

Under the Reserves Act 1977 all administering bodies are required to prepare and develop management plans for reserves under their control. The purpose of a reserve management plan is to “...provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance protection and preservation, as the case may require, and to the extent that the administering body’s resources permit, the development as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes of which it is classified....(Reserves Act 1977, Section 41 (3))”.

Reserve management plans are not simply created for reserve design purposes. Essentially the function of a reserve management plan is to create a set of objectives and policies through which design proposals can be critically and effectively assessed.

Within regions and communities there exist different needs and social demands over resource availability. One of the primary goals of a reserve management plan is to manage available resources in a way that will meet current needs and facilitate resources and opportunities to meet desired needs. To achieve this management plans must be objective and critical in their analysis of resource availability. Opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences must be identified and classified. Present and future uses of reserve land must be critically examined and analysed. The public must be given the opportunity to participate in the planning process through consultation and the public submission process.

1.1 Reserve Management Plans - Statutory Planning Process

- a. Council gives public notice of its intention to prepare a reserve management plan.
- b. Submissions are collected over a two month period from the date of notification.
- c. Council publicly releases its draft management plan and invites interested parties and the local community to make suggestions/ express concern in the submission process.
- d. Council can have a Reserves Management Plan hearing to consider submissions received.
- e. Preparation and release of final management plan.

Reserves Management Planning Process

