

4. PREPARING THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Planning Process

The planning process for this Plan of Management is based on a number of principles. These are:

- Using community values as a basis for management;
- Adopting a consultative approach, incorporating input from stakeholders; including Council officers, government authorities and the local community to ensure the plan reflects the visions and values of all;
- Providing site specific analysis information to add value;
- Providing practical recommendations which are achievable in the short term;
- Incorporating the Masterplan; and
- Incorporating the findings of other studies for the Refuge.

The process undertaken to prepare this Plan of Management follows the guidelines as set out in the handbook, “Succeeding with Plans of Management - *A Guide to the Local Government Act and Crown Lands Act*” (DLWC & Mandis Roberts, 1996).

4.2 Community Consultation

Warringah Council actively seeks the involvement of the community in the preparation of its plans of management to ensure the plans address community desires, values and needs and to ensure they comply with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act 1998. The main advantages of involving the community in the process are that it:

- Creates a sense of ownership;
- Taps into the large amount of local knowledge about the site; and
- Advises and keeps the community informed.

The methods used during the development of this Plan of Management were as follows:

- Community consultation with the general community and interest groups such as the Friends of Dee Why Lagoon and Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club;
- Letter box drop to neighbouring residents inviting input into the Plan of Management;
- Consultation with Council staff and Service Units;
- Consultation with the Department of Land and Water Conservation;
- Liaison with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding Aboriginal Sites; and
- Liaison with the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding management of the Wildlife Refuge and to determine if any Aboriginal Heritage Sites are recorded within the Refuge.

The consultation process resulted in the identification of long term values for the area, along with current issues. The values are detailed in Section 5.3 of this Plan whilst the issues are summarised in Section 6. Appendix D provides further detail in relation to the consultation undertaken during the preparation of this Plan of Management.

