) include land between the Top of Cliff as shown on the Official Survey of Norfolk Island and the Mean High Water Mark. The areas under this zone are considered to have high natural conservation values; and

(d) ensure that the areas within the coastal portion of the Conservation Zone, to which the Coastal Environment Provisions apply in accordance with clause 9A, will be quarantined from built forms of use or development to ensure safety and to maintain cliff and foreshore stability.

The *Norfolk Island Plan 2002* also states:

'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 plan of management. 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 Plan of Management for Anson Bay Reserve was prepared in 2003. In 2017, the Plans of Management for all Norfolk Island Reserves were placed on public display, with an invitation to provide feedback to produce updated plans of management.

The following feedback was received specifically in relation to Anson Bay Reserve:

- Replanting is needed.
- Resolve whether *Euphorbia norfolkiana* or *Coprosma baueri* is present, and replant.
- Commercial activities should be limited to (a maximum of) two bus groups in the picnic area.
- Cultural significance issues around WWII post and management objectives.
- *Meryta latifolia* - important population of very rare tree.
- Weed invasion (e.g. Hawaiian Holly) is bad, particularly for sea birds.

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.

As part of the 2017 consultation process, the Public Reserves Advisory Committee, also undertook a survey on Cats on Norfolk Island. The information gathered from this survey is outlined in the Pest Animals section of this Plan of Management.

The Federal *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 many 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. Anson Bay Reserve is home to many threatened species recognised under the Act, and the management of the reserve needs to align with the Threatened Species Recovery Plan.

1.3 Heritage Listing

Anson Bay Reserve was listed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE) on 21 October 1980. The RNE was replaced on 1 January 2004 by a National Heritage List, which recognises and protects places of outstanding heritage to the nation, and the Commonwealth Heritage List, which includes Commonwealth owned or leased places of significant heritage value.¹

Anson Bay Reserve was included on the Norfolk Island Heritage List in 2002 and the Commonwealth Heritage list on 22 June 2004.

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/rne/index.html>

2 Significance of Anson Bay Reserve

Anson Bay Reserve has significant geological, biodiversity conservation, historical and landscape values. It provides opportunities for recreation and contains a number of significant native flora and fauna species.

The outstanding coastal scenery of Anson Bay is a major tourist attraction and is widely used in promotional material to demonstrate the intrinsic natural beauty of Norfolk Island. The high cliffs with impressive exposures of columnar basalt lava flows and colourful layers of volcanic ash and scoria are visually and geologically interesting.

The forest in Anson Bay and Selwyn Reserves, and surrounding private land, represents one of the best quality coastal forests remaining on the island. Two endangered plants occur in Anson Bay Reserve in good numbers, Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*) and Coastal Coprosma (*Coprosma baueri*), several other significant flora species are also present (see Section 2.2.1) and the forest is mostly weed free.

The beach dunes, a strand habitat with restricted distribution on Norfolk Island, also contain rare and uncommon plants. The continued survival in the wild of some of Norfolk Island's rarest plants depends on the conservation of coastal beach and cliff habitats. The coastal cliffs also provide important breeding habitat for seabirds.

A historically significant World War II gun emplacement/observation post is situated on low coastal cliffs near the southern boundary of the reserve (on former portion 113d[rem]).

2.1 Geology and Landform

The reserve is dominated by the coastal cliffs and steep slopes that rise about 100m from the shore to the plateau (Figure 2). The sloping, massive basalt lava flows exposed along the cliffs below the picnic area cooled slowly to form impressive vertical columns (Figure 3). The dark grey/black basalt flows are overlain and interleaved in places by massive layers of pale yellow volcanic ash and purple to red mixtures of ash and scoria, a visible record of different eruptions when the island was an active volcano 2 - 3 million years ago.

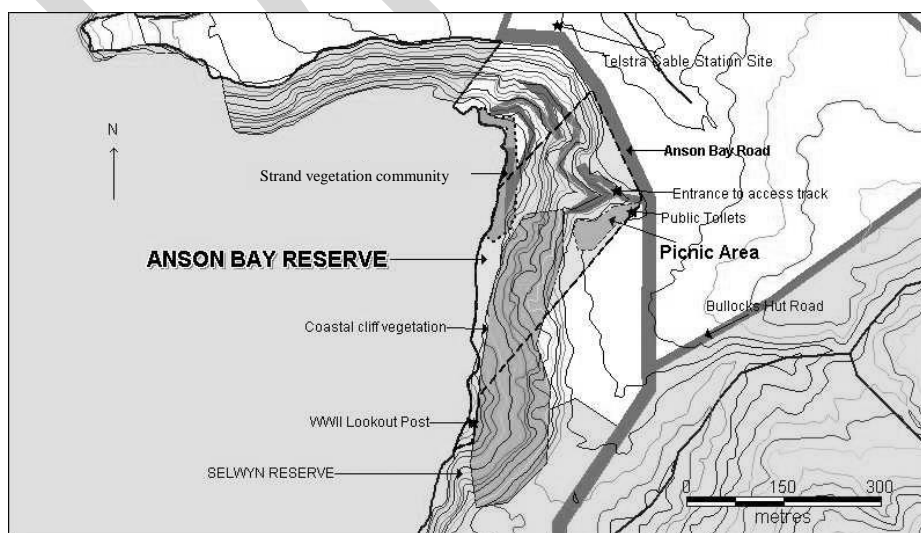


Figure 2: Anson Bay Reserve topography and features.

Much of the upper third of the coastal slopes are actively eroding, exposing deeply-weathered basalts and tuffs (ash). The gully erosion and slope and cliff instability in parts of the reserve is significantly more active than along much of Norfolk's coastline, due to overgrazing, construction of access tracks and altered surface water flows.



Figure 3: An example of columnar basalt at Anson Bay.

2.2 Flora

The forest is dominated by Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*), with a distinctive understorey of Broad-leaved Meryta (Shade Tree) (*Meryta latifolia*), Coastal Coprosma (*Coprosma baueri*), Evergreen (*Alyxia gynopogon*) and Coastal Fern (*Asplenium difforme*) (Mills 2017). The Reserve contains some of the most intact coastal forest left on Norfolk, at the far southern end of the Reserve. This vegetation extends into the adjoining Selwyn Reserve and private land.

Near the coast, typical coastal species can be found, namely Chaff-flower (*Achyranthes aspera*), Native Spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*) and Lobelia (*Lobelia anceps*). The immediate coastal slope supports a grassland of Salt Couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*), Knobby Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*) and the vulnerable Yellow Daisy (*Senecio australis*) (Mills 2017).

The vegetation in the steep amphitheatre of Anson Beach is mostly introduced, with Olive thickets, grasses and other herbaceous weeds. Native species occur here and there, including King's Brakefern (*Pteris kingiana*) and coastal species such as Mile-a-Minute (*Wollastonia uniflora*), Coastal Fern (*Asplenium difforme*), Lobelia (*Lobelia anceps*), Knobby Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*) and, lower down,

Goat's-foot Morning Glory (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*) and Coast Bean (*Vigna marina*). The upper sandy beach supports Salt Couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*), Goat's-foot Morning Glory (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*) and Coast Bean (*Vigna marina*).



Figure 4: Broad-leaved Meryta (Shade Tree) in Open Coastal Forest.

The remnant forest has been protected from Cattle grazing by the surrounding steep slopes and coastal cliffs, and as a consequence is the only location that the critically endangered endemic Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*) occurs naturally on the Island (Figure 4).

2.2.1 Significant Plant Species

Norfolk Island Regional Council has a responsibility under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to appropriately manage flora and fauna species listed under the EPBC Act within Norfolk Island Public Reserves and other areas of Council managed land.

In his 2017 targeted search of Anson Bay Reserve for threatened species, Mills recorded the number of listed threatened and significant species, which are listed in Tables 1 and 2. Notes on some of the listed species are provided following Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Threatened plant species recorded within the Reserve by Mills (2017) and their conservation status and abundance.

Name	Habit	Significant due to EPBC ² listing	Number of Plants (counted)
Ti (<i>Cordyline obtecta</i>)	Tree	Vulnerable	96 + (inc. 8+ wild)
Sharkwood (<i>Dysoxylum bijugum</i>)	Tree	Vulnerable	1
Broad-leaved Meryta (<i>Meryta latifolia</i>)	Tree	Critically endangered	9
Beech (<i>Myrsine ralstoniae</i>)	Tree	Vulnerable	24
Kings Brakefern (<i>Pteris kingiana</i>)	Fern	Endangered	45
Yellow Daisy (<i>Senecio australis</i>)	Herb	Vulnerable	147+

² Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

Table 2. Significant plant species recorded within the Reserve by Mills (2017).

Name	Habit	Otherwise considered significant on Norfolk Island	Number of Plants (counted)
Pulau (<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>)	Tree		Very large stand
Goat's-foot Morning Glory (<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>)	Tree	Yes, large mature trees rare outside National Park	10s plants
Coast Bean (<i>Vigna marina</i>)	Vine	Very rare outside of National Park	10s plants

Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*)

The large wild population of this small tree in the intact coastal forest around the boundary of Anson Bay and Selwyn Reserves is of the highest conservation importance.

Kings Brakefern (*Pteris kingiana*)

This fern is quite common in Anson Bay Reserve, occurring in near coastal gullies and slopes as well as beside the track down to Anson Bay beach, where it grows on the road cuttings.

Yellow Daisy (*Senecio australis*)

A herb of coastal cliffs, this species is relatively common along the coast in the vicinity of the boundary between Selwyn and Anson Bay Reserves.

2.3 Fauna

During summer, breeding White Terns (*Gygis alba*) are the most visible fauna in the reserve. Ghostbird (Wedge-tailed Shearwater) (*Ardena pacifica*) burrows are common along the cliff edges, and Little Shearwaters (*Puffinus assimilis*) and Red-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon rubricauda*) also nest in the reserve.

Although no comprehensive bird surveys have been undertaken in recent years, it is likely that in addition to the more common native birds, Pacific Robin (*Petroica multicolor multicolor*), Tamey (Golden Whistler) (*Pachycephala pectoralis xanthoptocta*), Grinnel (Long-billed White-eye) (*Zosterops tenuirostris tenuirostris*), Norfolk Island Green Parrot (*Cyanoramphus cookii*) and the Norfolk Island Morepork (*Ninox novaezeelandiae undulata*) occasionally occur in the remnant forest.

Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) often occur in Anson Bay, however, sand temperatures are not warm enough to sustain breeding.³

2.4 Cultural Heritage

No evidence of early Polynesian use of the Reserve has yet been found; however, the sandy beach is readily accessible from the sea and from the plateau above and is likely to have been visited during the era of Polynesian settlement at Emily Bay.

Anson Bay was named by Lieutenant Philip Gidley King on 5 March 1788: *As the Sandy bay on the SW side of the Island had not been examined to my satisfaction⁴ Lieutenant Ball proposed going round in the Brig & endeavor to land which there was a great probability of effecting as the wind was now at E.N.E. At day light in the morn.g we weighed & ran round to the Bay which I named Anson Bay after*

³ Margaret Christian, personal communication 2012.

⁴ This bay had been discovered by King on 3 March 1788, when he explored the west coast of the Island by ship's boat from the *Supply*, which was anchored in Duncombe Bay, but found the surf too rough to land.

the Member for Litchfield,⁵ We found the Surf too violent to land here, & I now began to think it would be impossible to land on the Island, as I have nearly made a circuit of it & have not found a place where I could attempt landing.⁶

Much of Norfolk Island was cleared and farmed by Europeans during the First Colonial Settlement, which began with King's landing at Kingston in 1788. However, a plan showing grants and leases of land on Norfolk between 1791 and 1804⁷ does not show any land being taken up or settled in the Anson Bay Reserve area during that period.

The 1840 'Arrowsmith' map (Figure 5) prepared by Major George Barney⁸ shows a track to "Anson's" Bay in about the same position as the current road. By this time an area inland from the reserve, in the vicinity of Bullocks Hut Road, shown as "Sheep Station", had been cleared and settled but the coastal forest remained. The track appears to have followed closely along the cliff top around Anson Bay and Anson Point then north towards Point Vincent. By 1860, the whole of the Island had been divided into blocks of approximately 50 acres. The area that is now Anson Bay Reserve was within portion 110. The 1904 map of Norfolk Island⁹ shows cables to Fiji, Queensland and New Zealand at Anson Bay; the access track to the beach in much the same location as it is today; and the area of Anson Bay Reserve (prior to 4 November 1999) marked as "Reserve", but not named.

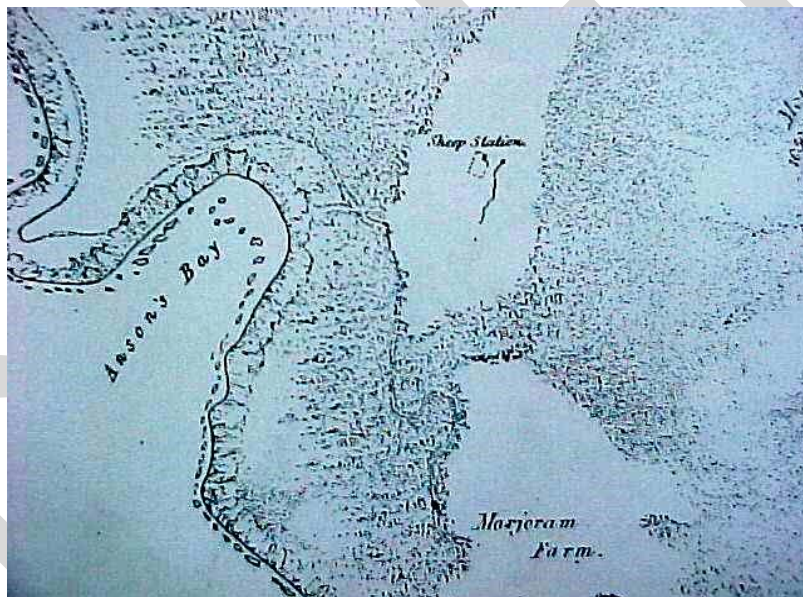


Figure 5: 1840 Map of Norfolk Island showing the Anson Bay area and Marjoram Farm.

⁵ Lt. Philip Gidley King, first Commandant of Norfolk Island (1788-90), named Anson Bay after George Anson (1731-1789, born Adams), Member of Parliament for Lichfield (1770-89). George Anson was a nephew of one of the Royal Navy's most celebrated officers: Admiral of the Fleet Lord George Anson, PC, FRS, (1697-1762), First Lord of the Admiralty (1751-56, 1757-62). George Anson's wife was a descendent of the Dukes of Norfolk and sister of the Archbishop of York.

⁶ Philip Gidley King (1790) *Fair copy of 'Remarks & Journal kept on the Expedition to form a Colony ...', with additional information, 1786 - December 1790; compiled 1790.*

⁷ *Settlers Lots on Norfolk Island 1791 - 1804.*

⁸ *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.

⁹ *Map of Norfolk Island Shewing Grants and Subdivisions* 1904. Signed by Murphy, Government Surveyor, 8 February 1904. An inset labelled "Australasia" on this map shows the cable links to Australia and New Zealand.

The Pacific Cable Board station at Anson Bay¹⁰ provided the first telegraphic contact between Norfolk Island and the outside world by cable linking Australia and New Zealand to Fiji and North America from 1902.¹¹ The communications cable system and station on Anson Bay Road, opposite the reserve, subsequently operated by the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC and known as Telstra after 1993) and later its subsidiary Reach Global Networks, was upgraded in 1983 (ANZCAN). In May 2002 the undersea cable system was replaced by satellite communications, and a satellite dish was erected at the Anson Bay station.

Two observation posts were constructed in the reserve during WWII to defend against possible landings by enemy forces. The more substantial of the two is located on the low coastal cliff near the southern boundary of the reserve and is moderately intact (Figure 6). Built by N Force,¹² these were part of a network of observation posts around the island, which was strategically important in the Pacific theatre for ferrying military aircraft to be deployed in the islands to the north.



Figure 6: WWII Machine Gun Post, looking towards Selwyn Reserve.

¹⁰ Crown Grant of Portion 110c to the Pacific Cable Board, 12 January 1906.

¹¹ Treadgold, M.L., (1988), *Bounteous bestowal: The economic history of Norfolk Island*. The Australian National University National Centre for Development Studies, Pacific Research Monograph no. 18, Canberra.

¹² N Force was a small [New Zealand Army](#) unit which garrisoned [Norfolk Island](#) between October 1942 and February 1944. N Force was formed by detaching units from the [3rd New Zealand Division](#). As Norfolk Island never came under attack N Force did not see action :http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N_Force.

3 Management Issues

3.1 Geology and Landform

Much of the upper third of the coastal slopes are actively eroding, exposing deeply-weathered basalts and tuffs (ash). The gully erosion and slope and cliff instability in parts of the reserve are significantly more active than along much of Norfolk's coastline, due to overgrazing, construction of access tracks and altered surface water flows (Figure 7).

The access track has been cut into the steeply sloping hillside, resulting in some embankment instability, especially on the uphill side of the track. Some major stabilisation work was undertaken by the communications company, however there are still some significantly eroded and unstable areas caused by track construction; embankment collapse frequently occurs, requiring regular clearing of the track.

Considerable works would be required to control this erosion, which in time will jeopardise the stability of the access road, picnic area and Anson Bay Road if it is left untreated.

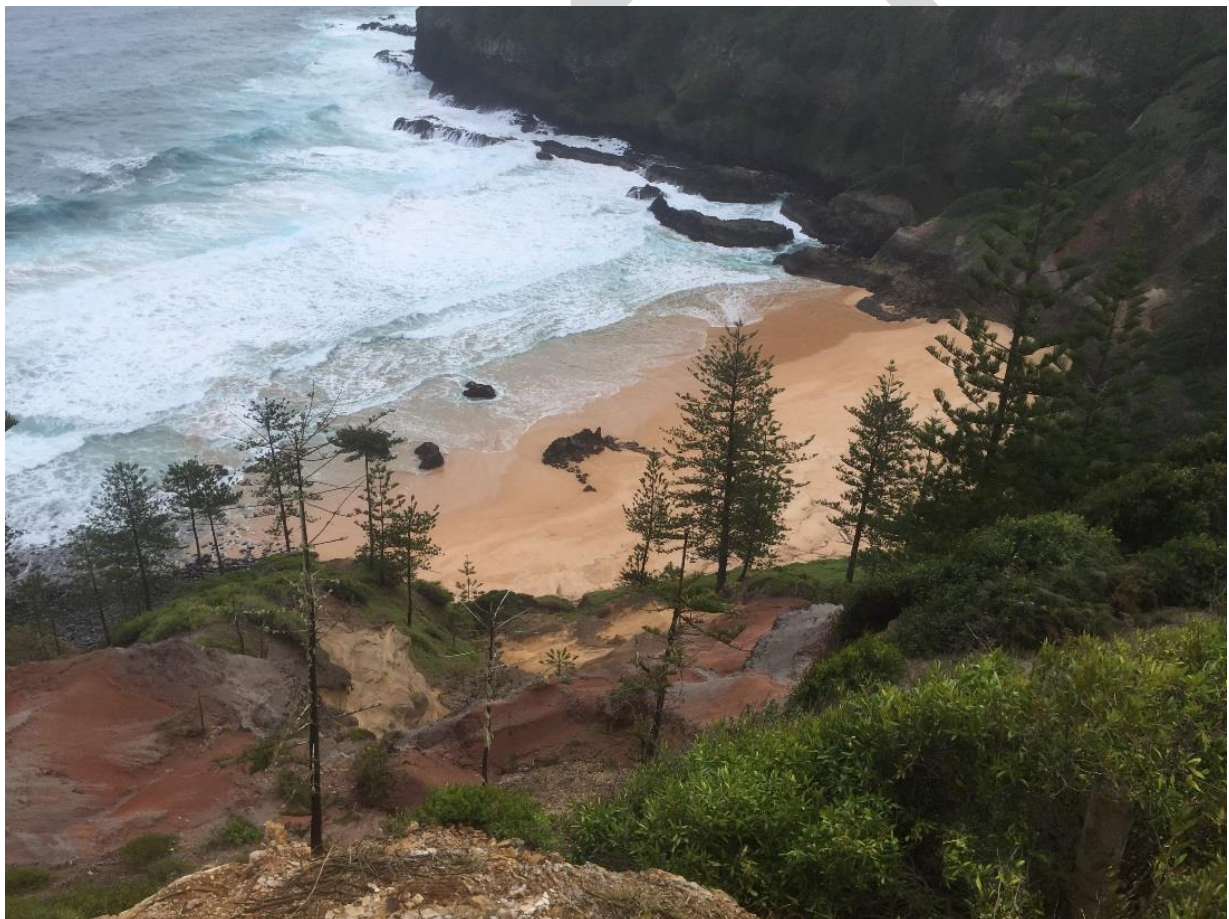


Figure 7: Coastal cliff erosion is an issue within Anson Bay Reserve.

3.2 Weeds

African Olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*), Hawaiian Holly (Broad-leaf Pepper Tree) (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Red (Cherry) Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) are the three most invasive woody weeds on Norfolk Island, and all are present within the native forest in Anson Bay Reserve. Lantana (*Lantana camara*) is also present but is generally not as extensive.

Wild Tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*), Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*) and Morning Glory (*Ipomoea indica*) occur mainly on the edge of the native forest remnants or where the canopy has been disturbed. Scattered patches of Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) occur in a small area of the hillside adjacent to the beach access track.

Thorny Poinciana (*Caesalpinia decapetala*) is a robust and thorny climber and could become a potential major problem weed if not controlled. The species was found in the northern gully joining Selwyn Reserve, and while not abundant yet, it is possible that it could become another major woody weed on Norfolk Island in a short period of time.

3.3 Pest Animals

Feral Cats (*Felis domesticus*) and two species of Rat are the main pest species in Anson Bay Reserve, and they present significant threats to the Reserve's native flora and fauna. Argentine Ants (*Linepithema humile*) are a serious threat to biodiversity in other areas of Norfolk island, but are not found within the Reserve.

Feral Cats are present and breeding in the reserve. Cats mainly feed on vertebrate prey, making nesting birds and their chicks particularly vulnerable, with adult and young Ghostbirds (*Puffinus pacificus*), White Terns (*Gygis alba royana*), Black Noddies (*Anous minutus minutus*) and other seabirds found killed by Cats common during the breeding season.

In 2017, a public survey on Norfolk was used to ask the 182 respondents who voluntarily responded, which of the following three options they supported with regard to cats on Norfolk Island: (1) Do nothing; (2) Ban cats from Norfolk Island; or (3) Allow continued cat ownership under controlled conditions. 69% of respondents supported continued ownership under controlled conditions. The vast majority of respondents also made written comments and one of the most common comments was that private people were actively trapping cats, and that feral cats were a big problem on Norfolk. This shows the high level of community support for feral cat control.

Both the Polynesian Rat (*Rattus exulans*) and the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) occur in the reserve. Both species of rat feed on the seed and fruit of a variety of native and introduced plants; and predate a variety of terrestrial fauna, including snails, land crabs, bird eggs and nestlings. The recovery of native flora and fauna following the eradication of the Black Rat from several New Zealand off-shore islands and other islands around the world has demonstrated that this introduced species has a devastating effect on biodiversity. The Black Rat has had and continues to have a significant impact on the biota of Norfolk Island. The Black Rat contributed to the post-war extinction of bird species such as the Black and White Sparrow, White-breasted Silvereye and Grey-headed Blackbird (or Guava Bird), and has led to the serious decline in others such as the Pacific Robin. The Black Rat is also thought to be responsible for the extinction of both species of bat (Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*) and the Norfolk Island Free-tail Bat (*Mormopterus [Tadarida] norfolkensis*)).

3.4 Stock grazing

Cattle were excluded from the southern part of the Reserve in December 2000 when the picnic area was fenced off, and they have not grazed the cliff slopes in the northern half of the reserve for many years. Populations of native plants, including rare endemic species such as the Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*), have increased in the reserve since the exclusion of cattle grazing. The exclusion of grazing also provided the opportunity to re-establish native plants, and as a consequence some revegetation of the steep hillsides has occurred in recent years, particularly near the picnic area.

3.5 Recreation

The Anson Bay Reserve picnic area is small and is favoured by Norfolk Island people as a quiet location for family or group barbecues and picnics. The Reserve is a popular venue for sightseeing and bird watching, and provides access to Anson Bay for surfing/body boarding, swimming and rock fishing. The small size of the picnic area and its use by both locals and visitors preclude its use for camping.

A growth in tourist numbers during the late 1990s increased the commercial use of the Anson Bay picnic area, placing pressure on picnic and barbecue facilities, and resulting in complaints from members of the local community that the small picnic area was often “taken over” by tour groups. These complaints declined with falling visitor numbers, but this may become an issue again if visitor numbers increase, unless appropriate management strategies are in place.¹³

Many native trees and shrubs have been planted within the picnic area and on the steep slope north of the access road. Flax (*Phormium tenax*) has been planted as a safety barrier on the top of the slope at the viewing point in the north-western corner of the picnic area, although some areas have been trampled by visitors walking down the slope to the wire fence close to the cliff to gain a better view of the bay. Additional plantings may be required to screen the small toilet block and tank.

3.6 Access and facilities

The beach access track is closed to private vehicles. Access for management vehicles and emergency services is via a locked gate at the top of the beach access track. Pedestrian access is via a cattle proof turnstile (Figure 8).

A number of dirt vehicle tracks that formed on the flat cliff top to the west of Anson Bay Road have been closed and timber vehicle control barriers have been erected to define a parking area. A wire fence on the slope below the cliff top provides an effective pedestrian barrier.

Increased vehicle traffic has caused some damage to grassed sections of the picnic area and the area between Anson Bay Road and the start of the access track to the beach. Minor vandalism has been an issue in the past, as has the theft of picnic tables within the Reserve.

Occasionally, large rocks fall onto or across the lower section of the track from the columnar basalt formation above (Figure 9).

¹³ The number of tourists visiting the island grew from around 30,000 annually in the late 1990s to almost 40,000 in 2001. Visitor numbers then decreased to a little over 28,000 by 2005/06, recovered to 35,000 in 2007/08 before crashing to 26,339 in 2009/10 in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.



Figure 8: Anson Bay beach vehicle and pedestrian access point



Figure 9: Rockfall from columnar basalt cliff above beach access track.

There are several informal tracks that act as 'short cuts' between the hairpin bends on the main track. These tracks are in moderate condition, and their use by visitors is not recommended as they can become slippery when wet and cause erosion.

The Anson Bay Reserve picnic area was upgraded as part of a Year 2000 Millennium project jointly funded by the Westpac Banking Corporation and the Norfolk Island Parks and Forestry Service. The access road from Anson Bay Road to the cattle grid at the picnic area was raised and sealed, and culverts and a pipe were installed to manage storm water flows from Anson Bay Road. Cattle were excluded from the picnic area by a cattle grid and a timber post and rail fence. Low timber barriers were installed to prevent vehicle access into the barbecue area itself. An additional barbecue was installed, bringing the number of barbecues in the picnic area to three. Hardwood picnic tables and rustic timber bench seats were also provided as part of this project.

Anson Bay Reserve facilities and access tracks are generally in good condition due to past upgrades (Figure 10), although the barbecues are in need of repair or replacement and maintenance. A public toilet is located within the picnic area and is adequate for current visitor numbers.



Figure 10: Anson Bay Reserve visitor facilities within the picnic area.

Interpretive signage is provided within the picnic area and at several locations on the boundary of the Reserve and at vehicle access points. The condition of signage within the Reserve varies, and some signs are in need of repair or replacement (Figure 11).



Figure 11: A sign at the northern boundary of the Reserve.

3.7 Breeding Seabird Habitat

Seabird nesting habitat along the cliff edge, particularly for Ghostbirds (*Puffinus pacificus*), White Terns (*Gygis alba*) and possibly Black Noddies (*Anous minutus*), has been reduced by the reduction of native forest over the past 200 years. Replacement of coastal forest with rank, dense swards of Kikuyu is also likely to have reduced the area available to ground-nesting species such as Ghostbirds.

4 Management Strategy

Management Vision: To conserve and enhance the scenic quality and biodiversity of Anson Bay Reserve for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Norfolk Islanders and visitors, and to ensure the ongoing protection and survival of its flora and fauna.

4.1 Ecological Restoration

Strategic Objective: To protect and enhance native vegetation communities and support the recovery of threatened species in the reserve

The area over-lapping the northern end of Selwyn Reserve and the southern end of Anson Bay Reserve (and the intervening private land) is the best example of intact coastal forest on Norfolk Island. This area will be targeted through an annual weed control and native vegetation rehabilitation program to protect and enhance its botanical values, which include the presence of eight listed threatened species of plant, including the Critically Endangered Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*).

The removal of competitive weed species will promote the natural regeneration of native plant species. Where necessary, appropriate native species will be planted to increase the density and diversity of the native forest. Coastal cliff vegetation, which provides important breeding habitat for seabirds, will be enhanced by the selective removal of exotic species to promote the establishment of native species, in particular Flax (*Phormium tenax*).

Where possible, native seedlings used in rehabilitation will be propagated from plants growing in the reserve, and native seed will be spread by hand to enhance the native vegetation of the cliffs.

To ensure that the mature native trees along the cliff top west of Anson Bay Road are replaced, a small number of Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*) will be planted within protective cattle-proof enclosures (such as timber pallets) in an informal, scattered pattern.

Endangered species in the reserve such as the Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*) will be regularly monitored, and a rat control program designed to reduce damage to the seeds and seedlings of this and other native plant species will be implemented.

Wherever practical and appropriate aesthetically, woody weeds that can be expected to decompose and disintegrate within a couple of years will be left in situ to minimise disturbance. Woody weeds that are not expected to decompose within a couple of years will be removed where possible if they are visually prominent. The remaining large African Olives (*Olea europea* subsp. *cuspidata*) in the picnic area will be removed.

The beach access track and the fenced picnic area will be maintained by slashing, mowing and whipper-snipping. Cattle grazing will continue to maintain the grass in the unfenced area along Anson Bay Road.

4.1.1 Management Actions: Ecological Restoration

- (a) Undertake weed control targeting the smaller patches of woody weeds in the area over-lapping the northern end of Selwyn Reserve and the southern end of Anson Bay Reserve, leaving weeds *in situ* where possible to minimise disturbance (High Priority).

- (b) Investigate the possibility of planting of Pines and White Oak near the walking track down to Anson Bay Beach to shade out weeds and make the walk more pleasant for people (Low Priority).
- (c) Investigate options for the supply of appropriate native plants and seed for revegetation within Norfolk Island Reserves (High Priority).
- (d) Monitor populations of native plant species within the Reserve (Ongoing).
- (e) Carry out ongoing rat control to reduce damage to the seeds and seedlings of native plants and to nesting seabird populations within the Reserve (Ongoing).
- (f) Use particular care when carrying out weed control activities around Isaacwoods (*Exocarpos phyllanthoides* var. *phyllanthoides*) to avoid having an impact on this species (High Priority),
- (g) Undertake control of Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) and New Zealand Christmas Bush (*Metrosideros kermadecensis*) in the Anson Bay amphitheatre near the track (High Priority).
- (h) Undertake a weed control program targeting Thorny Poinciana (*Caesalpinia decapetala*) in Selwyn Reserve to stop it from spreading into Anson Bay Reserve and other high conservation areas (High Priority).
- (i) Continue to maintain the beach access track and the fenced picnic area by slashing, mowing and whipper-snipping. Cattle grazing will continue to maintain the grass in the unfenced area along Anson Bay Road (Ongoing).
- (j) Seek external or other funding to undertake annual weed control and habitat restoration in key areas within the reserve (High Priority).

4.2 Pest Animal Management

Strategic Objective: To reduce the negative impacts of pest species on flora and fauna within the Reserve and other Reserve values.

A seasonal rat-baiting program will be implemented within the Reserve to protect vulnerable flora species. Annual rat baiting will also reduce predation pressure on breeding seabird colonies and other native birds that may occur in the reserve, such as the Norfolk Island Green Parrot (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cookii*), Norfolk Island Morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata*), Pacific Robin (*Petroica multicolor multicolor*), Golden Whistler (Tamey) (*Pachycephala pectoralis xanthoprocta*), Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa pelzelni*) and Long-billed White-eye (Grinnel) (*Zosterops tenuirostris*).

Live trapping will be used to control cats in the reserve, particularly during bird breeding seasons.

The root rot fungus *Phellinus noxius* may occur as a natural part of the forest ecosystem. It is not likely to cause undue damage to an undisturbed, diverse and healthy native forest. The incidence and effect of *P. noxius* in the reserve will be monitored and minimised by enhancing forest diversity and minimising disturbance and damage to tree butts and roots.

4.2.1 Management Actions: Pest Animal Management

- (a) Establish a seasonal coordinated rat control program within and on private land surrounding Anson Bay Reserve, with a target of reducing rat numbers in areas with vulnerable flora and fauna, and reducing predation pressure on birds (High Priority).
- (b) Carry out targeted cat trapping and humane euthanasia, with a focus on reducing cat numbers prior to the seabird breeding season (High priority).
- (c) Monitor the impact of root rot fungus within the Reserve (Low Priority).

4.3 Stock Management

Strategic Objective: To manage stock so that grazing is sustainable, native plants are protected and further erosion does not occur.

Cattle have been excluded from the cliff slopes, beach, and the picnic area for several years. Populations of native plants, including rare endemic species such as the Broad-leaved Meryta (*Meryta latifolia*), have increased in the reserve since the exclusion of cattle grazing, and the current grazing regime will be maintained.

4.3.1 Management Actions: Stock Management

- (a) Maintain current grazing regimes within the Reserve to protect native plant species and reduce the potential for erosion (Ongoing).

4.4 Recreation Management

Strategic Objective: To facilitate sustainable recreation in Anson Bay Reserve

The Anson Bay Reserve picnic area will be primarily for the use and enjoyment of the people of Norfolk Island and for visitors to the island that are not part of an organised tour group. Organised tours that use the picnic area for sightseeing, interpretation, walks or morning or afternoon teas will continue to be permitted, however the picnic area should not be used by commercial tour operators to provide picnic breakfasts, lunches or fish fries or other dinners to groups of visitors without a permit from the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Rubbish bins are provided within the picnic area and at the bottom of the beach access track. The provision of bins will be reviewed periodically by the Conservator of Public Reserves.

4.4.1 Management Actions: Recreation Management

- (a) Monitor visitor and tour group use to ensure current facilities are adequate, and ensure appropriate permits are in place for tour operators (Medium Priority).
- (b) Review the provision of bins periodically (Low Priority).

4.5 Access and Facilities

Strategic Objective: To meet the requirements for access and infrastructure in Anson Bay Reserve without compromising the values of the reserve

Norfolk Island Regional Council will continue to maintain the beach access track to its present standard. The section of track subject to rock falls will be closed to pedestrians. In most cases emergency and maintenance vehicles would not need to use this section of track; access by emergency and maintenance vehicles to the cable hut terrace will be improved.

The parking area will be monitored and the wire fence maintained in good condition. The parking area will be closed if tree roots become exposed and damaged, or if the surface becomes difficult to maintain. An alternative may be to provide parallel parking closer to the western side of Anson Bay Road.

The informal foot paths between the beach access track and the terrace on which the concrete disused cable winch house is sited and from this terrace to the beach are steep and at times slippery. The replacement of these informal footpaths with timber steps and walkways will be considered if they become a safety issue for visitors to the Reserve.

To improve safe viewing of the beach and bay from the picnic area, the construction of a timber viewing platform at the top of the slope in the vicinity of the memorial seat will be considered. A second viewing platform may be constructed on a prominent point on the cliff/slope west of the picnic area.

The view from the picnic area of Anson Bay Beach and shoreline is one of the Island's most popular coastal vistas. A timber seat has been placed at this locations to take advantage of this view. This seat could be replaced by a viewing platform if funding allows.

Sealing the picnic area access road has arrested erosion and significantly reduced maintenance. The access road now provides safe access at all times. The picnic area car park is unsealed and becomes muddy and rutted in wet weather and dusty in dry, and the sealing of the carpark will be considered.

Several picnic tables, bench seats and barbecues in the picnic area are generally adequate for present levels of non-commercial recreational use, although the barbecues are in need of repair or replacement and maintenance. The number and location of picnic and barbecue facilities will be reviewed periodically by the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Some signage within the Reserve is dated and should be repaired or replaced.

4.5.1 Management Actions: Access and Facilities

- (a) Maintain safe public pedestrian access through the reserve to Anson Bay Beach (Ongoing).
- (b) Maintain appropriate access through the reserve to Anson Bay Beach for emergency services and authorised maintenance vehicles (Ongoing).
- (c) Provide and maintain safe public access in the reserve (Ongoing).
- (d) Maintain current picnic facilities and amenities (Ongoing).
- (e) Investigate the replacement of the informal footpaths with timber steps and walkways if these become a public safety issue (Low Priority).
- (f) Consider the construction of timber viewing platforms in strategic locations (Low Priority).
- (g) Consider sealing the parking area (Low Priority).
- (h) Repair or replace and maintain the barbecues within the picnic area (Medium Priority).
- (i) Upgrade or replace signage that is in disrepair (Medium Priority).
- (j) Periodically review the number and location of picnic and barbecue facilities (Low Priority).

4.6 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 reserves¹⁴, 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.

¹⁴ Potentially subject to change, as per Appendix 3

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.

4.6.1 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)

SUMMARY TABLE OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR ANSON BAY RESERVE 2018 - 2028

Management Vision: To conserve and enhance the scenic quality and biodiversity of Anson Bay Reserve for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Norfolk Islanders and visitors, and to ensure the ongoing protection and survival of its flora and fauna.

Theme	Strategic Objectives	Actions (How will we get there?)	Priority
4.1 Ecological Restoration	To protect and enhance native vegetation communities and support the recovery of threatened species in the reserve	4.1.1 (a) Undertake weed control targeting the smaller patches of woody weeds in the area over-lapping the northern end of Selwyn Reserve and the southern end of Anson Bay Reserve.	High
		4.1.1 (b) Investigate the possibility of planting of Pines and White Oak near the walking track down to Anson Bay Beach to shade out weeds and make the walk more pleasant for people.	Low
		4.1.1 (c) Investigate options for the supply of appropriate native plants and seed for revegetation within Norfolk Island Reserves.	High
		4.1.1 (d) Monitor populations of native plant species within the Reserve.	Ongoing
		4.1.1 (e) Carry out ongoing rat control to reduce damage to the seeds and seedlings of native plants and to nesting seabird populations within the Reserve.	Ongoing
		4.1.1 (f) Use particular care when carrying out weed control activities around Isaacwoods (<i>Exocarpos phyllanthoides</i> var. <i>phyllanthoides</i>) to avoid having an impact on this species	Ongoing
		4.1.1 (g) Undertake control of Blackberry (<i>Rubus</i> sp.) and New Zealand Christmas Bush (<i>Metrosideros kermadecensis</i>) in the Anson Bay amphitheatre near the track.	High
		4.1.1 (h) Undertake weed control targeting Thorny Poinciana (<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i>) in Selwyn Reserve to stop it from spreading into Anson Bay Reserve and other high conservation areas.	High
		4.1.1 (i) Continue to maintain the beach access track and the fenced picnic area by slashing, mowing and whipper-snipping. Cattle grazing will continue to maintain the grass in the unfenced area along Anson Bay Road.	High
		4.1.1 (j) Seek external or other funding to undertake annual weed control and habitat restoration in key areas within the Reserve.	High

Theme	Strategic Objectives	Actions (How will we get there?)	Priority
4.2 Pest Animal Management	To reduce the negative impacts of pest species in the Reserve	4.2.1 (a) Establish a seasonal coordinated rat control program within and on private land surrounding Anson Bay Reserve, with a target of reducing rat numbers in areas with Vulnerable flora and fauna, and reducing predation pressure on birds.	High/ongoing
		4.2.1 (b) Carry out targeted cat trapping and humane euthanasia, with a focus on reducing cat numbers prior to the seabird breeding season.	High/ongoing
		4.2.1 (c) Monitor the impact of root rot fungus within the Reserve.	Low
4.3 Stock Management	To manage stock within the reserve so that grazing is sustainable, native plants are protected and further erosion does not occur.	4.3.1 (a) Maintain current grazing regimes within the Reserve to protect native plant species, reduce the potential for erosion and provide a formal picnic area.	High
4.4 Recreation Management	To facilitate sustainable recreation in the reserve.	4.4.1 (a) Monitor visitor and tour group use to ensure current facilities are adequate, and ensure appropriate permits are in place for tour operators using the Reserve.	Medium
		4.4.1 (b) Review the provision of bins periodically.	Low
4.5 Access, and Facilities	To meet the requirements for access and infrastructure in Anson Bay Reserve without compromising the values of the reserve	4.5.1 (a) Maintain safe public pedestrian access through the Reserve to Anson Bay Beach.	Ongoing
		4.5.1 (b) Maintain appropriate access through the Reserve to Anson Bay Beach for emergency services and authorised maintenance vehicles.	Ongoing
		4.5.1 (c) Provide and maintain safe public access in the Reserve.	Ongoing
		4.5.1 (d) Maintain current picnic facilities and amenities.	Medium
		4.5.1 (e) Investigate the replacement of the informal footpaths with timber steps and walkways if these become a public safety issue.	Low

Theme	Strategic Objectives	Actions (How will we get there?)	Priority
		4.5.1 (f) Consider the construction of timber viewing platforms in strategic locations.	Low
		4.5.1 (g) Consider sealing the parking area.	Low
		4.5.1 (h) Repair or replace and maintain the barbeques within the picnic area	Medium
		4.5.1 (i) Upgrade or replace signage that is in disrepair	Medium
		4.5.1 (j) Periodically review the number and location of picnic and barbecue facilities	Low
4.6 Planning for Efficient Reserve Management	To deliver the best possible outcomes by efficiently allocating management resources across the Norfolk Island Public Reserves	4.6.1 (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
		4.6.1 (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
		4.6.1 (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

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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 3. Controlled Activities specific to Anson Bay Reserve

The following controlled activities are published in this Plan of Management, as they are specific to Anson Bay Reserve. Should activities inconsistent with those outlined in Table 3 be undertaken in Anson Bay Reserve; (i) they must be consistent with the objects of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*; and (ii) they must be undertaken as per the conditions of a permit from the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for Ball Bay Reserve
Camping	Camping shall not be permitted in Anson Bay Reserve.
Commercial activities	No person shall provide picnic breakfasts, lunches, dinners, 'fish fries' or the like in the reserve on a commercial basis. The Conservator of Public Reserves shall not issue permits that result in there being more than two buses in the picnic area part of the reserve at any one time. "Commercial" has the same meaning as "commercial activity" in section 46 of the <i>Public Reserves Act 1997</i> .
Vehicles	Private and commercial motor vehicles other than plant and equipment may be driven and temporarily parked on the picnic area access track, the picnic area parking area and the cliff top vehicle parking area, as defined by timber vehicle control barriers.

Table 4. Controlled Activities in all Norfolk Island Public Reserves

The table below outlines controlled activities in all public reserves on Norfolk Island, outlining what activities do not require formal approval, and providing guidance where a permit is required. Those activities that might be relevant to Anson Bay Reserve include: 1 (Hazardous Activities), 20 (Commercial Activities) and others, depending on the situation. Should activities inconsistent with those outlined in Table 4 be undertaken in Anson Bay Reserve, (i) they must be consistent with the objects of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*; and (ii) they must be undertaken as per the conditions of a permit from the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
1. Hazardous Activities	No person shall undertake any activity within a Reserve that may reasonably be expected to expose them or any person to an activity that may reasonably be expected to pose some hazard or nuisance to any person or to nuisance to the environment if undertaken in 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 he or she is satisfied that reasonable steps have been 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>
<p>2. Firearms, other Weapons, Traps and Snares</p>	<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 a Reserve. <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation of the Reserve.</p>
<p>3. Explosive Devices</p>	<p>No person shall possess, carry or use within a Reserve any form of explosive device, including pyrotechnic devices, 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 of the Reserve. 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 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 must provide the Conservator of Public Reserves with written details and plans of the proposed activity, proof of licences, a copy of appropriate standard operating procedures, and a copy of a public liability insurance policy. A permit to conduct these activities shall not be granted unless the applicant holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy that meets the requirements in relation to certificates of currency and indemnity forms set out in this table at 20.</p>
<p>4. Artefacts</p>	<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 that in some way has been protected or that may be capable of being protected. This definition includes any man-made object, thing or item that can reasonably be construed to be or to have been the property of a person.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation of the Reserve.</p>
<p>5. Metal Detecting</p>	<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 of the Reserve.</p>
<p>6. Native and Other Animals</p>	<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; • 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 of the Reserve and is essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management.</p>
<p>7. Protection of Individuals of All Species</p>	<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. <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if it is in the interests of the conservation of the Reserve and is 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 11 (Pine Seed Collection), 12 (Pine Seed Collection), and 13 (Firewood) of this table.</p>
<p>8. Dogs</p>	<p>Except as otherwise provided here, or provided in the <i>Dogs Registration Act 1936</i> and the <i>Dogs Registration Regulations 1936</i>, no person shall bring 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 brought into a Reserve 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 the Reserve that are between the street and high water mark and between the seaward side of the road around Emily Bay and high water mark.

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> those parts of Government House Domain Reserve generally to the south of the wall on the south 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 enter the Government House Domain Reserve or Point Hunter Reserve that is maintained and used by the Norfolk Island Government. A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to enter the grave of any person who could reasonably be expected to be responsible for exercising control over a dog in a Reserve or to defecate dog faeces. If a dog over which a person could reasonably be expected to exercise control defecates in a Reserve, the person shall remove the dog 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; 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 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.
11. Traditional Craft Materials	<p>Picking and removing by hand of foliage of <i>Typha orientalis</i> (Flags, Drain Flax, Bulrush) within Headstone Reserve, Point Hunter Reserve, Common Reserve and Bumbora Reserve for making traditional handicrafts is permitted. Picking and removing of <i>Moo-oo</i> and <i>Phormium tenax</i> (Flax) within all public Reserves for making traditional handicrafts is permitted. Items made for sale. Persons must ensure that they do not cause damage to any other plants when picking and removing <i>Typha orientalis</i> (Flags, Bulrush), <i>Cyperus lucidus</i> (Moo-oo) and <i>Phormium tenax</i> (Flax).</p>
12. Pine Seed Collection	<p>Pine seed collection is not permitted in the Reserves without a permit</p> <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 or in any other area 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:</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 conservation or the history of the Reserve; 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 shall be considered on the basis of a strong, long-standing involvement with conserving the area or its biodiversity. In considering a proposal to erect or place a 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, noise, and light 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 a public Reserve to do so.</p>
15. Research	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 biological item, or any other natural resource, 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 essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management. Unless a formal agreement with the Island community will share appropriately in any profits or other benefits from the proposed access to biological research purposes will not convey to the permit holder or any other person, institution or corporation any rights from intellectual property obtained by the permit holder as a result of the permit holder's activities. In such research purposes shall include the following condition: <i>This permit is issued for scientific research and educational purposes only and does not convey to the permit holder or any corporation any rights whatsoever to any benefits that may flow from intellectual property obtained by the permit holder pursuant to this permit, such intellectual property and benefits remaining vested in the Norfolk Island community 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 of being used to convey disabled persons in public Reserves. Motor vehicles required for emergency services and management will be permitted in a Reserve. Conservator of Public Reserves must be informed by the responsible authority 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 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 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 require 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 the 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 as specifically approved in a plan of management.</p> <p>A permit to conduct a commercial activity in a Reserve shall not be granted unless the applicant provides a certificate of currency from an insurer that holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy for at least \$20 million. The certificate shall have endorsement from the insurer in interest in granting the permit and shall specifically refer to the activities intended to be conducted pursuant to the permit. In issuing the certificate of currency the insurer has been advised of the activities to be conducted and that those activities are covered under the policy held. The permit to conduct these activities will cease to be valid immediately if the permit holder ceases to hold the policy for any reason during the period for which the permit has been issued or if a certificate of currency appears to be invalid.</p> <p>A permit shall not be granted for any commercial activity unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that the activity will not damage the amenity of the Reserve for other users and will not damage the Reserve. Filming and photography of any part of a public Reserve for promotions of any kind are considered to be commercial activities. Activities listed in this table. A permit shall not be granted for commercial activities, other than bus tours, off-road vehicle tours, or other activities in a Reserve unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activities are in the interests of the conservation of the Reserve or are essential to the interpretive and education aims outlined in a plan of management. Commercial tours shall include the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide sufficient cooking equipment, tables and seating to cater for all of the persons on their tour; • 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.</p> <p>A wedding ceremony may be conducted, including by a wedding celebrant in the course of a business, trade or profession in a public Reserve other than Cemetery Reserve, Government House Domain Reserve and War Memorial Reserve, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confetti or rice is not thrown;

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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 Reserve; • 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 occupation, the celebrant must have adequate public 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 in writing by the Conservator of Public Reserves in any Reserve except Government House Domain Reserve other than on or in the immediate vicinity of 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 October and 31 March in any year as published in the Gazette. Camping in Government House Domain Reserve and Point Hunter Reserve at other times may be permitted 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 plan of management to do so.</p>
23. Structures	<p>A person shall not erect, place or leave a structure in a Reserve except in accordance with an approval.</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.</p>
24. Chemicals	<p>No chemical pesticide, herbicide or toxic or noxious substance shall be used, left or deposited in a Reserve or on the land of a Reserve.</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.</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 removed for the following 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 the area may be changed by the Conservator of Public Reserves 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 the conservation and management of the Reserve, the KAVHA Conservation Plan of management and, in the case of requests for significant amounts of sand, the views of the Island Regional Council. A permit for the removal of sand for other than an essential building or construction purpose shall not be granted unless 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 overriding public interest to do so. Sand may not be removed elsewhere from within Cemetery Reserve or from any other 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 essential to the conservation and management of the Reserve, in the opinion of the Conservator of Public Reserves, is essential to undertaking or completing works in a public Reserve.</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 right¹⁵ applies or its dependent calf up to 6 months old; or a registered¹⁶ domestic dog of the genus Canis; or

(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)

Permit Application and Standard Indemnity

A person seeking to undertake a controlled activity in a public reserve is required to use the permit application forms available from the Norfolk Island Regional Council. In signing the application form, the applicant is undertaking to indemnify the Commonwealth and the Norfolk Island Regional Council in the terms of the indemnity on the form. Every permit granted for a controlled activity shall include the following condition:

'The permit holder, in accordance with the indemnity provided on the application for the permit, fully and irrevocably indemnifies and saves harmless the Conservator of Public Reserves, all rangers, the Norfolk Island Regional Council together with all employees servants and agents thereof, the Administrator of Norfolk Island, the Crown and the Commonwealth of Australia jointly and severally from any and all liability and claims whatsoever arising in any way out of or in connection with or as a result of any activities carried out or conducted or proposed to be carried out or conducted under the permit or the involvement of any person firm or corporation in any way in regard to any activity carried out or to be carried out under the permit;

and the footnote:

The Norfolk Island Regional Council expressly denies any liability for any injury occurring to any person who may conduct any activity pursuant to this permit.'

The holder of a permit who has contravened a condition to which that permit is subject but who seeks to renew that permit or have a new permit granted will be required by the Conservator of Public Reserves to show cause why such permit should be renewed or granted.

¹⁵ In accordance with the *Pasturage and Enclosure Act 1949*.

¹⁶ In accordance with the *Dogs Registration Act 1936*.

In so showing cause, the permit holder will have to:

- provide evidence that fully explains the circumstances surrounding the contravention of the permit condition; and
- demonstrate the measures that the permit holder will take to ensure that the conditions to which a future permit would be subject will be complied with.

The Conservator of Public Reserves may, by notice in the Gazette, revoke or amend in any manner the approval or other regulation of any activity approved or otherwise controlled in a Plan of Management.

Appendix 2: Preliminary Reserve Prioritisation for Resource Allocation

Table 5 presents the draft prioritisation of the reserves. In prioritising the reserves against one another, the draft prioritisation considered the criteria in Table 3. Note that this is a preliminary prioritisation only one of the high priority management actions from this plan is to formally prioritise the reserves using solid scientific methodology.

Table 5. 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 6. 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
Midleridge 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 Plan of management, which took precedence over the Public Reserves Plan of managements 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 7.

Table 7. Changes to ownership and management of Norfolk Island Public Reserves

1. Reserves transferred from the Commonwealth to the Norfolk Island Regional Council ¹⁷	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 ¹⁸
<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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All KAVHA reserves including: Cemetery Reserve • Government House Domain Reserve • Kingston Common Reserve • Kingston Recreation Reserve • Point Hunter Reserve • War Memorial Reserve

During 2017-2018, updated Public Reserve Plan of managements 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 Plan of management 2016 still guiding the overall heritage management of the area. Instead of having individual public reserve plan of managements 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.

¹⁷ As per the *Norfolk Island Land Transfer Ordinance 2016 (Cth)*

¹⁸ As per advice from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, 2016