

19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Ms Debra Just  
CEO  
Willoughby City Council  
Level 4, 31 Victor Street  
Chatswood NSW 2067

Dear Ms Just

**RE: Draft Artarmon Reserve Action Plan**

The Artarmon Progress Association welcomes this update to the Reserve Action Plan for Artarmon Reserve. The Reserve was very popular during Covid-19 lockdown periods in the past two years, providing a beautiful environment for residents to get outdoors, as permitted. This did, however, lead to signs of overuse, and recent rains have further eroded some of the tracks and caused collapse in the creek bed. APA is pleased to see recent work starting to repair some of this damage.

We offer the following comments:

**Artarmon Reserve Actions, page 1**

- Action 15 is incomplete and should perhaps end “complete weed removal focussing along *Gore Hill Freeway edge and continue bushland restoration work.*”
- In that area of the Reserve, there have been suggestions that Council could ‘formalise’ the BMX track that kids built during lockdown.
- Add another Action: “Improve drainage at NE corner of the Oval to preventing flooding of the shared path.”
- Add another Action: “Repair formal tracks after periods of heavy rain or increased use have caused damage or erosion.”
- Action 8 reads “Access and amenity improvements to the Reserve to be planned in conjunction with proposals for new uses of former Artarmon Bowling Club site” but does not say by whom. We suggest that Council’s Planning and Infrastructure Department should work with the Bushlands Team, who should be responsible for the selection of plants for this and any other Council land adjoining the Reserve.
- Add another Action: encourage Transport for NSW / Sydney Trains to clear the weeds in the corridor adjoining the Reserve.

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**Reserve Profile**

Paragraph 3 says there is “a shared pedestrian/cycle path that connects to Artarmon shops and railway station, Bicentennial Reserve and Flat Rock Gully and also further to Chatswood” but actually there is no shared path that connects to Artarmon shops and railway station. Burra Rd is shared with

cars and is the only connection that cyclists can use. The shared path (Cordia Way) heads off from the Oval, under Artarmon Road, towards Chatswood.

### **Bushland Management Goals**

The second listed goal is “5.6c - To protect bushland viability through the control of activities which may cause permanent disturbance or change to bushland”. We would like to see a corresponding Action added to “Encourage owners of adjoining properties, including Council, to remove plants from their properties that are regarded as environmental weeds”, because these weeds can escape into the bushland. A related Action could be to train these property owners, together with the WCC Parks Team, to recognise these environmental weeds.

The fifth listed goal is “6.2j - Control of domestic and feral animals that impact on native fauna populations”. Dogs are often seen off lead in Artarmon Reserve. Not only do they have an impact on fauna, but they may also be responsible for spreading weeds. There should be more signs within the Reserve advising dog owners that, apart from the leash-free oval area, dogs should be on lead at all times. Unless this policy is enforced, off-leash dogs will continue to adversely affect the Reserve flora and fauna.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashish" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Ashish Sethi  
President  
Artarmon Progress Association

### **Who we are:**

*The Artarmon Progress Association, Inc. (APA) was founded in 1906 as a not-for-profit group and our objectives are to promote the welfare, physical and intellectual advancement of the suburb of Artarmon and the City of Willoughby, to protect the interests of the residents, and to encourage a keener spirit of citizenship and mutual help amongst residents.*

*Our newsletter, the Artarmon Gazette, is distributed quarterly to over 5,000 homes and businesses in Artarmon. We regularly communicate with residents and act as a conduit between local residents and elected representatives on matters concerning our local community.*