



Wingecarribee
SHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING: MOUNT GIBRALTAR HERITAGE RESERVE

Draft Plan of Management 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Gundungurra and Tharawal people as the traditional custodians of this place we now call the Wingecarribee Shire. We recognise the continuous and deep connection for Gundungurra and Tharawal people to their Ngurra (Country) and its great cultural significance to First Nations people, both locally and in the region.

We pay respect to Elders past and present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations people.



We're with you



CATEGORISATION OF COMMUNITY LAND – PUBLIC HEARING 6 FEBRUARY 2024



Plan of Management

Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve

Draft November 2023



Public Hearing Agenda

6 February 2024, 5-6pm

- Public hearing for categorisation of community land
- Background
- What is community land?
- What are the categories of community land?
- The proposed category and mapped areas for “The Gib”
- Open question and answer session

Independent Chair

Carl Malmberg

Director

CGM Planning & Development P/L

Wingecarribee Shire Council

Karen Guymer: Coordinator Natural Resources

Shaun Robinson: Manager Assets

Barry Arthur: Manager Environment and Sustainability



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Public Hearing: Community land categorisation

- Draft Mt Gibraltar Heritage Reserve PoM was prepared to align with Council's current strategic documents.
- The draft PoM is on exhibition and can be found on the Participate Wingecarribee project page. Submissions are open until **5pm Friday 23 February 2023**.
- This public hearing is to examine and discuss the community land category at Mt Gibraltar Heritage Reserve in the draft PoM.

Public Hearing: Community land categorisation

Community Land Categorisation

- The *Local Government Act 1993* (Section 40A) requires an independently chaired public hearing be conducted, in respect of a proposed plan of management, if the proposed plan would have the effect of categorising, or altering the categorisation of community land.
- Only the Council-owned land categories are included in the public hearing. Crown reserve categories are exempt from public hearings (Crown Land Management Regulation, Clause 70A)
- The draft Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve plan of management 2023 will categorise the community land in a Plan of Management.
- Community land categories help define the future uses, management, developments and any leases or licences for the land.

Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve

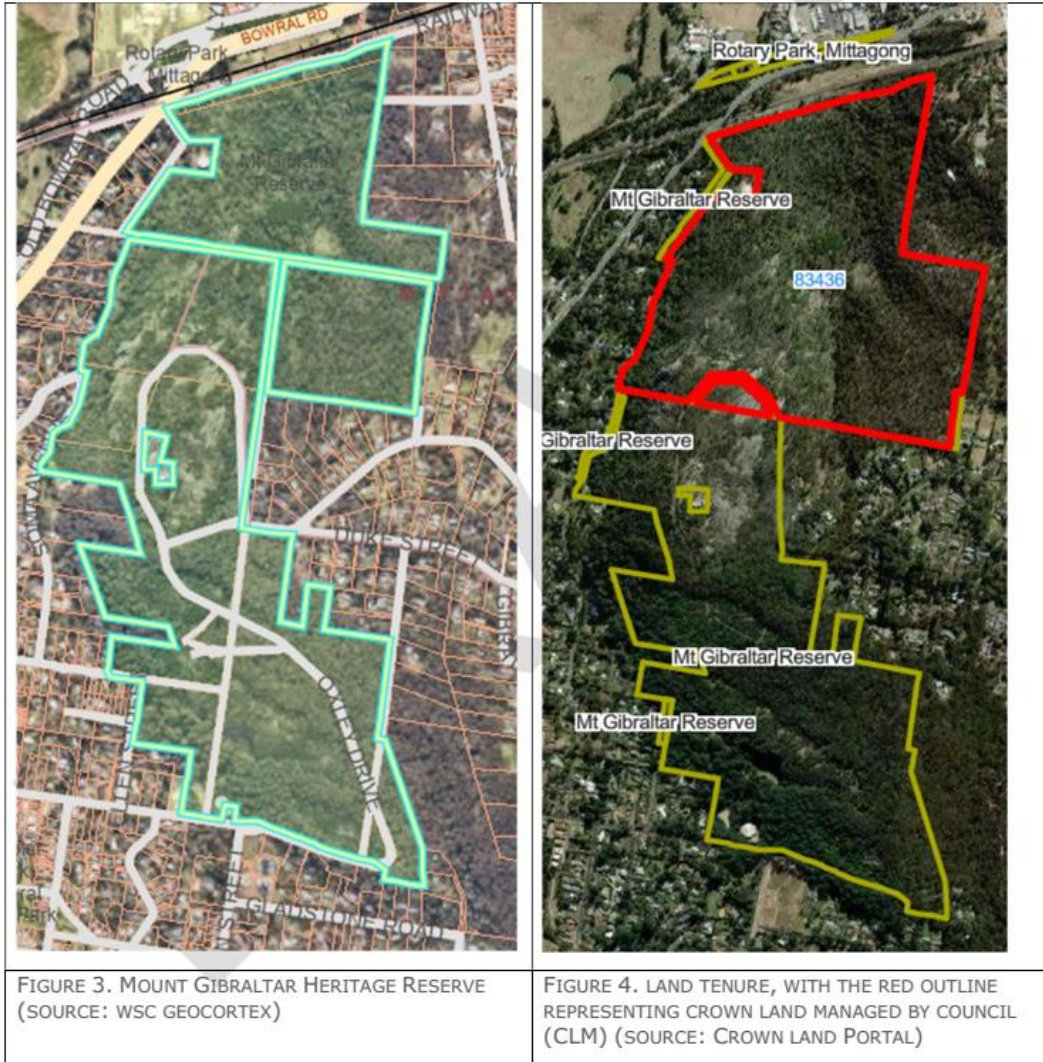
Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve covers an area of approximately **130 hectares** and is centrally located between Bowral and Mittagong. Oxley Drive dissects the reserve. This road connects Mittagong and Bowral.

The Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve:

- Is approximately half Council-owned (south) and half Crown reserve (north)
- Is a key passive recreational reserve of regional and state significance
- Is zoned C2 Environmental Conservation in the Wingecarribee LEP
- Contains walking tracks, fire trails, picnic tables, stone staircase, stone walls, lookouts and toilets
- Has state heritage recognition (listed) with interpretive signage
- Has a focus of native flora and fauna conservation
- Is bounded by residential properties.



Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve



Left hand image is the Mt Gibraltar Heritage Reserve (outline and light blue/green colour)

Right hand image shows:

- The Crown Reserve 83436 managed by Council as a Crown Land Manager (red outline); and
- Council owned community land (yellow outline)



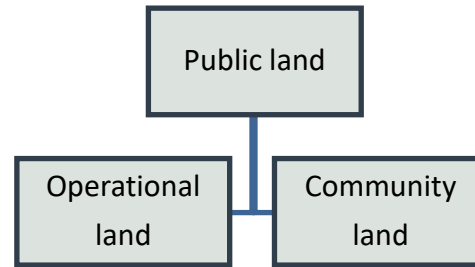
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What is community land?

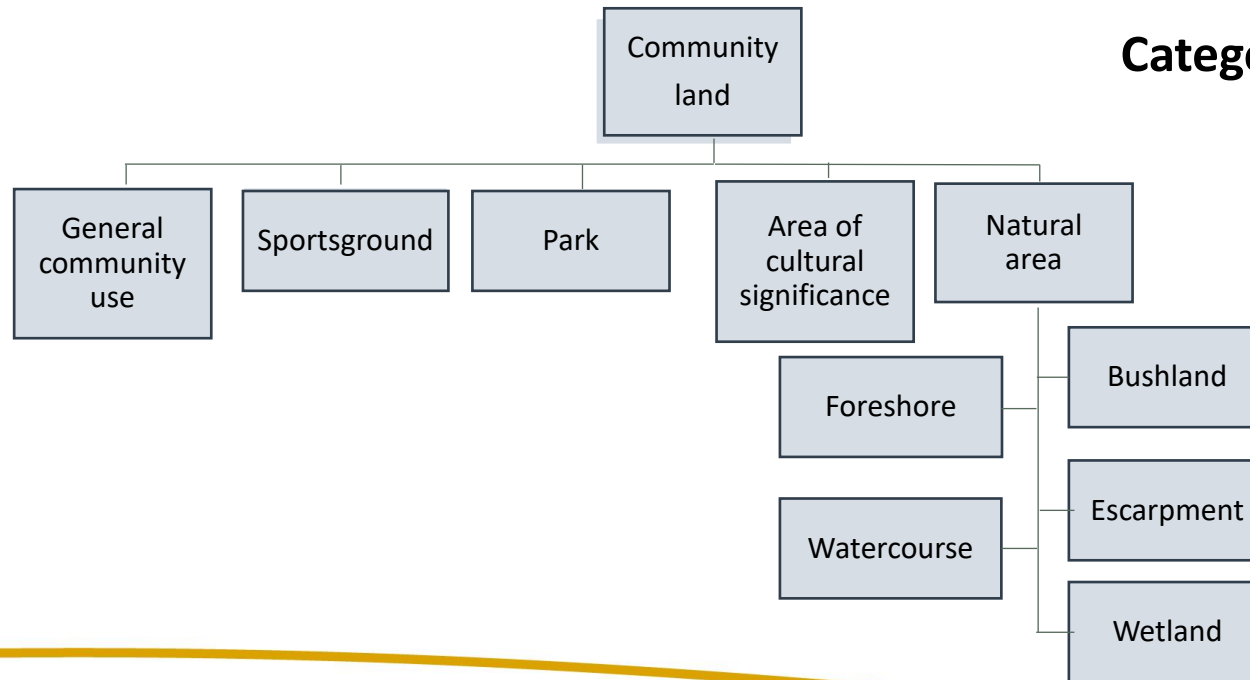
- Community land is land owned or controlled by Council.
- This can include Crown reserves under Council-appointed management – a Crown Land Manager
- Community land provides opportunities for immersion within nature, recreation, leisure, community development and services.
- It may include a wide variety of properties, ranging from small recreation reserves to iconic parks and buildings.
- Community land must be categorised and have community land plans of management adopted by Council.

Categorisation and classification

Classification of Public Land.



Categorisation of Community Land



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Plans of Management Process

Draft PoM is prepared using categories, approved Government templates and guidelines and in consultation with users and community



Council endorses draft PoM and places the draft PoM on public exhibition after the Crown Lands Minister's approval



Draft PoM exhibited (28 days + 14 day extra submissions),
public hearing about categories for Council community land



Council considers the submissions received from public exhibition of the draft PoM and any public hearing report



Council adopts PoM, allowing any minor changes following public exhibition, and with the Crown Lands Minister's approval



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Category used in the Plan of Management

- Council prepared the draft PoM 2023 to set the management framework for the reserve and apply the most suitable category to best reflect what is on the land and its intended use.
- The draft PoM category is applied to the land in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Part 4, Division 1 Guidelines for categorisation of community land.
- The category objectives are set out in the LG Act and define uses, management, development, and leasing/licensing.
- The draft PoM 2024 category is: **Natural Area Bushland.**



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Why Natural Area? (LG Reg)

102 Guidelines for categorisation of land as a natural area

- If the land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore under section 36(5) of the Act.

Note—

- Community land comprising the habitat of endangered or threatened species must be categorised as a natural area.
- Community land that is the site of a known natural, geological, geomorphological, scenic or other feature that is considered by the council to warrant protection or special management considerations, or that is the site of a wildlife corridor, must be categorised as a natural area.



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Guidelines for categorisation of land (LG Reg)

Natural Area Bushland

107 Guidelines for categorisation of land as bushland

- (1) Land that is categorised as a natural area should be further categorised as bushland under section 36(5) of the (LG) Act if the land contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation—
 - a) is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or
 - b) although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure or floristics, of the natural vegetation in the locality.

Bushland Category Objectives (LG Act)

- (a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and
- (b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- (c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (d) to restore degraded bushland, and
- (e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- (f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- (g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

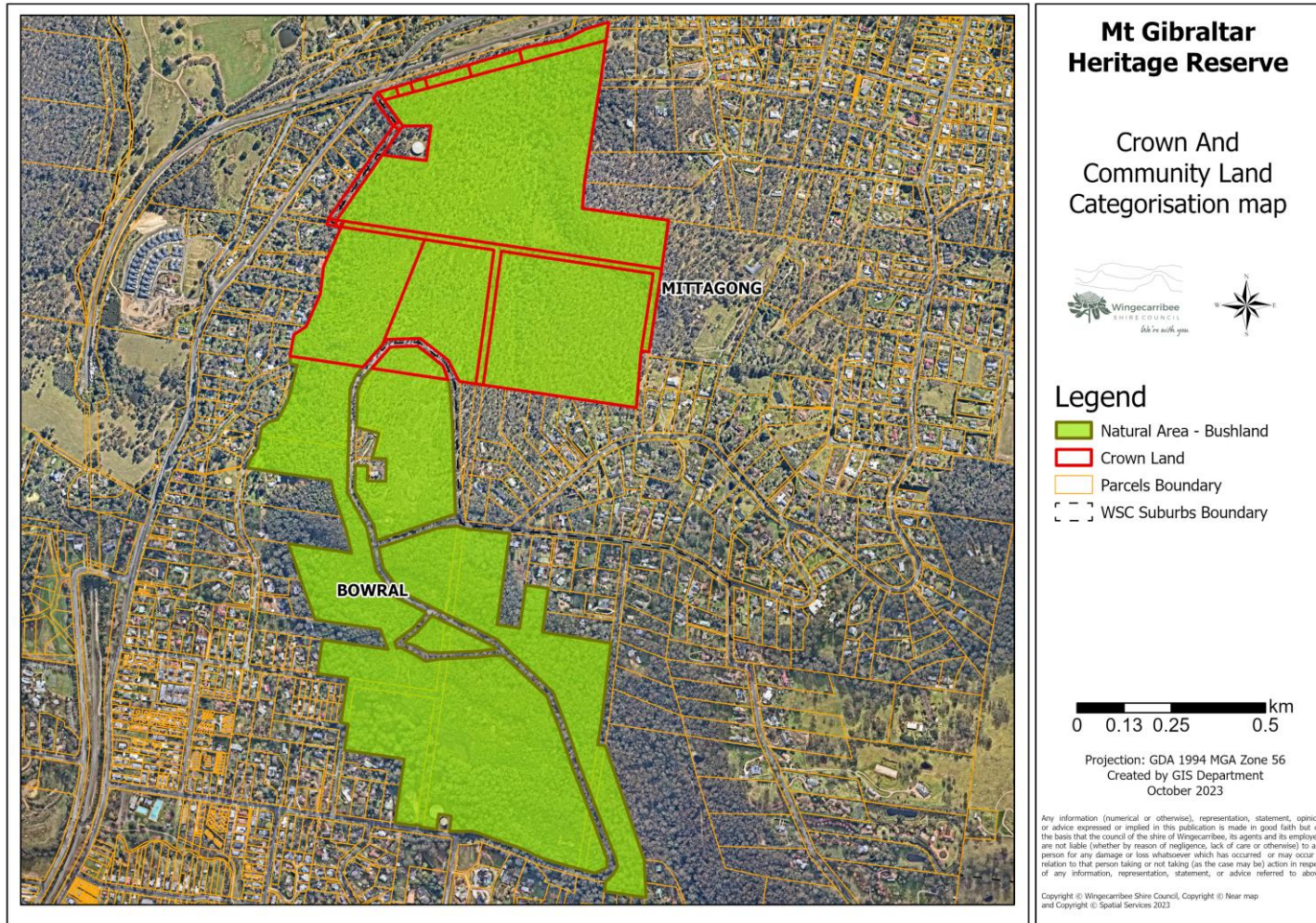


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Management of Natural Area Bushland in essence will:-

- Protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the reserve
- Protect waterways and the associated riparian vegetation, habitat and bank stability, as well as protect rocky outcrops, bushrock, caves, escarpments, ridgelines, and vistas.
- Promote community education, and community access to and use of the bushland, without compromising the other core objectives of the category
- Enable Bushcare/natural area restoration, and biodiversity monitoring through citizen science.

Assigned PoM category



2024 Draft PoM community land categories

- The entire reserve has been categorised as **Natural Area Bushland**
- Roads are not public land: neither community nor operational land
- Some land used for infrastructure is classified as operational land

Why Natural Area Bushland?

- The Natural Area Bushland category was applied to the entire area and the objectives of this category were the best fit for long term management of this reserve
- Natural Area Watercourse was not applied for the minor waterways that flow through the reserve – the bushland category will ensure appropriate management of these areas
- Natural Area Escarpment was considered however the category was going to be challenging to define and the current bushland objectives cover this feature of the reserve. Threatened species and Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) are located on and around the geological feature (microsyenite).



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Why Natural Area Bushland?

- Area of Cultural Significance (AOCS) was not applied over the reserve as the entire reserve is State Heritage Listed for its historical (quarries) and biodiversity significance
- The reserve is protected under the WLEP2010
- The action plan within the Plan of Management outlines steps for Council to follow to address the different aspects of heritage within the reserve
- The heritage significance is recognised and protected without the need for an additional category.

Comments

Questions

Discussion

What's next?

- The Independent Chair will provide a report on the Public Hearing to Council. Council will make this report available for public inspection within four days of receiving the report.
- The Report will be made available to view at [Participate Wingecarribee](#)
- Any further submissions about the categorisation of the land will be considered as part of the submissions related to the draft PoM public exhibition.