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Contact: Ross Kingsley  
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5<sup>th</sup> July 2005

Mr Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group  
PO Box 4134  
WERRINGTON NSW 2747

Dear Mr Brown,

**Penrith City Council's  
2005–2006 MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Thank you for your submission on Council's *Draft 2005-2006 Management Plan*.

Following consideration of all submissions received, Council adopted the 2005-2006 Management Plan, including some amendments to the exhibited draft, on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

A response by the relevant Council Manager to each of the issues that you raised in your submission is provided below.

**Vegetation Mapping**

*Response by the Local Planning Manager:*

Council has commissioned a consultant to review the vegetation community boundaries of the 2000 NPWS vegetation maps based on its 2003 large scale aerial photography. The NPWS mapping was based on 1:16000 scale aerial photos. Council's re-mapping is based on 1:5000 aerial photos. Ground-truthing of the vegetation communities and threatened species on Council owned or managed bushland reserves has also been carried out. Both of these actions will provide more accurate, detailed information.

A Biodiversity Database is also being developed to capture data as it becomes available to assist in long-term monitoring.

The results of the vegetation community boundary mapping, ground-truthing of reserves and will be available to the public. It is anticipated that in the longer-term the data entered into the Biodiversity Database will be available to the public.

**River and Catchment Health**

A number of issues were raised at the Public Meeting regarding the health of the Nepean River and its catchment, including the presence of significant wetlands in the LGA, sediment control requirements for developments, waterflows and the recovery of native

fish stocks in the River, Council's policy on people removing vegetation from or mowing riverbanks and controls on recreational use of the River which may cause erosion.

***Response by the Building Approvals and Environment Protection Manager:***

In response to the diverse range of issues raised, brief comments are provided here regarding the status of relevant actions. Further detailed information can be provided directly to the residents and groups who raised the issues and you are welcome to contact me further on this.

Specific and extensive design requirements for all new developments exist, which include suitable drainage design requirements. Sydney Water has upgraded STPs and other measures such as the environmental auditing program that are pursued by Council are slowly improving water quality. Council's work installing gross pollutant traps (GPTs) in creeks and on drains helps to remove pollutants from stormwater.

There are several wetland systems in various catchments throughout the City. Specific information has been provided to the resident making this submission.

There is a significant problem with carp in the waterways. Council has had programs in the past to remove them from areas such as Werrington Lake. With the introduction of fish ladders, there are more Bass in the river system that helps to control carp. Ultimately the aim is to clean the waterways and return the natural biodiversity balance. Council supports the freshwater mussel project which is a trial to re-establish mussels in the river as bio-filters.

Two weirs on the Nepean River are located in the Penrith City area. The State Government is looking at removal of weirs, or other options including fish ladders if the heritage value of the weir prevents its removal.

There is general legislative control in the Native Vegetation Act to prevent removal of vegetation and there are controlled programs to remove targeted vegetation.

Waterways police patrol the Nepean River, which is speed limited for safety and to prevent problems such as erosion. Some of the river areas are also made not accessible for activities such as skiing as a protective measure.

### **Use of Recycled Water**

Representatives of the ADI Residents Action Group queried the use of recycled water in the City, whether this was a major feature of greenfield sites and Council's role in the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA). A resident of Kingswood Park queried whether Council would ensure that all new housing developments have both clean (i.e. potable) and grey water systems

***Response by the Building Approvals and Environment Protection Manager:***

Council has been pursuing Sydney Water for access to Penrith Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to provide recycled water for sporting fields and for commercial use and there is a possible breakthrough with the support of the business community. Mulgoa/Wallacia STP is to come on line and there are possibilities there. Council has also been extremely active with water savings programs and has been recognized as a leader in this area.

Existing recycled water projects in the City include the irrigation by Council of sporting fields and open space at Hickey's Lane, North Penrith. Council approved the use of recycled water by Dunheved Golf Course, an initiative by the club that is proving successful.

Council is looking at this feature for new release areas such as Penrith Lakes. The ADI development will include the highest level of water sensitive design, including the provision of recycled water. Some new suburbs such as the ADI site and Penrith Lakes will have recycled water supplies. There are no plans at this time to look into retro fitting for existing suburbs.

The Mayor sits on the Local Government Advisory Group that is a committee that advises the HNCMA. Council also has its Enhanced Environmental Program that is focussed on activities that contribute to achieving the Lower Hawkesbury Blueprint targets.

The State's new BASIX design requirements mandate better water usage for new developments. All new housing in the City must comply with the water conservation targets established by the BASIX planning policy. Houses have to have either a grey water supply or a water tank and must demonstrate a minimum of 25% water savings from traditional housing.

Council has strict guidelines for new suburbs that require significant benchmarks in sustainability to be met.

### **Protection of Natural Areas in Council Operations**

Concerns regarding negative impact on natural areas of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and open space mowing operations.

#### ***Response by the Asset Manager and the Parks Construction and Maintenance Manager:***

Council staff are trained in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. This includes looking at a balance between the aesthetics, amenity, and appropriate levels of surveillance and perceptions of safety and security. The main aim of treatments to landscaping is to ensure that clear lines of sight are maintained. This can be achieved by providing and maintaining low ground cover planting, low shrubbery, and high canopied trees. This will ensure that habitats are retained.

The five new mowing teams proposed in the Draft Management Plan will target existing parks throughout the City. These teams will provide the resource capacity to attend to parks more regularly especially during summer.

Defined natural areas are not supposed to be undergoing any grass cutting whatsoever. The challenge in the coming year is to transform existing mowed areas into 'no mow' zones. Ultimately, these areas will be managed as natural areas. Plant operators as well as all Council staff will be given clear direction into the new management regime of these and other natural areas.

### **Indian Mynahs**

#### ***Response by the Environmental Health Manager:***

Council has resolved to prepare a motion for the 2005 Local Government and Shires Association conference advocating that the State Government show leadership and provide resources for the control of Indian Mynahs. It also resolved to write to the responsible State control agency seeking information on their control programs.

## **Alligator weed**

### *Response by Environmental Health Manager:*

Alligator Weed can be found throughout the river system. Council's work on aquatic weeds is carried out through Hawkesbury County Council and extensive work has been done with the Hawkesbury CMA, including spraying, to control aquatic weeds like alligator weed and Salvinia.

Regulated spraying has occurred and booms are used to trap the weed for removal. Hotspots are targeted and revisited to ensure control of re-growth.

## **Weed control**

### *Response by Parks Construction and Maintenance Manager:*

African lovegrass is not a declared noxious weed. On the scale of weed priorities, African lovegrass is not as important as other 'nuisance' weed species. Notwithstanding, African lovegrass is being managed in specific sensitive areas where we are trying to rehabilitate native vegetation such as Ropes Creek.

Training tractor drivers is an ongoing process. Plant operators are continually advised of any new 'no mow' zone areas in their area. In addition, fixed barriers are installed to safeguard specific vegetation communities.

Selected staff are already identifying weed species and if noxious, reporting them through the property channels to our local weed authority (Hawkesbury River County Council).

## **Tree maintenance in Cranebrook**

### *Response by Parks Construction and Maintenance Manager:*

Parks staff have never conducted any street tree planting in the Kennelworth Crescent area. In all areas where parks staff intend to undertake street tree planting, residents are advised by letter.

Residents are informed about the particular tree species to be planted and how to care for the tree. If a resident does not wish to have a tree, then we won't provide one.

To investigate in greater detail the incident you raised at the public meeting about the tree planting on Kennelworth Crescent, further details are required. Please feel free to contact me directly regarding this.

## **Drainage basins on ADI site**

### *Response by Environmental Planning Manager:*

The water management strategy, including the location, number and type of drainage basins proposed to service the ADI site development, we understand, will be reviewed as part of the REP review that will be undertaken shortly by DIPNR. The observations made during the Regional Park Plan of Management process in the Community Reference Group discussions are relevant considerations, particularly the need to re-size these facilities in lieu of the reduced development opportunity, as well as consider the most appropriate location for them given the current Regional Park proposal.

It will also be necessary to determine the most appropriate type of water management facility that should be established, having regard to its required function and contemporary water sensitive urban design principles.

I trust that the answers provided address your concerns and provide the information you required. If this is not the case, please in the first instance contact Wayne Mitchell, Acting Building Approvals and Environmental Protection Manager on 4732 7511; Ruth Goldsmith, Local Planning Manager on 4732 7760; David Burns, Asset Manager on 4732 7554; Steve Barratt, Acting Environmental Health Manager on 4732 7501; Raphael Collins, Parks Construction and Maintenance Manager on 4732 7558; or Roger Nethercote, Environmental Planning Manager on 4732 7713.

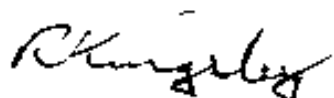
Copies of the adopted 2005-06 Management Plan will be available shortly from Council's Civic Centre in Penrith, or the Queen Street Centre in St Marys. The Management Plan will also be placed on Council's website, [www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au).

If you would like a copy of the Plan sent to you, please contact (02) 4732 7411 or e-mail [manplan@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:manplan@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au).

Information about Council's program for the year will be distributed to all residents of the City of Penrith over the next month as part of a community newsletter.

Thank you once again for taking an interest in the planning process for Penrith City's future.

Yours faithfully



Ross Kingsley  
**Acting Corporate Development Manager**