

MINUTES (20/40522)
MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH VPA
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
2.00pm Wednesday 1 July 2020

Attendees	Alan Andrews (AA), Ian Hedley (IH), Mark Ihlein (MI), Judith Leslie (JL), Amanda McMahon (AM), Cr Sue Moore (Chair), Pauline Rayner (PR), Myffy Doyle (MD).
In Attendance	Alan Ginns (Gondwana Consulting), Jodie Jeffery (JJ) (Minutes).
Meeting Date and Time	Wednesday 1 July 2020 2.00 PM
Location	Zoom

1. Welcome and Apologies - 2.03pm

- Welcome
- Acknowledgement of Country by the Chair
- Apologies – Greg Banks and Adrian Gallagher.

2. Disclosure of Interests – Nil declared.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

- The minutes of the meeting held 5 February 2020 were confirmed.

Moved Ian Hedley / **Seconded** Cr Sue Moore

4. Matters arising from the Minutes – Nil.

5. Agenda Items

i. Project Officer Resource

Introduction of Myffy Doyle provided by Mark Ihlein.

- Myffy Doyle commenced as Project Officer VPA today, 1 July 2020;
- MD has a background in recreation and facilities planning, customer service and community consultation.
- MD has been engaged to undertake additional VPA work on village areas separate to and to a lesser extent than her works program commitment for the Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA.

ii. Bulga Stock Reserve Plan of Management and Masterplan

Presentation provided by Alan Ginns - Gondwana Consulting.

- Refer to **Attachment 1** for presentation content.
- Positive feedback provided by Committee members on:
 - proposed use of land for walking trails and wetland area;
 - consideration of addition of further areas; and
- Pros and cons to be considered regarding blocking of channel, potential flooding, water storage near bridge when built up with burnt debris;
- Alan Ginns confirmed hydrology advice is required to be sourced; and
- Discussions to be held regarding neighbouring properties.

ACTION: Agenda item for 6 August 2020 committee meeting – MI and MD to provide strategic approach to property and potential opportunity to integrate with the POM.

ACTION: JJ to circulate Bulga Stock Reserve presentation to Committee.

Alan Ginns left the meeting at 2.59pm.

iii. Alternate Community Member Selection – Mark Ihlein

Assessment of two Expression of Interest (EOI) submissions received.

- Greg Banks accepted the position of community member;
- Two Expressions of Interest received for position of alternate committee member being Jami Street and Stewart Mitchell;
- Assessment undertaken by selection panel of MI, AM, and Lyn McBain as independent representative. The Chair declined to participate due to personal connection to a candidate's family; and
- Stewart Mitchell identified as preferred alternate community committee member.

ACTION: MI to advise EOI candidates of selection outcome.

iv. Project Proposal consideration/recommendation – Mark Ihlein

To discuss and agree upon Project Nomination and project assessment process. (1 April postponed meeting scheduled agenda item).

- Agreed to hold additional meeting on Thursday 6 August 2020 at 2pm in lieu of 1 April 2020 deferred meeting.
- Agenda to include focused discussion and clarity on the previously agreed processes for:
 - project proposal nomination, assessment criteria and project selection;
- further discussion to be held on how process plays out in terms of committee member conversations with their community; and
- The progression of proposed projects.

ACTION: Agenda Items 6 August 2020 to include discussion and clarity on previously agreed processes for:

- Project nomination;
- Assessment criteria; and
- Project selection.

v. Project Updates

Update on the progression of projects.

- Brief discussion on deferring this item.
- Rescheduled to 6 August 2020 meeting agenda

ACTION: Agenda items for 6 August 2020 meeting to include Project Updates.

vi. Management of Community Notice Board

Determine contact person for keys and the maintenance of notice board.

- Fixed community notice board has been installed at Bulga site;
- Committee members suggested contacting the following to assist with management of notice board content and caretaking of keys.
 - Bulga Community Hall President Jan Hedley, Frank (hall caretaker) or Phil Reid.
 - Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association (BMPA) Secretary Leslie Gray, Hughe Upwood or Pauline Rayner as back up option.

ACTION: MI to contact Bulga Community Hall representatives to seek assistance with management of community noticeboard/keys.

ACTION: Pauline Rayner to contact BMPA representatives to seek assistance with management of community noticeboard/keys.

vii. Variable Message Board (VMB) – Mark Ihlein

Discussion regarding preferred location and wording for the board header.

- Quotations received vary in price depending on solar capability;
- Council owned land is temporarily occupied by RMS;
- VMB preferred site on hold as Council land temporarily occupied by RMS. Preferred site to be decided after consideration given to proposed acquisition of additional land;
- Bulga Stock Reserve may take 12months to finalise if delayed by Crown Land;
- VMB will assist with communication for:
 - Emergency events to inform evacuation location details and updates e.g bushfires; and
 - Community group information and events e.g RFS, BMPA, Community Hall meeting notices.

viii. Future Meeting Schedule – Mark Ihlein

Discussion regarding meeting platform options and mode in which future meetings may be held.

- It was agreed and availability confirmed by members in attendance that the next meeting be held face to face with adherence to social distancing guidelines on Thursday 6 August 2020.

ACTION: Meeting invitation to be sent to Committee members for 2pm on Thursday 6 August 2020

Financial Report

Accumulated interest report as at 31/05/2020.

- AA referred to reported balance of funds being close to \$3m and the shared expectation that more funds be spent through the selection and progression of the right projects.
- As at 31 May 2020: total expenditure of \$170,635. and interest earned of \$131,293. equates to just under \$40,000. funds spent since the commencement of the committee.
- Question raised: Does the \$158,546.82 expenditure shown for the Recreation area improvements include funds that were transferred from the previous VPA committee? MI to check and provide a response with the draft minutes when circulating to the committee.

ACTION: MI to source the breakup of funds allocated from the two separate VPAs and include a response when circulating the draft minutes.

6. Other Business

- Question raised regarding issue finding location of project proposal nomination details on Council website. AM advised that this was installed on the VPA page on 5 February 2020 website and checked yesterday.

ACTION: AM to circulate website page link and seek Communications staff to make more visible/easier to access on Council website.

7. Action List – refer to the Attached

- Draft Community Newsletter has been updated and will be circulated to the committee for review and feedback.
- No further questions raised regarding the action list.

ACTION: Draft Community Newsletter will be circulated by MI with the draft minutes for consideration and feedback to be provided.

There were no further questions regarding the action list.

8. Next Meeting

- 2pm on Thursday 6 August 2020
- Location Committee meeting.

Meeting closed 3.36pm

Cr Sue Moore
Chair

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Action List – as at 01/07/2020




Pulse/ Action No	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Officer	Due Date	Comment	Status
	01/7/2020	Agenda item for 6 August 2020: Provide strategic approach to property and potential opportunity to integrate with the POM.	Mark Ihlein/Myffy Doyle	30/7/2020		
	01/7/2020	Circulate Bulga Stock Reserve presentation to Committee.	Mark Ihlein	03/7/2020	Completed. Circulated on 03/7/2020 (20/43456).	
	01/7/2020	Agenda item 6 August 2020: focused discussion & clarity on the previously agreed processes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project nomination; • Assessment criteria; and • Project selection. 	Mark Ihlein/Myffy Doyle	30/7/2020		
	01/7/2020	Agenda items for 6 August 2020: Project Updates	Myffy Doyle	30/7/2020		
	01/7/2020	Contact Bulga Community Hall representatives to seek assistance with management of community noticeboard/key	Mark Ihlein/Myffy Doyle	20/7/2020		

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	01/7/2020	Contact BMPA representatives to seek assistance with management of community noticeboard/key	Mark Ihlein /Pauline Rayner	20/7/2020		
	01/7/2020	Send Committee meeting invitation for 2pm 6 August 2020	Jodie Jeffery	03/7/2020	Completed on 01/7/2020	
	01/7/2020	Source breakup of funds allocated from the two VPAs & include response when circulating the draft minutes	Mark Ihlein	20/7/2020		
	01/7/2020	Circulate link to website page & seek Comms to make more visible/easier to access on Council website	Amanda McMahon	20/7/2020		
	01/7/2020	Circulate Draft Community Newsletter with the draft minutes for consideration and feedback to be provided	Mark Ihlein	20/7/2020	Circulated 07/7/2020.	
	05/2/2020	Advertise EOI for Alternate Community Committee member position.	Mark Ihlein	21/2/2020	Completed. To be reports to July meeting.	
	05/2/2020	Finalise engagement of designated Project Officer prior to April meeting.	Mark Ihlein		Completed.	

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	05/2/2020	Source revised quote 1 x electronic & 1 x static noticeboards with solar support.	Mark Ihlein / Amanda McMahon		Currently being procured.	
	05/2/2020	Resolve ongoing management of noticeboard content.	Mark Ihlein		It is proposed that the management of the noticeboard be undertaken initially by the Project Officer in consultation with the community and in time will be handed over to community members.	
	05/2/2020	Procurement and installation of noticeboards.	Mark Ihlein		Underway.	

	Complete
	In progress
	Outstanding/overdue

BULGA STOCK RESERVE

Draft Plan of Management

*Presentation to the
Mount Thorley Warkworth
VPA Community Committee*

Wednesday 1 July 2020

Alan Ginns, Gondwana Consulting



BULGA STOCK RESERVE

- Crown Reserve No. 170159, gazetted in July 1993 for “public recreation” (Lot 7001 DP 93633, Parish - Whybrow County - Hunter)
- Singleton Council is the “Council manager”, under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.
- Located north of Putty Road on the eastern edge of the Village of Bulga
- 5.25 hectares
- Traditional lands of the Wonnarua (or Wanaruah) Aboriginal People, Baelpin Clan
- Area first reserved from sale for the purposes of “water supply and access thereto” as Water Reserve No. 42, in 1884



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT – WHAT ? WHY NOW ?

A Plan of Management (PoM) guides the future management and use of a public open space asset under Council management.

Can be seen as an “agreement” between a Council and the community as to how a place is to be managed, used, and its values protected.

The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* now requires a PoM for all Crown Reserves under a “Council manager”.

Prepared in accordance with PoM requirements and provisions of *Local Government Act 1993* – including PoM content and format, leases and licences, categorisation, etc. (same as “community land” planning requirements).

Council managers now also responsible for complying with the *Native Title Act 1993* – re certain land management dealings (including leases, licences and permits).

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT - PROCESS

Community engagement remains central to the PoM process – in preparing the draft PoM, and formal exhibition of the draft PoM for community comment.

Draft PoM to be approved by Council (and Crown Lands) for public exhibition.

 **Next Step**



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT – INPUTS / CONSIDERATIONS



BULGA STOCK RESERVE - OVERVIEW

Largest of the 2 Council managed public open space areas in Bulga Village.

From Putty Road (in south) to sandy levee and slope down to Wollombi Brook (in north).

Accesses, but does not include, any creekbed or channel (creek channel has moved north onto private land).

Largely flat. Series of small interconnected ephemeral wetlands in south, draining to north-west. Now more rapidly/frequently dry due to an artificial opening in levee/creekbank in the Reserve's west.

Stormwater piped under Putty Road (via 11 x 1.2 m diameter pipes) flows onto Reserve.

Erodible, sandy/alluvial, soils.

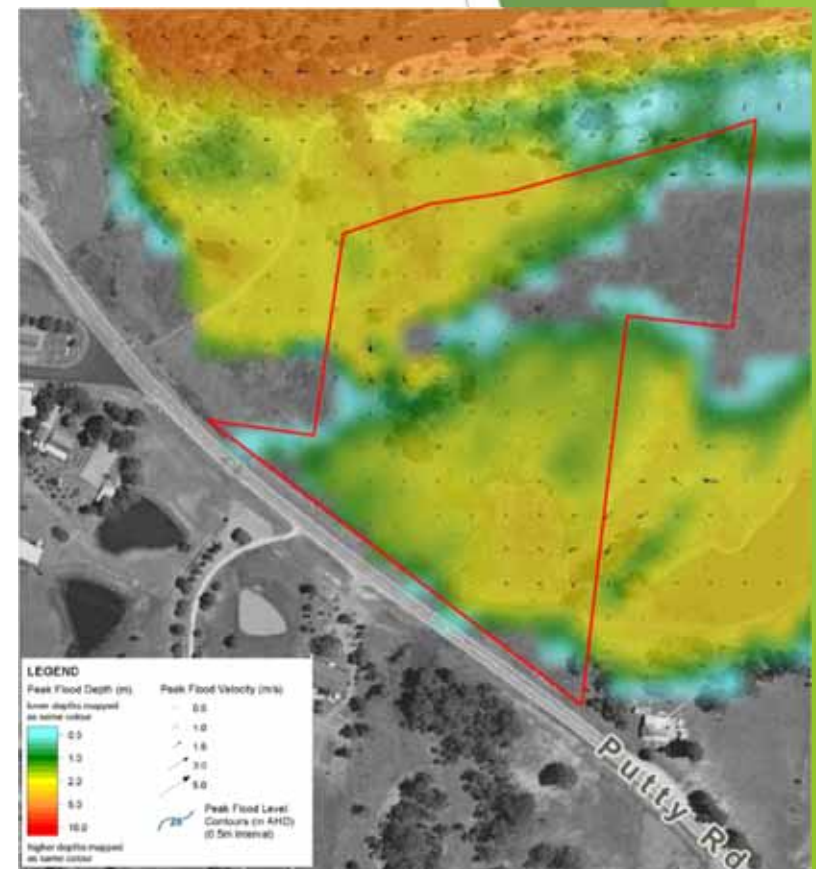


Subject to flooding by Wollombi Brook. Historic records of severe flood events in 1893, 1927, 1930, 1949 (highest recorded), 1978, 2007 and 2015.

***Wollombi Brook Flood Study (2016)* maps the Reserve as a “floodway and classifies it as a “high flood hazard”.**

Flood modelling indicates:

- **20% chance in any year of about two-thirds of Reserve being flooded to just under 2m depth with flow velocities of 1.5 to 3.0 m/second;**
- **10% chance in any year of over two-thirds of area flooded to over 2m deep, flow velocities up to 5.0 m/second;**
- **2% chance in any year of most of Reserve being flooded >4m deep.**



**Wollombi Flood Study - Modelled Peak Flood Conditions
20% AEP (5 yr ARI)**

Modified landscape, most (almost all) original vegetation previously cleared.

2015 biodiversity survey mapped:

- **most of Reserve dominated by “exotic grassland”, with some shrub and woody weed regrowth;**
- **Forest Redgum regrowth in/around ephemeral wetlands; and**
- **Acacia regrowth along drainage line in north-west (now died off, mostly replaced by young Eucalypt regrowth).**

Large infestation of Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) which is toxic, but not fatal, to humans in area’s south-west.

Weeds widespread and significant – mostly grassland and pasture weeds (invasive and environmental), as well as fruit trees.

No notable native fauna recorded to-date.



Not listed on any heritage registers. But abundance of Aboriginal heritage sites recorded in surrounding area, and very high probability of occurrence on Reserve. No historic heritage items, but a 104 year history as a water and/or travelling stock reserve.

Fenced, but in poor condition in places.

No visitor facilities or indication that the Reserve is open/available for access and enjoyment.

Extremely limited, if any, visitor access and use at present.

Irregular and minimal management input (“utility” maintenance standard) – chiefly weed control.

No current leases or licences (including no current grazing permits).



COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Awareness raising – via Council *Have Your Say* webpage, *Singleton Argus* article (26 Nov '19), and Council Facebook page.

Information Sheet and Feedback/Input Form (5 questions, reply paid).

Personalised letters to neighbouring (x3) and opposite (x4) land owners.

Information Sheet and Feedback Form letterboxed to all properties with 1 km of Reserve (x57), and random properties (x8) further west on Inlet Road.

Posters along Putty Road fence (x3), at Community Hall (x1) and general store (x1).



Meeting with representatives of local groups and stakeholders – Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association, Broke Bulga Landcare Group, and Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA Community Committee (apologies Milbrodale Public School, OEH/NPWS, RFS and HLLS) – Thursday, 5 December (6.-7.30pm) in Bulga Community Hall.



Workshop with Council officers.

On-site meeting with Hunter Local Land Services representative (February '20)

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- **12 completed Feedback Forms and 1 e-mailed submission**
- **Stakeholder Meeting inputs**

Community Views/Inputs

Reserve values:

- **environmental values or features (native vegetation, environmental, habitat and wildlife values, and biodiversity attributes/values);**
- **Reserve's historic value and past use as a stock reserve; and**
- **location/function as a highly visible “entrance” to Bulga village.**

Issues or challenges:

- **site is neglected, overgrown, unmanaged and poorly maintained, needs to be “cleaned-up” or “tidied up”, should be a more presentable entrance to Bulga;**
- **need for more weed removal and control; and**
- **Reserve is flood liable/impacted, and flooding severely constrains site's future use and development.**



Future directions or changes:

- **greater access to the Reserve and the provision of visitor facilities for modest levels of leisure/recreation use – walking tracks low-key/small picnic areas, seating and shade, an “environmental park” for birdwatching and wildlife viewing; or**
- **a more developed/modified and intensively managed attraction – developed as per the original 2016 Masterplan with vehicle parking, walking tracks, bridges, picnic tables, and brook access or as a managed open parkland with mown/slashed grass with scattered trees and including a caravan/camping area; or**
- **beautifying and “cleaning-up” the Reserve and making it more appealing from Putty Road.**

Stakeholder Meeting Views/Inputs

- **Consensus around the site’s poor appearance and management, and the need for general site “clean-up”, weed removal and improvements.**
- **Value as the southern gateway to Bulga village.**

- **Revegetate the site and restore native vegetation, “re-wet the wetlands”, enhance habitat values.**
- **Manage and promote the Reserve as an accessible natural attraction;**
- **Flooding is a serious issue, and a threat to any developments and visitor activities.**
- **However divergent views expressed as to the appropriate level of development and visitor use:**
 - **a low-key natural attraction with winding nature walks and educational signs (2016 Masterplan seen as too ambitious and unrealistic); or**
 - **a more developed attraction with a variety of facilities, as envisaged by the previous Masterplan, and that Council should “do more with it” to benefit Bulga.**



PAST/CURRENT PLANS FOR BULGA STOCK RESERVE

Plan of Management for Village Parks (undated)

- Bulga Stock Reserve is named as one of several village parks which “are used so little that Council should consider disposing of these sites”.

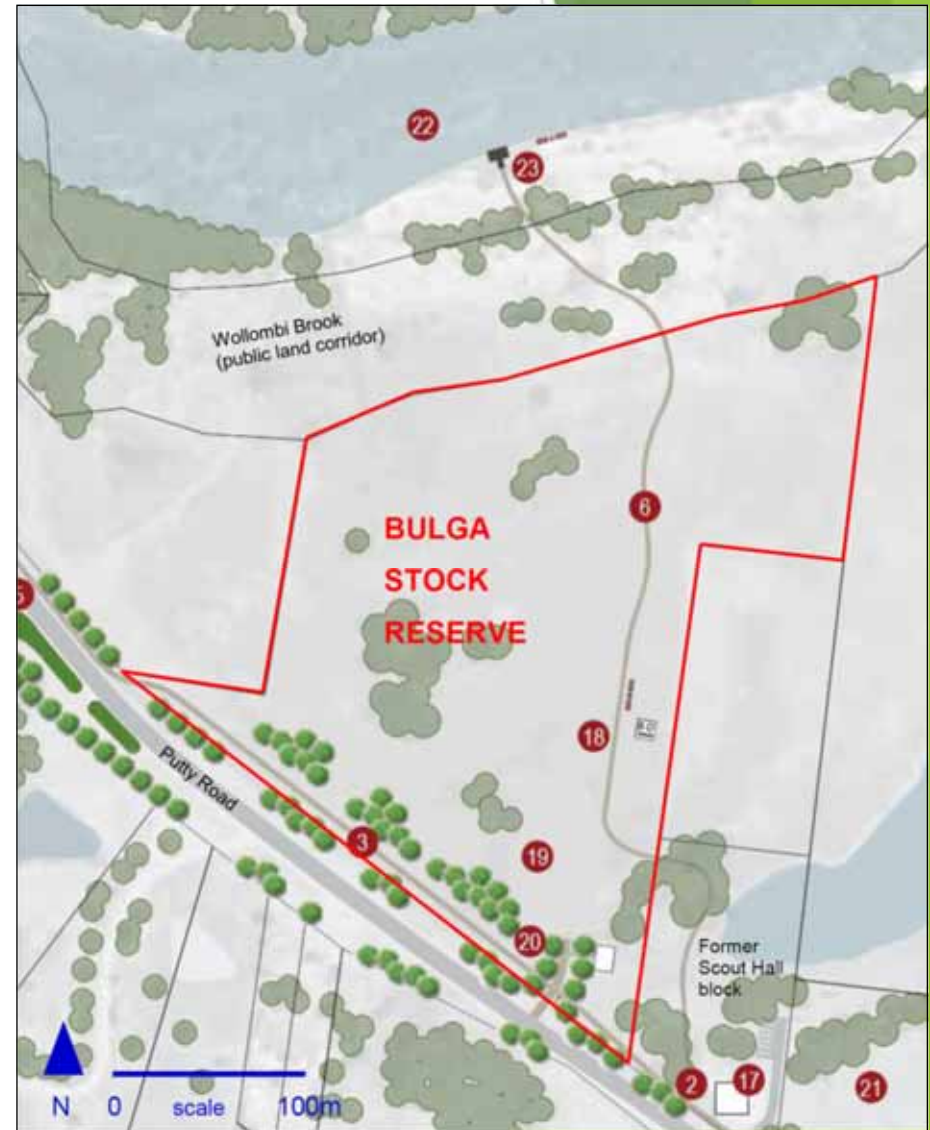
Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (2013)

- Considered that Bulga had an “adequate supply of open space and adequate facilities within the Recreation Ground”.
- Specific recommendations for Bulga Stock Reserve:
 - the Reserve is “relatively undeveloped and while there is little demand for additional facilities, the site may lend itself to the future development of an environmental park”; and
 - “implement an environmental rehabilitation program ... to provide the community with a future natural area for environmental protection, awareness and low-key outdoor recreation opportunities” (but a low priority action).

Singleton Village Masterplan - 6.0 Bulga (2016)

Envisages the site as an “environmental park”, with variety of proposed developments:

- pathway access (and boardwalks) to Wollombi Brook, accessed via the adjacent Scout Hall block;
- viewing platform, and craft launching facility, on water’s edge (outside Reserve);
- internal path network;
- facilities – such as seating, barbeques, toilets, and fitness equipment;
- potentially serving as an “overflow camping area” during major village events; and
- general “development and beautification” works.



RESERVE VALUES AND SIGNIFICANCE

Value	Basis of Value and Significance	Level of Significance
Native vegetation communities and fauna habitat	Regrowth/regeneration of native vegetation with a variety of recovering native plant communities. Areas of ephemeral wetlands/channels, variety of habitats, and stand of three mature River Red Gums trees. Native vegetation and habitats areas valued by majority of the community.	Local
Scenic	Area of undeveloped vegetated open space, with potential for enhancement as a scenic asset and potential village "gateway". Scenic importance and potential of the site recognised by majority of the community.	Local
Visitor access and enjoyment	Conveniently located on outskirts of village with potential for greater provisions for visitor access and enjoyment, and promotion as a feature of interest at Bulga. Potential visitor access/enjoyment role and value recognised by majority of the community.	Local
Public access and connection	One of only two areas of (Council-managed) public open space in Bulga village. Public land connection to Wollombi Brook public land corridor.	Local
Historic heritage	Past use as a travelling stock reserve, and potential connection with districts early European history.	Local
<i>Likely/Potential Values</i>		
<i>Aboriginal cultural heritage</i>	<i>High potential to harbor as yet unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage sites/features.</i>	<i>Local</i>

KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES, THREATS OR CHALLENGES

- **Accesses but does not include Wollombi Brook (private property)**
- **High flood hazard area, periodically inundated, significant flood risks to visitors and developments**
- **Significant stormwater inflows under Putty Road**
- **Largely cleared open areas of exotic grassland with little shrub cover and few trees, only smaller areas of recovering/regrowth native vegetation**
- **Extensive areas of weeds and introduced plants (both priority weeds and environmental weeds), continued weed introduction and spread (woody and riparian weeds)**
- **Ephemeral wetlands degraded (more readily drained and drier than previously) by artificial opening**
- **Large infestation of Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) – toxic to humans**
- **Lack of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites data**

- Reserve presents as one of many cleared, partially cleared or occasionally managed lands around Bulga and along Putty Road – not “legible” as a Council-managed reserve
- Not identified or promoted as available for public access/use
- Parking and access (vehicle and pedestrian) issues along Putty Road, high traffic speeds
- No walking tracks or other visitor infrastructure to support access, use and enjoyment of the area by visitors (at present)
- No interpretive signage regarding Reserve’s values (at present)
- Lack of an obvious attraction or focal point for visitor interest/attention, recovering/regrowth vegetation and large open areas with little shrub cover and no trees offer little visitor/usage appeal (at present)
- Small size and modest attractions/assets limits the appeal or potential for visitor use or facility provision (risk of “over-capitalising” relative to standard of attraction/s)
- Perimeter fencing is in poor condition (very poor in places)
- Distant from Council’s works depots and offices, limiting day-to-day presence and management capacity

CATEGORISATION

All community land must be categorised using 5 categories (and 5 sub-categories) as defined in, and a requirement of, the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Act also describes “core objectives for management” for each category.

Bulga Stock Reserve proposed to be categorised as:

❖ “Natural Area” –

Land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possessing a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature/attribute sufficient to further categorise the area as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.

And further sub-categorised as:

❖ “Natural Area - Bushland” –

Land containing primarily native vegetation that (a) is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the area’s natural vegetation, or (b) although not remnant natural vegetation is still representative of the structure or floristics, or structure and floristics, of the locality’s natural vegetation.

A “VISION” FOR BULGA STOCK RESERVE :

An area of regenerating native vegetation and recovering natural landscape, managed according to sound natural resource and conservation management principles, to provide a scenic area on the outskirts of Bulga village offering a location for low-key nature-based leisure, recreation and educational uses and appropriate community or volunteer land management activities.



CORE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

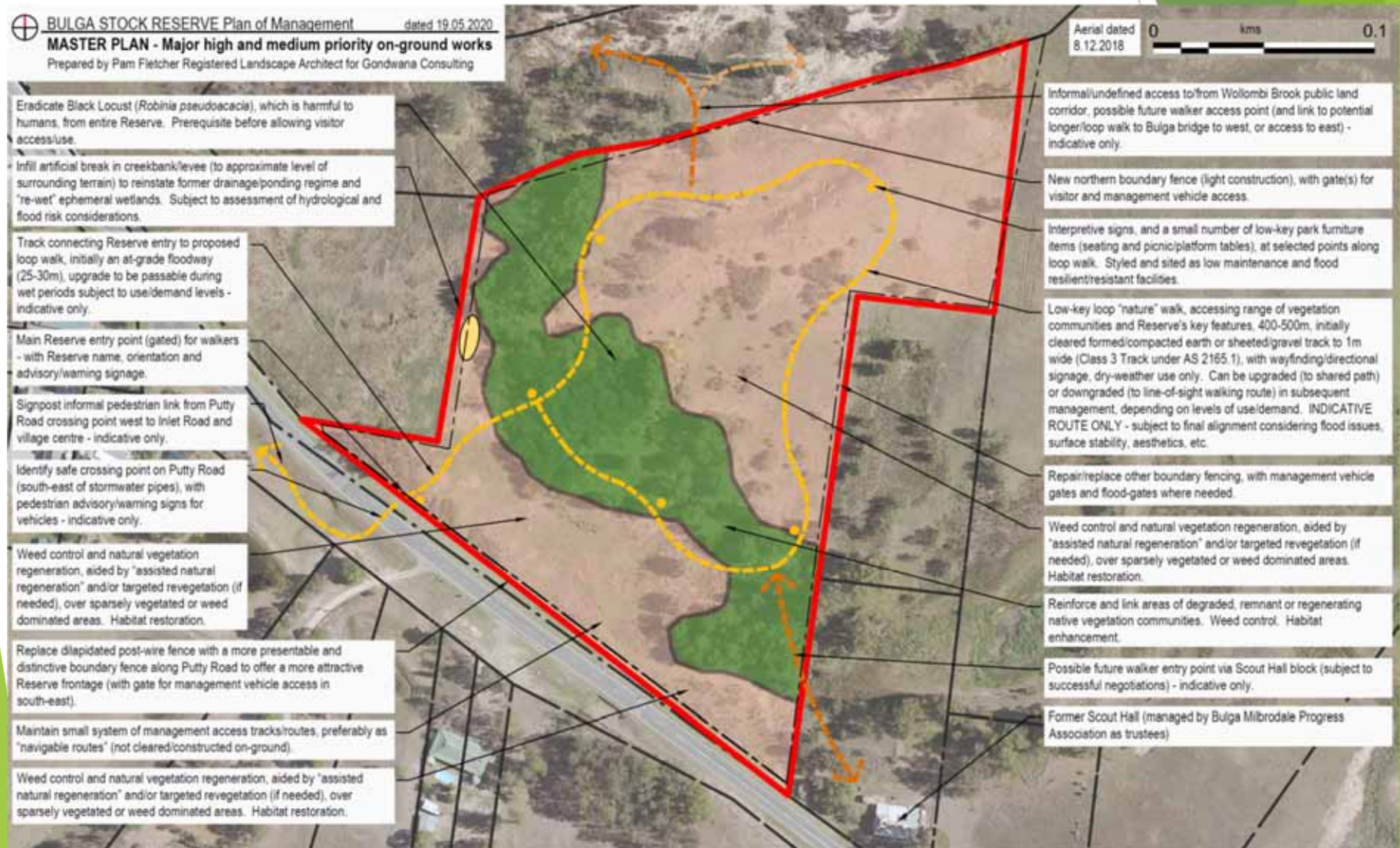
- **To continue the regrowth, regeneration, revegetation and restoration of native vegetation.**
- **To maintain and enhance the biodiversity, habitat, and scenic values of this recovering natural vegetation area.**
- **To reduce the occurrence and impacts of weeds and pests.**
- **To provide sustainable opportunities for low-key short-stay nature-based leisure and recreation uses.**
- **To provide visitor access and a limited array of low-key facilities to support nature-based visitor use, enjoyment and appreciation of the Reserve – as consistent with the area’s intended natural character/setting and protection of its natural/scenic values.**
- **To ensure the Reserve’s visitor facilities, infrastructure and furniture – although modest or basic standard – are presentable, safe, well-maintained and fit for purpose.**

- **To accommodate occasional small group volunteer, educational, recreational or special uses or activities.**
- **To encourage and accommodate appropriate volunteer and community involvement in the Reserve's management.**
- **To enhance and maintain the Reserve's natural landscape qualities and scenic appeal, as seen from Putty Road and Bulga village.**
- **To minimise the risks to life and property posed by flooding, wildfire, hazardous trees or other dangers.**

These objectives are consistent with the “core objectives for management” for an area categorised as “Natural Area - Bushland”, as prescribed in the the *Local Government Act 1993*.

MASTERPLAN

An overview of the Plan of Management's broad management directions, key on-ground actions and indicative Reserve layout.



MANAGEMENT ACTION TABLES

Management Actions grouped into specific value or operational areas:

- Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity and Landscape (32 management actions);
- Cultural Heritage (5 actions);
- Use, Facilities and Developments (23 actions);
- Leases, Licenses and Permits (5 actions); and
- Reserve Management and Administration (21 actions).

Each management action is allocated a “priority” (HIGH, Medium or low), a “resource estimation” as necessary implement or undertake an action, an action’s “performance target” or intended outcomes, and “means of assessment” or measuring the achievement of the performance target (all being a content/format requirement of PoMs as set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*) .



KEY/PRIORITY ACTIONS – FLORA, FAUNA, BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE

Manage the Reserve to:

- **support the recovery and expansion of degraded, remnant or regenerating native vegetation communities (principally areas of Forest Redgum regrowth, ephemeral wetland vegetation, and patches of Eucalypt/Acacia regrowth); and**
- **re-establish native vegetation communities across the exotic grasslands, and sparsely vegetated or weed dominated areas, that make up the majority of the Reserve.**

Natural vegetation regeneration (and minimising disturbances) will be the principal measure used to expand/re-establish native vegetation communities. This will be supported by “assisted natural regeneration” and targeted “active” revegetation measures.

Habitat protection and enhancement, via regrowth/revegetation, to support native fauna populations.

Special protection/management for features or areas of high habitat or native fauna value (e.g. ephemeral wetlands , large/mature trees with nesting hollows).

Continue to undertake weed control measures – targeting listed priority weeds (state, regional and local priority weeds).

Eradicate the stand of Black Locust. Due to its hazardous characteristics, this species must be eradicated from the Reserve prior to any actions to invite/encourage visitor access.



Infill the artificial break in the creekbank/levee, on the Reserve's western boundary, to reinstate former drainage and ponding regime and “re-wet” the ephemeral wetlands (to regenerate native wetland vegetation and enhance habitat). Subject to assessment of hydrological and flood risk considerations.

Manage bushfire hazards in accordance with the *Singleton Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2011*.

KEY/PRIORITY ACTIONS – CULTURAL HERITAGE

Apply a precautionary approach to works that require significant ground clearing/disturbance – given the very high likelihood of encountering unrecorded Aboriginal cultural heritage material/sites. Apply the OEH/NPWS “Due Diligence” process.

Ensure any Aboriginal cultural heritage materials/sites that may be uncovered are managed as consistent with legislative requirements.

KEY/PRIORITY ACTIONS – USE, FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Visitor use and enjoyment of the Reserve will principally be for:

- **low-key nature-based leisure and recreation activities;**
- **environmental appreciation and education; and**
- **community conservation and land management activities.**

No visitor access until infestation of Black Locust has been eradicated or effectively suppressed.

Develop a main entry point (gated), for walkers, off Putty Road in Reserve's far west – with Reserve name, orientation and advisory and/or warning signage. Safe crossing point on Putty Road to be advised by Council's traffic engineer, then an informal pedestrian route along wide southern verge of Putty Road sign-posted west to Inlet Road and village centre.



Develop a low-key loop “nature” walk, as a short (400-500m) easy walking experience, accessing a range of vegetation communities and other features (ephemeral wetlands, attractive mature trees, Wollombi Brook corridor, etc.). Initially cleared formed/compacted earth or sheeted/gravel track to 1m wide (Class 3 Track, AS 2165.1), with wayfinding/directional signage, for dry-weather use only. Alignment to consider flood issues, surface stability, aesthetics, etc.

Dependent on usage levels and demand, the standard and management of the loop walking track may be upgraded (to wider shared path standard, including possible cycle access/use) or downgraded (to line-of-sight walking route) as warranted.

Install interpretive signs, and a small number of low-key park furniture items (seating and picnic/platform tables), at selected points along loop walk. Styled and sited as low maintenance and flood resilient/resistant facilities. No toilets, BBQs or visitor use of fire.

All facilities/developments will be maintained in a safe, serviceable and presentable condition.

Possible future walker entry point via Scout Hall block (subject to successful negotiations with Trustees), and to/from Wollombi Brook public land corridor.

Replace dilapidated post-wire fence along Putty Road with a more presentable and distinctive boundary fence – as a more attractive Reserve frontage (with gate for management vehicle access).

Repair/replace other boundary fencing as farm-style post-and-wire fencing (with management vehicle gates and flood-gates where needed). Light construction boundary fence, with gate(s) for visitor and management vehicle access, along Wollombi Brook public land boundary in north.

KEY/PRIORITY ACTIONS – LEASES, LICENCES AND PERMITS

Licence, permit or short term arrangements authorised for appropriate leisure/recreational, community, group, educational, scientific or park management events and activities.

Licences or permits authorised for grazing or stock agistment (cattle only) and/or other low-impact land uses (such as bee-keeping) – where the primary purpose is assisting in the Reserve's management (e.g. controlling fuel loads, supporting weed removal/control, or assisting in native vegetation regeneration).

All licences, permits or other arrangements to be subject to assessment, approval and applicable conditions.



KEY/PRIORITY ACTIONS – RESERVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Maintain small system of management access tracks/routes within Reserve, preferably as “navigable routes” (not cleared/constructed on-ground).

Ensure adequate Council staff resources are dedicated to the Reserve’s inspection/patrol and management/maintenance (especially to undertake park/facility maintenance and management).

Continue to engage with, support and involve neighbours, stakeholders and the community to contribute to and assist in the Reserve’s management

Possible consolidation of additional lands along southern side of Wollombi Brook to realise a larger area of public land (if the opportunity arises) – to offer potential for longer walking routes/loops, such as between the Reserve or Scout Hall to Wollombi Bridge, and for management as a vegetated buffer to nearby land uses.

NEXT STEPS

- ▶ **Obtain Native Title (specialist) advice.**
- ▶ **Council approval for public exhibition of Draft Plan of Management for community comment. Concurrence of Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Crown Lands) also required – as the land’s “owner” – prior to public exhibition.**
- ▶ **Draft Plan of Management placed on public exhibition for 28 days (minimum), with comments received for 42 days from start of exhibition period. “Categorisation Hearing”, regarding Reserve's proposed categorisation, also held during this exhibition period.**
- ▶ **Council considers community comments received, and Plan of Management amended as/if required.**
- ▶ **Council adoption of Final Plan of Management (and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment [Crown Lands] concurrence again also required).**

Thank you

Financial Report – Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA Community Committee

As at 31/05/2020

VPA : Warkworth and Mount Thorley Continuation Projects

As at 31/05/2020

		2017/2018	2018/2019	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	2019/2020	Life to Date
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Bulga Community Project Fund																
Opening Balance		-	2,017,063.29	2,531,384.50	2,529,351.16	2,529,210.38	2,383,833.52	2,383,833.52	2,383,833.52	2,821,745.16	2,821,525.54	2,821,086.32	2,860,307.89	2,860,307.89	2,531,384.50	
Income																
	Contribution	2,000,000.00	450,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	450,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	450,000.00	2,900,000.00
	Interest	17,063.29	64,412.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,817.01	-	-	49,817.01	131,293.07
Expenditure (incl. commitments)																
	Recreation Area Improvements and Exercise Equipment	-	91.56	2,033.34	140.78	145,376.86	-	-	-	219.62	439.22	10,595.44	-	(350.00)	158,455.26	158,546.82
	Bulga Stock Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Improvements to Bulga Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,088.36	-	-	-	-	-	12,088.36	12,088.36
Total		2,017,063.29	514,321.21	(2,033.34)	(140.78)	(145,376.86)	-	-	437,311.64	(219.62)	(439.22)	35,221.57	-	350.00	325,273.35	2,860,657.89
Balance Remaining		2,017,063.29	2,531,384.50	2,529,351.16	2,529,210.38	2,383,833.52	2,383,833.52	2,383,833.52	2,821,745.16	2,821,525.54	2,821,086.32	2,860,307.89	2,860,307.89	2,860,057.89	2,860,057.89	2,860,057.89

The Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA Community Committee is a sunset Committee of Singleton Council formed to assist Council in engaging with the community to implement the Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA and raise opportunities for sustainable community projects.

The committee is chaired by the Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and comprises Council and Yarcoal representatives as well as community members from Bulga and Milbrodale.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- **Recreation area improvements – tree planting, playground equipment: \$50,000**
- **Improvements to Bulga Hall – verandah and media system: \$100,000**
- **Outdoor exercise equipment – in and around Bulga Recreation Area: \$30,000**
- **Bulga Stock Reserve Development (Parkland Plan): \$60,000 including \$35,590 to develop a Plan of Management**

Suggestions for projects for the next round are now being accepted and may be made by completing a Project Nomination Form.

PROPOSED PROJECT: BULGA MILBRODALE EQUESTRIAN COMPLEX (BMEC)

BMEC President Sarah Purser, Co-President Brett Davey and Secretary Jenny Bright addressed the Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA Community Committee meeting on 9 December 2019 in relation to a proposal and concept design for a regionally significant complex catering to equestrian, sports and other community events.

More information is included in three attachments that follow in this newsletter.

More information about the Mount Thorley Warkworth VPA Community Committee and the Project Nomination Form is available at [W singleton.nsw.gov.au/vpa](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/vpa) or contact Council on **T 02 6578 7290**.

ACTION LIST













Review of Action List items from previous committee meetings.

ACTION LIST | 22 May 2020

Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Officer	Due Date	Comment	Status
5/2/2020	Future Minutes be recorded as "Carried" not Carried Unanimously.	Minute Taker	Ongoing	Noted.	✓
5/2/2020	Advertise EOI for Alternate Community Committee member position.	Mark Ihlein	21/2/2020	Completed. To be reports to July meeting.	✓
5/2/2020	Finalise engagement of designated Project Officer prior to April meeting.	Mark Ihlein		The Project Officer role will be in place prior to the July meeting.	—
5/2/2020	Amend ToR timeline for minutes report to Council & seek Council endorsement.	Jason Linnane		Completed.	✓

● Complete
 ● In progress
 ● Outstanding/overdue

ACTION LIST | 22 May 2020

Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Officer	Due Date	Comment	Status
5/2/2020	Resolve site location for installation of noticeboard.	Mark Ihlein		Fixed Notice Board. A preferred location has been identified as adjacent to existing Notice Board located inside the fence of the adjoining property- next to the Service Station/Shop. A Board is being procured and will be installed as soon as possible.	
5/2/2020	Source revised quote 1 x electronic & 1 x static noticeboards with solar support.	Mark Ihlein / Amanda McMahon		Currently being procured.	
5/2/2020	Resolve ongoing management of noticeboard content.	Mark Ihlein		It is proposed that the management of the noticeboard be undertaken initially by the Project Officer in consultation with the community and in time will be handed over to community members.	
5/2/2020	Procurement and installation of noticeboards.	Mark Ihlein		Underway.	
5/2/2020	Amend financial report to include work in progress.	Jodie Jeffery	1/4/2020		
5/2/2020	Prepare Project Officer position description and advertise. Circulate final copy to Committee.	Mark Ihlein		Complete and circulated.	
5/2/2020	Prepare advertisement for the position vacant Alternate Community Committee member.	Mark Ihlein	14/2/2020	Two nominations have been received and a selection committee is assessing and will make a recommendation to the July meeting.	
5/2/2020	Provide hardcopy of each Agenda, Minutes and relevant attachments be provided at meetings.	Jodie Jeffery	Ongoing		
5/2/2020	Note Options Agreement action item as completed and remove.	Jodie Jeffery	1/4/2020	Completed.	
9/12/2019	Offer vacant Community Member position to Greg Banks.	Mark Ihlein	Prior to 5/2/2020	Offer accepted.	
9/12/2019	Advertise for Committee position vacant.	Mark Ihlein		Advertisement to be finalised on receipt of response.	
9/12/2019	Update community newsletter to include Action List.	Mark Ihlein		To be included after Committee meeting 5/2/2020 as subsequently endorsed by Council.	

 Complete
  In progress
  Outstanding/overdue



ACTION LIST | 22 May 2020

Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Officer	Due Date	Comment	Status
9/12/2019	Update community newsletter to include Bulga/Milbrodale Equestrian Centre (BMEC) proposed project information.	Mark Ihlein		General Manager & Director Planning & Infrastructure met Bulga/Milbrodale Equestrian Centre representatives to discuss development of feasibility study as this is required for project to advance.	
9/12/2019	Agenda Item for February 2020 meeting – Schedule of quarterly forward meeting dates.	Jodie Jeffery	20/1/2020	Completed. Agenda for 5/2/2020.	
9/12/2019	Financial statement to be provided with Draft Minutes.	Mark Ihlein	20/12/2019	Completed. Circulated by email 20/12/2019.	
9/12/2019	Circulate playground equipment plan to committee members.	Amanda McMahon	20/12/2019	Completed. Circulated by email 17/1/2020.	
9/12/2019	1. Discuss notice board placement with Bulga Hall Committee; 2. Forward RMS Guidelines to Mark Ihlein prior to further discussion.	Ian Hedley	Prior to 5/2/2020	1. Discussion held. 2. Guidelines sourced by Mark Ihlein from Transport for NSW.	
26/08/2019	Provide accumulated interest report at the next committee meeting.	Mark Ihlein	18/11/2019	A financial report will be provided at each Committee meeting.	
28/3/2019	Provide information to the committee on an Option Agreement at the next meeting for consideration.	Alan Andrews	Next committee meeting	No further action required.	
28/3/2019	Develop project proposal form template and install on Council website.	Amanda McMahon	Next committee meeting	Completed. Installed on Council website 5/2/2020.	
28/3/2019	Agenda Item Proposed Bulga / Milbrodale Horse Riding / Recreation Grounds for next committee meeting to be added.	Jodie Jeffery	26/8/2019	Completed 9/12/2019.	

Complete
 In progress
 Outstanding/overdue

