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1 INTRODUCTION

East Gippsland Shire Council has prepared an Open Space Management Plan for areas of public land within the Nowa Nowa township and adjoining Lake Tyers and Boggy Creek, including the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, Boggy Creek Gorge, and the Nowa Nowa Community Complex.

This Open Space Management Plan has been developed with a high level of input from the community, as well as other government bodies, and aims to give all parties a clear expectation of management roles, responsibilities, and proposed activities over a 15 year period, with a structured review carried out every 5 years.

Nowa Nowa supports a diverse, motivated, and engaged community that has contributed to a wide range of planning projects in the past. The Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan supports the strategies and actions described in the most recent of these plans, the Nowa Nowa and District Community Plan (2012 – 2016).

1.1 Nowa Nowa – Nature, culture and sculpture

Set in bushland adjacent to Lake Tyers and the lower reaches of Boggy Creek, Nowa Nowa is an area of unique charm and natural beauty. The town and its surrounds are the clan area of the Krauatungalung People of the Gunaikurnai tribe, with strong historical links existing between the people of the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust and the township of Nowa Nowa.

With a future focus on tourism, arts and outdoor recreation including recreational fishing, there are a range of local activities, events, and facilities for residents and visitors. These include walking and cycling tracks, a large recreation reserve, the East Gippsland Rail Trail, railway trestle bridges, Mt Nowa Nowa, Boggy Creek Gorge, Lake Tyers estuary, Colquhoun State Forest, and established arts, music and community events.

Within Nowa Nowa there is an active pony club, adult riding club, foreshore and recreation reserve committee, and community development group. The district has a CFA Brigade, Landcare group, and enthusiastic cycling, arts, and angling communities.

1.2 What is the Open Space Management Plan & what will it do?

The purpose of the Open Space Management Plan for Nowa Nowa is to identify issues and opportunities relating to the ongoing use and management of Shire managed public land.

The Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan provides clear and agreed directions for management of the areas of public open space adjoining Lake Tyers and Boggy Creek, including the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, Boggy Creek Gorge, and the Nowa Nowa Community Complex. The plan also seeks to identify and improve the connections and linkages to a variety of locations and facilities within Nowa Nowa.
The overarching management objective is to identify and plan for recreational activities and opportunities in areas of public open space, whilst maintaining important environmental and cultural values.

Preparation of the Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan has sought to:

- Consult with management agencies, stakeholder groups and the community;
- Identify the current condition, values and management issues in areas of public open space;
- Identify management strategies to protect and enhance the identified values;
- Clarify boundaries for on-ground management responsibility; and
- Establish an agreed position with all management agencies, on the future use and development of these areas.

The Open Space Management Plan will be adopted by Council as the principal tool to guide future management of public open space within the study area. After a period of 5 years the management plan will be reviewed.

An Implementation Plan has also been prepared for use as a tool in management of Nowa Nowa Open Space and other areas covered by this Management Plan. The Implementation Plan provides an indicative works program including costings, responsibilities and priorities, compiled from the recommendations and strategies contained within this Management Plan. It will assist East Gippsland Shire Council and other responsible authorities in budget planning processes, and also serve as valuable input and justification for any external funding applications.

## 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK

This Open Space Management Plan has been prepared with valuable input from the local community, as well as other government bodies, and aims to give all parties a clear expectation of management roles, responsibilities and proposed activities within the study area.

A **community presentation** in July 2015 was the first step in that process, and aimed to highlight important issues identified in areas of public open space within the Nowa Nowa township. Direct consultation with the community through this **public meeting** was undertaken, and feedback received from the community during, and in the period following, this presentation. The public meeting represented an opportunity for the community to better understand the study area, and become involved in early stages of planning for future use and management of Open Space areas within Nowa Nowa.

Comments from the public meeting were collated to prepare a Draft Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan, which was released for public comment on 5th August 2015. Following public consultation on the Draft Plan, the final Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan was prepared. The final plan considered all feedback from the Community, from comments made during the community meeting, and written submissions received by East Gippsland Shire Council.

### 2.1 Community Presentation

A community presentation was prepared to identify current management responsibility, identify important values and issues in areas of public open space, and engage with the community to explore their thoughts, views and opinions of these areas.

A public meeting, including a presentation of the identified issues and opportunities within the study area, was held on the 20th July at the Nowa Nowa Community Room.
2.2 Feedback

The feedback from the community included a broad range of issues. Comments were generally related to the themes presented to the community during the public meeting. General themes that were recurrent throughout discussions with the community include:

- Need for improved maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities;
- Negative impacts of inundation on foreshore access and infrastructure, due to current estuary opening protocols;
- Need to address Bushfire risk (Local Incident Management Plan);
- Need for improved access to Lake Tyers and the Recreation Reserve;
- Priority to develop the Boat Ramp as an activity node/ day visitor area;
- Preference to maintain 'natural' feel of existing recreation areas; and
- Scope for improvement of trail signage.
3 VISION AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

VISION

In 15 years the public open space in Nowa Nowa will offer a variety of opportunities for passive and active recreational pursuits. It will provide a focus for residents and visitors to access facilities and connections, allowing them to experience the natural and cultural values of the area.

Users will find well-maintained public recreation facilities adjoining healthy and scenic estuarine, wetland, and riparian environments. Key ecological values and sites of cultural significance will be protected and maintained.

Areas of open space fronting Lake Tyers will provide a network of well-defined and clearly signed pathways, providing safe and easy pedestrian links between important locations, including the recreation reserve, boat ramp and jetties, community complex, East Gippsland Rail Trail and the Nowa Nowa mountain bike park.

Visitors will be directed to public facilities, informed about important foreshore features, and be guided along the pathway network by well-maintained signage and information boards. Land-based recreational pursuits, including recreational fishing, walking and cycling will occur with minimal conflict with other activities such as boat launching, vehicle traffic, and water sports.

The Committee of Management will have in place integrated and effective management strategies for areas of public open space, involving all stakeholders (including the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Parks Victoria, Gippsland Ports, Gunakurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and community user groups), to ensure ongoing funding and implementation of management actions.

OBJECTIVE

Identify and plan for recreational activities and opportunities in areas of public open space within the Nowa Nowa township, and adjoining Lake Tyers and Boggy Creek, including the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, Boggy Creek Gorge, and the Nowa Nowa Community Complex, whilst maintaining important environmental and cultural values.

Focus actions on increasing connectivity across the town, working collaboratively with stakeholders and land managers, maintaining a consistent approach to signage and access, and improving public facilities for both residents and visitors.

SCOPE

This Open Space Management Plan is a public document that details the day to day management requirements of specific areas managed by East Gippsland Shire Council.

The plan is to be developed with a high level of input from the community and other stakeholders, and will outline management roles, responsibilities, and proposed activities.

STUDY AREA

The Open Space Management Plan applies to areas of public land within the Nowa Nowa township and adjoining Lake Tyers and Boggy Creek, including the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, Boggy Creek Gorge, and the Nowa Nowa Community Complex.

The study area shown includes sites managed by East Gippsland Shire Council, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria and the Gunakurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, and Gippsland Ports.
4 STUDY AREA

Nowa Nowa is located at the junction of the Princes Highway and the Nowa Nowa – Bruthen Road, along the sheltered shorelines of the Nowa Nowa Arm of Lake Tyers, immediately east of the iconic Gippsland Lakes.

The Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan covers all areas of public open space managed by East Gippsland Shire Council, as well as considering the connections to, and recommendations for, other areas of open space under the management of other agencies.

The main study area includes:

- Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, including the permanent facilities, sporting equipment and spaces, children’s playground, BMX pump track, and horse riding facilities and equipment;
- Lake Tyers estuary foreshore from the recreation reserve to the boat ramp, including existing seating and sculptures;
- Main boat ramp, jetties, roads and car parking areas adjacent to Lake Tyers;
- Wetlands walking trail, board walks, and recreational fishing facilities; and
- Connections and pathways to the Nowa Nowa Community Complex.

Other areas of land with links to the areas above have also been included to provide a holistic overview of the current and potential future use of public open space in and around Nowa Nowa. These additional areas include:

- Walking paths to the Boggy Creek Gorge (including areas jointly managed by Parks Victoria and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation);
- Grassed area, cycle paths and bike racks between the Princes Highway and Nowa Nowa – Buchan Road; and
- Pathways and potential links to the Nowa Nowa Mountain Bike Park.
5 OPEN SPACE FEATURES AND VALUES

Areas of public open space at Nowa Nowa provide for a diverse range of opportunities and values. There are large areas offering open space for passive recreation, which also contain important community and public facilities. Extensive tracks and paths provide an important network for residents and visitors to explore the area and access community facilities. Significant infrastructure exists within the Recreation Reserves, which supports a wide range of community activities and interests. Extensive sections of the study area, particularly those bordering Boggy Creek, Lake Tyers, and its adjoining wetlands, are relatively undeveloped and contain significant natural and ecological values.

Nowa Nowa and its surrounds, on one of the two main arms of Lake Tyers, and located on major transport routes, attract an increasing tourist market through their natural beauty and small town appeal. The Open Space Management Plan will seek to balance competing demands by ensuring important natural and cultural values are maintained whilst facilitating appropriate use of public open space.

5.1 Natural Values

The town of Nowa Nowa is located on the Nowa Nowa Arm of the Lake Tyers estuary, part of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site, which provides important estuarine habitat for a broad range of flora and fauna species. Lake Tyers is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, and is home to numerous rare species and internationally significant migratory birds. The estuary provides important habitat for many recreational fish species. Nationally listed Littoral Rainforest communities, shoreline vegetation, fringing wetlands and the confined reaches of Boggy Creek through the Boggy Creek Gorge are of particular ecological and geomorphological significance.

5.2 Recreation Values

Areas of public open space within Nowa Nowa, including the formal Recreation Reserve, pathway network, and boat launching facilities are vitally important in offering a range of recreational opportunities that are popular with both local residents and tourists. Walking, cycling, recreational fishing, boating, kayaking/canoeing, swimming, horse riding activities, and organised sports and recreation are all undertaken within the study area.

The numerous pedestrian and cycling paths, including links to the East Gippsland Rail Trail and Nowa Nowa Mountain Bike Park provide an opportunity to access and explore a range of areas and experience the natural environments surrounding the Lake Tyers estuary.

5.3 Cultural and Historical Values

Lake Tyers estuary is of particular significance as a site of Aboriginal cultural significance. The estuary has long been used by the Gunaikurnai people, who have an ongoing strong relationship with the area through the Lakes Tyers Aboriginal Trust and the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).

Shorelines surrounding Lake Tyers estuary are defined as areas of Aboriginal Cultural Sensitivity by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, and several known cultural heritage sites within the study area are listed on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register.
6 CURRENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

A brief summary of the management issues identified for areas of open space within the Nowa Nowa township is provided below.

6.1 Recreation and Facilities Management

Management issues relating to the use of open space areas for recreational activities, and the management of access and connections between facilities and locations include:

- Clarification of roles, responsibilities, and scope of management for the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, including potential future maintenance, development, or change of extent (see detailed master plan in Section 8 of this plan);
- Lack of consistent and clear signage for track networks, including consistent ‘trail head’ maps and information;
- Poor delineation of paths providing connection to the Boggy Creek Gorge, and lack of connection between existing paths and the Nowa Nowa Mountain Bike Park;
- Lack of public toilet facilities, particularly at the boat ramp and Nowa Nowa Mountain Bike Park;
- Issues related to traffic flow and vehicle parking requirements, particularly around estuary access points and walking trail heads;
- Maintenance of road and car park surfaces;
- Potential areas of conflict between pedestrians and vehicles;
- Maintenance of existing recreation facilities (e.g. paths, picnic tables, seats, and shelters);
- Requirement for maintenance of existing facilities;
- Lack of lights at boat ramps, jetties and car parks; and
- Uncontrolled vehicle access to specific areas including grassed foreshore areas, estuary edges, and locations near the Princes Highway Bridge.
6.2 Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage Management

Management issues relating to the protection, maintenance and enhancement of environmental, ecological, and cultural foreshore values include:

- Protection of important ecological values (estuarine, riparian and wetland values), including significant vegetation types and bird habitat;
- Protection of known aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and consideration of these values in any future development or construction;
- Establishment and encroachment of weeds along pedestrian pathways;
- Need for maintenance of existing signs, and potential to improve interpretive signage for environmental and cultural sites of significance, particularly to capitalise on existing networks of pathways, and tracks;
- Management and drainage of surface water along roads including discharge onto the foreshore and into the estuary;
- Management of localised shoreline and coastal erosion, in particular along walking paths and at recreational fishing facilities; and
- Flooding, inundation and estuary opening protocols.
7 PROPOSED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A range of proposed management objectives and strategies have been developed for the study area based on an assessment of the issues and opportunities identified through the public consultation process. These proposed objectives and strategies are illustrated on the following maps.

7.1 Management Objective

An overarching management objective has been developed for the areas of public open space within the Nowa Nowa township.

*Identify and plan for recreational activities and opportunities in areas of public open space within the Nowa Nowa township, and adjoining Lake Tyers and Boggy Creek, including the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, Boggy Creek Gorge, and the Nowa Nowa Community Complex, whilst maintaining important environmental and cultural values.*

*Focus actions on increasing connectivity across the town, working collaboratively with stakeholders and land managers, maintaining a consistent approach to signage and access, and improving public facilities for both residents and visitors.*

This objective outlines the proposed intent of the specific management actions developed for the study area, to address the identified issues and opportunities.

7.2 Management Strategies

Specific management strategies have been proposed to achieve the overarching management objective for the study area described above. The management strategies proposed across the study area are illustrated in Sections 7.3 – 7.6 of the plan below.

Specific management strategies cover the following general topics:

- Revision of management, including extent of Committee of Management area, within the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve (see detailed master plan in Section 8 of this plan);
- Improvement of existing signs, and installation of consistent signage for the existing path and trail network;
- Maintenance and improvement of track and path surfaces and alignments;
- Provision of more public toilet facilities;
- Improvements for road surfaces, drainage, and signage to limit off site impacts, improve traffic flow and function, and limit conflict with pedestrians;
- General maintenance and improvement of recreational facilities, including recreational fishing facilities;
- Management of native vegetation, control of priority weeds, and management of localised shoreline erosion; and
- Flooding, inundation and estuary opening protocols.
1.3 - PARKING AND ACCESS

1.3.1 Improve and formalise parking arrangements at trail entry.

1.3.2 Maintain parking area surface.

1.3.3 Install path signage consistent with overall wayfinding maps and path network (e.g. colour coded walk markers).

1.3.4 Investigate access track intersection with Highway to improve safety and egress for vehicles.

1.3.5 Assess the risk of inundation to trail and site access at high estuary water levels. Consult with East Gippsland CMA and Gippsland Ports to minimise risk through implementation of the Lake Tyers Estuary Opening Protocol.

1.1 - WALKING PATH MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

1.1.1 Maintain existing path surface, bridges and signs.

1.1.2 Manage native vegetation encroachment on path to maintain access.

1.1.3 Manage weeds and weed encroachment, particularly along path edges and surface.

1.1.4 Install path signage consistent with overall wayfinding maps and path network (e.g. colour coded walk markers).

1.1.5 Exclude horses from walking track.

1.2 - RECREATIONAL FISHING FACILITIES

1.2.1 Undertake maintenance of existing fishing platforms/areas (replace fill, repair damaged timbers and surfaces).

1.2.2 Install replacement recreational fishing platforms over time.

7.3 Detailed Proposed Management Strategies - Wetlands Walk
2.4 - PICNIC AREA

2.4.1 Improve surface drainage and limit standing-water in table drains.

2.4.2 Create formal path along picnic area edge to separate pedestrians and traffic.

2.4.3 Improve surface of grassed picnic area to reduce trip hazards.

2.4.4 Relocate rubbish bin and secure to a stand.

2.4.5 Maintain existing facilities (shade shelters, picnic tables, and interpretive signage).

2.4.6 Install path signage consistent with overall wayfinding maps and path network (e.g. colour coded walk markers).

2.1 - ACTIVITY NODE / DAY VISITOR AREA

2.1.1 Develop boat ramp carpark area as the main lake-side activity node / day visitor area, including installation of lighting, toilet and BBQ on high ground.

2.1.2 Work with Parks Victoria and DELWP to ensure that a consistent approach is used in relation to path signage, wayfinding maps and future path network (e.g. colour coded walk markers).

2.1.3 Install a ‘trail head’ map in accordance with ‘Trails Project’ signage.

2.1.4 Improve signage directing visitors to the site from the Highway.

2.5 - CAR PARK AND BOAT RAMP

2.5.1 Maintain car park surface and provide signage to designate traffic flow, loading and unloading zones, and trailer parking.

2.5.2 Install bollards or barriers to restrict vehicle encroachment on adjoining vegetation and estuary edge.

2.5.3 Install lighting at jetty / boat ramp, car park and fish cleaning facilities to improve safety and navigation at night.

2.5.4 Assess the risk of inundation to jetty and site access at high estuary water levels. Consult with East Gippsland CMA and Gippisland Ports to minimise risk through implementation of the Lake Tyers Estuary Opening Protocol.

2.5.5 Improve accessibility for boat launching at low water levels.

2.5.6 Investigate development of a sand / beach area between boat ramp and jetty as swimming zone.

2.2 - ROAD SURFACE, DRAINAGE, AND SIGNS

2.2.1 Maintain existing road surface to appropriately high standard.

2.2.2 Improve road drainage to limit stormwater impact on estuary and reduce standing-water alongside road (pedestrian pathway).

2.2.3 Install ‘Shared Zone’ signage to limit potential conflict between pedestrian and vehicles.

2.3 - RECREATIONAL FISHING FACILITIES

2.3.1 Assess need for new recreational fishing facilities between wetlands walk and boat ramp.

2.3.2 Install new recreational fishing platforms and/or formalise existing fishing areas.

2.3.3 Maintain existing fish cleaning facilities (table) near boat ramp. Review location of existing table, and consider alternate location/s to reduce conflict with traffic and users of the picnic area.
3.1 - WALKING PATH MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

3.1.1 Install ‘Shared Zone’ signage to limit conflict with pedestrian and vehicles.

3.1.2 Install path signage consistent with overall wayfinding maps and path network (e.g. colour coded walk markers, consistent trail names).

3.1.3 Maintain and repair sculpture installations, or remove damaged items.

3.1.4 Work with the community to enhance guided Sculpture Trail along the foreshore.

3.2 - RECREATIONAL FISHING FACILITIES

3.2.1 Assess need for new recreational fishing facilities, or formalisation of existing locations in this area.

3.3 - PARKING AND ESTUARY ACCESS POINTS

3.3.1 Maintain entry and exit points from the existing road, including parking arrangements, particularly at existing seat and informal fishing locations.

3.3.2 Maintain existing public facilities (seats and interpretive signage).

3.3.3 Assess the risk of inundation to site access at high estuary water levels. Consult with East Gippsland CMA and Gippsland Ports to minimise risk through implementation of the Lake Tyers Estuary Opening Protocol.

7.5 Detailed Proposed Management Strategies - Eastern Estuary Foreshore
7.6 Detailed Proposed Management Strategies - Nowa Nowa Community Complex and Other Linkages

4.1 - WALKING PATH MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

4.1.1 Install / upgrade consistent path signage, including a ‘trail head’ map at the Nowa Nowa Community Complex.

4.1.2 Upgrade and maintain condition of path between pedestrian bridge and Community complex (resurface and better define).

4.1.3 Better define path to Boggy Creek Gorge from the Community complex, including clear signage and path improvements behind private property to indicate a public access route.

4.2 - CONNECTIONS TO OTHER AREAS

4.2.1 Work with Parks Victoria and GLaWAC to improve and maintain path condition between the old railway bridge and the Boggy Creek Gorge car park. Better define trail and improve surface.

4.2.2 Work with Parks Victoria and DELWP to ensure that a consistent approach is used in relation to path signage, wayfinding maps and future path network (e.g. colour coded walk markers).

4.2.3 Install ‘trail head’ map at the Boggy Creek Gorge car park, in accordance with the “Trails Project” signage.

4.2.4 Investigate options to create a pathway linkage with signage from the pedestrian bridge to Nowa Nowa Mountain Bike Park. Support installation of a toilet at Mountain Bike Park trail head.

4.2.5 Install a ‘trail head’ map at the bike path underpass / bike racks near the Nowa Nowa store, in accordance with the “Trails Project” signage.

4.3 - PARKING AND VEHICLE ACCESS

4.3.1 Restrict vehicle access along pedestrian path beyond current CFA water point.

4.3.2 Exclude public vehicle access to the ‘island’ (allow management vehicle and equestrian access only).
8 NOWA NOWA RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

8.1 Background

The Nowa Nowa Community Plan identified the need to “develop a Master Plan For the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve”. The master plan has been developed in conjunction with the Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan.

The Nowa Nowa Community Plan also identified priorities including:

- Support the health and well-being of residents through recreational activities;
- Assess the benefits if investing in a new skate park for Nowa Nowa;
- Arrange opportunities for participation in organised sports like football, netball, basketball and soccer; and
- Develop a Master plan for the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve, including currently planned maintenance.

8.2 Utilisation

- Nowa Nowa Pony Club - hold up to three events per year including a Gymkhana, Hickstead and/ or Combined training day. The membership of the pony club ranges between 10 - 25, it currently has 15 members.
- Lakes Entrance Adult Riding Club - hold a dressage day in August, uses NNRR for alternating rallies, approximately 8 times per year. There are currently 10 members.
- CFA - use the reserve for training and the storage of equipment.
- A number of local schools use the reserve for a range of activities.
- Casual Recreation Users include - fishing, walking, dog walking, tennis, basketball, bike riding, horse riding, rest stop, picnics which increase during peak holiday periods.
- DELWP - staff training for summer fire crews.
- The reserve has been used for a variety of community events.

8.3 Opportunities

During consultation for this project the following opportunities have been identified for the reserve;

- Increased promotion of the BMX Track, the links to other cycling trails and the mountain bike park.
- School holiday events/ activities developed by the community.
- Additional equestrian use - hire facilities to other clubs, clinics, camps, endurance riding events and carriage riding.
- Events/ activities that need access to a large grass area that potentially may damage the surface, which means they are denied access to other recreation reserves.
8.4 Identified Issues
The following management issues have been identified in regards to the Recreation Reserve:

- Maintenance Issues; Fencing, Weed spraying/ weed control, Storage of equipment and Asset protection.
- Lake levels and flooding of key infrastructure.
- Equestrian and BMX are higher risk recreation uses.
- Trees - Box tree over playground, many trees to manage throughout reserve and the cost of arboricultural advice/ work is expensive.
- Toilets are not accessible or open to the public and do not meet demand. Septic fails under high use. Volunteers currently conduct cleaning.
- Roles and responsibilities, levels of service and management boundaries need to be clarified.
- Entrance to recreation reserve is a hair pin turn, difficult for horse floats to manage and the surface needs to be improved. Large vehicles are unable to access the alternative driveway due to the trees/ vegetation.
- Neighbourhood Safer Place - COM has looked into this issue and still sees it as a priority.
- Small issues with vandalism.
- Illegal Camping at the reserve can be an issue at peak periods.
- Rubbish removal can be problematic.
- User groups and COM have limited funds and volunteer resources to undertake maintenance.

8.5 Recreation Reserve Identified Projects
A list of projects for the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve has been identified during the consultation for this project. They have not been listed in priority order but provided as a guide for reserve development over the next 5 - 10 years within the resource levels of the Committee.

The proposed projects are illustrated on the following map (8.6), with further description of each project provided in Section 8.7.
8.6 Proposed Projects - Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve Master Plan

SEE SECTION 8.7 FOR PROJECT DETAILS

1. Consider relocation of the RSL hall to the Recreation Reserve, next to the existing canteen facility.

2. Upgrade toilet block and improve facilities.

3. Develop Tennis Court 2 into a multi-use recreation space and install lighting.

4. Upgrade playground including installation of shade sails.

5. Maintain canteen facility.

6. Improve asset protection equipment to better protect buildings.

7. Maintain equestrian areas, including horse yards, and access to the island for management vehicles.

8. Review future use of storage shed and container.

9. Improve linkages with the township and along the foreshore.

10. Upgrade all buildings to provide access for all.

11. Maintain BMX track.

12. Maintain grass surface of the main oval.

13. Identify hazardous trees, and areas for future tree planting projects.

14. Improve access to the Reserve for horse floats.
8.7 Recreation Reserve Identified Projects Descriptions

Proposed projects for the Recreation Reserve illustrated in 8.6 are described in further detail below.

1. Relocation of the old RSL Hall (small hall) to the Recreation Reserve

Consider relocation of the underutilised RSL hall to the Recreation Reserve next to the existing canteen facility. It will provide a dry indoor area that can be used by existing user groups and better cater for new user groups. Project costs will need to be calculated and then feasibility can be determined.

2. Toilet Block Upgrade / Accessible toilet

There is a need to provide an accessible toilet for reserve users and while recent maintenance works have been undertaken, longer term consideration needs to be given, as to how to better provide compliant toilet and change room facilities in this area.

3. Utilise Tennis Courts

Court 1 surface was replaced in 2010 and net and umpire chairs were replaced in 2014 and are in very good condition. Court 2 currently has an unsafe surface and it could be converted into a skate area or maintained as a multipurpose tennis court. Currently there is no lighting to allow tennis at night. Ideally Court 2 would be developed into a multi-use recreation space, including a basic skate area.

4. Playground upgrade

Equipment was last replaced in 2013. An inspection needs to be undertaken for compliance and then works to upgrade as required. The Committee would like to install shade sails over the playground.

5. Canteen Facility Maintenance

The small space is used for storage and to run a small kitchen/ canteen when the reserve is in use. The facility was recently painted and a verandah added onto the front. There will be ongoing maintenance costs for this facility.

6. Asset Protection of Buildings

COM have purchased a pump, but need to purchase associated plumbing to protect buildings using pipe and sprinklers.

7. Equestrian Areas Maintenance

The equestrian groups use the main oval for events as well as the cross country course. Hickstead Course is an advantage. Currently access to jumps on island is not usable and gravel needs to be replaced. The horse yards need maintenance. This ongoing work will need to be completed by the equestrian groups.
8. **Storage Shed / Container review**

Used to store CFA gear and CERT Equipment. If the hall is re-located, determine how storage could be better utilised with existing facilities. No further use of storage containers.

9. **Pathways / Signage linkages**

Improve connection of recreation areas with the township and key features of the foreshore with pathway links and signage.

10. **Accessibility**

Make all buildings accessible with pathways and access ramps. As part of construction costs or new facilities or as upgrade works.

11. **BMX Track Maintenance**

The BMX track is well designed and needs to be monitored for maintenance and compliance issues.

12. **Main Oval Maintenance**

The main oval/grass open space area is predominantly used for equestrian activities. Maintain the level surface and conduct regular weed spraying and maintenance to retain grass all year round.

13. **Trees / Vegetation Management**

Identify potentially dangerous trees and seek arboricultural advice on trees that need urgent risk management work i.e. over playground and buildings. Develop a preferred planting list for any future tree planting projects.

14. **Driveways, Parking and Signage improvements**

Consider how the reserve is accessed by Horse floats and develop signage/traffic plan to improve access.
9 PRIORITY ACTIONS

Priority for implementation of the Nowa Nowa Open Space Management Plan should focus on the Nowa Nowa Arm boat ramp area and the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve.

The boat ramp, carpark and picnic area should be developed as the main lake-side activity node / day visitor site. Priority actions include:

- Installation of jetty and carpark lighting;
- Construction of a toilet on high ground;
- Construction of a BBQ on high ground;
- Maintenance of the carpark surface;
- Signage to designate traffic flow, loading / unloading zones, and trailer parking;
- Improved boat launching at low water levels; and
- Maintenance of existing public facilities including shade shelters, picnic tables, and interpretive signage.

Key actions for implementation at the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve include:

- Management of vegetation including identification of dangerous trees;
- Improvement of asset / building protection;
- Provision of an accessible toilet for reserve users;
- Consider relocation of the RSL hall to the reserve to provide additional facilities;
- Inspection and upgrade of the playground; and
- Review of access to the reserve and development of a signage / traffic plan.
## 10 LAND STATUS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

### 10.1 Management Responsibilities

Most of the areas of open space within the study area are public Crown land, reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* for which the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is the ‘underlying Crown land manager’. Day to day management for the majority of these areas is delegated to Committees of Management such as East Gippsland Shire Council and to Parks Victoria.

East Gippsland Shire Council also own a number of land parcels adjacent to the Recreation Reserve and Boat Ramp, and manage local roads and roadside areas within Nowa Nowa.

Other areas adjoining the study area, including waterways, State Parks and Reserves, and public roads, are also relevant to the preparation of this Open Space Management Plan and ongoing land management. Various land and waterway managers/authorities are responsible for different areas adjoining or within the study area.

The table below outlines the relevant management agencies and a brief description of the areas within or adjoining the foreshore for which they are responsible. Further detail and spatial extent of each responsible authority is provided in the following maps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Management Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC)</td>
<td>The majority of open space areas within Nowa Nowa, including areas adjoining Lake Tyers east and west of the boat ramp, the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve (overseen by a Management Committee), and areas between the existing pedestrian bridge and old railway bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)</td>
<td>Areas of State Forest to the north, east, and west of the Nowa Nowa township, the East Gippsland Rail Trail (partly overseen by a Management Committee), the eastern bank of Lake Tyers, and oversee a Committee of Management at the Community Hall Site. DELWP is also responsible for the management of the bed of the entire Lake Tyers estuary waterbody adjoining the study area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Victoria (PV)</td>
<td>Areas of the Lake Tyers State Park upstream from the old railway bridge, and areas adjoining the estuary immediately to the south of the study area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland Ports (GP)</td>
<td>Gippsland Ports are the designated waterway manager for Lake Tyers Estuary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA)</td>
<td>EGCMA are the ‘Caretaker of River Health’ and manage the health of the Lake Tyers estuary. EGCMA are also the coordinating authority for the artificial opening of the estuary entrance at Lake Tyers Beach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)</td>
<td>Crown land parcels within the study area are subject to Native Title claim by the Gunaikurnai People. Lake Tyers State Park will be jointly managed by the Gunaikurnai people and Parks Victoria, through Joint Management Plans (in preparation).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL (EGSC)

Council manages the majority of open space areas within Nowa Nowa, including areas adjoining Lake Tyers east and west of the boat ramp, and areas between the existing pedestrian bridge and old railway bridge.

Council manages the infrastructure in these areas, including jetties, boat ramps, car parks, parks and picnic facilities, and toilets. This is consistent throughout the municipality, where Council manages foreshores along the ‘urban interface’ with adjoining waterbodies.

EGSC also oversees a Committee of Management for the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve.
DELWP manage areas of State Forest to the north, east, and west of the Nowa Nowa township, the East Gippsland Rail Trail (partly overseen by a Management Committee), the eastern bank of Lake Tyers, and oversee a Committee of Management at the Community Hall site.

DELWP is also responsible for the management of the bed of the entire Lake Tyers estuary waterbody adjoining the study area.
PARKS VICTORIA (PV)

Parks Victoria manage areas of the Lake Tyers State Park upstream from the old railway bridge, and areas adjoining the estuary immediately to the south of the study area.

GUNAIKURNAI LAND AND WATERS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GLaWAC)

Crown land parcels within the study area are subject to Native Title claim by the Gunakurnai People.

Within the northern part of the Nowa Nowa study area, the Lake Tyers State Park will be jointly managed by the Gunakurnai people and Parks Victoria, in accordance with Joint Management Plans (in preparation).
**EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (EGCMA)**

EGCMA are the ‘Caretaker of River Health’ and active in management of the health of the Lake Tyers estuary.

EGCMA are also the coordinating authority for the artificial opening of the entrance at Lake Tyers Beach.

**GIPPSLAND PORTS (GP)**

Gippsland Ports are the designated waterway manager for Lake Tyers Estuary.

All water-based and land-based navigation aids, jetty zoning rules and vessel operating zoning rules are managed by Gippsland Ports. Gippsland Ports do not manage any jetties or boat ramps within the study area.
Contact us

Telephone
Residents’ Information Line: 1300 555 886 (business hours)
Citizen Service Centre: (03) 5153 9500 (business hours)
National Relay Service: 133 677

Post
East Gippsland Shire Council, PO Box 1618
Bairnsdale 3875 Australia
Fax (03) 5153 9576
Web www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au
Email feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

In person
Bairnsdale: 273 Main Street
Lakes Entrance: 18 Mechanics Street
Mallacoota: 70 Maurice Avenue
Omeo: 179 Day Avenue
Orbost: 1 Ruskin Street
Paynesville: 55 The Esplanade

Outreach Centres
Bendoc Outreach Centre -
18 Dowling Street
Buchan Resource Centre -
6 Centre Road
Cann River Community Centre -
Princes Highway