

<b>Zone 8</b>		
<b>Soil</b>	Extensive areas of fill and disturbance with little apparent resilience	
<b>Vegetation Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland with canopy dominated by Acacia species</li> <li>• Woody and herbaceous weed species dominated by Lantana and Privet</li> </ul>	
<b>Weed Density</b>	<b>Medium - High</b>	
<b>Habitat Value</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While this site exhibits little species diversity the area offers significant vegetative cover and some opportunities for sustained feeding and breeding and contributes to a buffer zone to link currently fragmented habitat corridor,<sup>21</sup></li> <li>• Possum scratchings were noted on several introduced tree species (<i>Eucalyptus bicostata</i>, <i>Hakea sericia</i>) asserting this animal's adaptability within urbanised environments.</li> </ul>
<b>Major Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The housing development to the north has contributed to the disturbance, together with the cumulative effects of urban interface including mowing encroachment, dumping, track networking and compaction and edge plantings.</li> <li>• This section of Hewitts Creek was 'straightened' during earthworks for the adjacent residential development .</li> </ul>	
<b>Contribution to Conservation Value of Sandon Point</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Zone is moderately degraded and altered with cumulative edge and core impacts.</li> <li>• The limited species diversity and absence of complex plant community structure suggests extensive alteration to the original soil structure, however the dominance of the canopy by Acacia species suggests some resilience. Trial mosaic burns may stimulate additional emergent species and indicate succession regimes. Two remnant <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> (Turpentine) and <i>Acmena smithii</i> on the edge of the creek line indicate areas of original soil profile.</li> </ul>

<sup>21</sup> Quality Environmental Management for Wollongong City Council, *Local Environmental Study, Sandon Point* (1993). Assessment of the status of fauna cites this area as Class 2 Bird Habitat. Pg 3.17



**Plate 27:** Looking south from Zone 8 across 'straightened' section of Hewitts Creek to Zone 7 (piped section of Woodlands Creek)



**Plate 28:** Looking south-west from Zone 8 across 'straightened' section Hewitts Creek toward Illawarra Escarpment. Creepline dominated by introduced species.



**Plate 29:** Acacia dominated vegetation of Zone 8 with weedy understorey dominated by Lantana.



**Plate 30:** Looking west along Hewitts Creek through Zone 8 showing weed invasion and scouring.



**Plate 31:** Looking west into Zone 8 along northern edge of 'straightened' section of Hewitts Creek showing dominant weed understorey.



**Plates 48:** (above) Looking west from Zone 12 Coastcare site through to Illawarra Escarpment. **Plate 49:** (below) Looking south through Zone 12 Coastcare site.

