
2. Background

The NSW Wetland Action Group produces a NSW Wetland Action Plan under the NSW Wetlands Management Policy 1996, which provides for the development of regional and local wetlands planning. Both this policy and the Wetlands Policy of the Commonwealth Government of Australia 1997 encourage joint planning and management activities between the community and government. The Illawarra Catchment Management Committee has mapped and described wetlands throughout the Illawarra⁹ and has produced wetland management guidelines¹⁰ and a regional Wetland Action Plan¹¹.

The Tramway Wetlands Planning Committee was formed with the support of WetlandCare Australia, a community-based national organisation dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of Australia's wetlands. The aim of the Committee was to bring together stakeholders, community, expert and government representatives to develop and implement a Plan of Management for the Tramway Wetlands and associated natural areas at Sandon Point. The development of the Plan was made possible through a grant from the Natural Heritage Trust's Living Wetlands Programme.

Large numbers of individuals and groups have contributed towards the project. Special thanks go to members and attenders of Tramway Wetlands Planning Committee for support, expertise and time, and to people involved in biodiversity studies. In particular, thanks to Jill Molan and Darryl McKay for ongoing bird and reptile observations over many years.

A diverse number of groups have an interest in Sandon Point, with major and minor stakeholders having been identified. Major stakeholders have a continual and active role in the area. Minor stakeholders are groups with an intermittent association in Sandon Point having no direct ownership of land.

MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

Wollongong City Council
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Lands Council
Planning NSW
Department of Urban Affairs and Planning
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Stockland Pty Ltd
Ray Hannah Motors
Sydney Water Corporation
Cookson Plibrico Pty Ltd
Northern Illawarra Residents Action Group
Sandon Point Aboriginal Tent Embassy
Neighbouring Property Owners
Neighbouring Residents

MINOR STAKEHOLDERS

Recreational Users
Tourists
Cyclists
Amateur Naturalists
Conservation Groups
Recreational Fishermen
Surfers

Other stakeholder groups of the Sandon Point area may be identified in the future. The responsibilities and needs of all these groups should be integrated into all management plans.

⁹ Biodiversity of Wetlands in the Illawarra Catchments – an Inventory, Illawarra Catchment Management Committee 1997

¹⁰ Management of Wetlands in the Illawarra Catchment, Illawarra Catchment Management Committee 1998

¹¹ Illawarra Wetlands Action plan, Illawarra Catchment Management Committee 2000

3. The Management Principle

In drafting this Strategy, the Tramway Wetlands Planning Committee is proposing a series of blueprints for the management of Sandon Point so that the natural attributes, processes, biodiversity and cultural assets of the area may be protected and enhanced for the community and future generations.



Plate 3: Community picket line, Sandon Point, November 2001

4. Key Goals of this Strategy

Goal 1 THE NATURAL, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL VALUES OF SANDON POINT ARE CONSERVED AND PROTECTED

Goal 2 ACCESS TO SANDON POINT, CONSISTENT WITH BEST PRACTICE BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES, IS MAINTAINED FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMUNITY RECREATION, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL VALUES

Goal 3 THE COMMUNITY IS WELL INFORMED AND SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH SANDON POINT IS MANAGED



Plate 4: Aboriginal flag flying over Sandon Point
Aboriginal Tent Embassy, with Illawarra
Escarpment rising beyond

5. Key Objectives of this Strategy

- * **Increased community awareness of the significance of the Sandon Point site, including**
 - **preservation of ecological communities and local biodiversity**
 - **flora and fauna habitat**
 - **recreational & educational opportunities**

- * **Development of controls consistent with sustainable land use including protection of threatened flora and fauna species and communities and the preservation of open space community land.**

- * **Development of strategies for the restoration of remnant bushland and preservation and enhancement of green corridors**

- * **Development of riparian management strategies for improved water quality, habitat quality and habitat availability.**

Biodiversity is the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. It is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

NPWS *Corporate Plan 2002-2003*



Plate 4: Panorama of Sandon Point site looking from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy through to the Illawarra Escarpment, November 2001