

Camping Management Strategy

Diggers Headland Reserve



CLARENCE COAST RESERVE TRUST



Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
STATUTORY FRAMEWORK	4
CAMPING ON DIGGERS HEADLAND RESERVE	7
CAMPERS CODE OF CONDUCT	10

INTRODUCTION

This strategy has been prepared by the Clarence Coast Reserve Trust to provide a clear operational management framework for recreational camping on Diggers Headland Reserve.

Diggers Headland Reserve is Crown land comprising Reserve 44430 for Public Recreation notified 16 October 1909. The reserve area is approximately 23.0 hectares.

Clarence Valley Council is the appointed corporate manager of the Clarence Coast Reserve Trust that is charged with care, control and management of the reserve pursuant to Section 92 - Crown Lands Act 1989.

The use and management of Diggers Headland Reserve is subject to a statutory plan of management (PoM) adopted by the Minister for Lands pursuant to Section 114 of the Act. Recreational camping is consistent with the notified reserve purpose and is endorsed by the Trust subject to the requirements of the adopted PoM. A key requirement of the PoM is that camping is subject to a Camping Management Strategy (CMS).

Camping on Diggers Headland Reserve has been a contentious issue for many years and its continuation presents a management challenge for the Trust. Following a review of the adopted PoM, a two year camping assessment and review process has been implemented to objectively determine the future of camping. The CMS has been updated to ensure that it is consistent with the revised PoM and continues to provide a solid basis to manage camping over the interim review period.

The aims of this strategy are:

- To minimise any unacceptable impacts of camping on reserve values and surrounding environs;
- To ensure that camping on the reserve meets all statutory requirements;
- To ensure best practices in recreational camping management are implemented on the reserve;
- To ensure that due consideration is given to the amenity of adjoining residents;
- To ensure the activity is conducted on an economically viable basis;
- To maximise the safety of campers and other reserve users; and
- To provide the basis for a positive and enjoyable camping experience.

Statutory Framework

Crown Lands Act 1989

Crown reserves in New South Wales are managed according to the provisions of the Crown Lands Act 1989.

The *Principles of Crown Land Management* as set out in Section 11 of the Act prescribe the basis for the management and administration of Crown land. They are:

- That environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land;
- That the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible;
- That public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged;
- Where appropriate multiple use of Crown land is encouraged;
- Where appropriate Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity;
- That Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

Part 5 of the Act sets out the requirements for the reservation and management of Crown land including the formation of reserve Trusts, plans of management and the administration of reserves.

The use, development and management of a reserve must be consistent with its notified public purpose and any adopted plan of management. Recreational camping on Diggers Headland Reserve is consistent with the notified purpose of Public Recreation and is supported by an adopted plan of management.

The Act and departmental policies encourage the appropriate commercial use of reserved Crown land. Any proceeds from activities on a reserve must be applied by the Trust towards the management of the reserve, unless otherwise directed by the Minister. Thus any revenue generated on Diggers Headland Reserve from recreational camping contributes to the funds required for its on-going management.

Crown Lands Regulation 2000

Under Section 108 of the Act a reserve Trust may grant temporary licences for a range of purposes prescribed under the Crown Lands Regulation 2000. These include "camping using a tent, caravan or otherwise".

Crown Lands (General Reserves) By-law 2006

The affairs of certain Crown reserves are covered by the Crown Lands (General Reserves) By-law 2006. The By-law is made under the Crown Lands Act 1989 and deals with a range of reserve management matters including;

- Procedures to be followed by reserve trusts
- Administrative matters relating to trust boards
- The regulation of entry and conduct on reserves, and

- The setting of fees and charges and the provision of certain services by reserve trusts

The By-law does not currently apply to Diggers Headland Reserve. However the plan of management recommends that the reserve be added to Schedule 1 of the By-law to enhance the effective management and regulation of recreational camping on the reserve.

Diggers Headland Reserve Plan of Management

The management of Diggers Headland Reserve is subject to a statutory Plan of Management adopted by the Minister for Lands under Section 114 of the Act. The plan was adopted in 1999 and revised in 2008.

Recreational camping on the reserve is endorsed under the plan of management. The plan of management requires that camping is subject to a Camping Management Strategy implemented by the Trust.

The revised plan of management provides for a structured assessment and review of the activity over two years to objectively evaluate its long-term sustainability and determine continuation of the activity.

This Strategy has been revised to complement the 2008 plan of management and to ensure that a solid operational framework is in place to manage camping on the reserve during the two year assessment period.

Local Government Act 1993

Clarence Valley Council controls a range of activities by approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993. The operation of camping grounds is subject to an *operational approval* issued under the Act in accordance with the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds & Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005.

Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005

The Local Government (Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwelling) Regulation 1995 regulates the approval to operate caravan parks, camping grounds and manufactured home estates, and sets out the requirements for the design, construction and installation of moveable dwellings and associated structures. Moveable dwellings include mobile homes, tents and caravans.

Camping on Diggers Headland Reserve falls within the scope of “primitive camping ground” under the Regulation. The reserve is approved by Council as a primitive camping ground with 26 sites. Under the terms of the approval camping is only permitted between 1 December and 31 January and during New South Wales and Queensland school holiday periods.

The term “primitive camping” is not defined in the Regulation however Clause 132 sets out the conditions that apply to a “primitive camping ground”. The following are relevant to camping on Diggers Headland Reserve:

(1) Where the approval designates one or more camp sites within that ground, then the maximum number of designated camp sites is not to exceed a mean average of 2 per hectare of the camping ground (where that figure is the average calculated over the total area of the primitive camping ground).

(2) The following conditions apply:

(a) where the approval to operate designates one or more camp sites - camping is not permitted other than on those designated camp sites,

(b) a caravan, annexe or campervan must not be installed closer than 6 metres to any other caravan, annexe, campervan or tent,

(c) a tent must not be installed closer than 6 metres to any caravan, annexe or campervan or closer than 3 metres to any other tent,

(d) the camping ground must be provided with a water supply, toilet and refuse disposal facilities,

(e) unoccupied caravans, campervans and tents are not to remain in the camping ground for more than 24 hours,

(f) where a fee is charged, a register of occupiers must be kept that contains entries concerning the following;

(i) the persons name and address

(ii) the dates of arrival and departure

(iii) identification of the site occupied

(iv) the registration number of the caravan or campervan

(v) the size of the group (if any) with whom the person listed in the register camped,

(g) such fire fighting facilities as may be specified in the approval are to be provided at the camping ground.

Under the Regulation Diggers Headland Reserve may not have more than 46 sites as an approved primitive camping ground, i.e. Av. of 2 per Ha. However the camp site plan formulated under this strategy is based on the current assessed carrying capacity of the designated camping precinct in the adopted Plan of Management. In such cases the Regulation stipulates that a "*community map*" prepared to scale is required to designate the number, size and location of camp sites as well as the location of amenities, access roads, off-site parking spaces and other features.

The attached community map has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Regulation and designates 26 camp sites and other features of the camping precinct.

Exemptions to the Local Government Act and Regulation

Within the approval framework under the Local Government Act certain exemptions apply to Crown reserves under the Regulation. Thus in the absence of a primitive camping area approval, the Reserve Trust may still authorise camping on a limited or casual basis by way of temporary licences issued under the Crown Lands Act.

CAMPING ON DIGGERS HEADLAND RESERVE

CAMPING AREA

The extent of the designated camping area is shown on the attached Diggers Headland Reserve Camping Area Community Map.

CAMP SITES

26 camp sites are delineated on the Community Map. The corners of each site are to be identified by numbered hardwood dumpy pegs at ground level.

The Community Map and other relevant public information relating to camping on the reserve will be clearly displayed near the entrance to the camping area.

Campsites are delineated on the basis that they will be occupied by either:-

- one campervan, or
- one caravan, or
- one four person (or larger) tent, or
- up to two small tents (i.e. two person tents).

All sites include a single car space.

Two sizes of camp sites are available:- large @ 60 sqm and standard @ 30 sqm.

The number of persons per site has been set at 8 per large site and 6 per small site and will be subject to the discretion of the appointed campsite supervisor.

Additional vehicles are to be parked in the day use parking areas shown on the community plan.

A tent may not be located closer than 3 metres to any other tent (Clause 132 - Reg)

A campervan or caravan may not be closer than 6 metres to any other caravan, annexe, campervan or tent. (Clause 132 – Reg)

A clear buffer is to be maintained between a camp sites and any adjoining vegetation at all times. Guy ropes and pegs may be located within the buffer area but should not encroach into vegetated areas. No guy ropes or other camping equipment may be tied to vegetation, fencing or other reserve infrastructure.

AVAILABILITY

Camping on Diggers Headland Reserve is only available from 1 December until 31 January each year and during those periods allocated as a New South Wales and Queensland public school vacation. Camping is not currently permitted on the Reserve outside these periods. Up-to-date information on specific camping dates can be obtained by contacting Clarence Valley Council on (02) 66430200 or www.clarence.nsw.gov.au.

Other nearby camping and caravanning opportunities within the Crown reserve system are available at the Woolli Caravan Park and Minnie Water Caravan Park which are also operated by Clarence Valley Council, as the appointed manager of the respective Reserve Trusts.

Rustic camping is available all year round at nearby Boorkoom camping area within Yuraygir National Park managed by the Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC) through the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Illaroo Camping Area is also located in Yuraygir National Park adjacent to Minnie Water. It is larger than Boorkoom and has frontage to Sandon Beach.

AMENITIES

Amenities to support recreational camping within the Reserve include:

- One toilet block with 2 compost toilets (Disabled access)
- One concrete rain water tank (non-potable water only)
- Garbage skip bin/s

Provision of amenities and rubbish removal is to be reviewed by the appointed campsite supervisor and the Trust in consultation with Clarence Valley Council on a regular basis during camping periods. Appropriate signage will inform reserve users of requirements relating to the use of rubbish receptacles on the reserve.

The water contained in the concrete rain water tank is only available on the basis that it is not provided for drinking. Appropriate signage will clearly inform the public that the water is not potable.

BOOKING AND SITE REGISTRATION

As Trust Manager, Clarence Valley Council will operate a booking and registration system for camping on Diggers Headland Reserve. Bookings and registration will not be site specific. (Until an appropriate booking system is available, payment and registration on site without booking shall continue on an interim basis with vacant sites available on a "first come/first served" basis.)

SITE FEES

Site fees will be reviewed regularly at the discretion of the Trust and will reflect comparable commercial rates in line with Government policy on competitive neutrality.

Site fees for 2008/09 are;

- \$10 per adult per night
- \$5 per child (5-15 years) per night.
- or \$30 per family per night

Until other arrangements are available, site fees will be collected daily during camping periods at Diggers Headland Reserve by an authorised person.

REFUNDS

No refunds will be given for wet or inclement weather.

In the event that a booking system is introduced, fees will be refunded if cancellation is made 10 days or more before the start of the camping period booked. If less notice is provided, written confirmation is essential stating reasons for cancellation. Refunds will be paid in full less a 10% charge for administration costs. Cancellations may be made by phone.

MONITORING OF CAMPING ACTIVITIES

A Council/Trust representative and/or appointed campsite supervisor will visit the Reserve regularly over the holiday periods. The Trust will monitor the usage of the camping ground on an ongoing basis and review this Strategy as necessary.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Appropriate signage will inform campers and other users of Diggers Headland Reserve of the provisions in this Strategy where necessary.

A brochure summarising the Strategy and the Campers Code of Conduct is to be publicly available and issued with camping receipts.

CONDUCT

All camping on the Reserve is to be conducted in accordance with the established Campers Code of Conduct for Diggers Headland Reserve.

All campers are requested to ensure that their activities do not unreasonably impact on the amenity of local residents and the quiet use and enjoyment of the reserve by other visitors.

In order to facilitate implementation of the Code of Conduct campers will be asked to sign a copy at the time of registration.

CAMPERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Diggers Headland Reserve is unique area of public land set aside for the use and enjoyment of the people of NSW. The continuation of camping on the reserve is dependent to a great degree on the good will and respect shown by campers to the reserve and its neighbours. All campers are asked to comply with the Code of Conduct to ensure that impacts on the sensitive coastal environment are minimised and the peaceful amenity of the reserve is preserved for all to enjoy.

CAMP SITES

- Please camp within designated camp sites

ACCESS

- Please access the reserve via the formed tracks and roadways provided.
- Do not enter or pass through private property without permission.

RUBBISH

- Tread lightly when camping. If you bring it with you – you can take it away.
- Try to minimise waste by limiting disposable packaging.
- Where necessary please use skip bin provided to dispose of rubbish. Skip bins are provided by the Trust for campers and day visitors only.
- Recyclable materials; aluminium cans, glass jars & bottles (unbroken), cardboard, paper and any plastics (except those coded 1, 2, 5, RR) may be separated for recycling.

FIRES & GAS BURNERS

- NO OPEN FIRES are allowed within the reserve.
- Use of camping gas stoves or installed gas barbeques is permissible for cooking purposes.
- Carefully select a cooking site away from vegetation and other combustible materials and camping equipment.
- Gas burners for cooking purposes may be used during a total fire ban subject to the following:
 - a. The appliance is under the direct control of a responsible adult at all times while it is operating.
 - b. A system of applying an adequate quantity of water to the appliance and its surrounds is available for immediate and continuous use.

TOILETS

- Please use compost toilets provided.
- DO NOT throw rubbish, nappies or sanitary products down toilet. This will destroy the biological waste treatment process and cause failure.

FLORA & FAUNA

- Please use formed tracks provided. Do not use or start informal tracks. This may damage native vegetation, disturb wildlife and cause erosion.
- Do not damage vegetation or attach equipment to trees.
- Please minimise disturbance to native wildlife and habitat.

BEACH & FORESHORES

- Diggers Beach and the surrounding ocean are within a designated Habitat Protection Zone in the Solitary Islands Marine Park. The Zone Plan sets out activities permitted in the various management zones within the Marine Park. Collection of marine life is not permitted from the Diggers Camp Rock Platform habitat protection zone.
- Vehicles are not permitted on Diggers Beach, except for boat launching and retrieval purposes.
- Avoid contaminating water with substances that may pollute such as soap, dishwater, food scraps and rubbish.
- Diggers Beach is an unpatrolled beach, please adopt appropriate beach safety measures.

POWER

- There are no powered camping sites on Diggers Headland Reserve.
- Strictly no portable electric generators to be used by campers.
- Other portable power sources, such as battery or solar power, may be used provided that all equipment (leads, wires, etc) is contained within the camp site.

PARKING

- Strictly no parking within the camping area unless the vehicle is contained within a campsite. Additional cars may be parked in the identified roadside parking area
- Please do not obstruct access to the reserve or hinder legal access along adjoining roads or to local residences.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

- No domestic animals may be brought into a Marine Park or National Park including a public road traversing a Park.
- Visitors are requested not to bring pets onto Diggers Headland Reserve.

NOISE

- Campers are requested to respect the peace and amenity of all reserve users and local residents.
- Please keep noisy activities, including the use of radios or loud music, to a minimum particularly after 10.00 pm.

UNATTENDED CAMPING

- All camp sites must be attended with absences to not exceed 24 hours.

I have read and agree to abide by the provisions in this Code of Conduct.

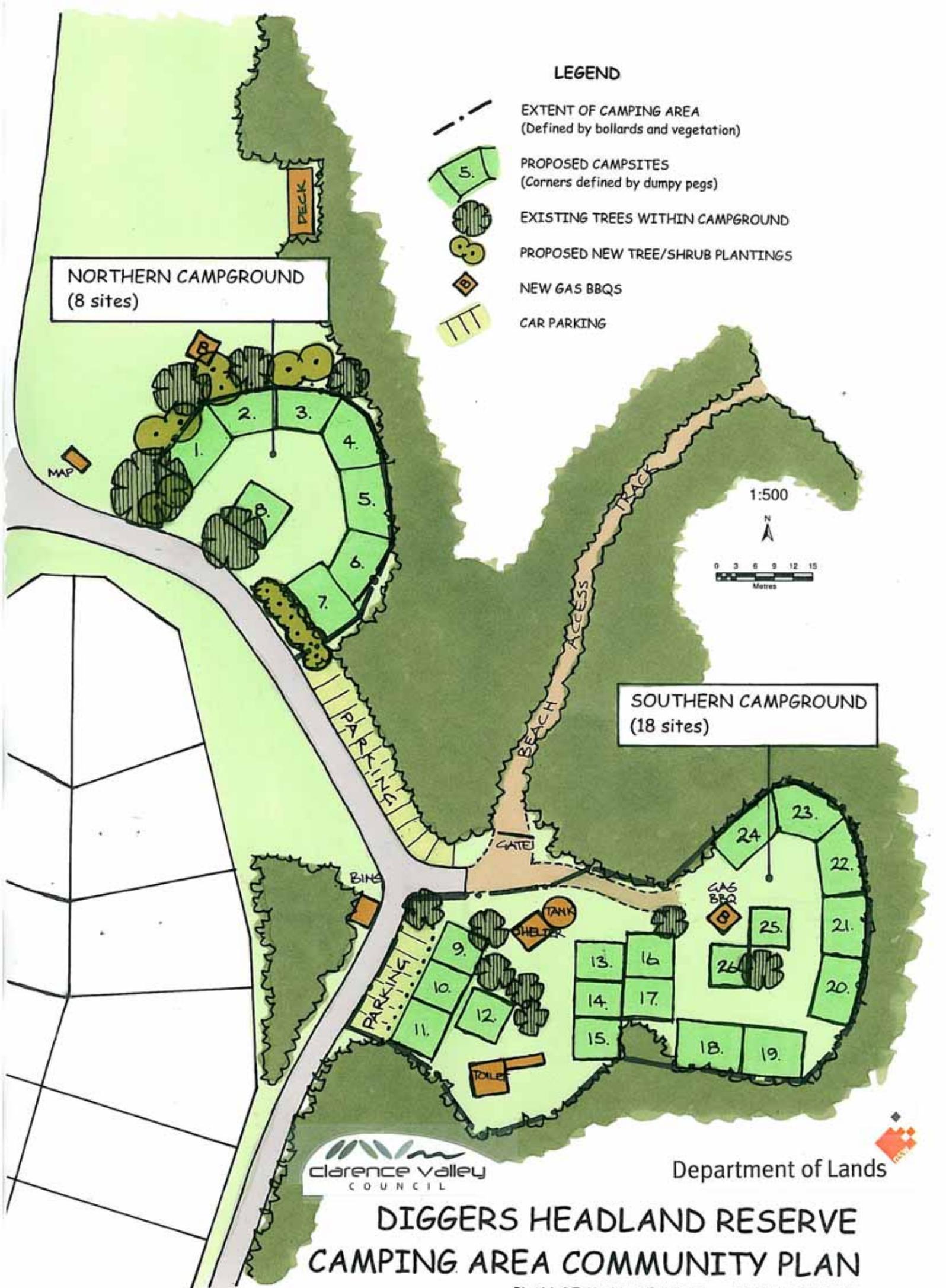
Signed:
Camp Site No:

LEGEND

-  EXTENT OF CAMPING AREA
(Defined by bollards and vegetation)
-  PROPOSED CAMPSITES
(Corners defined by dumpy pegs)
-  EXISTING TREES WITHIN CAMPGROUND
-  PROPOSED NEW TREE/SHRUB PLANTINGS
-  NEW GAS BBQS
-  CAR PARKING

NORTHERN CAMPGROUND
(8 sites)

SOUTHERN CAMPGROUND
(18 sites)



clarence valley
COUNCIL

Department of Lands

**DIGGERS HEADLAND RESERVE
CAMPING AREA COMMUNITY PLAN**

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT - JANUARY 2008