Central Coast Council

Open Space Strategy 2024-2031

Final report - November 2024

Central Coast Council

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.

We pay our respects to Darkinjung country, and Elders past and present.

We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home.

We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

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1. Introduction

The Central Coast boasts an enviable lifestyle. Set amongst hinterland forest and stunning beaches, the area offers an extensive range of recreation opportunities within close proximity to Sydney. Its hundreds of kilometres of shared pathways, lake foreshores, parklands and beaches contribute to the area's character and sense of place and create an ideal setting for residents to lead active lifestyles and connect. The area's world-class, natural features contribute to the Central Coast's ECO Destination status, making it a popular destination for visitors.

Council is acutely aware of the importance of parks and play spaces for its communities and visitors, acknowledging the key role greenspace plays in supporting and providing essential mental, physical, social, economic and ecological benefits. This is strongly reflected in Council's community vision:

We are one Central Coast. A smart, green and liveable region with a shared sense of belonging and responsibility.

Following the merger of the former Wyong and Gosford Councils there was a need to take a fresh look at open space planning for the Central Coast and develop a strategic document that will inform decision making and encourage participation in active lifestyles.

Council is cognisant of the need to develop a long-term vision and framework for the provision and enhancement of the open space network, so that it can continue to provide attractive, meaningful, beneficial and sustainable green spaces that encourage an active community for many years to come.

1.1. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy is to:

> ***Provide direction for Council on the future development and management of its open space portfolio.***

The Open Space Strategy is primarily concerned with ensuring the supply and development of public open space is sufficient to support anticipated growth and that it is acquired and developed in a timely manner.

The development of the strategy has the following overarching objectives:

- Increasing participation in outdoor recreation and sport and encouraging active lifestyles.
- Improving access to public open space opportunities.
- Ensuring parks and sporting areas are fit for purpose and well designed, to cater for future demand.
- Engaging the community and partners in the next 10 years of planning for public open space.
- Adopting a whole of life approach to active lifestyle opportunities that ensures diversity of opportunity.
- Ensuring culture, heritage and environmental significance, is appropriately considered in the planning and design of public open space.

1.2. What is included in the Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy

The Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy includes urban parks and open spaces that provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the community and visitors. This Strategy has a focus on ensuring supply of open space for recreation and sport in response to population growth over the next 10 years.

The Strategy does not include future planning for:

- Bushland and conservation areas
- Aquatic and leisure centres
- Community halls
- Individual sports and their specific facility needs
- Land not managed by Council
- Mountain biking and recreation in natural areas[1]
- Coastal Open Space System (COSS) lands and wetlands.

[1] *Mountain Biking was a significant issue emerging during consultation for the Open Space Strategy, however a Council resolution requires council to prepare a Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan in the future. A separate study is also being undertaken on Recreation in Natural Areas.*

1.3. Timing of Strategy Preparation

Research for the development Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy was undertaken by Otium Planning Group in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with a draft report provided to Council in late 2022. Key council staff undertook further review of the draft Open Space Strategy during 2023, with the final document now ready for adoption by Council.

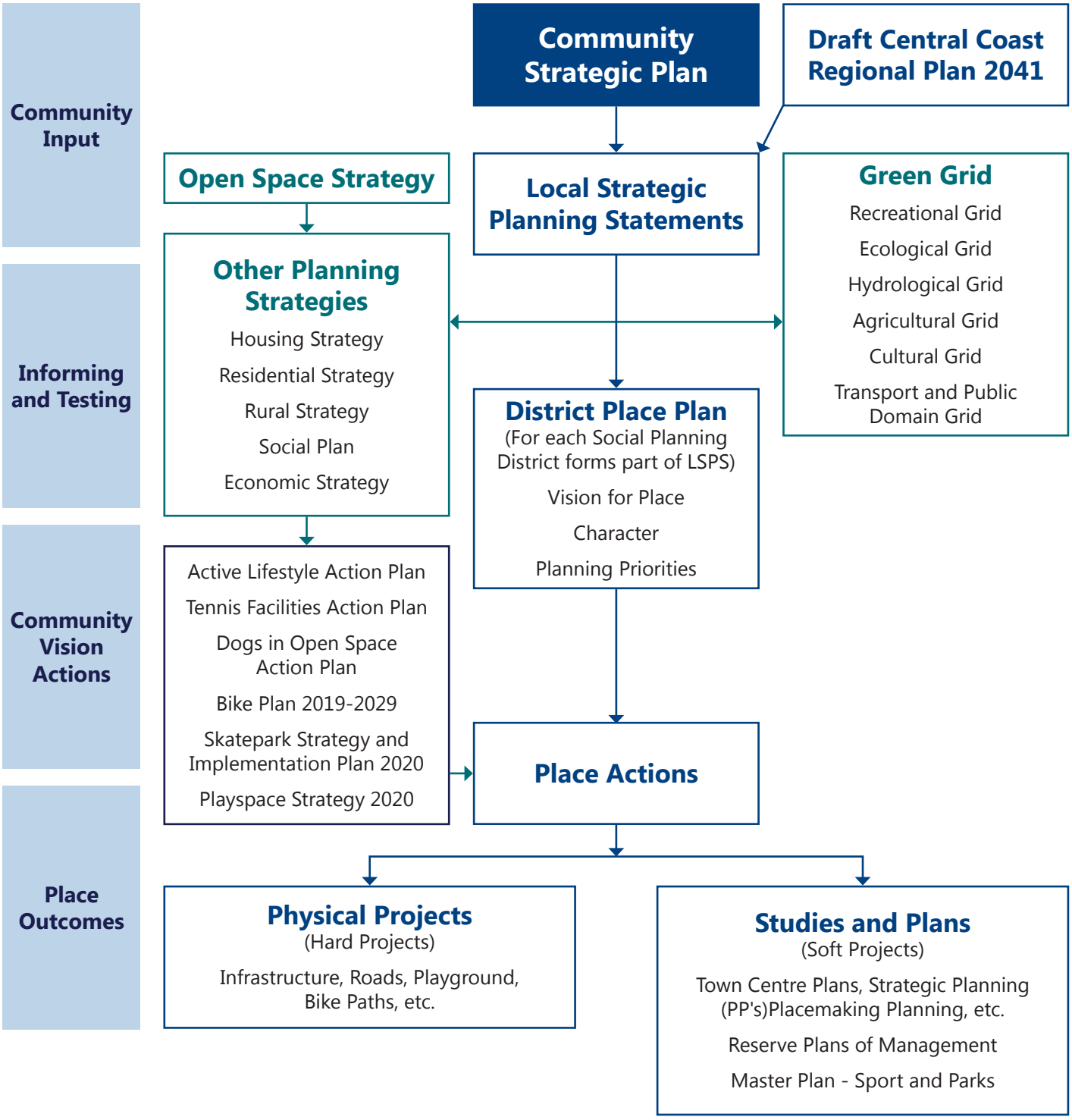
Please note that 2021 ABS Census data is used to inform Central Coast Council population projections and for Open Space Benchmarking/Provision rates, including shortfalls and surpluses.

1.4. Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy Structure

The Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy is underpinned by a number of supporting documents including:

1.5. Strategic Context

As shown below, the Central Coast Council Open Space Strategy is aligned to a range of strategic documents and Planning Strategies and is the overarching strategy informing a number of Action Plans.



2. The Central Coast

2.1. Population and Growth

Estimated Population
357,260
2024

Estimated Population
389,324
2036

Estimated Population
412,502
2046

By 2046, the population is expected to increase by over 64,000 residents.

The **majority of future growth will occur in the northern part of the Central Coast Council area** around Warnervale-Wadalba and Lake Munmorah/Chain Valley Bay areas. Over two-thirds (68%) of projected population growth to 2031 will occur in the two northern Planning Areas of Wyong/ Warnervale/ Gorokan and Northern Lakes/ San Remo/ Budgewoi.

2.2. Age

	Seniors	Empty Nesters	Young workforce	Parents and homebuilders
Central Coast Council	13.2%	12.4%	11%	18.3%
New South Wales	10.2%	11%	14.1%	20.1%

Significant growth in the older population, with the 65+ age cohort accounting for approximately 40% of the growth to 2036.

40%

[2] *Source: https://profile.id.com.au/central-coast-nsw (accessed 22/01/2021)*

2.3. Houshold structure

	Couples with children	One-parent families	Lone person households	Couples without children
Central Coast Council	27.1%	12.8%	26%	25.8%

2.4. SEIFA, Income and Ethnicity

SEIFA Index of Disadvantage[3] for the Central Coast Council in 2021 was 994 similar to NSW as a whole. Within the Council area, Wyong has the highest level of disadvantage 879.4, and Holgate-Matcham-Erina Heights the lowest at 1,107.9.

994

SEIFA Index

Wyong

Holgate-Matcham-Erina Heights

Median weekly household

$1,534
Central Coast

16% born outside Australia

2.5. Health and Well-being Indicators[4]

Across the Central Coast:

Obesity - aged 2 - 17

In 2014-2015 - 23.3% of the population aged 2 to 17 were overweight or obese, this increased to 25.7% by 2017-18, compared with Greater Sydney (23.0%) and NSW (24.4%).

23.3% → **3 years** → **25.7%**

Obesity - aged 18+

In 2014-2015 - 68.1% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese, increasing to 69.3% by 2017-18. Higher than Greater Sydney (60.6%) and NSW (63.3%). **The national 2025 target for adults in Australia is 61.1%.**

68.1% → **3 years** → **69.3%**

Activity level

Rates of activity have increased over the last 3 years. In 2014-15 68.1% of the population aged 18 years and over were insufficiently physically active with a decrease to 65.6% in 2017-18. This rate is similar to Greater Sydney (65.2%) and NSW (65.3%) but is worse than Australia as a whole (47.3%). **The 2025 target for Australia is 40%.**

68.1%

↓ **3 years**

65.6%

[3] *The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) is an index that measures an area's relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.*

[4] *Source: Australian Health Policy Collaboration: Australia's Health Tracker Atlas, published Sept 2020; Australian Health Policy Collaboration (AHPC) at Victoria University and the Public Health Information and Development Unit (PHIDU) at Torrens University*

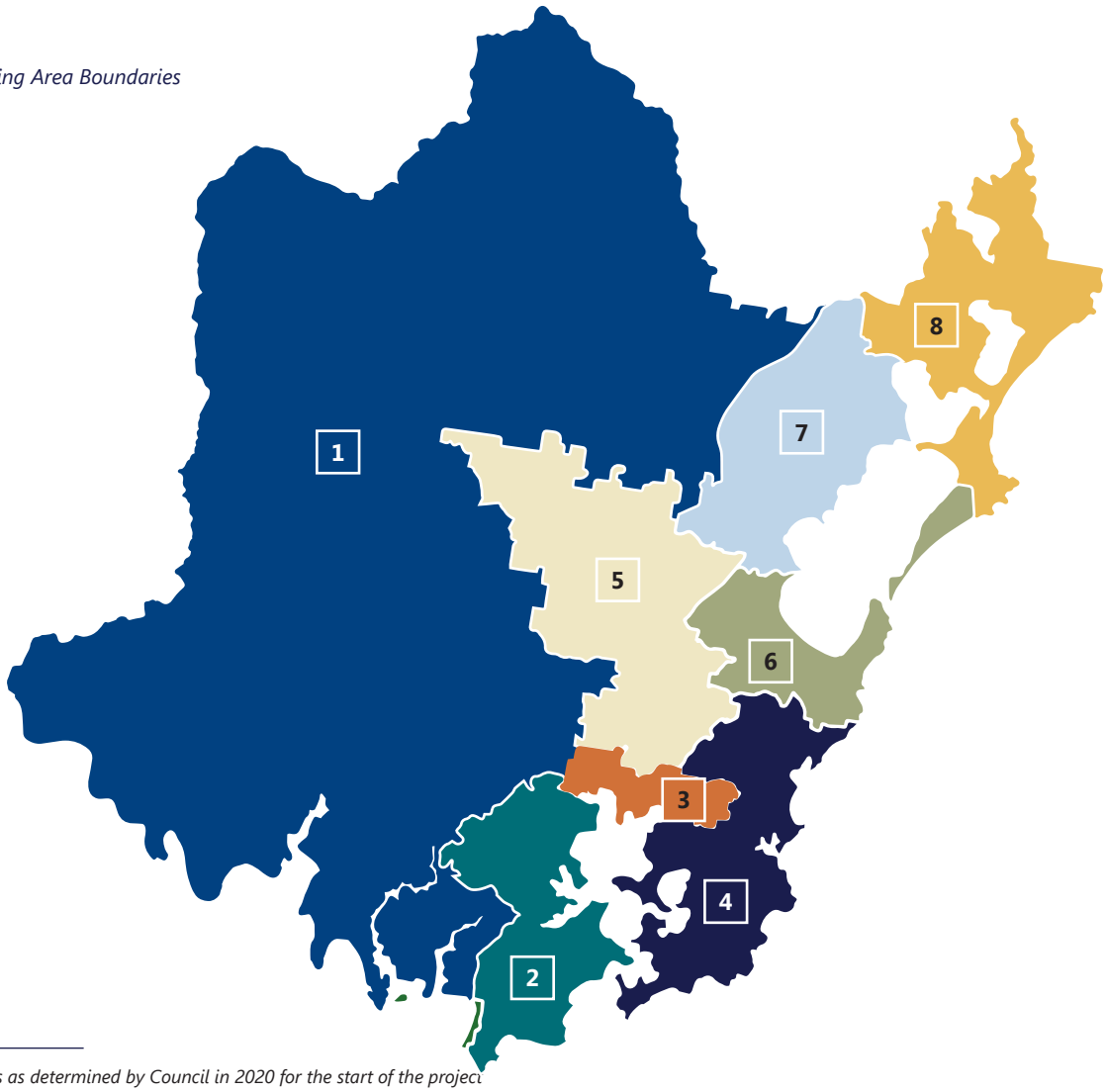
2.6. Planning Area Growth Projections

Central Coast Council has identified eight (8) planning areas[5] for the Open Space Strategy to provide a more localised analysis of supply and demand.

Table 1: Planning Area Population Projections 2021-2031[5] (Highest to Lowest Growth)

NO.	PLANNING AREA	2021 POPULATION	2031 POPULATION	POPULATION CHANGE	% CHANGE
1	Mountains and Valleys	8,419	8,797	378	4.5
2	Peninsula	52,058	53,175	1,117	2.1
3	Gosford Central	23,066	27,154	4,088	17.7
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	68,149	68,432	283	0.4
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	36,718	38,337	1,619	4.4
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	55,861	60,532	4,671	8.4
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	61,133	82,202	21,069	34.5
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	49,511	55,389	5,878	11.9
	Central Coast Council area	354,915	394,019	39,104	11.0

Figure 1: Planning Area Boundaries



[5] *Planning Areas as determined by Council in 2020 for the start of the projec*

[6] *Source: profile.id courtesy of Central Coast Council*

2.7. Planning Implications for Open Space Strategy

Planning for Growth
In absolute terms, the main growth areas to 2031 are:

- Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan (+21,069)(Represents 54% of all projected growth to 2031)
- Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi (+5,878)
- Southern Lakes and The Entrance (+4,671)
- Gosford Central (+4,088)

State planning legislation, planning guidance and regional planning has made clear that provision of parks, open space and sporting facilities to support active living, is an essential part of forward planning for growth.

Planning for an Ageing Population
The Central Coast population is ageing, and this means a likely increase in self-directed exercise and recreation such as walking and cycling. This places a greater focus on use of parks and beaches, active transport links with, and connectivity to, residential areas. Increased provision of a range of opportunities, programs and associated services will and help to keep older residents healthy.

Addressing Inactivity and Obesity
Slightly more than two-thirds of the Central Coast population is overweight or obese and insufficiently active. Trends (over recent years) show little improvement. Ensuring that the population has access to opportunities for physical activity will improve the overall health of the Central Coast population.

International and national literature outlines the importance and impact of urban design and provision of attractive and accessible open space and active transport networks. This critical infrastructure encourages physical activity, social interaction and improves productivity.

Integrating the Open Space Strategy into Central Coast Planning
Gosford has been the focus of urban renewal/ redevelopment/ reinvigoration, by both Council and the state government. As population density increases, so to does the importance of accessible open space infrastructure. Adding further pressure on open space infrastucture is Gosford's role as a regional centre and destination for visitors.

Regional planning to inform land-use and economic development must be supported by planning for open space sport and recreation. This should focus on on improving facility development, increased utilisation, sport and community organisation viability and encouraging participation in sport and outdoor recreation.

As planning instruments and controls are updated for the Central Coast Council, the Open Space Strategy will have an important role to inform developer contributions towards open space and recreation provision.

3. Evidence for Action

3.1. Importance of Parks, Pathways and Open Space

Urban residents are placing a higher importance on parks and open space. They expect to have bikeways and walking tracks available in their local neighbourhood and are increasingly using path and park networks for exercise and recreation. Community expectations in regard to quality of parks has also increased as more use is made of the local parks network.

Key trends in participation and community views include:

Walking is still the dominant form of physical activity and participation is increasing. Combined with rising participation in cycling and running in parks and natural areas, this means that demand for access to pathway networks within open space is one of the largest emerging infrastructure needs identified in cities.

Research has shown the importance of a **supportive environment** in public open spaces to encouraging participation in active recreation. This means appropriate and accessible facilities such as change and toilet facilities for all users, shaded pathways, natural landscape settings, passive surveillance and a sense of safety, and ease of access to public open space.

Community **expectations are increasing** as to the quality of parks and sporting areas and the level of access to these. In particular, there is increasing awareness of "high quality" destination parks with regional scale play and active recreation elements.

The rise of **exercise and fitness as recreation** has meant that public parks have become the new venues for formal and informal group fitness and social exercise. This is increasing pressure on local parks as well increasing demand for shade and water as key elements.

The **infiltration of technology throughout our lives** means we have unlimited access to knowledge, information and engagement and expect instantaneous communication. There is potential for increased digitisation of public spaces through virtual and augmented play experiences and use of "smart" features, such as smart lights which can double as a WiFi node, smart benches with solar powered USB charging docs and interactive kiosks that provide information on weather and local news.

Increased value on the importance of our **environment and sustainability** will drive incorporation of sustainable design into parks and playspaces and creation of green spaces and corridors that mitigate urban heat island effects.

Increased pet ownership and the need to **exercise pets** is likely to increase demand for **dog friendly parks,** particularly in urban areas.

3.2. Trends that Influence How We Plan and Provide Open Space

Lessons from past planning failures have seen shifts in state policy and in how we think about the open space network:

Increasing multiple use of open space and the decline of "single purpose" use of public spaces

There is increasing acceptance of **multiple use of open space** to achieve a number of outcomes. But there are challenges as incompatible uses can greatly diminish the recreation value of a space if design does not consider what is "fit for purpose" for recreational uses. In some cases, attempting multiple use can be more costly and less effective.

With **good design and sufficient space,** multiple uses of open space can support recreation, pathways, protection of riparian environments and management of stormwater.

There has also been increased awareness that **single purposes sporting uses can be inefficient** and inequitable. Some uses such as golf courses can "constrain" large areas of public land, which, if not being used to capacity, may have the potential to help address undersupply of parkland and sporting space.

Many local governments are facing **increasing financial constraints** on the funding of infrastructure and future maintenance obligations. Planning and finance controls such as contributions caps and borrowing restraints have meant that funding parks and recreation facilities is increasingly difficult. A key challenge is to deliver open space and recreation infrastructure in a timely manner as demand emerges in urban growth areas.

Over recent years in a number of urban areas in Australia, the **use of public land for golf courses** has been reviewed in the light of increasing demand for open space and declining land availability. Responses include redevelopment to recreation park[7]; increasing public access for non golf use, increasing multiple use through scheduling and reduction in size of course/ number of holes to increase multiple uses of the land.

Sporting precincts and fields are also able to support formal and informal uses and should be designed to encourage multiple-use and particularly for nearby residents-rather than being locked away for sport only.

Changes in sport delivery from traditional home-and-away competition and training patterns with introduction of new formats are changing the facility mix at sport parks and precincts, and in some cases requiring playing surfaces/ field of play that are more resilient to use and wear. These facilities can cater for higher numbers of users and uses through the week/ season.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is a key driver of multiple-use open space attempting the integration of waterway protection and stormwater treatment systems into public open space. This can see drainage swales, gross pollution traps, filtration wetlands, detention basins and similar elements designed into larger area of public parkland.

Multiple use can also ensure that areas designed primarily for water treatment, drainage and flood management can be enhanced, through good multiple use design, to **provide additional recreation opportunity such as trails and small recreation nodes.**

Where appropriate, planning for multiple use can **increase the diversity of outdoor recreation** opportunities and reap increased value for the community from infrastructure investment.

[7] *In Brisbane the inner city Victoria Park Public Golf Course will be redeveloped as major destination parklands.*

3.3. The NSW Approach to Planning Open Space for Sport and Recreation

The **Urban Green Infrastructure Policy (Greener Places) (NSW)** was released by the state government in 2017 and the **Draft Greener Places Design Guide** was released in 2020 which includes guidance on planning Open Space for Recreation.

The Greener Places[8] document aims to create a networked urban ecosystem of green space that encompasses parks and open spaces to help create a healthier, more liveable and resilient place to live. The policy advocates for green infrastructure to be considered as essential infrastructure throughout the urban design process, from strategy to construction and maintenance.

The objectives of the draft policy are:

- To protect, conserve and enhance NSW's network of green and open natural and cultural spaces
- To secure a network of high quality, high performing and well-designed green space, establishing a crucial component of urban infrastructure to address the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century
- To promote healthy living, encouraging physical activity, social cohesion, and enhancing wellbeing by providing liveable places for the NSW community
- To create a more strategic approach to planning for Green Infrastructure, encouraging early and integrated investment through statutory planning
- To deliver better tools for the delivery of Green Infrastructure across NSW.

The **Draft Greener Places Design Guide (released in 2020) - (Open Space for Recreation)** proposes a new framework for planning. In summary it advocates:

- A shift in focus from reliance on simplified measures such as hectares per 1000 people to a performance approach combining a number of measures.
- An emphasis on the recreation opportunity outcomes required and defining the spaces needed to support these.
- A recognition that existing parks have a capacity and can only accommodate so much use before additional land is needed.
- Increased multiple use of open space and other public spaces such as within schools.
- It details a range of performance criteria that guide successful planning and delivery. These criteria include:
  - Accessibility and Connectivity
  - Distribution
  - Size and Shape
  - Quantity
  - Quality
  - Diversity.

This guide has informed the Open Space Strategy and provided significant guidance on the planning principles and performance criteria used for open space planning in particular

[8] *Source: https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/policies/greener-places*

4. Stakeholder Engagement Snapshot

The results of stakeholder engagement are summarised below. For the full detail, please refer to the Engagement Report.

The community and stakeholder engagement program was influenced by the constraints of Covid-19 and necessary adaptions in response to health requirements.

4.1. How We Engaged

- Information on Council's '**Your Voice Our Coast**' web-site
- **Social media** posts across councils platforms
- An on-line **community survey** – 438 responses
- An on-line **survey of community user groups and organisations** – 95 responses
- **Workshop with Council officers** representing a range of related areas
- 2 workshops with **key community stakeholder** agencies

4.2. Community Survey

4.2.1. Most Popular Activities

The most popular activities were:

- **Mountain biking - 57%**
- **Swimming at the beach/ waterways - 50%**
- **Walking/ running on trails and bush paths - 49%**
- **Cycling on roads and bikeways - 37%**
- **Water sports (SUP, paddling, surfing, water-skiing) - 34%**
- **Walking the dog or taking dog to an off-leash space - 30%**
- **Gym, fitness centre or health club training - 25%**

A high number of respondents indicated they participated in in multiple activities each week. The prevalent activities undertaken multiple times per week were:

- Walking the dog or taking dog to an off-leash space
- Going to the Gym, fitness centre or health club training
- Mountain biking

4.2.2. Activity Aspirations:

Approximately one third of respondents indicated an interest in other activities they were unable to participate in for a range of reasons:

- 31% of the desired activity responses mentioned mountain bike riding or aspects related to this activity (types of trails, sanctioned use, pump tracks etc).
- 10% were cycling based (continuous trails, off-road options etc)
- 9% mentioned exercise options (access to equipment and programs etc)
- Of the range of reasons inhibiting/ preventing people from participating, the most frequent response was lack of available facilities.

4.2.3. Important Features of Popular Facilities:

The most important attracters in choosing local parks, reserves, facilities or trails:

- Bikeways/ pathways for walking, running or riding
- Good quality activity surface
- Access to amenities, toilets and change rooms
- Access to car parking.

4.2.4. Encouraging Physical Activity

Suggestions to increase/ enhance active lifestyles were:

- Improved supportive infrastructure (shade, amenities, benches, bins, water and storage).
- Open space, parks and reserves (including sports fields and walking paths) are important to have and need to be well maintained.
- Increase sports programs, active lifestyle activities and infrastructure (e.g., outdoor fitness equipment and wharfs/ jetties to access lakes).
- Maintain natural bushland and ensure ecological sustainability.
- Improve water quality in the lake
- Increase single track MTB trails
- Separate bike and walking trails
- Increased provision of fenced off leash dog areas
- Accessible and inclusive spaces.

4.3. Community Organisations and User Groups

4.3.1. Facility Satisfaction

Of the sport facilities and reserves used for these activities, most respondents indicated their level of satisfaction was either *satisfied* or *neutral*.

Reasons for dissatisfaction were mostly associated with:

Quality of **playing surface**

—

Access to fields/facilities (availability)

—

Quality of **amenities** (change and toilets) and need for female friendly amenities

4.3.2. Key Issues for Organisations

From a range of issues that typically impact community organisations, difficulty attracting and retaining volunteers was ranked as the issue causing the most impact. Other important issues included:

- Cost of hiring or maintaining facilities
- Storage
- Spectator amenities
- Availability of coaches and instructors
- Lack of access to fields and facilities
- Facility condition

4.3.3. Future Priorities

Priorities for facilities were primarily in relation to amenities (including female friendly change rooms), storage, maintenance, cleanliness, and access.

Organisational priorities focused on building/ retaining membership, supporting volunteers, training and coaching and better use and sharing of resources.

4.4. Key Stakeholders

Key Themes emerging:

- Well distributed, located, accessible multiple-use facilities and opportunities
- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and natural assets of the region with facility design and development that contributes to sustainability, incorporating elements that contribute to liveable environments
- Recognition that the larger combined local government is positive for consistent and integrated facility planning, development and delivery
- Facilities, activities, services and programs that are adaptive, inclusive and accessible 'cradle to grave' offerings where all members of the community have opportunities to engage in active lifestyles at all stages of life
- The settlement pattern of the area provides challenges to equitable and accessible facilities and opportunities
- Optimally utilised and quality facilities and opportunities were recognised as being the ideal; with issues raised about timely renewal/ replacement of aged/ deficient assets and restricted access to some facilities
- Consideration to aspects of sport and recreation activity delivery/ provision that prioritise participation instead of competition being the primary (and only in some cases) choice.

4.5. Implications for the Open Space Strategy

The **community is generally supportive** of Council's role and efforts in providing infrastructure and opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

Improved opportunities for incidental or **self-directed outdoor recreation** can arise from improved maintenance of a range of setting types, increased capacity on pathways (cycling, walking), and increased focus on inclusive and accessible spaces.

Support for a **needs-based assessment** to prioritise provision of and investment in, public open space as well as **increased multiple use** and design of flexible and adaptable spaces.

Club and association facility/ infrastructure issues reflect the broader community comments on **maintenance, quality and accessibility.** Priorities for improving organisational viability focused on building/ retaining membership, supporting volunteers and recruiting/ retaining coaches and instructors. Improved multiple use and sharing of facilities and resources is also important.

5. Supply of Open Space for Recreation and Sport

This strategy focuses on:

- Public open space **owned or managed by Council** within the urban and suburban areas of the Central Coast
- Public open space needed by residents and visitors for a range of formal and informal outdoor recreation, physical activity and sport activities
- Supply of land for sport and recreation for the **next 10 years.**

The strategy does not consider the detailed needs of individual sports and other organised activity, which is addressed through separate or future planning.

While the strategy is primarily concerned with parks and sporting areas in the ownership or control of Council, these public lands are supplemented by other spaces managed by state government agencies (e.g. National Parks, Schools) and sporting clubs who own their land.

5.1. Classification Framework

The existing network of open space for sport and recreation has been classified according to:

- **Primary Purpose -** the high-level purpose of the land parcel (such as sport, conservation, recreation etc.) as described in Figure 2 below and
- **Function -** the specific type of provision that the land is used for (e.g. community facility, sport, recreation park etc.) as described at Figure 3.

Most public open spaces will have a main function (such as sport, recreation, conservation or natural/built heritage) and may also support secondary, or multiple functions (such as conservation areas that support walking tracks or sporting areas that provide general park opportunities).

The assessment of the existing supply has been undertaken considering the Primary Purpose definitions outlined below. Environmental open space, natural areas/ bushland, private open space/ sport land and other open space such as drainage, flood mitigation/ retention areas and detention basins all contribute to an open space network, however these "types" are not *public open space for recreation and sport*, and as such are not included in supply and planning analysis.

Figure 2: Primary Purpose of (Public) Open Space

Community Parkland/ General Recreation

- May offer a range of activities for various uses
- Spaces for social engagement
- Local, district and regional levels.

Sport and Active Recreation

- Support formal and organised sport use
- Often adjacent to community open space
- Generally service District and Regional catchments.

Civic, Heritage and Cultural Spaces

- Spaces in urban settings such as squares, malls and plazas
- Developed, formalised spaces adjacent to community or commercial centres
- Sites that celebrate local culture and history
- Not provided according to a hierarchy, but generally service district or higher.

Foreshores

- Not provided according to a hierarchy
- Can have local, district or regional significance
- Can include lake, river and ocean foreshores
- Can include facilities such as surf life saving clubs, ocean/ rock pools and kiosk/ cafe and viewing areas.

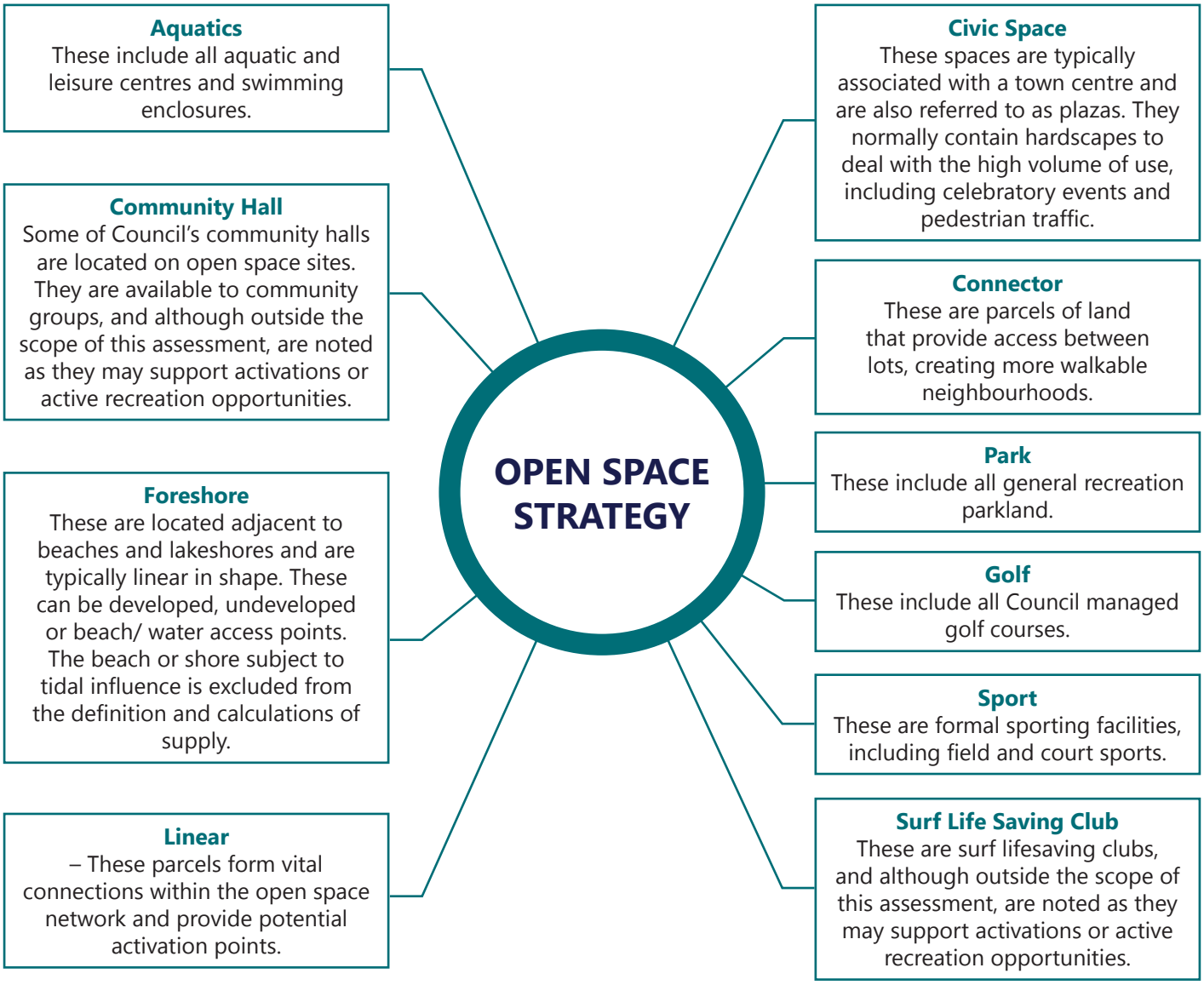
Linear Open Space

- Can be multiple use and provide a number of functions
- Can include modified waterways, disused transport corridors, active transport links, extended foreshore areas and green links.

5.1.1. Functional Assessment

Open space for sport, general community use and park has been further classified into the following, based on an assessment of their main function:

Figure 3: Functional Types for the Open Space Strategy (Sport, General Community Use, Park)



5.1.2. Distribution of Public Open Space and Access

Across the Central Coast:

- 41.6% is primarily Sport
- 30.9% of the assessed open space network (excluding natural areas) is Park
- 24.7% is (developed/ accessible) Foreshore, demonstrating the importance of this type in the region and to local communities.
- The balance is made up of aquatics, civic space, community hall, connector, linear and SLSC.
- An additional 205.3Ha of public land is contained within golf courses.

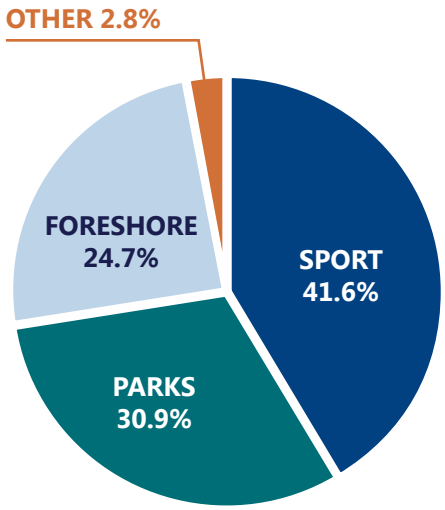


Figure 4: Composition of Public Open Space in Central Coast (excluding Golf Courses)

5.1.3. Size of Public Open Space Areas

Size is a critical qualitative criterion in considering whether a site is fit-for-purpose and has the capacity to accommodate use. Very small parks (often called "pocket parks") have limited ability to accommodate recreation use and are inefficient to maintain. However some small parcels, especially those associated with linear open space can be useful as active transport linkages or use nodes along waterway corridors. They can also complement other public space such as squares or plazas.

Within the Central Coast 22 sites/ parks are smaller than 1,000 m2 and have been identified as non-conforming to a minimum functional area assessment. As part of Council's upcoming District Place Plan project, which will be completed for each Social Planning District, the long-term value of these parcels will be investigated and a future use determined.

5.2. Supply Assessment and High-Level Population Benchmarks

5.2.1. Council-wide Supply Rates

Across the whole Council area the rate of provision is:

Land for Recreation Parks
(includes foreshores, parks and linear open space)

1.83 Ha /1000

Land for Sport

1.12 Ha /1000

Table 2 summarises and compares the area of open space within each planning area against 2021 and 2031 populations, showing this as the provision rate (hectares of open space per 1,000 people).

Table 2: Summary of Open Space Provision by Planning Area (2021 and projected 2031)[9]

NO.	PLANNING AREA	2021			2031		
		Population	Total Open Space	Rate of supply (Ha / 1000 Residents)	Population	Total Open Space	Rate of supply (Ha / 1000 Residents)
1	Mountains and Valleys	8,419	29.95	3.56	8,797	29.95	3.40
2	Peninsula	52,058	154.75	2.97	53,175	154.75	2.91
3	Gosford Central	23,066	82.02	3.56	27,154	82.02	3.02
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	68,149	152.39	2.24	68,432	152.39	2.23
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	36,718	77.24	2.10	38,337	77.24	2.01
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	55,861	186.48	3.34	60,532	186.48	3.08
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	61,133	174.88	2.86	82,202	209.35*	2.55
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	49,511	187.88	3.79	55,389	187.88	3.38
	Central Coast Council	**354,915**	**1,127.59**	**2.95**	**394,019**	**1,162.06**	**2.65**

* *Includes additional supply for planning area 7 based on the inclusion of land identified in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021.*

[9] *Provided by Central Coast Council and Profile ID in 2021)*

5.2.2. Benchmarks for Future Planning

Based on current supply and existing benchmarks[10], acknowledging that the data indicates mixed supply levels, and adopting a principle of no net loss of functional open space, it is recommended the following high-level benchmarks be adopted:

Land for Sport
1.3 Ha / 1,000
(being the rate identified by Otium's Demand Analysis Model[11] and just below the current rate of supply)

Land for Recreation
(general parkland)
1.8 Ha / 1,000
(being a rate between past adopted benchmarks and close to the existing level of supply)

Total Land for Recreation and Sport
3.1 Ha / 1000

The following table applies these recommended benchmarks to current supply to assess current (2021) and future (2031) supply (expressed as demand) surplus or deficit. The projected surpluses or deficits have been determined on the basis of no planned increases on 'current supply', with the exception of achieving the increases outlined in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021[12] (which anticipates 11.34 Ha of land for sport and 24.62 Ha of land for recreation parks).

Table 3: Central Coast Open Space Supply Assessment - revised benchmarks - 2021 and 2031

	CURRENT SUPPLY (HA)	2021 DEMAND (HA)	2021 SURPLUS/ DEFICIT (HA)	2031 DEMAND (HA)	2031 SURPLUS/ DEFICIT (HA)
Land for sport: **1.3 Ha / 1,000**	397.99	461.39	-63.40	512.22	-114.23
Land for recreation (general parkland): **1.8 Ha / 1,000**	647.59	638.85	8.75	709.23	-61.64
Total Land for Recreation and Sport: **3.1 Ha / 1,000**	1,045.58	1,100.24	-54.66	1,221.46	-175.87 (less 35.28 Ha from Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021) -140.59 deficit

Note the above high-level benchmarks do not include natural areas and conservation lands and assume that the land provided for sport and recreation is fit for purpose, sufficiently accessible and able to be developed and maintained for a reasonable cost.

Benchmarks are mostly relevant for high level analysis. Effective planning for future provision should be undertaken at catchment level and focused on the quality and performance criteria detailed in the provision framework (refer Sections7.3 and 7.4).

> ***While the city-wide summary indicates a slight deficit against the proposed Open Space Benchmarks, Council has the opportunity to address the gap through Strategic Open Space Planning in the coming decade.***

[10] *Central Coast currently uses a range of supply benchmarks related to prior planning and contributions plans.*

[11] *Demand calculated using Otiums Demand Assessment Model (refer to Section 6.2).*

[12] *Since the originalpreparation of this strategy the final Wanervale Contributions Plan was adopted in 2021 whcih resulted in a slight increase of provision of around 0.8 Ha)*

5.3. Planning Area Supply Analysis

As outlined in Section 2.6, Council has identified eight (8) planning areas to guide more detailed analysis of supply and planning for future needs. The following section summarises the supply within, and comparisons between, Planning Areas.

5.3.1. Overall Supply within Planning Areas

The supply of open space within each Planning Area is summarised in Table 4 below. It is evident that supply is not evenly distributed across the Central Coast as a whole. The recommended benchmarks at Section 5.2.2 have been applied to the current and projected population for each Planning Area at Table 2, to calculate surpluses or deficits of open space.

Table 4: Summary of Surplus or Deficit in 2021 and projected 2031 Demand for Open Space in Planning Areas

PLANNING AREA #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Current Supply (Ha)	29.95	154.75	82.02	152.39	77.24	186.48	174.88	187.88
Projected 2031 Supply (Ha)	29.95	154.75	82.02	152.39	77.24	186.48	209.35[13]	187.88
Recommended benchmark - 3.1 Ha/ 1,000								
2021 Demand (Ha)	26.1	161.38	71.50	211.26	113.83	173.17	189.51	153.48
Surplus/ Def (Ha)	3.85	-6.63	10.51	-58.87	-36.59	13.31	-14.63	34.40
2031 Demand (Ha)	27.27	164.84	84.18	212.14	118.84	187.65	254.83	171.71
Surplus/ Def (Ha)	2.68	-10.09	-2.16	-59.75	-41.61	-1.17	-45.48	-16.17

The above table demonstrates that:

- Planning Areas 2, 4, 5 and 7 currently have a supply deficit with the deficit being significant in 4 and 5.
- In 2031 significant deficits will exist in Areas 4 and 5 and minor deficits in 2, 3 and 6
- The large deficit in Planning Area 7 will largely be addressed via the Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021 with a remaining 11 Ha deficit.

[13] *Includes projected additional land from Warnervale District Contributions Plan 2021*

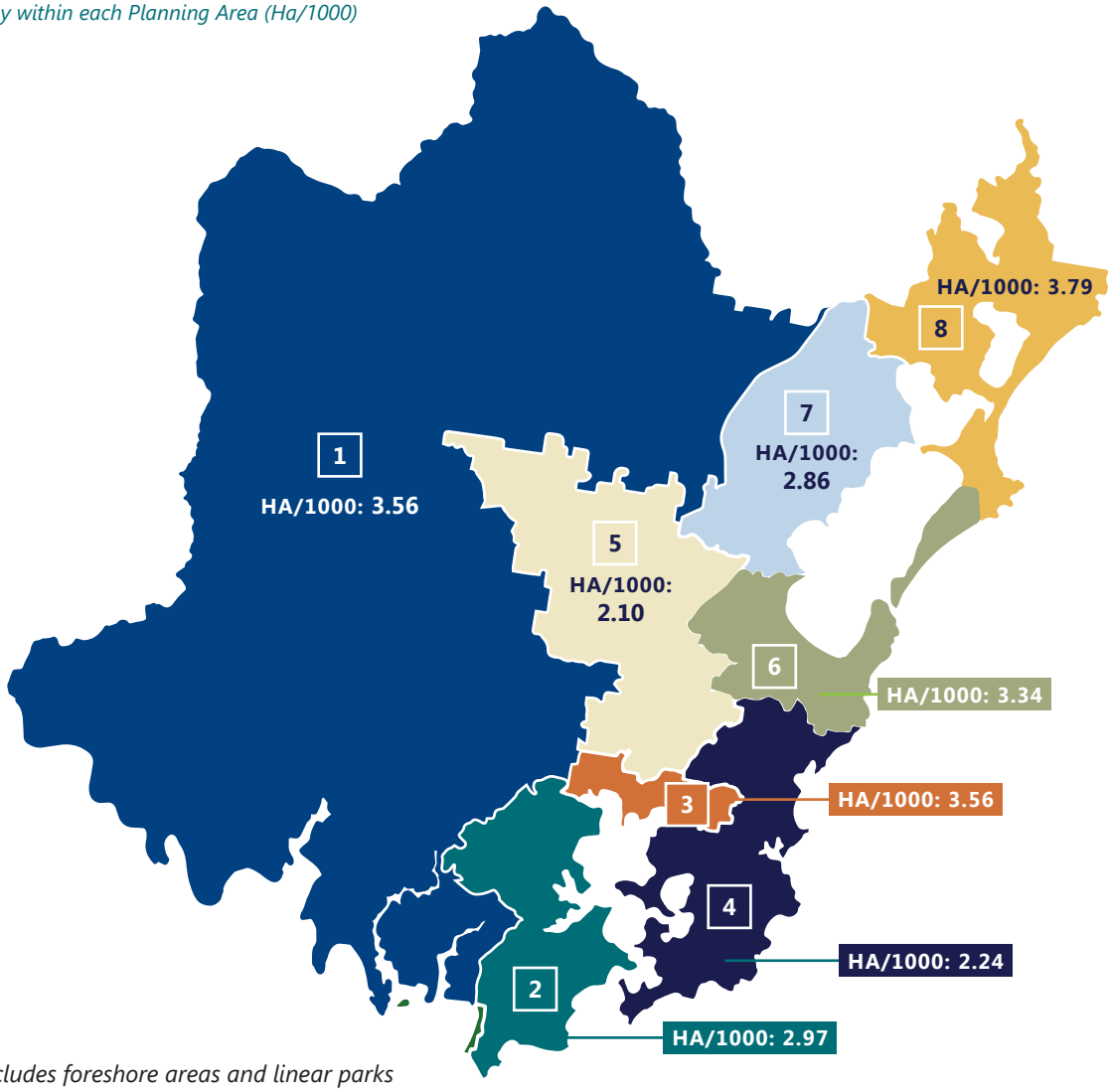
5.3.2. Summary of Comparison across Planning Areas

Across the Central Coast, the comparison of supply within each planning area is summarised below:

Table 5: Comparison of Open Space Types within each Planning Area (Ha/1000)

PA#	POPULATION	TOTAL RECREATION PARK (HA)	RATE OF RECREATION PARK SUPPLY HA/1000	TOTAL SPORTING PARK (HA)	RATE OF SPORT SUPPLY HA/1000	TOTAL OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION AND SPORT (HA)	HA/1000
1	8419	9.53	1.13	20.42	2.43	29.95	3.56
2	52058	106.59	2.05	48.16	0.93	154.75	2.97
3	23066	27.71	1.20	54.31	2.35	82.02	3.56
4	68149	101.53	1.49	50.86	0.75	152.39	2.24
5	36718	32.47	0.88	44.77	1.22	77.24	2.10
6	55861	129.57	2.32	56.91	1.02	186.48	3.34
7	61133	90.24	1.48	84.63	1.38	174.88	2.86
8	49511	149.95	3.03	37.92	0.77	187.87	3.97
Central Coast Council	354915	647.59	1.83	397.98	1.12	1045.57	2.95
Average across all Planning Areas			1.70		1.35		3.05

Figure 5: Supply by Hierarchy within each Planning Area (Ha/1000)



Note: Recreation Park includes foreshore areas and linear parks

5.3.3. Walkability assessment

The distribution and accessibility of public open space is a key performance measure in meeting the needs of the residential population. The ability to walk to a local park and the capacity of that park to accommodate recreation use are critical to creating active and healthy communities and consistently identified by the community as priorities.

The following graph (Figure 5) details the percentage of 2016[14] resident population that has access to open space for recreation within 400m[15] safe walking in each planning area.

The analysis considers the following:

- Safe walking access excludes multilane highways unless underpasses or other safe and functional crossing treatments are in place. Other barriers are railways, creeks, drainage lines etc.
- Low-density areas are excluded. Areas of low density (<5 People/ ha). These are typically rural residential areas where the provision of local (walk to) public open space is not required.

Key findings include:

- Across the the Central Coast Council area 8.85 % of the population (around 29,000 residents) live in urban areas and do not have access to any public open space within 400m walking distance.
- 82.62% have access to parks for recreation and a further 3.77% only have access to a sporting area. In addition, 4.76% of the population live in low-density areas where walkability assessment is not relevant.
- In each planning area, except Mountains and Valleys (1), a high proportion of the resident population has access to at least one open space area within walking distance.
- There is a smaller proportion of residents that do not have access to recreation parks but do have access to sporting land (these are indicated as Sport Only). The only sport facility within the Central Coast that has been excluded from this analysis is the Central Coast Stadium (Gosford)[16], recognising that the stadium is maintained for elite training and events and therefore is not accessible for general community sport or recreation.
- Potential strategies to address the access deficit include:
  - Identification of active transport links that can improve access to open space.
  - Development of "green street" connections to provide enhanced walkability and connectivity.
  - Acquisition of additional land, or easements to increase the permeability of, or access to, existing parks
  - Acquisition of land to provide new parks or to expand existing parks.
  - Improving local outdoor recreation opportunities with appropriate enhancement of bushland and conservation areas (trails and picnic areas).
  - Identification of other open space areas (such as school grounds, unused road corridors and buffers) that can be improved or enhanced as multiple purpose areas to provide local recreation opportunities.

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[14] *This assessment has utilised 2016 population data, as only census data is available at mesh-block level enabling this level of detail analysis*

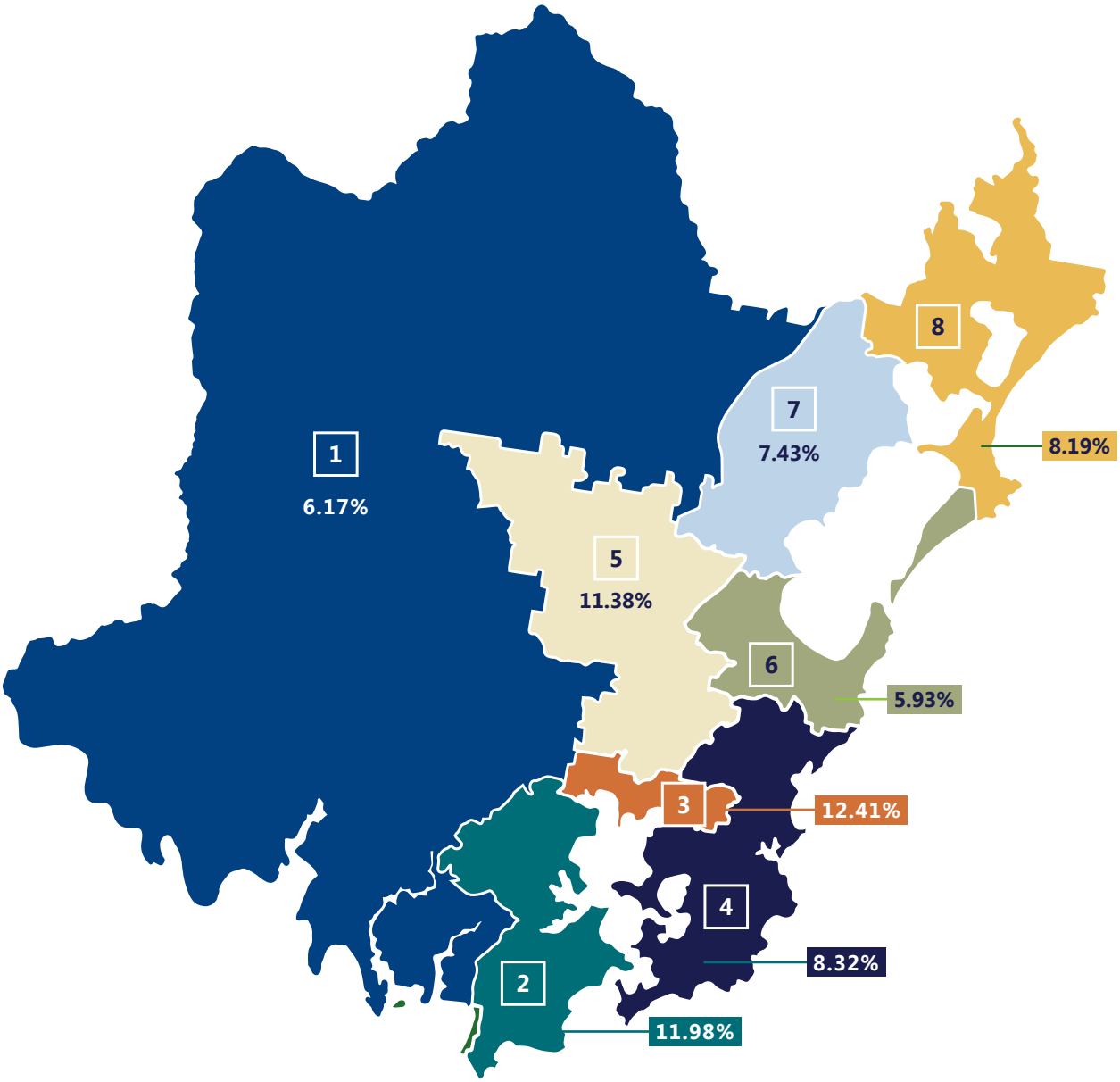
[15] *This is consistent with the "NSW Govt Draft Greener Places Design Guide" (p16) which indicates a performance standard for barrier-free access to a local park of 2-3 minutes walk/ 200m walking distance in high density areas (defined as >60 dwellings/ ha) and 5 minutes walk/ 400m walking distance in medium to low density areas (defined as <60 dwellings/ ha)*

[16] *The Central Coast Stadium is included in the calculation of overall supply of open space*

Table 6: Analysis of Walking Access to Parks and Sporting Areas

PA#	PLANNING AREA	RECREATION PARK ACCESS WITHIN 400M	NO PARK ACCESS BUT A SPORTING AREA WITHIN 400M	NO ACCESS TO PARK OR SPORTING AREA WITHIN 400M	% OF CATCHMENT LIVING IN LOW DENSITY
1	Mountains and Valleys	7.24%	14.37%	6.17%	72.22%
2	Peninsula	85.16%	1.76%	11.98%	0.11%
3	Gosford Central	78.77%	6.76%	12.41%	2.06%
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	81.9%	3.53%	8.32%	6.24%
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	82.34%	1.5%	11.38%	4.79%
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	85.92%	4.25%	5.93%	3.9%
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	84.28%	5.42%	7.43%	2.86%
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	89.05%	2.49%	8.19%	0.27%

Figure 6: Proportion of the residential population in urban areas with no access to public open space (park or sporting area) within 400m walk



5.4. Summary of Key Findings from the Supply Assessment

The key findings of the supply assessment are:

- The Central Coast Council average for supply is 1.83 Ha/ 1000 for recreation parks and 1.12 Ha/ 1000 for sporting parks. When the individual supply rates of each catchment are averaged, this changes to 1.7 Ha/1000 for recreation parks and 1.35 Ha/ 1000 for sporting parks.
- The high-level benchmark adopted for future planning is 1.8 Ha/ 1000 for recreation parks and 1.3 Ha/ 1000 for sporting parks.
- Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi (Planning Area 8) has the highest supply of open space yet further planning needs to be undertaken to identify additional Sporting Facilities for this catchment given projected population growth.
- Mountains and Valleys (Planning Area 1) has the lowest supply, however it has the smallest population and per capita provision exceeds 3.5 ha/ 1,000.
- Narara Valley and Ourimbah (Planning Area 5) has the lowest per capita rate of provision of 2.1 Ha / 1000 (2021 population).
- Across the planning areas, there are 22 sites at 1,000 m2 or less that require further/ detailed investigation, informed by local planning considerations, as to retention, improvement or alternative use. It may be that some of these sites could be improved/ expanded to help address deficits where they are located in an area of low supply.
- In some planning areas there is a prevalence of regional sites which provide local access to recreation opportunities.
- In the planning areas with significant lake and ocean foreshore, there is a heavy reliance on foreshores providing recreation space .
- Across Central Coast Council area 8.85 % of the population (around 29,000 residents) live in urban areas and do not have access to any public open space within 400m walking. 82.62% have access to parks for recreation and a further 3.77% only have access to a sporting area. In addition 4.76% of the population live in low density areas where walkability assessment is not relevant.
- The walkability assessments indicate that in catchments 2,3 and 5 there are around 12% of homes with no walkable access to any public open space. In other locations the only locally accessible (within 400m walk) open space is that of sporting parks. Not all of these are well developed for local recreation use. These sites will remain important for a range of recreation opportunities and should be planned and designed (future development and upgrades) to provide multiple uses/ opportunities, both formal sport and informal recreation use.

6. Future Demand Assessment

6.1. High-level Open Space Demand Assessment

Determining the demand for open space across Central Coast Council can use a high level benchmark (as detailed in Section 7.4). This is based on population projections and the proposed ratio of open space provision. It is acknowledged that determining this demand using only quantitative measures does not incorporate qualitative aspects such as functionality, quality and accessibility factors that are important in a sustainable open space network.

Table 7 applies the proposed provision standard against population projections for Central Coast Council to demonstrate the total quantum of open space required.

Table 7: Open Space Provision Standard - Demand Assessment

	2016	2021	2031
Population projections	335,309	354,915	394,019
Open Space Required (based on proposed supply benchmark of 3.1 Ha/ 1000)	1,039.46	1,100.24	1,221.46

6.2. Sport Facility Demand Assessment

Otium Planning Group has developed a Demand Assessment Model based on participation data, facility capacity, user requirements and a number of variables calibrated for the specific population.

This proprietary model allows a projection of the land area needed and the number of facilities required to accommodate the demand. Using the model provides a tool to test provision scenarios for future populations as well as assess the adequacy of current supply in terms of current or modelled demand. Demand for sporting facilities is modelled using a combination of the following data:

- Available sport activity participation data for the population.
- Modelling of the capacity of fields, courts or other facilities in terms of the number of users they can accommodate.
- Determination of the areas required to accommodate actual playing surface and ancillary space required for different facilities.
- Setting parameters for the modelled facilities around hours of operation, differences between training and competition use and average lengths of seasons relative to each sport.

6.2.1. Sporting Land Supply Needs to 2031

Based on the demand modelling the following sporting land needs have been identified.

Table 8: Summary of Sport Facility Land Requirements (Using Demand Modelling)

FACILITY TYPE	TOTAL SPACE REQUIRED (HA)		
	2016	2021	2031
Oval	210.00	218.4	243.60
Rectangle	196.88	205.44	231.12
Outdoor Courts	21.30	22.8	25.20
Indoor Courts	5.55	5.85	6.60
TOTAL	**433.73**	**452.49**	**506.52**
Averaged Supply Rate/1000 residents		1.3 Ha	

6.3. Future Demand Summary for Planning Areas

The following table represents the summary of projected future demand (2031) for sport, recreation park and total recreation and sport land, based on the existing current supply, with the exception of achieving the increases outlined in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan (2021). The calculations are based on the recommended benchmarks (refer Section 7.4) and the sporting land demand analysis completed above.

The 'deficit' indicates the priority areas that should be investigated to ensure that future populations have access to the required amount of open space:

« Planning Areas with deficits:
- Peninsula (2)
- East Brisbane Water & Coastal (4)
- Narara Valley & Ourimbah (5)
- Wyong, Warnervale & Gorokan (7)

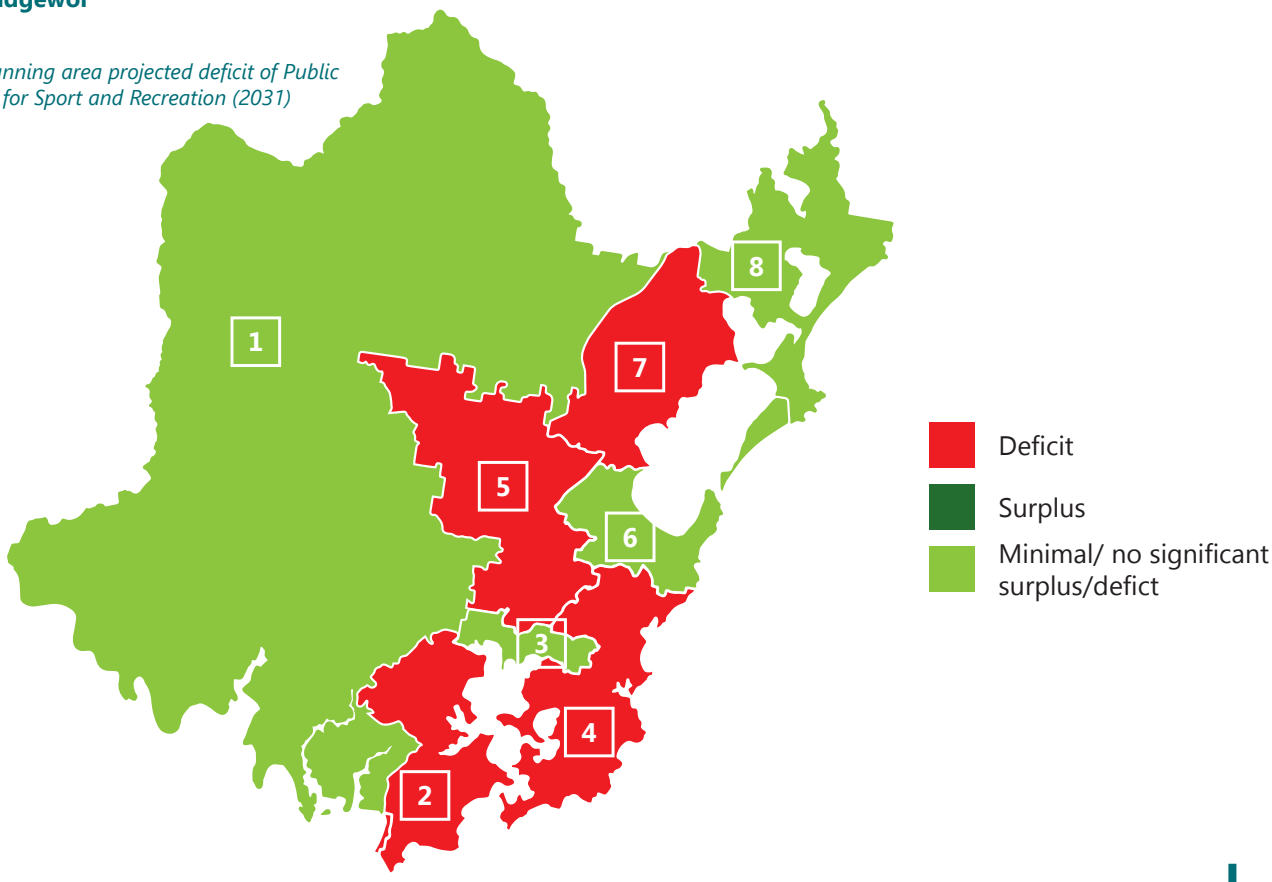
« Gosford Central (3) and Southern Lakes & The Entrance (6) have a minor surplus of total public open space in 2021, with no additional provision this will become a possible minor deficit by 2031.

2031 Public Open Space for Sport and Recreation - Additional land needed

Table 9: Demand Summary for Sport and Recreation Park - Projected for 2031

PA#	PLANNING AREA	POPULATION 2031	SURPLUS/ DEFICIT (HA)		
			SPORT	RECREATION PARK	TOTAL LAND FOR RECREATION AND SPORT
1	Mountains and Valleys	8,797	8.99	-6.31	2.68
2	Peninsula	53,175	-20.96	10.87	-10.09
3	Gosford Central	27,154	19.01	-21.17	-2.16
4	East Brisbane Water and Coastal	68,432	-38.10	-21.65	-59.75
5	Narara Valley and Ourimbah	38,337	-14.15	-27.46	-41.61
6	Southern Lakes and The Entrance	60,532	-21.78	20.61	-1.17
7	Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan	82,202	-10.89	-34.59	-45.48 (less 35.28 proposed in the Warnervale District Contributions Plan) -10.2
8	Northern Lakes, San Remo and Budgewoi	55,389	-21.27	30.25	8.98

Figure 7: Planning area projected deficit of Public Open Space for Sport and Recreation (2031)



7. Policy & Strategy Framework

7.1. Vision

COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY VISION:

We are one Central Coast. A smart, green and liveable region with a shared sense of belonging and responsibility.

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY VISION:

We are an active Central Coast with a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities accessible to all residents.

7.2. Guiding Principles

Council will implement the Vision using the following guiding principles:

Recognising the importance our open space network provides in relation to a **range of environmental benefits.**

A greater diversity of open space opportunities can be achieved through **engaging and partnering** with the community and other agencies in planning and provision.

Open space infrastructure be constructed of sustainable materials and be **aesthetically appropriate, fit-for-purpose, and robust** to withstand intensity of use, be resistant to vandalism, and enhance the sustainability of the asset.

Investment in open space, sport and recreation infrastructure should **maximise the return for the community.** This means that land proposed for sport and recreation should be fit for purpose and of sufficient quality to support multiple uses and changing activity trends, without being unreasonably expensive to develop or maintain.

Central Coast values its open space network and future provision should ensure there is **no net loss of fit for purpose parks and sporting areas.**

Participation in active recreation will be increased through providing a **greater diversity of opportunities** and more flexible use of public spaces.

Provision of open space should support sport and active recreation opportunities that **meet the changing needs** of different age and demographic groups.

Equity of access to a range of open spaces for sport, recreation and outdoor recreation will be central to planning and future provision. This means improving both the physical accessibility of spaces and places as well as ensuring more equitable distribution of opportunities.

7.3. Proposed Provision Framework - Public Open Space for Recreation and Sport

A proposed provision framework for the Central Coast has been developed around a set of performance criteria to ensure that the network of open space providing for sport and recreation is:

- Fit for Purpose- able to accommodate use, not constrained by other or adjacent uses, and affordable to develop and maintain
- Accessible – located within walking distance (for local parks), visible, able to be accessed easily and can be designed for inclusion
- Comprised of parks and open space areas that are a suitable size and shape to be used for recreation or sport
- Diverse in the range of landscape settings supporting parks and providing diverse activations within each site
- Supportive of a range of co-located recreation uses and shared use of spaces including access to sporting spaces for informal recreation.

The provision framework provides guidance on multiple performance features for parks at local, district and regional levels and for district and regional sporting parks.

7.3.1. Open Space for Recreation

Table 10: Draft Provision Framework for Open Space and Recreation Parks

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Size Distribution & Accessibility			
Preferred Minimum Size: Minimum sizes are not the "*preferred size*", it is a minimum. It is recommended that park sizes are larger where possible and a diversity of sizes 0.5 Ha and above is the target	0.5-1ha	1 -4ha	4ha +
Shape	More regular shapes preferred over linear open space. No edge/ boundary to be less than 20 m.	Shape can be variable but no edge/ boundary to be less than 50 m.	Shape can be variable, but in general edges/ boundaries should be greater than 50 m.
Linear – tracks, trails, pathways	Connections between residential streets, active transport network and activity spaces Widths and surface treatments to align with Council's design standards, including Universal Design Principles		
Minimum width for **access points**	Greater than 15 m wide (excluding the width of creeks or waterways measured from the top of bank). If part of a pathway or linear access connection or providing a minor entry point, then 10 m minimum width providing it is no longer than 20 m.		
Useable Area/ Hazard free The "*functional*" area of the park- the amount of space fit for recreation use and public activity. (refer to Quality Criteria)	75% of site useable, free of hazards For parks proposed to be less than 0.5 Ha an absolute minimum useable area of 3000 m2	75% of site useable and free of hazards to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access	Must have at least 50% flood free and level land to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access.
Service Area/ population and access radius	Local neighbourhood/ suburban area; one park for every 1,500 persons	Serves a number of suburbs or planning catchment; one park for every 5,000-10,000 persons. District parks also serves local catchment i.e. its locality provide	Serves whole council area and some regional (beyond Central Coast Council) demand. Major destination parks also serves local and district catchment i.e. its locality.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Proximity - Distance from Residential Dwellings	80% of all residential dwellings to have access within 400-500 m or 5-minute safe walking distance. 100% of dwellings to have access within 800m safe walking distance. (Note excludes rural and large lot areas)	80% of all residents to have access within 25 minutes walk/ 2km or 10 min drive 100% of dwellings to have access within 5 km. Should include off-street parking and connect to active transport networks	All dwellings to have access to a major regional or large Central Coast wide "destination" park within 10-20 km, or up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle. Connected to active transport networks and public transport routes.
Access and equity	One or more access points appropriately sited to connect with local access network Access by path to perimeter-footpaths and kerb ramps. If larger playgrounds, picnic shelters and BBQs are provided then continuous paths of travel are required, to allow for people with mobility challenges. All new/ replacement/ upgraded parks to comply with/ consider Everyone Can Play Guidelines and Central Coast Council's Disability Inclusion and Access Plan.	Multiple access points appropriately sited to connect with local access network Access by path into park and connecting to picnic and play facilities and toilets. Off-street accessible parking to be provided. Fitness and exercise nodes to be accessible and provide inclusive/ all abilities elements.	Should be highly accessible with inclusive pathway access to all key activity areas, picnic areas and toilets. Highly accessible with multiple access points appropriately sited to connect with local access network Minimal barriers to access and inclusive access to key activity areas, play spaces, picnic areas and toilets. Off street parking. Wayfinding to support inclusion.
Proximity for Commercial and Retail areas	Provision of civic and community uses and mixed use areas, local parks or district parks to provide access within 5-10 minutes walk of commercial and retail areas such as town centres.		N/A
Road frontage	Minimum 50% road frontage, with minimum 2 roads or combined road and public use area (e.g. major foreshore and multi-use pathway). Linear systems should have at least 25% road frontage with no section of road frontage less than 50m		
Capacity Assessment for Existing Parkland[18] to determine future needs, *more applicable in higher density residential areas*	Deemed to be exceeding capacity if the population within 500 m of a park exceeds a user ratio of 1,500 per 5000m2 (3.3 m2 per person) of parkland[19]. Any areas less than 1000 m2 are deemed to have available capacity exhausted.	Deemed to be exceeding capacity if more than 5,000 residents per 1 ha (2 m2 per person) of district parkland, are within 5 km.[20]	No fixed measure.

[18] *Assessing the capacity of an existing park identifies if it has any capacity to accommodate additional demand.*

[19] *Based on 50% of population represent peak use (750 people) times the minimum area needed (8.3 m2). This means that a minimum of 6,225 m2 is needed for the peak demand. This has been discounted to 5,000m2 as a conservative measure.*

[20] *Assumes 25% of catchment = peak demand. At minimum sizes this is 2.7 m2 per person. This has been further discounted to 2m2 per person.*

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Diversity of Opportunity			
Provision for **Group Use**	Individuals, carers with children, family groups	Family and social groups. Small to medium sized groups, informal sport, sport training and competitions	All group sizes up to large groups, festivals, markets, sporting competitions and events
Number of activations[21] **-** Uses/ activities	5 or more activations including: « Local Play « General recreation « Active spaces « Pathways « Community gardening « Tables and seats « Drinking water	10 or more activations including: « Play for young children, play for older children (e.g., nature play and adventure play) « Inclusive design for parks and play spaces « Exercise and active recreation « Informal field « Sport courts « Recreation spaces for young people « Paths and trails « Access points for water based recreation « General picnic and recreation « Dog-off leash area « Interaction with nature « Areas for relaxation and contemplation « Public art/ cultural spaces/ history interpretation	Multiple use nodes and more than 20 activations: « Multiple users and activities « Long stay sites « All elements of a District park plus additional features such as kiosks, cafes, built sport or community facilities « Can be combined sport and recreation
Play equipment	May provide local play for children up to 6 years old or children 6-12 years old in accordance with CCC Playspace Strategy and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Inclusive play space design considering/ complying with *Everyone Can Play Guidelines.*	May provide a diversity of play opportunities for children up to 6 years old, children 6-12 years, or youth recreation space (13+ years old) in accordance with CCC Playspace Strategy and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Inclusive play space design considering/ complying with *Everyone Can Play Guidelines.*	Should provide a diversity of play opportunities in accordance with CCC Playspace Strategy and Disability Inclusion and Access Plan. Inclusive play space design considering/ complying with *Everyone Can Play Guidelines.*
Other facilities (bicycle circuit, pump track, outdoor gym, skate park, BMX track)	Not standard	Yes, as determined by appropriate facility/ activity provision strategy and site/ facility master plan	
Other/ Special features	Interpretive or other information features if special values exist (e.g. cultural, environmental or heritage)	Special features may be associated with key activations such as youth spaces or destination play spaces. Interpretive or other information features if special values exist (e.g. cultural, environmental or heritage)	Sculptural art (consistent with Council's Public Art Policy in Civic Parks of regional significance), fountains/ water features Interpretive or other information features if special values exist (e.g. cultural, environmental or heritage)

[21] *An activation is an element, piece of equipment or feature that encourages use and activity within the park.*

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Duration - average Length of Stay	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 2 hours	Extended stays of more than 2 hours.
Site Quality/ Land Suitability Performance Criteria General considerations also include continuous natural soil , connection to natural groundwater, and protection of any natural vegetation			
Hazards and Constraints	Free of hazards and constraints to community use such as contaminated land, High voltage transmission lines and adjacent noxious industry.		
Safety and Design	Consider CPTED[22] principles; should have good road frontage, legible access point/s and visibility from surrounding residents and traffic.		
Buffers and Adjacent Land Use	Consider adjacent uses and be adequately buffered from incompatible uses. Solutions may include vegetation corridors, planted mounds and fencing.		
Flooding and other hazards	All built amenities and visitor facilities above 1% AEP levels. For paths and bridges, 5% AEP is acceptable if these are designed for site conditions.		
	Main use area free of regular flooding (i.e. above 10% AEP[23]) with at least 10% of total area above 2% AEP levels. No more than 10 % of site to be impacted by Constructed drains or stormwater treatment mechanisms. Detention and retention basins generally not suitable for parkland. Multiple Use open space solutions may be considered in some circumstances (e.g. infill development) providing all other performance criteria concerning safe and functional space can be met.	Main use area free of regular flooding (i.e. above 10% AEP) with at least 10% of total area above 2% AEP levels. Constructed drains or detention basins not suitable for parkland.	All use areas above 10% AEP. Free of other physical hazards. Constructed drains or detention basins not suitable for parkland.
Slope and Topography	1:25 for main use area 1:6 for remainder	1:25 for main use area Variable topography for remainder	Varies Use areas (e.g. picnic facilities) 1:20
Visibility	Good visibility from surrounding residents. Narrow linear shapes not preferred	Should have good visibility from surrounding residents and traffic	Should have good visibility from surrounding residents and traffic

[22] *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*

[23] *AEP - Annual exceedance probability. A 1% AEP is a 1 in 100 year chance of flooding and 10% is a 1 in 10 year chance.*

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Solar Access	Solar access is an important consideration for both the quality of the user experience as well as the quality of public open spaces including turf and tree health. In high density areas where residential development is predominantly tower based there is both a high need for access to outdoor space and sunlight and a risk that poor design can "shade out" public open space. Approvals for multi-storey development must consider the impact on solar coverage of adjacent public open space areas. Ensure that all public open space sites will receive at least 3 hours of sunlight across 75% or more of the area, on the winter solstice - 21 June.		
Site Infrastructure			
Public Toilets/ amenities	Not normally provided. May be provided if the local park is the only park servicing a community and/ or has extended stays	Yes - universally accessible toilets	Depending on size and location of activity areas, may need more than one universally accessible toilets including adult changing facility possibly co-located with park kiosk/ cafe.
Seating	Number and location of seats assessed on a case-by-case basis	Several park bench seats	Park bench seats throughout the park
BBQ	Not normally provided. May be required where a local park is servicing a small community or has higher use	Several, some covered	Numerous, some covered
General waste and recycling bin	Yes	Several	Numerous
Picnic Table	0-1	Several	Numerous
Covered Picnic Table	No, not normally provided unless insufficient natural shade	Several	Numerous and covered group area
Shade Structure	No, not normally provided. Shade structures may be required as a temporary or permanent measure for play spaces, until tree plantings reach maturity.	Yes. Over play spaces, youth space, picnic areas. Preference is for natural shade, however, can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient.	Yes, multiple locations and purposes. Preference is for natural shade, however, can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient.
Natural Shade	Preferred for all use areas and to help shade playgrounds and activations. Overall parks should have 40% natural shade coverage of main use areas between 9am and 3pm in summer. For sites that provide open, active spaces such as general open space, an informal field or playing field/s, 40% shading of the perimeter of the active space. Location of trees and root plate pattern to be determined in relation to location of courts to prevent root incursion and potential damage to the court surface and substrate. If required, trees to be planted in growth cell when in close proximity to infrastructure to prevent root incursion.		
Pathways	Minimum 1.5m wide pathways to play equipment and to toilets or BBQ areas if present.	Shared pathways (minimum 2.5m wide) provide circulation and connection with active transport network. Paths provided to play and picnic facilities.	Numerous and shared pathways linking activity nodes and to active transport network
Parking	On street parking Includes accessible parking providing access to facilities.	On street and some off-street parking including accessible parking bays.	Internal roads and parking areas.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	LOCAL RECREATION PARK	DISTRICT RECREATION PARK	REGIONAL RECREATION PARK
Signage	Park location and identity signs. Wayfinding signage if part of open space network or linked to active transport network.	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage where appropriate.	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage.
	All signage to be in accordance with Council's Design Guidelines		
Lighting	No internal lighting, unless proposed for civic space. Streetlights adjacent to entry points.	Lighting for carpark, toilets, picnic areas, internal pathways, siting and type determined by safety in design planning. Other lighting assessed on case-by-case basis.	Lighting for carpark, toilets, youth space, active recreation spaces, picnic areas, internal pathways, siting and type determined by safety in design planning.
Power, Technology and CCTV	Not required	Power may be provided to activity spaces where deemed necessary. CCTV assessed on a case-by-case basis. Wi-fi may be provided at youth spaces, picnic areas and at sport facilities.	
Landscaping: design of landscape and planting areas that create a variety of spaces supporting multiple activities. Landscape connections include the site and network to support/ promote species diversity for resilience and habitat	Generally, a mix of open and shaded areas with trees and plantings designed not to impede visibility. Planted beds and formal gardens not usually provided.	Numerous trees and landscaped areas. Formal gardens and planted beds may be included to define spaces or create settings.	Significant trees in expansive grassed park area with multiple formal and natural landscape features.
Playground seating	Minimum 1 bench seat in shade	Seats and tables overlooking play spaces	Numerous table or seat options associated with different play areas and nodes.
Bubbler/ tap	One bubbler/ tap	One or more bubbler/ tap	
Fencing	Perimeter bollards (or other similar means) to prevent vehicle access into park. Fencing of play areas only provided where essential for safety, providing an accessible playspace or where buffering from neighbouring land use or from roads (close proximity/ high volumes or speed) is required.	Fencing of activities nodes such as play spaces if required for safety, providing an accessible playspace or where buffering from neighbouring land use is required. Perimeter bollards/ barricade/ fencing to prevent vehicle access into park. Sandstone/ concrete blocks as required in line with public safety guidelines. Fenced dog off leash area may be provided according to a council-wide strategy for dog exercise areas. Fencing may be used for event spaces, with fit for purpose fencing as required by sport activity and level of competition.	
Indicative Maintenance Levels[24]	Generally a high service level for maintenance with daily to weekly inspection and servicing. Formal annual inspections should be undertaken of all infrastructure, with formal quarterly inspections of playground equipment.	Generally a moderate service level for maintenance with weekly to fortnightly inspection and servicing. More popular, visual or higher use District Parks may require higher maintenance levels. Formal annual inspections should be undertaken of all infrastructure, with formal quarterly inspections of playground equipment.	Generally a lower service level for maintenance with monthly inspection and servicing. Formal annual inspections should be undertaken of all infrastructure, with formal quarterly inspections of playground equipment.

7.3.2. Sporting Parks

Sporting parks and precincts are areas primarily designed and constructed as a venue for public sport and recreation in organised activities such as team sports. These are only provided at district and regional level. Participation in sport is highly mobile across the city and within planning areas. In effect all sporting parks and precincts service a district or larger catchment so there is no local provision planned. However, informal sport or social games and informal training activities can occur on other spaces such as kick about spaces in recreation parks. This type of use is considered part of the active recreation mix that general recreation parks provide.

The provision framework for sporting parks aims to ensure that:

- Land for sport is suitable for the intended use and affordable to develop and maintain
- The size of areas is supportive of efficient use from multiple users and can be reconfigured as needs change to accommodate other sports
- Sporting parks are located to be accessible and to minimise impacts on surrounding land uses
- There is equitable supply of sporting space across the city
- There is sufficient land to meet anticipated demand and diversity of activities.

Table 11: Draft Provision Framework for Sport Parks

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Size Distribution & Accessibility		
Preferred Minimum Size: Minimum sizes are not the "*preferred size*", it is a minimum. It is recommended that sport park sizes are larger where possible and a diversity of sizes 6ha and above is the target for District	6ha and larger	15ha and larger
	In general, larger precincts allow for greater efficiency through shared use of access and support infrastructure shared buffering along boundaries and greater mixed use and ability to reconfigure in response to changing needs.	
Shape	Shape can be variable; a regular shape will allow for optimal sport facility development; but no boundary to be less than 30 0m. Ability to develop minimum playing area (150 m x 150 m) on one level	Shape should be regular allowing for optimal sport facility development. In general boundaries should be greater than 500m.
Linear – tracks, trails, pathways	Connections between activity spaces and adjoining/ close residential streets, and active transport network Widths and surface treatments to align with Council's design standards. Any linear access corridors into sporting areas should be a minimum of 15-20 m and allow for access by grounds maintenance machinery.	
Useable Area/ Hazard free The "*functional*" area of the park- the amount of space fit for recreation use and public activity. (refer to Quality Criteria)	75% of site useable and free of hazards to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access	Must have at least 50% flood free and level land to support sport and recreation activity, facilities and access. Sport – field of play areas - free of physical hazards
Service Area/ Radius	Serves a number of suburbs or planning catchment District parks also serves local catchment i.e. its locality	Serves whole council area and some regional (beyond Central Coast Council) demand. Major/ regional sport parks also serves local and district catchment i.e. its locality.
Proximity - Distance from Residential Dwellings	100% of all residents to have access within 25 minutes walk/ 2km, 10-15 min drive Pathway access and off-street parking.	All dwellings to have access within 10 – 20 km. Or up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle. Should be highly accessible with inclusive pathway access to all key activity areas, seating and toilets.

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Access and equity	Access by path into park and connecting to facilities and toilets. On and off-street accessible parking to be provided.	Highly accessible. Minimal mobility challenges. Inclusive access to key activity areas and toilets. Wayfinding to support all abilities.
Proximity for Commercial and Retail areas	N/A	
Road frontage	Minimum 50% road frontage or combined road and public use area	
Capacity Assessment for Existing Sport Parkland	District and regional sporting land within a planning area should not be less than 1.3 ha/ 1,000.	
Diversity of Opportunity		
Number of activations - Uses/ activities	Dedicated sporting use for competition or training. High level of regular participation	Dedicated sporting use for high level competition or training Providing the only facility for a sport within the Central Coast Council
Sporting Fields, courts, facilities	Fields and/ or courts developed to playing standard Typically, multi-field facility (5-10ha) catering for one or more sports	Fields developed to high playing standard Could be single field facility catering for high level competition only Could be only facility catering for training and competition for particular sport in Central Coast Council
Duration - average Length of Stay	Up to a day	Extended stays more than 2 hours- up to a day and possibly into the evening.
Site Quality/ Land Suitability Performance Criteria		
Hazards and Constraints	Free of hazards and constraints to community use such as contaminated land, high voltage transmission lines and adjacent noxious industry.	
Safety and Design	Consider CPTED principles; should have good road frontage, legible access point/s and visibility from surrounding residents and traffic.	
Buffers and Adjacent Land Use	Consider adjacent uses and be adequately buffered from incompatible uses. Solutions may include vegetation corridors, planted mounds and fencing.	
Flooding and other hazards	Main use area free of regular flooding (i.e. above 10% AEP) with at least 10% of total area above 2% AEP levels. Constructed drains or detention basins not suitable for sport park.	All use areas above 10% AEP. Free of other physical hazards. Constructed drains or detention basins not suitable for sport park.
	All built amenities and visitor facilities above 1% AEP levels.	
Slope and Topography	1:50 for sport playing surfaces Variable topography for remainder	Sport – playing surfaces/ field of play 1:50
Visibility	Should have good visibility from surrounding residents and traffic	
Soils	Suitable soil and sub-soil profile with ability to develop level and sustainable turf surface with associated drainage and irrigation (as appropriate)	Suitable soil and sub-soil profile with ability to develop level and sustainable turf surface with associated drainage and irrigation.
Site/ Facility Infrastructure		
Sports lighting	To relevant Australian Standard for competition	To relevant sport/ Australian Standard for level of competition conducted

ATTRIBUTES/ CHARACTERISTICS	DISTRICT	REGIONAL
Public Toilets/ amenities, change rooms	Universally accessible change rooms, toilets, kiosk, storage areas for training and club equipment in 350+ m2 building	Depending on size and location of sport and activity areas, may need more than one. Universally accessible player/ official change rooms and spectator toilets including adult changing facility in 500+ m2 building or co-located with grandstand, club administration, canteen/ kiosk, scoreboard, ticket box.
Seating/ spectator facilities	Covered seating optional	Spectator seating as determined by facility master plan, e.g. undercover or formalised seating i.e. grandstand/ pavilion
BBQ	Not normally provided. May be required where a sport park is servicing a small community or has higher use	
Rubbish Bin	Several	Numerous
Picnic Table	Not normally provided. May be required where a sport park is servicing a small community or has higher use	
Shade Structure	Preference is for natural shade, however, can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient.	Preference is for natural shade, however can be supplemented with built shade where natural shade is insufficient. Built shade considered for spectator seating
Natural Shade	Overall parks should have 40% natural shade coverage of main use areas between 9am and 3pm in summer. For sites that provide open, active spaces such as general open space, an informal field or playing field/s, 40% shading of the perimeter of the active space. Location of trees and root plate pattern to be determined in relation to location of courts to prevent root incursion and potential damage to the court surface and substrate. If required, trees to be planted in growth cell when in close proximity to infrastructure to prevent root incursion.	
Pathways	Shared pathways provide circulation and connection with active transport network; paths provided to main use areas.	
Parking	Off-street parking including accessible parking bays and bicycle racks. Supported by on street parking as required.	Internal roads and parking areas. Includes accessible parking providing access to facilities.
	Number of off-street spaces to be accommodated depends on scale and use/ activities planned for sport park.	
Signage	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage where appropriate.	Park location and identity sign Directional and wayfinding signs internal to park. Information and interpretive signage.
	All signage to be in accordance with Council's Design Guidelines	
Lighting	Lighting for carpark, toilets, picnic areas, internal pathways. Other lighting assessed on case-by-case basis.	For carpark, toilets, security lighting for buildings.
Power, Technology and CCTV	Power may be provided to activity spaces if/ where deemed necessary. CCTV assessed on a case-by-case basis. Wi-fi may be provided at sport facilities.	
Landscaping	Generally, a mix of open and shaded areas with trees and plantings designed not to impede visibility.	
Other facilities (bicycle circuit, pump track, skate park, BMX track)	As determined by appropriate facility/ activity provision strategy and site/ facility master plan	
Other/ Special features	As determined by site/ facility master plan	
Bubbler/ tap	One or more bubbler/ tap	Numerous bubblers
Fencing	Fencing/ barricading to control access into site as well as limiting internal traffic access to field and facilities	Range of fencing/ boundary definition styles as appropriate to location. Fencing may be used for event spaces, with fit for purpose fencing as required by sport activity and level of competition

7.4. High Level Benchmarks for Greenfield Areas

While the proposed provision framework is a performance based approach developed to guide current provision, assessment and planning for new developments including infill/ high density development, there may be circumstances where a high-level benchmark is required to provide general guidance for the overall quantum of public open space needed. The following "failsafe" benchmark has been recommended based on the assessment of open space in the Central Coast:

Land for Sport
1.3 Ha / 1,000

(being the rate identified by Otium's Demand Analysis Model and just below the current rate of supply)

Land for Recreation
(general parkland)
1.8 Ha / 1,000

(being a rate between past adopted benchmarks and close to the existing level of supply)

Total Land for Recreation and Sport
3.1 Ha / 1000

The use of this benchmark should be tempered with the following qualifications:

- The failsafe benchmarks are for **sport and recreation parkland only** and do not include land needed for nature conservation, protection of waterways, drainage and stormwater management, easements, active transport networks and land for bushfire management such as asset protection zones.
- The area recommendation assumes that **100% of the land is fit for purpose and suitable for development and use for sport or recreation.** Land that is subject to frequent inundation, comprises a detention or retention basin or has excessive slope is not considered suitable. Nor is land underneath high voltage powerlines or land that is a wetland or natural forest.
- The above assumes also that all land included as open space for recreation and sport is **fully accessible and has 50% or greater road frontage.**

8. Strategic Actions

8.1. Open Space Planning and Provision

Adopt the Guiding Principles, Provision Framework and Benchmarks outlined at Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 of this report.

Importantly, a detailed Open Space Planning report referencing the Open Space Provision Framework and Benchmarks, should be undertaken by Council to support the strategic acquisition of new Public Open Space, and/or disposal/ repurposing of existing Public Open Space.

8.2. Strategic Open Space Planning Documents

Council has several strategic open space documents that will require review in the coming years (ie. Playspace Strategy 2020 and Skatepark Action Plan 2020) and in other areas, completely lacking strategy to inform the planning and provision for Community Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity.

Subsequently, Council is recommended develop over time and as funding permits:

- **Sports Facilities Strategic Plan**
  This project will build on the planning of the Open Space Strategy and provide direction to Council to plan for the current and future needs of Sporting Facilities across the Central Coast. Council should consider the preferred approach for being an 'all in one' document for Sport, or separate documents for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility Provision.
- **Parks and Playspace Plan**
  Applying the planning framework of the Open Space Strategy, assess the functionality of Council's Park and Playspace network with reference to contemporary standards and trends (ie. Universal Design) and underpinned by community need for quality parks and playspaces.
- **Physical Activity Plan**
  The Open Space Strategy identified the that Central Coast population has a higher incidence of physical inactivity and obesity. Council is encouraged to prepare a Physical Activity Strategy to support and develop physical activity opportunities as part of a broader health and wellbeing approach for the community.
- **Coastal Activation Plan**
  The Central Coast is renowned for its natural coastline, multiple lakes and estuaries. Council currently maintains numerous boat ramps, public swimming enclosure and other supporting infrastructure but does not have a high level plan. The Coastal Activation Plan will provide a strategic framework to assist with the planning, provision and management of community water based recreational infrastructure across the Central Coast.
- **Nature Based Recreation Plan**
  Consolidation and completion of the draft plan which commenced during 2020/21, to inform the forward planning, provision and management of Council's natural areas and reserves.
- **Dogs in Open Space Action Plan**
  Address the use of open space for dog exercise by completing a Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. This should provide a policy and planning framework to guide decision-making about how and where provision will be made for dog owners and their dogs in open space, and should consider the diversity of demands that are placed on the open space network, including:
  a. The protection and enhancement of the natural environment
  b. The recreation and sporting needs of the community
  c. Managing risk
  d. The preservation of public amenity
  e. Dog owners and those who do not want to interact with dogs in public places.
- **Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan/Regional Trails Action Plan**
  Progress with the development of a Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan in collaboration with an active stakeholder group as per the Council resolution of 14 December 2021. The Central Coast Mountain Biking Plan proposed to be part of the Regional Trails Action Plan which will include walking and other types of recreational trails appropriate to the purpose of the land.

- **Green Infrastructure/Public Domain Plans**
  Develop a series of Green Infrastructure/Public Domain Plans to enhance local street and walking networks to provide more appealing walking environments and linkages to open space to offset the lack of available local open space within safe walking distance.
- **Development Control Plan**
  With the adoption of the Open Space Strategy, review the existing provisions within Central Coast Development Control Plan with referencing Open Space Provision Framework and Benchmarks including:
  a. Creation of an Open Space Chapter
  b. Review and where required update the existing site/location specific Chapters.
- **Developer Contributions Plans**
  Undertake a strategic review of existing developer contributions plans and update as required, to ensure alignment with Open Space Provision and Benchmarks. In addition, Council is encouraged to develop Structure Plans to assist with the assessment of Open Space requirements for new Planning Proposals.
- **Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategic Plan**
  Though outside the scope of the Open Space Strategy, Council is encouraged to undertake a Leisure and Aquatic Facilities Strategic Plan to drive then planning, distribution, development and management of Council maintained leisure and aquatic facilities across the municipality.

Additional strategic documents may be required by Council to respond to emerging community needs over the life of this strategy.

8.3. Open Space Planning and Provision

- Where practical, seek further opportunities to acquire suitable land for Open Space (Sport and Parks) where future population growth is anticipated and/or a critical undersupply of future Open Space is identified. To support the Council expenditure for Open Space, it is preferred to undertake site specific master planning/feasibility studies, to demonstrate broader community need and benefit, to understand the financial implications and to consider development options, and to identify external funding opportunities.
- In catchments where an undersupply of Open Space has been identified and/or where future Open Space provision maybe be limited, review the current use of Sporting Facilities and Community Parks and Reserves, to ensure Open Space caters for a broader range of community uses for sport, recreation and physical activity.
- Seek further opportunities to unlock Department of Education (DoE) land and facilities for community sport, particularly in catchments where there is limited opportunities for Council to develop functional sporting facilities.
- Where the need is identified, actively plan for Community Precincts or Hubs, to maximise use of Open Space for Community Sport, Recreation and Education purposes including co-location and shared use of community infrastructure, playing surfaces and playspaces. Community Hubs can be cost effective in delivering a range of community services and sharing infrastructure costs across the tiers of government.
- A strategic hazard assessment considering various planning horizons should be undertaken to inform the long-term, successful implementation of the Open Space Strategy. Some parcels of Open Space land that is viable now, may not be in coming decades as a result of various site hazards, and exacerbated by climate change.
- Strategically identify opportunities for new RE1 zoned land to assist with addressing projected deficits in each Planning Area where required. This may include securing tenure of suitable Open Space land that is not currently in Council ownership (ie. Crown Land/devolved land).
- The Open Space Strategy identified 22 sites smaller than 1000m^2 as non-conforming as functional open space. Council is encouraged to investigate the strategic value of these parcels considering current community use and benefit, levels of service, and preferred future use of these sites.

9. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence', and these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than the client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.

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Central Coast Council

Open Space Strategy 2024-2031

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