

Loch Sport Community Plan 2008



WELCOME TO THE LOCH SPORT COMMUNITY
PLAN

Version 1 2008

Our Vision



Loch Sport will be a vital and central Gippsland Lakes settlement and key boating node, attractive to both permanent residents and visitors.

The town will consolidate within its boundaries and new buildings will contribute to the streetscape and respect the coastal character and environment of Loch Sport.

The natural beauty of the Lake Foreshore shall always be retained.

Future businesses shall consolidate in the commercial centre and will be linked through to the main access spine of the town which will have meandering pathways for pedestrian safety.

The Charles Street Recreation Reserve will have improved facilities and enhanced boating facilities will be available.

Excellent walking and cycling opportunities will exist throughout the settlement.

Activities and destinations for visitors will exist throughout Loch Sport, including links to the National Parks, which will stimulate the economic and social life of the town.



Loch Sport Community Plan

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Executive Summary

The Loch Sport Community Plan is a culmination of two years work by the Loch Sport Community Representative Group (CRG).

Made up from representatives of Loch Sport Clubs and Groups, the Loch Sport CRG has reviewed and updated data obtained in previous community consultation and has sought community input to prioritise the items raised. Draft community plans and minutes of CRG meetings are distributed throughout the Clubs and Groups for feedback.

The CRG members have actively sought information about the status of the priorities items, have advocated or provided advise and guidance to Council and other organisations or authorities on behalf of the community and have coordinated activities to deliver a better outcome for the Loch Sport community.

Seven priority items have been identified from the community consultation:

1. Minimisation of fire risk
2. Pathways
3. Street lighting
4. Health centre
5. Safe harbour
6. Boat ramps
7. Keep development low key

Each of these items have been further analysed in the Plan and recommendation made.

It is hoped that this version of the Loch Sport Community Plan; Version 1 2008 has captured the communities aspirations, desires and frustrations and will lead to the further development of the Loch Sport Community Plan into a document that protects and enhances the values of all who enjoy and love Loch Sport.

A summary of the process is below:

Review process-

- 75 District Advisory Network (D.A.N) items gathered from community consultation in 2003 were grouped into 34 themes
- Themes reviewed in October 2006 by Loch Sport CRG for current relevance
- 34 themes categorised into the 4 environments of Health and Wellbeing
- An additional environment of Safety was added to highlight important community concerns
- Two community meetings held targeting different sectors of the community

Consultation process-

- December 2006 Community meeting targeted at Permanent Residents, 100 plus attendees
- Easter Sunday 2007 Community meeting targeted at Non Permanent Residents, 130 attendees

(Both target groups given same data)

Loch Sport Community Plan

Introduction

The overarching aim of the Loch Sport Community Plan is to provide the Loch Sport community with the opportunity to document the values of the area as described by the wider community, to look at their strengths, their threats and recommend actions to be undertaken to assist in achieving a better outcome for the community.

The actions outlines in the plan are the most appropriate measures the Steering Committee believes will best achieve the aim of the Loch Sport Community Plan.

These actions may be subject to change based on the introduction of new technologies, the application of best practice methods and the gaining of further knowledge on priority subjects. Changes to the Loch Sport Community Plan will be made via consultation with the wider community and identified stakeholders.



History of Loch Sport

The Kurnia people were the inhabitants of the area we now know as Loch Sport, the Tatungalung the local clan in the area of the Gippsland lakes except for the Northern Shores, Europeans first visited the area in **1798**, Andrew Hutton with a small party in **1838** claiming to see any part of the Gippsland Lakes first. But the first to realise the full extent of our lakes was Angus McMillan, who saw them from Mt. McLeod, past Bairnsdale, in **1839**. During **1840** he named Lake Victoria, Later that year, Polish explorer Paul Strezlecki also reached the same lake; calling it King which was retained for the lake past Sperm Whale Head, and the stretch of water we see from Loch Sport became Lake Victoria. Seacombe and the Loch Sport area were included in Malcolm Campbell's giant Helensborough run and began an era of lakes shipping until **1939**, During **1841**, a party led by Angus McMillan, explored the lakes more thoroughly by boat they may have been the first whites to actually see the strip of land upon which Loch Sport now stands.

This era was followed by settlers on pastoral holdings until free hold was offered.

The Barton family took up land on Sperm Whale Head cattle, horses and sheep were raised in the whole area, but Angora goats ran on "The Narrows" as the place where Loch Sport stands was called, the Barton Angora Stud was known Australia-wide. In **1927**, the property was acquired as a National Park, but it was so isolated that only keen naturalists visited it. Barton acted as part-time ranger for many years on an unpaid basis; his devotion to an ideal is commemorated in the F. C. W. Barton shelter at Point Wilson on the site of the old Barton homestead which stood there until about 1980.

Dolomite was extracted from two "lime dolomite swamps", one within the present National Park, and the other just off the National Park Road, opposite Seagull Drive.

Leon LeGrand senior had visited the Lakes on fishing trips in the **1920s** still taking all day from his home in Sale to get to Pelican Bay in the **1940s**. Seeing Pine trees growing at the Barton Homestead he considered the area good for growing these, combining this with a great fishing area decided to buy the Land. In **1957**, LeGrand and silent partner Carroll commenced a subdivision after being asked by many friends if they could erect huts to stay in while enjoying the fishing and hunting in the area.

This seemed a good idea as it was hard to sell a stretch of goat-farm land and burnt out pine plantation, called "The Narrows";

The subdivision took place in three stages over a number of years commencing in the early **1950's**.

The first stage of **70** blocks, was to be marketed by a Real Estate firm called Finn and Kemp. \$40 for a waterfront block. However by law the estate had to have a name before publishing any advertisements etc. A discussion between Ned Phin and Mr and Mrs LeGrand, the name Loch Sport was born from the fact that Mrs LeGrand's mother was from Scotland and Loch meant lake in Scottish and sport denoted the pursuits of the area. Thus the name Loch Sport.

The first recorded sales took place in December **1954** marketing was later taken over by Clarke and Power Pty Ltd, who worked for Finn & Kemp. Leon LeGrand Jnr. also joined this new firm. The second subdivision of 240 blocks took place in Jan **1960** and the third in **1965**. A total of 2826 blocks were made available for sale, Some now have been combined into one. 29 houses were transported in, an ex Army building for a hall and the Lake Street Bore put down, a small jetty erected and a children's playground installed near the Lake Street hall, The general store (lodge) built with 6 units for accommodation.

A Telephone service line was brought into town in May **1959** a switchboard located in the lodge was a 30 line manual type, calls had to be booked and wait their turn to be connected, an out of hours fee applied.

The first full-time ranger appointed to the National Park's in **1968**, Another improvement was the deepwater jetty at the end of Charles Street, constructed by Ports and Harbours. The toilet block in **1972** was rebuilt in **2006**

In **1970** the sealed road from Golden Beach road to Loch Sport was completed by the Shire of Rosedale, while the same year saw the construction of the new causeway from Wallaby Street across Lake Reeve, also built by the shire.

In **1972**, the first of the land conservation council's public land studies lead to the discovery near Loch Sport of the tiny marsupial, the New Holland Mouse, last seen near Sydney about the year 1800.

History of Loch Sport (cont)

The sand dune system and much of the land west of Loch Sport was incorporated into a coastal park under the supervision of the National Parks service.

Too many campers along the Lake Street foreshore lead to the creation of the Shire of Rosedale's Caravan Park with better amenities near the Deepwater Jetty in the 1970s

Leon Senior kept records and stopped counting at 680 the amount of people he had taught to water ski encouraging families to purchase land.

1978 beach nourishment between the bluff and marina was complete with parking space for the Lake St Hall, finance for the boat ramp at the Boulevard and enough funds to construct Seagull Drive boat ramp.

In **1979** earthworks carried out for entry parking area for the Boulevard and Seagull Drive boat ramps. Causeway to 90 mile beach upgraded and bitumen covered in **1990** with steps to beach

SEC power was switched on 14th November **1980** replacing the need for generators or gas lights.

1985 Feb Water supply has been discussed since

1987 Public hall site at the Dolomite swamp reserve was proposed by council in June

Le Grand and Carroll negotiated with the then Rosedale council for the road in to be formed to enable people to come to the town. A pipeline from the oil and gas wells of the Loch Sport coast in Bass straight through to Longford and on to Melbourne was completed in **1968**, and gas came ashore for the first time in **1969**. The Single lane carriageway laid down in the late **1960s** early 1970s for Esso BHP oil exploration group to get to their jetty for laying the pipeline over the 90 mile beach in the early 1960s. Sealed roads within the town were completed from **1989 to 1995** Street lights were upgraded with 97 installed from May **1989**

Postal services from the general store and then Moons garage.

Community mail boxes were installed in March **1985** and more later

Loch Sport Rag commenced in Oct **1978** by Social Club and produced by Joy and Russell Croft then continued as "The Link" by the Community House

Health Service - nursing sisters living in town gave their services freely, it took many years to establish a building etc with the official opening on 4th Oct **1988**

The idea for an ambulance service was discussed in July **2000** with the Vehicle arriving in **2004**

St marks Anglican & Community church after many years of meeting in the Le Grand homes then the Lake St hall the Woodside Church was transported to Loch Sport and dedication service held in June **1991**

Police presence – in a caravan during holiday periods located near the lodge later in the caravan park.

In October **2007** a permanent police presence trial commenced for 6 months.

Marina Hotel and New Marina built in **1988** and the Marina reconstructed with floating jetties in **2006**

School children were driven to Longford prior to a local Primary school starting with a bus service to Sale Secondary commenced prior 1982

A public bus service was introduced in 1980s

Population at Nov 1985 census 557 residents

Loch Sport had several representatives in the Shire of Rosedale until amalgamation.

Mosquito control declared a control area Nov 1983 to Jan 1984 also last quarter 1986 and many times since

Behind progress, there are many community groups and clubs whose devoted workers freely give their time and talents to enable the above improvements to happen. A list of these Clubs and Groups is being developed in Appendix C.

Acknowledgements to: Phillip G. Gittens book "Where the Pelicans Fish" and acknowledgements within that publication; www.lochsport.com.au and the acknowledgement contained there in; and www.loch-sport.net

Settlement Profile

Loch Sport, in the Gippsland Plain Bioregion, is located within a landscape characterised by a high degree of 'naturalness', a function of extensive, high-quality indigenous vegetation and coastal and wetland landscapes.

It is an elongated town located between Lakes Victoria and Reeve; both lakes are part of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site. The Lakes National Park is located immediately to the east of Loch Sport. The park occupies 2,390 hectares of low-lying woodland, coastal heath and saltmarsh, consisting of Sperm Whale Head peninsula, Rotamah Island and Little Rotamah Island.

Loch Sport is a linear town (approximately 7.5 km long and 0.5 km wide) sited on a long ridgeline between Lake Victoria and Lake Reeve and contained at each end by National and Coastal Parks. The physical expansion of Loch Sport is thus prevented by public land constraints.

Loch Sport is a relatively self-contained settlement and lots have been substantially developed as holiday houses and permanent residences of varying scale. The town has been comprehensively subdivided and contains over 2,900 allotments and 1,396 dwellings (2001) dispersed throughout the whole subdivision. There is a large population influx during the holidays and the town gains access to the Ninety Mile Beach via a causeway across Lake Reeve.

Development along the northern foreshore (Lake Victoria) captures water views and some dwellings are of significant height. Otherwise, the character of the town is generally low-key and there is good natural tree and vegetation cover through most of Loch Sport. Commercial development serves day to day convenience needs primarily and these outlets are dispersed in several locations throughout the town.

A small industrial estate, mostly undeveloped exists at the western edge of the town. Some community services and facilities are available (police station, primary school, health centre, community hall) and are associated with some of the commercial areas. An extensive recreation area containing a golf course, camping ground, oval, RSL exists on the western town edge.

Boating is a major recreational activity. The Boat Club and major public boat ramp exist at the western end of town. A commercial marina is centrally located and two smaller boat launching areas are provided towards the eastern end of the town. Littoral drift along the northern shoreline causes erosion and sand deposition that requires regular attention to maintain boat access.

Roads within the town are fully sealed, but there is no provision of pathways for pedestrians. The subdivision pattern has not been based on an hierarchical road function. There are numerous cross roads and way finding is difficult.

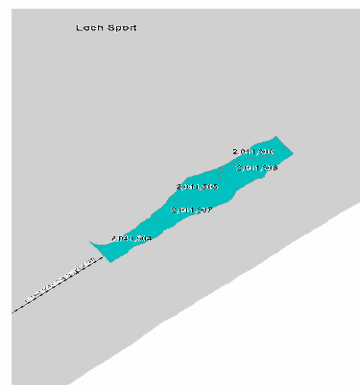


Statistical Information

A Statistical Snapshot of Loch Sport (ABS 2006)

Population

	Loch Sport Total	Wellington Total	Victoria Total
2006	773	40,080	4,932,422
2001	738	39,759	4,660,991
<i>Growth</i>	4.7%	0.8%	5.8%



Loch Sport grew 4.7% between 2001 and 2006. This is faster than the average for Wellington Shire but slower than Victoria.

Age distribution

Age	2001	2006
under 15	11.9%	6.8%
Over 65	32.0%	37.1%

Loch Sport has continued to age – the percentage of over 65's is increasing and the percentage of under 15's is decreasing. This is consistent with long term patterns for both Wellington and rural Australia.

Family Structure

Family	Loch Sport	Wellington	Victoria
Couple families with children	13.5%	41.9%	46.9%
Couple families without children	73.6%	42.4%	35.9%
One parent families	10.9%	14.7%	15.4%

Loch Sport has less single parent families than either Wellington or Victoria

Culture / Diversity

62% of people living in Loch Sport were born in Australia compared with 84% of those living in Wellington Shire and 70% of those in Victoria.

Income

57% of households in Loch Sport had incomes less than \$26,000 pa. This is higher than the overall figures of 25.0% for Wellington and 19.1% of residents of Victoria.

Employment

Unemployment in Loch Sport was higher (13.5%) than in Wellington (5.9%) and Victoria (5.4%).

Home ownership

In 2006 74% of homes in Loch Sport were either owned or being bought, which compares with 72% for Wellington and 69% for the whole of Victoria.

Number of Residences

The number of dwellings in Loch Sport in 2006 was 1475 with 402 being occupied.

More statistical information for Loch Sport available at www.abs.gov.au

(The Australian Bureau of Statistics has acknowledged a mistake in the 2001 statistics for Loch Sport, the data above has been adjusted for accuracy)

What is a Community Plan?

A Community Plan is a written document produced by a community which identifies and addresses the broadly held social, physical and economic priorities of that community. Additionally it identifies actions to be taken and a responsible coordinator for each action.

Why do we need a Community Plan?

A Community Plan enables communities to plan for their future; it provides the basis for the community to work with Council and other Government and non government organisations for funds or support as well as increasing the capacity, ownership, trust and co-operation of the community.

Objectives of a Community Plan

The principal of a good community planning process is to provide for broad community representation that reflects the priorities of the community.

The objectives of a community plan are to:

- Give your community direction or focus;
- Consider wider issues than normal;
- Develop the capacity to work together;
- Build community spirit and cohesion;
- Develop communication links with local Government;
- To achieve broad community representation in decision making.

Benefit of community planning

A sound and properly implemented Community Plan should improve your community's social & economical growth prospects.

Sound plans encourage:

- Proper selection of community desires;
- Discovery of your strengths and weaknesses, thus allowing you to focus in areas of opportunities;
- Efficient use of scarce resources;
- Improved cooperation with Government bodies;
- Sustainable growth of your community structures;
- Better understanding of planning;
- More cohesive community

*While the community plan itself cannot cause change,
it is a powerful tool for creating an environment in
which change can take place.*

The Loch Sport Community Representative Group

Loch Sport Community Representative Group is a steering committee formed from 30 clubs and groups in May 2006.

The Group has undertaken numerous activities and has been an advocate and partner to the Wellington Shire Council and other Government Authorities on behalf of the Loch Sport Community.

Model rules of the Loch Sport Community Representative Group.

- The Steering Committee is to be comprised of members of Loch Sport clubs/groups and individuals who will work towards the betterment of the Loch Sport community.
- The Steering Committee meeting protocol is as follows- rotation of Chair position; rotation of Note taker position; minutes to include an update of club/group activities; action items to appoint a responsible coordinator
- The Steering Committee is to meet monthly, currently on the first Tuesday of the month in the Loch Sport community Hall at 3:00pm.
- The clubs/groups are to receive minutes of meetings and updates on community issues, training opportunities, funding rounds, etc from the steering committee.
- Bi-annual Community meetings are to be held to gauge community views.
- The Steering Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of the Communication strategy that must be supported by the clubs/groups.
- The Steering Committee is to survey the community to develop a priority list of community concerns and values. This list will mandate the role of the steering committee in advocacy and direction.

Communication Strategy

The Communication Strategy adopted by the Steering Committee aims to offer all residents and landowners in Loch Sport the opportunity to have their views recorded as part of the data compilation process.

The Communication Strategies geographical area is bound by Lake Victoria, Lake Reeve, the National Park and Coastal Park at each end of the linear land formation. Residents, non-permanent residents and landowners are treated as 'equal' members of the community, to express the values each group brings to the community.

Surveys, newsletter editorials, mail-outs, flyers, community meetings and email information updates are all strategies used to inform and be informed by the wider community.

The use of web based 'static' information updates as part of the Strategy is seen by the Steering Committee as the next step. This requires a protocol to be established to protect the integrity of the information disseminated.

Meeting Agendas and minutes are sent to all clubs/groups to keep them informed.

The Strategy has led to the review of data gathered over the past 5 years by the now resolved District Advisory Network and prioritised according to those attending the community meetings.



Loch Sport Community Priorities 2007

1. Minimisation of fire risk
2. Pathways
3. Street lighting
4. Health centre
5. Safe harbour
6. Boat ramps
7. Keep development low key

Analysis of community priority 1

Minimisation of fire risk

The Loch Sport area has recognition as an area of significant fire risk. High population numbers during peak fire danger periods, heavy density of native vegetation and limited safe passages of travel during a fire event are expatiated by the low fire danger knowledge of the visiting population.

Fire safety awareness campaigns are an ongoing issue due to the high turnover of visiting population who need constant reminders to the dangers of their; outdoor BBQ, illegal fireworks, compost burns, camp fires, etc...

Loch Sport CFA and DSE are active in developing and reviewing the fire safety strategies and promoting fire awareness. Simulation exercises have occurred between the emergency service providers and good communication exists between the CFA and DSE. The DSE annual burn program eliminates fuel loads in strategic areas based on a rotational regime, aiming for about 100ha annually.

Caution and thorough dissemination of reasoning behind requests for fuel load removal needs to be encouraged. This is due to the desire to remove native vegetation for aesthetic reasons in some circumstances.

Fire awareness in Loch Sport becomes a threefold campaign; two not directly related to fire safety; one relating to the lifestyle choice made in living in a natural vegetation environment in a south eastern Australian environment; and the need for vegetation regeneration/retainment to avoid erosion and land shift of the sensitive environment that Loch Sport has been developed on.

A strategy for the replacement of indigenous species that require germination of the seed stock from fire activity should be developed. Comments made that some of the current species are within 10 years of their lifespan, raises questions about making these species available for replacement to retain the character of the landscape and the flora and fauna values.

Action required:

Item	Issue	Recommendations	Stakeholder
Ownership	Who is responsible for foreshore areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Field trip with stakeholders to identify responsibilities ●Public awareness of responsible authorities 	DSE, Council, Committee's
Fire safety awareness	Continual turnover of population and loss of fire safety knowledge bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Update Loch Sport Emergency Response Plan. ●Hold fire awareness day as part of ongoing awareness campaign to township and to non permanent residents/holiday makers. ●Issue fire cleanup notices and enforce infringement notices. 	CFA, DSE, Council, CRG
Indigenous species replacement	Natural die out of indigenous species due to lack of fire germination of seed stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Encourage native species replacement Develop list of recommended species. ●Make list available at council and local nurseries. 	Council, DSE, Landcare
Green waste, Block clearing	Dumping in Park and vacant blocks due to tip fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Clear obvious rubbish from public land. E.g. flood related debris; dead grasses, trees and shrubs. ●Offer annual 2 week free green waste disposal at tip. ●Annual roadside mulching/removal service. I.e. Hard-waste collection service ●Local law block clearing notice-Continue high level of surveillance, inspection and issuing of infringement notices. 	Council
Erosion	Removal of native vegetation throughout township and foreshores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Awareness campaign about effects of vegetation removal to reduce fire risk 	Council, DSE, Landcare
Hydrant installation	Will hydrants be installed as part of sewerage recycled water return line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Contact Gippsland Water 	Council

Analysis of community priority 2

Pathways

The Loch Sport community has long identified the need for a central spine pathway to be built. This meandering pathway would provide pedestrian safety and would connect the existing pathways to the built and natural services of the town.

In 2003 the Coastal District Advisory Network (D.A.N) had several meetings regarding the future of Loch Sport; including a DAN workshop and meeting with Council executives at the Hotel.

On each occasion what stood out was the residents desire to have safe walking tracks around the town. Many Loch Sport residents and visitors enjoy walking and riding around the bush like town. Manoeuvring around town is becoming a hazardous past time with the increased traffic and over-grown road verges forcing pedestrians onto the roadway.

We feel we are entitled to a CONTINUOUS ACCESSIBLE PATH OF TRAVEL in safety around our main streets.

In 2006 and 2007 in the more developed format of the CRG, the community surveyed in Loch Sport has shown this same desire. The main priority is to have a safe shared pathway 'spine' to remove the current dangers facing pedestrian as they access the town's services.

Additional supporting documentation is available in the Loch Sport Coastal Urban Design Framework (UDF), a joint initiative of the DSE, EGSC, WSC and the Gippsland Coastal Board.

The development of the Central Spine Pathway should be guided by the Vision of the Loch Sport community as described in this Plan.

Loch Sport will be a vital and central Gippsland Lakes settlement and key boating node, attractive to both permanent residents and visitors.

The town will consolidate within its boundaries and new buildings will contribute to the streetscape and respect the coastal character and environment of Loch Sport. The natural beauty of the Lake Foreshore shall always be retained.

Future businesses shall consolidate in the commercial centre and will be linked through to the main access spine of the town which will have meandering pathways for pedestrian safety.

The Charles Street Recreation Reserve will have improved facilities and enhanced boating facilities will be available. Excellent walking and cycling opportunities will exist throughout the settlement. Activities and destinations for visitors will exist throughout Loch Sport, including links to the National Parks, which will stimulate the economic and social life of the town.

Action Required:

Item	Issue	Recommendations	Stakeholders
Pedestrian movements	Pedestrian mobility throughout town is dangerous and limited to roadways in some areas due to narrow or non-existent roadside verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Identify central spine route •Clear vegetation along proposed route to allow access •Level and gravel pathway •Bituminise high pedestrian use areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Council, CRG, DSE, Community
Long term planning	No planning exists for future development of walking Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop a shared pathway plan that: encourages pathway construction techniques and materials that are in keeping with the natural environment; identifies the central spine pathway route and important community areas to be linked •Include Loch Sport in Shared Pathway Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Council, CRG, DSE, Foreshore Committee of Management, Community

Analysis of community priority 3

Street lighting

Street lighting to be improved around the town in dark areas.

Install street lighting at the entrance of the township starting with the track leading to the Golf Club. These lights will advise those arriving here that they are now entering a township and lower speeds are required.

Lighting of streets is a safety issue. Street lighting was done approx. 20 years ago and needs re-evaluation.

The road entrance to the Loch Sport Public Hall needs to be lit. It is hard to see where the hall is if you don't already know.

Need flood lighting on boat ramps for safety purposes.

Action Required:

Item	Issue	Recommendations	Stakeholders
Town entry lighting	Need lighting that enhances and acknowledges that you are entering township area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalise town entry lighting to create desired effect. Install new lighting where needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicroads, Council
Residential street lighting	<p>Pedestrian street safety. Re-evaluate positioning of important streetlights.</p> <p>Broken street lights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit lighting requirements, request new streetlights; removal of inappropriate lighting Register broken, damaged and not working streetlights with SP AUSNET 131799. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council, Sp Ausnet Sp Ausnet, Community
Public Hall entrance lighting	Hall entry safety poor due to inappropriate placed lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The road entry to the Public Hall on National Park Rd needs to be lit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council, Public Hall Committee of Management
Boat ramp safety	lighting is provided at toilet blocks and vegetation prevents the light shining near the boat ramp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trim vegetation- Register works to be done in Council's Customer Action Request system, 1300 366 244. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council, Community

Analysis of community priority 4

Health Centre

The Loch Sport Health Centre Building itself, was originally meant to be a temporary building. It is LONG past its use by date.

The location of the building leaves much to be desired, in terms of position, structure, etc. The car park facilities are inadequate, with only four official parking spaces (1 nurse, 1 community bus, 1 ambulance, 1 invalid). Parking on the nature strip is not only illegal, it is dangerous. Parking around the Health Centre inadequate. Disabled access to Health Centre difficult.

Any excavating or reconstruction to obtain additional parking spaces, or to make entry/exit easier would be astronomical in cost, and impractical to establish.

Recently, a considerable amount of money was paid out to refurbish the interior as much as possible, with the finance that was available through funding, plus a considerable donation by the Health Centre Auxiliary. At a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee, this was attended by representatives of the Wellington Shire Council (WSC), Central Gippsland Health Service – Director of Community Services (CGHS), Auxiliary Committee. It was agreed that to spend more money on maintenance of the existing building would be a waste of good money that could be put to better use. Beside the fact that it is not the responsibility, of the Auxiliary Committee to help to maintain the building.

After a recent visit to the Rosedale Multi Purpose Centre, it gave us a good insight to what can be achieved to benefit the community, creating a Loch Sport Multi Purpose Centre. Preferably with ample parking for patients, Doctors, Nurses, Ambulance pick up etc. The Multi Purpose Centre could contain a Short Lap Hydrotherapy Pool, suitable for patients exercising, not necessarily for general public use, but under control of the Health Centre Management. By co-joining the Health Centre, and other groups the existing Health Centre building could then become an asset, which at a later date could be sold. The proceeds of the sale, could then be used to purchase infrastructure as required in the Health Centre.

Such a relocation of the Health Centre would provide better links to other services and provide better facilities to attract the services of a GP, which is currently an urgent need.

Action Required:

Relocate and rebuild the Health Centre to a more central and level position. Create a Multi Purpose Centre that includes the Health Centre and other facilities and groups.

The Centre must also provide adequate parking and proper access for elderly or disabled people and easy access for the ambulance and community bus.

Note:

The community centre is not discussed in this plan.

When discussing the community centre and the CBD we should keep in mind that the consultants who developed the Urban Design Framework could not and did not take into consideration the Charles Street Recreation Reserve area as this was crown land, so the sporting clubs, RSL, School etc were not part of their plan.

A community centre situated near sporting clubs and the school could be beneficial to the community and could offer additional services currently not catered for.

Analysis of community priority 5

Safe harbour

The boating population of Loch Sport, and visitors by water have grown over the past years.

Many of these people are not aware of the sudden changes in the weather that can happen in this area. Many people get caught on the water, forcing them to try to find protection from the storm or retrieve their boats at the ramp, creating great congestion.

There is a need for a safe calm area for boats while they are waiting to exit the water.

A proposal to construct a safe harbour by building a breakwater (rock groyne) to protect the existing Deep Water Jetty and keep the Main Boat Ramp usable was put forward by the Loch Sport Boat Club in 2004, many letters of support and voting at the Community meetings have confirmed this need.

A survey by consultants Ainley Projects was conducted in January 2007. The results were not yet available for inclusion in this document.

Several attempts have been made by the Shire to keep the ramp clear of sand and usable this is a cost to the shire each time this is needed and a better solution is required.

The existing private Marina in town is at capacity most of the year.

Action Required:

Item	Issue	Recommendations	Stakeholders
Safe Harbour	2007 December no report forwarded to Loch Sport Boat Club	Action on report to be circulated to Loch Sport CRG, Loch Sport Boat Club, DSE, Victorian Coastal Council	Wellington Shire Council, Loch Sport CRG, Loch Sport Boat Club.
Safe Harbour	Need for a break-water (rock groyne) to provide a safe harbour	Obtain costings and apply for grant	Wellington Shire Council, Loch Sport Boat Club, DSE, Marine Safety Victoria

Analysis of community priority 6

Boat ramps

Boating is a major past time in Loch Sport, the reason many people have decided to live, visit or holiday in Loch Sport.

CHARLES ST RAMP

There is a need to keep the main Charles Street ramp in top condition with the increase in power boats and yachts using the waters of Lake Victoria. Queuing for launching and retrieving of boats is now the normal.

Any sand that is dredged should be removed or placed on the eastern side at the entrance to the ramp.

If placed on the western side the prevailing winds blow it back on the ramp again.

Car park spaces on busy weekends are at a premium although many people take their cars and trailers home and access their boats at a beach near the homes.

SEAGULL DRIVE RAMP

Smaller boats can sometimes use the Seagull Drive ramp and the car park fills on a busy weekend. This is sometimes closed by silt with the foreshore committee expected to look after this problem.

BOULEVARD RAMP

The Boulevard ramp at the eastern end of town is mostly unusable due to changes made in the 1980s. The breakwater and the sand on the western side should be removed returning the area back to the original shore line as it was in the 1980s before the groyne was installed. The sand should be transferred to the eastern side for a beach.

Keeping the Boulevard and Seagull drive ramps open could relieve the congestion on the other ramps and roads if kept in order for small craft.

The private Marina and parking is closed to anyone but paying customers with a key.

Action Required:

Item	Issue	Recommendation	Stakeholder
Charles St Boat Ramp	Moving sand & weed, silting.	Place dredged sand on eastern side. Does Safe Harbour report suggest breakwater (rock groyne) may help prevent silting of ramp	Loch Sport Boat Club Loch Sport CRG Visitors
Charles St Deep Water Jetty	Getting old needing maintenance	Protect from prevailing winds by building breakwater (rock groyne)	Gippsland Ports, Loch Sport Boat Club, Visitors
Boulevard Ramp	Almost unusable due to sand build-up	Move sand to the eastern side of the ramp	

Analysis of community priority 7

Keep development low key

The objective of this priority is to protect the character of Loch Sport for the future.

The pressure for redevelopment of existing blocks will place elevated pressure on the remnant indigenous vegetation which is already under severe long term threat from degradation pressures as outlined in the Loch Sport Coastal Urban Design Framework.

The recent trend to build new or expanded houses that capture views will result in the removal of many trees, in particular Coast Banksia, this should be avoided and subject to the Native Vegetation Framework where applicable.

Concern have also been raised about the removal of native vegetation for fire safety reasons, the need for a regeneration/revegetation awareness campaign to limit the loss of indigenous species and to recognise the foreshores as wildlife corridor and habitat between the two National Parks

The predominant zoning in Loch Sport is Residential 1 Zone (R1Z), while pockets of Business Zone 1 (BZ1) are dotted throughout the township.

Within R1Z, a planning permit is not required for a dwelling on an allotment in excess of 300sqm. The construction of two or more dwellings on an allotment does require a planning permit. As there are a few multi-dwelling developments in Loch Sport, most residential developments (and associated vegetation clearance) does not require a permit under the R1 Zoning. Design and Development Overlay– Coastal Towns (DDO3) affects Loch Sport and aims to ensure that development does not detract from the natural and built character of coastal towns and considers the effects of building heights on privacy, overshadowing and impact on general character. This overlay applies to the whole of Loch Sport, with the exception of the Industrial Estate. Environmental Significance Overlay-Coast and Gippsland Lakes Environs (ESO1), ESO 2– Wetlands and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) all apply to various areas and aim to enhance/protect /consider the environmental values of the area.

Action Required:

Further work is needed by the Wellington Shire to develop appropriate strategies to mitigate against the likely consequences of de-vegetation from development pressures, loss of indigenous species seed germination and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies to minimise the environmental impacts of development:

- Pursue the introduction of reticulated sewerage and water
- Encourage the protection of remnant vegetation
- Avoid the removal of Coastal Banksia
- Apply the Native Vegetation Framework

To achieve the majority of these strategies, it is necessary to adopt the recommendations of the Loch Sport UDF, in particular, Item 9.3.3– Overlays and the recommendation to... delete DDO3 and replace it with an amended DDO– Development within Coastal Settlements (Wellington) and to adopt the Loch Sport Design Guidelines.

The objective being to:

- Protect the coastal township character of these settlements
- Ensure that the height and visual bulk of new dwellings and extensions are acceptable in the neighbourhood setting
- To encourage the design of new buildings in residential areas that minimise their impact on the prevailing natural landscape from both visual and ecological perspectives. New buildings should tread lightly and reflect and extend the principles of good design in terms of sustainability.
- To ensure that buildings are designed and sited to avoid being visually obtrusive, particularly in terms of creating a silhouette above a skyline or existing tree canopy line when viewed from surrounding streets, properties, lakes or coastal areas.
- To recognise where substantial vegetation cover is a dominant visual and environmental feature of the local area by ensuring that site areas are large enough to accommodate development while retaining natural or established vegetation cover.
- To ensure that subdivision proposals will enable new buildings to be integrated with their site and the surrounding area in terms of the relationship to existing buildings, open space areas and the coastal landscape.

The Loch Sport Design Guidelines aims to achieve outcomes including:

- Buildings should be sited to minimise their visual intrusion through and above the surrounding tree canopy
- The felling of existing native trees and ground flora should be minimised.
- Wildlife corridors should be maintained through residential areas and this involves limiting fencing and maintaining natural vegetation.
- New buildings and works should respect the valued character of the township.

The Loch Sport Community Representative Group

APPENDIX A- Community Issues list

SAFETY

- Some parts of the foreshore are a high fire risk.
- National Park and Coastal Park needs to have a wide fire break created and then maintained.
- Creeping front gardens should be stopped a metre from the road to allow pedestrians to walk off the road when faced with on coming traffic.
- A network of shared pathways to be constructed around the town connecting to popular destinations.
- Vegetation outside school needs trimming back.
- Pathways should be constructed for easy access for wheelchairs and once completed need to be maintained.
- Walking paths constructed around the town.
- Vegetation along Lake Reeves needs to be maintained so that it is a haven for wild life and food for the kangaroos.
- The National Park has a lot of fallen timber and needs to be cleared to remove the fire danger, especially in the area close to the town.
- Clean up the town of fire hazards, along Lake Reeves from the back of the laundry, to causeway.
- Need to be able to clearly see the road when exiting from your property. This should not be obscured by vegetation.
- Make responsibility for clearing and maintaining nature strips on the owner of each block and fines imposed if not done each 3 months.

ENVIRONMENT

- Town planning and zoning changes so that trees cannot be cut down without a permit. Need to maintain natural look and feel of Loch Sport environment.
- Make Loch Sport a natural extension of the National Park and Coastal Park. Develop a town plan that recognises the importance and values of Loch Sport and it's foreshore as a wildlife corridor and habitat between the two National Parks.
- Keep development low key, limiting allowable lighting, limiting removal of trees, limit number of buildings per site, building height limits etc.
- Keep the small town character. Protect the natural environment.
- Stabilize the foreshore especially along Seagull Drive where erosion has taken away at least 50 metres over the past year.
- Lake water quality needs improvement.
- Rubbish bins for street and public use.
- Eliminate African Love Grass and garden escapees.
- Signage at beginning of town alerting the community that it is illegal to cut down trees on shire reserves, nature strips and foreshore land and that penalties apply.
- Allow people to get permits to remove fallen trees for firewood in the Coastal Park and in the Shire controlled land.
- Need beautification of foreshore with more trees planted.
- Need maintenance of neglected Shire reserves.
- Replacement of recommended trees after building.

The Loch Sport Community Representative Group

APPENDIX A- Community Issues list

ROADS

- Road signs – damaged ones to be removed and replaced at a more appropriate height.
- A survey for the amount of traffic coming and going. Traffic tape across most accessed thoroughfare to register the same.
- Signage to ensure that drivers are aware of people with disabilities on their scooters sharing the roads.
- Roadside slashing to be done regularly.
- A bridge to link Bairnsdale.
- Overhanging trees at intersections, obscuring signs and roadsides including creeping gardens.
- Clean up roundabouts on National Park Road and replace with low height flowering succulents.
- Repair road edges throughout the township.
- Rationalise the town entry signage to maintain clarity and importance.
- Re-evaluation of speed limits and speed limit signs around town to encourage safer and slower driving due to pedestrians, children, shared road usage, kangaroos and other safety hazards.
- Level nature strips making them more suitable for pedestrians.
- Remove silly signs of 50km on the track going past the laundry at the General Store and the very short Charlies Street does not warrant a 60km speed limit.
- The sign of 50Km near the laundry which is for Centre Rd is unmade and a dust trap. Vehicles do not take notice of the speed limit and do wheelies and chew up the road.
- Why are street signs put on walkways? Two walkways off Lake Street have Street signs. Why not walkway signs?
- Transport and access roads – Loch Sport

LIGHTING

- Street lighting to be improved around the town in dark areas.
- Install street lighting at the entrance of the township starting with the track leading to the Golf Club. These lights will advise those arriving here that they are now entering a township and lower speeds are required.
- Lighting of streets is a safety issue. Street lighting was done approx. 20 years ago and needs re-evaluation.
- Tree canopy around street lighting is obscuring the light. Canopy needs to be checked and cut as required.
- Entrance to Community Hall needs to be lit. It is hard to see where the hall is if you don't already know.
- Need flood lighting on boat ramps for safety purposes.

The Loch Sport Community Representative Group

APPENDIX A- Community Issues list

DRAINAGE

- Improve so that roads are not flooded after rain. E.g. letter box area outside Motel, Warren Street corners, corner of Cliff Street, corner Seagull Drive, Victoria Parade, Outside Laundry

TOURISM

- Keep existing boat ramps operational i.e. deep water jetty, Seagull Drive and Boulevard.
- Pursue the notion of a safe harbour near the Deep Water Jetty.
- Beautify Dolomite Swamp with walking track, table and seats.
- Replace bins along front of lake in Lake St.
- Go easy on tourism, not everyone wants more tourists or more infrastructure in town.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

- Develop a walking track and boardwalk around Dolomite Swamp with interpretive signage that describes the history of mining at the swamp, history of Loch Sport, geology of the area etc.
- Develop a walking track and boardwalk, called the “Bullock Boardwalk”, with interpretive signage, along the old Bullock track that runs next to Lake Reeve. Describing and highlighting the history of the track, history of Loch Sport and aspects of the wetlands environment.
- Walk and interpretive signage put up at 90 Mile Beach.

BUSINESS

- Support existing local businesses and identify opportunities for others.

HEALTH & SERVICES

- Relocate and rebuild the Health Centre to a more central and level position.
- Parking around the Health Centre inadequate.
- Disabled access to Health Centre difficult.
- Recreation facilities to include a gymnasium and pool.
- Install Exercise Stations along the Foreshore track to encourage residents and visitors to exercise, walk and run along the track.
- Development of a bike track along Lake Reeve to encourage safe bike riding.
- Keep walking tracks in good order.
- Pave the Lake Victoria walking track in front of the Lodge area and Lions Park.
- CRG Community Noticeboards are required at each of the Post Office Box areas in town to allow CRG and other Community Groups to be able to display Community information and communication notices so that all people in Loch Sport, both residents and visitors, can be informed of community issues and activities.

The Loch Sport Community Representative Group

APPENDIX A- Community Issues list

OTHER

- Loch Sport Tennis Club upgrade of the club rooms to include toilet amenities.
- Loch Sport Health Centre Building - Multi Purpose Centre.

- Public Hall in need of attention – gutters, heaters, floor. Paintwork inside and out.
- Public Hall car park requires resurfacing as small stones embed in shoes and then scratches the hall floor.
- Develop an information centre.
- A nursing home for Loch Sport.
- More control over the enforcement of alcohol laws to alleviate unacceptable behaviour, especially during holiday periods. There is often yelling and screaming of foul language as people walk home, between the hours of 12:00 and 2:00am.
- Beautify entrance to town with flowering gums.

Present: Loch Sport CFA - Peter Connell, Noeleen Brown.

DSE - Laurie Jeremiah.

WSC - Darren Randle, Greg Randles (Student Placement)

Introduction:

- Wellington Shire Community Representative Groups and Loch Sport Community Representative Group survey process.

Purpose of working groups in the development of the Community Planning process.

Fire Safety Issues for Loch Sport:

1. Balance between retaining the natural settings and; fire safety, erosion, revegetation of indigenous species/ non indigenous species.
2. Loch Sport is a coastal town in the south east of Australia (this area is known for its high fire activity) and living in this area is a life style choice that comes with highs of living in a natural coastal bush environment and lows of recognising the fire dangers associated.
3. To eliminate the fire risk for Loch Sport means removal of the native plant species, known for their high flammability, and replacement with species that have low flammability properties. This would affect the natural ecosystems and change the area to a more urban landscape. I.e. Paynesville, raising many issues associated with fragile coastal areas. Alternatively, engineering solutions to reduce fire risk would change the style of housing used as non flammable building materials would be mandated.

Comment was made on the long-term loss of native vegetation within the town boundary being inevitable due to the reproductive process being lost .i.e. lack of fire germination of native seed stock within town boundary means the eventual need to either remove or replace.

- What process should be encouraged to replace native vegetation?
 - Is the fire risk being used to clear the views of residential blocks close to the foreshore?
 - Foreshore vegetation is a fire risk to individual property owners not the township as a whole.
 - The Foreshore Committee is working hard to retain the native vegetation to eliminate erosion in some areas although there is a focus from residential development to clear.
 - Should there be bi-law mandating fire protection strategies?
 - Should this be a planning condition?
 - Will Gippsland Water install hydrants in the return line?
4. High fire risk in Loch Sport from south westerly changes driving fire towards township. Lightning strikes are also a common occurrence within Golden Beach Rd boundary. DSE has an annual burning regime of 2x500ha areas, with successful burns most years, weather permitting. The area to the west of the township has a number of areas that provide protection being the; industrial estate, golf course, tip site, etc...
 5. Awareness of the lifestyle choice made when living in or purchasing property in Loch Sport is of an ongoing need; compelled by the other significant factors that effect the township:
 - Non residential population
 - High concentration of holiday makers with limited fire awareness
 - One way in/ no way out by road in fire situation
 - Turnover of community

Strategies are in place by DSE and CFA in the event of a fire safety risk on the township of Loch Sport. Simulations have occurred in the past involving many emergency service with Loch Sport having a significant State wide acknowledgement of the risk associated with a high population in an area of high native vegetation. Resources available within town are:

DSE- 1 tanker, 2 Slip-on units, CFA- 2 tankers, 1 Slip-on unit, 1 support vehicle.

Opportunities exist to raise community awareness of fire safety issues through the CRG process.

Tip availability: - block clearing prior to summer, don't charge for green waste for two week period, Waste dumping is a major problem, Offer free roadside mulch & remove service. i.e. hard waste collection, People burn waste because of tip fee, Slashing notices were prompt this year- 2 inspections, Dumping of green waste on vacant blocks is a problem.

There is some historic confusion about who is responsible for fuel loads which leads to community angst when trying to get an answer about clean up. This is compelled by the involvement of Committees, both DSE and Council, who are given 'trust' over these areas adding a layer of local ownership, but adding another level of responsibility regarding who is going to act upon community requests.

APPENDIX C - Loch Sport Clubs & Groups

Loch Sport Boat Club first club in town. Formed in Jan **1965** it continually applied for land to build - planning permit 1992 lease signed 1999, building 2000 - occupancy June 2001

Loch Sport Social Club **1967** – Disbanded

Loch Sport Foreshore Committee

Loch Sport Charles Street Reserve

Ratepayers & progress association formed in Dec **1969** Disbanded **CRG 2005**

Loch Sport Fire brigade **1970** first truck Sept 1978

Loch Sport Drama Group **1978 1982**

1978 the Men's Group then becoming Loch Sport Community Club still active 1992 - D

Loch Sport Marine and Rescue Radio Station vh3aar early **1978** with the Crofts operating vh3aag then taken over by John - D

Loch Sport Motor Cycle Club

Loch Sport Assistance Group

Loch Sport SES August **1979**

Loch Sport Coast Guard. Flotilla 3 commenced 24th June **1984** official charter 8 Sept **1990** Re-cessed

Loch Sport Lions Club 26 March **1981** Lionesses

Loch Sport Tennis Club

The Loch Sport Playgroup **1983**

Loch Sport Tennis Club

Loch Sport Primary School opened in Feb **1985** with 22 children

May **1985** Mobile Preschool first visit to Loch Sport

Loch Sport RSL **1986** – & Women's Aux

Loch Sport Red Cross **1987** with 37 members

Loch Sport Dance club **1989**

Loch Sport Health Service - Nursing sisters living in town gave their services freely, then it took many years to establish a building etc with the official opening on 4th Oct **1988**

Loch Sport Bowls Club

Loch Sport Golf Club

Loch Sport Anglers Club

Loch Sport Neighbourhood Watch

Loch Sport Youth Group **1989**

Loch Sport CWA March **1986** – D

Loch Sport Community Unity _ CRG 2006

Loch Sport Senior Citizens

Loch Sport Cricket Club – D

Loch Sport Junior Football Club – D

Loch Sport Girl guides unit **1987** – D

AA **1987**

Loch Sport Field Naturalists Club active in **1988** – D

Loch Sport Region Marketing & Development Group

Loch Sport Adult Activity Centre 7 Feb **1991**

Loch Sport Community House – programs

Loch Sport Community Care -

Loch Sport Community Representative Group – Shire of Wellington **2005**

More information, updates and corrections regarding the above information can be directed to the Loch Sport Community Representative Group, C/o Loch Sport Post Office.

APPENDIX D - MAJOR PUBLIC EVENTS organized by clubs & community groups

Loch Sport Boat Club – 1968 Ski Marathon then Water Ski Classic – Paynesville & return
Loch Sport Boat Club - 1970s Miss Loch sport Contest – Tiny Totts and Miss Junior
Loch Sport Boat Club - Great Loch sport Raft Race & Iron person challenge
Loch Sport Boat Club – Life be in it days –Learn to Ski & Sail
Loch Sport Boat Club – Teenage Discos – Lake Street Hall
Loch Sport Boat Club – Annual Trailer Sailor Challenge
Loch Sport Assistance Group – Bush dances at the oval
Drama Group – Footlighters plays
Loch Sport Lions Club - Easter Festival committee
Loch Sport Lions Club - Great Lakes Races Committee – 1981
Loch Sport Lions Club- Bush Markets
Loch Sport Primary School – rock & roll dances
Loch Sport Cricket Club – Cup Eve
Pelican Assoc Inc – LSSWSC Beach Volleyball
Loch Sport Boat Club – Loch Sport Poker Run on the Gippsland Lakes
Loch Sport Red Cross and Community House Bush Markets

More information, updates and corrections regarding the above information can be directed to the Loch Sport Community Representative Group, C/o Loch Sport Post Office.

APPENDIX E

Outside agencies involved in the Loch Sport Community Plan

The preparation of this document makes reference to the Coastal Urban Design Framework (UDF) and the extensive work done jointly by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Wellington Shire Council and the Gippsland Coastal Board.

In referencing the Loch Sport UDF, this document is the result of the combined contributions of:

The community of Loch Sport

The Loch Sport Community Representative Group

Loch Sport Country Fire Authority

Wellington Shire Council; Community Strengthening Unit Staff; Councillors; and Officers

The UDF Project Steering Committee & Consultation Team:

Kim Phillips, Wellington Shire Council

Brett Millington, Gippsland Coastal Board

Alan Freitag, Department of Sustainability & Environment

Barry Hearsey, Department of Sustainability & Environment

Peter Boyle, Department of Sustainability & Environment

David Fetterplace, Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment

Ainley Projects– Loch Sport Safe Harbour feasibility study

Phillip G. Gittens book "Where the Pelicans Fish"

The Australian Bureau of Statistics

Process for review and evaluation of our Community Plan

Wellington Shire Council is supporting the production of Community Plans in up to 20 communities throughout the Shire during the Community Representative Group (CRG) project 2006-2009.

The Community Representative Group project aims to see groups established who capture the thoughts and visions of an entire community, and seek ways of accomplish these priorities.

These Community Plans will be received by Council and a formal process undertaken to establish which of the community's priorities will be able to be actively supported by Council. Other priorities within the Plans may be the responsibility of other stakeholders and Council may be able to connect the community with these stakeholders.

This plan is designed to be current from 2007- 2010. Review of the Community Plan should be undertaken in early 2009, prior to the end of the CRG project, thus allowing the plan to be modified to reflect current community values. It is considered that the reviewed plan would have a life expectancy of 5 years taking it out to 2014.