

Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Master Plan



HASSELL

Connell Wagner

MAY 2005

Lake Ainsworth is one of the largest dunal lakes on the North Coast and is used extensively by local residents and visitors.

Ballina Shire Council has engaged Connell Wagner and HASSELL to prepare a Master Plan to guide land use and the future development of the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve, including the Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park.

Council's aim in preparing the Master Plan is to provide for balanced land use outcomes for the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve.

Bringing you up to speed

In 2002, Council adopted the Lake Ainsworth Management Plan. It identified a number of key issues relating to the lake as well as recommending a number of strategies and associated actions that would protect and, where possible, improve the lake environment and its surrounds. However a number of the strategies identified in the plan required more detailed planning and investigation.

At the same time, Council expressed an interest in improving the Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park. A redevelopment strategy for the caravan park was prepared and placed on public display in April 2004. The proposed strategy attracted a high level of interest from the community and raised a number of specific issues relating to car parking, traffic congestion, open space and the possibility of over-development of the caravan park.

Council has also recently completed a Plan of Management for the Ballina Coastal Reserve system which relates to the Master Plan study area. The Master Plan will inform a Precinct Plan being prepared under the Ballina Coastal Reserves Plan of Management.

The Master Plan is part of the continuation of detailed planning and strategy development for Lake Ainsworth. It will build on existing information and actions, and consider the issues raised by the community to further shape the future of the lake and its surrounds.

Why does Lake Ainsworth need a Master Plan?

The Master Plan will address several challenges that have been identified in previous work and in particular, the Lake Ainsworth Management Plan.

The key challenges relating to Lake Ainsworth include:

- The availability of community facilities, public open space and recreational facilities to meet the growing needs of Lennox Head and the wider community, including visitors;
- The health of the environment and the lake;
- The capacity of infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population; and
- Maintenance and enhancement of the coastal dune system.

The Master Plan area

The Lake Ainsworth Master Plan study area is located immediately to the south of the Sport and Recreation Centre and covers the southern part of Lake Ainsworth and surrounds (as outlined in the aerial photograph).



What will the Master Plan consider?

The Lake Ainsworth Master Plan will consider and provide recommendations on a range of issues identified by stakeholders. It will also consider previous consultation projects and Council studies associated with the Management Plan for Lake Ainsworth and the re-development of the Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park. The issues to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- The need to improve the general amenity of Lake Ainsworth;
- The need to improve Lake Ainsworth to ensure its continued success as a place for recreational, educational and community use;
- The operation of the Lake Ainsworth Caravan Park;
- The value of tourism and recreational activities associated with Lake Ainsworth in terms of services to the local and wider community, and employment;
- The need to increase the availability of recreation and community facilities;
- The need to improve vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access; and
- The need to manage potential conflict between residential and recreational uses.

How will the Master Plan be developed?

Ballina Shire Council has commissioned Connell Wagner and Hassell to prepare the Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve Master Plan.

A draft Master Plan will be developed following a detailed investigation of the wider challenges and local issues facing Lake Ainsworth. The community will have the opportunity to consider the draft Master Plan by attending an upcoming community display and providing comments in writing to the Lake Ainsworth Master Plan Project Team.

It is anticipated that the Lake Ainsworth Master Plan will be finalised by mid-2005.

To ensure the best possible outcomes for Lake Ainsworth it is important that we have your feedback at key stages in the process. (see below)

Stages in the Preparation of the Master Plan



Help shape the future of Lake Ainsworth Crown Reserve

We would like your feedback to ensure we are focussing on the issues that are important to the Lake Ainsworth and Lennox Head community. There are a number of ways you can provide your views to us:



Write to Lake Ainsworth Master Plan Project Team
Reply Paid 63652 Spring Hill Qld 4004



Email: lakeainsworth@conwag.com



Call Mr Matthew Wood of Ballina Shire Council on 6686 4444

Or if you would like more information visit the website: www.ballina.nsw.gov.au and then search for Lake Ainsworth Master Plan.