

Annexure A

To Guideline—initial categorisation of Crown land managed by council Crown land managers

Categorisation core objectives & guidelines for assigning categories to community land under local government legislation

Table 1. Categories and objectives

Category	Objectives (LG Act)	Guidelines for categorisation (LG Regulation)
Natural area*	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> or the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>. 	<p>The land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore under section 36 (5) of the Act.</p>
Sportsground	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences. 	<p>The land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.</p>
Park	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:</p>	<p>The land is, or is proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management. 	<p>facilities, for use mainly for passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.</p>
Area of cultural significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an area of cultural significance are to retain and enhance the cultural significance of the area (namely its Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical or research or social significance) for past, present or future generations by the active use of conservation methods. 2) Those conservation methods may include any or all of the following methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the continuous protective care and maintenance of the physical material of the land or of the context and setting of the area of cultural significance, b) the restoration of the land, that is, the returning of the existing physical material of the land to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material, c) the reconstruction of the land, that is, the returning of the land as nearly as possible to a known earlier state, d) the adaptive reuse of the land, that is, the enhancement or reinforcement of the cultural significance of the land by the introduction of sympathetic alterations or additions to allow compatible uses (that is, uses that involve no changes to the cultural significance of the physical material of the area, or uses that involve changes that are substantially reversible or changes that require a minimum impact), e) the preservation of the land, that is, the maintenance of the physical material of the land in its existing state and the retardation of deterioration of the land. 3) A reference in subsection (2) to land includes a reference to any buildings erected on the land. 	<p>The land is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an area of Aboriginal significance, because the land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. has been declared an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>, or ii. whether or not in an undisturbed state, is significant to Aboriginal people in terms of their traditional or contemporary cultures, or iii. is of significance or interest because of Aboriginal associations, or iv. displays physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation (for example, items or artefacts such as stone tools, weapons, engraving sites, sacred trees, sharpening grooves or other deposits, and objects or materials that relate to the settlement of the land or place), or v. is associated with Aboriginal stories, or vi. contains heritage items dating after European settlement that help to explain the relationship between Aboriginal people and later settlers, or b) an area of aesthetic significance, by virtue of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. having strong visual or sensory appeal or cohesion, or ii. including a significant landmark, or iii. having creative or technical qualities, such as architectural excellence, or c) an area of archaeological significance, because the area contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. evidence of past human activity (for example, below-ground features such as building

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		<p>foundations, occupation deposits, features or artefacts or above-ground features such as buildings, works, industrial structures, and relics, whether intact or ruined), or</p> <p>ii. any other deposit, object or material that relates to the settlement of the land, or</p> <p>d) an area of historical significance, because of the importance of an association or position of the land in the evolving pattern of Australian cultural history, or</p> <p>e) an area of technical or research significance, because of the area's contribution to an understanding of Australia's cultural history or environment, or</p> <p>f) an area of social significance, because of the area's association with Aboriginal life after 1788 or the area's association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons.</p>
<p>General community use</p>	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:</p> <p>a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and</p> <p>b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).</p>	<p>The land:</p> <p>a) may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, whether by the public at large or by specific sections of the public, and</p> <p>b) is not required to be categorised as a natural area under section 36A, 36B or 36C of the Act and does not satisfy the guidelines under clauses 102–105 for categorisation as a natural area, a sportsground, a park or an area of cultural significance.</p>

*Further categories for land categorised as natural area

Table 2. Further categories for natural areas

Category	Objectives (LG Act)	Guidelines for categorisation (LG Regulation)
Bushland	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and d) to restore degraded bushland, and e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface. 	<p>The land contains primarily native vegetation and that vegetation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or b) although not the natural vegetation of the land, is still representative of the structure or floristics, or structure and floristics, of the natural vegetation in the locality. <p>(2) Such land includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and that contains a range of habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter), or b) moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees of even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invasion, or c) highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.
Wetland	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as wetland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of wetlands, with particular reference to their hydrological environment (including water quality and water flow), and to the flora, fauna and habitat values of the wetlands, and b) to restore and regenerate degraded wetlands, and c) to facilitate community education in relation to wetlands, and 	<p>The land includes marshes, mangroves, backwaters, billabongs, swamps, sedgelands, wet meadows or wet heathlands that form a waterbody that is inundated cyclically, intermittently or permanently with fresh, brackish or salt water, whether slow moving or stationary.</p>

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	<p>the community use of wetlands, without compromising the ecological values of wetlands.</p>	
Escarpment	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as an escarpment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to protect any important geological, geomorphological or scenic features of the escarpment, and b) to facilitate safe community use and enjoyment of the escarpment. 	<p>The land includes such features as a long cliff-like ridge or rock, and</p> <p>The land includes significant or unusual geological, geomorphological or scenic qualities.</p>
Watercourse	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a watercourse are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows, and b) to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability, and c) to restore degraded watercourses, and d) to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category. 	<p>The land includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) any stream of water, whether perennial or intermittent, flowing in a natural channel, or in a natural channel that has been artificially improved, or in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream of water, and any other stream of water into or from which the stream of water flows, and b) associated riparian land or vegetation, including land that is protected land for the purposes of the <i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act 1948</i> or state-protected land identified in an order under section 7 of the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i>.
Foreshore	<p>The core objectives for management of community land categorised as foreshore are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to maintain the foreshore as a transition area between the aquatic and the terrestrial environment, and to protect and enhance all functions associated with the foreshore's role as a transition area, and b) to facilitate the ecologically sustainable use of the foreshore, and to mitigate impact on the foreshore by community use. 	<p>The land is situated on the water's edge and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment.</p>