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READING THIS MASTERPLAN

› Master planning for the Wodonga hills has been guided by the eight management objectives and related set of guiding management principles applying to all the hills. See Appendix 1. These establish the preferred approach or “decision framework” to management and use of the hills.

› The actions identified in this masterplan have been formulated in accordance with these objectives and guiding principles, as well as in recognition of the hill’s particular values and other characteristics (notably proximity to residential areas and accessibility, management track network, terrain, usage patterns, current facilities, biodiversity values, fire hazard management, and management regime).

› Together the site-specific actions and the overall actions identified for all the Wodonga hills, will guide the planning, use, enhancement and management of the Wodonga hills.

› Individual actions are described in Section 2.2, and shown in Figures 1 to 3 (along with “typical” or “example” images illustrating each action).
Huon Hill is located approximately 2.7km from the town centre of Wodonga. It forms the eastern border to the Wodonga suburbs.

All but the ridgeline of Huon Hill is managed by the council including two outlying parcels to the north-west.

Huon Hill is predominantly Wodonga Council-owned and managed land. A smaller, irregularly shaped, area of Crown land extends east-west along the upper section of the access road and also runs north-south in a wider band across the hill’s higher peaks. This area is administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and managed by PAW, as the appointed Committee of Management.

The summit access road and visitor facilities are split across both Wodonga Council and PAW-managed areas. Recognising the importance, and on-ground practicalities, of managing the Huon Hill summit as a single integrated whole, this strategy and the Huon Hill Masterplan outline a collaborative approach to this summit area.

Huon Hill is in close proximity to the Murray River to the north and the Kiewa River to the east, separated by a narrow width of private farming land. An existing link to the Kiewa River is available from the north-east sector of Huon Hill via the Bundy Track.

It the most developed and accessible of the Wodonga hills. It is the only hill to offer public vehicle access to a high point, and the only hill containing established visitor (day-use) facilities. It is a tourism attraction and a popular destination among locals.
Within the context of the overall Planning for the Wodonga Hills Strategy, this masterplan for Huon Hill is largely driven by the hill’s existing role as the most accessible of the Wodonga Hills. It is the only hill to offer public vehicle access to a high point, and the only hill containing established user (day-use) facilities.

To realise the vision for Huon Hill - as the “premier and most central attraction among the Wodonga hills” - this masterplan builds on the hill’s existing profile as both a tourism attraction as well as a popular destination among locals, and capitalises on and reinforces the summit area as the hill’s primary destination and facility/activity area for users.

The ready accessibility of Huon Hill will be maintained and the standard and safety of the access road progressively improved.

The masterplan reinforces the summit area as the hill’s primary destination and facility and activity area for users. Upgrading the existing summit facilities - lookouts, picnic facilities, car parking - and all-abilities access to the existing eastern lookouts are priorities. A proposed new all-abilities lookout on the summit’s western peak will offer views over the Wodonga CBD and urban area (a vista now not readily available from the summit).

Presentation of the summit’s attractions and facilities will be enhanced. The lookouts, picnic areas and other user facilities will be designed, landscaped and managed almost to an urban parkland standard, but sensitive to the attractive natural and revegetating surrounds of Huon Hill. An after-hours gate locking regime for the hill’s access road, to limit vandalism and fire risks or other anti-social activities, is an important aspect of this masterplan.

Users now see Huon Hill as a single destination and are oblivious to the “dual tenure” nature of this hill. Presentation and interpretation of Huon Hill must be unified and consistent, this is especially the case for the summit and its facilities as well as the several surrounding tracks and trails.

The masterplan reinforces the summit’s role as a major trailhead, from where users can radiate out on a number of existing and proposed tracks including the opportunity for a shorter summit loop walk.

A secondary or supporting facility site and trailhead is proposed beside the access road on the eastern side of Hidden Valley, where an informal car park and trailhead now exists. Improvements and new track connections will see this site become a hub for walking tracks and other paths. Such a supporting facility/hub may also service niche or emerging uses, such as orienteering. Hidden Valley has been identified as a suitable location for an orienteering course.
The gentler terrain of the hill’s eastern slopes enables the provision of a shared path, for both walkers and cyclists, connecting Hidden Valley to the hill’s current entrance and beyond to the developing Riverside Estate.

Two vantage points are identified, one high and one lower on the hill’s northern slopes, where views over the Murray River can be featured. These low-key lookouts would only be accessible to walkers and mountain bikers.

Elsewhere, several of the attractive groves of larger trees that dot Huon Hill’s slopes are proposed as small low-key rest stops or “bush” picnic sites, or informal viewing points, helping to entice people to explore more of the hill while also dispersing users across the site.

The hill’s biodiversity values, scenic qualities and the connectivity of its natural areas are also important considerations. There are several “offset sites” across the hill that have been permanently protected to compensate for biodiversity losses associated with development activities elsewhere in Wodonga. The status of these specially protected areas must be acknowledged.

In addition to the overall “biodiversity and bushland management” objectives identified in the strategy, specific revegetation and biodiversity enhancement areas across Huon Hill seek to reinforce connections to the nearby waterways as a core component of the masterplan. These corridors also provide opportunities for pedestrian and cycle connections. Several revegetation areas are also proposed on the hill’s visually striking western face which dominates views from the Wodonga CBD, as well as elsewhere across the hill. These will build on past revegetation efforts, increase habitat values and connectivity, or stabilise existing or potential erosion areas.

Mountain biking is supported on management tracks and proposed shared paths. The masterplan includes a new section of management access, joining the now separate northern sections of the Bundy Track, which will provide an important management link and assist in fire management. It will also offer a shared route for use by mountain bikers which, in combination with other new shared paths, will improve overall connectivity and provide additional route options for mountain bike riding.
2.2 SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR HUON HILL

A total of 29 actions to enhance the enjoyment, conservation, landscape value and management of Huon Hill into the foreseeable future are described below. These actions and directions are specific to Huon Hill, however, the 45 overall actions applicable to all the Wodonga hills - as described in the strategy - will also apply.

Action 1 refers to Huon Hill as a whole, while actions 2 to 29 apply to specific sites, areas or corridors - as shown on Figure 1 (for Huon Hill as a whole) and Figure 2 (for the summit area). Both figures also include a “typical” or “example” image to further illustrate the intent, appearance or scale of each of the proposed actions.

Actions requiring collaboration or consultation with other land managers or third parties are identified. Likely high cost actions have also been flagged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION 1</th>
<th>TOURISM PROMOTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue to promote Huon Hill as Wodonga’s leading hills tourism destination. Promotion should continue to focus on the hill’s scenic viewing appeal, picnic opportunities, short stay activities and attraction as a walking destination (as additional tracks are provided).</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 2</th>
<th>NEW ROAD ACCESSING EASTERN LOOKOUTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>To improve access to the existing eastern lookouts and enhance visitor safety, close and rehabilitate the existing informal parking area on the inside of the curve/crest on the main access road. Reconfigure to provide safe, entry-only, access to a new sealed one-way (east to west) single-lane road - rejoining the main access road north-east of the existing picnic area. Where possible, align the new sealed one-way single-lane road along the existing management track. Provide layby or parallel parking bays to enable direct or easy access the eastern lookout viewing platforms, including all-abilities accessible parking bays. Undertake screening plantings as required. (Collaborative action, connects the council land and Crown land.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 3</th>
<th>NEW FOOTPATH LINK BETWEEN EXISTING SUMMIT PICNIC AREA AND EASTERN LOOKOUTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a sealed footpath connecting the picnic area and the eastern lookouts, with bollard separation if and where adjacent to the proposed single lane one-way road. Undertake screening plantings as required. (Collaborative action, connects council land and PAW managed land.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 4</th>
<th>NEW ALL-ABILITIES LOOP PATH TO EASTERN LOOKOUTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a short sealed path - to all-abilities standard - from the parking bays (and all-abilities accessible parking bays) on the proposed one-way access road (action 2), linking to the existing lookout platforms. Preferably as a loop path. Upgrade the existing lookout platforms to allow for all-abilities access as required (and to increase capacity and accommodate interpretation if warranted). Concurrent with provision of one-way access road and all-abilities parking. (Collaborative action, located on Crown land.)</td>
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</table>
ACTION 5 | REALIGN AND UPGRADE SOUTHERN END OF BUNDY WALKING TRACK

In order to improve walker safety and centralise the summit’s trailheads, close and rehabilitate southernmost section of the Bundy Track (now a walking track only) downslope from the existing informal parking area on the main access road. Realign this section of the Bundy Track to provide a new walking track link heading west/south-west across slope to a new trailhead at the existing summit car park (see action 10). Upgrade - as a walking track only - the poorly defined section of the Bundy Track north to the Sheoak Walking Track and beyond (see action 21). (Collaborative action, connects council land and Crown land.)

ACTION 6 | UPGRADE MISTLETOE LOOP WALK

Upgrade the Mistletoe Walk (loop track) - to offer better definition and legibility, track surface improvements, upgraded wayfinding and signposting, and provision of interpretation. Provide a new link at the north-eastern end to resolve route confusion at the creek crossing (upstream of an attractive small rocky gorge) and lack of a return connection to the trailhead off the main access road. Realign and clarify the alignment around the small dam and west and north-west in Hidden Valley - to provide a clearly defined route for walkers and separate walking and management tracks. Signpost connections to the wider track and trail network (see action 21).

ACTION 7 | UPGRADE SHEOAK WALKING TRACK

Upgrade the Sheoak Walking Track, with better track definition and signposting and provide seating midway with views north-east over Hidden Valley and east to Lake Hume. Establish a connection south to the Stringybark Walking Track, with a safe crossing point on the main access road. Extend existing revegetation plantings to assist in screening, or “breaking up”, the track as viewed from the main access road and Hidden Valley. (Collaborative action, connects the council land and Crown land.)

ACTION 8 | PROGRESSIVE UPGRADING/SEALING OF ENTRY ROAD

Improvements and upgrading of the entry road, focused on problem locations chiefly on the unsealed section - such as poor visibility/blind corners, heavy corrugations, problem maintenance sections, or widening narrow sections/shoulders (especially to more safely accommodate cyclists). Progressively extend sealed sections of the entry road as required as traffic volumes increase (such as with development of the adjacent residential estates). Undertake additional roadside plantings, to screen the more visible/intrusive sections of the entry road or for amenity reasons (such as to highlight or frame views). (Collaborative action, services both council land and Crown land.)

ACTION 9 | UPGRADE SUMMIT PICNIC AREA AND ACCESS ROAD

Seal the access road to and through the existing picnic area to the existing summit car park. Upgrade the summit picnic area with:
- A sealed, all-abilities standard, path to the existing accessible toilets;
- Additional picnic tables (sheltered and open design) and furniture as demand dictates (but with sufficient separation to avoid any user perception of crowding), including some all-abilities accessible furniture;
- Working barbecues, preferably gas (to deter fireplace establishment);
- Additional shade and amenity plantings (but ensuring retention of a sufficient fuel-free area of open and mown grass); and,
- Trailhead shelter and orientation facilities for track and trails, both for adjacent routes and those elsewhere across the hill.
**CONCEPT ONLY**

### Walking Tracks
1. Realign south end of Bundy and upgrade remainder
2. Upgrade Mistletoe to separate from management tracks and provide new link in north east
3. Upgrade Sheoak with better links and seat
4. New link to Kiewa River Track

### Entry Road
1. Diversely seal existing entry road and provide plantings for screening and amenity
2. Ensure direct route through Riverside Estate to access Huon Hill

### Summit Picnic Area (existing)
1. Seal adjacent road, add new all abilities path to toilets, add shade and amenity plantings, picnic furniture, BBQs and orientation shelter
2. Refer to detail plan

### Summit Car Park (existing)
1. Formalise parking, add shade and amenity plantings, add trailhead to realigned Bundy Track
2. Refer to detail plan

### Western Lookout
1. New all abilities accessible with shaded seating, parking bays and sealed road from saddle
2. Refer to detail plan

### Vehicle Entrance
1. Formalise parking, add orientation / welcome information, trailhead & lockable entry gate (with after hours closure regime)

### Shared Paths (walkers and cyclists)
1. New links

### Management Tracks
1. Suitable for walkers and cyclists
2. Upgrade existing lookouts and rest stop with new seating and information
3. New link

### Priority Vegetation
1. Management for biodiversity, environmental repair and amenity
2. New plantings to stabilise steep slopes
3. New plantings to conserve, protect and enhance habitat
4. New plantings to stabilise eroded creeklines
5. Reinforce existing plantings

### Picnic / Rest Areas
1. New low key seating in tree groves

### Secondary Activity Node & Trailhead
1. Formalise existing parking, new seating, shelter, information and shade and amenity plantings

### Central Track Junction
1. Upgrade existing junction with information and seating

### Offset Sites
1. Upgrade or amendment to existing facility or action D or E (refer sample photos for conceptual ideas)
2. Reverse existing plantings

### Watsons Lookout
1. Upgrade existing lookout and rest stop with new seating and information

### Summit Lookout
1. Upgrade existing lookout and rest stop with new seating and information

### Summit Track
1. Upgrade existing lookout and rest stop with new seating and information

### Watersons Track
1. Upgrade existing lookout and rest stop with new seating and information

### Existing Management Tracks
1. Suitable for walkers and cyclists

### Shared Path
1. Suitable for shared use

### Sealed Road
1. Suitable for shared use

### Upgrade or Amendment
1. Upgrade existing lookout and rest stop with new seating and information

**LEGEND**
- **Existing**
- **Walkers only pathway**
- **Management tracks suitable for shared use**
- **Sealed road**
- **Upgrade or amendment to existing facility or action D or E**
- **Reverse existing plantings**

**Note:**
- This plan is to be read in conjunction with the supporting documentation.
- Refer to sample photos for conceptual ideas.

**FIGURE 1**
Huon Hill Master Plan

Prepared by Gondwana Consulting 18 OCTOBER 2017
New WESTERN lookout:
- new all abilities accessible lookout with views to the west overlooking Wodonga
- lookout with shade and seating
- all abilities path to vantage point
- relocated lockable gate
- provide small terminal parking area (with all abilities bays)
- seal road from saddle

Bundy Walking Track:
- realign southern end of the Bundy Walking Track to link to SUMMIT parking area
- close and rehabilitate former section of Bundy Walking Track north from unsafe trailhead on access road curve / crest
- upgrade remainder of the Bundy Walking Track north to junction with Hidden Valley management track

SUMMIT parking area:
- existing parking area to be formalised (compacted gravel, seal as / when needed)
- provide shade and amenity plantings
- provide trailhead to realigned Bundy Walking Track

SUMMIT picnic area:
- seal adjacent entry road
- provide orientation shelter and signage
- add an all abilities path to the toilet
- provide shade and amenity plantings
- provide picnic tables, seats and BBQ

SUMMIT car park:
- seal adjacent entry road
- provide orientation shelter and signage
- add an all abilities path to the toilet
- provide shade and amenity plantings
- provide picnic tables, seats and BBQ

Wodonga City Council
managed
Crown Land
(PAW managed)

Proposed new facility or action ID 
Upgrade or amendment to existing facility or action ID 
Existing lookout

Note: This plan is to be read in conjunction with the supporting documentation. Refer to supporting documents for photo credits and sources.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION 10</th>
<th>FORMALISE SUMMIT PARKING AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Define and upgrade the existing informal summit parking area - initially as a compacted gravel carpark (possibly sealed as usage and maintenance requires). Define separate entry and exit points to the access road and ensure suitability for all-abilities access. Establish a trailhead to the realigned Bundy Walking Track - with platform tables or seating and orientation - under existing mature trees to the north-east. Improve shade and amenity plantings around the car park perimeter but ensuring retention of a sufficient fuel-free area.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 11</th>
<th>UPGRADE RESERVE ENTRANCE, INCLUDING NEW VEHICLE GATE AND LOCKING REGIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reconfigure and improve the existing vehicle entrance to Huon Hill - to offer an attractive welcome with defined and safer vehicle parking/layby areas, orientation information, and trailhead node. Install a lockable entry gate, and implement an opening and closing regime to restrict vehicle access to daylight hours only (except for approved uses/events or times) - to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviours.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 12</th>
<th>NEW SHARED PATH LINK TO KIEWA WETLANDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negotiate the continuation of a shared path link from Riverside Estate, along the margin of the Kiewa Wetlands, to the vehicle entrance to Huon Hill and start of the Stringybark Walking Track. (Collaborative action with adjacent developer.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 13</th>
<th>NEW WESTERN LOOKOUT - ALL-ABILITIES ACCESS, SEALED ROAD AND SMALL CAR PARK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expand and diversify accessible vistas on the hill’s summit by sealing the existing access road’s far western end, to extend public vehicle access upslope of the existing summit parking area. Provide a small terminal car park, including all-abilities parking bays. Establish a short, sealed, all-abilities standard path from the parking area west to a hilltop vantage point offering views over the Wodonga urban area and other hills, and provide shade shelter and seating. Carefully locate facilities to avoid intrusions on views from the surrounding urban areas and other parts of the hill, with screen plantings as necessary. Increased surveillance at this site may be warranted, initially, to monitor for any security or anti-social behaviour issues with any necessary management responses. (However, this risk would be minimised by the proposed after-hours closure regime for the main access road, see action 11.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 14</th>
<th>NEW LOW-KEY PICNIC/REST SITE - TOP OF BUTT BUTT TRACK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provide limited low-key picnic and rest facilities (platform tables or seating) among an attractive copse of trees on a knoll offering filtered views to the north-east, beside the Butt Butt Track north of the telecommunications inholding.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 15</th>
<th>UPGRADED LOW-KEY LOOKOUT AND PICNIC/REST SITE - “WATSONS LOOKOUT”</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reinstates the existing derelict picnic/ and rest stop at the outstanding vantage point known as “Watsons Lookout” - walker and mountain bike access only. Provide platform tables and/or seating, and orientation and interpretive information (with low-key shade if required) at this vantage point offering superb views - to the Hunchback Hill Complex and parts of the Wodonga CBD and urban area, the Murray River and Albury, and Lake Hume. Carefully locate facilities to avoid adverse impacts on landscape/scenic values (due to this site’s very prominent and visible location). Additional screen and amenity and shelter plantings may be necessary.</td>
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**ACTION 16 | REVEGETATE UNSTABLE SECTION OF SOUTHERN SLOPE**

Revegetation of the western end of the steeper south slope of Huon Hill, including a large section of unstable slope with existing land slips and slumps. Species selected to extend coverage of the depleted Dry Forest community on the upper slopes and the endangered Grassy Woodland community on the lower slopes.

**ACTION 17 | NEW/UPGRADED SHARED PATH - HIDDEN VALLEY TO EXISTING VEHICLE ENTRY POINT**

Provide a new shared path (initially unsealed) for walkers and cyclists from the eastern side of Hidden Valley (at the proposed secondary activity node - see action 21), running across slope largely “along contour” to join the Stringybark Walking Track. Upgrade the lower (eastern) end of the Stringybark Walking Track to a shared path standard (initially unsealed) - requiring the realignment of some steeper/switchback sections of the existing walking track (to be easily and safely passable for cyclists, with adequate safety for walkers) as well as drainage works and surface hardening in places. Undertake screen plantings. Upgrading to a sealed surface (overall or in sections) may be required if usage levels or maintenance needs demand. New parts of track must be aligned to avoid impacts on the offset site in this location.

**ACTION 18 | HIDDEN VALLEY SECONDARY ACTIVITY NODE, TRAILHEAD AND CAR PARK**

To facilitate increased use of the hill’s wider trail network and to avoid concentrating all activity at the summit, expand and formalise the existing informal parking area on the access road east of Hidden Valley. Initially formalise as a small compacted gravel car park, and define safe entry and exit points to the main access road. Provide supporting facilities - such as platform tables, seating, shelter and orientation and information - to establish this site as a secondary and supporting activity or usage node and key track junction and trailhead. Provide shade and amenity plantings around the car park and trailhead facilities. Liase with orienteering club in design to support their use of Hidden Valley as a course. Sealing the car park and a toilet facility may be warranted as usage and maintenance demands require. This node must be located outside the vegetation offset area.

**ACTION 19 | NEW BUNDY MANAGEMENT TRACK CONNECTION AND SHARED USE LINK**

Establish a new management track (unsealed) on the hill’s northern face, to fill in the missing section of the Bundy Track and improve connectivity of the hill’s management track network (as well as to link to the proposed picnic/rest stop and lower vantage point - see action 24). This connection will be an important management link (and assist in fire management) as well as providing a shared route for both walkers and mountain bikers. Carefully select the alignment to allow safe use by walkers and cyclists (travelling downhill), for effective drainage and to avoid protected offset areas. The hill’s northern face is sparsely vegetated, so clumped plantings are warranted to reduce any potential adverse visual impacts.

**ACTION 20 | NEW LOW-KEY PICNIC/REST SITE - TOP OF SUMMIT TRACK**

Provide limited low-key picnic and rest facilities (platform tables and/or seating and orientation information) among a scenic copse of trees on the high point at the top of the Summit Track, with filtered views in all directions. Locate facilities to take advantage of existing large shady trees. Walker and mountain bike access only.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 21</th>
<th>CENTRAL TRACK JUNCTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Upgrade the existing track junction on the saddle at the head of Hidden Valley as a key track hub. Provide orientation and wayfinding information, for the existing (and possible future) tracks and trails radiating through this hub as well as for the hill as a whole. Provide low-key seating (possibly as large placed rocks) suited to this site’s natural setting. (Collaborative action, located on Crown land.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 22</th>
<th>TARGETED REVEGETATION AREAS - MID-WEST SCENIC VALLEY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Targeted revegetation of areas within the large scenic valley located approximately centrally on Huon Hill’s western slopes, and especially along the valley’s more open southern hillslope. Endangered Grassy Woodland community species should dominate these revegetation efforts. Support revegetation with measures for the control of blackberry and other noxious or environmental weeds, as required.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 23</th>
<th>NEW WALKING TRACK CONNECTION TO KIEWA RIVER SHARED TRAIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Upgrade the indistinct and discontinuous track through the revegetation area along the lower reaches of “Bundy Creek” (out to Huon Hill’s north-eastern boundary) to be a clearly established, defined and signposted new walking track. Beyond the hill’s boundary this track (signposted as the “Bundy Track”) already connects to the existing Kiewa River shared trail. Ensure this trail connection is maintained during development of Riverside Estate. These works are within an offset and priority vegetation management area (see action 28) and as such the track alignment will be selected to avoid impacting existing vegetation, and upgrading works should incorporate revegetation measures.</td>
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<th>ACTION 24</th>
<th>NEW LOW-KEY PICNIC/REST SITE – NORTH-WEST TIMBERLINE TRACK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provide limited low-key picnic and rest facilities (platform tables and/or seating and orientation information) at a scenic rocky knoll and vantage point, north of a small saddle on the Timberline Track. Walker and mountain bike access only. This lower elevation lookout offers very good views of the Murray River (and is the closest vantage point to the river in all five Wodonga hills) and the northern areas of Wodonga and Albury. Facilities should be sited to take advantage of existing large shady trees, and carefully positioned to avoid adverse impacts on landscape and scenic values (recognising this site’s very visible location). Additional screen and amenity/shelter plantings may be necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACTION 25</th>
<th>ENSURE FUTURE DIRECT AND LEGIBLE VEHICLE ROUTE TO HUON HILL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ensure planning for future development of the adjacent Riverside Estate includes a road hierarchy and layout that provides for a legible and direct route through this new suburb to Huon Hill’s main eastern vehicle entry point.</td>
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ACTION 26 | REVEGETATION AND EROSION REMEDIATION/CONTROL MEASURES - ERODED SOUTH-EASTERN CREEK

Revegetation plantings, and erosion remediation and control works where required, along the deeply eroded creekline running towards the Kiewa River on Huon Hill’s south-eastern side, in addition and accordance with offset management requirements.

ACTION 27 | TARGETED REVEGETATION AREAS - NORTH-WEST OF BUTT BUTT TRACK

Targeted revegetation areas on the north-facing slope and spur, downslope of the lower section of Butt Butt Track, linking to an existing better timbered area to the north-east. Endangered Grassy Woodland community species that complement and boost existing habitat should dominate these revegetation efforts. Ensure appropriate setbacks from the management track, particularly downslope, to maintain safety of firefighting access, in addition and accordance with offset management requirements.

ACTION 28 | ADDITIONAL REVEGETATION ALONG BUNDY CREEK

Reinforce and extend the existing revegetation plantings along “Bundy Creek” - including infilling the central gap between past revegetation plots (linking to the Kiewa River Wetlands) and extending revegetated areas southwards to better connect to Hidden Valley. Revegetate and stabilise an eroded section of the lower creekline.

ACTION 29 | REVEGETATION MEASURES - NORTHERN CREEK

Revegetation plantings along a north-flowing creekline on Huon Hill’s northern face (towards the Murray River corridor), including the stabilisation and revegetation of an eroded upper section of creekline and tributaries at the base of this slope.
Planning for Huon Hill will be a long-term and ongoing process. Not all actions for the hill’s greater use and enjoyment, or improved protection and management, can or need to be realised in the short term or foreseeable future.

A very significant factor in the hill’s future planning and management is the prospect that Huon Hill will, ultimately, be completely surrounded by housing. Residential development is at present progressing or planned on the hill’s south-west, south and south-east margins with all other margins of the hill already zoned for residential development. The future Huon Hill will be surrounded by a large population of potential users.

This will present a range of additional opportunities, issues and considerations which are only likely to become apparent several decades into the future, depending on the pace of residential development. Such possibilities and issues may include additional facilities or opportunities across the hill; ensuring connectivity between the hill and the surrounding open space and pathway networks; the need for further perimeter facility sites, parking and trailheads; increased pressures on the hill’s native vegetation and biodiversity values; and managing fire risks along the additional urban interface.

Huon Hill is also part of the proposed Fours Hill Trail, being an important entry and activity area at the eastern end of any such multi-hill track (if or when established).

While to a degree uncertain and potentially some time into the future, it is nevertheless useful to identify these opportunities or options - where this is possible. Shorter term actions can then be shaped to “set the scene” for these later possibilities if appropriate (or at least not pre-empt or exclude them). Similarly, additional opportunities or future actions can be recognised to enable them to potentially be brought forward should the hill’s planning and management situation change unexpectedly - such as through altered usage patterns or pressures, evolving or emerging user demands, changing community attitudes, further biodiversity information, or the availability of additional funding or resources.

Initiation of any of the “opportunities” must first review and consider the impacts arising from implementation of the priority actions listed in Section 2.2 above - including environmental, social and financial impacts.
3.2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION

Possible further opportunities to consider in the next stage of master planning for Huon Hill, or in the event of changing circumstances, are broadly described below and shown, indicatively only, on Figure 3. Recognising that the hill will, ultimately, be completely surrounded by suburbs and potential users many of these opportunities relate to possibilities for entry points, facility sites and walking track or shared path links.

A. A potential venue for an “event space” for occasional temporary use for community, sporting or other organised events on a reasonably flat and readily accessible area in the hill’s far south-west. This location offers considerable “usable” or “set up” room for a variety of events and functions, includes large open grassed areas for participants’ temporary car parking, has good access to Huon Hill and its track and trail network, is accessible for larger vehicles, is close to other facilities (such as food outlets) and infrastructure, and would not cause excessive disturbance to nearby residential areas. Use would be by permit only, with appropriate conditions. Care would be required to avoid an existing revegetation corridor in this area as well as scattered mature trees, and supplementary amenity and screening plantings may be warranted.

B. A new shared path, for both walkers and mountain bikers, linking the upper section of the Butt Butt Track to the proposed track hub on the saddle at the head of Hidden Valley (see action 21). This would include upgrading the northern section of the Bundy (Walking) Track from a walker-only track to a shared path standard. This opportunity would considerably increase mountain bike touring options (on management tracks and shared paths) on Huon Hill, including enabling a continuous south-west to north-east connection up and over the hill.

C. A new walking track connecting from the Bundy and Timberline tracks in the hill’s north-east (near the proposed low elevation lookout, see action 24), largely along contour, to the Mistletoe Walk. This link would offer an additional north-south walkers-only link, and provide views into the small scenic rocky gorge/cleft on “Bundy Creek”.

D. A new extended “mid-slope” walking track along the more timbered and varied western face of Huon Hill, and continuing across the more open northern slopes - from the Butt Butt Track to the Bundy and Timberline tracks. This extended link would considerably increase walking options on Huon Hill and offer an experience not available elsewhere on the hill.

E. A new shared path for walkers and mountain bikers, as an unsealed link, from the south end of the Timberline Track (near the potential event space, see opportunity A) up a gently to moderately sloped grassy spur to join the Butt Butt Track (and potential “mid-slope” walking track, see opportunity D). Alignment must avoid impacts on the protected offset site.

F. Upgrade the proposed walking track through the revegetation area along the lower reaches of “Bundy Creek” (see action 23) to a shared path suitable for both for walkers and cyclists. This link would better connect the hill’s north-east to the existing Kiewa River shared trail, and would expand bicycle touring and recreation opportunities on the eastern face of Huon Hill (see also action 17 and opportunity G). Initially unsealed, this link could be upgraded to a sealed surface (overall or in sections) as usage levels (or maintenance needs) demand.
Events Area
1 possible area to accommodate events (including amenity plantings)

Shared Paths
for walkers and cyclists
2 possible internal links
3 upgrade to shared path
4 possible link from future adjacent residential area

Walking Tracks
5 possible internal link
6 possible extended mid-slope track
7 possible central link from western boundary (future estates)

Low Key Camp Site
8 possible walk-in site with limited facilities (small groups only via permit system)

Relocated Vehicle Entry
9 possible new vehicle entry with information, parking layby and lockable entry gate (with closure regime)

Low Key Entry Nodes
possible locations to allow access from future adjacent residential areas
A node with limited parking, seating shelter, information and amenity plantings
B node and trackhead with seating, shelter, limited parking, information and amenity plantings and shared path link to Bundy Track
C node with seating, information and amenity plantings

LEGEND - existing
- Walkers only pathway
- Shared path
- Management tracks suitable for shared use
- Sealed road
- Wodonga City Council managed
- Crown Leases/PAW managed
- Offset Sites

PLANNING for Wodonga Hills
HUON HILL Opportunities

CONCEPT ONLY

Note: This plan is to be read in conjunction with the supporting documentation.

Note: Use this map for planning. For photo captions, see below.

Note: See the supporting documents for photo credits and sources.

FIGURE 3
Huon Hill – opportunities for consideration
G. A new shared path for both walkers and cyclists, initially as an unsealed link between the end of the Bundy Track (on council land) and the proposed secondary activity node east of Hidden Valley (see action 18). In conjunction with other shared path connections (notably action 17, and opportunity F) this link would expand bicycle touring and recreation opportunities on the eastern face of Huon Hill. This link could be upgraded to a sealed surface (overall or in sections) as usage levels (or maintenance needs) demand. Alignment must avoid protected offset site.

H. A new walking track through the large scenic valley located approximately centrally on Huon Hill’s western slopes, connecting to the proposed key track hub on the saddle at the head of Hidden Valley (see action 21) and the wider track and trail network. This link would offer an important access point, for walkers, on the hill’s western edge (as the adjacent Meridian Estate is developed). It would also offer additional loop options in conjunction with the possible extended mid-slope walking track (see opportunity D above).

I. Investigate possible additional walking track or shared path connections to/and from Huon Hill and the adjacent Alpine Views and Riverside estates (as these are developed) along the hill’s southern boundary. Potential tracks and paths should link with the adjacent open space and path networks wherever possible. Screening and amenity plantings may be warranted as tracks and paths are provided, preferably using species appropriate to the endangered or depleted vegetation communities found on the hill’s southern slopes.

J. A new low-key walk-in overnight camp site, with limited facilities (platforms tables, designated fireplace and single toilet), located in a partly secluded area of Hidden Valley (with access off the Mistletoe Walk or management tracks). The site should be fuel stoves only to reduce fire risks and avoid environmental impacts, with access and use managed via a booking or permit system and with maximum group size limits. This facility could also be part of the proposed Four Hills Trail.

K. A new vehicle entrance - with layby parking, welcome/and orientation information and a lockable entry gate (with continuation of the after-hours closure regime, see action 11) - located on the existing access road inside the boundary of Huon Hill. This relocated, and upgraded, vehicle entrance can be expected to be required as the adjacent Riverside Estate is developed (and the existing entry road becomes a suburban “collector” road) warranting re-evaluation of the existing entries.

L. & M. New entry and facility nodes, and trailheads, on the hill’s western edge (site L) and in the north-western corner (at the bottom of the Summit Track) (site M). These sites could serve as activity areas on the hill’s margin, and as access points to and from the hill’s wider track and trail network and attractions, for both local residents and users driving to Huon Hill. In this role they could offer seating, picnic tables, shelter, water, and orientation information as well as car parking. Barbecues and toilets may also be appropriate at either site - depending on demand, other nearby facilities, or site layout. Facilities should preferably be all-abilities accessible. Amenity and shade and screening plantings, including endangered Grassy Woodland community species, should be part of each site’s design. Both sites should ideally be located as an extension or link to the adjacent urban open space and pathway network (co-ordinated with planning and development of the adjacent estate). The western node (site L) is visible from the Bandiana Link Rd, and the more distant Hume Highway and so may also have potential as the site for a large public art installation to promote the hills.
N. & O. New small low-key entry nodes, on the hill’s south-western boundary (site N) and north-eastern boundary (site O), potentially serving as minor access points to and from Huon Hill as the surrounding residential population increases (co-ordinated with planning and development of the adjacent estate). Low-key sites possibly offering seating, shelter, trailheads and orientation information (and possibly limited car parking). Amenity and screening plantings as required, using endangered Grassy Woodland community species. The potential entry node on the hill’s north-eastern boundary (site O) could access a new short (unsealed) shared path linking upslope to the Bundy Track.

P. A new minor entry point - with seating and orientation only - on the hill’s far south-western boundary (adjacent to the North East Water plant) as a possible access point to and from Huon Hill for local users as the surrounding residential population increases (co-ordinated with planning and development of the adjacent estate).
APPENDIX 1

OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Master planning of the Wodonga Hills has been guided by the seven management objectives and related set of guiding management principles applying to all the Wodonga hills.

As described in the strategy, the eight objectives that shape planning for the Wodonga Hills encompass:

1. Sustainable management and enjoyment;
2. Biodiversity and habitat values;
3. Aboriginal cultural heritage values;
4. Visitor, neighbour and community safety;
5. Landscape and scenic values;
6. Accessibility, connection and integration;
7. Leisure, recreation and tourism; and,
8. Awareness, appreciation and understanding.

Each of these eight objectives, supported by a set of guiding principles, establish the preferred approach or “decision framework” to management and use of the hills.

A set of overall actions provide directions and guidelines for key planning and management challenges or issues that are likely to be common across all hills.

These are detailed in full in the strategy.

This Planning for the Wodonga Hills - Huon Hill Masterplan for the City of Wodonga was prepared by Gondwana Consulting Pty Ltd.

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Masterplan images: Gondwana Consulting and City of Wodonga (other than 2 - Google Earth; Walking Tracks - Walking SA; 11 - www.wildwalks.com.au; Picnic/Rest Areas & 18 - NSW NPWS; and 21 - City of Mitcham)
Opportunities Plan images: Gondwana Consulting and City of Wodonga (other than C/D/H - Walking SA; 1 - www.wildwalks.com.au; N/O/P [top] and L/M [middle and right] - NSW NPWS; N/O/P [bottom] and L/M [left] - Google Earth)
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