

DON RESERVE

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023 - 2028



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Devonport acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita, Tasmania. We pay our respects to all their elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

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1 Executive Summary

The Don Reserve is one of many jewels in Devonport, treasured by residents and visitors for its natural, cultural, and recreational values. As one of two significant bushland remnants, the reserve provides essential habitat and ecosystem services.

This plan is the third iteration of management plans that builds on over 20 years of community and Council knowledge and activity in caring for the Reserve.

Its accessibility, popularity, and interface with the urban environment continues to present management challenges. Pressures include:

- Invasive species - weeds, feral and stray cats, uncontrolled dogs
- Litter and waste such as cigarette butts and dog waste
- Bushfire risk
- Urban encroachment and adverse human impacts – dumping of garden waste, clearing vegetation, creation of unauthorised access points and tracks

In response, three goals and 20 recommendations for action to be undertaken by 2028, have been identified, through consultation with Council employees, the Friends of Don Reserve, and the broader community. Goals and high priority actions recommended are as follows:

1. Biodiversity enhanced through bushland protection, maintenance, and restoration
 - Develop and implement annual plan for the control of priority declared and environmental weeds
 - Undertake revegetation where required with local provenance species
 - Implement the Don Reserve Fire Management Plan
 - Retain habitat through the retention of large old trees (where assessed as safe), logs and woody debris. Consider relocating to the Reserve any woody material with hollows removed from other Council tree removal operations.
2. An aware and engaged community
 - Support the efforts of volunteers, such as the Friends of Don Reserve, through strong recruitment, reward, and recognition
 - Deliver, support, and promote learning and engagement activities
3. Low impact recreation supported through sensitively designed infrastructure
 - Continue to undertake regular condition inspections, maintenance, and renewal of built assets
 - Develop systems and train relevant Council staff and contractors in working in sensitive ecological environments

Guiding principles for enduring strategic management, decision-making, and delivery have been established highlighting the Reserve's intrinsic value, good practice bushland management, respecting Aboriginal heritage and values, compatibility of recreation use, adaptive management, and community involvement.

To support Council to implement the Plan, it is recommended that a Don Reserve Working Group be formed comprising Council employees, neighbouring landholders, organisations, and community representatives with experience in natural resource

management, and other users of the Reserve. Progress will be assessed and reported to Council annually, with the Plan formally reviewed in 2028.

2 Overview

2.1 Purpose

The Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan provides the Devonport City Council with a framework for improving conservation of the Reserve's biodiversity while balancing visitor use.

The Don Reserve is one of two large public areas of remnant vegetation in Devonport and is a popular place for nature-based recreational experiences. The Plan aims to reflect the needs of Council as the manager of the Reserve, current and future residents, and users of the Reserve as custodians of Devonport's natural environment.

The Plan identifies the Reserve's values and pressures, and establishes goals, guiding principles and priorities for management. Plan implementation will contribute towards meeting Goal 1 of the *Devonport City Council Strategic Plan 2009-2030*:

Living Lightly on our Environment - Through the integration of sustainable practices, we will ensure Devonport's viability socially, economically, and environmentally, preserving our natural geography and landscapes for future generations. Planned and sustainable management of energy, air, water, and waste will assist in the delivery of a healthy environment.

2.2 Methodology

The following steps have been undertaken in developing this draft Plan:

- Review of the 2015-2020 Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan
- Consultation with the Friends of Don Reserve, broad community, and Council employees
- Development of draft actions based on consultation outcomes, Council policies and plans

2.3 Reserve Location and Tenure

The Don Reserve is one of the two largest reserves containing high quality remnant vegetation in Devonport, the other being the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt Reserve. These Reserves along with a few smaller reserves and pockets of remnant vegetation are classified as 'environmental land' which cover 270ha or 67% of Council managed public open space, which in total comprise 405ha or 3.5% of Devonport's municipal area¹.

The Reserve is a narrow strip of remnant vegetation of approximately 76ha with a 689m maximum width from end Best Street to the River and 2814 metres in length on the eastern bank of the Don River.

The statutory boundary defines the Reserve from Don River Railway in the South and the Tas Rail main line to the North (refer Map 1). For the purposes of managing the natural and community values of the Reserve this Plan covers an area larger than the statutory Reserve boundary (refer Map 2) to include:

- Riparian zone of a tributary of the Don River running along Jiloa Way

¹ Open Space Strategy 2022-32, Prepared by GHD for Devonport City Council, p23 & p27

- Bushland area from Don River Railway to the Forth Road bridge including Dell Luck Reserve
- Sawdust Bridge
- The cycling/walking track on the western side of the estuary (Waverly Road Track). Council has entered a ten-year lease with the Crown to manage this area until September 2032.

Current land tenure in and near the Reserve includes:

- Land at the northern and southern parts of the reserve that are owned by Council
- Crown land near the river
- Don College, administered by the Education Department
- The railway corridor, which is leased until 2051 from Council for use as a railway heritage tourist attraction by the Don River Historic Railway
- The balance of the reserve, including the area occupied by the Aquatic Centre is Crown land, administered by Council

2.4 Responsibilities and Investment

2.4.1 Devonport City Council

Devonport City Council plays several roles in managing reserves across the City.

- Provider – As the owner and manager of public land Council invests in the management of natural areas to sustain ecological processes and for the community's enjoyment
- Regulator – Council promotes a safe and healthy community including conservation of natural areas through several legislative frameworks and through strategic planning and policy
- Facilitator - Council supports initiatives to improve bushland management by providing resources and bringing together stakeholders
- Advocate – Council advocates for issues of importance to rate payers and the wider community

2.4.2 Adjoining landowners and residents

Encouraging neighbouring landowners and residents to embrace the Reserve's importance should be a focus. Activities such as avoiding the planting of environmental weeds in gardens, not clearing native vegetation on reserve boundaries, utilising existing access points and tracks, being responsible pet owners, and involvement in conservation projects, would greatly assist in enhancing biodiversity outcomes.

2.4.3 Community

Many residents are passionate about the natural environment and actively volunteer their time to add value to Council's investment in Devonport's reserves.

The Friends of Don Reserve (FoDR) volunteers gather regularly throughout the year, with the support of Council, to undertake bushland conservation projects throughout the Reserve and adjacent bushland and coastal areas. Activities include weed control, revegetation, litter removal, community education, surveys, and monitoring. The volunteers contribute several hundred hours per annum, which adds significantly to the health of the Reserve. The group welcomes new members, even for a few hours. Contact Council to register your interest.

Council also involves students, other community groups, non-government organisations and the broader community to participate in bushland conservation planning and projects. There is further opportunity to develop engagement and learning initiatives to raise community awareness and appreciation of the Reserve's values, with the aim of facilitating behaviour change.

The community further has a responsibility to take reasonable care and to discourage any anti-social behaviour or report it to authorities or Council. This includes behaviour that impacts adversely on Reserve values. Issues of concern can be reported to Council online through the Council website.

2.5 Implementation and Monitoring

Resources to implement this plan are allocated each year as part of Council's annual planning and budgetary process. Consideration is given to legal obligations, community expectations, and the Plan's guiding principles. The level of investment is also considered in the broader context of other strategic priorities of Council.

There may also be opportunities to attain external funding and other in-kind contributions to support threatened species, manage invasive species, deliver community engagement programs, and improve Reserve infrastructure.

It is recommended that a Don Reserve Working Group is formed (that meet at least every six months) to guide the Plan's implementation. The Group is to comprise Council employees, neighbouring landholders, organisations, and community representatives with experience in natural resource management, and recreation users of the Reserve.

Actions undertaken as outlined in this plan will be assessed and reported to Council on an annual basis. This includes consideration of any future recommendations where new priorities, issues or management requirements are required. The Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan will be formally reviewed in 2028.

Figure 1. Don Reserve Statutory Boundary



Figure 2. Area Covered by this Plan



2.6 Strategic and Legislative Context:

The Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan is a local site-based plan that sits within the larger *Devonport Open Space Strategy* planning framework. The Plan also complements and fulfils a range of plans, strategies, and legislative compliance.

Devonport City Council

- *Environment Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Plan*
- *Don Reserve Bushfire Management Plan*
- *Community Volunteer Sustainability Strategy*
- *Pedestrian Strategy*
- *Bike Riding Strategy*
- *Signage Strategy*
- *Asset Management Strategy*
- *Financial Management Strategy*

Cradle Coast Authority

- *Cradle Coast NRM Strategy 2030*
- *Cradle Coast Cat Management Strategy 2021-2026*

State Government

- *Biosecurity Act 2019*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- *Dog Control Act 2000*
- *Cat Management Act 2009*
- *State Coastal Policy 1996*
- *State Policy on Water Quality Management*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*
- *Crown Lands Act 1976*
- *Federal Government*
- *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Threatened Species)*
- *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*

3 Reserve Values

3.1 Natural Values

The Reserve is of high conservation value due to significant remnant vegetation and faunal communities.

Vegetation communities include:

- *Eucalyptus ovata* (black gum) populating much of the Reserve south of the Don College. This is a significant feeding source for the swift parrot. Black gum forest and woodland is listed as threatened under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and forests dominated by black gum or Brookers gum (*Eucalyptus brookeriana*) are listed as critically endangered under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- *Melaleuca ericifolia* (swamp paperbark) forest is located generally on the mud flats at the edges of the estuary, particularly at the southern end of the Reserve. *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest is listed as threatened under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

- *Eucalyptus viminalis* (white gum) coastal dry forest adjacent to the Don College Oval.
- *Eucalyptus amygdalina* (black peppermint) occupies the higher ground along the estuary and the slopes near Steele Street and the Aquatic Centre.
- Damp sclerophyll forest dominated by a mixture of eucalypt species occupies a small area near the Don Recreation Ground.
- *Acacia sophorae* shrubland (coast wattle) occurs as small, isolated patches at the northern extreme of the Reserve.
- Small patches of *Austrostipa stipoides* (saltmarsh) dominated by coastal spear grass exist on the more elevated mudflats.

During the 2019 Bioblitz survey, 81 native plant species, 21 native fungi and 7 native protozoan species were identified².

A fauna survey³ conducted in 2001/02 Plan recorded 9 mammal species the Reserve including echidna, eastern barred bandicoot (vulnerable status under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*), southern brown bandicoot, brush-tailed possum, ring-tailed possum, long-nosed potoroo, Tasmanian pademelon, Bennett's wallaby and swamp rat. In 2014, platypus were recorded in the Don River near the southern end of Waverley Road and again during the 2019 BioBlitz survey. Other species considered likely to inhabit the Reserve include the water rat, sugar glider, eastern and little pygmy possums, white-footed dunnart, and eight bat species; three of which were identified during the 2019 BioBlitz survey: chocolate wattle bat, large forest bat, and the little forest bat.

Engaeus granulatus (central north burrowing crayfish) are present in the creek between Jiloa Way and Georgiana Street (endangered status under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*).

Sixty five (65) bird species were further recorded in 2002 including two of note being the swift parrot (listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) and the masked owl (listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*). A further 10 bird species have been recorded in the reserve since 2009 making the current total 75.

The Reserve also provides habitat for smaller invertebrates with fallen branches and leaf litter providing shelter and sources of food. During the 2019 Bioblitz survey there were 29 insects, 15 arachnids, 4 molluscs, 4 amphibians and one reptile species native to Tasmania recorded.

In addition to providing habitat, bushland provides critical ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration. Bushland helps to mitigate climate change by capturing and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carbon is stored in both living and dead biomass – flora, litter layer, woody debris, roots, and soil. This carbon can be stored for decades, or even centuries, depending on the forest type and level of human or natural disturbance (e.g., bushfire).

² Extinction Matters BioBlitz, 8-9 November 2019, iNaturalist platform, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/don-reserve-extinction-matters-bioblitz>

³ Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan, 2002, Devonport City Council

Enhancing the Reserve's natural values will be most efficiently and effectively achieved by firstly protecting the healthiest intact natural systems and processes, then managing any pressures or threats, followed by active restoration with intervention focused on building ecosystem resilience.

A broader landscape scale (or ecosystem) approach should also be adopted to increase biodiversity net gains. This involves working in collaboration (with public, private, and non-government land managers) at the municipal scale and beyond to create habitat networks and corridors to enhance and expand natural systems. Doing so will increase ecosystem resilience to climate and other environmental change and deliver improved social and economic benefits that are more difficult to achieve by managing small sites individually or in isolation.

3.2 Cultural Values

Our natural environment includes places of high cultural, scientific, educational, and historic significance and provide Australians with a link to their identity and wellbeing. It is highly important to conserve and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and values for Aboriginal people and for Devonport's heritage and identity overall. Any major projects or development within the Reserve must comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. Council should work closer with Aboriginal peoples to identify the Reserve's traditional cultural values and determine appropriate ways to acknowledge, protect and respect these values as part of their living culture.

3.3 Nature-Based Experiences

The Don Reserve is currently used for a range of recreational and community engagement activities.

To understand community values for the Reserve a community wide survey was conducted between December 2021 and January 2022, attracting 185 responses. Over half of the 185 respondents (64%) use the Reserve at least once a week with 43% of respondents using more than 3 times a week.

The five most popular activities were walking (for recreation, as a transport route and walking the dog), cycling, observing and/or studying flora and fauna, running, and a place to sit and relax. Other activities include photography, accessing the river for water sports, conservation works, geocaching and family gatherings.

These opportunities contribute significantly to the health and well-being of the community however it is important that access is managed appropriately to ensure ecological and cultural values are not diminished.

4 Pressure on the Reserve

There are a range of pressures or threats adversely impacting on Reserve values as raised through community, stakeholder, and staff consultation. Of the 184 community survey respondents who indicated they had used the Reserve in the past 12 months 124 respondents (44%) rated the Reserve's facilities 'high quality' or 'very high quality' and 72% of respondents rated the Reserve's natural environment as 'high quality' or 'very high quality'. Nevertheless, key concerns of survey respondents include:

- Poor vegetation health and loss of vegetation via weeds, unauthorised tracks, and impact of works
- Litter

- Infrastructure issues: paths – uneven surfaces and overgrown by vegetation; lack of public amenities (public toilet amenities have since been installed at the Don Hall)
- Uncontrolled dogs and dog waste
- Pedestrian safety on shared-use paths

Other human activities degrading Reserve values witnessed in the Reserve include:

- Dumping of domestic and garden refuse
- Encroachment of private properties with neighbouring residents extending their backyards into the Reserve
- Unauthorised clearing of bushland understorey and vehicular access (motorbikes)
- Planting of inappropriate species (such as environmental weeds) in, or on the boundaries of the Reserve

These pressures are explored in further detail below.

4.1 Invasive Species

Feral and stray cats, uncontrolled domestic cats and dogs, plus invasive weed species threaten the health of the Reserve's bushland ecosystem.

A 2020 study estimated that a single roaming domestic cat in Australia kills an average of 186 animals a year, of which 115 are native, and a single stray cat kills approximately 449 animals a year, of which 257 are native⁴. In 2021 a regional approach to cat management was adopted with the resulting strategy including actions for Council to participate in, such as education of responsible cat ownership and impacts of roaming and stray cats, data collection, and identifying proactive cat management activities.

Uncontrolled dogs disturb, injure or kill native fauna as well as threaten user's enjoyment and safety. Under the *Tasmanian Dog Control Act 2002* dog owners have an obligation to keep their dog under effective control. This means that dogs in public places must be held on a lead not more than two metres long by a person able to control the dog. When a dog is off lead, the owner must still keep it under effective control. This means that the dog must be close to the owner, in sight always, and respond to commands. All Council parks and reserves have been declared as restricted (on-leash) areas under the revised Dog Management Policy.

Weeds threaten conservation values by changing natural ecosystems, altering river systems, and displacing native plant and animal species by competing for space, nutrients, and sunlight. Weeds spread naturally by the wind, water, birds etc and are also spread by human activity such as on clothing, sporting equipment, machinery etc. Given the Reserve is adjacent to residential areas, dumping of garden waste and the planting of environmental weeds in gardens bordering the Reserve are major sources of new weed incursions. The Reserve has 57 weed species recorded from surveys and sightings over the past two decades. Efforts have focused on containing and/or eradicating weeds and preventing the spread of weeds. A monitoring framework should be established to understand the number and extent of weed species and to assist with weed management.

⁴ Legge, S., et al., 2020, in Cradle Coast Regional Cat Management Strategy, 4-5.

Responsible pet ownership, reducing the impact of weed invasion (such as dumping of garden waste), and undertaking appropriate weed control and revegetation is essential to maintain and enhance biodiversity and thus the Reserve's natural values.

4.2 Litter

Many survey respondents raised littering as a key issue in the Reserve. Common types of litter include cigarette butts and fast-food packaging. In addition to making the Reserve appear uncared for, litter is a form of pollution which can injure or kill wildlife when washed or blown into the river and then the ocean. Cigarette butts are also a fire risk in the Reserve. The Friends of Don Reserve volunteer group often remove litter from the Reserve however it is an individual's responsibility to take unwanted items away for disposal.

Forest debris including fallen logs and branches and leaf litter was also raised by several survey respondents as being hazardous or unsightly. Removal of woody debris from forested areas is one factor contributing to loss of biological diversity. Fallen dead wood and leaf litter provides habitat for invertebrate species dependent on decaying wood for their survival. These species play an essential role in recycling nutrients in forest and woodland ecosystems. Woody debris and leaf litter also play an important function in sequestering carbon. Restricting the removal of woody debris with due consideration of fire safety is important to maintain and enhance the Reserve's natural values.

4.3 Bushfire

Devonport City Council has a general legal responsibility to take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of fires that originate in the reserve causing personal injury, damage to adjoining property, or damage to items of natural or cultural heritage value protected by government legislation. Protection of threatened species is legislated under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Act 1995* as a requirement of reserve fire management plans. The *Don Reserve Bushfire Management Plan (2023)* objectives are to minimise risks to life, property, area burnt by unplanned bushfires and disruptions to the public, maintain ecological values and fields of view, and assist with the maintenance of the reserve's infrastructure⁵. The Plan recommends that to 2028 no planned burns are undertaken, fire breaks are assessed and potentially upgraded, and a weed management program is implemented.

4.4 Urban encroachment

Several management challenges exist due to the reserve being in an urbanised area. Encroachment activities such as extension of backyards into the Reserve for storage and dumping rubbish have a detrimental impact on natural values (loss of vegetation, weed dispersal, potential contamination, and soil erosion) and pose a threat to public safety by impeding fire management. Some encroachments may seem harmless at an individual level however cumulative encroachment can have a larger negative impact. A mixture of awareness raising activities to prevent further encroachment and compliance to address existing offences is required.

⁵ Bushfire Management Plan Don Reserve (draft), Devonport 2023, prepared by Enviro-dynamics Pty Ltd

4.5 Infrastructure

The Reserves' infrastructure allows residents and visitors to access and enjoy the Reserve's natural environment. Key infrastructure concerns for the community as highlighted in the survey relate to the condition of paths, cyclist etiquette, creation of unauthorised tracks/walking shortcuts, and lack of interpretive and safety/behavioural management signage.

The renewal and development of open space infrastructure is considered annually during Council's budget process. With a small rate base and a large amount of public assets Council prioritises infrastructure improvements around a number of issues (e.g. risk and safety, community expectation, cost) some of which at times are in conflict. To assist in informing potential capital works a rolling draft ten-year program is developed. The current draft program includes many of the items raised during the public consultation period including:

- Boardwalk replacement – Don Railway loop
- Signage
- Staged path renewal of various sections of the Reserve and Waverly Rd walking track

Definitive projects are approved by Council each year in June.

The *Devonport Signage Strategy* outlines a signage hierarchy and action plan to improve navigation across the City as well as the visitor experience. Directional signage is the key signage type allocated for walking/cycling paths. Interpretive signage would assist to inform visitors of the reserve's ecological importance. Two interpretive signs will be installed in the Reserve later in 2023. There are further opportunities to review signage to reinforce acceptable visitor behaviour.

5 Guiding Principles

The Reserve's values and management pressures have informed the development of the following principles to guide the Plan's implementation. These principles will provide enduring guidance for strategic decision-making, management and delivery.

- The natural Reserve ecosystem(s) has intrinsic value in and for itself irrespective of the needs, wants, attitudes and benefits of humans.
- Biodiversity conservation is best achieved through firstly protecting intact natural systems, then managing any pressures or threats, followed by active restoration
- A broader landscape scale approach is to be adopted to enhance and expand habitat networks.
- Aboriginal heritage and values associated with the Reserve are to be protected and respected.
- Recreational uses must be compatible with ecological health and cultural values.
- An adaptive management approach will be applied to deal with any uncertainty, learn from actions taken and adapt as required to achieve better outcomes.
- Protection, management, and appropriate use of the Reserve depends on active community involvement and collaboration.

6 Goals and Recommendations

Three key goals have been identified to prioritise action in this Plan.

1. Biodiversity enhanced through bushland protection, maintenance, and restoration
2. An aware and engaged community
3. Low impact recreation supported through sensitively designed infrastructure

6.1 Goal 1: Biodiversity enhanced through bushland protection, maintenance, and restoration

Recommended Actions:

- Develop and implement annual plan for the control of priority declared and environmental weeds
- Undertake revegetation where required with local provenance species
- Implement the Don Reserve Fire Management Plan
- Retain habitat through the retention of large old trees (where assessed as safe), logs and woody debris. Consider relocating to the Reserve any woody material with hollows removed from other Council tree removal operations
- Establish monitoring and mapping system to support operational planning
- Enhance habitat connectivity on adjoining land. For instance, encourage private landholders to protect and restore remnant vegetation (education, incentives, and engagement in conservation programs such as Land for Wildlife etc as opportunities arise)
- Assess need to develop invasive fauna programs (e.g. cat management)
- Consider monitoring, assessing, and reporting on the state of the Reserve's ecological health at least every 10 years
- Investigate carbon sequestration and preservation activities (quantify benefits etc)

Outcomes:

Significant or sensitive vegetation communities, plant and animal species, are protected.

The extent and condition of native vegetation and habitat connectivity is understood and improved.

Threats to biodiversity are reduced.

The value of the Reserves remnant vegetation (and soil) to sequester carbon is understood.

6.2 Goal 2: An aware and engaged community

Recommended Actions:

- Support the efforts of volunteers, such as the Friends of Don Reserve, through strong recruitment, reward, and recognition
- Deliver, support and promote learning and engagement activities (field days/workshops, interpretive activities, digital platforms)
- Encourage staff, contractors, scientists and community to continue to identify and document new species to inform management practices through the Natural

Values Atlas and citizen science platforms/activities (eg Bioblitzes, Birdlife Australia's Backyard Bird Count)

- Explore opportunities to involve and learn from traditional custodians in managing and promoting bushland values
- Encourage community responsibility and positive behaviours through education, incentives, or compliance
- Develop and foster government and community partnerships including with reserve neighbours

Outcomes:

Increased community appreciation and respect of natural and cultural values and appropriate use.

Greater community participation in biodiversity activities.

Cultural heritage sites and values are identified and protected. Aboriginal cultural practices are integrated into interpretation and management.

Strong partnerships developed and nurtured.

6.3 Goal 3: Low impact recreation supported through sensitively designed infrastructure

Recommended Actions:

- Continue to undertake regular condition inspections, maintenance, and renewal of built assets
- Develop systems and train relevant Council staff and contractors in working in sensitive ecological/cultural environments
- Undertake audit of Reserve signage and access points to inform improved wayfinding, and behaviour management
- Promote facilities and amenities available to Reserve visitors
- Consider extension of coastal path network on western side of Don River, north of Sawdust Bridge, as per Open Space Strategy

Outcomes:

Infrastructure designed, constructed, maintained and used in an ecologically and culturally sensitive manner.

6.4 Action Plan

An action plan for implementation (ref Appendix 1) has been developed around the three goals with the following components.

Action:	The activity or output to be delivered
Year planned:	Suggested year(s) for activity to be delivered. Timing of will be dependent on dedicated budget allocation and the type of staff resourcing required.
Priority:	High: Critical importance, high impact, easier to implement Medium: Complimentary to existing services, medium impact Low: Limited impact, possibly difficult to implement
Resources:	A-OPEX: Annual operational expenditure by Council – staffing or operational resource allocated as part of the annual plan. F-OPEX: Future operational expenditure by Council – increased requirements for future consideration in annual allocation. F-CAPEX: Future capital expenditure – identified infrastructure requirements of Council.
Responsible Department:	The team in Devonport City Council that will lead the action

7 References

Devonport City Council, 2022, Open Space Strategy 2022-32, prepared by GHD

Devonport City Council, 2002, Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan

Enviro-dynamics Pty Ltd, 2023, Bushfire Management Plan Don Reserve, prepared for the Devonport City Council

Extinction Matters BioBlitz, 8-9 November 2019, survey results retrieved from iNaturalist platform, accessed 20 June 2023, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/don-reserve-extinction-matters-bioblitz>

Legge, S., Woinarski, J.C.Z., Dickman, C.R., Murphy, B.P., Woolley, L.-A. and Carver, M.C., 2020, We need to worry about Bella and Charlie: the impacts of pet cats on Australian wildlife, *Wildlife Research*, 47: 523-539 in *Cradle Coast Regional Cat Management Strategy*, 2021, 4-5

8 Appendices

Action Plan – Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan

Action Plan

Don Reserve Environmental Management Plan

No	Action:	Year Planned					Priority: H,M,L	Resources: A-OPEX F-OPEX F-CAPEX	Responsible Department
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28			
Goal 1: Biodiversity enhanced through bushland protection, maintenance, and restoration									
1.1	Develop and implement annual plan for the control of priority declared and environmental weeds						H	A-OPEX	Community Services
1.2	Undertake revegetation where required with local provenance species						H	A-OPEX	Community Services
1.3	Implement the Don Reserve Fire Management Plan						H	A-OPEX	Works
1.4	Retain habitat through the retention of large old trees (where assessed as safe), logs and woody debris. Consider relocating to the Reserve any woody material with hollows removed from other Council tree removal operations.						H	A-OPEX	Works
1.5	Establish monitoring and mapping system to support operational planning						M	F-OPEX	Community Services
1.6	Enhance habitat connectivity on adjoining land. For instance, encourage private landholders to protect and restore remnant vegetation (education, incentives, and engagement in conservation programs such as Land for Wildlife etc as opportunities arise)						M	F-OPEX	Community Services
1.7	Assess need to develop invasive fauna programs (eg cat management)						M	F-OPEX	Risk & Regulatory
1.8	Consider monitoring, assessing, and reporting on the state of the Reserve's ecological health at least every 10 years						M	F-OPEX	Community Services
1.9	Investigate carbon sequestration and preservation activities / benefits						L	F-OPEX	Community Services

No	Action:	Year Planned					Priority: H,M,L	Resources:		Responsible Department
								A-OPEX F-OPEX F-CAPEX		
Goal 2: An aware and engaged community										
2.1	Support the efforts of volunteers, such as the Friends of Don Reserve, through strong recruitment, reward, and recognition						H	A-OPEX	Community Services	
2.2	Deliver, support, and promote learning and engagement activities (field days/workshops, interpretive activities, digital platforms)						H	A-OPEX F-OPEX	Community Services	
2.3	Encourage staff, contractors, scientists and community to continue to identify and document new species to inform management practices through the Natural Values Atlas and citizen science platforms/activities						M	A-OPEX	Community Services	
2.4	Explore opportunities to involve and learn from traditional custodians in managing and promoting bushland values						H	F-OPEX	Community Services	
2.5	Encourage community responsibility and positive behaviours through education, incentives, or compliance						M	A-OPEX F-OPEX	Community Services Risk &Regulatory	
2.6	Develop and foster government and community partnerships including with reserve neighbours						M	A-OPEX	Community Services	
Goal 3: Low impact recreation supported by sensitively designed infrastructure										
3.1	Continue to undertake regular condition inspections, maintenance, and renewal of built assets						H	A-OPEX F-CAPEX	Works Infrastructure	
3.2	Develop systems and train relevant Council staff and contractors in working in sensitive ecological environments						H	F-OPEX	Community Services Works	
3.3	Undertake audit of Reserve signage and access points to inform improved wayfinding, and visitor management						M	F-OPEX	Infrastructure	
3.4	Promote facilities and amenities available to Reserve visitors						M	A-OPEX	Community Services	
3.5	Consider extension of coastal path network on western side of Don River, north of Sawdust Bridge, as per Open Space Strategy						M	F-CAPEX	Infrastructure	