1.07.1 Management of public reserves

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<th>Planning and Community</th>
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<td>Responsible Officer</td>
<td>Manager</td>
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Introduction

The management and maintenance of natural and built assets within the Council managed reserves of Bega Valley Shire is in accordance with Council’s Recreation Asset Management Plan. The management of Council managed reserves is subject to a number of policies and procedures of Bega Valley Shire Council’s Policy Manual. In particular, the following principles and procedures apply to all Council managed reserves.

Availability and Use

Council managed reserves and the assets and facilities within them are provided for the use and enjoyment of all members of the community. Council aims to keep facilities in fit for purpose condition and available for use through utilising operational and maintenance resources that are available. In using these spaces and facilities it is assumed and expected that people will be careful, take care of themselves and other users, and the facilities they are there to enjoy.

Vegetation Protection

Council’s Development Control Plan applies to all Council managed reserves.

Council does not support the removal or pruning of existing vegetation for the purpose of view enhancement, access, or general recreational use of the reserve.

An application for vegetation pruning or removal may be sought from Council for the purposes of activities identified within an adopted Council plan such as a plan of management, weed management plan or site management plan, the provision of essential public services, or risk mitigation. Where works are of low priority for Council approval, with conditions, may be given to the applicant to undertake works for their benefit at their cost. Any breach of conditions will be a breach of Council’s Development Control Plan.

Council may enforce the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 for breaches of the Vegetation Protection policy and/or instigate proceedings in the Land and Environment Court for clearing without consent which can result in heavy penalties.

Reserve Encroachment

The following activities are not permitted within Council managed reserves unless they are identified in the current Plan of Management or Crown Reserve Asset Plan.

- The erection of permanent or temporary structures.
- The storage of trailers, boats, motor vehicles, etc.
- The storage or dumping of building materials, timber, firewood, garden refuse, or any other material.
- Vehicular access to private property (commercial or domestic).
- Any landscaping features extending from private property.

Fires on Beaches

The lighting of fires on beaches is prohibited except in designated fire places.

Recreational Vehicles

The use of recreational vehicles within Council managed reserves and beaches outside of formal vehicle tracks and carpark areas are prohibited. Vehicular access to beaches is permitted for the purpose of emergency service, lifesaving and licensed ‘Beach Haul’ fishing.
Fire Management

Council aims to help produce an environment where residents may enjoy the character of the Shire with some form of protection to life and property from the effect of bushfire. Council undertakes programmed actions as adopted within the Far South Coast – Bega Bushfire Management Committee Bushfire hazard Reduction Plan. Shire residents are encouraged to adopt the recommended measures for bushfire safety published by the Rural Fire Service.

Camping and Staying Overnight

Camping and staying overnight is prohibited in all Council managed reserves unless there is sign posted permission on site or it has been approved through the use of public lands process. Fees and charges apply.