




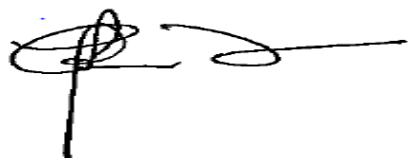
**POLICY No: wsc013**

# **POLICY FOR GREEN CORRIDORS**

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## **A. POLICY SUMMARY**

- A1 Council's Green Corridors policy aims to reduce environmental and climate impact, protect strategic conservation areas and ensure more greens spaces across the Shire.

## **B. POLICY BACKGROUND**

- B1 Council recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing a network of green corridors which are relatively continuous areas of green space leading through the built environment, and which link to each other and to larger green spaces. They allow animals to move between different habitats required for their survival, and help to ensure the maintenance of the current range and diversity of flora and fauna, and the survival of important species. As such, the objectives of the policy are:

- To maintain a diversity of landscapes, plants and animals, and the ecological processes essential for their continued existence.
- To protect and preserve sensitive coastal areas, lake foreshores and the marine environment.
- To protect and preserve critical conservation areas identified as being of regional significance.
- To preserve and improve the water quality of the rivers, lakes and the major water supply catchment.
- To protect and maintain important linkages between core habitat and facilitate fauna movement over Council or Crown owned land.
- To preserve areas of high scenic quality and, where appropriate, enhance previously degraded areas.
- To provide for appropriate recreation activities based on the natural environment, cultural and heritage values and existing recreation attributes.
- To provide for the conservation and/or rehabilitation of remnant vegetation of local recreation or scenic significance on Council or Crown owned land.
- To establish procedures for community participation in the management of green corridors.

## **C. DEFINITIONS**

- C1 **Council** means Wyong Shire Council, being the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies.

## **D. POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **JURISDICTION**

- D1 This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities and all activities of the Council.
- D2 This policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the General Manager.

## **GENERAL**

### **CRITERIA FOR CORRIDORS**

D3 The types of issues to be assessed in relation to flora and fauna conservation value are:

- the extent of areas of remnant native vegetation
- corridor/connectivity value (location in relation to other vegetation communities)
- degree of disturbance
- structural diversity/growth stage
- habitats for threatened species, populations or communities (as per the Threatened Species Conservation Act)
- regionally significant populations, communities, vegetation types and habitats (as per the Regional Biodiversity Strategy)
- local representativeness/rarity of the vegetation communities/habitats
- areas of high biological diversity (including endemic species)
- importance of the vegetation to migratory species/seasonal variations
- conservation status in terms of rarity, threatening processes and representation in secure tenures)

D4 The types of issues to be assessed in relation to recreation value are:

- accessibility from centres of population
- the sensitivity of the corridor to vehicle and pedestrian impacts (eg noise, dust, fumes, litter etc.) and the ability to manage and minimise such impacts
- compatibility of recreational activities with the existing character of an area
- linkages between recreational opportunities (eg coastline to the Great North Walk)
- risk to persons and property from bushfire

D5 The types of issues to be assessed in relation to urban structure and landscape quality are:

- optimum population sizes to maintain existing or create a desirable neighbourhood character
- efficiency of infrastructure provision (eg. transport links, essential services, isolation)
- the location of attractive natural landscapes in relation to urban centres
- the impacts of roads, structures, urban fringe effects and utility services on established green corridors

### **CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

D6 For conservation of habitat:

- Whenever possible, areas of critical conservation to be maintained in their natural state
- The risk of fires being initiated as a result of any development to be minimised
- Degraded and disturbed areas to be rehabilitated and managed to accelerate regeneration of native vegetation
- Soil to be protected from erosion or salination
- Habitat areas for native plants and animals to be protected

D7 To ensure maintenance of water quality:

- Existing stormwater flow patterns within corridors to be maintained
- Gullies, watercourses and drainage lines to be retained in a natural state with adequate buffer zones and sedimentation controls provided
- Degraded areas subject to soil erosion or salination to be rehabilitated

D8 To accommodate the movement of fauna :

- Any identified wildlife corridors to be retained in a natural state and enhanced where necessary
- Ridgeline and riparian vegetation corridors to be retained in their natural state

D9 To preserve locations of high visual quality :

- Existing natural landforms within identified corridors to be retained.
- Disturbed or degraded land which is visually prominent to be rehabilitated.
- Views of areas of high scenic quality not to be obstructed

D10 To provide for recreational opportunities:

- A network of diverse outdoor recreation opportunities to be provided to serve residents and visitors
- Linkages between recreation activities which have functional relationships to be strengthened
- Opportunities to be provided for a diversity of appropriate passive outdoor recreation activities for all sections of the community

## **E. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION - PROCEDURES**

E1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Wyong Council Code of Conduct.

E2 It is the personal responsibility of all Council employees and agents thereof to have knowledge of, and to ensure compliance with this policy.

E3 Council will seek to ensure that the local community and special interest groups are given every opportunity to take an active role in the management of green corridors and neighbourhood open spaces.

E4 Council will acknowledge and assist interested community groups in their establishment and ongoing maintenance of the elected location of interest.

### **E5 Associated documents**

- Council Code of Conduct
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Native Vegetation Act 2003
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Soil Conservation Act 1938
- Water Management Act 2000