

Kiama Coastal Walking Track



Loves Bay to Werri Lagoon



Plan of Management

COVERDESIGN VARMSTRONG 0809

August 2009

**Adopted by Council at its meeting held on
Tuesday 18 August 2009**

Council Resolution CR271

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

The area covered in this Management Plan is State owned Crown land administered by the Department of Lands under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, 1989. The land has been gazetted as a Crown reserve (R1017629) for the public purpose of “Public Access to the Foreshore and Protection of Scenic Amenity and Ecological Values”. Kiama Municipal Council is the appointed trust manager of the reserve and is therefore responsible for the day to day care, control and management of the reserve.

The location of the land is shown in Figure 1. The site comprises land acquired by the Department of Planning under the NSW Coastal Lands Protection Scheme and a former Crown Reserve.

It is proposed to establish a walking track within the Crown Reserve extending from Loves Bay at Kiama Heights to Werri Beach at Gerringong. The total length of the track will be approximately 6kms. The walking track is intended for pedestrian use only, along a route defined by marker posts.

The track will cater for visitors to walk in a relatively undisturbed natural environment requiring a moderate level of fitness to explore along a defined track with minimal facilities.

The Management Plan has been prepared by Kiama Council with the aim of providing a comprehensive working document that will guide the future development and management of the reserve. The management outcomes and actions listed within the plan are based on an analysis and assessment of the site's physical, cultural, environmental, historical, recreational and economic values in relation to current and future uses.

The plan takes into consideration the principles of Crown Land management, relevant land management legislation and policy documents and the Kiama Coastal Walk Reserve Management Strategy prepared by the Department of Lands. The plan also takes into consideration the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Lands in relation to lands acquired under the NSW Coastal Lands Protection Scheme. This agreement prohibits the sale or disposal of the land or the granting or any approval to use of the land for a purpose that may be inconsistent with continued public access to the foreshore and the protection of scenic amenity and ecological values, unless the written consent of the Planning Minister has firstly been obtained.

1.2 Planning Area

The planning area is located south of Kiama between Loves Bay and Werri Lagoon at Gerringong, on the New South Wales south coast 30km south of Wollongong and 100km from Sydney.



Figure 1

1.3 Tenure and Land Use Zoning

Town & Parish:	Kiama
County:	Cumberland
Land District:	Kiama
LGA:	Kiama Municipality
Schedule of Lands:	Lot 51& 52 DP 1122127 Lot 54 & 55 DP 1122129 Lot 57 & 58 DP1122131 Lot 59 & 60 DP 1122132 Lot 63 & 65 DP 1122130 Lot 1DP 1112233 Lot 103, DP 817304
Area:	45.05 hectares
Zoning:	The site is zoned 7(a) Environmental Protection and 6(a) Existing Recreation under the Kiama LEP, 1996.
Land Status:	The land included in the above schedule is dedicated as a Reserve for Public Access to the Foreshore and Protection of Scenic Amenity and Ecological Values (Reserve No. R1017629) and Kiama Municipal Council is the appointed trust manager for that Reserve.

1.4 Objectives of the Management Plan

The overall objectives of the Kiama Coastal Walking Track Management Plan are to:

1. To implement the relevant priorities and targets of the NSW State Plan as follows:

Priority E8: More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities, and participating in the arts and cultural activity.

Targets: Increase participation in recreation, sporting, artistic and cultural activity. Specifically we will:

- Increase the number of people participating in sporting activities and physical exercise by 10% by 2016.

New Directions: Increase the range of opportunities and facilities for the community to enjoy a diverse range of recreational facilities in National Parks, Crown Reserves and State Forests by:

- Better promoting the use of existing walking trails and cycleways in State Forests and National Parks.

2. To protect and enhance the visual character of the reserve;
3. To provide for a coastal walking track for pedestrian use only in a relatively undisturbed, natural environment;
4. To minimise physical and health risks to users of the reserve;
5. Ensure that the use and development of the planning area is compatible with the use of the surrounding environment, and that it will not detract from the existing natural, cultural and scenic qualities of the coastline; and
6. Develop a comprehensive set of actions, which will achieve the stated management outcomes.

1.5 *Management Plan Process*

The preparation and ratification of this plan of management has three basic sequential steps:

1.5.1 Collection of Information and Definition of the Issues.

- Analysis of the site and the determination of planning opportunities and constraints.
- Assessment of relevant legislation, government policies and the carrying out of specialist technical studies.
- Analysis of relevant issues.

1.5.2 Development of the Preferred Management Approach and the Preparation of the Plan

- The establishment of desired outcomes to satisfy the aims and objectives of the plan and the needs of the community and the various stakeholder groups.
- Formulation and evaluation of development and management options in consultation with relevant authorities and the various stakeholder groups.
- Establishment of detailed outcomes and supporting actions.
- Preparation of the draft management plan document.

1.5.3 Exhibition and Making of the Plan

- Exhibition of the draft plan for public comment.
- Consideration of public comment and subsequent amendment (as warranted).

- Consideration of the amended plan by the Department of Lands and Kiama Municipal Council.
- Adoption of the plan by Council.
- Periodic review and amendment of the plan at agreed future dates.

2 ATTRIBUTES OF THE PLANNING AREA

2.1 *Land Form*

The site is a unique section of coastline, due to the geology of the area. The site is characterised by a series of rocky embayments, including boulder beaches, separated by prominent headlands. The landform owes its characteristics to the underlying geology of the Gerringong volcanic which consists of a series of volcanic lava flows (latite) interleaved with tuffaceous sandstone. These headlands are approximately 30 to 50 metres above sea level. The bases of the headlands are surrounded by expansive rock platforms, which include numerous channels formed by the erosion of volcanic dykes and isolated rock pools.



2.2 *Vegetation*

The site has been cleared and generally grazed since European occupation. As a result there are only remnant pockets of native vegetation remaining. These are comprised of local coastal and littoral rainforest species.

In general the land is covered by exotic species, i.e., kikuyu pasture, there are some introduced weeds including lantana present.

2.3 *Climate*

Climate is an important component in the factors that influence soil stability, plant growth and human comfort. The climate of Kiama is temperate with a maritime influence, which is characterised by mild winters with daytime temperatures averaging 17^oC and warm summer days with temperatures averaging 27^oC.

Kiama receives a mean annual rainfall of 1210 mm with one third of this total falling in January, February and March.

In summer the prevailing winds are generally from the south and north east and winter winds are predominantly from the west and south-west. At times these winds are gale force.

2.4 *Visual Quality and Amenity*

The walking track will provide spectacular views of the coastline, which give an insight into the geology of the area through the exposed cliff lines and rock platforms.



The walking track will be of State significance, as it will provide access to an outstanding and unique section of the NSW coastline. It will be one of the most spectacular and scenic coastal walks in NSW. It will provide an exciting recreational asset for local residents and economic benefits to the local Tourist industry in providing a major tourist attraction. In the longer term, the development would ensure the access for future generations thereby safeguarding the community's cultural heritage.

2.5 *Linkages with other Open Space*

The track from Loves Bay to Werri Lagoon will link to the existing track from Minnamurra River to Loves Bay, which utilises existing Crown Reserves and community land. It will also link to community land to the south at Werri Beach and Boat Harbour at Gerringong. This will provide continuous access for walkers along the shoreline from the northern boundary of the Municipality to Gerringong. It has the potential to be extended from Gerringong to Gerroa thereby providing continuous public access along the whole of the shoreline in the Kiama Municipality.

2.6 *Existing Structures*

There are no existing structures on the reserve, except for boundary fencing.

2.7 *Existing Uses*

The private lands, which were acquired by the Department of Planning under the NSW Coastal Lands Protection Scheme and added to the original Crown Reserve have been used for grazing. The original Crown Reserve has also been grazed. Informal access for walking and fishing had been gained by the public over parts of private property to access the original Crown Reserve.

3 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 *Track Construction and Maintenance*

The Coastal Walking Track is planned to be constructed and maintained to preserve the natural beauty of the site and to allow visitors to observe and appreciate the environment in its natural state.

3.1.1 Outcome

Minimise the environmental impact on the site whilst providing access to visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

3.1.2 Actions

(a) Track Formation

Except in specific locations it is not intended to construct a formed pathway unless it is determined that a special surface is required. Generally there will be no modification to the ground surface.

(b) Gradient

The gradient varies from generally level to sometimes long, steep gradients. The gradient is limited by environmental and maintenance considerations. It should be noted that no maintenance of the track will be carried out except for specific structures, parts of the track, which have to be formed up and constructed and any fencing.

(c) Maintenance

Maintenance of the track will be in accordance with the aims of providing a nature walk, rather than providing a formally constructed pedestrian walkway. Except for specific points on the route, the track will not be formed up and would take the form of a worn foot track. Some limited works may be required in certain areas to minimise the possibility of erosion. Maintenance works therefore will not involve upgrading the standard of the pathway.

3.2 *Signage*

Signage, publicising the track and the track conditions will be required at both ends of the Reserve and at specific locations on the walking track.

3.2.1 Outcome

Provide signage for management and directional purposes in accordance with the Risk Analysis Report and Council's Strategic Asset Management Policy.

3.2.2 Actions

- (a) Erect information signage as noted in the Risk Analysis Report at the ends of the track at Loves Bay and Werri Lagoon. Information that will be included will include the track route, distance, the strenuous nature of the route, advice to stay clear of cliffs, advice that Werri Lagoon may be open to the ocean and points of special interest.
- (b) Erect risk warning signs as detailed in the Risk Analysis Report at both ends of the track. Details are shown in Appendix 1.
- (c) Erect track markers for directional purposes at a spacing of approximately one km. to indicate the distance from either end of the track. The details of the markers are shown in Appendix 2.
- (d) Erect interpretative signage at specific locations to enhance the visitors experience and understanding of the site.

3.3 Fences

There is presently no boundary fence defining the boundary between the existing Crown Reserve and the private property. In places the boundary fences between adjoining private properties extend across the Crown Reserve to the cliff line thereby preventing free access along the Reserve.

3.3.1 Outcome

- Provide a clear definition of the boundary between the Reserve for Recreation and the private property.
- Provide free access along the Reserve.

3.3.2 Action

- (a) Erect a cattle proof fence along the western boundary of the land separating the private property from the public land. This fence will be maintained by Council.
- (b) Remove any fences extending across the Reserve that will interfere with access along the Reserve.

- (c) Erect fences on the seaward side (cliff edge) of the reserve in only specific locations that may require special treatment because of the proximity of the track to various geological features. If this is required, this will be determined by Council in accordance with Council's Strategic Asset Management Policy. It must be noted that in Section 12.11 of the Risk Assessment Report it is stated that, generally, it is not intended to fence the Reserve on the seaward or eastern side. The fence separating the public and private lands along the generally western boundary of the Reserve will be maintained by Council.

3.4 Vegetation

Most of the site has been cleared of the natural vegetation and used for grazing. This includes the land that was within the former Crown Reserve. The existing vegetation is predominantly pasture grass (kikuyu) with some pockets of remnant native coastal vegetation in isolated locations. There is evidence of natural regeneration of native species (mainly *Banksia integrifolia*) on Lots 55 and 56 which hasn't been grazed for a number of years. Pockets of littoral rainforest are also present, the most notable being on lot 63. The clearing of the land provides spectacular views of the coastline. The rounded, open, grassed headlands are part of the historic landscape character of this part of the coastline.

3.4.1 Outcome

- Conserve the existing native vegetation on the Reserve and encourage the regeneration of native vegetation from existing remnant pockets of native vegetation.
- Retain the existing open grassed character of the Reserve except in the areas specifically designated for native vegetation regeneration.
- Provide a nature walk and therefore aim primarily at preventing environmental degradation

3.4.2 Actions

- Undertake a bush regeneration program in the priority areas shown in the plan in Appendix 3 within the funding and resources available to Council.
- Control Noxious weeds as required under the Noxious Weeds Act
- Control Environmental weeds within the funding and resources available to Council.
- Allow occasional crash grazing of the Reserve to control grass growth.
- Slash the part of the reserve to provide a clear route minimum 3 metres wide for the walking track, 6 times per year.
- Undertake slashing of the remainder of the Reserve in accordance with Council's Strategic Asset Management Policy Maintenance and as required.

3.5 *Facilities*

Public Toilets and a carpark are available at Werri Lagoon. At the northern end of the track, car parking is available in Elanora Road; there are no toilets at the north end of the track. No other facilities are proposed at this time. Information shelters will be provided at both ends of the track.

3.5.1 Outcome

Provide facilities suitable for the nature and intent of the walking track.

3.5.2 Actions

Current facilities will be maintained. No toilets or buildings are to be constructed on the walking track.

Monitor the demand for car parking at the northern end of the track.

3.6 *Recreation and Use*

Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the environment in its natural state through occasional encounters with other walkers. Users will require a moderate level of fitness. Users are to be self reliant in regard to assessing and dealing with track surfaces, weather conditions, natural and man-made hazards and personal injury.

3.6.1 Outcome

Provide a natural pathway with appropriate signage.

3.6.2 Actions

Provide interpretive signage and appropriate risk warning signs as per the Risk Analysis Report and as per Council's Strategic Asset Management Policy.

3.7 Risk Management

A Risk Assessment Report has been prepared for Council by LoGov Risk Management services. This has been carried out in accordance with the relevant principles set out in Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4360:19999 - Risk Assessment.

3.7.1 Outcome

Manage the risk in accordance with the recommendations contained in Section 17 of that report.

3.7.2 Actions

Council will implement the recommendations contained in Section 17 of that report.

Persons lawfully using the public land will be covered by Kiama Municipal Council's Public Liability Policy. However, neither Kiama Municipal Council nor the NSW State Government will indemnify the owners of the private properties adjoining the route of the track from and against actions, costs, claims, charges and expenses for which the owner may become liable in respect of life or injury to any person (other than the owner) suffered by any person who has trespassed onto private property from the public land.

3.8 Level of Management

Track users are expected to manage their own use and experience of the track. As noted in Section 12.2 of the Risk Analysis Report, Council will not be supervising track users.

3.8.1 Outcome

Provide a level of management suitable for the nature and intent of the walking track.

3.8.2 Actions

- Council Rangers will carry out random inspections to ensure that people are behaving in an orderly and responsible way.
- The track will be maintained on demand or following inspection by Council.
- Inspections will be undertaken at six monthly intervals.
- No maintenance of the track will be carried out where natural defects in the track occur, due to natural events (such as by storm, washaways, development of ruts) and ordinary wear and tear, unless otherwise determined by Council.
- Council will also inspect any reports of safety defects as per Council's Strategic Asset Management Policy.

3.9 Usage

The track will be available for use by pedestrians only. Camping will not be permitted on the track or adjacent public land. Access onto private property away from the track route or/outside the Crown Reserve will be prohibited. The track will be accessible to the public all year round and 24 hours a day without restriction unless Werri Lagoon is 'open to the sea', or if it is necessary to close the track for maintenance purposes.

Dogs will be permitted on the track.

3.9.1 Outcome

Restrict access for pedestrian use only.

3.9.2 Actions

Erect signage at Werri Lagoon and Loves Bay advising the public that they may not be able to cross Werri Lagoon if it is open to the sea.

Erect signage advising that owners of dogs will be required to keep dogs under control and on a leash when using the track.

Prohibit camping on the Reserve.

3.10 Bush Fire Management

The level of risk of bush fire is low because of the lack of native vegetation.

3.10.1 Outcome

Manage the risk of bush fire in accordance with NSW Rural Fire Service requirements.

3.10.2 Actions

Implement recommendations of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

4 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Kiama Coastal Walking Track Plan of Management is an integrated plan developed by Kiama Municipal Council in consultation with the Department of Lands. Implementation will primarily be the responsibility of Kiama Council and will be undertaken within the annual programs of Council as resources allow. All works and activities will be carried out in accordance with the management plan.

Funding for the various items in the action plan may be available from the following sources:

- Council's General Funds.
- Public Reserve Management Fund (Department of Lands).
- Specialised funding from both State and Federal Governments.
- Caring for Country, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

5 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Detail of Risk Warning Signs.

Appendix 2: Plan showing Walking Track marker posts.

Appendix 3: Plan of Priority Native Plant Regeneration areas.

6 REFERENCES

1. Kiama Municipal Council - Local Environment Plan 1996.
2. NSW Coastal Council - NSW Coastal Policy 1997.
3. LoGov Risk Management Services Pty. Limited - Risk Analysis and Report, September 2008.

Appendix 1 - Detail of Risk Warning Signs

Kiama Municipal Council Schedule 16

—This is Schedule 16 of the Strategic Asset Management Policy—

RWSWT1







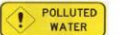
Loves Bay to Werri Lagoon Walking Trail

RISK WARNING

ATTENTION

Trail Users, Parents, Young Children, Teenagers, Visitors, Members of the Public


The walking trail and easement includes following risk:

	RISKS	CONSEQUENCES
	Injury by falling off cliffs, escarpments, steep slopes and drop-offs or into or over holes and ruts.	SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH
	Injury by falling, slipping or tripping on walking trail or surfaces within the walking trail easement, imperfect natural surfaces, rough, uneven, loose, slippery or wet ground or rocks.	
	Injury by entering deep water and hazardous current in Werri Lagoon.	
	Injury caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart attack or stroke due to strenuous exercise Dehydration and heat stroke due to no drinking water and exertion Being gored or trampled by cattle or horses, or being bitten dogs, or being bitten or stung by dangerous snakes, insects, spiders, scorpions, ticks or mites No rescue services; no telephones; poor mobile telephone reception Hypothermia due to cold or cold and wet conditions being hit by a train or other vehicle using railway line 	
	Injury by drinking or ingesting polluted dam, spring and creek water	

Young children and teenagers MUST be closely supervised

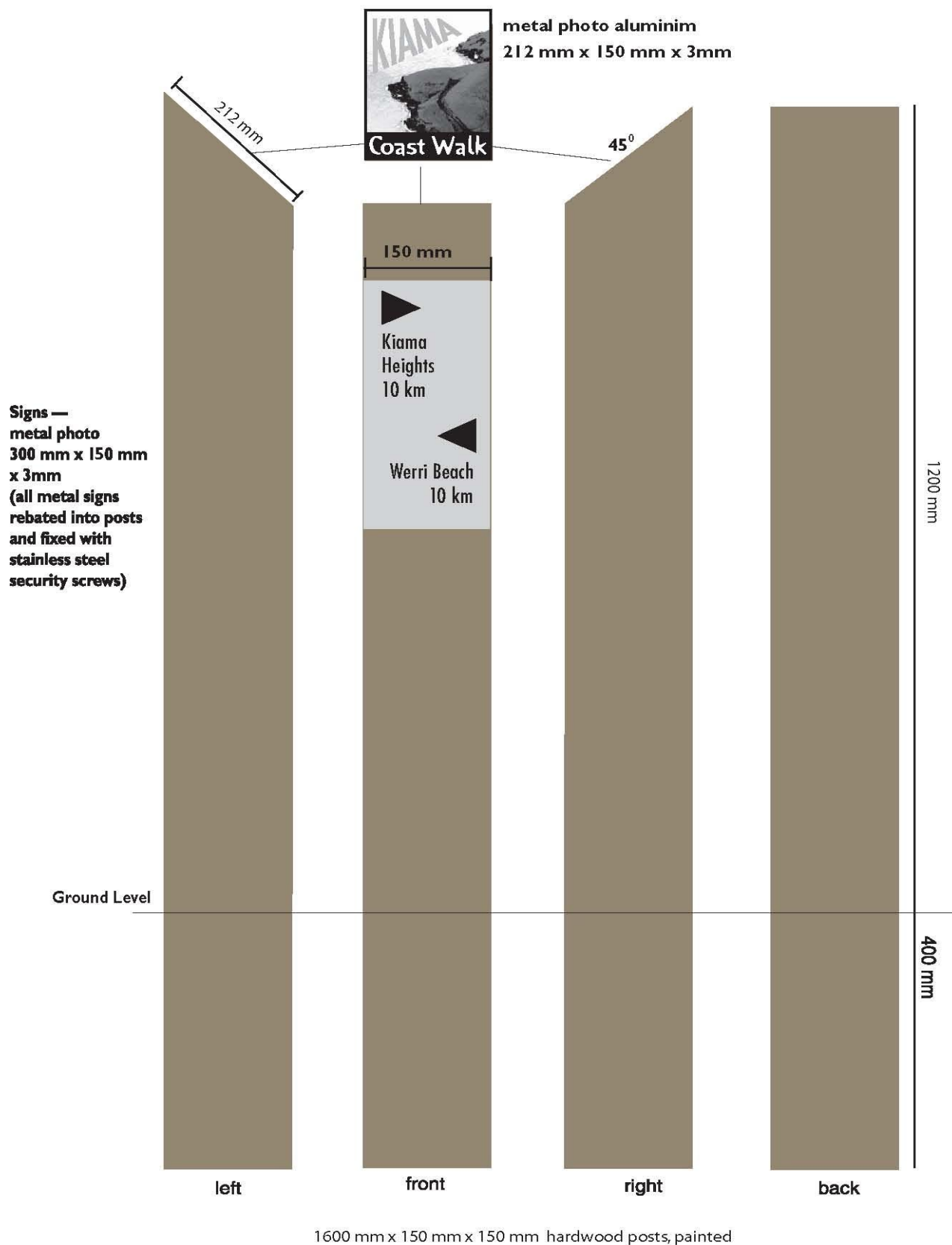
FOR YOUR SAFETY STAY WELL AWAY FROM CLIFFS, STEEP SLOPES AND DROP-OFFS

YOU USE THIS WALKING TRAIL ENTIRELY AT YOUR OWN RISK

Sign format design by  © 2009

Appendix 2 - Plan Showing Walking Track Marker Posts

Wayfinding System for Coast Walk, Kiama



Appendix 3 - Plan of Priority Native Plant Regeneration Areas

