ACT Government

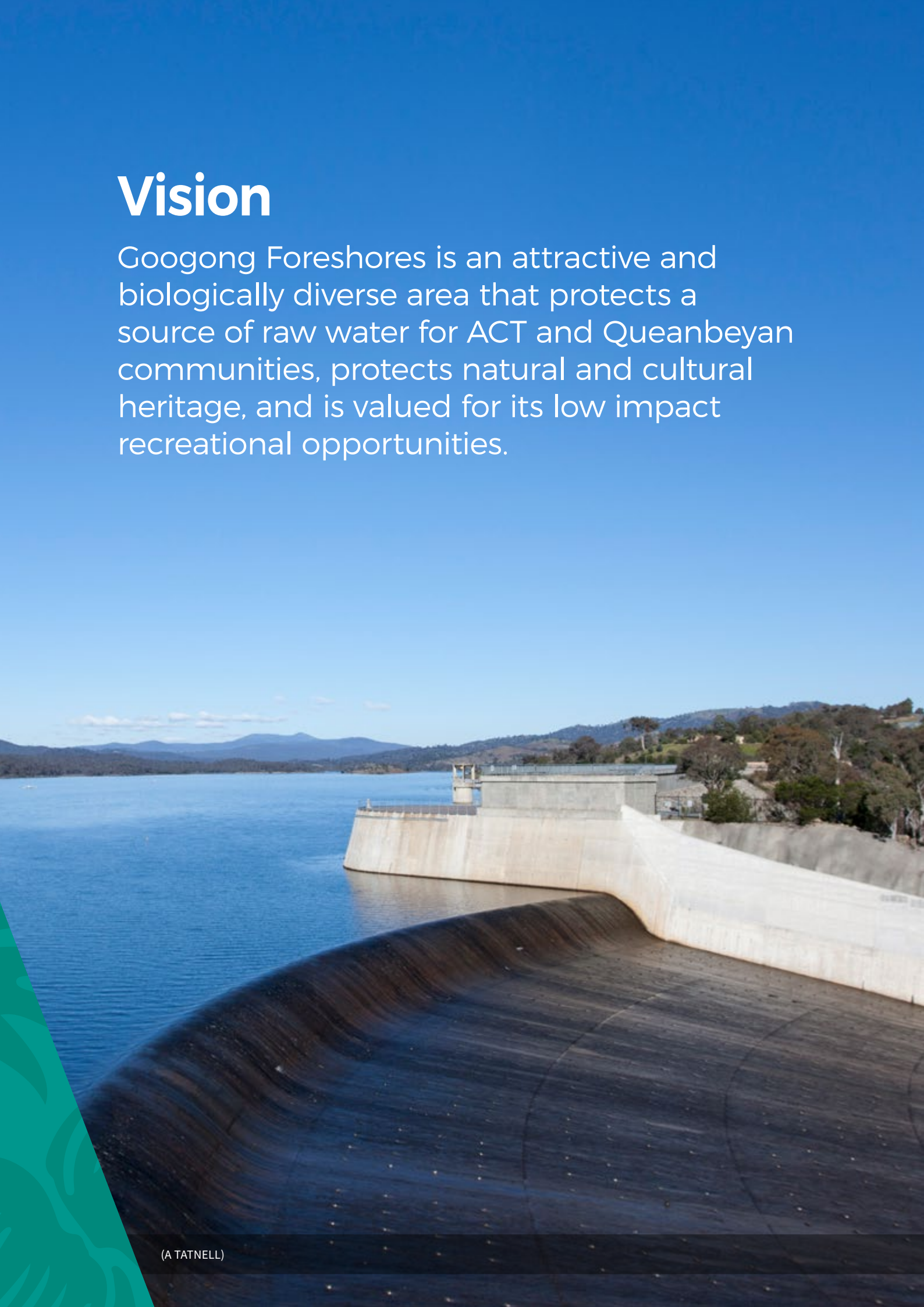
GOOGONG FORESHORES

LAND AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 **SUMMARY**

FRONT COVER: BUTTON WRINKLEWORT (E COOK) AND WATER RELEASE FROM GOOGONG DAM (M JEKABSONS)

Vision

Googong Foreshores is an attractive and biologically diverse area that protects a source of raw water for ACT and Queanbeyan communities, protects natural and cultural heritage, and is valued for its low impact recreational opportunities.



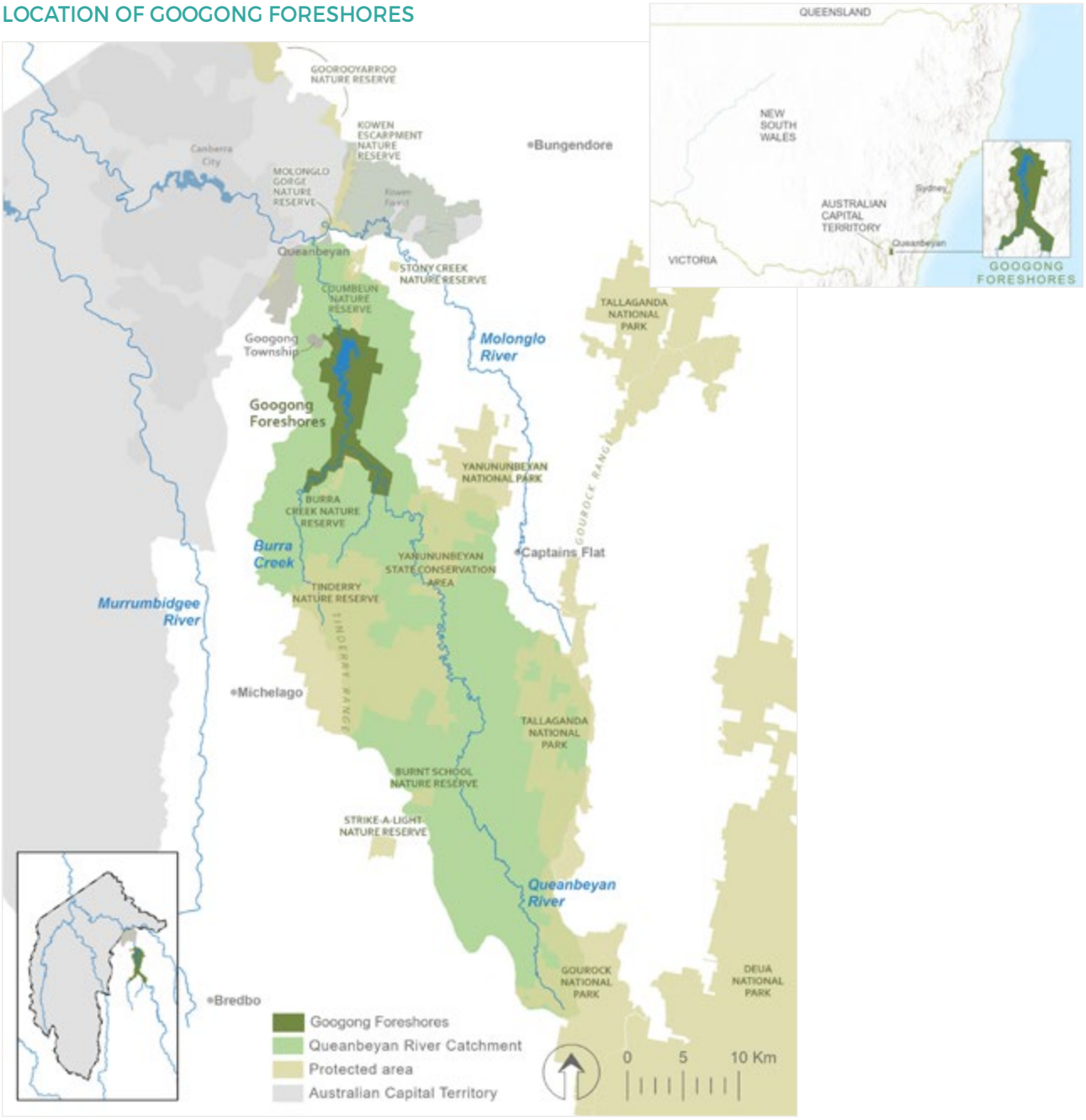
(A TATNELL)

GOOGONG FORESHORES

The Googong Foreshores covers over 5000 hectares in NSW, south east of the ACT. It encompasses Googong Dam and adjoining land, and sections of the Queanbeyan River and Burra Creek.

The primary purpose of Googong Foreshores is to protect a source of raw water for ACT and Queanbeyan communities. The Foreshores contains significant natural and cultural heritage values and provides the community with opportunities to engage with, and learn about, the area.

LOCATION OF GOOGONG FORESHORES



SHEARERS' QUARTERS (M JEKABSONS)

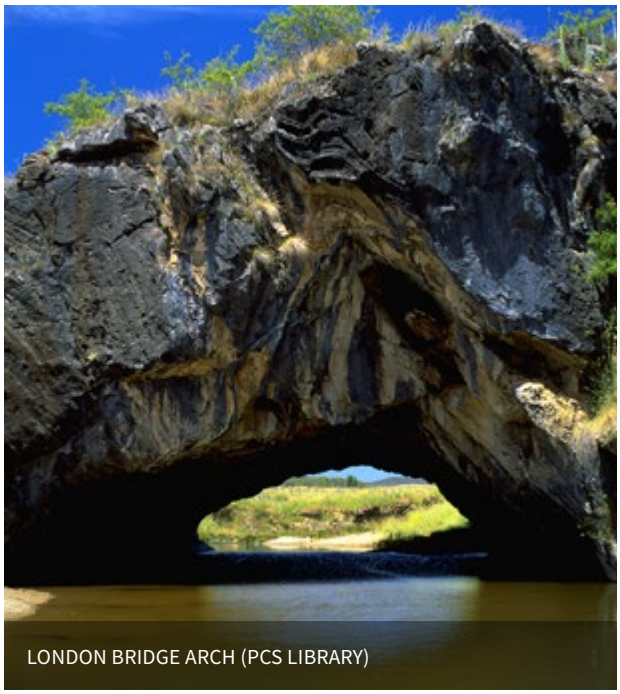
KEY VALUES

Water resources

Googong Reservoir is fed by the Queanbeyan River and is the single largest water reservoir in the ACT's water supply network.

Natural values

The Foreshores contains extensive areas of intact forest and woodland, and patches of grassland. These areas provide habitat for a diversity of native species, including five threatened plant and 22 threatened animal species. Some areas of woodland and grassland are listed as Critically Endangered Ecological Communities, under Commonwealth legislation.



LONDON BRIDGE ARCH (PCS LIBRARY)

Significant geological and geomorphological features, including the London Bridge Arch and fossil remnants, are also found within the Foreshores.

Cultural heritage

Traditional Custodians occupied and managed the Googong area for thousands of years and continue to feel a deep connection to their Country. A variety of natural features, archaeological and other cultural sites within Googong Foreshores, have significant Aboriginal heritage value.

The Googong area was first settled by Europeans in 1834 and remnants of early land holdings remain. The London Bridge Homestead Group and London Bridge Arch have heritage value and are listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Education and community engagement

Googong Foreshores provides opportunities for the community to engage with, and learn about, the natural and cultural values of the region, and the important role of the Foreshores in providing water to our communities.

Visitor experience

The Foreshores offers a range of low-impact recreational activities, including fishing, bushwalking and cultural heritage experiences.

SCENIC VIEW OVER GOOGONG DAM AND INTAKE TOWER (M JEKABSONS)

LAND AND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Googong Foreshores Land and Conservation Management Plan 2020 is available for download from the ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate website (https://www.environment.act.gov.au). This Plan identifies a range of goals, guiding principles and actions that will guide the management of Googong Foreshores for the next 5 years. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service is responsible for undertaking management actions to meet these goals.

A range of other stakeholders, including Commonwealth and NSW Government agencies and Icon Water, also have responsibilities for managing Googong Foreshores. Effective collaboration with these stakeholders and other partners, including the Googong Township and community groups, will be critical to achieving the goals outlined in this Plan.

PRIMARY GOALS

The Googong Foreshores Management Plan aims to:

- Protect the Foreshores from activities that may adversely impact water quality.
- Conserve and/or improve the natural and cultural heritage values of the Foreshores, while allowing compatible uses and activities.
- Provide Traditional Custodians access to their Country for cultural and land management purposes and engage Traditional Custodians in managing the Aboriginal heritage values of the Foreshores.
- Enrich visitor experience by supporting a range of recreational opportunities that are compatible with protecting a source of raw water for ACT and Queanbeyan communities, and protecting natural and cultural heritage values.
- Raise public awareness of the values and threats to the Foreshores and actively engage community members in the management of the area.

ACCESS AND FACILITIES AT GOOGONG FORESHORES

Googong Foreshores is open for day use only and there is no entry fee. Opening hours are displayed at the entry gates and are available online. Members of the public are not permitted within the Foreshores when the entry gates are closed. The Foreshores may be closed to public access during usual opening hours to undertake specific management activities and/or for visitor safety (e.g. Total Fire Ban days).

Human access to water supply reservoirs and catchments can increase the risk of contamination of the water and may result in disturbance to wildlife and cultural heritage places. With a growing local population, the recreational pressure on Googong Foreshores is likely to increase in the coming years. Visitors must act responsibly and adhere to all rules governing access to the Foreshores.

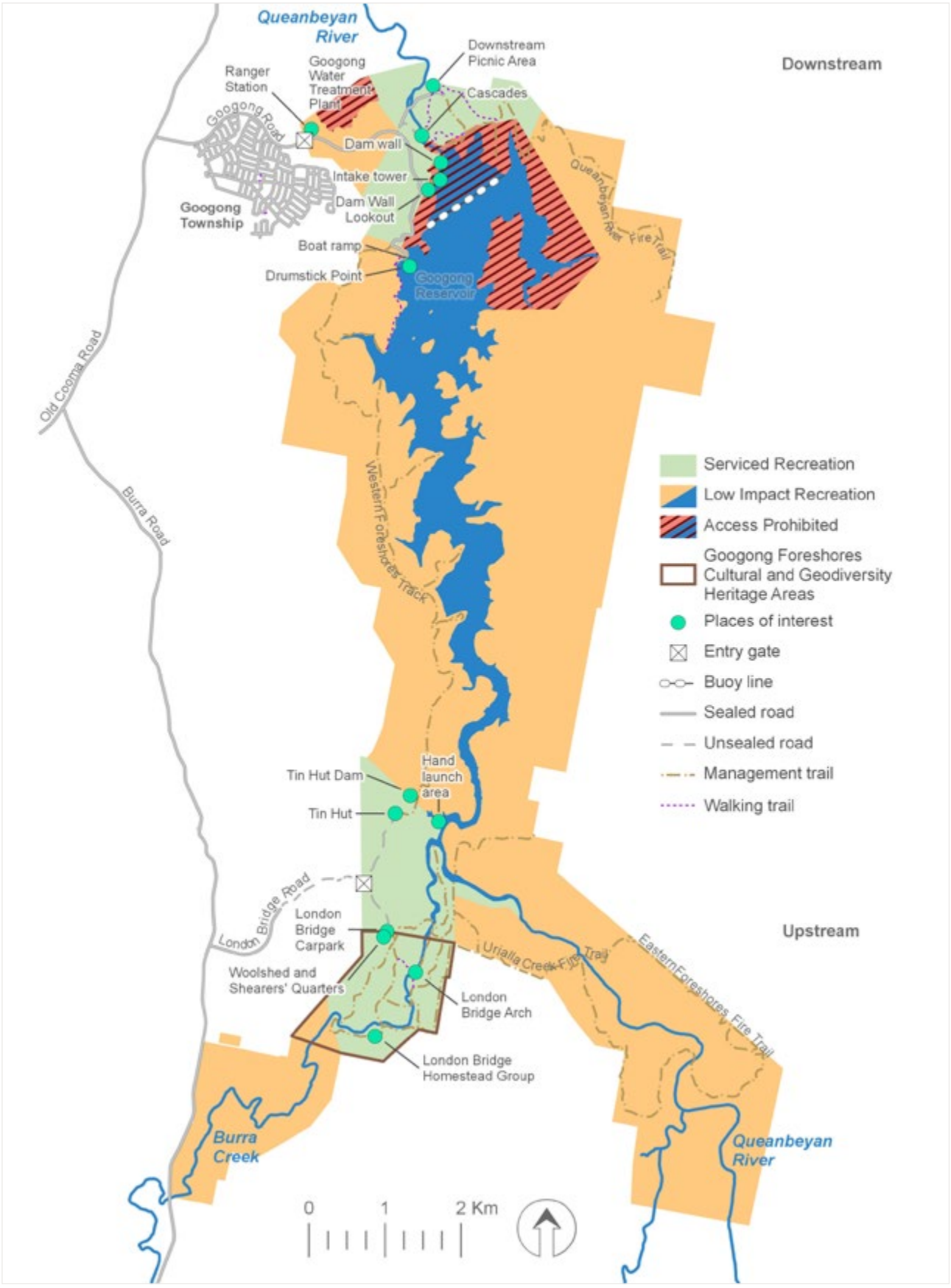
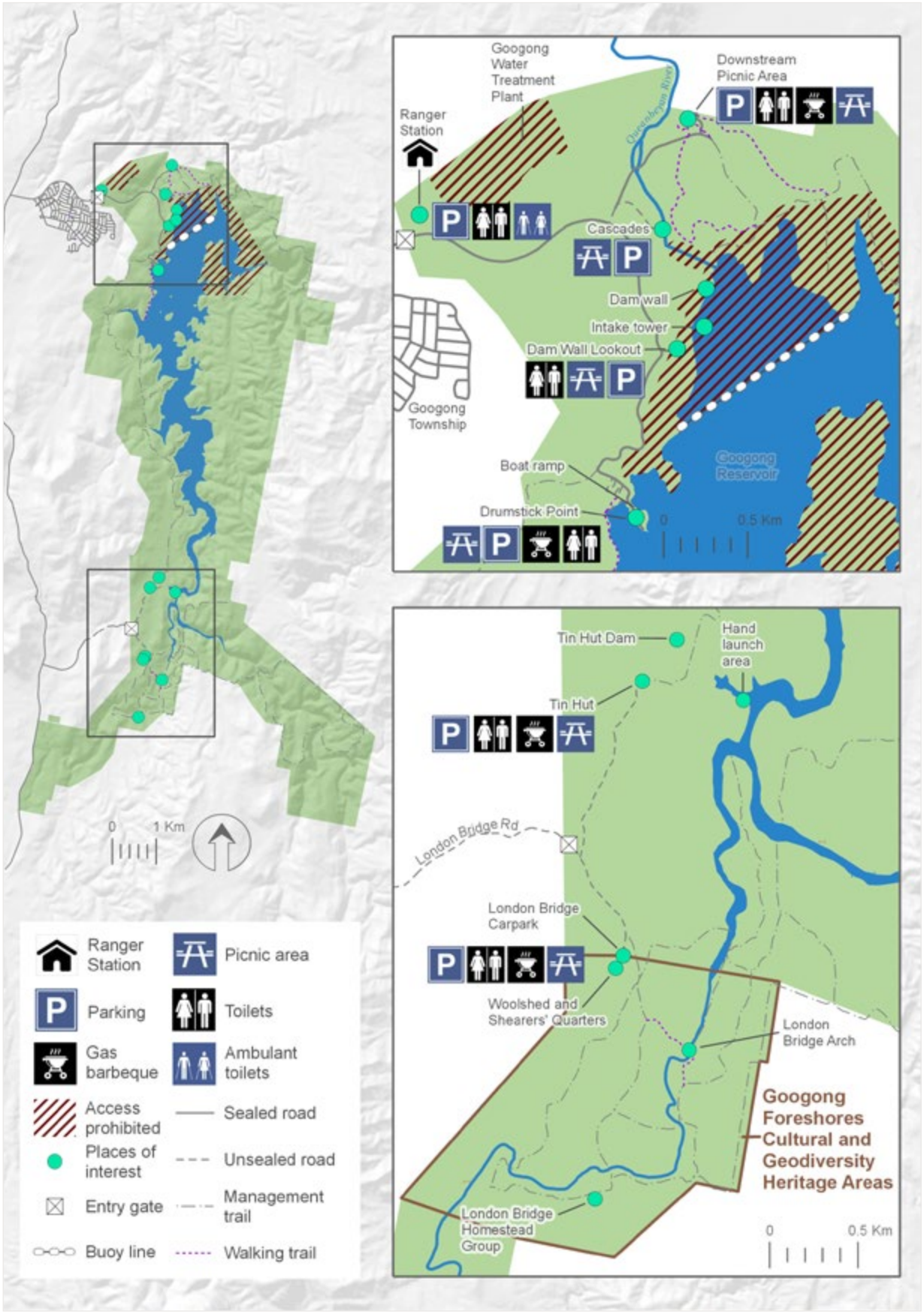
The Foreshores has three Management Zones; activities permitted in each of these zones and the associated facilities are outlined in the table and maps below.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES	ZONE 1: SERVICED RECREATION	ZONE 2: LOW IMPACT RECREATION	ZONE 3: ACCESS PROHIBITED
Bird watching and other natural heritage experiences	Y	Y	N
Boating (electric-powered boats only)	-	Y	N
Canoeing, kayaking and other non-contact water-based activities	-	Y	N
Cultural heritage experiences	Y	-	-
Cycling and mountain biking	Y	Y	N
Fishing	Y	Y	N
Picnicking (not encouraged in Zone 2 as no facilities exist)	Y	Y	N
Swimming (below the dam wall only)	Y*	N	N
Walking	Y	Y	N

(Y= permitted, N=prohibited, - =Not applicable)

*Swimming is prohibited in Googong Reservoir, and in Queanbeyan River and Burra Creek upstream of the reservoir.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONES



RECREATION FACILITIES AND PLACES OF INTEREST