



DUNGOG COMMON RESERVE

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Dungog Common Reserve acknowledges, respects and honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on this land and we commit to building a brighter future together.



LOOKING AHEAD

ABORIGINAL OWNED, COMMUNITY MANAGED

This strategic plan looks to the future, imagining and realising the possibilities available to the Dungog Common Reserve.

The Dungog Common Reserve aims to be the premier cultural and adventure recreation destination in the Hunter for the enjoyment of all.

This includes creating a nationally recognised Dungog Mountain Bike Park and spaces for a range of recreational activities.

COMMUNITY RECREATION RESERVE

The Dungog Common Reserve is currently managed by a Board of Crown Land Managers, appointed by the Minister for Lands and Water for the purpose of environmental and heritage protection, public recreation, rural services, and tourist facilities.

The NSW Government has reached an agreement with the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) to resolve Aboriginal Land Claims over the land.

The agreement means the land will be transitioned to the Karuah LALC, with the community continuing to access and use the land, now and into the future.

The Dungog Reserve Board is responsible for the stewardship and management of the land.

OUR STORY

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to develop an innovative facility and a legacy for future generations, through quality recreational, environmental, and Aboriginal cultural experiences.

We:

- create opportunities for people to enjoy Dungog Common Reserve
- support events and activities
- provide facilities for the enjoyment of all
- improve the environment and seek to improve the biodiversity of the land.

OUR VISION

To enrich the quality of life of the Dungog community by providing a variety of recreation activities, cultural and environmental experiences, and facilities that promote health, cultural learning, and fun.

To celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage and provide opportunities for people of all ages.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We have strong principles, act with integrity, are honest and responsible for our actions.

RESPONSIBLE

We care for Country, always.

LEADERSHIP

We provide leadership and stewardship of the land we care for.

COLLABORATIVE

We listen and acknowledge different points of views, engaging meaningfully with the community.

COURAGEOUS

We have a clear purpose to guide and support our actions, we seize opportunities and persevere when faced with challenges.

SUSTAINABLE

We are securing the environmental, social and financial future for all.

OUR 2022-2025 STRATEGIES & GOALS

1 A DESTINATION FOR ALL

Build and preserve a vibrant community recreational facility and make accessible to a range of user groups.

We will do this by:

- Delivering priority projects to create a nationally recognised destination
- Providing a diverse and balanced opportunity for recreational usage
- Improve facilities, promote health and wellbeing opportunities through art, culture and physical activity.

2 LEADING LAND MANAGER

Create an effective model and structure for administering and managing Aboriginal land, focused on delivering positive outcomes for the whole community.

We will do this by:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity of the Recreation Reserve
- Managing public safety on the Reserve for the benefit of all
- Promoting better understanding of Indigenous people's cultures and heritage, including delivering transformative experiences of cultures, histories and heritage.

3 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Authentic engagement with our community, partners, user groups, governments and industry so that DCRR can play a valuable part in realising enhanced recreation, environmental, and social outcomes for Dungog.

We will do this by:

- Engaging our network of members, friends, volunteers, visitors and affiliates
- Building an active network of partners and supporters
- Working with stakeholders to plan and develop future priorities (facilities, events, activities)
- Working together to grow Dungog into a nationally recognised biking destination.

4 FINANCIAL & ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Transform the Reserve to create and maintain reliable recurring revenue streams to meet the needs of the organisation. Organisational sustainability will be created through governance to meet social, economic and environmental objectives.

We will do this by:

- Developing and implementing a 5-year strategic plan, including annual plan updates for delivering initiatives and managing resources
- Developing an organisational structure that supports sound governance, delivers on the objectives of Crown Lands and the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Engaging with our other stakeholders to ascertain their views and support in the development and improvements to the Common, seeking resources to meet facility maintenance and operating costs as well as infrastructure improvements
- Monitoring, reviewing and reporting regularly the outcomes achieved and areas for improvement.



UNDERPINNING COMMITMENTS

Develop a Plan of Management to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the Reserve.

Work with members of the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council and other Traditional Owners guiding the management of the Reserve.

Communicate and engage with the community on the progress and successes of the Reserve, including the transition to Karuah LALC.

Work with Ride Dungog to design, develop and maintain a nationally recognised mountain bike park.

Work with Dungog Commoners Landcare for the sustainable environmental management of the land and waterways of the Reserve.

Work with Sculpture on the Farm to develop a sculpture trail within the Reserve.

Provide amenities for the community to improve their physical and mental health through improved signage, parking areas, picnic sites, and a nature-based children's play area.

Design, plan and develop an integrated network of walking trails.

Provide facilities to encourage recreational horse-riding on the Reserve.

Create spaces for event activation & cultural experiences, including an amphitheatre & workshop space.

Grow and diversify our funding sources to ensure that the Reserve is financially sustainable.

Encourage business opportunities, including an internal shuttle, cafe, & walking and cultural tours.

Provide opportunities for controlled cattle grazing on the Reserve for bushfire fuel management, weed suppression, and economic return.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to the Dungog Common Reserve Board and Crown Lands for contributing to the strategic direction of the reserve.

Dungog Common Recreation Reserve Land Manager Board 2022
Crown Lands
Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
NSWALC

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