

P O W L E T T R I V E R R E S E R V E
A S T R A T E G Y F O R M A N A G E M E N T



DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY



REFERENCE Rs.8700

STATE PUBLIC OFFICES

2 TREASURY PLACE

MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3002

POWLETT RIVER RESERVE
A STRATEGY FOR MANAGEMENT

December, 1977

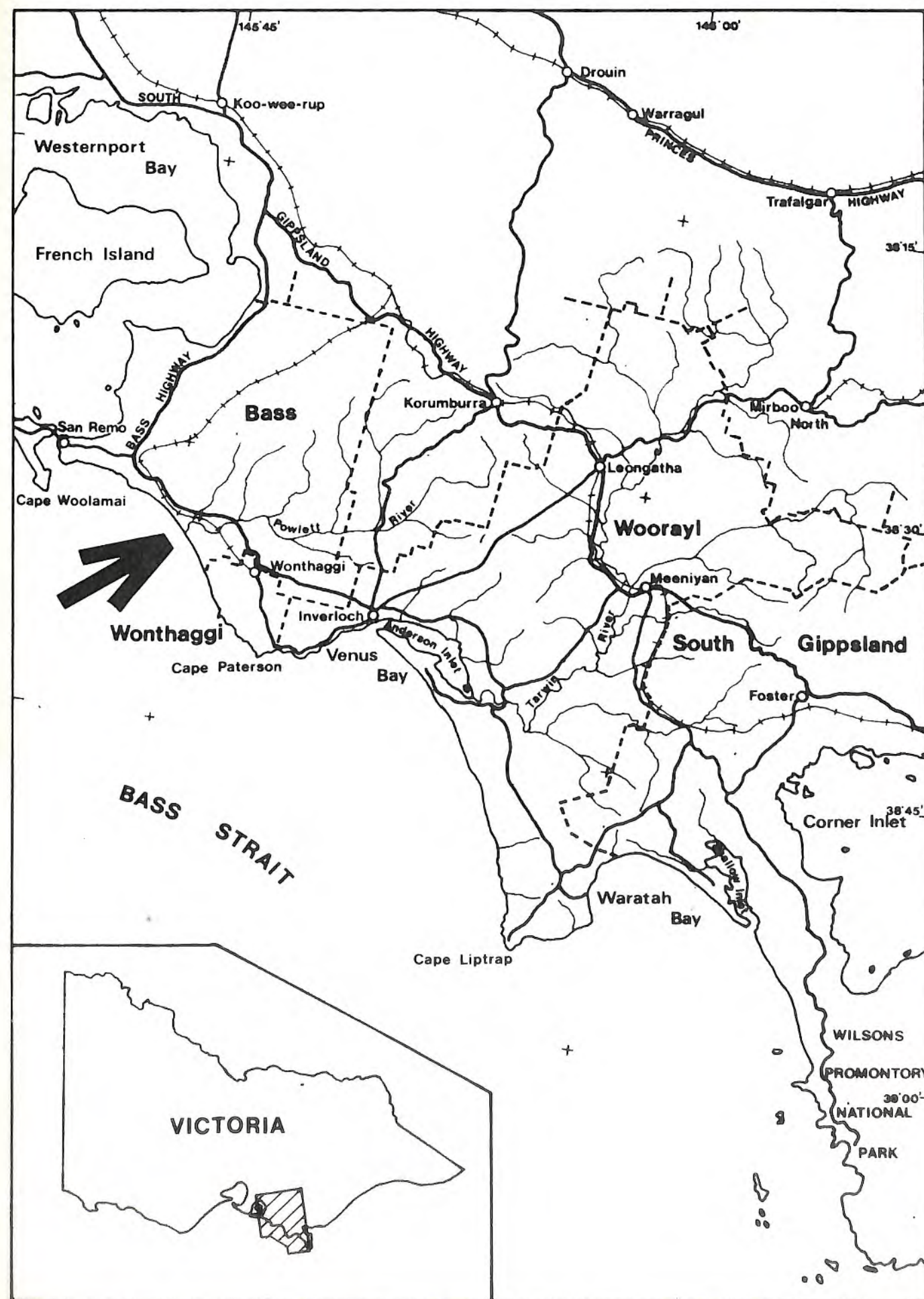
Issued under the guidance of the Coastal Management Committee:
Department of Crown Lands & Survey
Public Works Department (Ports & Harbors Division)
Soil Conservation Authority
Town and Country Planning Board

POWLETT RIVER RESERVE

A STRATEGY FOR MANAGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Summary	3
3.0 Features of the Reserve	4
3.1 Reserve Definition	4
3.2 History	4
3.3 Archaeological Relics	4
3.4 Natural Resources	4
3.4.1 Geology	
3.4.2 Land Form	
3.4.3 Soils	
3.4.4 Climate	
3.4.5 Vegetation	
3.4.6 Wildlife	
3.5 Tenures	7
3.6 Present Condition	7
3.7 Recreation	8
3.8 Landscape	8
3.9 Potential Hazards	8
3.9.1 Physical:	
Fire	
Flood	
Wind	
3.9.2 Biological	
3.9.3 Social	
3.9.4 External Influences	
4.0 Management	10
4.1 Principles and Objectives of Management	10
4.2 Management Strategy	11
4.2.1 Natural Zone	
4.2.2 Development Zone	
4.3 Fire Protection	15
4.3.1 Sources of threat	
4.3.2 Control	
4.3.3 Public Safety	
4.4 Protection	16
4.4.1 Safety	
4.4.2 Pollution	
4.4.3 Erosion	
4.4.4 Grazing	
4.5 Interpretation	17
4.6 Services	18
4.7 Financing	18
4.8 Control	18
5.0 Conclusion	18



Including access and coastal municipalities

The Region

Figure 2.

POWLETT RIVER RESERVE
A STRATEGY FOR MANAGEMENT

1.0

INTRODUCTION

This statement of resources and strategy for management has been prepared because of the concern felt for some time that if public usage of this reserve is to continue and expand, then, in order to protect its amenity, some direction should be introduced into the manner in which it is developed.

The reserve is becoming very popular for a range of recreational activities, but one of the predominant attractions mentioned by many users is its "naturalness". This concept is very difficult to quantify but the meaning is readily ascertained after even only a short time spent in exploring the reserve.

This document is an attempt to maintain this "naturalness", in the face of the present and anticipated future use.



2.0

SUMMARY

The preparation of the strategy plan has been encouraged and aided by comments and suggestions from many sources. Assistance from officers of the Westernport Regional Planning Authority (in particular), the Land Conservation Council and local residents is greatly appreciated.

Much of the information on resources was derived from a study of the South Gippsland coastal region carried out in 1976 on behalf of the Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

The reserve lies within the Land Conservation Council's Melbourne Study Area. The Council recommended that the reserve should be used primarily for recreation and nature conservation and further recommended that management should take particular care to maintain the landscape of a long exposed beach backed by high dunes and the salt marsh and sand dune vegetation with *Antechinus minimus*.

3.0 FEATURES OF THE RESERVE

3.1 RESERVE DEFINITION

The reserve as considered in this plan is bounded in the north by the Bass Highway, to the north-east by private property, to the east by an access track across the dunes from the end of the Lower Powlett Road and in the west by Bourne Creek. See Figure 1 at rear.

The location of the reserve is shown in Figure 2.

The reserve has a railway across the northern boundary (Crown land reserved for railway purposes) and has a government road which runs from the Bass Highway to the Powlett River along the north-eastern boundary. This constructed road provides the only public vehicular access to the Powlett River Reserve.

The perimeter of the reserve encloses an area of some 219 hectares but services and excisions result in the nett area being approximately 204 hectares.

3.2 HISTORY

The reserve has a long history of recreational use, predominantly for "passive recreation" although the use of beach buggies and motor bikes in extensive sand blows was common. These latter activities have ceased but the passive activities are continuing and increasing in popularity.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS

One site of occupation, a shell midden, has been identified east of the Powlett River mouth. This site is a relatively recent midden with shells collected from the rock platform at the river's entrance and some stone implements. Such sites can be of interest to the public but their preservation following discovery can be a difficult task.

3.4 NATURAL RESOURCES

3.4.1 Geology

Most of the bedrock of the reserve is covered by Quaternary sands which have been formed into parabolic dunes. Most of the underlying sediments are of Tertiary age but any coastal outcrops appear to be older sediments of Jurassic origin. The outcrop of Jurassic sediment at the mouth of the Powlett River has been recorded as a "site of special scientific interest" by Dr. E.C.F. Bird in a study on behalf of the Town and Country Planning Board. This outcrop has been intruded and indurated by a dyke of probably Tertiary age. This dyke has been faulted in two places.

On the floodplain of the Powlett River much of the topsoil is alluvium deposited by the river when in flood.

- 3.4.2 Land Form
The predominant land form is the sand dune complex which at the northern edge abuts the floodplain of the Powlett River. The country then gradually rises westwards to a line of bluffs which was the original coastline.
- 3.4.3 Soils
The soils of the coastal dunes are calcareous dune sands. The Powlett River floodplain has acid swamp soils which may be peaty but have a mottled clay horizon at about 50 to 150 cm. depth. The soils are cloddy when dry and have a high natural fertility, although deficient in phosphorus. Those close to the mouth are subject to periodic flooding by salty water.
- 3.4.4 Climate
The climate is typical of that of the southern Victorian coast with hot, dry summers and most precipitation in winter and spring. One of the major climatic influences is very strong on-shore gales, particularly from the south-west. The gales affect the vegetation by continually drenching it with salt spray and by the abrasive action of sand grains picked up from sand blows which have yet to be stabilized.
- 3.4.5 Vegetation
The dominant vegetation form of the coastal dunes is coastal scrub. Major component species are Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*) and Coast Heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*).
- The average height of the *Leptospermum* is approximately four metres whilst the banksias grow to a height of five to seven metres. Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and Hairy Spinifex (*Spartina hirsutus*) are common on the more exposed aspects of the primary dune. The presence of Marram, which is an introduced species, has been the result of attempts at stabilizing sand blows over the years.
- Maximum growth of vegetation is reached behind the dunes where conditions are more sheltered. It is in these locations that extensive banksia and tea-tree woodlands have developed.
- In the freshwater depressions between dunes the dominant plant form is paperbark scrub, the major component of which is the Swamp Paper-bark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*). An excellent example of this type of swamp lies between the railway and the dunes in the northern section of the reserve.
- On the Powlett River floodplain the main community is a saltmarsh dominated by Sea Rush, *Juncus maritimus*, and the Prickly Spear-grass, *Stipa teretifolia*.
- 3.4.6 Wildlife
Three distinct types of habitat occur within the coastal reserve; they are the coastal scrub of the dunes, the saltmarsh of the floodplain and the freshwater swamp towards the northern boundary of the reserve.



Vegetation on the Reserve changes as one moves inland, from Marram grass on the exposed slopes (e.g. bottom left corner), to Coast Tea-tree (foreground), to Coast Banksia on the more sheltered inland slopes, to Sea Rush on the Powlett River floodplain.

The bare sand showing through the Marram on the dune in the centre of the photograph has come from the sand-blow on its windward side. Foot traffic has made the problem worse.



Coast Banksia scrub. For the purposes of this report the open clearings which carry Tussock Grass (Poa) and Bracken have not been classed as a separate vegetation form.

Some of the mammals which have been observed in the reserve are wombats, echidnas and bush rats whilst reptiles include copperhead snakes.

The Swamp Antechinus (*Antechinus minimus*) occurs along the edges of the saltmarsh. This species was once thought confined to Tasmania but has been recently found in several locations on the mainland. The siting of access tracks and drainage lines is most important as ill-considered earthworks can reduce the area of habitat of the animal. This is because of the reluctance of the species to cross even very narrow cleared strips.

The reserve supports a highly diverse avifauna, particularly following floods and high tides.

The coastal scrub supports a large and varied bird population of which the honeyeaters are most conspicuous. The Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Meliphaga chrysops*) and the Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*) are typical of these birds.

The river and adjacent freshwater swamps provide a feeding and breeding place for water birds such as Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*), several species of duck, cormorants, White-faced Herons (*Ardea novae-hollandiae*), egret, spoonbills and dotterels.

The surrounding grasslands attract such birds of prey as Black-shouldered kites (*Elanus notatus*) and Nankeen Kestrels (*Falco cenchroides*)

3.5 TENURES

There is a current grazing licence over the freshwater swamp marked Area C on Fig.1. The licensee uses this area predominantly for summer grazing because during the winter much of the licensed area is under water. In the long term this licence should be terminated.

3.6 PRESENT CONDITION

In spite of a long period of minimally controlled use the reserve is in a remarkably good condition. The major problems have been extensive sand-blows in the perimeter dunes, lack of refuse collection and a low level of supervision of activities by the public.

With the appointment of a Warden for the Wonthaggi district by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey and with the co-operation of the Shire of Bass the rubbish collection and visitor supervision problems are being solved. Sand-blows were stabilized by the Soil Conservation Authority in the winter of 1976 and with adequate maintenance these large bare dunes should revegetate.

From local information it would appear that the large freshwater swamp in the northern section of the reserve at one time held water permanently to a depth of approximately 2 metres. That the swamp now is inundated only in very wet times indicates that a change in local conditions has occurred. The extent to which grazing has influenced these changes is unknown.

3.7 RECREATION

The predominant recreational uses of this reserve are "passive" rather than "organised" in nature. Some examples are:-

- surf fishing
- river fishing
- swimming in the river
- picnicking
- surfing
- camping
- hang gliding
- horse riding

The factor common to all of these activities is that they require access by either vehicle or foot to beaches or riversides. This means that the natural vegetation and habitats are subjected to damage from vehicular and foot traffic.

At the present time the only service provided is rubbish collection on a daily basis during the summer season and on a weekly basis over the remainder of the year. All other requirements, such as fresh water, have to be brought in by the people using the reserve.

The reserve is particularly popular with people who wish to camp in a natural, undeveloped environment and who wish to use it as a base for other activities such as fishing.

Although the peak visitation occurs during holiday periods the reserve is used throughout the year.

3.8 LANDSCAPE

Two features of the reserve are predominant, the long sweeping sandy beaches and the natural vegetation in association with the coastal dune system which forms a pleasing contrast to the surrounding agricultural land. Several sand blows are migrating onto vegetated areas but recent stabilization works should arrest this encroachment.

3.9 POTENTIAL HAZARDS

3.9.1 Physical

Fire

Fire could damage the reserve very severely. From a study of the vegetation it is obvious that many years have passed since a fire has burnt through the reserve. With increasing public use the risk of a wildfire must become greater.

Flood

Periodically the mouth of the Powlett River is blocked by a sand bar which causes flooding on the lower lying flats adjacent to the river. It is thought that this bar is built up by winds blowing from the south-west which collect sand from the beach and from "blow-outs" adjacent to the river mouth. Littoral drift would also contribute. This natural flooding does not do any permanent damage to the reserve but due recognition should be made of it when locating facilities.

Many hectares of freehold river flats upstream are inundated with saline water when the sand bar forms. If the inundation is prolonged there is a detrimental effect on this private land. The usual remedy is to breach the bar by using a drag line or hydraulic excavator or sometimes simply a shovel to dig a channel through the sand.

It is not clear to what extent the Jurassic outcrop at the mouth of the river contributes to the blockages. Periodic silting of river exits is a common feature along the Victorian coast and removal of the rock bar is unlikely to influence the process much or consequently to result in less frequent flooding. A proposal has been advanced by land-owners affected by flooding upstream to blast away this outcrop. This should not proceed because removal of the rock could increase scour during high flows and therefore result in a longer opening time of the entrance. The results of such a change are likely to be as follows -

- increased tidal flows through the opening could affect river salinity with consequent effect on river bank vegetation.
- littoral processes could be interrupted for a longer period after each breakthrough and this could have effects on the coastline on either side of the river.
- changed flood characteristics would affect the nature and extent of the present floodplains.

These changes would be in conflict with the aim of the management strategy.

Wind

Wind is potentially a powerful destructive force, particularly on the sand dunes. Where vegetation is removed from dunes the development of active blow-outs is almost a certainty.

3.9.2 Biological

Noxious weeds, rabbits, feral cats and dogs are present in the reserve but in relatively small numbers. Isolated outbreaks of proclaimed vermin and noxious weeds will be controlled through liaison with Inspector of Lands at Wonthaggi.

3.9.3 Social

The fact that there is only one access road to the largest part of the reserve and that surrounding land is rural in character have reduced the potential for damage by anti-social behaviour. Rubbish dumping and soil removal are minor occurrences whilst problems which elsewhere are created by adjacent urbanization, such as effluent seepage, utility easements and boundary firebreaks are absent.

Not infrequently horses are ridden through the reserve and taken swimming in the river. In the future any horse riding should be confined to the beach with access to the dunes and blow-outs prohibited. In the summertime when the river is at low level a large pool forms near the mouth. This pool is used extensively for swimming by visitors but has also been used for the swimming of horses which has left it in a badly discoloured and polluted condition. These two uses are mutually exclusive and it is intended that during summer the swimming of horses in this pool will be restricted.

3.9.4 External Influences

The extent of pollution of the river from external sources is not known; minor problems occur with dead stock being washed down the river from time to time.

Disposal of whey by ocean outfall from the Archies Creek Butter Factory through the reserve creates a local nuisance, particularly by smell, at the outlet point. This outfall is currently being relocated and will discharge below low water mark which should eliminate the odour.

4.0

MANAGEMENT

4.1 PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

The reserve because of its relatively unspoilt nature, provides a good opportunity for people who appreciate natural values to observe and be involved in recreational activities which are compatible with this unspoilt environment.

The large and increasing numbers of people visiting the reserve mean that formally established carparks and picnic areas, access tracks across the dunes and flood-plain and camping sites will have to be provided to ensure that the natural features are preserved.

These facilities will be required so that pressures can be localized on sites properly selected and constructed so that damage is minimized. In this way it will be possible to protect the bulk of the reserve. On certain sections of the access tracks board-and-chain walks or surfacing may be necessary. The formally established carparks will require surfacing with gravel or stone. It is proposed that as far as possible camping and day-use should be separated although they may be compatible in some discrete sections.

Access to the reserve along the present road is adequate and further vehicular access will not be provided. There are several walking tracks used by fishermen and these will require formal construction together with some parking space at their commencement. This is particularly so adjacent to the cemetery and in the vicinity of Bourne Creek. There is potential to develop a carpark in conjunction with the proposed Country Roads Board wayside stop just east of Bourne Creek.

Facilities for intensive recreational use should be located in areas where natural values will not be adversely affected.

Objectives of Management

1. To provide recreational opportunities which impose a minimum of regimentation.
2. To locate activities which have an intensive nature so that adverse effects are minimized.
3. To provide facilities for public enjoyment but of a type and nature which will not adversely affect the natural values of the reserve.

4. To ensure, as far as practicable, that day-use and camping areas are adequately separated.
5. To protect the reserve from damaging agencies such as fire.
6. To rehabilitate sections of the reserve which have been damaged.
7. To provide interpretative facilities to enhance public appreciation of the reserve.

4.2 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

For effective implementation of the management objectives it will be necessary to zone the reserve for particular uses.

This zonation is based upon a subjective assessment of sites for particular types of land-use and to a degree on historical land-use. Historical land-use must be considered in this reserve as long-standing patterns of use are exceedingly difficult to change. In spite of the use of this historical criteria, in most instances the current land-use is not grossly incompatible with site characteristics although some slight amendment to current use patterns have been necessary in several instances.

Bearing in mind the objectives to be achieved the reserve can be divided into two zones:-

1. Natural Zone

The two basic criteria used in classifying land into this zone are the sensitivity of sand dune and floodplain areas to damage by uncontrolled access and a requirement to maintain the character and diversity of sensitive vegetation communities.

Because the vegetated area provides such a major contribution towards the attractiveness of the reserve the inclusion of it into the natural zone will assist in maintaining this characteristic.

2. Development Zone

The five specific locations which form the development zone have been largely categorized by historic land-use. Areas A, D, E and F are used solely for car parking. The carparks have been located and set out so that parking is confined to areas where uncontrolled access to sensitive vegetation and land types is prevented. Locations have also been planned so that reasonably convenient access to the reserve for members of the public has been maintained. Although all carpark locations have been selected on the above criteria some additional work, particularly surfacing, is required to ensure that continued use does not cause surface deterioration.



Openings in the coastal scrub (Coast Banksia in the background, Coast Tea-tree in right foreground) make pleasant spots for camping.



However, the pressure of feet and vehicles damages existing trees and prevents regeneration. If the Powlett River Reserve is to retain its attractiveness, some restrictions on camping will be necessary.

Area B has been traditionally used for camping although some camping has occurred in the banksia woodland to the east of the freshwater swamp in Area C. The former area is particularly suited to summer camping as the leptospermum thickets provide shelter and some privacy to campers and is reasonably resilient and recovers readily from normal camping pressures. The camping area is also located so that ready access to the beach is obtainable via a fenced track through the dune complex. The topography of Area B is such that easy vehicle access is possible, sites are reasonably level, access for rubbish collection is good, maintenance to camp sites is possible in the off-season and maintenance of safety of campers in a fire emergency is possible.

The location of some day-use facilities in this area will not conflict with camping and with some definition of carpark it will not be an undesirable land-use.

4.2.1 Natural Zone

This zone will be designed so that minimal public impact is exerted on the natural systems. Access through this zone will be restricted to several foot tracks across the dune system and a perimeter vehicular track around the flood-plain to give access towards the mouth of the Powlett River on the western side. The foot tracks, which are marked on the accompanying map, have been sited in low natural saddles and will be fenced where they cross the dunes. The vehicular track will be surfaced in appropriate places to give all-weather access.

The natural zone includes all of the sand dune system, a banksia woodland in the north adjacent to the freshwater swamp and the saltmarsh flood-plain along the Powlett River. Access into the natural zone is now restricted to three points by a pedestrian control fence.

Maintenance
Efforts should be made to maintain the composition and structure of the vegetation in the natural zone. This will involve the following activities:-

1. Removal of noxious weeds
2. Removal of dead and dying vegetation
3. Raising of plants from locally collected seed to establish a series of age classes within the vegetation. This work will be particularly important in the banksia woodland. The use of these plants will also be required where artificial plantings are necessary for shade, shelter and privacy such as in day-use picnic locations.

4.2.2 Development Zone

All vehicular access, camping, day-use and other intensive activities will be confined to a development zone.

Within this zone camping and non-camping uses should be separated as much as possible. In the camping area which will be located in Area B the following factors will require consideration:-

1. Definition of a maximum allowable number of campsites. This should be no more than 50.
2. Definition of each site by corner posts or slashing.
3. Numbering of each site.
4. Provision of rubbish receptacles of sufficient number to cater for the number of camps.
5. Regulation of the use of open fires. It may be necessary to restrict the use of open fires, if not completely then at least during periods of peak usage. Encouragement of the use of gas or liquid fuel would be desirable in that it would reduce the damage done to vegetation by visitors seeking firewood.
6. Insistence upon adequate toilet facilities at each camp site. In the long term a septic toilet block may be necessary but this should be delayed as long as possible. If the off-peak use of the reserve increases it would be desirable to install a pit-type toilet to cater for campers and day visitors.
7. Consideration should be given to providing potable water. This could be in the form of a large concrete tank with a catchment roof built over it or could involve tapping a Water Trust pipeline which runs approximately one kilometre away.

Items 6 and 7 could be located to cater for both campers and day visitors.

Day-use
There will be four separate day-use areas; one at the present carpark at the end of the Powlett Road at point B on the attached plan, a second to be created at point A, and two additional sites at locations E and F to cater mainly for fishermen.

LOCATION A

This will cater for no more than about 20 cars. It will provide parking and refuse disposal only. Facilities for picnicking will not be provided.

LOCATION B

This will be designed as the principal day-use location on the reserve and will involve the establishment of:-

1. hard standing for car parking
2. plantings for shade and privacy

3. sites for individual picnics with picnic tables and refuse containers
4. one or two sites for portable barbecues

These sites should conform to Country Fire Authority regulations for use of open fires.

LOCATION D

This will require some surfacing, refuse containers and formalization of the tracks across the dunes to the beach. This location will cater for not more than 10 cars.

LOCATION E

This will be a major carpark but will not be designed for picnicking.

Works necessary:

1. Planting for shade
2. Definition of carpark
3. Definition of tracks to beach
4. Refuse containers.

This park will cater for not more than 30 cars.

LOCATION F

This area at the southern end of the Lower Powlett Road provides parking for approximately 10 cars. From the carpark a walking track gives access to the beach through the dunes. This location is used primarily by fishermen.

Adjacent to this carpark is an area of Crown land which has been cleared of all vegetation and would be available for the development of a more substantial carpark and camping area should pressure in future years require this. For the present time this portion of Crown land should remain under the existing land-use.

Some surfacing of the present parking area should be carried out to prevent further damage by cars becoming bogged in the very sandy soil.

4.3 FIRE PROTECTION

- 4.3.1 Source of Threat
- Although there is potential for fires to start within the reserve it is considered that the major threat lies from rural lands abutting the reserve.

The major thrust of fire protection should be to prevent fire from entering the reserve. It is proposed that this should be achieved by the use of strategic control lines.

In this instance the reserve is well protected by natural and man-made fire lines.

Perimeter lines:

1. Bass Highway

2. Railway
3. Access road from Highway

In addition to these perimeter lines the reserve is also traversed by the Powlett River. The river can be:

1. Strategic fire line
2. Refuge from fire
3. Supply of water for fire fighting.

4.3.2 Control
It is considered that once a wildfire entered the reserve the chances of control within it would be negligible.

4.3.3 Public Safety
If a wildfire approached the reserve it is considered that the safest places for people would be:

1. Beaches
2. Estuary adjacent to river mouth.

The following actions would be necessary:-

1. Warn all occupants
2. Evacuate to the beaches or estuary if there is adequate time to do this without risk.
3. If evacuation is not possible all campers and their equipment should be moved where danger would be minimal, such as major carparks.

4.4 PROTECTION

4.4.1 Safety
The major danger to persons using the reserve is in swimming on the ocean beach because of the very strong currents that exist in this locality. It is intended that a sign at the entrance to the reserve and a personal approach by supervising officers, should indicate this danger.

4.4.2 Pollution
The major source of pollution is facilities located within the reserve. The location of toilet blocks in particular is critical as low-lying ground which would otherwise be suitable has a high water table and is subject to localized flooding.

4.4.3 Erosion
Large sections of the dunes have been subject to considerable wind erosion which has led to the development of large "blow-outs". These bare areas were planted with marram grass during the winter of 1976 by the Soil Conservation Authority.

To ensure stabilization of this work continued maintenance, both in planting and in upkeep of protective fencing, will be necessary.

At points E, F and in various locations on the floodplain of the Powlett River, destruction of vegetation by motor vehicles has produced the potential for development of a soil erosion problem, particularly from runoff following storms.

It is anticipated that formalization of car parks with associated improvements will overcome this problem. Restriction of access to surfaced and marked tracks only on the Powlett River floodplain should reduce the damage that is now being caused to vegetation.

- 4.4.4 Grazing
A section of the reserve, marked C, is subject to an annual grazing licence. Whilst from a purely conservation point of view, grazing is an incompatible land-use, because of historical considerations abrupt termination of the licence has not been considered. However in the long-term, phasing out of this licence is desirable. Small clumps of tea-tree on the licensed area should be fenced out to prevent further damage from grazing stock.



Crown reserve held under grazing licence. This photograph looks easterly across a swamp formation towards the Powlett River.

4.5

INTERPRETATION

This reserve is suitable for environmental study work for schools and other groups because of the variety of land form, vegetation, wildlife and the easy access by motor car.

However, until it has been possible to assess the requirements of the above groups and of the general public interpretative facilities will be confined to direction signs and "people management" signs.

4.6 SERVICES

It is not intended to provide electric power to the reserve. The present rubbish collection will be maintained on a weekly basis during the off-peak season and daily during the peak season.

4.7 FINANCING

Fees should not be charged for the use of the reserve, at least in the short term. It may become necessary in future years to charge camping fees.

The reasons for this attitude are:-

1. Difficulty of collection without full-time supervision.
2. Greater expectation for services if fees are charged.
3. Departmental policy that the public should not have to pay directly for the general right to enter Crown land.

4.8 CONTROL

It is intended that the present co-operative management between the Shire of Bass and the Department of Crown Lands and Survey should continue. The present arrangement whereby the Department provides supervision and some finance and the Shire of Bass supplies services such as refuse collection and maintenance has been found to be very workable.

5.0 CONCLUSION

It is the object of this plan to set out a strategy for the management of the Powlett River Reserve. This plan is not intended to be an inflexible method of control but rather a dynamic approach to the management of a popular and precious Crown reserve.

It will be found, as time progresses, that amendment will be necessary to all or parts of this plan. This will be the result of changing conditions, altering public expectations, a reaction because of public usage of the reserve and a refinement of this Department's management policies.