



NORFOLK ISLAND
REGIONAL COUNCIL

NORF'K AILEN RIJENL KAUNSL

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

WAN PLAEN 'MAENEJMENT



POINT ROSS RESERVE

POINT ROHS RESERW

2020 – 2030

Foreword

The Norfolk Island Council of Elders considers it important that any Plans of Management for Public Reserves take into account all of the following points in line with Norfolk Island's Cultural Heritage, both tangible and intangible:

1. The importance of the Public Reserves to Norfolk Islanders for recreational activities (fishing, swimming, walking, picnics etc.).
2. The importance of Public Reserves for cultural activities like picking hihis etc.
3. The importance of the natural environment on Norfolk Island to Norfolk Islanders.
4. The importance of endemic/native plants to Norfolk Islanders for traditional craft and other cultural activities, and the importance of these activities continuing.
5. The importance of native birds, including seabirds, to Norfolk Islanders.
6. The impact of noxious weeds and pest animals like rats, cats, swamp hens and feral chickens, and the importance of controlling these.
7. The use of licensed cattle on roads, commons and other designated grazing areas to assist in the control of grass.

The Pitcairn settlers arrived on Norfolk Island in 1856 as a distinct ethnic group, bringing with them a unique heritage, culture and language. They were the first people to settle Norfolk Island as a permanent homeland.

Norfolk Islanders have a very strong cultural connection with the unique environment on the Island, and they are aware of the impact pest animals and noxious weeds can have on the natural and cultural values of the Island.

Norfolk Islanders have maintained many traditional customs, including weaving of hats, baskets and other items from native flax, Moo-oo and Bulrush ('drain flax'). These plants are not as abundant as they once were due to modified land use, and it is important that the Plans of Management for Public Reserves contain management actions to protect or increase the abundance of these plants to ensure these traditional customs can continue.

Other cultural activities that are still very important to Norfolk Islanders today include picking hihis and collecting crabs and other traditional food from the sea. In the past, Norfolk Islanders have relied upon the fruits from a range of exotic plants (including yellow and red guava, lemon and taro), and it is pleasing to see that the picking of exotic fruits can continue in Norfolk Island Public Reserves.

The Public Reserves on Norfolk Island are important to Norfolk Islanders for recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, walking and picnics. It is important that the Norfolk Island people continue to have access to the Public Reserves on Norfolk Island and that these activities can continue.

The Norfolk Island people recognise the need to protect and conserve Norfolk Island's natural and cultural resources. The natural environment and cultural charm of Norfolk Island are increasingly valuable commodities that must be managed appropriately in the face of increasing tourism and development pressure.

Norfolk Island Council of Elders

Forwad

De Norf'k Ailen Kaunsl 'Eldas thort es importantan fe eni Plaen 'Maenejment fe dem Pablik Reserw tek intu akaunt orlii point in lain lorngfe Norf'k Ailens Kalcharl Heritej, dem yu el sii endem yu kaant:

1. De importens 'dem Pablik Reserw fe Norf'k Ailen salan yuuset (fishen, naawien, worken, haewen 'piknik endem kaina'thing)
2. De importens 'dem Pablik Reserw fe orlem kalcharl thing yuusa duu simmes piken ' hihi endem
3. De importens 'luken orn Norf'ks naetrl said fe Norf'k salan
4. De importens 'orl auwas plaants tu Norf'k salan fe auwas tradishenl werk ena taeda kalcharl thing fe duu, en hau important tu orl aklan fe kiip ii thing gwen
5. De importens 'orl auwas nietew berd, enem siiberd, tu Norf'k salan
6. Wieh 'nokshas wiids ena pest simmes 'raet, keht, taalaberd enem wail faul el efekt ieh ailen, en hau important fe kontroel dem
7. Yuusen em laisens kaetl orna roed, ornaa koeman enem taeda said fe dem griez fe haelp in kontroelen 'graas.

Dem Pitkern salan kam tu Norf'k in 1856 es wan distinct ethnic groep, fetchen lorngfe dem, dems yuuniik heretij, kalcha ena laengwij. Dem es de fas salan fe yuus Norf'k aes dems hoem fe aewa.

Norf'k salan gata riel strorng kalcharl konekshan tu de yuuniik envairanment 'dems alien en dem noe wathen pest aeneml ena nokshas wiids gwen haew orn de naechrl en kalchrl vaelyu 'dieh alien.

Norf'k salan bin kiipap plenti dems tradishenl kastam, simmes wiiwen 'haet, basket ena taeda thing fromem nietew flaks, mu-uu ena bulrush (drienflaks). Nor gat mach 'dii plaants es bin yuus kos 'chienj in wieh yuusen a laen, en es importantan fe dem Plaen 'Maenejment 'dem Pablik Reserw fe haew ina wieh fe kiipap ala groe de namba 'dii plaants fe miek shua orlii tradishenl kastam el kiip gwen.

Taeda kalchrl thing Norf'k salan duu stil es importantan fe Norf'k salan des dieh simmes piken 'hihi, ketchen 'krarb ena taeda tradishenl wetls auta saf. Lorng taim 'goe Norf'k salan bin el depen orna fruu fram wan rienj 'eksotik plaants (simmes 'yaela ena red gorwa, leman ena taala), enes gudan fe si stil el pik 'eksotik fruu auta dem Pablik Reserw.

Es importantan fe haew 'Pablik Reserw orn Norf'k soe Norf'k salan el kiip duwen dem thing simmes fishen, naawien, worken en haewen 'piknik. Es importantan fe Norf'k salan el kiip yuusen ii Pablik Reserw soe orlii praektes el kiip gwen.

Norf'k salan noe haew 'lukaut for, protect en kiip Norf'ks naechrl ena kalchrl resors. De naechrl ena kalchrl chaam 'Norf'k kamen mor n mor vaelubl en haew 'luk aafta et proepli aes tuares ena dewelapment groe biga.

Norf'k Ailen Kaunsl 'Eldas

Norfolk Language translated by Gaye Evans

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	III
FORWARD	IV
1 INTRODUCTION.....	7
1.1 RESERVE DESCRIPTION	7
1.2 MANAGEMENT PLANNING, CONSULTATION AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK.....	7
1.3 HERITAGE LISTING.....	8
2 SIGNIFICANCE OF POINT ROSS RESERVE.....	9
2.1 GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM	9
2.2 FLORA	10
2.2.1 <i>Significant Flora Species</i>	12
2.3 FAUNA.....	12
2.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE	13
3 MANAGEMENT ISSUES.....	15
3.1 GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM	15
3.2 WEEDS	17
3.3 PEST ANIMALS	17
3.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE	18
3.5 RECREATION	19
3.6 ACCESS AND FACILITIES	20
4 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	21
4.1 GEOLOGY AND LANDFORM	21
4.1.1 <i>Management Actions: Geology and Landform</i>	21
4.2 ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION.....	21
4.2.1 <i>Actions: Ecological Restoration</i>	22
4.3 PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT.....	22
4.3.1 <i>Actions: Pest Animal Management</i>	23
4.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SCENIC AMENITY.....	23
4.4.1 <i>Actions: Cultural Heritage and Scenic Amenity</i>	23
4.5 RECREATION MANAGEMENT.....	23
4.5.1 <i>Actions: Recreation Management</i>	24
4.6 ACCESS AND FACILITIES	24
4.6.1 <i>Actions: Access and Facilities Management</i>	25
4.7 SIGNAGE, EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION	25
4.7.1 <i>Actions: Signage, education and Interpretation</i>	25
4.8 PLANNING FOR EFFICIENT RESERVE MANAGEMENT	25
4.8.1 <i>Management Actions: Planning for Efficient Reserve Management</i>	26
SUMMARY TABLE OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR POINT ROSS RESERVE 2019 - 2029	27
REFERENCES	30
APPENDIX 1: CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES	31
<i>Definitions for Controlled Activities</i>	39
<i>Permit Application and Standard Indemnity</i>	40
APPENDIX 2: PRELIMINARY RESERVE PRIORITISATION FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION	41
APPENDIX 3: TRANSITIONAL RESERVE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE NORFOLK ISLAND ACT 1979 IN 2016.....	43

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Point Ross Reserve aerial image showing boundaries and the Unnamed Road Reserve on the cliff top to the west of the access road.....	7
Figure 2. Landform and features of Point Ross Reserve	9
Figure 3. Some of the 2005-06 plantings that were done on severely eroded slopes still have pallets protecting them.....	10
Figure 4. Looking southwest down the main valley in the reserve. Note the pine plantation on the left and the Red Cedar (<i>Toona ciliata</i>) and native vegetation on the right.....	11
Table 1. Significant flora species found within Point Ross Reserve by Mills (2017).....	12
Figure 5. The one hundred Norfolk Island Pine (<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>) trees planted to commemorate the 100th birthday of Girlie Nobbs are significant and should be protected.....	12
Figure 6. Some of the Features of Point Ross Reserve.....	15
Figure 7: Area A at the base of the main access road can be seen to the left and centre front of this photo with Norfolk Island Pines and White Oaks beginning to mature.	16
Figure 8. Looking East onto a westerly facing slope showing serious erosion and land slippage.	16
Figure 9. Red Cedar (<i>Toona ciliata</i>) is becoming problematic and the removal of the plantations should be considered.....	17
Figure 10. Safety signs are provided at this start of the track to warn Reserve visitors of the dangers of using it.	19
Figure 11. The dirt access road within the Reserve has been topped with gravel but is subject to potholing and gulying and can be impassable to two wheel drive cars in wet weather.....	20
Table 2. Controlled Activities in all Norfolk Island Public Reserves.....	32
Table 3. Criteria for determining the priority of reserves for budget allocation	41
Table 4. Draft prioritisation of Norfolk Island Public Reserves for allocation of management resources.....	42
Table 5. Changes to ownership and management of Norfolk Island Public Reserves	43

1 Introduction

1.1 Reserve Description

Point Ross Reserve is located on the south-western coast of Norfolk Island and has a total area of 7.952 hectares. The seaward boundary of the Reserve is presently 'top of cliff'. To be practical and also consistent with the seaward boundaries of other reserves, the seaward boundary of Point Ross Reserve should be changed to 'high water mark'. An aerial image of the Reserve showing boundaries is provided in Figure 1.

The unnamed Road Reserve on the cliff top west of the access road into the Reserve (Figure 1), south of the cattle grid, is sometimes thought to be part of Point Ross Reserve but is actually part of the Road Reserve. The incorporation of this unnamed cliff top Road Reserve into Point Ross Reserve should be considered.

The Reserve has spectacular views of Norfolk's coast and Phillip and Nepean Islands. Although difficult to access, Crystal Pool, a large rock pool at the tip of Point Ross, is a popular swimming and fishing spot. The cliff edges at Point Ross are riddled with hundreds of Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ghostbird) (*Ardenna pacifica*) burrows.

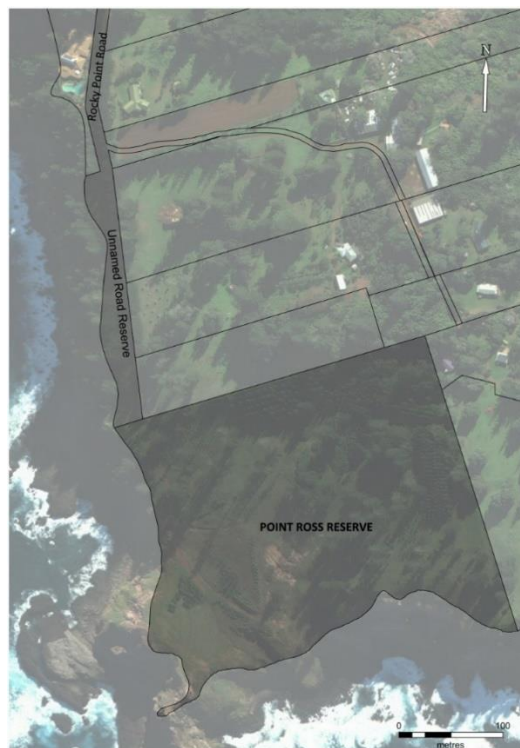


Figure 1: Point Ross Reserve aerial image showing boundaries and the Unnamed Road Reserve on the cliff top to the west of the access road.

1.2 Management Planning, Consultation and Legislative Framework

Point Ross Reserve was proclaimed a public reserve under the *Commons and Public Reserves Act 1936* for forestry and recreation purposes on 6 May 1971. The Reserve is in the Conservation Zone of the *Norfolk Island Plan 2002*.

The *Public Reserves Act 1997* states that each of the Norfolk Island Public Reserves will have a management plan. 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 Plans of Management for the Public Reserves were made in 2003. In 2017, these original Plans of Management were placed on public display, with an invitation to provide feedback to produce updated plans of management. Whilst no feedback specific to Point Ross Reserve was received, 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 Management Plan (Section 3.3, Page 14).

The Draft Plan of Management for Point Ross Reserve was prepared in 2019 and released for comment and feedback from the community over a 56-day period, which closed in December 2019. Feedback received during the 56 day Public Exhibition Period has been taken into account as part of the preparation of the Point Ross Reserve Plan of Management for 2020-2030.

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 however, the Act recognises a number of 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. Point Ross Reserve is home to some threatened species recognised under the Act, and the management of the Reserves needs to align with the Threatened Species Recovery Plan.

1.3 Heritage Listing

Point Ross Reserve was listed on the Register of the National Estate (RNE) as "Crystal Pool Reserve" on 21 October 1980. The listing included 'the escarpment' above high water level. 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 In 2016, the Commonwealth of Australia transferred ownership of Point Ross Reserve to the Administration of Norfolk Island, which is now the Norfolk Island Regional Council. Therefore, the Reserve no longer appears on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Point Ross Reserve was included on the Norfolk Island Heritage List in 2002 as per the *Heritage Act (NI) 2002*.

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

2 Significance of Point Ross Reserve

Point Ross Reserve has significant cultural, geological, landscape, and conservation values. Most people visit the Reserve to access Crystal Pool, which is a deep rock pool that can be seen from the western side of the Reserve, especially at low tide. Whilst somewhat difficult to access, it is a popular swimming and fishing spot and a good location to study the vertical distribution of Norfolk's inshore marine flora and fauna. Point Ross is the south-western most point on Norfolk Island and has significant Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ghostbird) (*Ardenna pacifica*) nesting habitat.

2.1 Geology and Landform

Point Ross dominates the Reserve. This 70m high remnant hillside has been eroded on its seaward side to a high vertical cliff, exposing the underlying volcanic strata. The deep soils on Point Ross are riddled with Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ghostbird) (*Ardenna pacifica*) burrows. Crystal Pool is a deep elongated tidal pool that follows a curved zone of differential erosion parallel to the shore, perhaps associated with jointing or more probably a volcanic eruption feature such as a lava tube. The Reserve is bisected by a 'hanging' valley that is about 20m above sea level at the cliff (Figure 2). There are no permanent streams in the Reserve.

In 2005-06 some severely eroded slopes within the Reserve were filled and covered with topsoil. Starting with the eastern and lower slopes, these areas were planted with Native Flax (*Phormium tenax*), and with Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*) protected from strong winds by timber pallets (Figure 3).

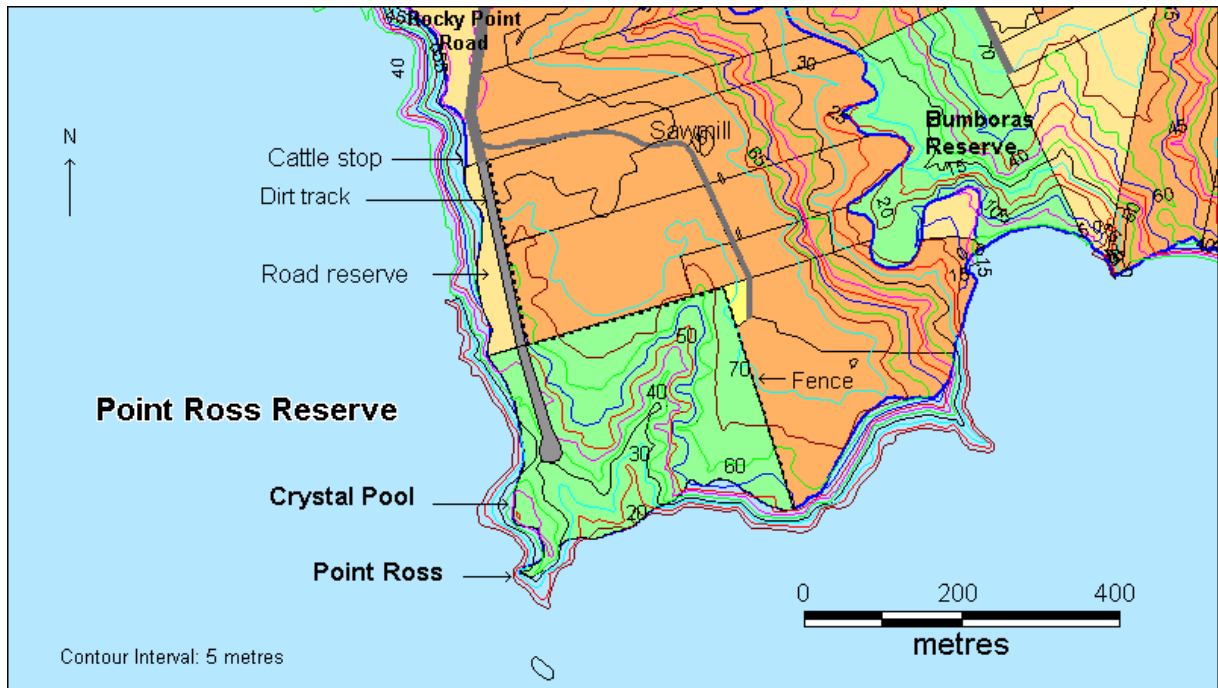


Figure 2. Landform and features of Point Ross Reserve



Figure 3. Some of the 2005-06 plantings that were done on severely eroded slopes still have pallets protecting them.

2.2 Flora

Concerns over future timber supplies and accelerating erosion prompted moves to fence the Reserve, and this occurred in 1987. In 1997, Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*) were planted on the headland and central ridge. Planting trees in rows facilitated maintenance and was also done to promote quick canopy closure. After relatively sheltered conditions have been created, natural regeneration and enhancement planting can be used to promote a more natural forest.

The Reserve contains very little natural forest, and remnant trees of several species, primarily Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*) are all that remain. A small number of native plants was recorded in the very upper part of the eastern gully, adjacent to private land to the north that supports a considerable number of natives. The native plant species found on private land include several Wai-wai (*Pisonia brunoniana*) plants near the fence just outside the Reserve. The native plants found within the Reserve include saplings and a few larger specimens of Whitewood (*Celtis paniculata*), Ironwood (*Nestegis apetala*) and Oleander (*Pittosporum bracteolatum*).

Smaller species also occur near the fence, particularly Basket Grass (*Oplismenus hirtellus*) and the threatened King's Brakefern (*Pteris kingiana*). Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) have been planted in the area and there are one each old specimens of Beech (*Myrsine ralstoniae*) and Maple (*Elaeodendron curtispiculum*).

The Reserve contains significant coastal grassland/herbland, primarily on the sea cliffs. Prominent species are Salt Couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*), which dominates most areas, Chaff flower (*Acyranthes aspera*), Native Spinach (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*) and wind-sheared specimens of White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*).

Although the Reserve was fenced in 1987, cattle were not excluded until 1990 when a cattle stop was installed in the access road. Much of the ridge between the central gully and the road was planted with Norfolk Island Pine and White Oak in 1997. At the same time, the north-eastern slopes of Point Ross were planted with Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and White Oak (*Lagunaria patersonia*).

One hundred Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) were planted along the cliff top from the cattle grid on Rocky Point Road to in 2010 to commemorate Girlie Nobbs' 100th birthday.

Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) was planted in the past and is spreading into some areas of the Reserve (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Looking southwest down the main valley in the reserve. Note the pine plantation on the left and the Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) and native vegetation on the right.

2.2.1 Significant Flora Species

In his 2017 targeted search of the Reserve for threatened flora species, Mills recorded the significant species listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Significant flora species found within Point Ross Reserve by Mills (2017).

Name	Habit	Significant due to EPBC ² listing	Number of Plants (counted)
Beech (<i>Myrsine ralstoniae</i>)	Tree	Vulnerable	1
Kings brakefern (<i>Pteris kingiana</i>)	Fern	Endangered	11

The one hundred Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) trees planted to commemorate the 100th birthday of Girlie Nobbs (Figure 5) are also considered to be significant and worthy of long term preservation.



Figure 5. The one hundred Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) trees planted to commemorate the 100th birthday of Girlie Nobbs are significant and should be protected.

2.3 Fauna

The soft coastal soils of Point Ross are riddled with Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ghostbird) (*Puffinus pacificus*) burrows. White Terns (*Gygis alba*) breed in the surviving large Norfolk Island Pines and White Oaks and a small number of Red-tailed Tropicbirds (*Phaethon rubricauda*) also nest in the

² Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

steep coastal slopes of the Reserve. There have been no comprehensive surveys of terrestrial vertebrates or invertebrates in the Reserve.

The Reserve offers access to Crystal Pool, which supports a diverse range of corals, reef fish, nudibranchs and other marine fauna.

2.4 Cultural Heritage

No evidence of early Polynesian use of the Reserve area has been found. However, it is likely that Polynesian people would have at least visited the area during the long period they inhabited Norfolk Island: archaeological excavations at Kingston have shown that Norfolk Island was occupied, perhaps continuously, by Polynesian people for about 500 years from perhaps as early as 1200AD.³

The land that is now Point Ross Reserve was not leased or granted during the First Colonial Settlement. However, the northern boundary of the Reserve appears to coincide with the south-eastern boundary of Lot 70 (60 acres) granted to a former marine, Thomas Williams.⁴

The 1840 'Arrowsmith' map⁵ shows that the cliff tops for about 200m inland from the coast were still vegetated. Prisoner's gardens are shown along Rocky Point Creek from where Rocky Point Road crosses the creek to about 350m upstream from the sea. Those gardens were part of Point Ross Farm, which abutted the "Pig Run", a 135 acre farm that was part of Longridge Agricultural Station to the north. A "Signal Station" is shown at the end of a track and appears to have been located on the crest of the ridge in what is now the Reserve. A "Flag Staff" is shown a short distance to the south-east of the signal station, apparently on the central ridge, perhaps close to the area that has severely eroded. For signals to have been visible from the sea, the area around this flag staff must have been cleared of forest or, more probably, was naturally low vegetation, such as Native Flax. A road running through Point Ross Farm connected the Signal Station to the Agricultural Station at Longridge.

Point Ross was used during World War II as an observation and machine gun post to defend against a possible enemy landing. This post was built by N Force, a small New Zealand Army unit which garrisoned on 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 (N Force, 2018) this post was part of a network of observation posts around Norfolk Island, which was strategically important in the Pacific for ferrying newly constructed aircraft to be deployed in the islands to the north, and to secure the telecommunications cable at Anson Bay. A trench and gun pit which was roofed and camouflaged with rock was dug in to the top of Point Ross. The roof and rocks have long disappeared and erosion has almost entirely removed all evidence of the trench and gun pit.

Soon after the Pitcairners settled on Norfolk Island in 1856, the Island was surveyed and divided into blocks of approximately 50 acres. The area that is now the Reserve was within Portion 96: Rocky Point Creek formed the eastern boundary of that portion, adjoining land that is now Bumbora

³ Anderson, A., (undated), *Prehistoric Human Colonisation of Norfolk Island*. First Interim Report to Australian Heritage Commission. Unpublished report, Division of Archaeology and Natural History, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University.

⁴ *Settlers Lots on Norfolk Island 1791 – 1804*.

⁵ *Plan of Norfolk Island Shewing the General Nature of the Ground 1840*. Often referred to as the "Arrowsmith" map. 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.

Reserve. By 1887,⁶ Portion 96 had been subdivided and the northern section (96a) was occupied by Edward Quintal. Portion 96a was later subdivided and in 1971 the remaining western part (Portion 96c) of the original Portion 96 was declared a reserve for the purposes of forestry and public recreation. The Reserve was used for grazing until 1987.

⁶ *Plan of Norfolk Island Shewing Grants and Subdivisions*. Signed by Walter Harper, Licensed Surveyor, and sent by him to the Surveyor General on 20 October 1887. Printed at the Surveyor General's Office, Sydney, April 1888.

3 Management Issues

3.1 Geology and Landform

The steeper, exposed slopes of the Reserve has been significantly destabilised by clearing, grazing, and physical disturbance, accelerating coastal erosion. Wartime defence structures on top of Point Ross and informal walking tracks may also have exacerbated erosion in some parts of the Reserve, particularly where cliffs and steep slopes are riddled with Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) burrows.

Water being channeled down the access road into the Reserve is a major cause of erosion of the cliff at the start of the track to Crystal Pool.

A map showing some of the features of Point Ross Reserve, including erosion and vegetation, is provided in Figure 6.

The advanced gully and sheet erosion on the south-west facing slope of the central ridge of the Reserve was rehabilitated in 2005-06. This area is shown in Figure 6 as “Area A”, and a current image of the rehabilitated area is shown in Figure 7.

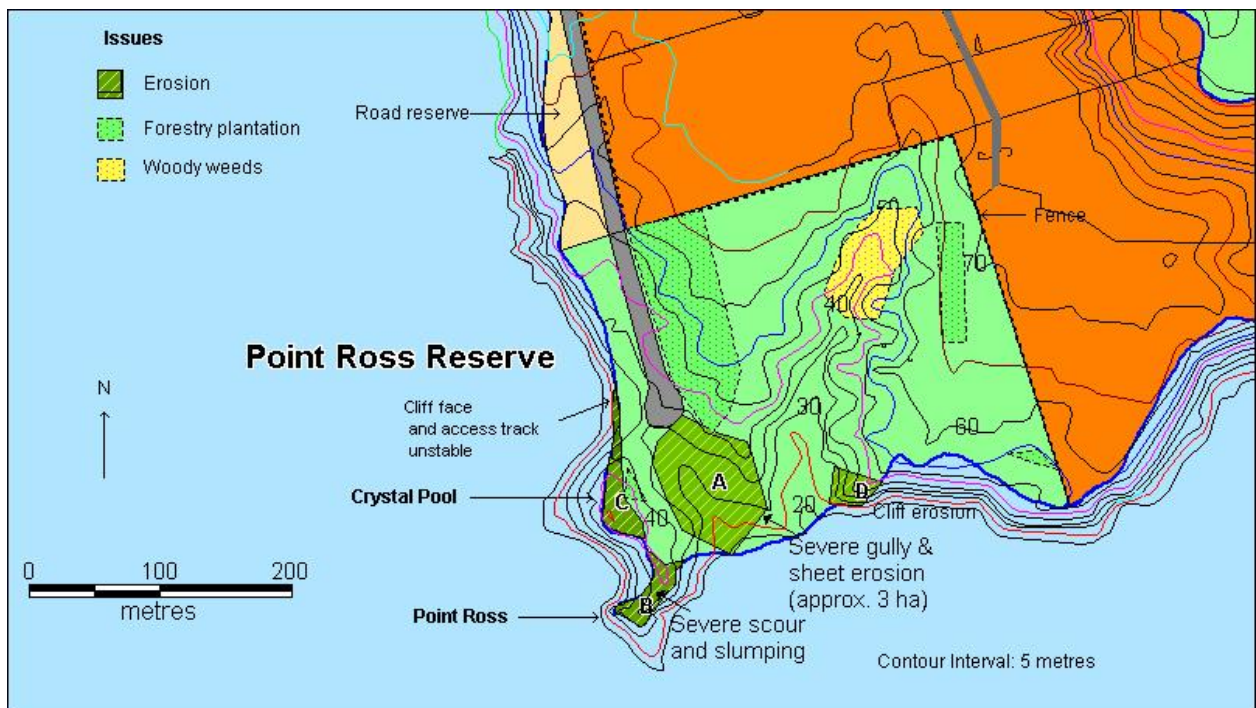


Figure 6. Some of the Features of Point Ross Reserve.



Figure 7: Area A at the base of the main access road can be seen to the left and centre front of this photo with Norfolk Island Pines and White Oaks beginning to mature.

There are other areas within the Reserve with severe erosion issues. An example is provided in Figure 8.



Figure 8. Looking East onto a westerly facing slope showing serious erosion and land slippage.

3.2 Weeds

There are small but significant areas of weed infestation in Point Ross Reserve, but they are in localised patches that could be treated without great difficulty. There is a patch of African Olive (*Olea europea subsp. cuspidata*) in the northeast of the reserve, not far from the area of regenerating native forest in the northeastern corner of the reserve. Much of the ground layer in the Reserve is Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) and Buffalo grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) which forms a dense grass sward. This reduces erosion, but also obstructs seabird nesting burrows, and may reduce germination of both introduced and native plants. There are small localised patches of Hawaiian Holly (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Cherry Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) scattered across the Reserve. In some places, Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) is becoming problematic (Figure 9) and should be controlled to ensure it does not spread throughout the Reserve. The removal of the existing Red Cedar plantation should be considered, as it is unlikely to be used for timber in the future.



Figure 9. Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) is becoming problematic and the removal of the plantations should be considered.

3.3 Pest Animals

Feral domestic cats (*Felis domesticus*) are established and breeding in the Reserve and surrounding areas. Birds are particularly vulnerable to predation by cats, which can decimate nesting seabirds, with adult and young Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ghostbird) (*Ardenna pacifica*), White Terns (*Gygis alba*) and White-capped (Black) Noddies (*Anous minutus*) often found killed by cats common during the breeding season.

A voluntary public survey was undertaken on Norfolk Island in 2017 to determine which of the following three options members of the community 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. Of the 182 voluntary respondents, 69% 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 a number of 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 (*Lalage leucopyga*), White-breasted Silvereye (*Zosterops albogularis*) and Grey-headed Blackbird (Guava Bird) (*Turdus poliocephalus poliocephalus*), and has led to the serious decline in others such as the Pacific Robin (*Petroica multicolor multicolor*). 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*)).

Feral chickens (*Gallus gallus*) occur within Point Ross Reserve and can have a dramatic impact on the environment by scratching and displacing native seedlings and dispersing noxious weed seeds. Feral chickens also feed upon invertebrates such as endemic land snails and dung beetles, which play a vital role on Norfolk Island, and have a major impact in forest areas by removing the soil fauna required to breakdown leaf litter and other organic material. The culling of feral chickens in Norfolk Island Public Reserves does occur, although culling is currently prohibited for 3 months during December, January and February each year, and the feral chicken population increases during this time as a result.

The Crimson Rosella (Red Parrot) (*Platycercus elegans*) was introduced to Norfolk Island as a cage bird, and is now prolific on the Island. The Crimson Rosella is in direct competition with native bird species such as the Norfolk Island Green Parrot (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cookii*) for territory and nesting sites (tree hollows) across the Island.

The Argentine ant (*Linepithema humileis*) is one of the world's worst invasive species, having spread from its native habitat in South America to establish populations on six continents and many oceanic islands. The Argentine Ant was first identified on Norfolk Island in 2005, and an eradication program commenced in 2008. This aggressive ant actively displaces species of other ants, and with its need for protein based food sources, it poses a threat to the majority of Norfolk's vertebrates and invertebrates. At the time of preparation of this management plan, Argentine Ants had not been recorded in Point Ross Reserve, although there are large areas of Norfolk that have been colonised by the species. At the time of preparation of this document, an island-wide strategy was being undertaken with the goal of eradicating Argentine Ants by 2020.

3.4 Cultural Heritage

Crystal Pool is of importance to the Norfolk Island people for swimming, fishing and other pursuits that form an important part of the Norfolk Island lifestyle. There are native plants such as moo-oo

(*Cyperus lucidus*) in the Reserve that can be used for traditional Norfolk plaiting and weaving, although the plants in the Reserve are not generally utilised, probably due to their small size.

Any harvesting of native plants in the Reserve for traditional craft is anticipated to be very low-level and infrequent and would not result in any adverse impact on the Reserve. A permit to collect the foliage of such plants will not be required in Point Ross Reserve, provided the collection is carried out by hand and is not for commercial purposes.

3.5 Recreation

Apart from the local community enjoying fishing, walking and swimming at Crystal Pool, the only real public use of the Reserve is sightseeing by tourists. Point Ross provides spectacular views of Phillip and Nepean Islands, and a notable photopoint on a tour of the island.

Crystal Pool is a moderately popular swimming spot that is used by local people in good weather. The informal path down the cliff slope to the foreshore is eroded and steep. Erosion of the cliff slope has made the track to Crystal Pool unstable and unsuitable for less agile persons, and safety signs are provided at this start of the track to warn Reserve visitors of the dangers of using it (Figure 10). The construction of a more formal access track to Crystal Pool would be extremely costly. Erosion of the cliff slope at and around this path is exacerbated by surface drainage from the unsealed access road.



Figure 10. Safety signs are provided at this start of the track to warn Reserve visitors of the dangers of using it.

3.6 Access and Facilities

Access to the Reserve is via Rocky Point Road. The dirt access road within the Reserve has been topped with gravel, but is subject to potholing and gulying and can be impassable to two wheel drive cars in wet weather (Figure 11). Water running down the road deposits road gravel and finer sediment in the car turning area in the Reserve and is eroding the gully and adjacent cliff slope.



Figure 11. The dirt access road within the Reserve has been topped with gravel but is subject to potholing and gulying and can be impassable to two wheel drive cars in wet weather.

Vehicular access was restricted to the formed track and parking area by low wooden posts, however these barriers have disappeared, allowing access by private vehicles to all of the Reserve. A rough track up the central ridge from the car park/turning area provides four-wheel drive access to Norfolk Island Pine plantings and habitat rehabilitation areas.

There are no formal walking tracks in the Reserve. Informal walking paths lead to the top of Point Ross and down the cliff slope to Crystal Pool. The soft soils on top of Point Ross are riddled with Ghostbird burrows and tracks in this area are highly susceptible to erosion.

There are no formal recreational facilities within the Reserve.

4 Management Strategy

Management Vision: To preserve the scenic amenity of Point Ross Reserve, to increase the biodiversity and ecological values of the Reserve and to allow for recreation activities.

4.1 Geology and Landform

Strategic Objective: To appropriately manage soils, erosion and water runoff using best practice methods to ensure land is protected and rehabilitated, and run-off into the ocean is reduced.

Stock will continue to be excluded from the Reserve to allow for the establishment of native vegetation and to assist with erosion control.

Road and track drainage will be improved so that runoff does not cause further erosion and existing eroded areas can be rehabilitated.

Strategic planting of native species will occur within eroded areas where possible, and where direct seeding of native plants is not feasible.

Boundary realignments will be considered to allow for important erosion control and habitat restoration work to be carried out along the boundary of the Reserve.

4.1.1 Management Actions: Geology and Landform

- (a) Direct seed and revegetate eroded areas within the Reserve with appropriate native species (eg. Flax (*Phormium tenax*) and Moo-oo (*Cyperus lucidus*)) (High Priority).
- (b) Improve drainage on the access road, parking areas and other vehicle tracks within the Reserve to manage erosion and allow for the rehabilitation of existing eroded areas (High Priority).
- (c) Revegetate eroded areas with appropriate native species where possible (High Priority).
- (d) Change the seaward boundary of Point Ross Reserve to 'high water mark' and consider the incorporation of the unnamed cliff top Road Reserve into Point Ross Reserve (High Priority).

4.2 Ecological Restoration

Strategic Objective: To improve the ecological condition of Point Ross Reserve, by restoring the vegetation and increasing the habitat available for native fauna.

Point Ross Reserve contains only scattered remnants of the original vegetation communities. These scattered remnants will be enhanced by revegetation with native species and the rehabilitation of coastal cliff vegetation will enhance the scenic qualities of the reserve, protect cliff stability, and improve habitat for nesting seabirds.

Targeted weed control will be undertaken within the Reserve to reduce the presence of woody weeds.

Coastal cliff vegetation that provides breeding habitat for seabirds will be enhanced by the selective removal of exotic species to promote the establishment of natives, in particular Native Flax and other coastal cliff species.

Removing woody weeds from cliff slopes is difficult, and is likely to exacerbate erosion and expose nearby native plants. Selective control techniques such as basal-bark spraying will be used to control weeds on steep slopes and cliffs.

Wherever practical and aesthetically appropriate, woody weeds that can be expected to decompose and disintegrate within a couple of years, such as Hawaiian Holly (*Schinus terebinthefolius*), Porpieh (Guava) (*Psidium cattleianum var. cattleianum*) and Wild Tobacco (*Solanum mauritianum*) will be left *in situ* to minimise disturbance and weed control effort. Woody weeds that are not expected to decompose within a couple of years (such as African Olive (*Olea europea subsp. cuspidata*)) where practical will be removed if they are visually prominent or likely to result in weed invasion.

A revegetation program will be prepared to re-establish appropriate native species (including threatened species) around cliff edges and existing trees within the Reserve, while ensuring existing visitor use areas and sea views are maintained.

The removal of the existing Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) plantation will be considered, as it is unlikely to be used for timber in the future and it is causing weed issues within the Reserve.

The timber pallets surrounding the trees that were planted to address erosion issues are in disrepair and are no longer required and should be removed.

4.2.1 Actions: Ecological Restoration

- (a) Target woody weeds such as African Olive (*Olea europea subsp. cuspidata*) and Hawaiian Holly (*Schinus terebinthefolius*) in infested areas of the Reserve to stop them from spreading, and manage these sites to promote the growth of native species (High Priority).
- (b) Enhance coastal cliff vegetation by the selective removal of exotic species to promote the establishment of appropriate natives (High Priority).
- (c) Prepare and implement a revegetation plan for the Reserve to increase the diversity of native species around existing remnant native vegetation, and to re-establish native vegetation in appropriate locations (High Priority).
- (d) Allow for the maintenance and enhancement of coastal views when planning revegetation and site rehabilitation (High Priority).
- (e) Consider the removal of the Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*) plantation (High Priority).
- (f) Remove the timber pallets surrounding the trees that were planted as part of erosion control works (Medium Priority).
- (g) The current grazing restrictions within Point Ross Reserve will be maintained (High Priority).

4.3 Pest Animal Management

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

A seasonal coordinated rat-baiting program will be implemented within Norfolk Island Reserves and on private land to protect vulnerable flora species and to reduce predation pressure on breeding seabird colonies and other native birds that may occur in and around the Reserve.

A planned live trapping program will be used to control cats in the Reserve when required, particularly during bird breeding seasons.

A feral chicken control program will be implemented within Norfolk Island Public Reserves to reduce the feral chicken population and protect native plants and invertebrates such as endemic land snails and dung beetles.

Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*) control will be undertaken within the Reserve to ease competition for Green Parrot (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cookii*) territory and nesting sites across the Island.

4.3.1 Actions: Pest Animal Management

- (a) Establish an ongoing coordinated Rat control program across Norfolk Island Public Reserves and on private land with the 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 and during the seabird breeding season (High priority).
- (c) Carry out feral chicken control within Norfolk Island Public Reserves and encourage neighboring landholders to control feral chickens on their properties (High Priority).
- (d) Ensure appropriate precautions are taken to ensure Argentine Ants do not establish within the Reserve (High Priority).
- (e) Undertake Crimson Rosella control as required (High Priority).

4.4 Cultural Heritage and Scenic Amenity

Strategic objective: To maintain the scenic quality and character of Point Ross Reserve and protect important cultural heritage values.

Maintaining and enhancing coastal views is an important component in planting design and vegetation management, and will be considered when planning revegetation and site rehabilitation.

The availability of traditional craft plants will be increased by including native craft species as part of habitat rehabilitation within the Reserve. The collection of these plants will not require a permit, provided the collection is carried out by hand and is not for commercial purposes.

4.4.1 Actions: Cultural Heritage and Scenic Amenity

- (a) Allow for the maintenance and enhancement of coastal views when planning revegetation and site rehabilitation (High Priority).
- (b) Increase the availability of traditional craft plants by including native craft species in habitat rehabilitation, and allow for the non-commercial collection of these without a permit (High Priority).
- (c) Maintain the current informal access to Crystal Pool via the walking track and ropes (High Priority).

4.5 Recreation Management

Strategic objective: To provide for appropriate and safe public recreation, and to meet the requirements for access within Point Ross Reserve and to Crystal Pool without compromising the values of the Reserve.

The most common recreational activity undertaken at Point Ross Reserve is probably sightseeing. This will be considered during planning for habitat restoration and other activities within the Reserve to ensure views are maintained.

At present there are no formal walking tracks in the Reserve, and with the level of use the Reserve currently receives, no tracks are proposed. Should funding become available and there be more demand for walking tracks within the Reserve, a walkway with timber boardwalk sections over uneven ground and mutton bird holes could be constructed to allow easy access to the views from the top of Point Ross.

The track to Crystal Pool is well used, but has never been formalised. The feasibility of formalising or even carrying out repairs to the track needs to be considered in the context of the level of use received, the high cost of such works, and how the formalisation of such a track might encourage visitors to utilise this pool and ocean rock platform where sea conditions can be unpredictable. At present, the track acts as a “filter” to ensure that only able bodied people with at least some local knowledge tackle the climb down to the pool.

Signage is provided at the start of the track down to Crystal Pool to warn Reserve visitors of the dangers of accessing Crystal Pool via the walking track, and this will be maintained or improved.

There are no picnic or barbecue facilities in the Reserve, nor is it intended to provide such facilities. The need for picnic and barbecue facilities will be reviewed periodically by the Conservator of Public Reserves.

4.5.1 Actions: Recreation Management

- (a) Consider the feasibility of formalising or repairing the walking/access track to Crystal Pool in the context of the level of use received, the high cost of such works and how upgrades to the track might need to be accompanied by visitor education to ensure that the unpredictable conditions of Crystal Pool and the rock platform are clear (Medium priority).
- (b) Should funding become available, and there be a demand for more walking tracks in the Reserve, a walkway with timber sections over mutton bird holes and uneven ground to the top of Point Ross could be considered (Low priority).
- (c) Undertake a safety/signage audit within Point Ross Reserve and install appropriate safety barriers and signage according to the outcome of the audit (High Priority).
- (d) Maintain or improve existing signage within the Reserve to warn of the dangers of accessing Crystal Pool but keep signage to a minimum where possible (High Priority).
- (e) Signage reminding Reserve visitors about regulations around walking dogs within Point Ross Reserve and other Norfolk Island Reserves should be considered (Medium Priority).
- (f) Periodically review the need for picnic and barbecue facilities and toilets at Point Ross Reserve (Medium Priority).
- (g) Erect appropriate timber safety barriers in identified dangerous areas along the cliff line and revegetate behind the barriers with appropriate low-growing native species (High Priority).

4.6 Access and Facilities

Strategic Objective: To facilitate the quiet enjoyment of Point Ross Reserve by providing appropriate public access and facilities

The access road into the Reserve will be reshaped and sealed. Guttering and other drainage control devices will be installed to manage water that runs down the road into the Reserve.

Runoff from the road and the car park/turning area will be diverted away from the Crystal Pool track slope. Flow control devices will be installed to ensure that road runoff does not cause erosion in the Reserve.

Vehicle control barriers will be erected to prevent non-authorized vehicles access beyond the vehicle turning/parking area.

4.6.1 Actions: Access and Facilities Management

- (a) Consider reshaping and sealing the access track into the Reserve if funding allows (Medium Priority).
- (b) Upgrade drainage to better manage runoff within the Reserve (High Priority).
- (c) Monitor informal vehicular tracks, and limit vehicular movements in wet and other weather should the tracks be deteriorating (Ongoing)
- (d) Monitor the condition of the grass car park, and if deliberate damage or increased usage causes unsustainable impacts, use bollards to delineate formal parking areas (Ongoing).

4.7 Signage, education and Interpretation

Strategic Objective: To foster the community's knowledge of the natural history and cultural importance of Point Ross Reserve

The Reserve provides opportunities for the public to observe native flora and fauna, especially Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Ghostbird) (*Puffinus pacificus*) and a variety of natural features and processes, including geological formations, coastal erosion, and adaptation and survival of coastal cliff plants in harsh exposed conditions. Point Ross Reserve also provides spectacular views of Norfolk's coast and Phillip and Nepean Islands.

Appropriate interpretive signage at Point Ross Reserve will be considered and installed if funding allows.

4.7.1 Actions: Signage, education and Interpretation

- (a) Foster the community's connection with the natural environment and its cultural heritage values by providing appropriate interpretation and signage (Ongoing).

4.8 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 reserves⁷, each of which has a Plan of Management. Within each plan there are a 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.

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.

⁷ Potentially subject to change, as per Appendix 3

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.

4.8.1 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 POINT ROSS RESERVE 2019 - 2029

Management Vision: To conserve and enhance the scenic quality and biodiversity of Point Ross 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 Geology and landform	<i>To appropriately manage soils, erosion and water using best practice methods to ensure land is protected and rehabilitated, and run-off is reduced.</i>	4.1.1 (a) Direct seed and revegetate eroded areas within the Reserve with appropriate native species (eg. Flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>) and Moo-oo (<i>Cyperus lucidus</i>))	High
		4.1.1 (b) Improve drainage on the access road, parking areas and other vehicle tracks within the Reserve to manage erosion and allow for the rehabilitation of existing eroded areas	High
		4.1.1 (c) Revegetate eroded areas with appropriate native species where possible	High
		4.1.1 (d) Change the seaward boundary of Point Ross Reserve to 'high water mark' and consider the incorporation of the unnamed cliff top Road Reserve into Point Ross Reserve	High
4.2 Ecological restoration	<i>To improve the ecological condition of the Reserve, by restoring the vegetation and increasing the habitat available for native fauna.</i>	4.2.1 (a) Target woody weeds such as African Olive (<i>Olea europea subsp. cuspidata</i>) and Hawaiian Holly (<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>) in infested areas of the Reserve to stop them from spreading, and manage these sites to promote the growth of native species	High
		4.2.1 (b) Enhance coastal cliff vegetation by the selective removal of exotic species to promote the establishment of appropriate natives	High
		4.2.1 (c) Prepare and implement a revegetation plan for the Reserve to increase the diversity of native species around existing remnant native vegetation, and to establish native vegetation in appropriate locations	High
		4.2.1 (d) Allow for the maintenance and enhancement of coastal views when planning revegetation and site rehabilitation	High
		4.2.1 (e) Consider the removal of the Red Cedar (<i>Toona ciliata</i>) plantation	High
		4.2.1 (f) Remove the timber pallets surrounding the trees that were planted as part of erosion control works	Medium
		4.2.1 (g) The current grazing restrictions within Point Ross Reserve will be maintained	High
4.3 Pest Animal Management	<i>To reduce the negative impacts of pest animal species on flora and fauna within the Reserve</i>	4.3.1 (a) Establish an ongoing coordinated Rat control program across Norfolk Island Public Reserves and on private land with the target of reducing rat numbers in areas with vulnerable flora and fauna, and reducing predation pressure on birds	High
		4.3.1 (b) Carry out targeted Cat trapping and humane euthanasia, with a focus on reducing Cat numbers prior to and during the seabird breeding season	High

Theme	Strategic Objectives	Actions (How will we get there?)	Priority
	<i>and other Reserve values.</i>	4.3.1 (c) Carry out feral chicken control within Norfolk Island Public Reserves and encourage neighboring landholders to control feral chickens on their properties	High
		4.3.1 (d) Ensure appropriate precautions are be taken to ensure Argentine Ants do not establish within the Reserve	High
		4.2.1 (e) Undertake Crimson Rosella control as required	High
4.4 Cultural Heritage and Scenic Amenity	<i>To maintain the scenic quality and character of Point Ross Reserve and protect important cultural heritage values.</i>	4.4.1 (a) Allow for the maintenance and enhancement of coastal views when planning revegetation and site rehabilitation	Medium
		4.4.1 (b) Increase the availability of traditional craft plants by including native craft species in habitat rehabilitation, and allow for the non-commercial collection of these without a permit	Medium
		4.4.1 (c) Maintain the current informal access to Crystal Pool via the walking track and ropes	High
4.5 Recreation management	<i>To provide for appropriate and safe public recreation and commercial use, and to meet the requirements for access and infrastructure in Two Chimneys Reserve without compromising the values of the Reserve.</i>	4.5.1 (a) Consider the feasibility of formalising or repairing the walking/access track to Crystal Pool in the context of the level of use received, the high cost of such works and how upgrades to the track might need to be accompanied by visitor education to ensure that the unpredictable conditions of Crystal Pool and the rock platform are clear	Medium
		4.5.1 (b) Should funding become available, and there be a demand for more walking tracks in the reserve, a walkway with timber sections over mutton bird holes and uneven ground to the top of Point Ross could be considered	Low
		4.5.1 (c) Undertake a safety/signage audit within Point Ross Reserve and install appropriate barrier and signage according to the outcome of the audit.	High
		4.5.1 (d) Maintain or improve existing signage within the Reserve to warn of the dangers of accessing Crystal Pool, but keep signage to a minimum where possible	High
		4.5.1 (e) Signage reminding Reserve visitors about regulations around walking dogs within Point Ross Reserve and other Norfolk Island Reserves should be considered	Medium
		4.5.1 (f) Periodically review the need for picnic and barbecue facilities and toilets at Point Ross Reserve	Medium
		4.5.1 (g) Erect appropriate timber safety barriers in identified dangerous areas along the cliff line and revegetate behind the barriers with appropriate low-growing native species	High
4.6 Access and facilities	<i>To facilitate the quiet enjoyment of Point Ross Reserve by</i>	4.6.1 (a) Consider reshaping and sealing the access track into the Reserve if funding allows	Medium
		4.6.1 (b) Upgrade drainage to better manage runoff within the Reserve	High

Theme	Strategic Objectives	Actions (How will we get there?)	Priority
	<i>providing appropriate public access and facilities</i>	4.6.1 (c) Monitor informal vehicular tracks, and limit vehicular movements in wet and other weather should the tracks be deteriorating.	Ongoing
		4.6.1 (d) Monitor the condition of the grass car park, and if deliberate damage or increased usage causes unsustainable impacts, use bollards to delineate formal parking areas	Ongoing
4.7 Signage, education and interpretation	<i>To foster the community's knowledge of the natural history and cultural importance of Point Ross Reserve</i>	4.7.1 (a) Foster the community's connection with the natural environment and its cultural heritage values by providing appropriate interpretation and signage	Ongoing
4.8 Planning for Efficient Reserve Management	<i>To deliver the best possible outcomes by efficiently allocating management resources across the Norfolk Island Public Reserves</i>	4.8.1 (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
		4.8.1 (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
		4.8.1 (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

References

- Anderson, A., (undated), *Prehistoric Human Colonisation of Norfolk Island*. First Interim Report to Australian Heritage Commission. Unpublished report, Division of Archaeology and Natural History, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University.
- Anderson, J.G., (1997). *A consultancy to establish a weed control strategy for the preservation and protection of endangered plants of Norfolk Island*, Australian Parks and Wildlife Service, Norfolk Island.
- Director of National Parks (2010). *Norfolk Island Regional Threatened Species Recovery Plan*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra.
- Green, P.S. 1994. *Flora of Australia* Volume 49, Oceanic Islands 1, AGPS, Canberra.
- Hoffman, B.D. 2017. Draft Argentine Ant Eradication Strategy Norfolk Island, 2017 – 2018. Report to the Norfolk Island Regional Council. CSIRO, Australia.
- Mills, K. (2007). *The Flora of Norfolk Island. 7. Endemic and Threatened Species*. The Author, Jamberoo, New South Wales, August.
- Mills, K. (2007). *The Flora of Norfolk Island. 7. Endemic and Threatened Species*. The Author, Jamberoo, New South Wales, August.
- Mills, K. (2017). Survey of Public Reserves on Norfolk Island for Threatened Plant Species. Point Ross and Bumbora Reserve. Prepared for Norfolk Island Regional Council, December.
- Parsons Brinckerhoff 2009. *The Administration of Norfolk Island Norfolk Island Natural Resource Plan of management*, Norfolk Island.
- Moilanen, A., Wilson, K., and Possingham, H., 2009. *Spatial conservation prioritisation: quantitative methods with computational tools*. Oxford University Press, New York.

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 2 details 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. Should activities inconsistent with those outlined in Table 3 be undertaken in Point Ross, (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.

Table 2. Controlled Activities in all Norfolk Island Public Reserves

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
1. Hazardous Activities	<p>No person shall undertake any activity within a Reserve that may reasonably be expected to expose them or any other person to injury or death. Any other activity that may reasonably be expected to pose some hazard or nuisance to any person or to nuisance to the Reserve or adjoining land or sea may not be undertaken in a Reserve without a permit.</p> <p>The Conservator of Public Reserves may only grant such a permit if he or she is satisfied that reasonable measures can and will be 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>
2. Firearms, other Weapons, Traps and Snares	<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 rock fishing without a permit. <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 to do so.</p>
3. Explosive Devices	<p>No person shall possess, carry or use within a Reserve any form of explosive device, including pyrotechnic devices such as fireworks of any kind, 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 and management of the Reserve to do so. 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 Regional 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 shall provide the Conservator of Public Reserves with written details and plans of the proposed activity, proof of licences, a copy of appropriate standards and any other relevant technical details. A permit to conduct these activities shall not be granted unless the applicant holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy for at least \$20 million and meets the requirements in relation to certificates of currency and indemnity forms set out in this table at 20. Commercial Activities.</p>
4. Artefacts	<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 and includes but is not restricted to any object, thing or item that in some way has been protected or that may be capable of being protected under any other legislation. 'Artefact' includes any man-made object, thing or item that can reasonably be construed to be or to have been the property of a person or persons unknown.</p>

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
5. Metal Detecting	<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 to do so.</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 and management of the Reserve to do so.</p>
6. Native and Other Animals	<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 in a Reserve; • 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 and management of the Reserve to do so, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management.</p>
7. Protection of Individuals of All Species	<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 and management of the Reserve to do so, or 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 Sections 10 (Exotic Fruit), 11 (Traditional Craft Materials), 12 (Pine Seed Collection), and 13 (Firewood) of this table.</p>
8. Dogs	<p>Except as otherwise provided here, or provided in the <i>Dogs Registration Act 1936</i> and the <i>Dogs Registration Regulations 1994</i>, a person shall not take a dog into a Reserve unless that dog is under the control of and is in the company of that person.</p> <p>A dog must be kept on a leash <u>at all times</u> within Hundred Acres, Bumbora and Point Ross Reserves, and within other areas of Reserves that are not grazed by cattle to avoid death or injury to seabirds and other birds.</p> <p>A dog that is accompanied by and is under the control of a person 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 those Reserves between the seaward side of Bay Street and high water mark and between the seaward side of the road around Emily Bay and high water mark; and • those parts of Government House Domain Reserve generally to the south of the wall on the south and south east of Government House grounds and driveway to which the public normally have access;

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<p>A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to go onto a tee, green or bunker that is part of Government House Domain Reserve or Point Hunter Reserve that is maintained and used by the Norfolk Island Golf Club as part of the golf course.</p> <p>A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to enter the graveyard in Cemetery Reserve.</p> <p>A person shall not permit any dog over which they could reasonably be expected to exercise control to interfere with any native animal or the habitat of any native animal.</p> <p>A person who could reasonably be expected to be responsible for exercising control over a dog in a Reserve must carry means for removing and disposing of dog faeces. If a dog over which a person could reasonably be expected to exercise control defecates in a Reserve that person must remove the 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 in a Reserve; or • 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 Sections 10 (Exotic Fruit), 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 in all public Reserves.
11. Traditional Craft Materials	Picking and removing by hand of foliage of <i>Typha orientalis</i> (Flags, Drain Flax, Bulrush) within Headstone Reserve, Kingston Recreation Reserve, Kingston Common Reserve and Bumbora Reserve for making traditional handicrafts is permitted. Picking and removing by hand of foliage of <i>Cyperus lucidus</i> (Moo-oo) and <i>Phormium tenax</i> (Flax) within all public Reserves for making traditional handicrafts is permitted. 'Traditional handicrafts' does not include items made for sale. Persons must ensure that they do not cause damage to any other plants when picking and removing the foliage of <i>Typha orientalis</i> (Flags, Drain Flags, Bulrush), <i>Cyperus lucidus</i> (Moo-oo) and <i>Phormium tenax</i> (Flax).
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.	A person shall not erect or place a monument, memorial or commemorative marker of any kind in a public Reserve without approval from the

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
Monuments and Memorials	<p>Conservator 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 only if the proposed 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 conserving the area or its biodiversity; • 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 may only be approved if the deceased had a strong, long-standing involvement with conserving the area or its biodiversity. In considering a proposal to erect or place a monument, memorial or 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 taking into account materials, size, design and 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 the Reserve to do so.</p>
15. Research	<p>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 samples of air, water, soil, rock or take, measure or in any other way mark or tag any biological item, organism or material within a 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 and management of the Reserve to do so, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the plan of management. Unless a formal agreement has been reached that ensures that the Norfolk Island community will share appropriately in any profits or other benefits from the proposed access to biological resources, permits granted for scientific research purposes will not convey to the permit holder or any other person, institution or corporation any rights whatsoever to any benefits that may flow from intellectual property obtained by the permit holder as a result of the permit holder's activities. In such cases, every permit granted for scientific research purposes shall include the following condition:</p> <p><i>This permit is issued for scientific research and educational purposes only and does not convey to the permit holder or any other person, institution or corporation any rights whatsoever to any benefits that may flow from intellectual property obtained by the permit holder as a result of the permit holder's activities pursuant to this permit, such intellectual property and benefits remaining vested in the Norfolk Island Regional Council and or the Commonwealth of Australia as the case may be.</i></p>
16. Horse-riding	<p>Horses may be ridden without a permit in those areas in public Reserves to which cattle normally have access for grazing.</p> <p>A permit may be granted for occasional horse riding within other Reserves if the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activity will not adversely affect the amenity of the Reserve for other users and will not damage the natural and cultural features of the Reserve.</p>
17. Motor	<p>A person shall not use or leave a motor vehicle in a Reserve except in or on an area approved for the purpose. Motorised wheelchairs or mobility aids</p>

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
Vehicles	<p>may be used to convey disabled persons in public Reserves. Motor vehicles required for emergency services response purposes, or for conservation and management will be permitted in a Reserve. Conservator of Public Reserves must be informed by the responding emergency service coordinator as soon 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 interests of the conservation and 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 conservation and management 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 shall not occur in a Reserve without 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 such 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 in accordance with an approval for the activity. A permit to conduct a commercial activity in a Reserve shall not be granted unless the applicant provides a certificate of currency showing that he or she holds a valid public risk liability insurance policy for at least \$20 million. The certificate shall have endorsed upon it the Norfolk Island Regional Council's interest in granting the permit and shall specifically refer to the activities intended to be conducted pursuant to the permit. It will be presumed that in issuing the certificate of currency the insurer has been advised of the activities to be conducted and that those activities are not the subject of any exclusion under the policy held. The permit to conduct these activities will cease to be valid immediately if the permit holder's public risk liability insurance lapses for any reason during the period for which the permit has been issued or if a certificate of currency appears to be defective in any manner.</p> <p>A permit shall not be granted for any commercial activity unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activity will not adversely affect the amenity of the Reserve for other users and will not damage the Reserve. Filming and photography of any kind other than for private purposes and the use of any part of a public Reserve for promotions of any kind are considered to be commercial activities. Wedding ceremonies are detailed in part 21 of this table. A permit shall not be granted for commercial activities, other than bus tours, off-road vehicle tours, walking tours, horse rides or picnics in a Reserve unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activities are in the interests of the conservation and management of the Reserve, or are essential to the interpretive and education aims outlined in a plan of management. Commercial tour operators shall in all cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide sufficient cooking equipment, tables and seating to cater for all of the persons on their tour; and

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 without a permit.</p> <p>A wedding ceremony may be conducted, including by a wedding celebrant in the course of a business, trade, profession or calling, without a permit in a public Reserve other than Cemetery Reserve, Government House Domain Reserve and War Memorial Reserve, provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confetti or rice is not thrown; 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 of fires outside of a designated fireplace, or 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 environment; 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 calling, that celebrant holds a valid public risk 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 for the purpose. Camping will not be permitted in any Reserve except Government House Domain Reserve other than on or in the immediate vicinity of the Polynesian settlement site and 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 December and 1 March as specified in the Gazette. Camping in Government House Domain Reserve and Point Hunter Reserve at other times may be permitted only 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 interpretive and education aims of 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 to do so.</p>
24. Chemicals	<p>No chemical pesticide, herbicide or toxic or noxious substance shall be used, left or deposited in a Reserve without a permit from the Conservator of Public Reserves.</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 to do so.</p>

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
25. Quarrying and Mining	<p>The Conservator of Public Reserves <u>may</u> consider approving a permit for rock extraction/quarrying activities within Headstone Reserve providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thorough independent investigation is done to determine the suitability of Headstone Reserve as a rock extraction site in comparison to other potential sites on public and private land on Norfolk Island for rock extraction, and Headstone Reserve is identified as the best location for this activity. • All required permits and approvals (including permits from Marine Parks Australia and EPBC Act referrals where required) are obtained prior to any works commencing. • A detailed Environmental Impact Statement/Assessment is prepared by an independent party as part of the development. • The Environmental Impact Statement considers the impact of the rock extraction on the environment in Headstone Reserve (including flora, fauna) and details and costs appropriate mitigation measures and environmental offsets, including habitat restoration, revegetation, weed control, erosion control and improvements to drainage and runoff from Public Reserves into the Marine Park in Headstone Reserve and/or in other High Priority Public Reserves on Norfolk Island to ensure no net loss of environmental values on Norfolk Island. • The Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that the recommended environmental offsets and mitigation measures are appropriate to ensure there will be no long-term overall impact on the environment of Norfolk Island. • Funding for the recommended environmental offsets is provided following approval to proceed, and prior to the commencement of any activities associated with rock extraction. <p>Any other quarrying and or mining in any form, other than for sand from Cemetery Reserve in the short term, shall not be permitted in any other Reserve.</p> <p>Sand mining in Cemetery Reserve will be permitted by the Conservator of Public Reserves <u>only until an alternative source of sand is identified</u>, provided the sand is for an essential building or construction 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 in accordance with any conditions that the Conservator of Public Reserves may set 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 archaeological advice, the advice of the KAVHA Site Manager, the KAVHA Conservation Plan of management and, in the case of requests for significant amounts of sand, any recommendation of the Norfolk Island Regional Council. A permit for the removal of sand for other than an essential building or construction purpose shall only be granted if it is in the overriding public interest to do so. Sand may not be removed elsewhere from within Cemetery Reserve or from within any other Public 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 in accordance with a plan of management, or in the opinion of the Conservator of Public Reserves, is essential to undertaking or completing works in a public Reserve to:</p>

Activity Type	Details of Controlled Activity and Permit Requirements for ALL Public reserves
	<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 right⁸ applies or its dependent calf up to 6 months old; or a registered⁹ 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)

⁸ In accordance with the *Pasturage and Enclosure Act 1949*.

⁹ In accordance with the *Dogs Registration Act 1936*.

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.

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 3 presents the draft prioritisation of the reserves. In prioritising the reserves against one another, the draft prioritisation considered the criteria in Table 4. Note that this is a preliminary prioritisation, and the highest priority management action from all plans is to formally prioritise the reserves using solid scientific methodology.

Table 3. 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 4. 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
Middleridge 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 5.

Table 5. Changes to ownership and management of Norfolk Island Public Reserves

1. Reserves transferred from the Commonwealth to the Norfolk Island Regional Council ¹⁰	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 ¹¹
<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.

¹⁰ As per the *Norfolk Island Land Transfer Ordinance 2016 (Cth)*

¹¹ As per advice from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, 2016