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Contract Properties Pty. Ltd.  
C/O Nordon Jago Architects  
Level 4  
111 Devonshire Street  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Cumberland Ecology  
PO Box 2474  
Carlingford Court 2118  
NSW Australia  
Telephone (02) 9868 1933  
ABN 14 106 144 647  
Web: [www.cumberlandecology.com.au](http://www.cumberlandecology.com.au)

### **Updated Draft Walking Track Management and Maintenance Plan**

Dear Sirs,

As requested, we have prepared an updated draft Walking Track Management and Maintenance Plan in relation to the proposed development of an eco-tourism resort (DA0563/2019). It is our understanding that the draft Walking Track Management and Maintenance Plan will be incorporated in an overarching Ecotourism Hotel Plan of Management.

Our updated draft Walking Track Management and Maintenance Plan is provided in **Appendix A** and has been amended in response to comments included in the latest request for further information letter received from Shellharbour City Council (dated 4 December 2020).

If you have any queries, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9868 1933.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia Eriksson Pinatacan  
Senior Project Manager/ GIS Specialist  
[cecilia.eriksson@cumberlandecology.com.au](mailto:cecilia.eriksson@cumberlandecology.com.au)

# APPENDIX A :

Draft      Walking      Track  
Management      and  
Maintenance Plan



## A.1. Draft Walking Track Management and Maintenance Plan

### A.1.1. Purpose

A walking track has been included, as part of a proposed Ecotourism Resort ('the resort'), to provide guests of the resort and other visitors the opportunity to experience the unique environmental features that the subject property has to offer. The purpose of this draft Walking Track and Management and Maintenance Plan is to provide guidance and details on how the walking track will be managed for a range of visitor experiences, as part of the resort. This plan provides information on the management and maintenance requirements of the walking track, the operational requirements, as well as details on the protection of the natural environment surrounding the walking track including native vegetation and other significant environmental features.

### A.1.2. Management and Maintenance Requirements

#### A.i. Administration and Oversight

The owners of the resort have the ultimate responsibility for the management and maintenance of the walking track. Responsibilities include:

- Maintain the walking track to the desired standard;
- Make available up to date information about conditions along the track;
- Install agreed signs to a consistent standard; and
- Ensure markers and signs are sufficiently maintained or replaced if necessary.

#### A.ii. Approved Route

The approved route of the walking track follows an existing road and is shown in **Figure 1**. The walking track will be signed and branded with markers (see Signage and Marking).

The walking track will be limited to the surveyed track alignment as shown in **Figure 1**, and no additional track establishment is allowed beyond the defined route.

#### A.iii. Track Standard

The walking track comprises a pre-existing unsealed vehicular road, that is suitable for pedestrian use in its current condition. During the life of the operational phase of the resort, the walking track will be subject to ongoing management and maintenance to ensure the track keeps a desired standard, as per current conditions, where it is safe to be utilised by pedestrians. All ongoing management and maintenance activities are to be limited to the surveyed walking track alignment. The management and maintenance will include:

- Daily inspections of the walking track, including signage and markings, to monitor any signs of erosion or other safety issues;
- Ongoing mowing and pruning of vegetation as required within the defined walking track alignment to ensure safe track passage; and

- Ongoing weed control, utilising best practice weed control methods outlined in Cumberland Ecology's Vegetation Management Plan prepared for the project.

#### **A.iv. Signage and Marking**

Signs and markers will be installed along the walking track as required. The signs and markers will be comprised of the following:

- Key access sign at the entry of the track, to provide an overview of the walking track and to raise awareness of any restrictions associated with the walking track;
- 'No entry' signs, to deter visitors from wandering off the track into native vegetation and other significant environmental areas such as the mangroves and saltmarsh areas;
- 'Do not' signs, to deter visitors from walking off tracks, feeding animals, litter etc;
- Educational display boards, highlighting the environmental and cultural values of the subject property and immediate surrounds, including details about the existing flora and fauna and the historic background of the local area;
- Directional markers, designed to confirm the walker's direction of travel at intersections and branding the track along its route.

The proposed locations for the educational display boards along the walking track as well as a signage design sample is shown in **Figure 2**.

The 'No entry' and 'Do not' signs in combination with the key access sign and directional markers will be used to deter resort guests from wandering off the track, to prevent unrestricted access into the surrounding vegetation.

### **A.1.3. Operational Requirements**

#### **A.i. Resort Management Responsibilities**

The manager of the resort has the ultimate responsibility for the operational requirements of the walking track. Responsibilities include:

- Oversee the operation of the walking track;
- Organise bookings of tours;
- Provide information to guests of the resort and tours in relation to requirements and restriction of the walking track, to prevent unrestricted access into the surrounding vegetation;
- Ensure all guests of the resort sign in at reception prior to accessing the walking track and sign out on return;
- Organise promotion of tours of the walking track;

- Ensure track management and maintenance activities are limited to the surveyed walking track alignment, to prevent additional track establishment further encroaching into the surrounding vegetation;
- Make available up to date information about conditions along the track;
- Ensure the minimal impact code (to be developed as detailed in **Section A.iv.**) is followed; and
- Implement the emergency evacuation plan in the event of general health matters and emergencies such as bushfire or severe weather events.

#### **A.ii. Tours and Visitors**

The following applies to the availability of the walking track for tours and visitors:

- Available to guests of the resort as needed; and
- Available to external groups twice a week, for groups up to 20 visitors. External groups to arrive by minibus coordinated through the resort reception.

All guests of the resorts intending to use the walking track are to sign in and out through the resort reception prior to accessing the track and on return to the resort.

#### **A.iii. Promotion and Community Education**

Tours of the walking track are to be promoted through local schools, community networks and Shellharbour City Council. The promotion of the tours will highlight the educational component of the walking track, which includes displays of information boards that will be erected at selected locations along the walking track. The information boards will provide educational information in relation to the environmental and cultural values of the subject property and immediate surrounds, including details about the existing flora and fauna and the historic background of the area. The resort will also aim to employ indigenous guides as tour leaders as a preference.

#### **A.iv. Minimal Impact Code**

A minimal impact code will be enforced as part of the operation of the walking track and will include practices to minimise detrimental impacts on the natural environment surrounding the walking track. The minimal impact code will be developed prior to opening of the access track and will updated as required throughout the operational phase of the resort.

The management team of the resort will promote the minimal impact code through:

- Key access sign at the entry of the track (see Signage and Marking); and
- At reception on check in for guest and upon arrival of tour groups.

#### **A.v. Emergency Evacuation Plan**

In the event of emergencies such as flooding, severe weather events and bushfire, if possible, visitors using the walking track are to immediately retreat back along the walking track and return to the main resort emergency

assembly point. To ensure that all visitors of the walking track are accounted for, a sign in/sign out system will be used through the resort reception for all visitors intending to use the track.

In the event of general health matters and medical incidents, if possible, visitors using the walking track are to immediately retreat back along the walking track and return to the resort reception for assistance from the first aid officer of the resort. Guests will be advised to call resort reception in the event that they are unable to return to the resort. Reception will then contact Emergency Services with details of the situation.

Where there is a threat of bushfire, flooding or similar conditions, management will determine whether a closure of the walking track is warranted. On days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger rating the walking track will be closed.

#### **A.1.4. Protection of Natural Environment**

To minimise ecological impacts, the location for the walking track will make use of pre-existing tracks within the subject property.

A combination of implementation of a minimal impact code, information on arrival to the resort, and installation of appropriate signage and marking will be used to deter guests of the resort and tour groups from wandering off the walking track into the surrounding bushland, to minimise impacts on native vegetation and other environmentally sensitive areas such as mangroves and saltmarsh.

The natural environment surrounding the track will also be actively managed and protected under a Vegetation Management Plan (northern section) and a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (southern section).

To ensure protection of the surrounding natural environment from edge effects, the following measures will be implemented:

- Ongoing weed control, utilising best practice weed control methods outlined in Cumberland Ecology's Vegetation Management Plan prepared for the project;
- Erosion control as required, in accordance with methods outlined in Cumberland Ecology's Vegetation Management Plan prepared for the project;
- Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with best practice guidelines in response to any other negative impacts detected;
- Ongoing monitoring of biodiversity values, in accordance with Cumberland Ecology's Vegetation Management Plan (northern section) and the future Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (southern section).

# FIGURES

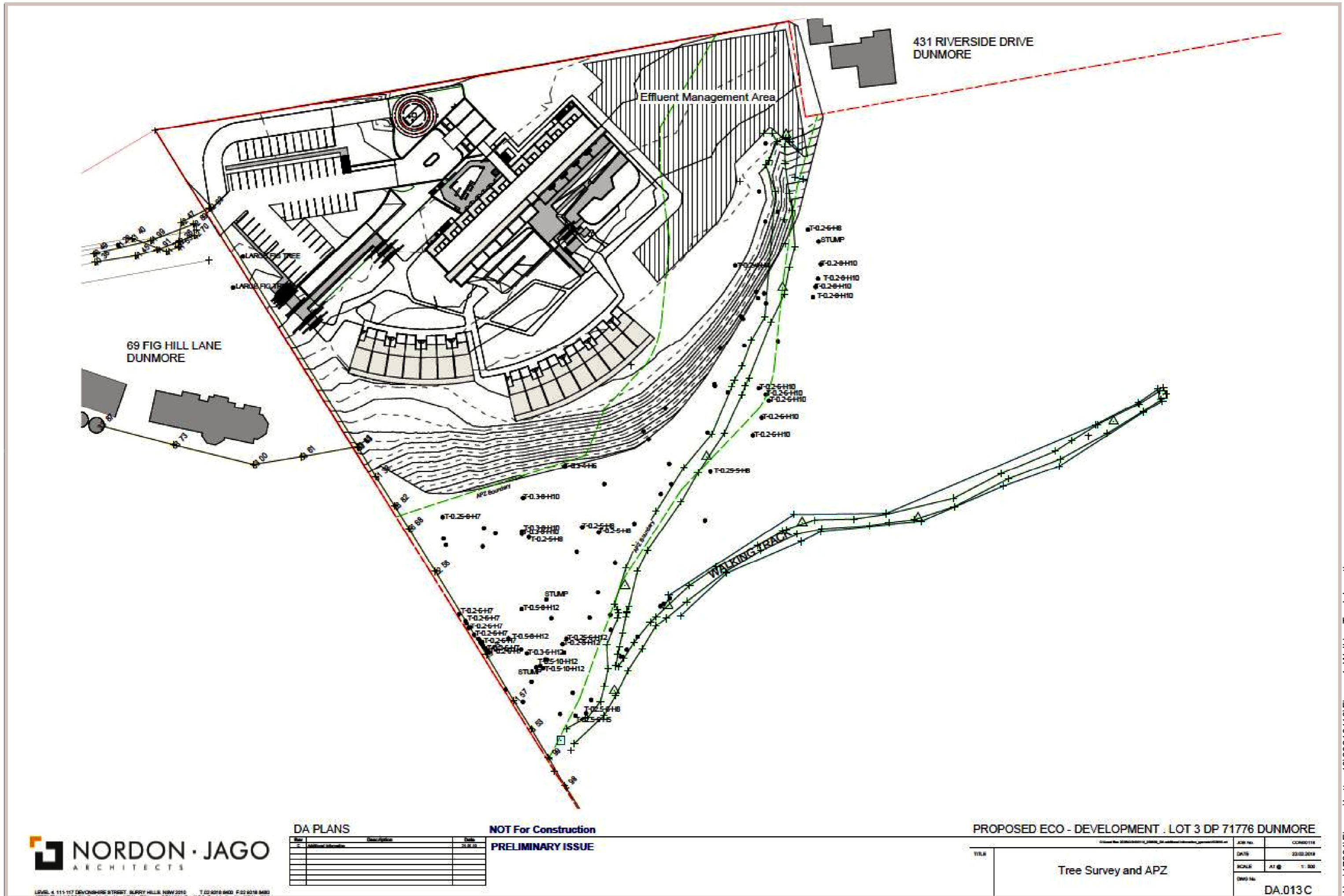
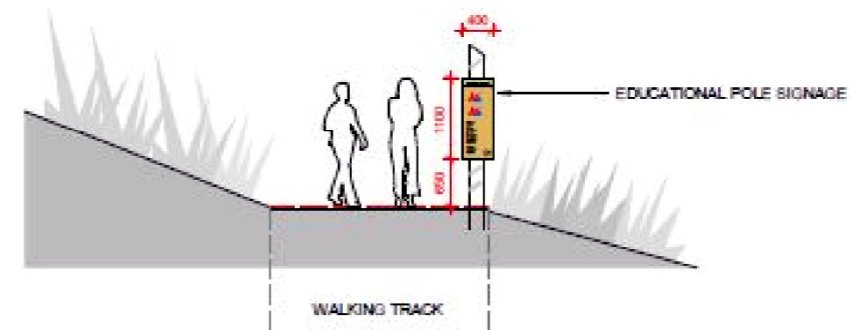


Figure 1. Surveyed location of the walking track



● Walking Track Sign Location



**NORDON · JAGO**  
ARCHITECTS

LEVEL: 4, 111-117 DEVONSHIRE STREET, SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010 T: 02 9218 9800 F: 02 9218 9880  
STEPHEN J. NORDON Registration No. NSW - 4754 GRAHAM P. JAGO Registration No. NSW - 4805

#### DA PLANS

Rev	Description	Date
0	Initial Information	20.12.17

NOT For Construction

PRELIMINARY ISSUE

#### PROPOSED ECO - DEVELOPMENT . LOT 3 DP 71776 DUNMORE

TITLE	WALKING TRACK SIGNS	DA.012C
DATE	22.03.2019	
SCALE	A1 @ As Indicated	
DRWG No.		

Figure 2. Education display board locations and signage sample design

Image Source: NordonJago, 2021