

The City of Newcastle Parkland and Recreation Strategy – Background and Appendices



Production
Parkland and Recreation Strategy –
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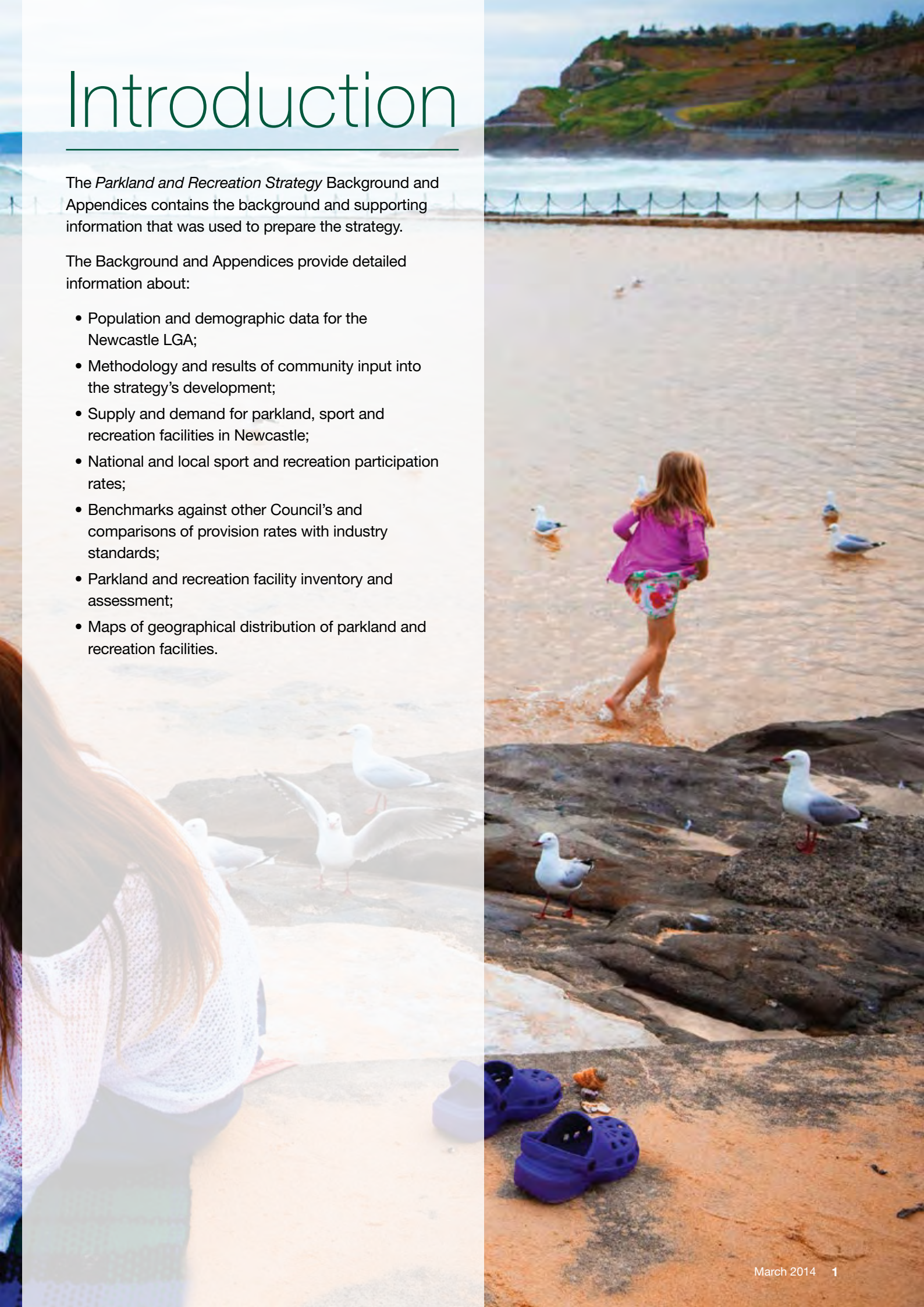


Introduction

The *Parkland and Recreation Strategy* Background and Appendices contains the background and supporting information that was used to prepare the strategy.

The Background and Appendices provide detailed information about:

- Population and demographic data for the Newcastle LGA;
- Methodology and results of community input into the strategy's development;
- Supply and demand for parkland, sport and recreation facilities in Newcastle;
- National and local sport and recreation participation rates;
- Benchmarks against other Council's and comparisons of provision rates with industry standards;
- Parkland and recreation facility inventory and assessment;
- Maps of geographical distribution of parkland and recreation facilities.



13. Demographic Trends and Forecasts

13.1 Demographic trends

To determine the degree to which current and future provision of parkland and recreation is serving the Newcastle community, it is essential to understand the status of the Local Government Areas (LGA) population and its demographic profile. The main characteristics and key demographic trends of the Newcastle LGA as possible implications for parkland and recreation are identified below. The data has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census data and compiled by .id, a demographic profiling company who specialise in the development of demographic information products for local governments throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Population growth

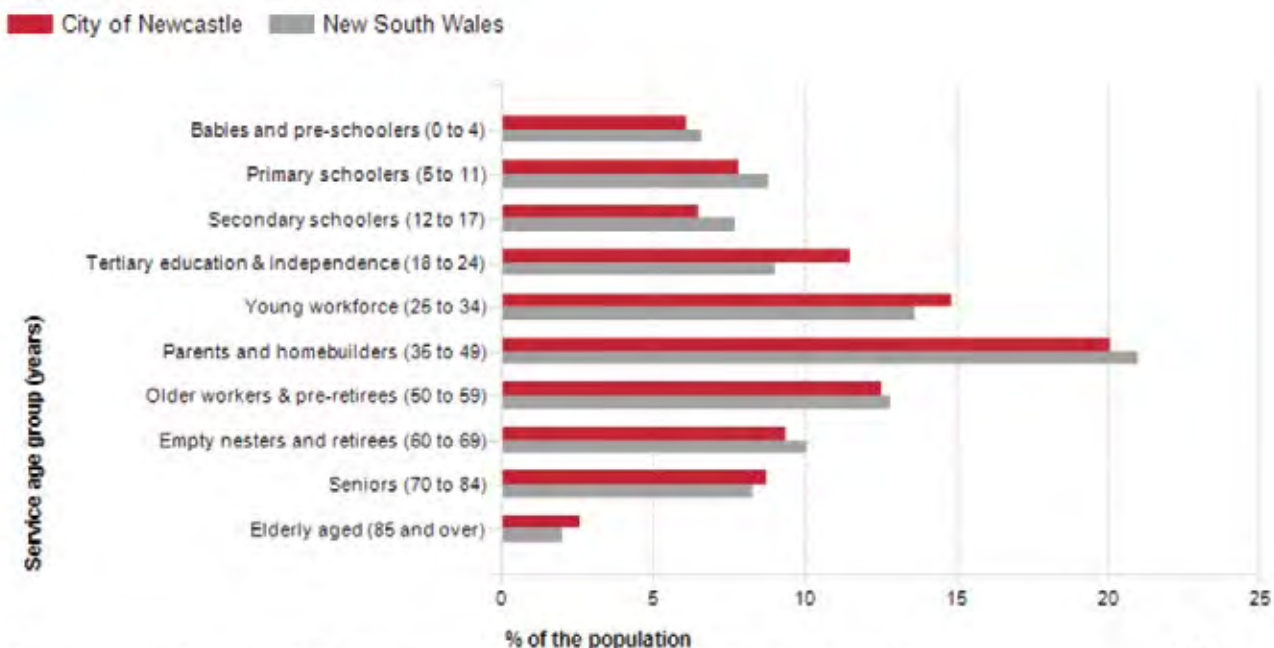
In the last Census period 2006-2011, the Newcastle population increased by 6,778 persons (4.8%) to

148,531 persons. This represents an average annual population change of 0.94% per year over the period.

- The largest changes in age structure between 2006 and 2011 were:
 - Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69) (+2,069 persons);
 - Young workforce (25 to 34) (+1,971 persons);
 - Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59) (+1,316 persons);
 - Seniors (70 to 84) (-845 persons).
- The most populous age group was 20-24 year olds, with 14,165 persons.
- A large proportion of population consists of young people aged between 0 and 17 years (20.3%) and people aged 60 years and over (20.7%).

Figure 1: Age structure, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Age structure, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile .id by .id, the population experts.



Household composition

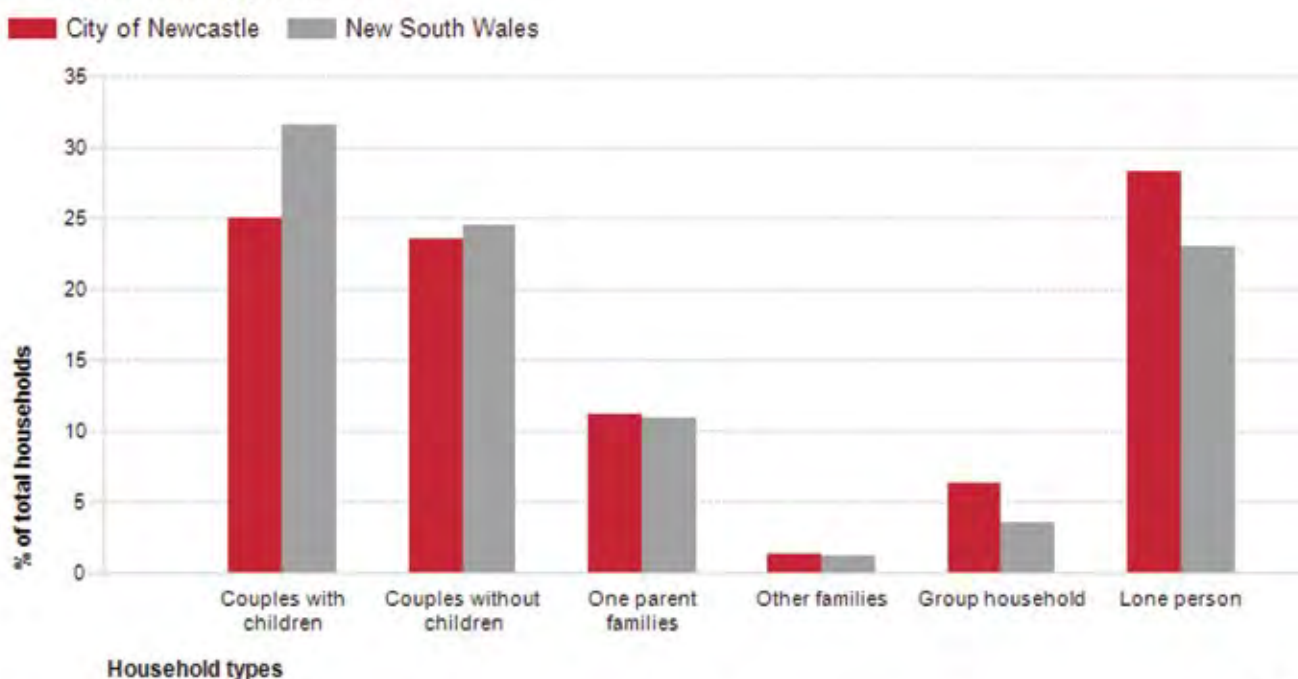
In 2011, the dominant household type in the city of Newcastle was lone person households, which accounted for 29.5% of all households.

- Overall 25.1% of total families were couple families with children, and 11.2% were one-parent families;
- The number of households in City of Newcastle increased by 2,127 between 2006 and 2011;

- The largest changes in family/household types in the City of Newcastle between 2006 and 2011 were:
 - Couples with children (+888 households);
 - Couples without children (+793 households);
 - Group household (+462 households);
 - Lone person (+261 households).

Figure 2: Household types, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Household types, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Enumerated data)
 Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



Culture and ethnicity

Analysis of the ancestry responses of the Newcastle population in 2011 shows that the top five ancestries nominated were:

- Australian (60,384 people or 40.7%);
- English (58,026 people or 39.1%);
- Irish (17,741 people or 11.9%);
- Scottish (15,894 people or 10.7%);
- German (5,819 people or 3.9%).

The largest changes in the reported ancestries between 2006 and 2011 were:

- English (+7,108 persons);
- Australian (-3,702 persons);
- Irish (+2,805 persons);
- Scottish (+2,725 persons).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 3,929 or 2.6%, a change of +909 people between 2006 and 2011.

Household income

Analysis of household income levels in the city of Newcastle in 2011 compared to NSW shows that:

- there was a smaller proportion of high income households (those earning \$2,500 per week or more); and
- a higher proportion of low income households (those earning less than \$600 per week);
- Overall, 24.0% of households were low income households and 16.4% of the households earned a high income, compared with 21.7% and 18.9% respectively for NSW.

Figure 3: Weekly household income, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Weekly household income, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Enumerated data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



Qualifications

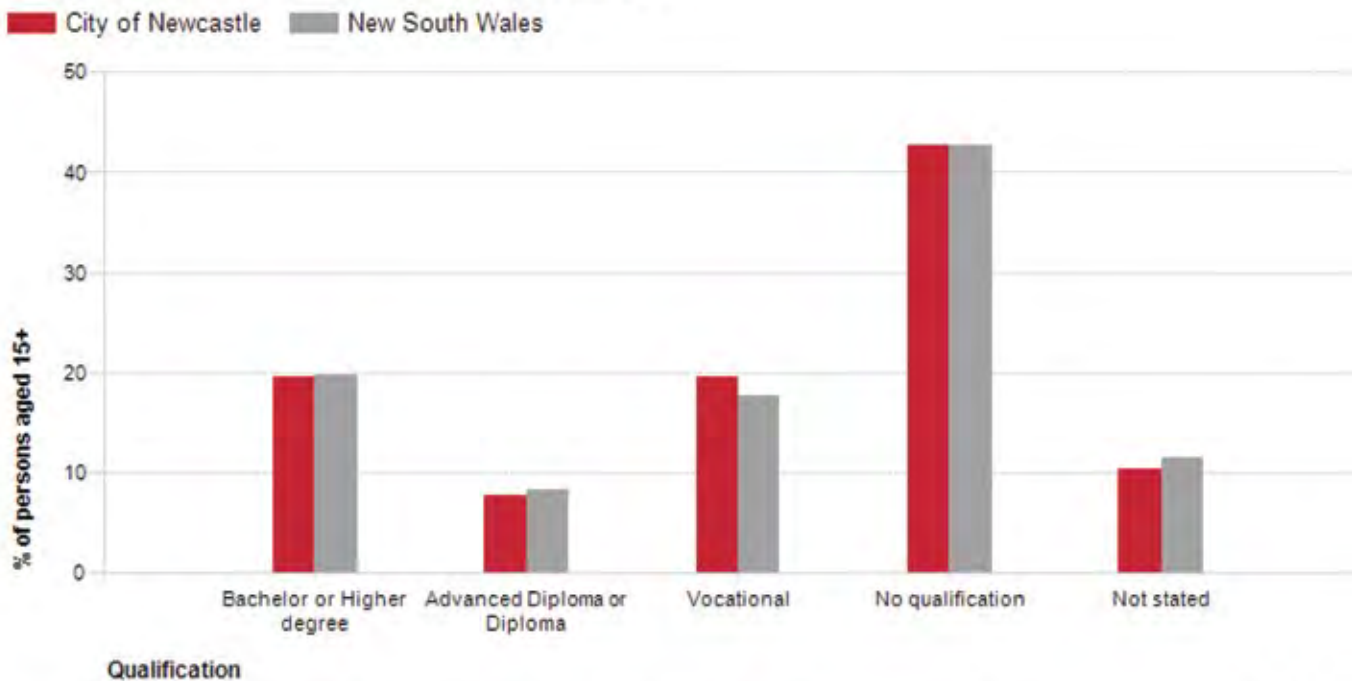
There was a higher proportion of people holding formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree, Advanced Diploma or Diploma, or Vocational qualifications) and a similar proportion of people with no formal qualifications.

- Overall, 46.9% of the population aged 15 and over held educational qualifications, and 42.7% had no qualifications, compared with 45.8% and 42.8% respectively for New South Wales;
- The major difference between the qualifications held by the population of the city of Newcastle and NSW is a larger percentage of persons with Vocational qualifications (19.6% compared to 17.7%);

- The largest changes in the qualifications of the population in the city of Newcastle between 2006 and 2011 were in those with:
 - Bachelor or Higher degrees (+5,538 persons);
 - Vocational qualifications (+2,477 persons);
 - No qualifications (-1,794 persons);
 - Advanced Diploma or Diplomas (+1,405 persons).

Figure 4: Highest qualification achieved, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Highest qualification achieved, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



Employment

The size of the city of Newcastle's labour force in 2011 was 74,537 persons, of which 26,077 were employed part-time and 42,961 were full time workers.

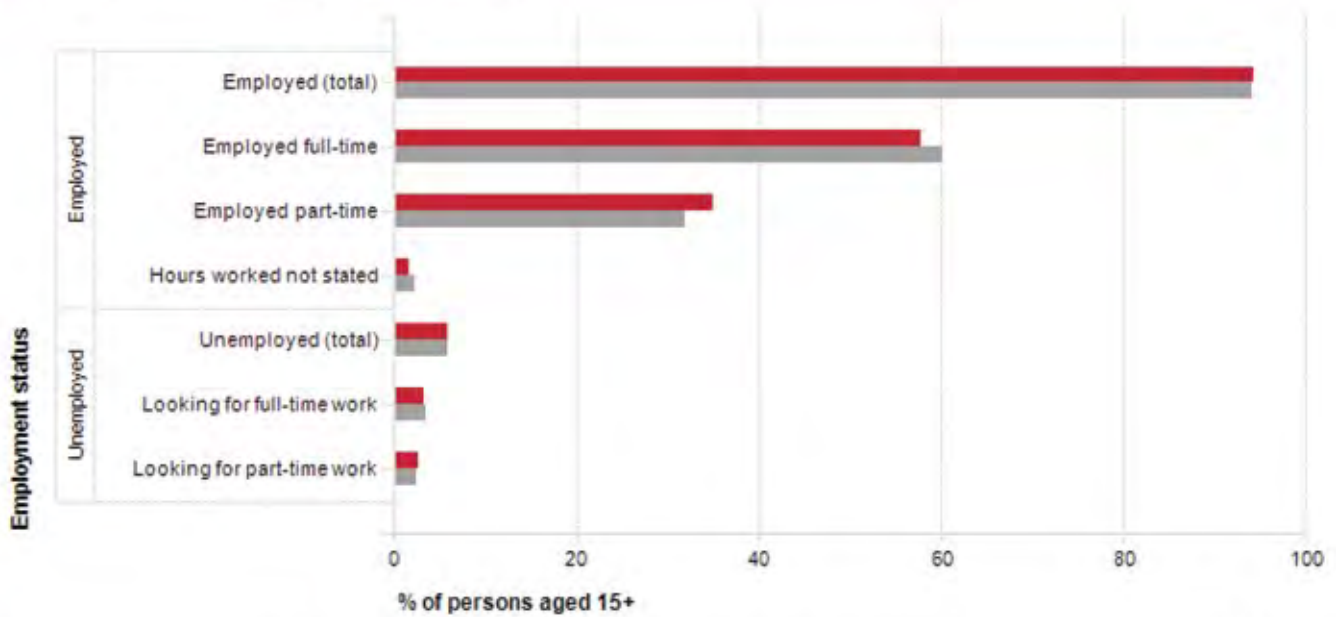
- Overall, 94.3% of the labour force was employed (57.0% of the population aged 15+ and 5.7% unemployed (3.5% of the population aged 15+), compared with 94.1% and 5.9% respectively for NSW;

- Analysis of the labour force participation rate of the population in the city of Newcastle in 2011 shows that there was a higher proportion in the labour force (60.5%) compared with NSW (59.7%);
- Between 2006 and 2011, the number of people employed in the city of Newcastle showed an increase of 7,829 persons and the number unemployed showed a decrease of 609 persons. In the same period, the number of people in the labour force showed an increase of 7,220 persons, or 10.7%.

Figure 5: Employment status, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Employment status, 2011

City of Newcastle New South Wales



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



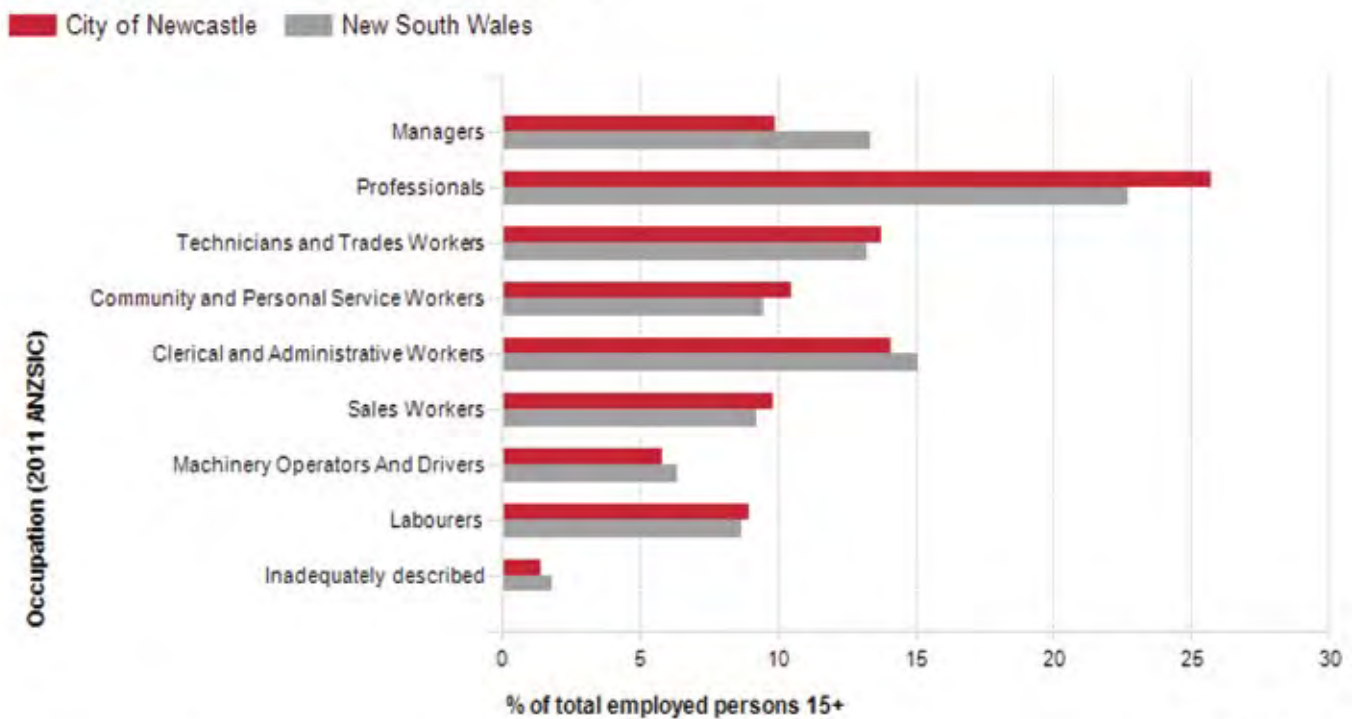
Occupations

- In 2011 shows the three most popular occupations in Newcastle were:
 - Professionals (18,061 people or 25.7%);
 - Clerical and Administrative Workers (9,918 people or 14.1%);
 - Technicians and Trades Workers (9,648 people or 13.7%);
- In combination the three occupations accounted for 37,627 people in total or 53.6% of the employed resident population.

- In comparison, NSW employed 22.7% in Professionals; 15.1% in Clerical and Administrative Workers; and 13.2% in Technicians and Trades Workers.
- The major differences between the jobs held by the population of the city of Newcastle and NSW were:
 - A larger percentage of persons employed as Professionals (25.7% compared to 22.7%);
 - A larger percentage of persons employed as Community and Personal Service Workers (10.5% compared to 9.5%);
 - A smaller percentage of persons employed as Managers (9.9% compared to 13.3%).

Figure 6: Occupation of employment, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Occupation of employment, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Usual residence data)
 Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

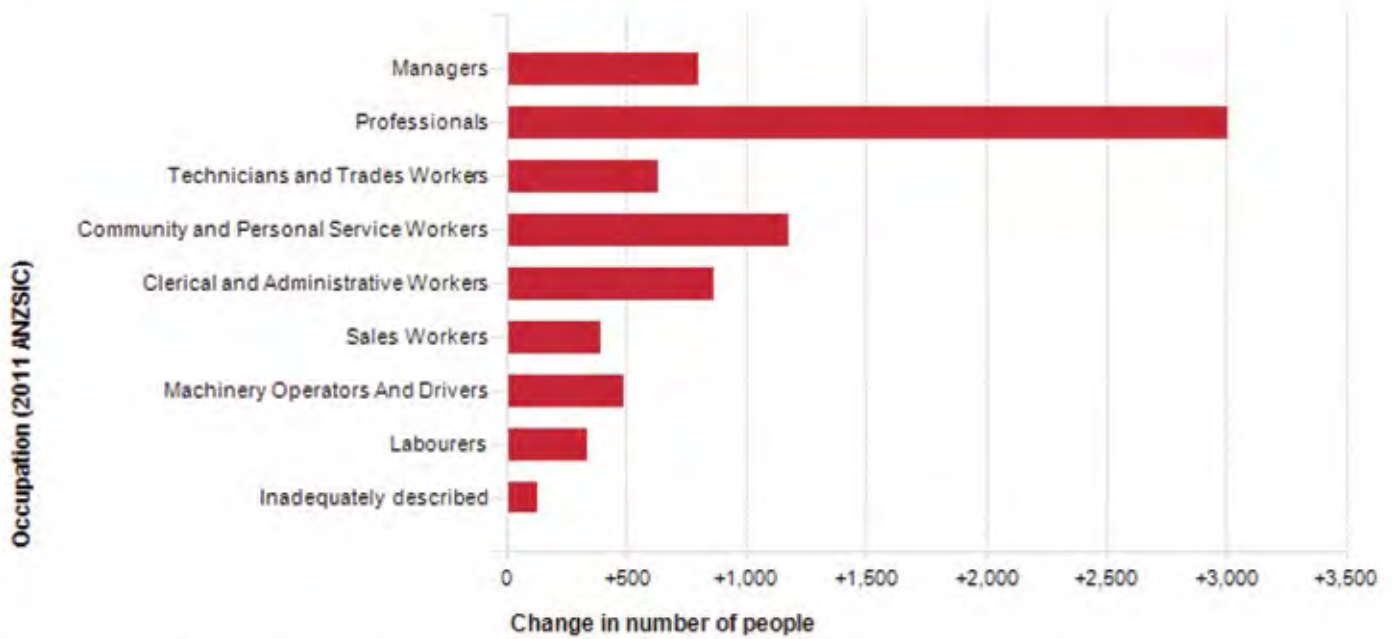


- The number of employed people in Newcastle LGA increased by 7,835 between 2006 and 2011.
- The largest changes in the occupations of residents between 2006 and 2011 in the Newcastle LGA were for those employed as:
 - Professionals (+3,008 persons);
 - Community and Personal Service Workers (+1,173 persons);
 - Clerical and Administrative Workers (+864 persons);
 - Managers (+801 persons).

Figure 7: Change in occupation of employment, Newcastle LGA, 2011

Change in occupation of employment, 2006 to 2011

City of Newcastle



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006 and 2011 (Usual residence data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



Dwellings

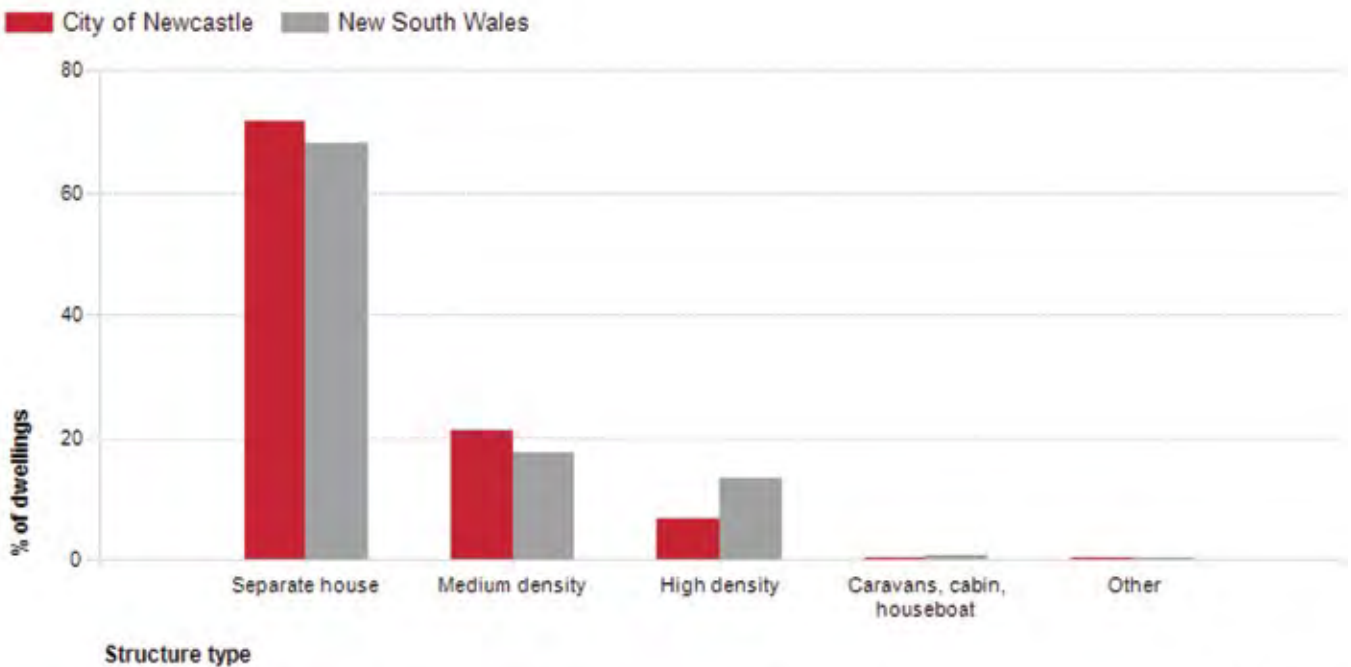
In 2011, there were 47,053 separate houses in the area, 13,951 medium density dwellings, and 4,348 high density dwellings.

- Analysis of the types of dwellings in Newcastle's LGA in 2011 shows that:
 - 71.5% of all dwellings were separate houses;
 - 21.2% were medium density dwellings, and
 - 6.6% were high density dwellings.
- The Average household size (persons per dwelling) was 2.34, an increase of 0.02% from 2006.

- In 2011, a total of 92.3% of the dwellings in the Newcastle LGA were occupied on Census night, compared to 90.5% in NSW. The proportion of unoccupied dwellings was 7.4%, which is smaller compared to that found in New South Wales (9.2%).
- The total number of dwellings in the Newcastle LGA increased by 2,530 between 2006 and 2011. The largest changes in the type of dwellings found in Newcastle's LGA between 2006 and 2011 were:
 - Separate house (+1,252 dwellings);
 - Medium density (+965 dwellings);
 - High density (+390 dwellings);
 - Other (-125 dwellings).

Figure 8: Age structure, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Dwelling structure, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Enumerated data)
 Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



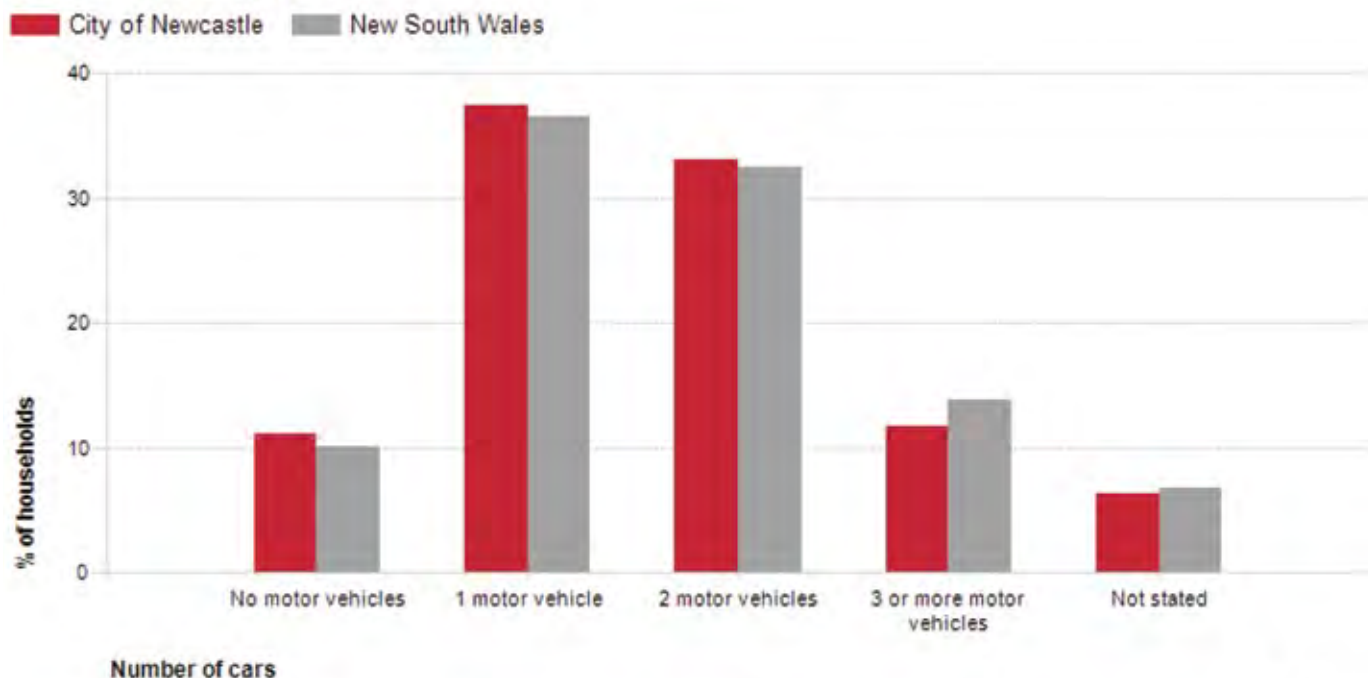
Car ownership

Analysis of the car ownership of the households shows that:

- 82.4% of the households owned at least one car;
- 1.2% did not.
- Of those that owned at least one vehicle, there was a larger proportion who owned just one car; a larger proportion who owned two cars; and a smaller proportion who owned three cars or more.
- Overall, 37.5% of the households owned one car; 33.1% owned two cars; and 11.8% owned three cars or more.

Figure 9: Age structure, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Car ownership, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 (Enumerated data)
Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.



13.2 Planning for future populations

To guide the future provision of parkland and recreation facilities and to ensure the right types of infrastructure and services are provided to meet the changing needs of the Newcastle community, it is important to understand the demographic profile of the future population.

To assist in this analysis, population and household forecasts for the City of Newcastle have been developed. These forecasts have been developed based on the drivers of population change within the LGA, including current and planned residential development activity and forecasts how the age structure and household types will change as result.

The City of Newcastle population and household forecasts have been prepared by .id, the population experts on behalf of the City of Newcastle.

How many will live here in future? - Newcastle LGA

- In 2011, the total population of Newcastle’s LGA was estimated at 148,531 people;
- In 2036, the population is forecast to be 180,643, an increase of 32,112 persons (21.62%) from 2011. This represents an average annual growth rate of 0.86%;

- This is based on an increase of over 6,600 households during the period;
- This population growth will be driven by greenfield development within the Western Corridor of the Newcastle (west from Wallsend to the F3 freeway and local government boundary) in addition to increase in medium density living within four designated urban renewal corridors.

Table 1 identifies the Newcastle population as per the 2011 Census, together with population forecasts to 2036.

How old will we be?

- In 2026 the most populous forecast age group will continue to be 20-24 year olds, with 14,077 persons;
- The number of people aged under 15 is forecast to increase by 1,619 (6.2%), representing a rise in the proportion of the population to 16.3%;
- The number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 6,243 (26.6%), and represent 17.6% of the population by 2026;
- The age group which is forecast to have the largest proportional increase (relative to its population size) by 2026 is 70-74 year olds, who are forecast to increase by 42.3% to 7,134 persons.

Figure 10: Forecast age structure, Newcastle LGA, 2011-2036

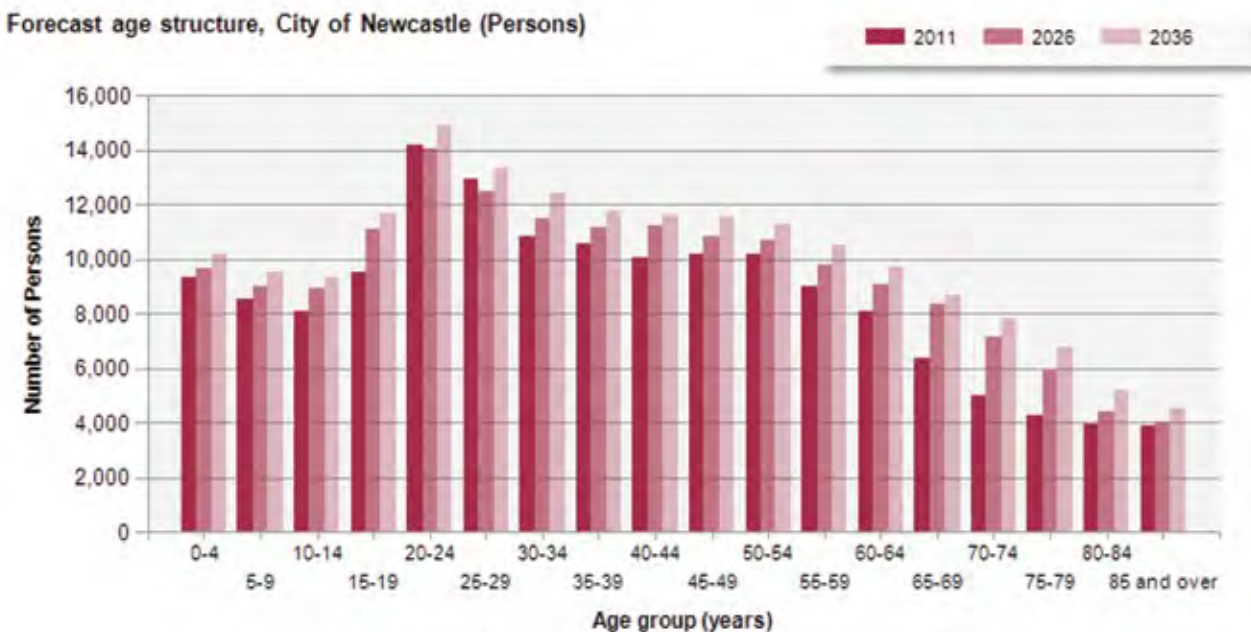


Table 1: Newcastle LGA population forecasts, 2011- 2036

Newcastle LGA Suburbs	Forecast year			Change between 2011 and 2036	
	2011	2026	2036	Number	%
Newcastle LGA	148,531	169,205	180,643	32,112	21.61
Adamstown	5,899	6,671	7,266	1,367	23.17
Adamstown Heights	4,338	4,325	4,322	-16	0.37
Bar Beach - The Junction	2,304	2,323	2,363	59	2.56
Beresfield - Tarro - Northern Environmental Area	5,414	5,656	5,868	454	8.38
Birmingham Gardens - Callaghan	2,963	3,732	3,755	792	26.72
Broadmeadow - Hamilton North	2,722	3,159	3,486	764	28.06
Carrington	1,996	1,945	1,939	-57	-2.85
Cooks Hill	3,670	3,920	3,914	244	6.64
Elmore Vale - Rankin Park	7,001	7,706	9,436	2,435	34.78
Fletcher - Minmi	3,516	8,688	10,962	7,446	211.77
Georgetown - Waratah	6,868	7,338	7,549	681	9.91
Hamilton	4,225	4,560	4,819	594	14.05
Hamilton South - Hamilton East	5,301	5,292	5,366	65	1.22
Islington - Tighes Hill	3,630	3,745	3,865	235	6.47
Jesmond	2,827	3,077	3,151	324	11.46
Kotara	4,146	4,377	4,522	376	9.06
Lambton	5,165	5,219	5,291	126	2.43
Maryland	7,958	7,352	7,312	-646	-8.11
Maryville - Wickham	2,477	2,721	3,207	730	29.47
Mayfield - Mayfield East	11,359	12,168	13,318	1,959	17.24
Mayfield West - Warabrook	4,034	4,131	4,173	139	3.44
Merewether - Merewether Heights	12,564	13,136	13,315	751	5.97
New Lambton - New Lambton Heights	11,118	11,272	11,582	464	4.17
Newcastle - Newcastle East and West	3,975	5,786	7,164	3,189	80.22
North Lambton	3,442	3,555	3,682	240	6.97
Shortland - Sandgate	4,159	4,280	4,370	211	5.07
Stockton	4,364	4,396	4,475	111	2.54
The Hill	2,227	2,250	2,268	41	1.84
Wallsend	12,409	13,518	14,988	2,579	20.78
Waratah West	2,812	2,907	2,915	103	3.66

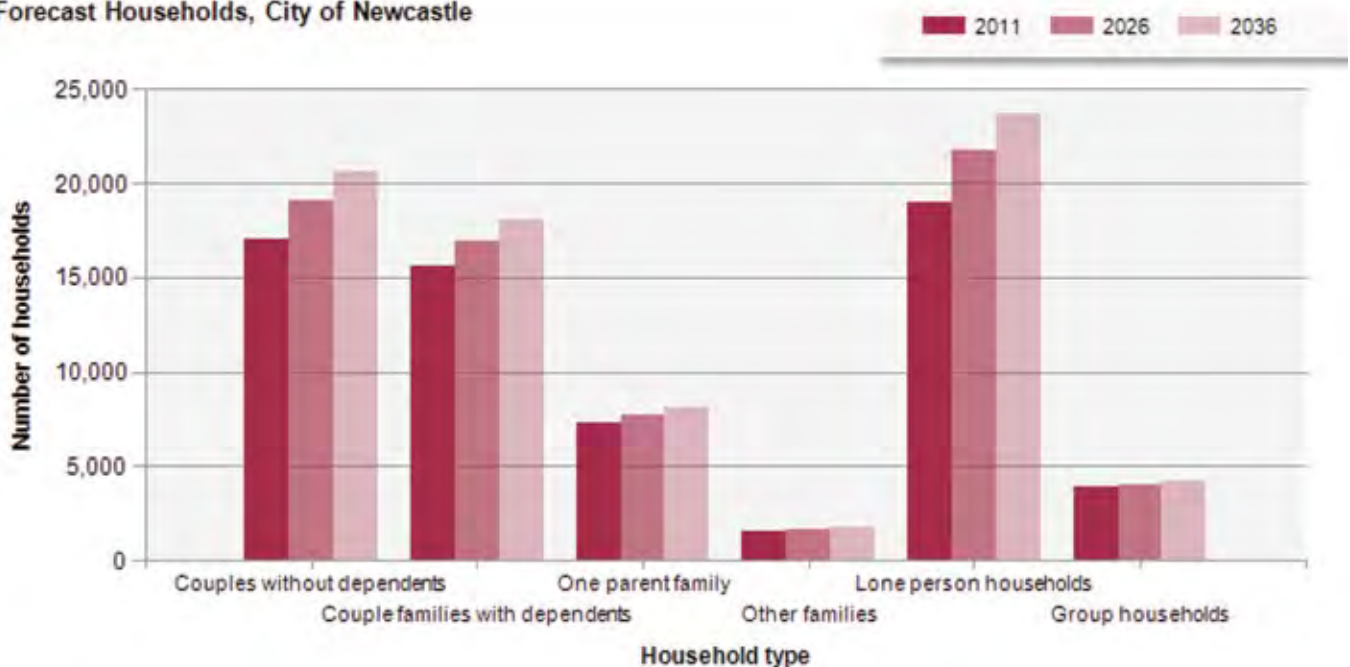
Source: forecast id

What type of households will we live in?

- **The number of households will increase by 6,600** by 2026, with the average number of persons per household falling from 2.35 to 2.31 by 2026.
- The main changes in household type between 2011 and 2026 are forecast to be:
 - Lone person households, which will increase by 2,755 households, comprising 30.6% of all households, compared to 29.5% in 2011, and
 - Other families are forecast to increase by 27 households, to comprise 2.3% of all households in 2021, compared to 2.4% in 2011.

Figure 11: Household structure, NSW and Newcastle LGA, 2011

Forecast Households, City of Newcastle



13.3 Implications for parkland and recreation

A number of demographic characteristics are projected to significantly influence the demand for and provision of parkland and recreational facilities and services over the next twenty years. In order to successfully provide for the future community, these key drivers will need to be at the forefront of all consideration of planning.

The key demographic feature and likely implications on demand for parkland and recreation facilities is discussed below.

Increased number of children and youth

Likely implications:

- Ongoing demand for family oriented open space and facilities, including facilities and activity opportunities for children and young people (playgrounds, skate and bmx facilities);
- demand for sport;
- demand for health and fitness opportunities to support young adults, including gyms and swimming pools and cycle trails.

Increased number of older people

Likely implications:

- demand for facilities and services to support older people. e.g. safe and appealing places to sit and relax, accessible places, indoor and outdoor places for activities;
- demand for accessible places and facilities, especially catering to people with a disability.

Increased proportion of lone person households

Likely implications:

- demand for facilities and spaces which provide opportunities to meet other people.

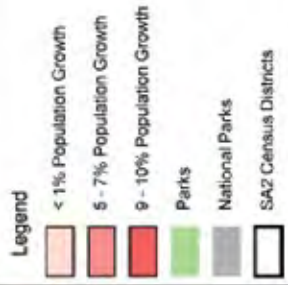
Increased proportion of flats, units and apartments

Likely implications:

- demand for parkland spaces and community facilities where people can gather and socialise due to the lack of private outdoor space;
- demand for parkland spaces where new residential development involves smaller lot sizes (and small backyards) which limit scope for physical activities.



Newcastle Planning Districts 2011 - 2026 Projected Population Growth

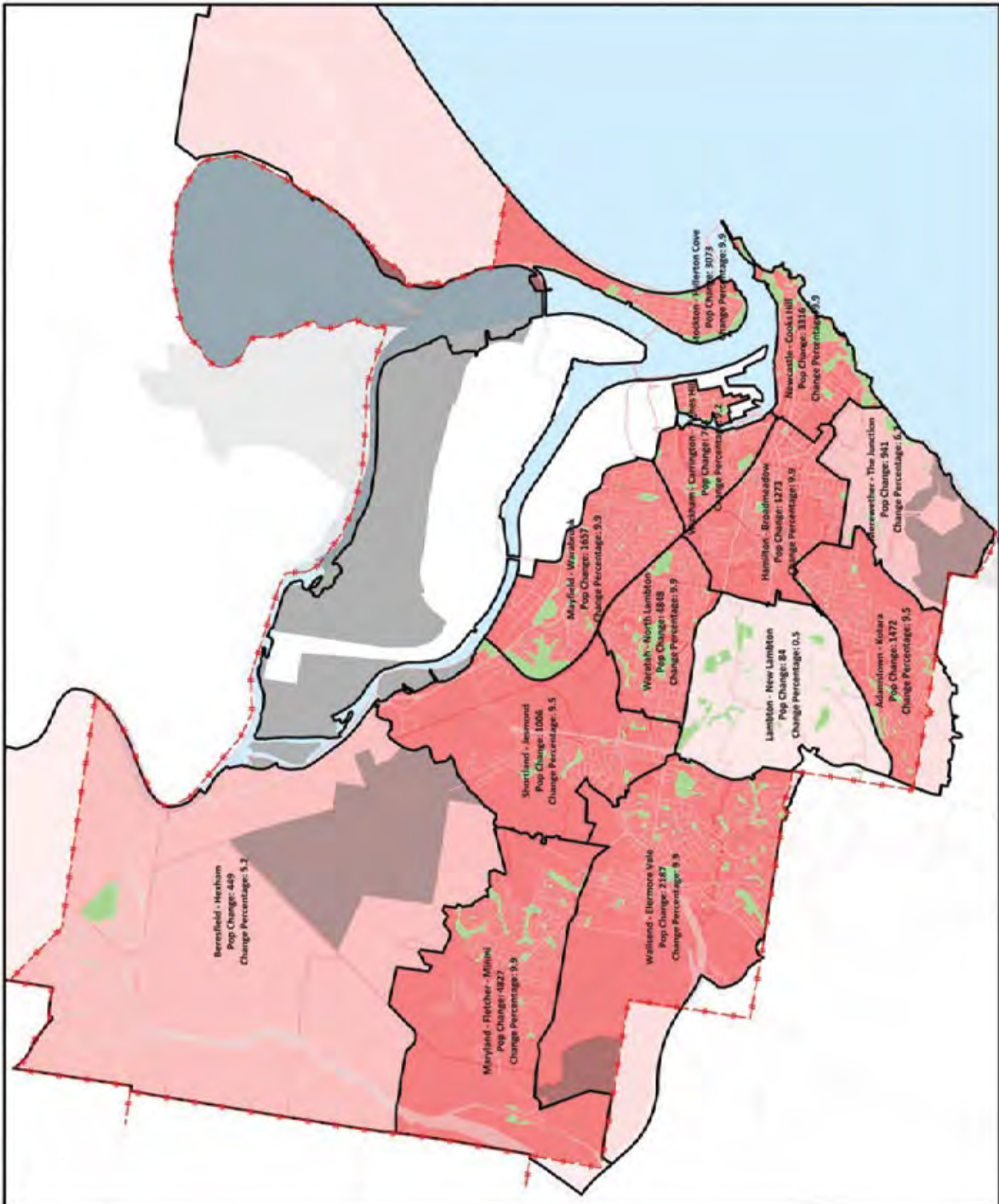


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Map Created: 30 October 2013
Source: NCC Data, 2011 ABS SA2 Data



14. Consultation and Demand

A comprehensive consultation process was developed to engage with the broader community and relevant stakeholders. The consultation process involved several elements to understand community demand for parkland and recreation facilities.

These included:

- An online questionnaire survey of the general community;
- Intercept surveys of the general community at various parks and sports facilities;
- Survey of sporting associations, facility managers and park management committees;
- Interviews with key stakeholders; and
- Workshop involving key officers across Council service units.

The following section provides a summary of the key feedback regarding community demand for parkland, sport, and recreation facilities in the Newcastle LGA, as identified during the study's consultation program.

14.1 Community recreation survey

An online survey was conducted via Newcastle Voice members to better understand the community's recreation patterns and help guide the city's future decisions about parks, public open spaces and recreation.

The survey was conducted over the period of Monday 22 April to Monday 3 May 2013. All active Newcastle Voice members (n= 2,338) were invited to complete the survey. In total, 761 members completed the survey, a response rate of 32.5%.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback to 12 questions ranging from the type of leisure or recreation activity they do on a regular basis, places and facilities they use most in Newcastle, priorities for recreation areas or leisure facility development and Council's role in terms of leisure and recreation programs and services.

The detailed survey report can be accessed from:
http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/council/community_consultation/completed_consultations/recreation_in_newcastle

In summary the survey identified:

- That running/jogging/walking, visit to parks and gardens, enjoying picnics and bbq's and swimming, are the most popular recreational activities undertaken on a regular basis.
- The most popular factor that would encourage participants to undertake more leisure and recreational activities was "more personal time". Additional information about the availability and location of activities was also identified as highly important.
- The leisure and recreation areas/facilities which are used most regularly are cycle paths/walking trails/foreshore promenade; local parks, beach/foreshore; regional parks and gardens and fitness centres/gymnasiums.
- Key findings in relation to the priorities for future development of leisure and recreation facilities in Newcastle are: cycle paths/walking trails/foreshore promenade, beach/foreshore and local parks.
- Key findings in relation to the Council's priorities for future development of leisure and recreation facilities in Newcastle should funds become available are: beach/foreshore, regional parks/gardens and cycle paths/walking trails/foreshore promenade.
- The key actions that would improve people's experience of leisure and recreation facilities are: more cycle way/bike paths, increase/better/cheaper parking, remove or reduce graffiti/anti social behaviour, link walking and cycle trails.
- The key themes in relation to the Council's role in the provision of leisure and recreation services were: the maintenance of recreation facilities, providing clean and safe facilities and the provision and maintenance of clean public toilets.
- The preferred methods of communication regarding recreational facilities, services and activities were local newspapers and Council's website. Free newspapers, local radio and Council e-news and Council news were also valued methods of communication.

14.2 Community intercept surveys

Intercept surveys were conducted at seven locations throughout the LGA to better understand the community's recreation patterns and help guide the city's future decisions about parks, public open spaces and recreation. Questions used in the online survey were repeated the intercept surveys to allow for comparison of data.

The surveys were conducted over two sessions; morning (8am - noon) and afternoon (1pm – 5pm) on weekdays and weekends over the period of Sunday 21 April to Sunday 28 April 2013. A total of 200 community members completed the survey. The detailed survey report can be accessed from: http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/council/community_consultation/completed_consultations/recreation_in_newcastle

In summary the survey identified:

- That running/jogging/walking, swimming, visits to parks and gardens, cycling, organised sports and supervising or watching others doing recreational activities are the most popular recreational activities undertaken on a regular basis. These activities appear to be amongst the most popular regardless of age group or gender.
- The beach/foreshore, local parks and cycle paths/walking trails/foreshore promenade are extremely popular and valued facilities, each used regularly by over 80% of respondents. Playgrounds are also very popular facilities.
- The most popular factor that would encourage participants to undertake more leisure and recreational activities was “more personal time”.
- Key findings in relation to the Council's priorities for future development of leisure and recreation facilities in Newcastle are: local parks, beach/foreshore, cycle paths/walking trails/foreshore promenade and playgrounds.
- The single thing that would improve people's experience of leisure and recreation facilities are: Increase/better/cheaper parking, increased facilities/better facilities, improve access/make facilities accessible, Improved ground maintenance/cleaner parks and beaches.
- The key themes in relation to the Council's role in the provision of leisure and recreation services were: the provision of good quality, clean and safe facilities that are well maintained, funding of infrastructure and maintenance, the promotion of services/facilities/activities and listening to the community.

- The preferred methods of communication regarding recreational facilities, services and activities remain mostly traditional media such as newspapers, local radio and the council website. Email and council e-news were also valued methods of communication.

14.3 Newcastle sporting community surveys and interviews

An electronic survey was circulated to all Newcastle Sporting Associations, Tennis Clubs and Park Committees (a total of sixty two organisations). Sporting Associations were specifically targeted as they are the governing body generally responsible for competition administration, planning and development for their sport. In the instances where a sport did not have a local association, surveys were sent to state sporting associations or individual clubs.

Responses were received from forty five associations, clubs and park committees as identified in Appendix B. Follow up interviews were requested and conducted with 16 organisations.

The themes for the surveys included:

Facility provision - This theme included discussion around: how well current facilities are meeting current needs and forecast challenges that may impact on sports ability to deliver competition.

Facility development - This theme included discussion around: projected participation growth and how Council can partner with sports to meet this predicted demand.

Facility management - This theme included discussion around: whether there is a need to modify the way facilities are managed to improve accessibility and competition delivery.

Challenges - This theme included discussion around: the key initiative that would make the biggest improvement to the delivery of sport.

Partnerships - This theme included discussion around: Council's priority role in sport and the identification of partnership opportunities to improve recreation provision within Newcastle.

Detailed responses are identified in Appendix A. Table 2 identifies the key findings from this research.

Table 2: Key findings from sporting community surveys and interviews

Issue	Stakeholder Comments
Facility Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership and participation has increased substantially for many sporting codes. This has resulted in capacity being reached at some venues. • A number of facilities are overused due to high participation, limited space, unavailability of floodlights and poor oval drainage. • Many clubs are unable to use existing facilities to maximum potential due to lack of key infrastructure e.g. drainage, canteens and competition standard floodlights. • The majority of sporting codes expect continued growth in membership over the next 5-10 years, creating further pressure on sportsgrounds. • A number of sporting codes are planning to establish new clubs within the Western Planning Corridor (Fletcher-Minmi-Maryland). New facilities will be required to facilitate the development of these clubs.
Facility Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of facilities is mixed, ranging from poor to excellent. • There is a need to upgrade facilities to reflect meet current expectations, sports standards, different levels of competition and community demands. • The availability of higher quality facilities which accommodate district -level competition is limited within the Newcastle LGA. The need to develop district level facilities was expressed by a number of sporting codes. • A number of sporting codes who have developed facilities on Crown land do not receive any support from Council. Their initiative is not being encouraged. Financial support to maintain these facilities is required. • Potential investment and upgrades to a number of facilities is being delayed due to expired leases and excessive bureaucracy. • Greater input into the decision making process for capital works identification and prioritisation was expressed by a number of sporting codes.
Facility Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of inconsistencies between Council and Park committees in how facilities are allocated and managed. • The centralisation of facility booking may remove inconsistencies and reduce confusion and administration time for volunteers. • Annual fees and maintenance responsibilities identified in lease agreements are inconsistent and differ for each tennis facility. • The distribution of keys, access to sportsground amenities and the wet weather policy were identified as key issues that need to be reviewed. • A number of sporting code expressed frustration with the inability to access fields for pre-season activities i.e. training, trial matches. • Some sporting codes are turning potential participants away due to the inability to access additional space to schedule more games. • Greater explanation and clarification of the rules guiding the allocation of new and existing sportsgrounds to sporting codes was requested. • Clarification of the role and responsibilities of Council and Park Committees regarding oval bookings, maintenance repairs and capital upgrades is important.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dependence on volunteers and the ongoing need to recruit and train them is a major burden for clubs. • The cost of hiring facilities and the increasing financial impacts on members is a key concern for clubs. • The condition of facilities, lack of infrastructure and the inability to access the number of sportsgrounds required for training and competition is an ongoing challenge faced by codes.
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision and maintenance of quality, safe, affordable and well developed facilities was identified as the priority role for Council. Other priority roles included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting clubs and volunteers; • assisting with the preparation of grants; and • assistance with club administration. • Improved communication was identified as an important to developing greater understanding of decisions, building relationships, trust and partnerships with Council. • Greater cooperation and information sharing between sporting codes is desirable. • The University of Newcastle, Hunter Academy of Sport and NSW State Sports Associations were identified a key organisations whom partnerships with could improve recreation opportunities within Newcastle.

14.4 Newcastle 2030 survey

In December 2012, a community survey was conducted to better understand the community's priorities and gather ideas to help shape the future for Newcastle.

The survey was conducted over the period of 12 November to 4 December 2012. All active Newcastle Voice members (n= 2,774) were invited to complete the survey. A link was provided on Council's website for any interested members of the community who were not already members of Newcastle Voice's community reference panel. In total, 1005 Newcastle voice members and 58 responses from the broader community completed the survey.

Seventeen questions were developed to gauge community awareness of the *Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan*, to seek to better understand the community's priorities and gather ideas to help shape the future for Newcastle. Of the seven strategic directions contained within *Newcastle 2030*, the development of Vibrant and Activated Public Places will be largely delivered upon by the Parkland and Recreation Strategy.

This strategic direction of Vibrant and Activated Public Places has the following objectives:

- Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections;
- Culture, heritage and place are valued, shared and celebrated; and
- Safe and activated places that are used by people day and night.

When asked to review the importance of these objectives in achieving the strategic direction of Vibrant and Activated Public Place:

- 93% of respondents indicated that Safe and activated places that are used by people day and night was extremely or very important;
- 82% of respondents indicated that Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections was extremely or very important; and
- 75% of respondents indicated that Culture, heritage and place are valued, shared and celebrated, was extremely or very important.

When asked for ideas on how we can work towards achieving Vibrant and Activated Public Places in an open-ended question for this section, 336 comments received. These responses are categorised by key themes, which are summarised below:

- Safety was the main issue noted by 27.7% respondents. This was composed mainly of calls for a greater police or security presence on the streets (9.2%), better lighting throughout town (5.7%), and CCTV.
- Development related issues were the next most noted topic (21.1%). A number of these were comments about preserving or using unoccupied heritage buildings (8.9%).
- Just under one in five respondents (18.5%) provided comments relating to focusing on Council facilities in hopes of achieving vibrant and activated public spaces.
- Just under one in five respondents noted transport related issues (17.9%). Most of these related to the need for having safe, reliable public transport.

“We need to feel relaxed and safe using our public places especially for our children”.



14.5 Newcastle council staff workshop

During December 2012, an internal workshop with thirty two staff from across a number of service units within Council was undertaken to better understand Council's role and strengths in parkland and recreation provision and the actions needed to realise the *Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan*. The key findings from this research are identified in Table 3.

Table 3: Newcastle Council staff workshop findings

Workshop Question	Stakeholder Comments
<p>What are the recreation facilities and services that TCoN does well?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool, beach and ocean-based recreation and services, • Foreshore/Coastal revitalization planning, • Coastal shared pathways, • Off – road cycle ways, • Attracting/conducting/supporting large events, • Recreational diversity, • Different levels of facilities – local to regional, • Providing a range of facilities for free (e.g. beach, baths, paths) and low cost, • Equitable access, • Skate parks, • Urban spaces, • Parks maintenance, • Promotion, • Place making.
<p>What are the recreation facilities and services other providers do well?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor aquatic facilities, • Indoor gyms/fitness centers, • Large recreational facilities, • Recreational activities - programs, classes, boot camps/sport development, • Organized sport, • Golf clubs, • Festivals and events, • Newcastle Now events, • Neighborhood based community events, • Marketing of recreation facilities.
<p>What are the key challenges concerning open space, sport, recreation and leisure in Newcastle?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finite open space with increasing population, • Providing sufficient quality community land to meet future demand, • Equitable distribution throughout city, • Equitable funding allocations, • Ensuring levels of service are maintained via adequate funding allocations, • Understanding and meeting changing community expectations/use of open space, • User pays, • Aging infrastructure, • Making evidence based decisions, • Community consultation, • Managing/administration of sporting and community groups, • Reluctance to change - Overcoming “we’ve always done it this way” syndrome, • Dominance of organised sport, • Need broader mix of uses, • Lack of connectivity – public transport , separated cycleways, • Linking to new communication technology.

Workshop Question	Stakeholder Comments
<p>What are the recreation facilities and services we need to achieve Newcastle 2030?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality natural areas, • Flexible space for different activities and changing trends, • Integrated recreation and community spaces, • Opportunities for marginalised groups to participate, • Dog friendly facilities, • Activated spaces and places, • Cycleway and pedestrian connections and links to places, • Spaces accessible public transport, • Increased public access to water, • Indoor all year round aquatic centre, • Coastal facilities, • Quality facilities, • Community development and place making, • Safe night activities.
<p>What are the recreation facilities and services Council is better positioned to provide in order to achieve Newcastle 2030?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging and facilitating collaborative partnerships, • Projects/services that link across multiple owners, • Capacity building, • Ensuring equitable public access, • Coordination of maintenance, • Facilities that have community benefits that are non-profitable and require subsidization, e.g basic parks, shared pathways/cycleways, • Balance of provision – active, passive, extreme, • Keeping up with current trends, • Providing information/promotion of facilities, services, • Coastal facilities, • Identifying capacity in existing facilities, • It needs to be defined through this process.
<p>What are the recreation facilities and services other providers are better positioned to provide in order to achieve Newcastle 2030?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic facilities, • Tourism experiences.
<p>Who could Council potentially partner with to provide recreation facilities and services?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, • Department of Education, • Department of Lands/Crown, • NSW Police, • NSW National Parks Wildlife Service, • MSW Premiers Council for Active Living, • Hunter Area Health, • Hunter Development Corporation, • Non-government organisations, • Education institutions (secondary and tertiary), • Leisure management providers, • Private fitness facility providers, • Hunter Region Organizations Council, • Neighboring LGA's, • Corporate bodies, • Developers, • Service clubs, community groups/not for profit organisations.

14.6 Newcastle community survey

During March 2012, a community survey was conducted to gain insight regarding community satisfaction with Council performance and assess community attitudes towards the provision of services in the Newcastle LGA.

The survey was conducted over the period of 12 March to 26 March 2012. All active Newcastle Voice members (n= 2,548) were invited to complete the survey. In total, 998 Newcastle Voice members completed the survey.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback to eight questions regarding the importance and satisfaction of 32 Council facilities and services. The detailed survey report is located at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/council/community_consultation/completed_consultations/community_survey_2012

In summary, the survey identified that when assessing the level importance of services currently provided by Council:

- Parks and recreation services ranked No. 5 (high importance);
- Maintenance of beaches and beach facilities ranked No. 6 (high importance);
- Swimming pools were ranked No. 20 (high importance);
- Sporting facilities were ranked No. 23 (high importance).

When assessing the level satisfaction of facilities and services currently provided by Council:

- Swimming pools were ranked No. 3 (medium satisfaction);
- Sporting facilities were ranked No. 5 (medium satisfaction);
- Parks and recreation services were ranked No. 6 (medium satisfaction).

Overall, 65% of the respondents were satisfied with the recreation facilities provided throughout the LGA.

The research identified that value and importance the community places on recreation facilities and services, in particular parkland and beach facilities.

“I think vibrant and activated public places need green space, seats, nice views, shelter and less concrete. We can build more community gardens together”.

15. Sport and Recreation Participation

To gain a broad understanding of potential demand for parkland, recreation and sporting related facilities, it is appropriate to consider a number of quantitative factors, including:

- National and NSW participation figures;
- Newcastle data including:
 - Local participation figures and growth rates;
 - Facility allocations and utilisation rates; and
 - Expressed community demand and preferences.

The following section provides a summary of national and local factors affecting community demand for parkland, sport, recreation facilities in the Newcastle LGA.

15.1 National and NSW participation

To gain a broad understanding of potential demand for related facilities, it is appropriate to consider national and NSW participation figures available through the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

Figures 12-16 highlight a number of high participation activities and give an indication of the potential number of participants in Newcastle.

Adult Participation

The ASC's Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) collects information on the frequency, duration, nature and type of physical activities participated in for exercise, recreation or sport by person's aged 15 years and over.

'Physical activity' is defined as physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport. Physical activity participation is captured in a number of forms.

'All physical activity' includes those activities that were organised by a club, association or other type of organisation, and those activities that were non-

organised. It excludes those activities that were part of household or garden duties, or were part of work.

'Non-organised physical activity' is physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was non-organised in full or in part (that is, not fully organised by a club, association or other type of organisation).

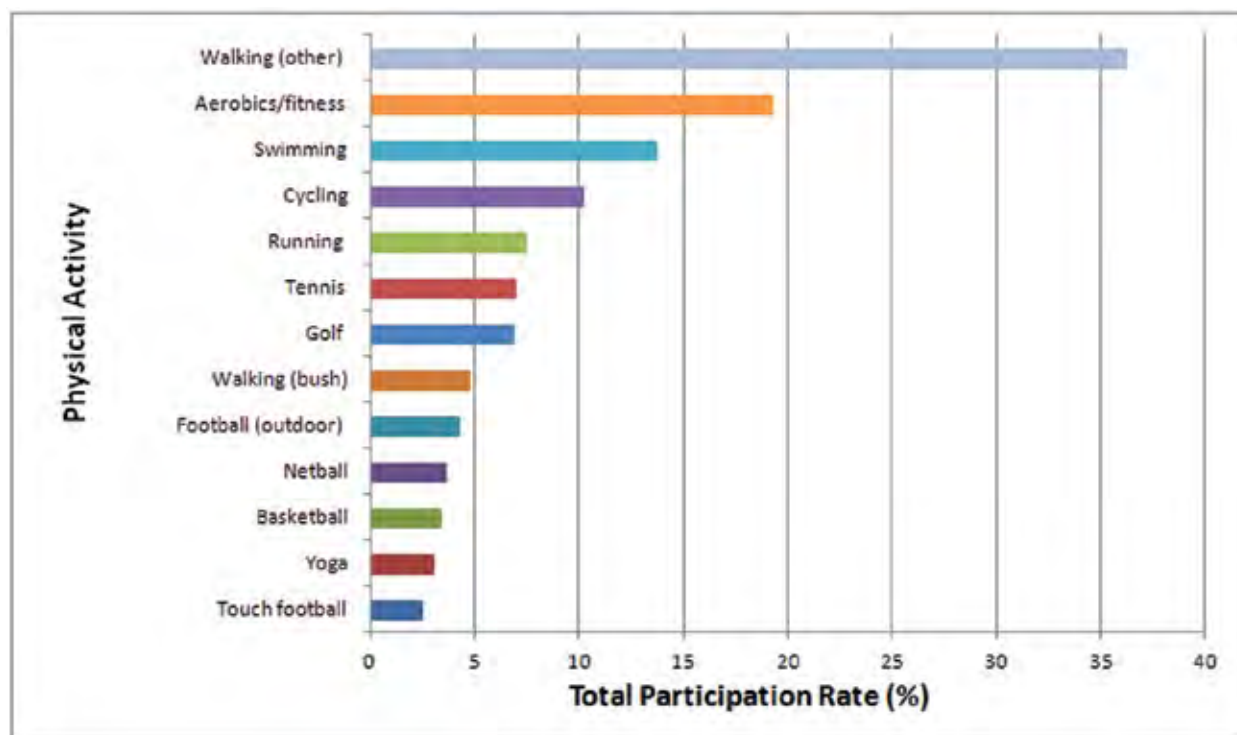
'Organised physical activity' is physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by a fitness, leisure or indoor sports centre that required payment for participation, a sport or recreation club or association that required payment of membership, fees or registration, a workplace, a school, or any other type of organisation.

All physical activities

Of 'all physical activities', walking had the highest total participation rate (35.9%). An estimated 6.3 million persons aged 15 years and over walked at least once for exercise, recreation or sport in the 12 months prior to interview. (This excluded bushwalking, which is categorised separately).

- Other activities with relatively high total participation rates were aerobics/fitness activities (23.5%), swimming (13.0%), cycling (11.9%) and running (10.6%).
- Walking had the highest total participation rate for both females (45.3%) and males (26.2%).
- For females, activities with the highest total participation rates were walking (45.3%), aerobics/fitness activities (28.2%), swimming (13.9%), running (8.4%), cycling (8.4%), netball (6.5%) and yoga (6.1%).
- For males, activities with the highest total participation rates were walking (26.2%), aerobics/fitness activities (18.7%), cycling (15.5%), running (12.8%), swimming (12.1%) and golf (11.4%).

Figure 12: Top ten organised and non organised physical activities, 2010



Source: The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), 2010.

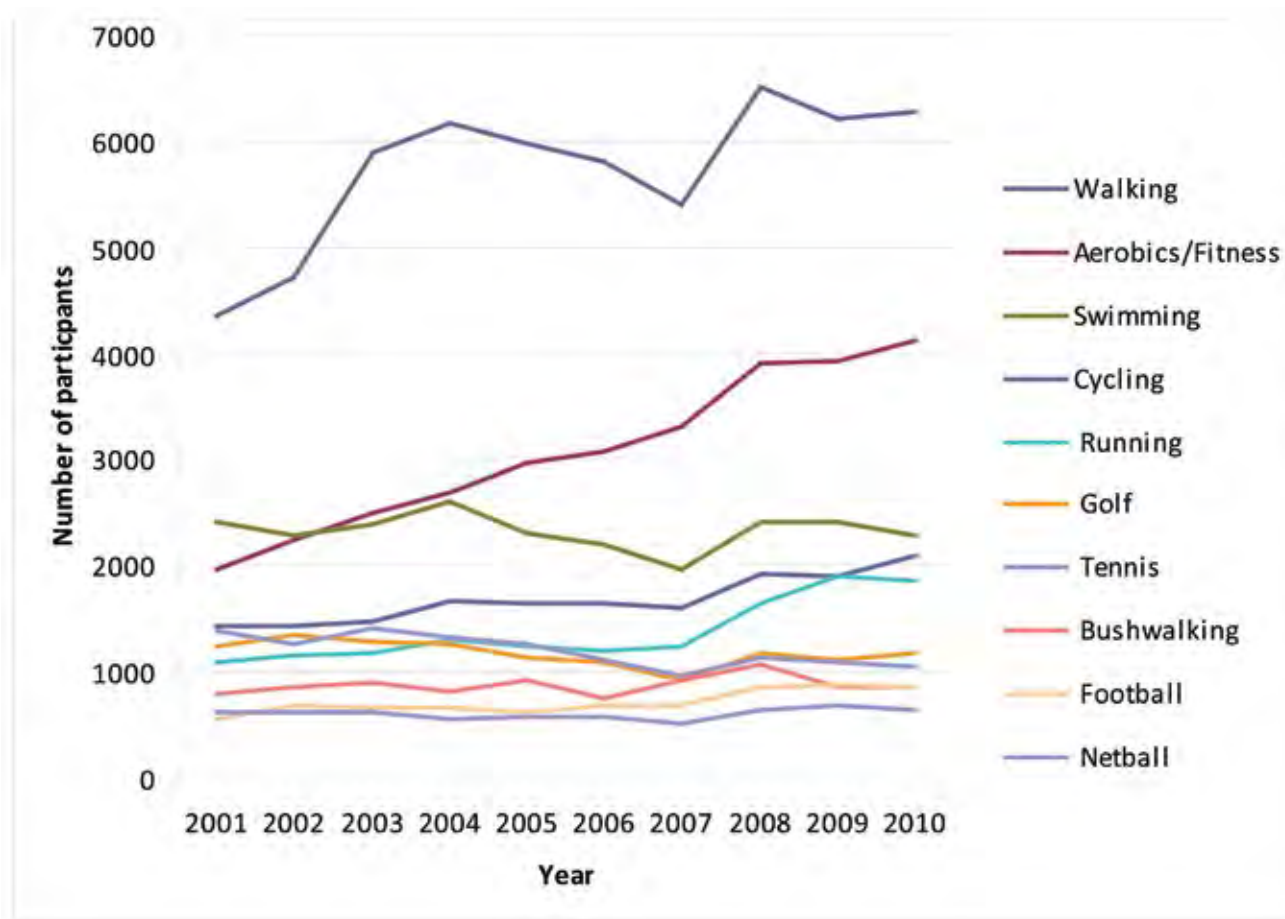
Other activities in the top ten to experience large increases compared to 2001 include:

- running (+71%), which showed a steady increase between 2001 to 2005, a slight decline in 2006, increased again between 2006 and 2009, and declined slightly again in 2010;
- outdoor football (+53%); which increased between 2001 and 2002, declined somewhat between 2002 and 2005, increased again between 2005 and 2009, and remained steady in 2010;
- cycling (+45%), which increased between 2002 and 2004, remained steady between 2004 and 2006, declined somewhat in 2007, increased between 2007 and 2008, declined slightly in 2009 but increased in 2010 to be at the highest level in ten years;
- walking (+44%), which increased between 2001 and 2004, decrease somewhat between 2004 and 2007, increased in 2008, and decreased slightly again in 2009 and 2010.

Activities experiencing declines in participation between 2001 and 2010 include:

- tennis (-24%), where participation steadily declined between 2003 and 2007, increased in 2008, but since then has marginally declined again, and is now at its second lowest participation rate since 2001;
- swimming (-6%), where participation rates have continued to fluctuate and since 2008 have declined slightly;
- golf (-5%), where participation declined steadily between 2002 and 2007 but increased somewhat in the period 2008 to 2010.

Figure 13: Adult participation in organised physical activities 2001 - 2010



Source: The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), 2010

Non – organised physical activities

Of all ‘Non-organised activities’, walking had the highest total participation rate (35.3%). An estimated 6.2 million persons aged 15 years and over walked at least once, as a non-organised activity, in the 12 months prior to interview. Almost all participation in walking was non-organised. (This excluded non-organised bushwalking, which is categorised separately).

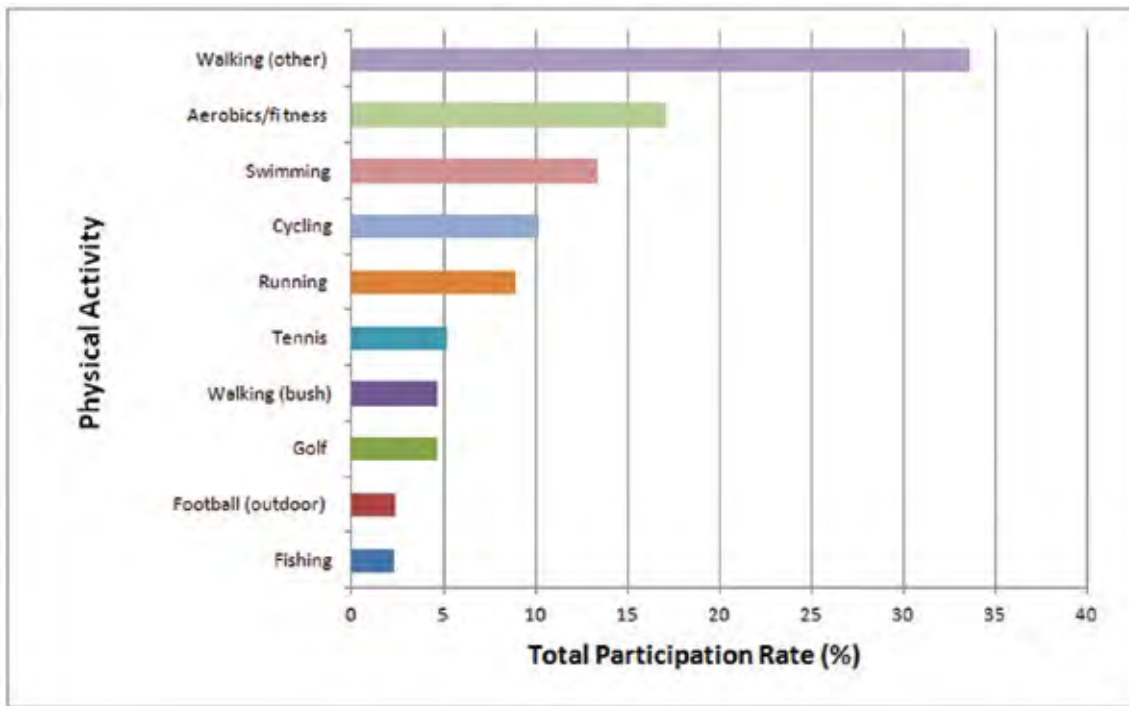
Other non-organised sports and physical activities with relatively high total participation rates were aerobics/

fitness activities (17.9%), swimming (12.3%), cycling (11.3%) and running (10.0%). Almost all participation in cycling, running and swimming was non-organised.

In terms of the top ten non-organised activities, aerobics/fitness had the largest increase in total participation between 2001 and 2010 (+183% between 2001 and 2010).

Fitness participation increased steadily over the ten years, except for a slight decline in 2007.

Figure 14: Adult participation in non – organised physical activities 2010



Source: The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), 2010

Other non – organised activities to experience large increases since 2001 include:

- running (+77%), which increased between 2001 and 2004, declined slightly between 2004 and 2006, increased again between 2007 and 2009, and has declined slightly in 2010;
- cycling (+46%), which increased fairly steadily between 2002 and 2005, declined slightly in the period 2005 to 2007, increased again between 2007 and 2008, declined slightly between 2008 and 2009, and has increased again in 2010;
- walking (+44%), which increased between 2001 and 2004, declined between 2004 and 2007, increased again in 2008, declined slightly in 2009, and has remained steady in 2010;
- weight training (+34%), which has shown no consistent pattern between 2001 and 2010.

In terms of the top ten non-organised activities, the only one experiencing a decline in participation of any note between 2001 and 2010 was tennis (-21%). The decline in tennis participation mainly occurred between 2003 and 2007. Participation increased between

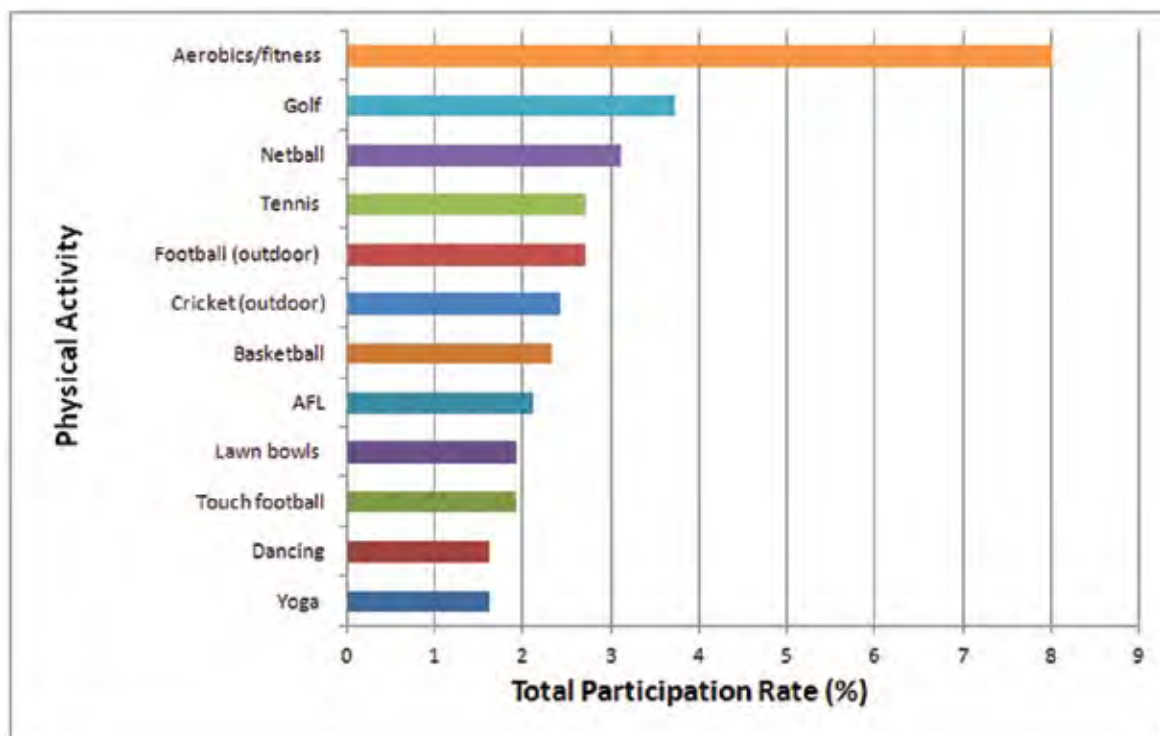
2007 and 2008, but declined again in 2009 and 2010. Participation in 2010 was lower than in 2001.

Organised physical activities

In 2010, the organised activity with the highest total participation rate was aerobics/fitness (7.1%). An estimated 1.2 million persons aged 15 years and over participated in this activity in an organised environment at least once in the 12 months prior to interview.

The other organised activities that attracted the greatest number of participants were golf (3.4%), outdoor football (3.4%), netball (3.1%), Australian rules football (2.6%), tennis (2.4%), basketball (2.3%), touch football (2.3%), outdoor cricket (2.1%) and lawn bowls (1.9%).

Figure 15: Adult participation in organised physical activities 2010



Source: The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), 2010

Other organised activities in the top ten to experience large increases compared to 2001 include:

- Australian Rules Football (+64%) which experienced a slight but steady increase between 2001 and 2005, a decline in the period 2005 to 2007, before increasing again in 2008 to 2010. In 2010, the participation rate in Australian rules football was the highest in the ten-year period;
- Outdoor football (+55%) experienced little change between 2001 and 2007, but then increased in the period 2007 to 2010;
- Outdoor cricket also experienced a large increase in participation between 2001 and 2010 (+33%). Participation increased between 2001 and 2004, fluctuated in the period 2004 to 2008, and has increased in the period 2008 to 2010;
- Another organised activity experiencing an increase between 2001 and 2010 was lawn bowls (+20%), which increased between 2001 and 2003, decreased between 2003 and 2007, then increased again in 2008 before decreasing slightly again in 2009. The 2010 rate was equivalent to the 2009 participation rate, although the absolute number of participants was slightly higher.

- Aerobics/fitness organised participation increased 26% between 2001 and 2010, but there has been great fluctuation in that period and organised participation now appears to be in decline. In 2010, the organised participation rate of 7.2% was the lowest in the nine-year period from 2002 to 2010, but higher than in 2001 when it was 6.5%.

Of the top ten organised activities, there was a decline in participation between 2001 and 2010 for:

- tennis (-24%), for which the organised participation rate declined steadily from 2004 and, in 2010, was at its lowest participation rate in the ten-year period; and
- golf (-8%), which peaked in 2002–2003 but in 2010 was at a level lower than in 2001.

Children's participation

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities survey collects information on participation in sport, cultural activities and use of technology for children aged between 5-14 years. This survey is undertaken every three years.

Key Findings - Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey (2012)

Of participation in organised sport outside of school hours, swimming/diving had the highest total participation rate (17.7%). An estimated 492,000

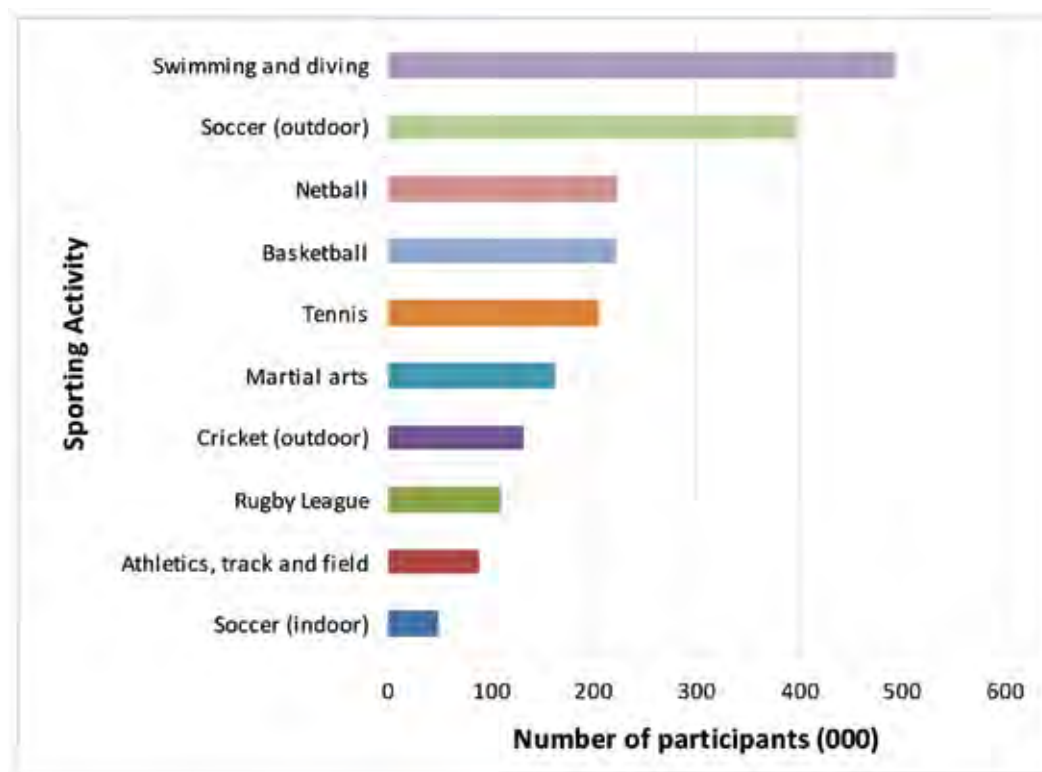
children aged 5 to 14 years participated organised swimming / diving outside of school hours at least once in the 12 months prior to interview.

Other activities with relatively high total participation rates were outdoor soccer (14.3%), Australian rules football (8.1%), netball (8.0%) and basketball (7.9%).

The three most popular sports for girls aged 5 to 14 years were swimming/diving (19%), netball (16.2%) and gymnastics (8.1%).

The three most popular sports for boys aged 5 to 14 years were outdoor soccer (21.7%), swimming/diving (16.5%) and Australian rules football (14.9%).

Figure 16: Children participation in organised physical activities 2012



Source: The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), 2010

Other activities in the top ten to experience increases in participation compared to 2006 include:

- martial arts (+34%), which showed a large increase between 2006 to 2009, and a continued steady increase in 2012;
- basketball (+25%); which increased sharply between 2006 and 2009, and again between 2009 and 2012;
- athletics (+14%), which increased between 2006 and 2009 and decreased slightly between 2009 and 2012;

- outdoor soccer (+13%), which increased between 2006 and 2009, but increased significantly between 2009 and 2012.

Activities experiencing decline in participation between 2001 and 2010 included:

- indoor soccer (-18%), which increased sharply between 2006 and 2009, but since has significantly declined; and
- outdoor cricket (-9%), which decreased slightly between 2006 and 2009, and has declined steadily since.

A comparison of National and NSW participation rates generally identifies similar trends in growth and decline in participation rates for the top 10 sporting activities. The research identified:

- In NSW, higher rates of participation increases in basketball.

- In NSW, greater rates of participation decline in indoor soccer (-54.8% as compared to -18.2%), netball (-10.4% as compared to -1.4%) , rugby league (-12.9% as compared to -1.4%).

Table 4: Australian children (aged 5-14 years) participation, 2006 and 2012

Activity	Australian Participation			NSW Participation		
	No. of participants ('000)		Change 2006-2012	No. of participants ('000)		Change 2006-2012
	2006	2012		2006	2012	
Swimming and diving	462.5	492.1	6.4%	154.0	163.4	6.1%
Soccer (outdoor)	351.1	397.6	13.2%	175.5	190.6	8.6%
Netball	225.8	222.7	-1.4%	80.9	72.5	-10.4%
Basketball	176.3	220.2	24.9%	33.6	45.3	34.8%
Tennis	195.1	205.2	5.2%	56.6	60.7	7.2%
Martial arts	120.4	161.0	33.7%	39.4	46.6	18.3%
Cricket (outdoor)	143.5	130.7	-8.9%	45.5	40.5	-11.0%
Rugby League	111.5	109.9	-1.4%	68.1	59.3	-12.9%
Athletics, track and field	77.5	88.6	14.3%	26.8	23.5	-12.3%
Soccer (indoor)	58.7	48.0	-18.2%	32.1	14.5	-54.8%

Source: The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS), 2010

In addition to organised sport, the Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities survey collects information on participation in recreation activities including skate boarding, bike riding, and rollerblading or riding a scooter. When comparing participation between boys and girls, the research identified:

- high participation by boys, 70% for bike riding and 60% for skate boarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter;
- lower comparative participation for girls, 57% for bike riding and 47% for skate boarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter;
- between 2009 and 2012, participation in bike riding increased for boys and girls, 4% and 3% respectively.

Other key findings from the 2012 Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities survey included:

- 56% of all children aged between 5 to 8 years participated in organised sport;
- 66% of all children aged between 9 and 11 years participated in organised sport;
- 60% of all children aged between 12 to 14 years participated in organised sport;
- participation was higher for children born in Australia (61%) compared with those born overseas (52%);
- participation was higher for children in couple families (64%) compared with those living in one-parent families (48%).



15.2 Planning implications

- Participation rates obtained via the ABS and ERASS provide an indication of the potential demand for sport and recreation activities and facilities within Newcastle;
- Any direct correlations are based on the participation levels for recreation and sport being similar to the National and NSW participation data. In reality, participation could vary for a number of activities, including;
 - Walking and bicycle riding participating may be higher in Newcastle due to the existence of the coastal walking track (Bathers Way) and extensive bicycle network (Fernleigh track);
 - Participation in swimming, surf sports and other water activities could be higher in Newcastle due to the coastal setting and the availability of water bodies.
- In addition, demand for sport and recreation activities and facilities in 2026 figures are based on 2012 participation levels. Interest in sport could change over the next 20 years and the numbers could alter substantially;
- As such this information can only be indicative and provide a broad understanding of the likely demand for facilities and activity opportunities for which there could be higher demand.

15.3 Newcastle participation

As part of the development of the *Parkland and Recreation Strategy*, sporting associations, tennis clubs and park committees responsible for managing Council sport grounds provided information regarding participation and growth rates of each sporting user.

The key findings in relation to participation and growth for organised sports included:

- 78% of Newcastle sporting associations experienced increased growth in participation over the previous 5 years;
- 68% of Newcastle sporting associations projected increased growth in participation over the forthcoming 5 years;
- Only 21% of Newcastle sporting associations projected slight increase in growth in participation over the forthcoming 5 years.

A number of factors were identified Newcastle Sports Association as likely drivers of future participation growth. These include:

- Increased residential population growth throughout LGA;
- Popularity of sporting code;
- Increased attraction and access to the sport through the development of new sport formats e.g. women's competitions in traditionally male only sports, mid-week competitions, short duration and social competitions (8 weeks) etc.

Table 5 identifies current participation numbers, past and forecast growth rates and expected driver of future participation growth.

A number of factors were identified Newcastle Sports Association as likely drivers of future participation growth, including:

- Increased residential population growth throughout Newcastle's LGA;
- Popularity of sporting code;
- Increased attraction and access to the sport through the development of new sport formats e.g. women's competitions in traditionally male only sports, mid-week competitions, short duration and social competitions (8 weeks) etc.

Table 5: Participation Rates for selected Newcastle Sporting Associations, 2013

Sport	Sports association	2012 player numbers	Actual growth 2007-2012	Likely growth 2014-2019	Driver for likely growth
AFL	AFL NSW/ACT	400	Increase	Increase	Population growth, popularity of code
Archery	Newcastle City Archers	68	Increase	Increase	Increased interest
Athletics	Newcastle Veteran's Athletics	85 - NCC 100 - Hunter	Increase	Slight increase	-
	Wallsend Athletics Club	390/360	Stable - slight increase	Stable	-
	Adamstown New Lambton	404	Increase	Increase	-
Baseball	Newcastle Baseball Association	-	Increase	Increase	New Australian Baseball League
Cricket	Newcastle Junior Cricket	990 - NCC 1,800 - Hunter	Increase	Increase	Population growth, popularity of code, new game formats
	Newcastle District Cricket	740	Increase	Increase	
	Newcastle City and Suburban	1,930	Increase	Increase	
Football	Hunter Christian Churches Football	540 - NCC 1,350 - Hunter	Increase	Increase	Popularity of code, Well organised competition, Lower cost competition
	Newcastle Football	7,900 - NCC 9,200 - Hunter	Increase	Increase	Popularity of code, Population growth
Hockey	Newcastle District Women's Hockey	500 - NCC 1,500 - Hunter	Stable	Increase	Initiatives driven by NSW Hockey's Strategic Plan
Pistol	Newcastle Pistol Club Inc	290/180	Increase	Increase	Popularity of sport
Netball	Newcastle Netball Association	3,800	Increase	Increase	Population growth, popularity of code, new male competition
Oz Tag	Newcastle Oz Tag	1500 - NCC 2,000 - Hunter	Increase	Increase	Population growth, popularity of the sport, awareness of the sport
Rugby League	Newcastle Rugby League	2,136 - NCC 8,936 - Hunter	Increase	Increase	Population growth, new female competition
Rugby Union	Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union	2,000	Stable	Stable - slight increase	
Softball	Newcastle Softball	260 - NCC 650 - Hunter	-	-	-
Touch Football	Newcastle Touch (all competitions)	6,500	Increase	Increase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance between the NRL & TFA • Initiatives driven by NSW TF Development Framework
Water Polo	Newcastle Water Polo Association	307 - NCC 407 - Hunter	Increase	Slight increase	New competition format
	Central Newcastle Water Polo	120	Increase	Increase	

Note: NCC = estimated number of registered participants living with the Newcastle LGA. Hunter = estimated number of registered participants residing outside the Newcastle LGA, but participating in the Newcastle competition.



16. Guidelines and Standards of Provision

The provision of adequate levels of parkland and recreation facilities is a challenge faced by local governments Australia – wide. The questions of “how much is enough?”, “how big”, “how should it be distributed” and “what type of facilities and where” do not have simple answers. Needs and expectations vary within different communities, with households and with individuals throughout each local government area.

A range of approaches have been formulated by governments over many years as a basis for assessment of the adequacy of existing provision and to guide levels of provision. The following section outlines the approaches utilised to guide the provision of parkland and recreation infrastructure within the city of Newcastle.

16.1 Open Space Guidelines for Local Government

The NSW Department of Planning’s Open Space Guidelines for Local Government (2010) provides strategic guidance for the development and provision of open space. The guidelines identify ‘default’ provision standards for open space which are based on standards used elsewhere and current provision rates in Sydney’s West Central sub-regions (Appendix H).

The Open Space Guidelines provide advice on the size and area for different types of open space including parkland, sports fields and linkage corridors, recommended distances of these spaces to dwellings in addition to recommendations on the percentage of land that should be allocated to each open space type within new developments.

The guidelines provide a solid basis for open space planning, however the NSW Department of Planning recommends the use of these default standards only as a reference point. Local research which identifies existing open space supply, identified gaps and community demand is essential to ensure open space planning reflective local needs.

16.2 Parks and Leisure Australia benchmarks for community infrastructure

The NSW Department of Planning’s *Open Space Guidelines for Local Government* (2010) do not provide advice on the provision of specific types of recreation facilities. Most approaches to provision are developed by individual Council’s through a number of planning processes including: recreation strategies, developer contribution plans/voluntary planning agreements, published guidelines or through comparison of similar local government authorities.

To guide recreation facility provision, Parks and Leisure Australia, the industry peak body, in association with government and industry partners, have developed draft benchmarks for community and recreation infrastructure provision within existing and new development areas (Appendix I) .

The draft working paper identifies provision rates which aim to provide an indication of the extent of community infrastructure which will need to be considered and potentially provided.

Table 6 provides a numerical comparison of a number of recreation facilities within Newcastle against the draft provision rates developed by Parks and Leisure Australia. All recreation facilities located within the LGA, including education and privately owned facilities are included within the total number of facilities within Newcastle as they contribute to range of recreational opportunities available within the LGA.

The comparison suggests that based on current levels of provision Council will require continued investment in recreation infrastructure in order to meet community needs.

Table 6: Numerical comparison of Newcastle recreation facilities to draft provision rates of provision

Recreation Facility Type	Newcastle proposed provision rate	Existing No. of facilities located in Newcastle LGA*	Indicative No. facilities required by 2026	Indicative infrastructure requirements by 2026
Local Playgrounds	1: 1,500 people	106	121	An additional 15 facilities
District Playgrounds	1: 25,000 people	1	7	An additional 6 facilities
Regional Playgrounds	1:150,000 people	0	1	1 new facility
Sports Fields	1: 1,250 people	124 146*	145 145	An additional 36 fields or An additional 1 field
Netball Courts	1: 3,000 - 4,000 people	51	61	An additional 10 courts
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1: 5,000 people	9	36	An additional 27 courts
Local Tennis Courts	1: 3,000 - 4,000 people	79	45 - 61	Adequate to over supply
Regional Tennis Courts	1: 150,000 people	2#	1	Adequate supply
Local Skate / BMX	1: 10,000 - 15,000 people	8	12 - 18	An additional 4 to 10 facilities
District Skate / BMX	1: 25,000 people	2	7	An additional 5 facilities
Regional Skate / BMX	1: 150,000 people	0	0	1 new facility
Golf Course	1: 30,000 people	3	6	Adequate supply
Swimming Pools (50m)	1: 35,000 – 75,000 people	5	2 to 5	Adequate to oversupply
Regional Aquatic Facility	1: 150,000 people	0	1	1 new facility
Multi-purpose Sport Centre	1: 75,000 people	2	2 to 4	Up to 2 new facilities

* All recreation facilities located within the LGA, including education and privately owned facilities are included within the total number of facilities within Newcastle as they contribute to range of recreational opportunities available within the LGA. Playgrounds located within inland swimming pools and childcare centres have not been included.

Broadmeadow Tennis Complex has been classified as two facilities as it contains double the number of courts required for a regional facility.

16.3 Benchmarking of recreation facilities

Parkland and recreation facilities within the Newcastle's LGA have been benchmarked against six other local government areas as part of the development of this strategy (Table 6). Whilst the comparison only incorporates Council owned facilities and not education or privately owned facilities (due to the unavailability of the data for the other local government areas), it indicates a comparative level of provision for a number of specific recreation facilities.

Feedback gathered from Council officers during the benchmarking exercise indicated that current provision rates for a number of recreation facilities within other LGA's were not meeting community demands. Significant investment is currently being undertaken to increase the number of facilities to meet current needs. Furthermore, each LGA contained a number of private and education facilities which played an important role in meeting perceived gaps and community needs. Accordingly, caution must be used when drawing conclusions based simply on a comparison of provision rates.

Table 7: Comparison of recreation provision against other LGA's

Recreation facility type	Gosford	Liverpool	Parramatta	Penrith	Wollongong	Lake Macquarie	Newcastle	Comparison
Sports fields	1: 2,424	1:2,310	-	1:1,750	1:1,195	1:1,673	1: 1,256	Newcastle LGA higher
Tennis courts	1:3,778	1:13,857	1:3,792	1:4,150	1:3,207	1:2,333	1: 2,076	Newcastle LGA higher
Outdoor courts netball/ basketball	1:3,650	1:3,399	1:11,918	1:3,131	1:2,451	1:1,881	1: 2,756	Newcastle LGA higher
Play Equipment	1:1,203	1:1,876	1:1,464	1:1,451	1:1,425	1:1,734	1:1,469	Similar
Skate Parks	1:27,073	1:180,143	1:55,619	1:44,617	1:48105	1:21,001	1: 15,571	Newcastle LGA higher
Dirt BMX Parks	1:81,220	1:180,143	0	1:178,467	0	1:189,006	0	Newcastle LGA lower
Indoor sport and recreation centre	1:81,220	1:90,072	1:83,429	1:178,467	1:64,139	1:189,006	0	Newcastle LGA lower
50m Pools (excluding ocean baths)	1:81,220	1:90,072	1:83,429	1:89,234	1:48,105	1:63,002	1: 31,141	Newcastle LGA higher

Note: Table only incorporates Council owned facilities and not education or privately owned facilities.

16.4 Council's draft provision rates

Best practice supports the provision of parkland and recreation infrastructure based on both quantitative and qualitative criteria including: industry benchmarks, minimum sizes, accessibility by residents, proximity of other recreation opportunities, local demand, profile of local community and various design criteria. By ensuring a quantitative standard of provision, qualitative requirements unique to each locality can be developed.

The *Parkland and Recreation Strategy* proposes desired standards of provision for both parkland and recreation facilities (Volume 1 - Section 5.0). These standards have been developed following an assessment of current level of provision, consideration of industry benchmarks and planning guidelines, provision rates of other similar sized local government areas and expressed community demand as identified during community research.

It is likely there will be instances where an additional number of facilities above the proposed provision rate will be required due to factors such as significant demand or difficulties in accessing existing facilities. Similarly, there may be instances where the provision of a specific type of facility will not be required due to lack of demand.

The provision rates are not intended to be prescriptive, but rather a tool to guide provision whilst providing for diversity, demographic differences and the specific needs of local communities. Throughout the use of the provision rates, it will be essential that consideration is given to the socio-demographic profile of an area, existing service levels, local circumstances, physical barriers, current best practice approaches and available opportunities for the provision of parkland and recreation facilities.

Table 6 provides a numerical comparison of the existing supply of parkland and recreation facilities within the Newcastle LGA to the draft standards of provision. It provides an indication of the types of recreation facilities that are likely to be required to meet the growing recreational needs of the community. Also identified are existing facilities that appear to be oversupplied which may provide the opportunity for review and potential rationalisation.

To ensure the sustainable provision of sport and recreation facilities, partnerships with community, the business sector and government bodies will be essential. The provision of facilities through innovative partnerships, for example where Council may not own the facility but contributes to construction or maintenance, will form a key component to the strategic provision of facilities.

“Public places that provide for diverse activity and strengthen our social connections”.



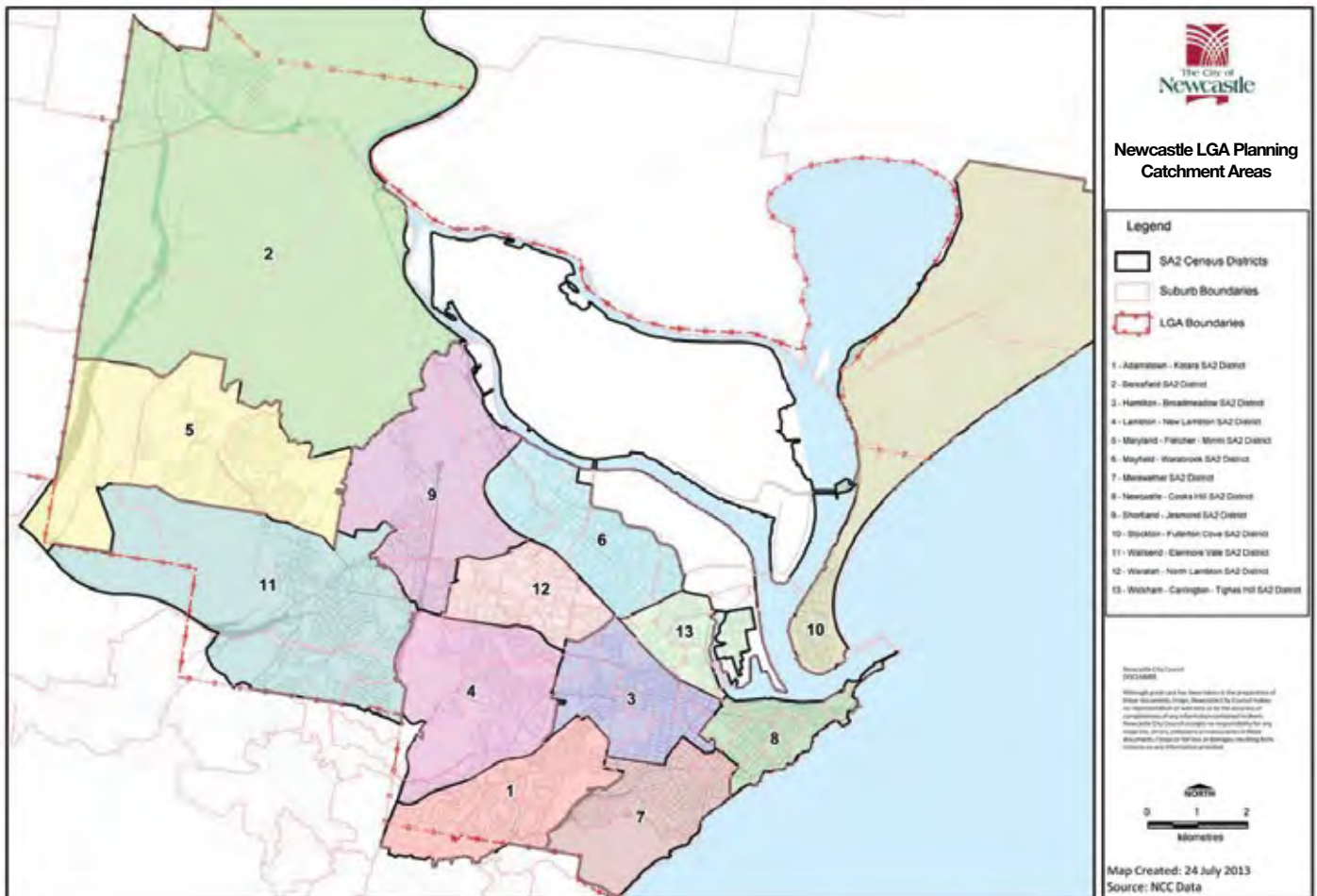
17. Parkland and Recreation Assessment

The Parkland and Recreation Assessment considers the provision of parkland and major recreation facilities as identified in Volume 1 - Section 9.0.

For the purpose of this assessment, the Newcastle LGA has been divided into 13 population planning catchment areas. The population planning catchment areas group suburbs together based on a number

of factors including flooding catchments, physical constraints, demographic profiles and population sizes. This approach allows for the comparison of infrastructure and levels of service throughout the LGA. A summary of the suburbs contained within each planning area is provided in Appendix H.

Figure 17: Newcastle LGA Planning Catchment Areas



17.1 Parkland

Regional parkland

The Newcastle LGA is well provided with Regional Parkland. Foreshore Park/Camp Shortland is over 13ha in size, and provides for a range of experiences, including annual music festivals (Fat as Butter), sporting events (Spark Helmore triathlon), playgrounds, family bbqs and passive parkland areas.

Foreshore Park is linked to the Hunter River foreshore/Queens Wharf promenade and the NSW coastline (Nobby's beach) and beyond. Adjacent to Newcastle railway station, the park is accessible via public transport in addition to the Fernley Track bicycle route and Bathers Way walking trail. The infrastructure at Foreshore Park is of a high standard and receives the highest levels of service from Council maintenance staff.

In addition to Foreshore Park, three regional level Bushland reserves including Blackbutt Reserve, Blue Gum Hills Regional Parks and Glenrock State Recreation Area are located within the Newcastle LGA. Blackbutt Reserve is a 170 hectare bushland reserve located within the heart of Newcastle. Carnley and Richley recreation reserve areas, located within Blackbutt Reserve, provide a range of recreational and educational experiences including animal displays, picnic areas, playgrounds and education programs. The facility provides high quality infrastructure and experiences and caters to local residents, students and overseas visitors.

Blue Gum Hills Regional Parks and Glenrock State Recreation Area provide a range of active and passive recreational experiences adding to the diversity of open space within the LGA.

District parkland

Whilst not containing the level of infrastructure that a regional facility does, a district park would be expected to be a minimum of 1.5ha in size and contain the following infrastructure:

- off - street parking;
- playground catering to range of age groups (2-12yrs);
- kick around/play area;
- toilets;
- seating, covered seating and picnic shelters;
- bbq's;
- signage;

- walking/bicycle pathways;
- lighting;
- fitness equipment;and
- hard courts (basketball/netball, bat ball, tennis).

The collocation of a district park with sports fields, skate facility, community hall and a café would also be ideal. Empire Park is a good example of an existing district park.

The *Parkland and Recreation Strategy* recommends a provision rate of one District park per 15,000 – 25,000 people. Based on the projected population of the LGA, this equates to the target provision of 9 district parks throughout the Newcastle LGA by 2036 i.e. one district park within 9 of the 13 planning catchment areas. The Newcastle LGA currently contains 8 district parks which are concentrated within 5 planning areas.

Whilst the projected 2036 populations within the Merewether - The Junction and Newcastle - Cooks Hill and planning areas will fall short of the minimum 15,000 person threshold, the regional significance of the city and the coastline in addition to the corresponding high levels of visitation both within and from outside the LGA justifies the provision of district level parkland in these two planning areas. Furthermore, the development of quality parkland in these areas is consistent with the *Newcastle Coastline Revitalisation Strategy* which aims to enhance coastal and beach precincts throughout the LGA.

Accordingly, this equates to the target provision of 11 district parks throughout the Newcastle LGA. i.e. one district park within 11 of the 13 planning areas by 2036.

In order to achieve the target provision, the upgrading of local parks into district parks will be required. A number of local parks have the potential to be redeveloped into district parks; all are a minimum of 1.5ha in size and have the spatial capacity to accommodate additional infrastructure. Further investigation into potential site for the development of a district park is required for the Adamstown – Kotara and Shortland – Jesmond planning areas.

In addition to the upgrading of local parks the upgrading of a number of existing district parks will also be necessary to bring these parks up to the desired standard. Not all of the 8 district parks currently contain the totality of infrastructure identified above. The preparation of master plans for each of the sites is recommended.

Table 10 identifies the existing and potential district parkland locations within Newcastle LGA.

Local parkland

The Newcastle LGA contains approximately 240 local parks. These parks are located in a variety of spaces including:

- dedicated public reserves;
- the periphery of sports fields;
- road reserves; and
- drainage reserves.

In order to assess the adequacy of provision and the strategic direction for parkland development throughout the LGA, the location, accessibility; allocation; size; quality and functionality of parkland was undertaken. The assessment included both Council owned and parkland under Council's care and control.

The following section provides discussion the outcome of this assessment.

Location and accessibility of parkland

Parkland is generally well distributed throughout the LGA. Approximately half of all residents are located within 500m of parkland 0.5ha or greater in size.

The standard distance of 500m is widely accepted as a 'walkable' distance for most residents from their home to a local park. This is reinforced in a number of studies of best practice that analyse walking distance and access to local destinations within communities. Many transport strategies also refer to walking distances of no more than 500m. Further, it is noted that the United Nations set an Environmental Accord in relation to Green Cities that included the objective: "Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within 500m of every city resident by 2015".

Many residents are within 500m of parkland smaller than 0.5ha. Whilst not ideal, this demonstrates the important role small parklands currently play within Newcastle.

There are a number of small pockets within the LGA where residents are not within 500 metres of parkland. This includes residential areas within the Hamilton – Broadmeadow, Merewether - The Junction, Adamstown - Kotara and Mayfield – Warabrook planning areas.

Improved pedestrian and cycling connections to existing parkland and other open space opportunities will be an important strategy to minimise these gaps

A number of factors such as gradient, the presence of railway lines, major roads, lack of crossing points, creeks and storm water channels provide additional barriers to parkland access. Whilst residents may be within a 500m radial distance to parkland, the presence of these barriers significantly increases distance and the 'real' location from parkland.

Table 8: Existing and potential district parkland locations within Newcastle LGA.

Planning Area	Existing District Parks	Potential District Park after capital improvements	Meets population threshold for District park provision
1. Adamstown – Kotara	na	Site identification required	✓
2. Beresfield – Hexham	na	Tarro Recreation Area (if desired)	✗
3. Hamilton – Broadmeadow	Gregson Park	Gregson Park	✓
4. Lambton - New Lambton	Jesmond Park Lambton Park	Jesmond Park Lambton Park	✓
5. Maryland - Fletcher – Minmi	na	As part of future land release	✓
6. Mayfield – Warabrook	na	Warabrook Wetlands Reserve	✓
7. Merewether - The Junction	Empire Park	Empire Park	✗ A district park is recommended due to coastal location and high visitation.
8. Newcastle - Cooks Hill	King Edward Park Civic Park Centennial Park	King Edward Park Civic Park Centennial Park	✗ A district park is recommended due to city / coastal location and high visitation
9. Shortland – Jesmond	na	Site identification required	✓
10. Stockton - Fullerton Cove	na	Griffith Reserve (if desired)	✗
11. Wallsend - Elmore Vale	na	Wallsend Brickworks Park Wal Heard Oval Wallsend Park	✓
12. Waratah - North Lambton	na	Waratah Park Braye Park	✓
13. Carrington - Tighes Hill – Wickham	Islington Park	Islington Park	✓

Note: Not all existing district parks currently contain the totality of infrastructure desired. Upgrades to a number of existing district parks will be necessary to bring these parks up to the desired standard.

Allocation of parkland

The amount of parkland provided throughout the LGA varies significantly throughout each planning area. The amount of parkland in each planning area does not appear to bear any relationship to the size of the area or number of residents.

Based on a ratio of parkland per population, Hamilton – Broadmeadow, Adamstown - Kotara and Merewether - The Junction population planning areas have the least amount of local parkland per person. Many of the parklands located within the Wallsend - Elernmore Vale and Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi population planning areas are affected by flood/storm water which limits their use.

Parkland located in Newcastle - Cooks Hill and the Waratah - North Lambton population planning areas, is expected to come under increasing pressure as population growth occurs within these corridors. The significant amount of district and regional parkland within these areas will play an important role in providing for local use.

Based on the existing low level of parkland within the Adamstown - Kotara and Hamilton - Broadmeadow planning areas, there is a need to consider the capacity of other open space to accommodate parkland infrastructure in addition to the improved pedestrian and cycling connections to existing parkland.

Figure 18: Amount of parkland per person by Planning Catchment Area

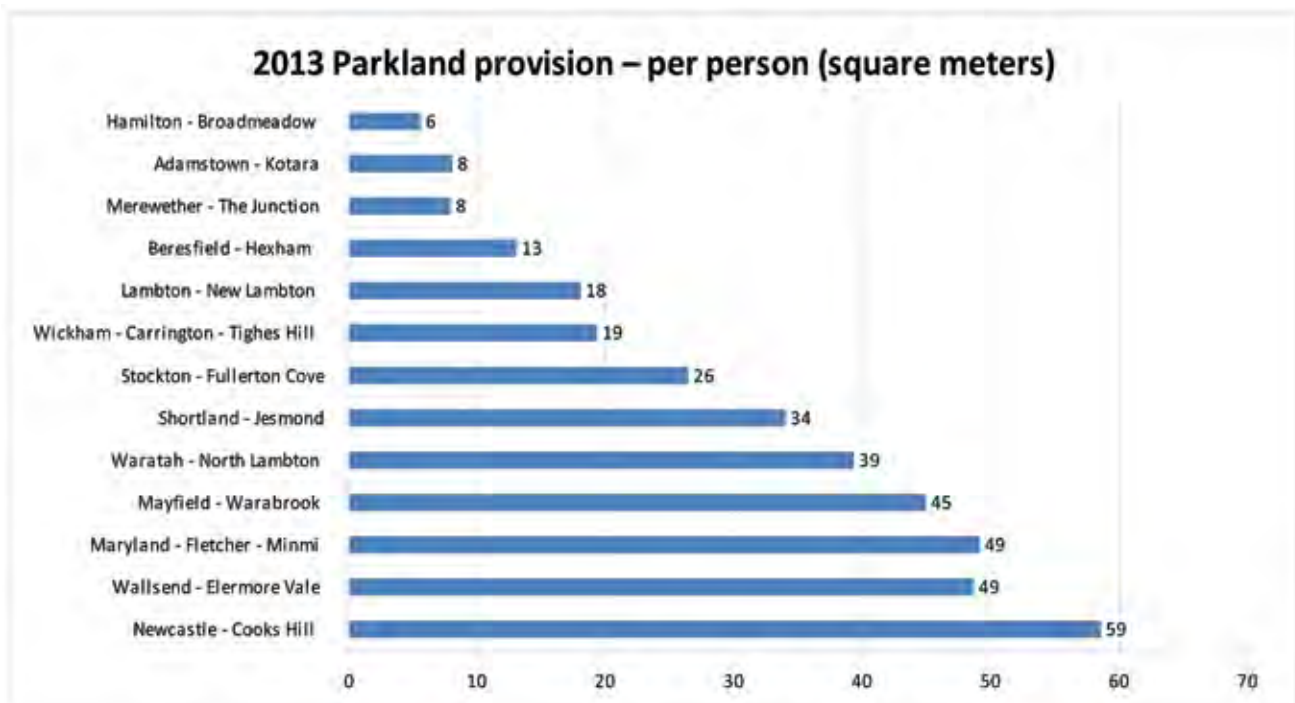
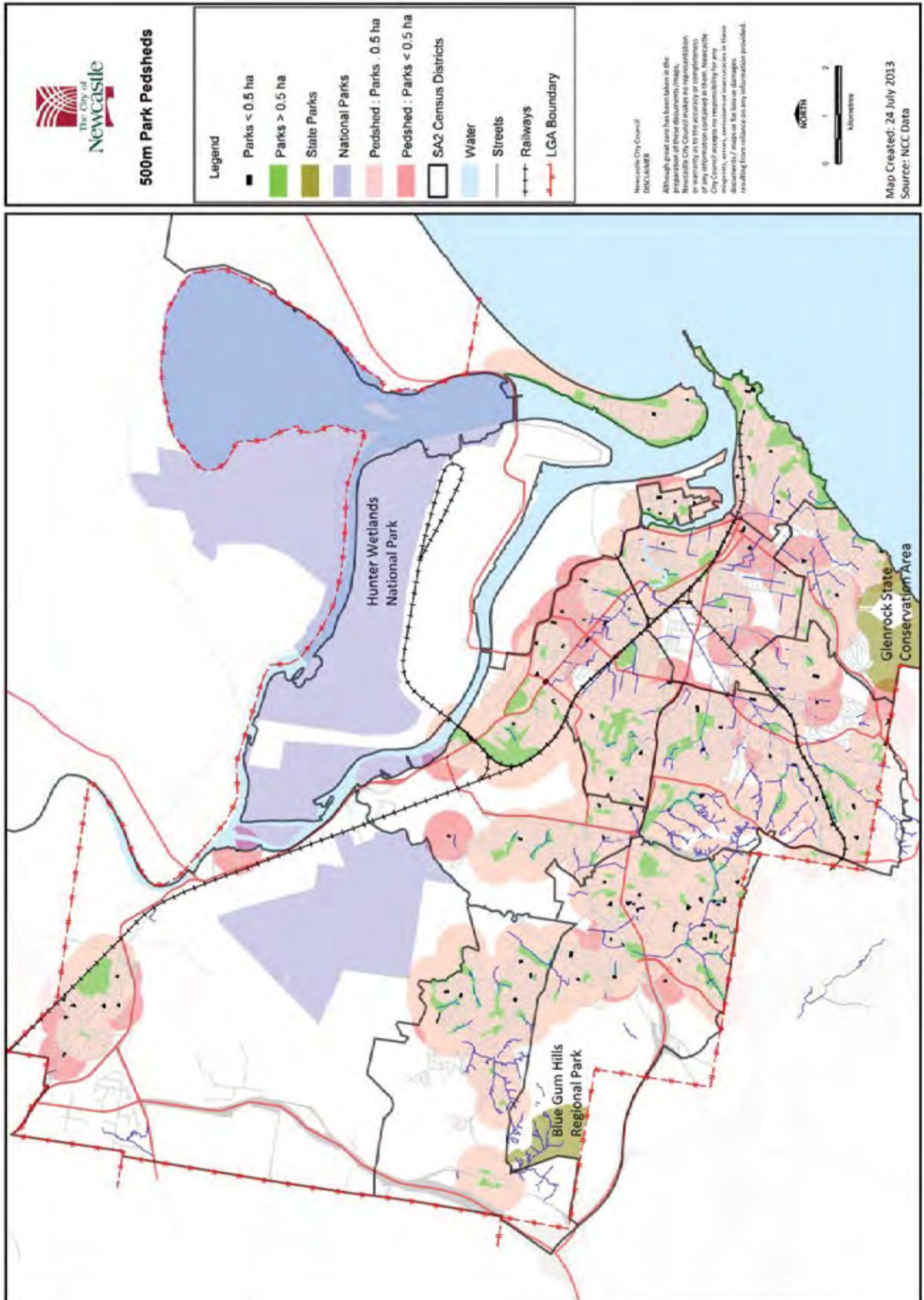


Figure 19: Distribution of Parkland in Newcastle's LGA (2013)



Size of parkland

The size of local parkland within the Newcastle LGA is generally small. The recommended size of local parkland is 0.5h – 2.0ha. This provides sufficient space for a range of recreational activities such as playgrounds, escape and relaxation, ball play and picnics.

25% of all parks are less than 0.2 ha in size whilst 53% per cent of all parks are less than 0.5 ha. Over 50% of all parkland located within the Adamstown – Kotara, Beresfield – Hexham and Waratah - North Lambton planning areas are less than 0.2ha in size.

The irregular shape of many parks further limits their ability to accommodate a range of activities. Irregular shape parks often experience limited road frontage (a minimum of 50m to a public road is recommended) which reduces access, passive surveillance. and the ability to respond to changing needs of a community

Feedback obtained during the development of the *Parkland and Recreation Strategy* identified the value of local parks to the community. The research also identified the most popular and utilised parks were district parks, which are larger in size, contain a range of recreational infrastructure and provide for a greater range of experiences. It would be reasonable to expect a link between the high usage levels of the larger district size parks and the limited size and level of infrastructure of local parks.

Table 9: Number and size of parkland by population catchment area

Population Catchment Area	less than 0.1ha	0.1-0.2ha	0.2 - 0.5ha	0.51 - 1.5ha	1.5-2ha	2-5ha	5ha+	Total
Adamstown - Kotara	7	9	3	3	1	1	0	17
Beresfield - Hexham	2	4	3	2	0	0	0	11
Hamilton - Broadmeadow	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	8
Lambton - New Lambton	0	3	9	6	2	1	1	22
Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi	0	1	5	8	1	3	2	20
Mayfield - Warabrook	3	4	7	3	1	2	2	22
Merewether - The Junction	0	2	2	4	0	2	0	10
Newcastle - Cooks Hill	3	4	6	5	3	4	4	29
Shortland - Jesmond	1	2	3	1	0	5	2	14
Stockton - Fullerton Cove	0	0	6	4	2	2	0	14
Wallsend - Elermore Vale	4	3	20	18	2	1	2	50
Waratah - North Lambton	1	1	5	1	4	2	3	17
Wickham - Carrington - Tighes Hill	4	4	3	3	1	1	0	16
Totals	27	31	74	59	18	25	16	250

“Ensure that public places are inclusive and provide options for people with diverse interests”.

Quality and functionality of parkland

The quality of local parkland, including the presentation, type, amount and level of infrastructure that has been provided varies significantly throughout the LGA. In some cases this has resulted in some parks being oversupplied with facilities whilst in others, a total absence of infrastructure. There does not appear to be a consistent approach to the parkland development.

The quality and functionality of local parkland in addition to the level of development, appears to be affected by a number of constraints including topography, gradient, flooding, access, size, dimensions and street frontage.

There are a large number of parks performing drainage roles with recreation functions a secondary benefit. Many parks boarder wetlands, creeks, stormwater channels, overland flow paths and riparian zones.

Whilst a number of these parcels are not designated 'drainage reserves', they are effected by stormwater and perform important overland flow functions. Parkland located within the Maryland - Fletcher – Minmi and Wallsend - Elmore Vale planning areas appear to be constrained and particularly affected by steep topography, gradient and flooding. Accordingly, whilst there may appear to be a sufficient amount of parkland within these planning areas, the actual amount of usable space is significantly reduced.

Summary

Parkland planning has evolved significantly over the past 30 years, from the common practice of dedicating undesirable and/or unusable land for parkland to current approaches which focus on providing quality space with a diversity of recreational experiences. The supply of parkland throughout Newcastle reflects the historic evolution and development of the city together with the increased awareness of the value of open space.

The quality, quantity and accessibility of parkland vary significantly throughout the LGA. Whilst most residents are located within close proximity to parkland, the size, quality and level of development is often very different. Research demonstrates that in addition to the quantity of space provided, the quality and design of parkland will have a direct bearing on how the community will use the space and consequently and how well it will meets needs.

The *Newcastle Development Control Plan (DCP) 2012*, (Landscape, Open Space and Visual Amenity elements) identify objectives for open space associated with new developments. The DCP identifies open space should be:

- meaningful to place and community;
- multi-functional and adaptable;
- provides diversity of recreational experience;
- encourages social interaction;
- safe, equitable and accessible;
- enhances environmental sustainability; and
- financially sustainable.

A number of 'controls' or design guidelines are identified to ensure new open space meets the aforementioned objectives. These include:

- The location of parkland within 400m walking distance of all dwellings and 15 minutes drive to a district level facility;
- Parkland that is well-sited having regard to the movement network, regular in shape, level, has access to all services, public transport has road frontage to facilitate access.

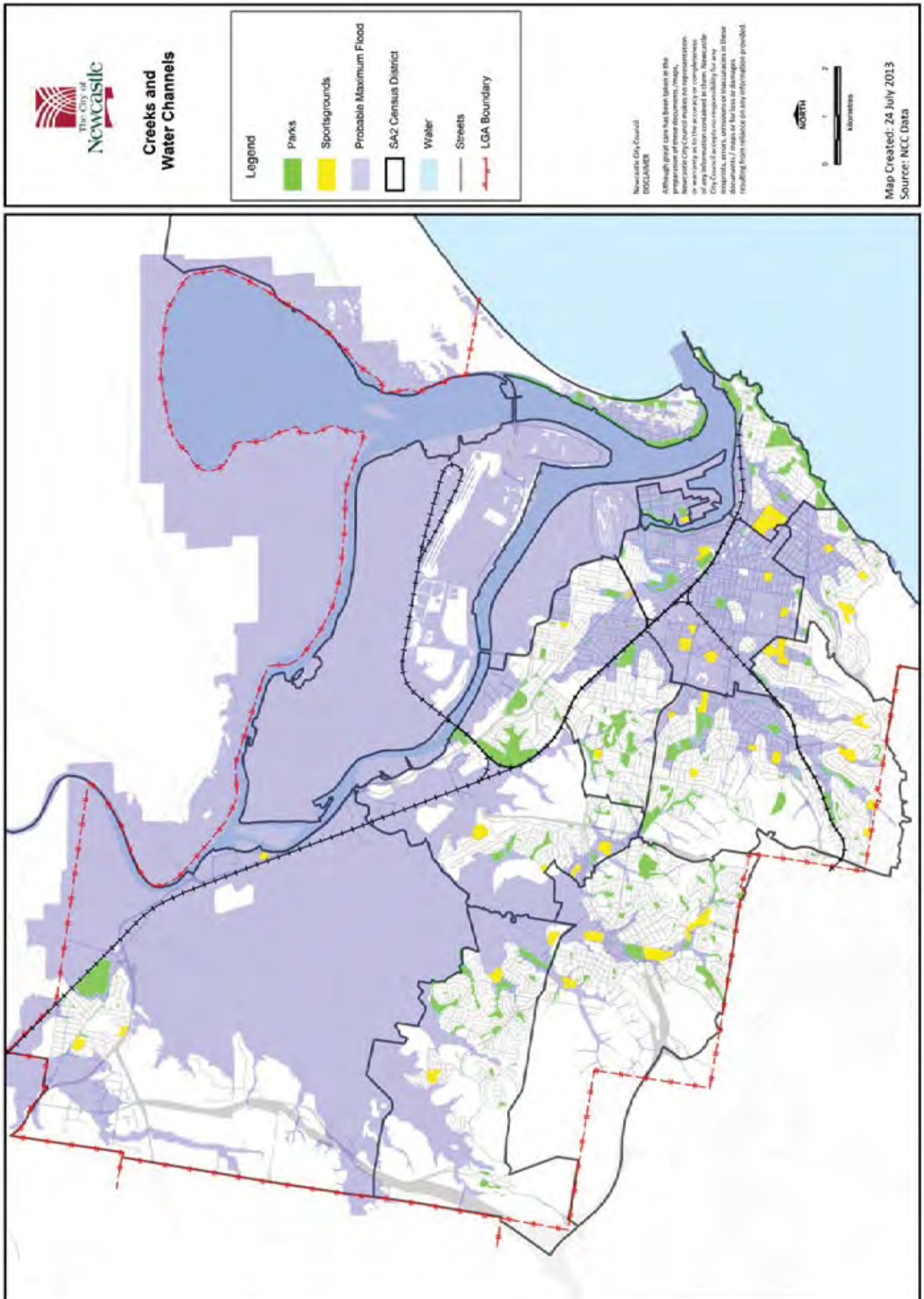
Unacceptable criteria have also been developed to ensure land proposed for parkland is appropriate and mistakes of the past are not repeated. Unacceptable land includes spaces that are:

- less than 5000m² in area, unless it adjoins existing or identified future public open space;
- is required solely to ensure provision or protection of riparian zones;
- contains identified bush fire Asset Protection Zones;
- has frontage of less than 50m to a public road; and
- serves primarily a stormwater management or drainage control purpose.

The application of the 'controls' or design guidelines within the Newcastle DCP (2012) to existing parkland throughout the LGA would identify a number of deficiencies.

In order to improve the experiences the community derive from parkland and provide for the well-being of the future community. Council will need to consider a number of strategies including the provision of additional or alternative parkland, improvement of existing parkland and the development of a number of higher quality parks which provide a range of infrastructure to help mitigate against local deficiencies.

Figure 20: Creeks and Water Channels in Newcastle's LGA



17.2 Recreation Facilities

Play – equipment

Play equipment is reasonably well distributed throughout the LGA. Play equipment may consist of one - three individual pieces of equipment, one playground unit or a combination of the two. No consistent level of provision currently appears to exist. Many facilities are similar in design and there are few that cater for people with a disability and children older than 10 years.

Whilst the playgrounds located with district and regional parks are of higher standard than local playgrounds, these playgrounds, with the exception of Blackbutt Reserve, have not been developed to a district or regional standard.

Examples of regional level playground include: Speers Point Park (Lake Macquarie), Umina Regional Playground (Gosford) and Brelsford Park Playground (Coffs Harbour). Bill Sohler Park Playground (Wyong) is an example of a district level playground.

The development of a regional playground to serve the LGA, in addition to district playgrounds within each planning area, which incorporate opportunities for people with a disability, will be important to providing quality play experiences and meeting community demand.

Sports fields

The quality of sports fields within Newcastle ranges considerably. National Park No. 1 and No. 2 Sportsgrounds accommodate regional standard competitions, however most sports field have been developed to a local standard which no longer contain the quantity or quality of infrastructure demanded by the sporting community.

Demand for access and use of sports fields continues to increase. Participation has increased substantially for many sporting codes which have resulted in capacity being reached at some venues. The majority of Newcastle sporting codes project continued growth in membership which will generate further pressure for upgrades to existing sports fields and the development of new facilities to accommodate new clubs (predominately within the Western Planning Corridor - Fletcher-Minmi-Maryland).

Whilst the upgrading of Council sports fields will increase capacity, the number of existing and future sports fields is not expected to be sufficient to meet

the strong ongoing demand for organised sport. The establishment of partnerships with the NSW Education Department and local schools will be essential in meeting future demand.

The adoption and utilisation of new technologies such as synthetic grass, increase capacity of existing sports fields whilst providing opportunities for the generation of revenue and improved financial sustainability, will be a key strategic approach to meeting active sports needs.

The desire to develop district level facilities to accommodate higher level competition was expressed by a number of sporting codes. A coordinated strategic approach to the planning and development of district sporting facilities is required to maximise potential opportunities, funding and to ensure ongoing sustainable provision.

The development of criteria for the prioritisation of capital projects would significantly improve decision making transparency. Including key stakeholders in the planning, decision making and prioritisation of sports field improvement projects will encourage partnerships and potentially increase the level of funding from sporting organisations and government.

A number of sports advised that potential investment and upgrades to facilities by clubs are being denied due to Council WHS regulations. A review of the requirements for capital improvements on Council managed land by community groups may assist to clarify this issue and provide greater opportunity to utilise donated materials and and/or skilled labour.

Approximately 61 sports fields are managed by community park committee's on behalf of Council.

There are a number of differences in how Council staff compared to community park committees manage sports fields. This includes the application, collection and use of hire fees, payment of water and electricity accounts and the allocation of fields. These differences have created confusion and inequities amongst sporting codes. The alignment of management procedures is necessary to remove inconsistencies, confusion and reduce administration time for volunteers.

The distribution of keys, access to sportsground amenities and the wet weather policy were identified as key issues that need to be reviewed. Furthermore, increased communication and involvement in decision making was identified a key opportunity to improve relationships between Council and the sporting community. The establishment of a formal network/

forum with Newcastle sporting associations to share information, strengthen relationships and develop partnerships should be considered.

Specialised Sports fields

Baseball

The baseball diamonds located at Stephenson Park are of a high standard. This is the result of a significant investment of time and funds by the local baseball clubs over a number of years.

The installation of floodlights at this venue allowing night competition matches and the provision of a sportsground for a ‘homeless club’ are the key improvements that would benefit the sport.

Hockey

The synthetic hockey fields located at Newcastle International Hockey Complex are of extremely high quality. This facility has been developed on Crown land by Newcastle Hockey Inc. a community organisation, whom are responsible for the management, maintenance and capital improvements.

This complex provides an important recreation service to the Newcastle community, however Newcastle Hockey Inc does not receive any support, either in kind or financial from Council. Financial support from Council to assist with the ongoing provision of this facility is the key improvement that would benefit the sport.

Softball

Stephenson Park serves as a regional level facility, but the softball infrastructure has not been developed to this standard. All softball competition within Newcastle is conducted from this facility, however the quality of amenities and key infrastructure is low.

To support the needs of softball within the region, the installation of floodlights allowing night competition matches, an upgrade of backstop nets and greater access to outside fields for matches is required.

Netball

The quality of the netball facilities at National Park is high. National Park is a regional level facility with all winter competition within Newcastle currently conducted from this facility.

Demand for access to netball courts continues to increase. Netball participation has risen over the

past 5 years and is projected to continue in line with population growth and popularity. The National Park Plan of Management provides for the development of an additional 3 courts to assist cater for this future growth.

In order to accommodate the projected increase in members within the western planning corridor, consideration is being given to the development of a new western association. Further planning with the netball association is required to ascertain growth plans, infrastructure requirements, timing and the implications for the use and development of National Park.

The provision of a no-interest loan for the development an indoor netball facility was identified as the key improvement Council could make to benefit the sport and overcome a number of challenges faced by the association. Further discussions with the netball association regarding this concept and potential partnership opportunities are recommended.

Whilst competition netball facilities are well provided for at National Park, opportunities for recreational netball in other areas of the LGA are lacking. The quality and quantity of recreational courts is low. Use of a number of existing courts is also affected by the lack of passive surveillance and peripheral lighting.

The provision of hard courts to allow for recreational netball opportunities within new residential estates and urban growth corridors in addition to the existing communities will be necessary to meet the needs of the population.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

The provision of outdoor basketball courts throughout the LGA appears low. There are three full - sized and five half sized publicly accessible basketball courts located within Newcastle. This represents a provision of one court per 28,310 people, considerably under the industry provision rate of one per 3,000 to 5,000 people.

Whilst specific visitation/use statistics on court use is not collected within Newcastle, anecdotal evidence suggests social use of basketball facilities is relatively high. Similarly to netball courts, use of a number of existing basketball courts is affected by the lack of passive surveillance and peripheral lighting.

There is likely to be a demand for local level basketball courts to meet the needs of the increasing future population, particularly young people.

Accordingly, the provision of courts to allow for recreational opportunities within new residential estates and urban growth corridors in addition to the existing communities will be necessary.

The development of courts within district parks and other high use recreation precincts provide an opportunity to co-locate with other youth orientated facilities. Furthermore, the retrofitting of existing recreational netball courts with dual – use basketball/netball goal posts and line marking may provide a relatively inexpensive way of filling existing gaps in provision.

Tennis courts

The provision of tennis courts is considered adequate. There are 79 courts provided within 17 facilities, representing a provision rate of one court per 1,971 people, within the draft industry benchmark of one per 2,000 to 3,000 people.

Participation rates and demand for tennis facilities within the Newcastle LGA is unclear. Specific visitation/use statistics on court use is not currently collected and membership to a club or with Tennis NSW is not required to hire courts. Anecdotal information from management committee does indicate use of tennis courts is high. Nationally, participation has steadily declined over the past 10 years, but tennis still attracts high levels of participation in children and adults when compared to other sports.

All thirteen Council owned tennis facilities are operated and managed by 355 committees or via direct leases. Tennis court leases are issued for a period of 5 years, with the majority of existing leases having already expired. A number of lessees have expressed concern that delays in lease renewals are holding up potential investment and upgrades to tennis facilities.

Capital improvement and maintenance of facilities are delegated to lessees in lieu of hire rental fees however no specific schedule of works appear to have been developed. At this time, the financial performance of facilities, patronage of courts and the level of investment required or proposed for tennis facilities is unknown.

There is a need to review the leasing arrangements, management structure, responsibilities, financial and reporting requirements of organisations managing Council owned tennis facilities. Such action is necessary to ensure maximum public use, performance and the ongoing financial sustainability of these community assets.

Bat ball courts

There are 3 bat ball courts located at Empire Park, Bar Beach. Statistics on bat ball court use is not collected by Council as these facilities are free to use and bookings are not required to use courts. Anecdotal information from staff indicates high levels of use with people travelling from outside the region to access the courts.

The location of the courts within Empire Park, a district level park, which contains a range of other recreation facilities, and opposite Bar Beach, a highly visited and popular beach, is likely to contribute to the high levels of use.

Bat ball courts provide inexpensive opportunities for a range of ages and abilities and should continue to be included within the range of unstructured facilities provided to meet the changing recreational patterns and needs of the community.

Skate/BMX facilities

The provision of Skate/BMX facilities within the Newcastle LGA appears to be low. There are eight facilities located throughout Newcastle, which consist of six local, one district and one regional level facility. This represents a provision rate of approximately one per 20,000 people, considerably under the industry provision rates of one per 10,000 people.

The quality of Skate/BMX facilities varies. District and regional level facilities are highly developed and high quality whilst the local facilities are basic.

Statistics on Skate/BMX facilities use is not collected by Council as these facilities are free to use. Previous information collected by Council staff during skate facility surveys indicate high levels of use, especially the Empire Park skate park which is regarded as a one of Australia's premier bowls, attracting people from outside the region.

It is projected the demand for Skate/BMX facilities to meet the needs of the increasing future population, particularly young people, will be strong. Accordingly, the provision of additional facilities to allow for recreational opportunities within new residential estates and urban growth corridors in addition to the existing communities will be necessary.

The development of Skate/BMX facilities within district parks and other high use recreation precincts provide an opportunity to co-locate with other youth orientated facilities. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the provision of a few good quality district standard

facilities as compared to a larger number of smaller local skate parks. District parks have the capacity to provide for a number of styles (street, ramp, transition), abilities and ages ranges and provide greater opportunities for skill development.

Golf Course

An examination of existing golf courses within Newcastle suggests the current provision rate for the population is adequate. There are three golf courses and one driving range within the Newcastle LGA. This represents a provision rate of approximately one golf course per 52,000 people. The industry provision rate recommends one per 30,000 people. However, due to the proximity of the Newcastle and West Wallsend golf clubs, which are located just outside the local government boundary and are accessible and utilised by the Newcastle community, this 'shortfall' is considered to have been adequately met.

Anecdotal evidence suggests use of golf facilities remains high. Nationally, participation has remained high over the past 10 years, and still attracts high levels of participation in adults when compared to other sports. Whilst visitation rates to the private golf clubs is unknown, Beresfield Golf Course, owned and managed by the Council, received approximately 30,000 visits per annum during 20010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 respectively.

The annual costs of managing Beresfield Golf Course are significant. Over the past 5 years, the golf course has experienced a total operating deficit of over \$700,000. During 2013/14, this deficit was approximately \$210,000. The financial performance of the facility is considered unsustainable. Council has recently resolved to seek expressions of interests for the external management of the facility as a method to reduce the cost of provision.

Beresfield Golf Course provides an important recreation and social role within the local community. Its ongoing provision is considered important to providing a range of affordable and accessible recreation opportunities for this socially disadvantaged and isolated community.

Swimming Pools

Swimming pools are well provided for in Newcastle. There are five outdoor and one indoor 50m swimming pool located throughout the LGA, representing a provision of one 50m pool per 26,000 people. In addition to the 50m pools, there are three private

25m pools and two ocean baths which are available 12 months of the year. Swimming pools are well distributed with most residents located within 5km of a 50m inland pool.

Provision rates for 50m pools vary considerably. Parks and Leisure Australia's draft benchmarks identify one per 75,000 people, suggesting Newcastle may be significantly oversupplied. However, the 2013 Northlake's Contributions Plan (Lake Macquarie Council) requires the provision of one pool per 35,000 people, which suggests Newcastle is not oversupplied and has an adequate number of facilities to serve current and future populations. The geographic isolation of communities such as Stockton and Beresfield (where 2 pools are located) in addition to the historical popularity of swimming within Newcastle may explain and justify the existing levels of provision.

A Pool Service Delivery Model (PSDM) was adopted by Council in December 2007, to provide strategic direction for pool development. The redevelopment of Lambton Pool into a regional aquatic and leisure centre was identified as a priority. Funding for the project has been secured through a special rate variation and detail design has commenced. The redevelopment of Lambton Pool is anticipated to have an impact on the operations of the other centres. Accordingly, the need and viability of the proposed improvements to the remaining four swimming centres identified in the PSDM will require review following the completion of the Lambton redevelopment.

Management of the inland pools is becoming increasingly complex. Council's swimming pools experience a number of constraints including; dependence on the weather for visitation (all outdoor facilities); inability to increase aquatic programs (and revenue) due to pool design; lack of recreational facilities; minimal differentiation between centres; and increasing operational and maintenance expenditure due to the increasing age of the facilities (range from 30 to 45 years); increasing energy charges; energy inefficiencies, poor filtration design (pools not separated at each swimming centre/structural integrity of the pool shells) and declining attendances. As a result, the subsidy required to keep the centres operating continues to increase.

A number of improvements have been undertaken in recent years to improve patronage and decrease operational costs including; upgrade of change rooms, entrance systems and kiosk areas, installation of water play areas and solar heating and the introduction of special events including pool parties, school holiday programs, giant inflatable, and water safety programs.

However, pool operating deficits continue to increase.

Aquatic research identifies a number of key elements are required to support successful operation and commercial viability. These include:

- Learn to swim facilities (warm water, undercover);
- Programmable, independent multi-use water bodies;
- Leisure water play;
- Air-handling efficiencies;
- Incorporation of renewable energy sources (solar heating, solar power generation);
- Year-round operation.

Many of Council's existing swimming centers lack these essential elements.

To address these constraints and improve the commercial viability and financial sustainability of Council's swimming pools, a redevelopment master plan for each Council facility is contained within the PSDM. The implementation of these plans will require significant capital investment. Council has resolved to review viability of the proposed improvements following the completion of the Lambton Pool redevelopment.

At this time, Council is undertaking a number of initiatives aimed at reducing costs whilst continuing to provide this service. This includes reducing the length of the swimming season and seeking expressions of interests for the external management of pools.

The cost to provide inland pools is significant and opportunities to reduce operational costs requires ongoing investigation. The significant number of constraints facing Council pools, which predominately relate to the design, age of the facilities and the subsequent increasing maintenance expenditure is not easily solved.

A strategic review of aquatic provision within Newcastle which considers the number of facilities, level of subsidy's and requirements to support commercial viability is recommended.

Multi purpose Indoor Sport Centres

An examination of existing multi – purpose indoor sport centres within Newcastle suggests the supply of existing facilities may not be adequate to meet future needs of the community.

Whilst Newcastle has a number of privately developed and managed indoor sport centres, all but one of these facilities contain less than three multi-purpose courts

which severely limits their ability to cater to a broad range of activities.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium is a six court facility which currently accommodates basketball, volleyball and futsal activities. The size and composition of the Newcastle Basketball Stadium would classify it as a regional complex except its predominate use is basketball. This facility has been developed specifically for basketball development and competition. Other recreation activities are only accommodated during the basketball off-season. The continued development of basketball within the region may further limit the ability of this facility in accommodating other activities and serving a multi – purpose facility role.

The Forum, (The University of Newcastle Callahan Campus) is a two court facility which organises indoor sport competitions primarily targeting its students, but accessible by the wider public. Broadmeadow PCYC is a one court facility, which delivers a number of programs focused mostly towards youth. The ability for these smaller indoor facilities to cater to the broader multi purpose recreational needs of the growing Newcastle community is currently limited.

Howzat Indoor Sports Centre is the only known indoor multi - purpose indoor sport centre with the LGA that provides programs and competitions across a range of sports including indoor cricket, soccer, netball, beach volleyball, soccer and futsal. Whilst this facility currently has the capacity to accommodate additional members, its ability to accommodate the demands of the growing population within both the inner city and western growth corridors is likely to be difficult. Furthermore, as a privately owned facility, the ongoing use of this land for recreational purposes is subject to change.

Further investigation into the multi – purpose indoor sport centres needs of the community, particularly the developing western growth corridor, is required.

Other sport specific facilities

Newcastle contains one specialist Archery complex and one specialist Pistol shooting complex, both located in Waratah West. Participation in Archery and Pistol shooting is high.

Sports survey results indicate:

- high level use of facilities;
- significant growth in membership;
- inability to accommodate new members; and
- waiting lists for membership.

There is demand for improved and expanded facilities to allow for additional use.

The Waratah Archery and Pistol facilities serve as regional level facilities. The two facilities have been developed on Crown land by a community organisations, whom are responsible for the management, maintenance and capital improvements

No financial or in-kind support s provided by Council. Without further development, these facilities will be unable to meet future demand.

Financial support from Council to assist with the ongoing provision of these facility is the key improvement that would benefit the sport

Footpaths, shared paths and bicycle lanes

There is approximately 260km of footpaths, 60km of dedicated shared pathway/bicycle trails throughout the Newcastle LGA.

An extensive network of mountain bike and walking trails is located in Glenrock State Conservation Area.

Blackbutt Reserve contains over 10km of dedicated walking nature trails.

Demand and use of for shared paths, bicycle lanes, footpaths and trails are high and is projected to continue in to the future.

Community survey results indicate:

- high frequency of use and value of trails;
- the beach foreshore and cycle/walking trails were identified as two of the three most regularly used leisure and recreation areas/facilities within Newcastle; and
- high demand for additional pathways/trails, especially along coastal areas and connecting open spaces.

ABS data identifies walking, cycling and running are amongst the activities that experience the highest rates of participation for people aged 15 years+ throughout Australia.

Strong demand for additional mountain bike trails was expressed throughout the development of the Bicycle Strategy.

Demand is expected to continue as the population ages and the community wish to lead more active and healthy lifestyles, the modal shift from cars and the requirement for activities that can be undertake individually, at any time of the day.

The quality and diversity of trails within Newcastle is considerable.

The Fernleigh Track, Central Coast Cycleway route and Great North Walk are well utilised regional level trails.

Council has secured \$50M through a special rate to develop a number of trails identified in the *Newcastle Bicycle Strategy* and *Newcastle Coastal Revitalisation Strategy* variation over the next 10 years. This includes the Bather's Way project which will provide a continuous foreshore pathway from Merewether to Nobby's beach.

These projects will greatly enhance access, safety and opportunities for walking and cycling throughout Newcastle

The continued development of a network of footpaths, shared pathways and bicycle lanes linking beaches, shopping centres, recreation and other facilities throughout the local government, will be important to improve access and support incidental exercise and healthy lifestyles.

Dog Exercise Areas

Dog exercise areas are reasonably well provided for throughout the LGA . There are 17 specific dog off leash areas throughout Newcastle, in addition to the balance of public areas, where dogs are permitted when on a lead.

Newcastle is a popular city for dog ownership. In 2003, there were almost 25,000 dogs registered with Council, which equates to approximately one in three households across the LGA. This number is estimated to have increased over the past decade.

Feedback received during a 2011 community survey identified strong demand for dog exercise areas, specifically leash free areas. Horseshoe Beach was identified as the most popular and utilised leash free area (79% of respondents used this site) with ten of the 17 sites well used. Requests for additional leash free area's were received, particularly the timed usage of beaches. Horseshoe Beach, which is managed by Newcastle Port Corporation, is currently the only coastal leash free area.

Whilst dog exercise areas are well supported, the survey identified a number of issues including: many leash free areas receiving minimal visitation, a high demand for improvements to current facilities and a demand for education campaigns to increase awareness of dog owner's responsibilities.

There is likely to be a demand for on-leash and leash free dog exercise areas to meet the needs of the increasing future population, particularly the aging community with increasing numbers of companion animals. Existing leash free areas are not evenly distributed throughout the LGA, with a number of planning areas including Hamilton – Broadmeadow, Lambton – New Lambton without a facility. Accordingly, the provision of such areas within both new residential estates and existing urban areas will be necessary.

A review of existing leash free areas in addition to further analysis into the need for additional locations, including supporting facilities and educational programs is required.

Community Gardens

Community garden's are moderately provided for throughout the LGA. There are eight community gardens located on Council managed land in addition to a number of other facilities located within bowling and community clubs land.

Use of and demand for community gardens is high. Community survey results indicate high levels of visitation and use in addition to a high value placed on local parks/community gardens. Community gardens provide opportunities for local communities to build capacity and improve social connections across.

Council receives numerous requests from community organisations for access to public land for the development of community gardens. To manage and facilitate this growing demand, a Community Gardens Toolkit has recently been developed to assist community groups. Undersized parkland may provide an opportunity for the development and management of new community gardens by community groups.

“Noticeable improvements to park playgrounds are terrific initiatives to provide outdoor active places for our kids”.

Table 10: Recreation facilities per Newcastle planning areas, 2013

Catchment area	Recreation facility							
	Local play equipment	District play equipment	Regional play equipment	Playing fields	Netball courts	Basketball courts	Local tennis courts	Regional tennis courts
Adamstown - Kotara	10	-	-	16	2	1	6	-
Beresfield - Hexham	4	-	-	11	2	1	1	-
Hamilton - Broadmeadow	5	-	-	16	-	-	33	1
Lambton - New Lambton	14	1	-	17	6	1	3	-
Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi	11	-	-	9	2	3	3	-
Mayfield - Warabrook	9	-	-	11	-	1	2	-
Merewether - The Junction	6	-	-	3	-	-	4	-
Newcastle - Cooks Hill	6	-	-	7	32	-	20	-
Shortland - Jesmond	7	-	-	20	2	-	-	-
Stockton - Fullerton Cove	5	-	-	6	2	1	5	-
Wallsend - Elmore Vale	13	-	-	16	3	-	-	-
Waratah - North Lambton	8	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
Wickham - Carrington - Tighes Hill	8	-	-	5	-	1	2	-
Total	106	1	0	146	51	9	79	1

Table 11: Recreation facilities per Newcastle planning areas, 2013

Catchment area	Recreation facility							
	Local Skate/ BMX	District Skate/ BMX	Regional Skate/ BMX	Golf course	Inland pools 50m	Regional aquatic centres	Indoor recreation centres	Dog off leash areas
Adamstown - Kotara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Beresfield - Hexham	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Hamilton - Broadmeadow	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Lambton - New Lambton	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mayfield - Warabrook	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Merewether - The Junction	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Newcastle - Cooks Hill	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Shortland - Jesmond	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Stockton - Fullerton Cove	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Wallsend - Elmore Vale	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Waratah - North Lambton	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wickham - Carrington - Tighes Hill	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	8	2	0	3	6	0	4	17



18. Strategic Disposal of Parkland

The ongoing challenges associated with providing infrastructure and services require local government to continuously review the operation, demand and utilisation of community assets.

The potential disposal of parkland, due to its limited size, shape or location (which may result in the land being unsuitable for its intended purpose as a public reserve) or which may be surplus to requirements, is an approach that is being undertaken by Councils throughout NSW as part of a proactive asset management approach.

The reclassification and sale of unrequired parkland with proceeds invested into parkland redevelopment has a dual benefit of reducing operational costs and creating a capital development funding source.

In 2010, Council commissioned a review of open space throughout the LGA. The purpose of this study was to identify open space parcels, particularly pocket parks, for potential disposal.

The open space review considered the following:

- 133 parcels up to 0.5ha in size
- 47 parcels 0.5ha to 1ha in size
- 84 parcels between 1ha to 1.8ha in size.

An 'open space parcel scorecard' was developed as a method of providing advice as to the net community benefit of parkland.

Each land parcel was assessed against five criteria consisting of:

- accessibility;
- size and shape;
- environment;
- flooding and drainage; and
- functionality.

A score between 1 and 5 was given for each criteria. All criteria were weighed the same level of importance. The open space parcel score card provided a maximum score of 25 with higher scores indicating a higher level of importance from a net community benefit.

This review suggested the potential reclassification and disposal of 38 open space parcels of various sizes subject to further site specific investigations. A detailed review of these short listed land parcels was undertaken which assessed the various uses and functions of the land, including; flooding, drainage, stormwater infrastructure/stormwater role, vegetation; presence of proximity to endangered ecological species, easements and bushfire risk.

The assessment identified that due to a significant number of constraints, only 12 land parcels identified in the open space review could be considered for potential reclassification and disposal (Table 12).

The parkland assessment undertaken as part of the *Parkland and Recreation Strategy*, builds upon the previous open space review and has identified a number of issues that need to be considered when investigating potential disposal of parkland:

- Many residents' local parkland needs are being accommodated by small parks;
- The small size of many parks has reduced the available space for recreational activities and infrastructure. The provision of additional parkland nearby may be justified in order to provide an adequate amount of space to undertake activities that would traditionally be undertaken in one larger size park;
- The level of use and development within many local parks is limited (due to topography, gradient, flooding etc) and may justify the provision of additional or alternative parkland nearby;
- Physical barriers such as main road and rail corridors have increased the time and distance residents travel to access parkland i.e. beyond the recommended 500m;
- Most parks perform a number of functions, including the accommodation of drainage, stormwater and other operational infrastructure, environmental/biodiversity/habitat/bushland roles etc. Recreation is sometimes a secondary community benefit;

- A number of parks are located within road reserves ('paper roads' where the land has been set aside for future road widening) which removes the potential for disposal;
- A number of parks are owned by NSW government and are under Council care control management, which removes the potential for disposal;
- The multi functional role of parkland suggests that where a park may be considered 'surplus' to needs, it may be required for other purposes and/or have constraints to their reclassification and potential sale; and
- The cumulative impact of potential disposal of parkland within an area.

“Newcastle is an ‘out and about’ town, especially in good weather”.

Accordingly, detailed consideration and assessment of the multiple values and functions of parkland will need to be given prior to any proposed disposal of parkland using an adopted and transparent mechanism.

Public Land Reclassification Policy

The potential disposal of assets, due to their inability to meet the needs of the changing community or which may be surplus to requirements, is an approach that is being undertaken by Councils throughout NSW in line with *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework* and as part of a proactive asset management approach.

Similar to many Council's throughout NSW, Council is facing significant challenges in terms of providing financially sustainable services to the community. Opportunities which allow for the reduction of operational costs whilst improving community outcomes are often limited and need to be carefully examined when identified.

In 2000, Council adopted a *Public Land Reclassification Policy*. The purpose of the policy is to provide consistent and transparent criteria for determining requests or proposals for the reclassification of community land as operational land and/or for the sale or long – term lease of operational land previously classified as community land. The policy provides a transparent process to ensure community land of high environmental, social or cultural significance is held for the benefit of present and future generations whilst allowing for scrutiny by the public.

Notwithstanding the multi-functional roles parkland provide and the challenges already identified by Council in 2010 with potential reclassification of parkland, there is value in Council reviewing parkland less than 0.2ha in size and clarifying its role and purpose.

Table 12: Parkland sites identified for potential reclassification (2010 open space review)

Class No.	Site	Suburb	Area (ha)	Issues affecting site	Suggested disposal
C002	Fletcher Street Reserve	Adamstown	0.13	Vegetation, flooding, high community use	No
C03	Teralba Road Reserve	Adamstown	0.17	Vegetation, flooding, stormwater infrastructure	No
C316	Hollingsford Reserve	Carrington	0.08	Vegetation, flooding	No
C60	Young Street Reserve	Carrington	0.18	Vegetation, bushfire, green corridor/habitat linkage, road frontage for vehicular access	No
C31	Coe Park	Carrington	0.20	Vegetation, vulnerable fauna	No
C65	Corona Place Reserve	Hamilton east	0.20	Vegetation	No
C268	Newcastle Road Reserve	Jesmond	0.10	Vegetation	No
C84	Michael Street Reserve	Jesmond	0.33	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure and overland flow, green corridor	No
C83	Maclure Reserve	Jesmond	1.73	Vegetation, creek, stormwater infrastructure, threatened species, green corridor	No
C90	Grinsell Street Reserve	Kotara	0.14	Vegetation, bushfire, green corridor/habitat linkage, road frontage for vehicular access	No
C099	Springfield Avenue Reserve	Kotara	0.21	Vegetation, drainage and stormwater overland flow path, green corridor	Potential partial sale
C98	Rodway Parade Reserve	Kotara	0.38	Vegetation, strong habitat, shortage of nearby open space	No
C101	Armstrong Park	Lambton	1.97	Vegetation, floodwater, slope, green corridor	No
C111	Bernborough Avenue Park	Maryland	0.28	Vegetation, stormwater, flooding, HW easement, proposed cycleway, EEC, S94 considerations, green corridor	No
C312	Jirra Way Reserve	Maryland	0.32	Vegetation, S94 considerations	No
C112	Berwick Crescent Reserve	Maryland	0.33	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure, within range of EEC	Further investigation required
C123	Hogue Park	Maryville	0.11	Vegetation, within range of EEC	No
C125	Avon Street Drainage Reserve	Mayfield	0.16	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure, overland flow	No
C131	Monastery Park	Mayfield	0.16	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure, overland flow	No
C146	Golf Course Reserve	Merewether	0.01	Vegetation, drainage infrastructure, overland flow	Potential
C59/C152	Robinson Place Reserve	Merewether	0.23	Vegetation, localised flooding	Potential
C151	Morgan Street Reserve	Merewether	0.63	Vegetation, native planting site	Potential partial sale
C179	Rosann Close Reserve	New Lambton	0.05	Vegetation, stormwater drainage affects adjoining land	No

Class No.	Site	Suburb	Area (ha)	Issues affecting site	Suggested disposal
C177	Regent Street Park	New Lambton	0.27	Vegetation, HW channels located along boundary	Potential partial sale
C203	Dent Street Reserve	North Lambton	0.02	Vegetation, stormwater drainage, overland flow, green corridor	No
C199	Alnwick Road Park	North Lambton	0.05	Bushfire, drainage, green corridor; within range of EEC	Potential
C201	Canara Place Reserve	North Lambton	0.85		No
C212	Coldstream Crescent Reserve	Rankin Park	0.40	Vegetation, creek, bushfire, stormwater infrastructure, overland flow path, potential flooding. Proximity to EEC, green corridor	No
C231	Milne Park	Shortland	0.23	Vegetation, fire prone land	No
C240	Tarro Children's Rec Reserve	Tarro	0.18	Vegetation	Potential
C253	Garfield Street Reserve	Wallsend	0.06	Vegetation	Potential
C256	Hanley Street Reserve	Wallsend	0.16	Stormwater, drainage, overland flow, threatened species sighting	No
C257	Hope Street Park	Wallsend	0.17	Vegetation, stormwater functions, vulnerable fauna, part of green corridor	No
C264	McLeod Street Reserve	Wallsend	0.18	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure	No
C247	Booth Park	Wallsend	0.34	Vegetation	Potential
C274	Whitegates (McIlvenie) Reserve	Wallsend	1.01	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure, overland water flow, green corridor	No
C250	Collier Street Park	Wallsend	1.81	Vegetation, stormwater infrastructure, underground drainage, overland flow through site, green corridor	Potential partial sale
C293	Wrightson Reserve	Waratah	0.54	Vegetation, stormwater runoff and erosion, overland flow through site, green corridor	Potential

Appendix A: Sporting Community Feedback

Sporting Association Survey

Sport	Provision		Development	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Future Growth	Required Support
Survey Question	Do you expect any affiliate clubs to outgrow their existing facility within the next 5-10 years?	Do you foresee any problems with sports facilities over the next 5-10 years that will impact on your competition?	Are you predicting player growth/ decline and/or planning new clubs within the LGA over the next 5-10 years?	If growth in participation/clubs is predicted, how can Council work with your association to meet this predicted demand over the next 10 years?
Archery	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including drainage, ground surface not level	Yes, we are expecting future growth. No new clubs planned	Provide access to adjacent Council land to run field archery events
AFL	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Newcastle No.1 is too small to host elite games Lighting is expensive Flooding of Bill Elliot Oval	Yes, growth in Newcastle and Wallsend clubs. A new junior club around Lambton.	Source additional training and playing venues Ensure upgrades to existing grounds
Baseball	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.		Yes, we are expecting future growth in Wallsend	
Cricket	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including pitch surfaces and locations (between winter sports fields)	Yes - growth of 10-15% No future clubs - however growth possible in Fletcher Maryland	Great Council support Improved consultation required when changes to pitches occur. Interim goal for indoor training facility/multi pitch venue for major events

Management		Challenges		Partnerships		
Current Issues	Required changes	Challenges	Goals	Councils Role	Other Facilities	Partners
Do you experience problems with accessing the facilities you require to run your competition.	Is there a need to modify the way Council and/or management committees currently manage facilities?	What are the key challenges your sporting association is currently facing?	What initiative/ change would make the biggest improvement to your organisation achieving its objectives?	What should Councils priority role be in helping to deliver your sport? Is Council delivering recreation services that are better provided by other?	Do you access private facilities to provide/ run your competition?	Who are the other organisations we can partner with to improve recreational provision within Newcastle?
Lack of parking No club house facility No indoor facility	Completion of Braye Park POM to look at options for club to purchase Crown Land Council build a facility on their land	Reliance on volunteers to train beginners	Level field Provision of a field archery range	Level field Drainage Provide access to surrounding Council land	Fassifern - field archery Adventist Basketball Facility Cooranbong for indoor events	Archery NSW Archery Aust'
Weather restricts use	Drainage or raise surface	Quality of facilities and costs to members for ground hire and lighting	Council dedicate extra funds to sport and recreation to continue improvements	Providing safe facilities	No	State and Fed Govt AFL NSW ACT Cricket NSW
No		Provision of facilities to grow membership numbers		Maintain existing facilities	Indoor gym and training facilities	
Condition of grounds after winter sports Lack of toilet facilities and keys available at grounds.	No	Vandalism of wickets Lack of shade and seating Low quality mowing Lack of training facilities.	Facilities for spectators	Maintenance and improvement of facilities.	Schools and indoor facilities for training purposes	Newcastle Cricket Zone Cricket NSW AFL NSW

Sport	Provision		Development	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Future Growth	Required Support
Hunter Christian Football	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including competition with other codes for use of fields	Yes, we are expecting future growth.	Access to parks with multiple fields Lighting Change rooms Use of Sanctuary Precinct Reserve
Football	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including; Facilities not meeting demand Larger canteens required for increased revenue Poorly drained fields Some fields lack amenities	Yes, we are expecting future growth, but no new clubs planned.	Continued open communication Surveys such as this
Women's Hockey	No	Foresee problems including turf deterioration	Yes, we are expecting future growth, but no new clubs planned.	Continue support and funding
Pistol Shooting	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Operating hours	60% per year growth No new clubs unless Council can provide a suitable site	Increase operating hours
Netball	Yes, West leagues, Maryland Wallsend, South Wallsend and Stockton.	Foresee problems due to pop/membership growth. Western Newcastle requires a new association	Yes, due to population/ membership growth, popularity of sport and a male competition	Joint provision of courts and lighting Provide facilities to be paid off annually Continued communication
Oz Tag	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including floodlights	Yes, we are expecting future growth. Myers Park Adamstown in Summer	Provision of better fields Funding for lighting Review booking system

Management		Challenges		Partnerships		
Current Issues	Required changes	Challenges	Goals	Councils Role	Other Facilities	Partners
Additional lighting Lack of access to change rooms and toilets (keys)	Committees do a great job of managing facilities	Access to quality sporting fields and facilities	Fields with multiple fields	Working with local committees and association fixture officers	Junior schools access private school facilities for training and competition	
No	No	Lack of space and facilities Poor flood lighting or can't use lighting at night Poor drainage	Floodlighting that meets Standards Well drained fields	Support Clubs requests for improvements		Northern NSW Football
Competition for parking when Knights or Jets play in stadium next door	More support for Hockey centre. Mowing and care of fields	Increasing numbers Cost of the sport Hire of turf Competition with other sports	Subsidise the cost of the sport	Funding	Some clubs may utilise gyms, but not as an association.	Hunter Academy of Sport University of Newcastle
Access road too narrow		Operating hours No 100m, 200m or 500m ranges No World Champ facilities	Suitable land to accommodate long distance ranges	Help locate suitable land	No	Newcastle City Archers Newcastle Pistol Club Newcastle Small bore Rifle Club
Yes, parking and lack of indoor courts	No	Parking fees at National Park Lack of indoor courts Investigate parking options	Indoor courts Construction of two additional outdoor courts	Good communication Funding for indoor court facility.	Yes. Computer rooms for online courses in coaching and umpiring.	
No	Better communication between Council and Parks Committees	Finding another ground for Summer comp Improving ground conditions at Smith Park and Lambton Oval Lighting at Smith Park		Upkeep of fields and facilities	Yes, for training when fields are wet	Australian Oz Tag for funding and promotion

Sport	Provision		Development	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Future Growth	Required Support
Rugby League	Yes, Western Suburbs South Newcastle and Waratah - Mayfield	Foresee problems including; poor drainage, lack of facilities to cater for women's comps	Yes, we are expecting future growth. Especially, if female league established.	
Rugby Union	No	Foresee problems including ground availability pre season (conflicts with cricket) which reduces options to host events in March.	Yes, we are expecting slight increase in growth. At least one new club in Wallsend area.	Improve existing facilities
Softball	No	Lighting to allow mid week night competition and also State Championships to be held.	Yes New club recruiting members from Maitland area. Another club showing increase in membership over past two years.	Provide more permanent back nets Lighting for both softball diamonds
Athletics – Newcastle Veterans	No	Foresee problems as community expectations have changed. Lack of disabled facilities		
Athletics - Wallsend	No	No	Yes	

Management		Challenges		Partnerships		
Current Issues	Required changes	Challenges	Goals	Councils Role	Other Facilities	Partners
Yes, due to availability Difficult sharing fields with cricket, soccer and rugby union Training issues due to lack of facilities	Yes, option for long term leases for purpose built facilities	Lack of space Competition with other sports	Access to own facility. League could manage, maintain and operate	Increased focus on delivering high quality sporting fields Access to multi-use facilities	For training, some use of private facilities, e.g. Dangar Park	Sponsors Newcastle Leagues Club
Yes, in the pre-season.	Management of wet weather arrangements	Can't have a 10 or 11 Premier Division. Currently competition structure is below Premier.	More financial assistance from NSWRU and ARU	Upgrading facilities Assistance with allocation of grounds	Various clubs use commercial gyms	Rugby league
Only during winter due to the Park being used by other sports.	No	Changing choices of sports for children. We can't deliver a midweek afternoon/evening comp that other sports can (lighting)	More permanent back nets Lighting	Assisting us with lighting. Assist with grant applications	Two club use school grounds for training.	Softball NSW
Issues for wheel chair athletes	Yes, POM suggestion for Council to run facility requires full Council consideration before adopting.	Funding	Management tenure back to Newcastle Track and Field Association	Funding to upgrade track	No	
No	No	None, Council resolves issues such as drug use, alcohol, fires and graffiti	Additional lighting More building security Frequent Police patrols	Closer liaison in ground management Funding Administrative advise Assistance in processing grant applications. Sporting bodies should conduct and control own sport, co-operate.	No	

Sport	Provision		Development	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Future Growth	Required Support
Athletics – Adamstown/ New Lambton	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including drainage and rough track surface	Yes	
Athletics – Newcastle Region Track and Field	No	Foresee problems including the continual deterioration of track surface. Poor toilet facilities Wheel chair access	Yes	
Touch Football	Yes	Foresee problems including ; accessing facilities on multiple nights per week and unaffiliated competitions.	Yes. Future growth is Est. at 3- 7%. New clubs will be subject to the availability of new facilities.	Access to additional / larger playing venues. Removal of unaffiliated competitions from Council facilities.
Water Polo – Central Merewether	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs. (Lambton Pool)	Apart from access, No	Yes	
Water Polo - Newcastle	Yes, we expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Foresee problems including ; Access Rising costs Lack of indoor heated pool for winter comps	Yes, but no new clubs	Council facilitate access to pools Development of new facility with cover and heating

Management		Challenges		Partnerships		
Current Issues	Required changes	Challenges	Goals	Councils Role	Other Facilities	Partners
Lack of lighting and storage	Yes, as we do not have an oval management committee	Dealing with Council in regards to lighting	Improved facilities. Proper drainage	Assist private bodies who want to spend money on Council assets. Council places too much emphasis on ball sports grounds and not general fitness facilities	No	
Poor padlock and key system to closed gates	Yes, we are the best body to manage our facility	Review of National Park POM Ground use and security Facility maintenance	Long term lease Funding	Financial assistance Liaison for ground management Assistance in processing grant applications	No	Athletes with a Disability
The need to book facilities through multiple committees. Unaffiliated TF comps' operating throughout Newcastle.	Centralisation of facility bookings through Council.	Access to facilities for future development Unaffiliated competitions	Ongoing development of TF within Region.	Provision of quality facilities.	The Newcastle Harness Racing Centre.	Potential with Newcastle Knights, due to the NRL and TFA alliance.
Apart from access, No		Lack of quality training and playing time Not all teams can play together All girls and boys teams have to train together Better if older players could train separately	More playing time	No, we have no access or the ability to privately supply these services	No	
Competition for use with other users Provision of netting Ability to isolate areas of the pool for training	Yes, disparity of facility use to membership numbers	Limited access to facilities compared with other sports who have multiple venues Inability to offer winter competition	Specific Water Polo venue as part of redeveloped Lambton Pool	Provision of facilities that are reasonably priced	Yes, Forum Pool	Newcastle University

Tennis Club Survey

Club	Provision			Management	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Trends	Models	Responsibilities
Survey Question	Do you expect any of your affiliate clubs to outgrow their existing facility within the next 5-10 years?	Do you for see any problems with sports facilities over the next 5-10 years that will negatively impact on your ability to deliver your competition?	How many registered players/teams do you currently have? Has the membership changed over the past 5 years?	Is external management by community groups is the most effective way of providing tennis opportunities?	Are you happy with the existing lease conditions and the responsibilities your club has under the existing lease?
Adamstown	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	We do not foresee any problems with facilities in the short term.	27 members (20% in Newcastle LGA)	Yes	Yes
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Morton Bay fig on our grounds, roots damaging drainage and causing cracks in surface of first court. Casts shadows which effect play, and at night inhibits light for evening games. Dropped fruits require extra effort to clean prior to play. • Even with low membership, the 3 courts and constantly hired for regulars as well as casual hirers. Junior coaching is also conducted three days a week. 					
Carrington	No, have instigated a Master plan for the park and will request space for a future third court.	Only if the Bowling Club next door closes its doors, as rely on access to their amenities.	30 members	Managed privately by couch/ business be more effective. However small scale operations like this one will not attract this type of investment.	No, after 5 years of trying we don't have a lease. About to install new surfaces and require lease situation to be clarified urgently.
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park management in the vicinity of the courts being in different hands can pose issues. Large Fig tree branches growing in front of lights. • Master plan initiated through consultation with key stakeholders. 					
Empire Park/ Reid Park	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Park will need new fencing, court resurfacing and clubhouse repainting	50 members. Over 100 children attend coaching, other children & adults attend private lessons.	Yes, community/ committee	Combine Empire and Reid Park Clubs and have an extended lease, ideally 10 years.
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a long term lease we are happy to invest; with a shorter term lease we would not get a decent return on our investment. 					

Management		Issues		Partnerships		
Proposed Changes	Expansion	Challenges	Initiatives	Council's Role	Maintenance	Partners
Is your club planning to modify or change the way in which you are currently managing the tennis facility?	Are you planning to expand, further develop or improve the existing tennis facility over the next 5-10 years?	What are the key challenges your club is currently experiencing?	What initiatives/ changes would make the biggest improvement to your club achieving its objectives?	What do you think Councils priority role should be in helping deliver your sport?	Does your club currently undertake any maintenance activities or improvements to sportsground / facilities	Who are the other organisations your club and Council can partner with to improve tennis opportunities within Newcastle?
No	No	General demise of tennis Lack of membership Maintenance	Financial support for surface replacement	Financial support	Sweeping courts cleaning court surrounds and clubhouse maintaining gardens Clubhouse repairs, trimming of shrubs, fencing and painting	Develop facilities at Broadmeadow to encourage membership across the whole LGA.
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex praised as best in the district (due to maintenance). Our courts are utilised for state senior titles. • We receive no assistance from Council in any form. 						
Not really. Changes will occur after refurbishment due to higher use and maintenance. A closer collaboration with the Bowling Club to be examined.	Yes Working on refurbishment of facility with Council over past 2 years Grant application just approved to complete the court surfaces	Lease issues with Council Tennis Australia changes of affiliation and insurance	Lease agreement - certainty of costs and control to plan ahead	Supporting infrastructure upgrades Ensuring facility is available to wide range of community Support from Council has been slow but good	Sweeping leaves Weeds/rust Paying for electricity Supply of new nets Renewed line marking Fixing fences Electrical installations	Tennis Australia
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease agreements been sought for 4 years, require legal clarifications. • A more responsive interface/one stop shop between Council and clubs. 						
Yes, apart from the court hiring system. As people play and do not pay	If had a longer lease. Lights all courts Coffee/Pro shop in club house	People abuse payment system -playing and not paying Also need a definite timeframe on lease so investments can be made	Long lease Implement a pay as you play system Resurface the courts	Show support Provide long lease	All maintenance of the grounds Some permanent members help with keeping the clubhouse tidy Working bee once a month	Tennis Australia

Club	Provision			Management	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Trends	Models	Responsibilities
Hamilton Park	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Yes, condition of clubhouse.	19 members	Yes, with assistance of TNSW.	No
Hillcrest Tennis	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	We do not foresee any problems with facilities in the short term.	43 members. Membership has increased over the previous 5 years	Community groups have always organised this, maybe Council could help in someway	Yes
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are looking to improve our facilities at all times. 					
Kotara Park	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	No problems with facilities, but membership affected by aging and declining membership.	15 members 150 users	Yes, low cost	More support to remove graffiti, free garbage service and car park surface maintenance Reduce lease fee to \$1.00.
Lambton Park	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	We do not foresee any problems with facilities in the short term.	40 members (25% outside LGA) Up to 180 people use facility per week	Yes	Yes
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club provides court hire to public which is well patronised. Provide coaching at all levels through a contracted qualified coach. Looking to gain interest of young people in our facility, primarily through coaching facility. 					

Management		Issues		Partnerships		
Proposed Changes	Expansion	Challenges	Initiatives	Council's Role	Maintenance	Partners
Yes, add toilet facility	Yes, add toilet facility	Lack of facilities		Co-operation	Yes, maintain good playing surface and lighting since court opened	Tennis NSW Local schools
No	No	Maintaining membership	Involvement and membership of young players Community Play Programme through Tennis NSW	Advertise: fitness and health benefits, social interaction for seniors	Continuous maintenance by members and volunteers. Fencing and court surface repairs Lighting Painting Toilet repairs and cleaning Removal of leaves etc Shade sail recently erected	Hunter New England Health could promote tennis as a sport to benefit asthma sufferers. Fitness Clubs
No	No, continued maintenance of courts surface and general maintenance. Practice wall if can find suitable location in consultation with Council	Aging and declining membership	Increase membership with active younger players	Assist in providing services - garbage, graffiti, car park, maintain or reduce lease figure. Advertise facilities on Council webpage and through newsletter and rates notices	Continued maintenance of courts surface and general maintenance	A meeting with Council and all the other respondents to this survey
No	No	Need to increase junior and female membership	Increasing junior and female membership	Advertising facility	Supply and maintain all facilities, court surfaces, fences, buildings, lights, insurances, materials, power bills	District Park Tennis Club Tennis NSW

Club	Provision			Management	
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Trends	Models	Responsibilities
Newcastle	No , we do not expect to outgrow facility with 5-10yrs.	Overhanging Morton Bay Figs – root invasion, leaf drop. Extra time and preparation to clean courts.	36 members		Waiting on a reply from Council on the lease renewal
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts are the last two remaining grass courts in Newcastle. • Costs to public to higher are greater due to lawn courts. 					
Stockton	Yes, as younger families move into Stockton and Fern Bay	Clubhouse is deteriorating, asbestos roof needs replacing and mesh court fences.	170 members (most local, some from Lake Mac and Port Stephens)	Yes, NCC should play a more proactive role by promoting tennis	Yes and No. Club would like to revise Clause 5.12 Maintenance
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a working party with Council to work towards a common goal of providing a top class tennis facility in Newcastle. 					

Management		Issues		Partnerships		
Proposed Changes	Expansion	Challenges	Initiatives	Council's Role	Maintenance	Partners
No	No	Maintenance costs	Maintain overhanging branches of fig trees on eastern side of courts	Costs higher due to grass courts, Council should take into consideration when new lease terms proposed Help control the dangers and inconvenience of overhanging tree branches and invasive roots.	Yes, maintaining and replacing he courts, clubhouse, fences, gates, water supply and distribution all at members expense	NDTA Tennis NSW
No	Would like to improve facilities by: Provide shade Better recreational areas Safer & healthier environmental (removal of asbestos roof and gutters)	Promotion of the game Help maintain facilities	Provide an active, safe and healthy environment Major repairs, replacing our roof, new windows and replacement of tennis courts	Promotion of tennis Help maintain existing facilities	Yes	Federal and State Government Medicare Local Schools Local companies – corporate days

Oval Committee Survey

Oval Committee	Provision		Management		
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Models	Responsibilities	Proposed Changes
Survey Question	Do you expect any of your affiliate clubs to outgrow their existing facility within the next 5-10 years?	Do you for see any problems with sports facilities over the next 5-10 years that will negatively impact on your ability to deliver your competition?	Are you happy with the management responsibilities you have?	Are you happy with the support your committee receives for management of the sportsground/ facility?	Are you planning to further develop or improve the existing sportsground/ facilities over the next 5-10 years?
Elmore Vale Reserve	No	Yes, deteriorating facility No fences on oval to allow higher grade football games	Yes	Yes, however the level of service fluctuates at times.	Yes, addition of awning to clubhouse improve drainage improve lighting
<p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility at Walker Fields is governed by two 355 committees. More consultation required between committees with other users (soccer and cricket) to assess impact of changes on all users. Possible cost saving by working together. • Council is allowing a group of users to utilise the facility free of charge, when they used to pay. 					
Heaton-Birmingham Gardens	Yes	Yes, Increased demand for night training	Yes	In general happy with Officers, Council Management neglect Parks Committee during decision making. Councils maintenance Officers deal direct with seasonal users rather than committee.	Heaton Park - complete fencing, improve lighting, cricket nets Harold's Myer Park - improve lighting, fence along drain, upgrade courts, improve toilet and change rooms, goal posts and line marking for local and casual use Cook Park - improve playing surface, install lights, improve facilities

Issues		Partnerships		
Challenges	Development	Council's Role	Maintenance	Partners
What are the key challenges your committee is currently experiencing?	What initiatives/ changes would make the biggest improvement to the operation of your committee?	What do you think Councils priority role should be in helping deliver your sport?	Does your committee currently undertake any maintenance activities or improvements to sportsground / facilities	Who are the other organisations your committee and Council can partner with to improve opportunities within Newcastle?
Some users pay while others use it for free Building requires maintenance	Clarification of the committees purpose/ responsibilities Defined meeting dates, minuted by Council	Providing a high level facility to an agreed standard that supports all users. Maintenance of playing fields, buildings and surrounds. Keeping the committee/ community informed	Yes, some mowing facility maintenance and repair	Newcastle Football Newcastle Cricket Association
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should use the Men's Shed to their advantage, to assist with the maintenance of the entire facility. • They attached previous wish list sent to Council. 				
Increased costs to teams due to lighting costs	Changing financial processes to accommodate electronic banking.	Provide greater access to sporting grants and offer grant workshops for individual committees. Change funding priorities away from central areas to the outlying suburbs where the larger population base is.	Yes	NA – due to question wording

Oval Committee	Provision		Management		
	Outgrown Facilities	Future Issues	Models	Responsibilities	Proposed Changes
Tuxford Park Local	Yes, due to socio-economic growth in area, older residents leaving with families moving in.	Fields slipping away No toilets near netball courts Fence removed from top field Limited lights along access road, required in Winter. Rugby field needs lights.	Yes	No	Yes, toilets near the netball courts, extension to the soccer rooms.

Comments

- Regular mowing by Council needs to happen during summer months to reduce snakes, mosquitoes.
- Spraying required.
- More needle disposals units required.

New Lambton	Yes, Increased player registrations and parent/ player expectations. Seek grants and sponsors to improve infrastructure. Seek volunteers for ongoing maintenance.	Yes, Extensions and upgrades to facilities to comply with health and safety standards	Yes, however more autonomy given to secure more users groups.	Adequate, improve with a more coordinated and collaborative approach.	Yes, Ford Oval - Upgrade amenities Kentish Oval - Drainage. Netball - Upgrade premises Harker Oval - Paint grandstand, Improve dressing sheds
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Participating Bodies

- West Leagues Netball (600 players, 700 within 5 years)
- West School Boys Rugby League (450, up 100 from last season) Closed books
- West Senior RLFC (138)
- Oztag (450, expect growth of 100 over next 5 years)
- Cricket (no information)

Issues		Partnerships		
Challenges	Development	Council's Role	Maintenance	Partners
Park committee neglected by Council.	More cooperation and support from Council. Council need to listen to committees needs.	Well maintained grounds. Car parking reviewed.	Yes	
Funding for drainage Proper maintenance of grounds Prevention of vandalism to grounds and facilities – Council Rangers more vigilant and heavier presence	Regular attendance of Council Officers at monthly meetings Improved follow-up on important issues	Channel available funding equally and fairly across all sports and be transparent in their approach	Yes, Painting of dressing sheds at Harker Oval Maintenance of gardens and grounds Surveillance Minor repairs	

Appendix B: Stakeholder Participants

Organisation	Participated in survey	Interview with Council Officer
Adamstown New Lambton Athletics Club	✓	
Adamstown Rosebuds Tennis Club	✓	
AFL NSW/ACT	✓	✓
Carrington Tennis Club	✓	
Central Newcastle Water Polo	✓	
Cricket NSW		✓
Elmore Vale Park Committee	✓	
Empire Park Tennis Club	✓	
Hamilton Park Tennis Club	✓	
Howzat Newcastle		✓
Heaton-Birmingham Gardens Park Committee	✓	
Hillcrest Tennis Club	✓	
Hunter Academy of Sport		✓
Hunter Christian Churches Football	✓	✓
Kotara Park Tennis Club	✓	
Lambton Park Tennis Club	✓	
Learmonth Tennis Club	✓	
Newcastle and Hunter Rugby Union	✓	✓
Newcastle Baseball Association	✓	✓
Newcastle City Archers	✓	
Newcastle City and Suburban Cricket	✓	✓
Newcastle City Tennis Club	✓	

Organisation	Participated in survey	Interview with Council Officer
Newcastle District Cricket Association	✓	✓
Newcastle District Tennis Club	✓	
Newcastle District Women's Hockey	✓	
Newcastle Football	✓	✓
Newcastle Junior Cricket Association	✓	✓
Newcastle Pistol Club Inc	✓	
Newcastle Netball Association	✓	
Newcastle Oz tag	✓	
Newcastle Rugby League	✓	✓
Newcastle Softball Association	✓	✓
Newcastle Tennis Club Inc	✓	
Newcastle Water Polo Association	✓	
Newcastle Veteran's Athletics	✓	
New Lambton Park Committee	✓	
NSW Communities - Sport and Recreation		✓
NSW Touch Association	✓	✓
Newcastle University Sport (NU Sport)		✓
Reid Park Tennis Club	✓	
Stockton Tennis Club	✓	
Tennis NSW		✓
Tuxford Park Committee	✓	
Wallsend Touch Association	✓	✓
Wallsend Athletics Club	✓	

Appendix C: Newcastle 2012/13 Sportsground Allocations

Fields	Council Sportsground	Class	User groups		Level of use		Management
			Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	
1 Sn	Adamstown No.1	District	SOC	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Adamstown No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Adamstown No.3	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Adamstown No.4	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Adamstown No.5	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Alder Park No.1	Local	CK, ATH	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Alder Park No.2	Local	CK, ATH	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Arthur Edden Oval	District	SOC	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Ballast Oval No.1	Local	CK	-	L	L	Stockton PC
1 Sn	Ballast Oval No.2	Local	CK	-	L	L	Stockton PC
1 Sn	Bill Elliot Oval	Local	CK	AFL	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Blackley Oval	Local	CK	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Col Curran / Plattsburg No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Col Curran / Plattsburg No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Jr	Col Curran (Junior fields)	Local	-	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Jr	Col Curran (Junior fields)	Local	-	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Jr	Col Curran (Junior fields)	Local	-	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Conolly Park	Local	CK	SOC, RL	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Cook Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Heaton Birmingham PC
1 Sn	Cook Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Heaton Birmingham PC
1 Sn	Corroba Oval No.1	Local	ATH, CK	SOC	M	M	Stockton PC

Fields	Council Sportsground	Class	User groups		Level of use		Management
			Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	
1 Sn	Corroba Oval No.2	Local	ATH, CK	SOC	M	M	Stockton PC
1 Sn	Dangar Park	Local	-	RU	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Darling Street Oval	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Elermore Vale (Walker) No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Elermore Vale PC
1 Sn	Elermore Vale (Walker) No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Elermore Vale PC
1 Jr	Elermore Vale (Walker) No.3	Local	-	SOC	L	M	Elermore Vale PC
1 Sn	Empire Park	Local	CK	RL, RU	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Federal Park No.1	Local	CK, ATH	SOC	M	L	Federal PC
1 Sn	Federal Park No.2	Local	CK, ATH	SOC	M	L	Federal PC
1 Sn	Federal Park No.3	Local	CK, ATH	SOC	M	L	Federal PC
1 Sn	Federal Park No.4	Local	CK, ATH	SOC	M	L	Federal PC
1 Sn	Federal Park No.5 (no.3 cricket)	Local	CK	SOC	M	L	Federal PC
	Ford Oval						New Lambton PC
1 Sn	Gibbs Bros Oval	Local	TCH	RU	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Grange Ave Oval	Local	-	RL	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Griffith Park	Local	CK	-	L	L	Stockton PC
1 Sn	Harker Memorial Oval	District	CK	RL, OT	L	M	New Lambton PC
1 Sn	Harold Myers Oval	Local	CK	-	L	L	Heaton Birmig PC
1 Sn	Harry Edwards Oval	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Hawkins Oval	District	CK	RU	L	H	Wickham PC
1 Sn	Heaton Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Heaton Birmig PC
1 Sn	Heaton Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Heaton Birmig PC
1 Sn	Heaton Park No.3	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Heaton Birmig PC
1 Sn	Hexham Park	Local	CK	RL	L	L	Hexham PC

Fields	Council Sportsground	Class	User groups		Level of use		Management
			Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	
1 Sn	Hudson Park No.1	Local	CK, TCH	RL	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Hudson Park No.2	Local	CK, TCH	RL	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Islington Park	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Jesmond Park	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Johnson Park	Local	CK	RL	L	L	New Lambton PC
1 Sn	Kentish Oval No.1	Local	CK	RL, OZ	L	H	New Lambton PC
1 Sn	Kentish Oval No.2	Local	CK	RL, OZ	L	H	New Lambton PC
1 Sn	Kotara Park	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Kotara PC
1 Sn	Lambton Park	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Learmonth Park	Local	CK	RL	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Lewis Oval	Local	CK	RL	L	L	New Lambton PC
1 Sn	Lindsay Memorial Oval	Local	CK	RL	L	L	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Litchfield Park No.1	Local	CK	-	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Litchfield Park No.2	Local	CK	-	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Lugar Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Kotara PC
1 Sn	Lugar Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Kotara PC
1 Sn	Lynn Oval	Local	CK	RL	L	M	Stockton PC
1 Sn	Mandalong Oval	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Mayfield Park	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Minmi Sports Ground No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Minmi Sports Ground No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Myamblah Crescent Oval	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	Myamblah Cres PC
1 Sn	Myer Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Myer Park No.2	Local	SOC	SOC	L	H	NCC

Fields	Council Sportsground	Class	User groups		Level of use		Management
			Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	
1 Sn	National Park No.1	Regional	CK	AFL	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	National Park No.2	Regional	SOC	RU, RL	L	M	NCC
na	National Park No.3 (Netball)	Regional	-	NB	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	National Park No.4	Local	FR	SOC, FR	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	National Park No.5	Local	CK	RU, NB	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	National Park No.6	Local	CK	SOC, NB	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	National Park Athletics	District	ATH	SOC	L	M	Newcastle Athletics
1 Sn	Nesbitt Park	Local	ATH	SOC	M	M	Kotara PC
1 Sn	Novocastrian Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Novocastrian Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Pasedena Cr Reserve No. 1	Local	-	SOC	L	L	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Pasedena Cr Reserve No. 2	Local	-	SOC	L	L	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Passmore (Wickham) Oval	District	CK	RU	L	H	Wickham PC
1 Sn	Pat Jordan Oval	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	NCC
1 Sn	Regent Park	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	New Lambton PC
1 Jr	Richardson Park	Local	GRID	GRID	L	L	NCC
2 Jr	Shortland CI Reserve	Local	-	-	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Smith Park No.1	Local	CK, OZ	SOC	H	M	NCC
1 Sn	Smith Park No.2	Local	CK, OZ	SOC	H	M	NCC
1 Sn	Smith Park No.3	Local	CK, OZ	SOC	H	M	NCC
1 Sn	Stevenson Park Softball No.1	Local	SB	-	M	L	Stevenson PC
1 Sn	Stevenson Park Softball No.2	Local	SB	-	M	L	Stevenson PC
1 Sn	Stevenson Park- Baseball	Local	BB	BB	L	M	Stevenson PC
1 Sn	Stevenson Park No.1	Local	SB	SOC	M	H	Stevenson PC

Fields	Council Sportsground	Class	User groups		Level of use		Management
			Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	
1 Sn	Stevenson Park No.2	Local	SB	SOC	M	H	Stevenson PC
1 Sn	Stevenson Park No.3	Local	SB	SOC	M	H	Stevenson PC
1 Sn	Stevenson Park No.4	Local	SB	SOC	M	H	Stevenson PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve Soccer No.1	Local	SOC	SOC	L	M	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve Soccer No.2	Local	SOC	SOC	L	M	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve Soccer No.3	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve Soccer No.4	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve Soccer No.5	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve No.5 (touch)	Local	CK, TCH	TCH	L	L	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Tarro Reserve No.6 (touch)	Local	CK, TCH	TCH	L	L	Beresfield Tarro PC
1 Sn	Thomas Armstrong (Wickham) Oval	Local	CK	RU	L	L	Wickham PC
1 Sn	Thomas Percy Oval	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Townson Oval/ Mitchell Park	District	CK	RL, RU	L	H	NCC
1 Sn	Tuxford Park Upper	Local	CK	RL	L	L	Tuxford PC
1 Sn	Tuxford Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Tuxford PC
1 Sn	Tuxford Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Tuxford PC
1 Sn	Tuxford Park No.3	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Tuxford PC
1 Sn	Upper Reserve No.1	Local	TCH, CK	TCH	H	H	NCC
1 Sn	Upper Reserve No.2	Local	TCH, CK	TCH, SOC	H	H	NCC
1 Sn	Upper Reserve No.3	Local	TCH, CK	TCH	H	H	NCC
1 Sn	Wallahah No.1	Local	CK	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Wallahah No.2	Local	CK	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Wallsend Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wallsend Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wanderers Park (Enclosed)	District	SOC	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wallahah No.2	Local	CK	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Wallsend Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wallsend Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wanderers Park (Enclosed)	District	SOC	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wallahah No.2	Local	CK	SOC	M	H	NCC
1 Sn	Wallsend Park No.1	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wallsend Park No.2	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wanderers Park (Enclosed)	District	SOC	SOC	L	L	NCC
1 Sn	Wanderers Park (Outer)	Local	CK, TCH	SOC	M	L	NCC

Fields	Council Sportsground	Class	User groups		Level of use		Management
			Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	
1 Sn	Waratah Park No.1	District	CK	RU	L	H	Waratah PC
1 Sn	Waratah Park No.2	District	CK	SOC	L	M	Waratah PC
1 Sn	Waratah Park No.3	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Waratah PC
1 Sn	Waratah Park No.4	Local	CK	SOC	L	M	Waratah PC
1 Sn	Waratah Park No.5	Local	CK	RL	L	M	Waratah PC

Privately Owned/Managed Sportsgrounds							
1 Sn	Bill Potts Oval	Local	-	-	L	L	Xstrata
1 Sn	District Park No. 1	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Hunter Venues
1 Sn	District Park No. 2	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Hunter Venues
1 Sn	District Park No. 3	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Hunter Venues
1 Sn	District Park No. 4	Local	CK	SOC	L	L	Hunter Venues
1 Sn	Newcastle Hockey Centre No. 1	Regional	HOC	HOC	H	H	Newcastle Hockey
1 Sn	Newcastle Hockey Centre No. 2	Regional	HOC	HOC	H	H	Newcastle Hockey
1 Sn	Newcastle Hockey Centre No. 3	Regional	HOC	HOC	H	H	Newcastle Hockey
1 Sn	Ray Watt Oval No. 1	Local	CK	SOC	M	M	Uni
1 Sn	Ray Watt Oval No. 2	Local	CK	SOC	M	M	Uni
1 Sn	University Oval No. 1	Local	CK	SOC	M	M	Uni
1 Sn	University Oval No. 2	Local	CK	SOC	M	M	Uni
1 Sn	University Oval No. 3	Local	-	RU	M	M	Uni
1 Sn	University Oval No. 4	Local	SB	SOC	M	M	Uni
1 Sn	University Oval No. 5	Local	SB	RL	M	M	Uni

Sport Name	Code	Sport Name	Code
Aussie Rules	AFL	Rugby League	RL
Athletics	ATH	Rugby Union	RU
Baseball	BB	Softball	SB
Cricket	CK	Soccer	SOC
Hockey	HOC	Touch Football	TCH
Netball	NB	Frisbee	FR
Oz Tag	OZ	Petanque	PET
Croquet	CRO	Gridion	GRID

Appendix D: 2006 Recreation Plan Achievements

In 2006, Council prepared a *Recreation Plan* to guide the development of aquatic, sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of a growing community. The plan covered the entire LGA and focused on Council controlled open space lands and recreation facilities. A 10-year implementation plan consisting of 120 actions was developed. A major focus of the

plan was the development of a capital improvement program for to be actioned through Council's Annual Management Plan budget allocation.

The achievements ensuing from this strategy to date are identified below:

Planning and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the Pool Service Delivery Model (PSDM) to address feasibility and implementation of developments, (including the recommended redevelopment of Lambton and Wallsend Swimming Centres). • In accordance with the findings of the Pool Services Delivery Model, further investigate the redevelopment of Lambton Swimming Centre. • Identify an appropriate site and create an additional sports ground to accommodate little athletics and junior cricket activities in Stockton. • Identify an appropriate site to redevelop as the main social family recreation space in the Islington Planning District. Explore Islington Park as a priority site. • Identify an appropriate site to redevelop as the main social family recreation space in the Planning District. Explore Lambton Park as a priority site. • Complete Blue Gum Hills Local Playing Fields Delivery Plan to identify an appropriate site for additional sports fields.
Capital Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade change rooms, entrance systems and kiosk areas at Beresfield Swimming Centre. • Install solar heating for pools at Mayfield Swimming Centre. • Develop a cycleway or shared pathway to connect Blue Gum Hills to Wallsend Swimming Centre and Federal Park. • Develop perimeter paths around large multi-oval reserves to encourage walking, increase park usage and to enhance public surveillance. Priority site - Lambton Park. • Upgrade storeroom facilities at Grange Avenue Reserve in conjunction with Council's Sports Improvement Program. • In accordance with Plans of Management, review of National Park to increase the diversity of opportunity and consolidate existing sports facilities. • Upgrade floodlighting of sports reserves to meet Australian Standards as part of the City's Floodlight Improvement Program. Learmonth Park, Harry Edwards Oval, Stevenson Park, Bill Elliot Oval, Tuxford Park completed. • Upgrade sports ground amenities in conjunction with Council's Sports Improvement Program. Priority site - Tuxford Park. • Redevelop the grandstand at Heaton Park to offer better functionality and flexibility. • Develop perimeter paths around large multi-oval reserves to encourage walking, increase park usage and to enhance public surveillance. Priority site - Lambton Park. • Reinstate the tennis facilities adjacent to the Beresfield Bowling Club or seek an alternative location to develop public access tennis courts. • Redevelop the grandstand at Federal Park to improve flexibility and functionality.



Appendix E: Parks and Leisure Australia

Draft Benchmarks for Community Infrastructure

Item	Facility	Definition	Benchmarks
1	Play Group	Diverse activities for child carers which include baby groups and first time parents, toddler playgroups, three to four-year old playgroups, father's groups, children with a disability, grandparents groups, home playgroups and supported playgroups. Generally integrated within neighbourhood or district community centres (See 8 and 9 below).	1:4,000 – 6,000 (integrate within neighbourhood or district community centres)
2	Outside school hours care	Outside School Hours Care services provide care before and/or after school and/or during vacation time. Some services may also provide care on pupil-free days during the school term. Not-for-profit and for profit providers may operate Outside School Hours Care services or potentially incorporated within a school.	1:4,000 – 6,000 (to be incorporated within long day care or on school sites where possible)
3	Child Care Centre (Long Day Care) 0-4 year olds	Centre for the care of children in early stage of growth/development. Normally by private sector providers, although some local governments invest in facilities, particularly where their commercial viability is questionable.	1:4,000 – 8,000
4	Occasional Care	Occasional Care Centre (OCC) is a centre-based form of child care. OCC can provide care at short notice and immediate emergency care. It is generally operated out of long day care facilities usually by private sector providers.	1:12,000 – 15,000 (in rural areas standard would be lower). To be incorporated in day care centres or community centres
5	Maternal and Child Health Service	Facilities and programs organised for the purpose of providing medical and social services for mothers and children. Medical services include prenatal and postnatal services, family planning care, and paediatric care in infancy.	1:30,000 – 50,000
6	Multi-Agency Service Centre	Provide a base for all state government support agencies, with potential to co-locate with complementary state health services and including localised service opportunities (bill payments, booking opportunities). Such a facility should be provided by state government.	Integrate within a multi-purpose facility most commonly within district community centres.
7	Multi-functional Branch Library	Various configurations of Library space, which may include student study lounge, community meeting and activity space, education-related community office space, toy library, community gallery/display space (Queensland standards). WA guidance indicates minimum building size is based on ten-year population projections for the local government area or its relevant catchment subdivisions. Dependent on ancillary infrastructure to be provided floor area could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional library in excess of 1,500m² • District library gross floor area of approx 1,000m² • Neighbourhood library gross floor area of approx 500m² 	Regional Library 1:30,000 – 150:000 District Library 1:15,000 – 30,000 Neighbourhood Library 1:6,000 – 15,000
8	Neighbourhood Community Centre	Small local meeting rooms and activity spaces that can be used by local organisations for activities such as dance, fitness and outreach work. Various gross floor area configurations of approximately 300m ² to serve immediate community.	1:5,000

Item	Facility	Definition	Benchmarks
9	District Community Centre	Multi functional facilities providing approximately 900m ² of community meeting/activity space. "A building or group of public buildings for the social, cultural, and educational activities of a neighbourhood or entire community.	1:15,000 – 25,000
10	Youth Centre/Youth Space	A centre providing leisure activities and advisory support for young people. To provide space for a youth worker, employment training programs, drop in areas, formal areas and outreach programs. Generally not provided at a neighbourhood level as the service provision will normally be accommodated in a generic neighbourhood community centre. Main age range catered for would be 13-19 years.	1:20,000-30,000 – District level Co-located within a community centre – Neighbourhood
11	Aged Day Care based on HACC funding and associated day care requirements	Provides HACC eligible people and other aged members of the community in need of companionship with an opportunity to participate in a range of social and recreational activities in a stimulating and safe environment. The service is principally available to frail aged, people with disabilities who are socially isolated in the community, but can also benefit other socially isolated aged individuals. It is defined as a community facility with regular operating hours and staff that provide for a broad spectrum of health, social, nutritional and education services and recreational activities for older persons.	1:30,000 – 40,000 – District level Generally HACC eligible funded members of the community should be catered for within a multifunctional neighbourhood community centre as an integrated service delivery.
12	Seniors Centre	A place where older adults can congregate to fulfil many of their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs (may be combined with youth centre or within broader community facility). Generally not provided at a neighbourhood level as the service provision will normally be accommodated in a generic neighbourhood community centre.	1:20,000-30,000 for District level facility (dependent on aging demographic). Co-located within a community centre – Neighbourhood level
13	Skate Park	Formal skate park facility generally within established public open space.	1:25,000-50,000 – Regional facility 1:10,000 – 25,000 – District facility 1:5,000-10,000 – Neighbourhood facility
14	BMX dirt track facility	Non racing tracks, typically smaller and narrower than a BMX race track, designed for smaller areas and budgets. Designed along the lines of BMX race track layouts, which encourages single direction riding.	1:10,000-30,000 – District level facility
15	BMX facility (formal bitumen track)	Dedicated track for specific BMX activity generally with a stone sub base which can provide access for other wheeled sports activities (such as skateboarding) and be a focal point for the youth. A formalised activity space which may incorporate dirt jumps and ramps.	1:50,000 plus – Regional

Item	Facility	Definition	Benchmarks
16	Community and Performing Arts	Centres for the purpose of undertaking dance, music, opera, drama, magic, spoken word and circus arts. Either performance based (to an audience) or for the purposes of learning and development. Many new facilities at a district level will be based on school sites. PLA WA advocates development of multi-functional shared use facilities on school sites where possible subject to suitable community access arrangements being guaranteed.	Regional level facility 1:150,000 – 250,000 District level facility 50-150,000
17	Theatre	A building for the presentation of plays, films, or other dramatic performances.	1:250,000 – Regional
18	Amphitheatres	An outdoor structure for the presentation of plays, community events, music or other dramatic performances.	Integrated within a District Park
19	Outdoor Meeting Place	A functional outdoor community meeting space with at least 1,000m ² dedicated space able to use adjacent grass provision for major events.	Integrated within a District Centre
20	Museums	A building, place, or institution devoted to the acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition, and educational interpretation of objects having scientific, historical, or artistic value.	1:250,000 Generally area/location specific
21	Heritage facilities (trails, information, historic)	Various infrastructure of a historic and/or tourism potential	Area/location specific
22	Arts and Cultural Centre	For the purpose of learning, exhibiting and developing community arts and cultural activities.	50,000 to 150,000 Integrated within a District Centre
23	Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre (generic)	A multi functional, sport recreation and community meeting place. A minimum 3 court facility (with ancillary changing room space including ancillary storage, café, offices, reception, changing, gymnasium/fitness component etc). PLA WA does not support the development of single sport hall facilities due to their lack of viability and poor return on investment.	1:50,000 – 100,000
24	Regional Sports Facility (including aquatics)	Large multi-functional sports facility (6/7 court facility, gym, aerobics, community meeting rooms, could be combined with aquatic infrastructure). Should be co-located with regional playing fields to minimise management and operational costs.	1:250,000
25	Play Spaces	A developed component within an area of public open space. It is the objective of PLA WA to reduce the number of play spaces and increase the quality of provision in areas where they are to be provided.	1:2000 Neighbourhood 1:8,000 to 10,000 District 1:50,000 Regional
26	Permanent Moorings/ Water Infrastructure (including marinas)	Structure used to hold secure an object by means of cables, anchors, or lines. Four basic types of permanent anchor moorings - Dead weight, Mushroom, Screw in; and Triple anchor. Consideration should also be given to the provision of marinas in the planning of new residential developments adjacent to significant water bodies.	Area/location specific
27	Services (volunteer services, Incl Bush fire)	Base for location and storage of fire fighting equipment with ability to provide opportunity for training and development.	Standard Pending: Dependent on distance to and from potential emergency incidents

Item	Facility	Definition	Benchmarks
28	Aerobics/Fitness/Gym (Local Government)	Private or public facility providing general fitness opportunities. Generally provided within a leisure centre or through a variety of commercial operators. Leisure Centre developments should only be developed where a gap has been identified in the market.	To be developed as an integral part of a district or regional leisure facility.
29	Specialty Park – all abilities sensory park	Parks with unique play opportunities (i.e. for children with learning difficulties, disability access and/or mental health.) Play is integrated with processing, organising and filtering sensory input.	Area specific. Integrated within District Park or above.
30	Regional Public Open Space/Park	Serves or is significant to residents of the whole of a local government jurisdiction and those from neighbouring local government areas, and potentially, those from Metropolitan Perth, the rest of the State, other states and overseas. A regional open space may support one activity or a particular range of activities although multi-use is desirable.	1:250,000 Size dependent on function but generally greater than 20ha serving a regional population
31	District Park	District open space and related facilities will generally draw people from a section of a community e.g. the northern, southern or central part of a City. This could be due to size, uniqueness, quality or activity focus.	1:15,000 – 25,000 5-20ha up to 2km from facility or 5 minute drive
32	Neighbourhood Park	Neighbourhood parks are the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighbourhood. Focus is on providing informal, active and reflective recreational options for all ages. Unique site character helps create a sense of place for the neighbourhood. Includes Children's playground, paved games courts, unstructured open play areas for practice or pickup games, low impact.	1:5,000 1-5ha for population within 800m or 10 mins walk away
33	Local open Space	Serve broader purpose than neighbourhood parks. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation and gathering needs.	1:1,000 0.4 -1ha within 400m or 5 minute walk (local)
34	Sports Space (to potentially incorporate sports identified with asterisks below)	Generic open space for the provision of grass sporting infrastructure that can be flexibly used to incorporate seasonal variations in sporting use. A minimum provision of 205m x 175m north to south (3.5ha) is advocated by PLA WA to meet the needs of the sporting community, and maximise the financial viability and use of the infrastructure. They must incorporate floodlighting to a minimum of Australian Training Standard. Facility will provide for a combination of oval and rectangular pitch provision with shared pavilion. Sports will be identified based on local demand	1:4,000 5,000 Multiples of the standard may be used where a centrally located facility is provided to service a higher density population
	34a. AFL ovals*	Oval grass pitch provision (Adult is 165m by 135m) north to south with 5m run-off. PLA WA seeks to develop infrastructure in accordance with the recommendations contained within the WA State Strategic Facilities Plan for Australian Rules Football.	3: 15,000 with at least one oval being capable for supporting a senior football game (AFL strategic plan standard)
	34b. Rugby Union/ League*	Rectangular Grass pitch provision preferred dimensions of 100m by 70m (rugby league) and 156m x 70m (rugby union).	Area/location specific. To be determined by local circumstances and demographic mix.

Item	Facility	Definition	Benchmarks
	34c. Diamond pitch sports*	Diamond shaped grass pitch facility requiring pitch boundaries of 98m with 122m striking outfield (baseball) and 91.44m (softball).	1:8,000 – 10,000 – youth 1:15,000 – 20,000 – adult
	34d.Soccer pitches*	Rectangular Grass pitch provision (Adult 90-120m by 45-90m) small sided game for 6-12 age range varies from 30 by 20m to 60 by 340m.	1:3,000 to 4,000 depending on demographics
	34e. Cricket ovals*	Oval grass pitch (Adult varies between 137 and 150m) with smaller dimensions for junior competition.	1:8,000 – 10,000
	34f. Athletics (grass and synthetic)*	Formal synthetic provision or marked grassed oval with ancillary jumping pits and throwing areas.	1:250,000 plus – Regional Level (synthetic). Grass provision – District level (over-mark existing public open space)
	34g. Hockey pitches (grass* and synthetic – water, sand based and alternatives)	Rectangular Grass or Synthetic surface (Adult 91.4m by 55m with 5m end and 4m side run-offs)	1:75,000 for synthetic surface (WA Hockey Strategy) Grass provision to be area/location specific.
35	Multi-use synthetic surfaces	Various synthetic surfaces which may be used for soccer, hockey and, rugby. Likely to be developed for recreational purposes in areas where water availability and management require less intensive water use to be demonstrated Alternative names include third or fourth generation synthetic pitches (FIFA approved)	Area/location specific
36	Netball Courts	Indoor and outdoor hard flat surface requiring 30.5m by 15.25m with minimum run-off of 3.05 or 3.65 between courts. Development for an Association requires consolidation of at least 16 courts on one site for the purpose of running league matches and festivals.	1:3,000 – 4,000 (outdoor) for training purposes. 16 outdoor courts minimum for an association – District/ Sub-Regional Facility
37	Basketball courts (indoor and outdoor)	A flat hard surface 28m by 15m free from obstructions. Indoor provision requires 7m internal ceiling space required. Minimum run-off 2m.	1:3,000 - 4,000(outdoor) 4 plus indoor courts – Regional/Sub-regional
38	Volleyball (indoor and outdoor – beach and traditional)	A flat hard surface (9m × 18m) or sand based surface (8m × 16m) free from obstructions. Minimum run-off 3.5m (side) and 3.8m (end) for competition use.	To be integrated with Basketball/ Netball centres.
39	Lawn Bowls	Square flat grassed or synthetic surface of 40m by 40m surrounded by a ditch. PLA WA seeks to develop infrastructure in accordance with the recommendations contained within the WA State Strategic Facilities Plan for Lawn Bowls.	Growth areas be the principal location for the development of new facilities (WA facilities strategy – Bowls) 1:25,000 to 50,000 – District
40	Tennis (multi surface hard courts and grass)	Rectangular synthetic surface preferred 23.77m by 10.97m with 6.4m depth of baseline. PLA WA advocate the development of club facilities rather than stand alone single, double or triple court facilities. Orientation of courts ideally should be north-south.	8 court club facility minimum for a population of 15,000. 16 court facility comprises a regional tennis centre which would cater for a 30-60,000 population (based on Tennis Australia's 2020 facility development and management framework).

Item	Facility	Definition	Benchmarks
41	Golf Course	Grass links and parkland provision, which varies from pitch and putt/short hole to 9-hole and 18-hole combinations.	1:30,000
42	Cycling facility	Would generally refer to combined running/walking tracks and should be incorporated within Trails strategies. A velodrome would be the formal competitive infrastructure provided at state level and is not considered within this definition.	Integrated with tracks and trails
43	Trails (walking, cycling and bridlepaths)	Combined running/walking tracks and should be incorporated within Trails strategies	No established Australian standard
44	Climbing walls/centres	Commercial or publicly provided centres for the specific purpose of developing rock climbing, abseiling and motor skill. Climbing walls can be located attached to or within existing leisure centres.	Areas specific. To be incorporated within recreation centres where possible.
45	Local Government Aquatic Facilities indoor/Outdoor (various configurations)	Indoor facility of various constructions but generally include rectangular 25m or 50m pool including 6 to 8 lanes of 2.5m each. Local government pools developed for recreational purposes will need to include leisure water space in addition to formal lap swimming provision.	1:150:000 (50m pool – FINA competition standard) – Regional 1:75,000 (25m or 50m pool for recreational, club, water polo, diving and competitive swimming) – District 1:30,000 (25m and leisure pool) – Neighbourhood
46	Off-road recreational Motor sport	Formalised activity areas for two, three and four wheeled motorsport activities. The WA State Trail Bike Strategy provides a reference point for the objectives for off-road vehicle and trails planning.	Area Specific. To balance reasonable demand with the need to protect the environment

Appendix F: NSW Open Space Standards

Default standards for open space planning in NSW

	Hierarchy level	Size	Distance from most dwellings	Share of non-industrial land	Locally specific alternatives to meet this standard
Parks	Local	0.5-2 ha	400m	2.6%	Civic spaces, plazas, pocket parks, portion of a regional park or quarantined area of a conservation or landscape area.
	District	2-5 ha	2km	0.6%	Beach and river foreshore areas, or a quarantined area of a conservation or landscape area
Linear and Linkage	Local	Up to 1 km	n/a	0.9%	Local primary schools, portion of a district park
	District	1-5 km	n/a	0.1%	Secondary schools, portion of a regional park
Sub total (parks / Linear and Linkage)				4.2%	
Outdoor sport	Local	5 ha	1 km	2.0%	Local primary schools, portion of a district park
	District	5-10 ha	2 km	2.6%	Secondary schools, portion of a regional park
Sub total (Outdoor sport)				4.6%	
Total (Local / District)				9%	Could be reduced through shared areas using above alternatives.
Parks	Regional	5+ ha	5-10 km	2.3%	
Linear and Linkage	Regional	5+ km	5-10 km	0.7%	
Outdoor sport	Regional	10+ ha	5-10 km	2.9%	
Total (Regional)				6%	
Grand Total				15%	

Source : NSW Department of Planning's Open Space Guidelines for Local Government (2010)

Appendix G: Provision Rate Comparison

Comparison of Newcastle recreation facilities to draft provision rates developed by Parks & Leisure Australia

Recreation Facility Type	PLA Draft provision rates	Existing No. of facilities located in Newcastle LGA*	Indicative No. facilities required as per PLA draft benchmarks		Comparison of existing supply against PLA draft provision rates (2026 population)
			2011 Population (155,706 people)	2026 Population (181,582 people)	
Local Playgrounds	1: 2,000	106	(181,582 people)	91	Potential oversupply of 15
District Playgrounds	1: 8,000 - 10,000	1	16-19	18-23	Potential deficit between 17-22
Regional Playgrounds	1:50,000	0	3	3-4	Potential deficit of 3-4
Sports Fields	1: 2,000 – 2,500	124 (TCoN) 146 (Total)	62 to78	145 to 182	Potential deficit of 21 to 58 (TCoN only) Potential deficit of 1 to 36 (Total)
Outdoor Netball Courts	1: 3,000 – 4,000	51	52	61	Potential deficit of 10
Outdoor Basketball Courts	1: 3,000 – 4,000	8	52	63	Deficit of 53
Local Tennis Courts	1: 2,000 – 3,000	75	52-78	61 to 91	Potential deficit between 24 and 54
Regional Tennis Complex	1: 30,000 - 60,000	1	3 to 5	3 to 6	Potential deficit between 2 and 5
Local Skate/BMX	1: 5,000 - 10,000	8	16 to 31	18 to 36	Potential deficit between 10 and 22
District Skate/BMX	1: 10,000 - 25,000	2	6 to 16	7 to 18	Potential deficit between 4 to 14
Regional Skate/BMX	1: 25,000	0	3 to 6	4 to 7	Potential deficit between 3 to 7
Golf Course	1: 30,000	4	5	6	Deficit of 2
Swimming Pools (50m)	1: 75,000	6	2	2 to 3	Potential oversupply between 3 to 4
Regional Aquatic Facility	1: 150,000	0	1	1	Potential deficit of 1
# Multi – Purpose Sport Centres	1: 50,000 – 100,000	2	2 to3	2 to 4	Potential deficit of 0 to 2
## Regional Indoor Multi – Purpose Sport Centres	1: 250,000	0	0-1	0-1	Potential deficit of 1

* Existing No. of facilities include education and privately owned facilities.

A multi–purpose sport centres consists of a minimum 3 courts with ancillary change rooms and storage, café, offices, reception, changing and gymnasium/fitness component.

A regional indoor multi–purpose sport centre consists of 6-7 courts, gym, aerobics and community meeting rooms.

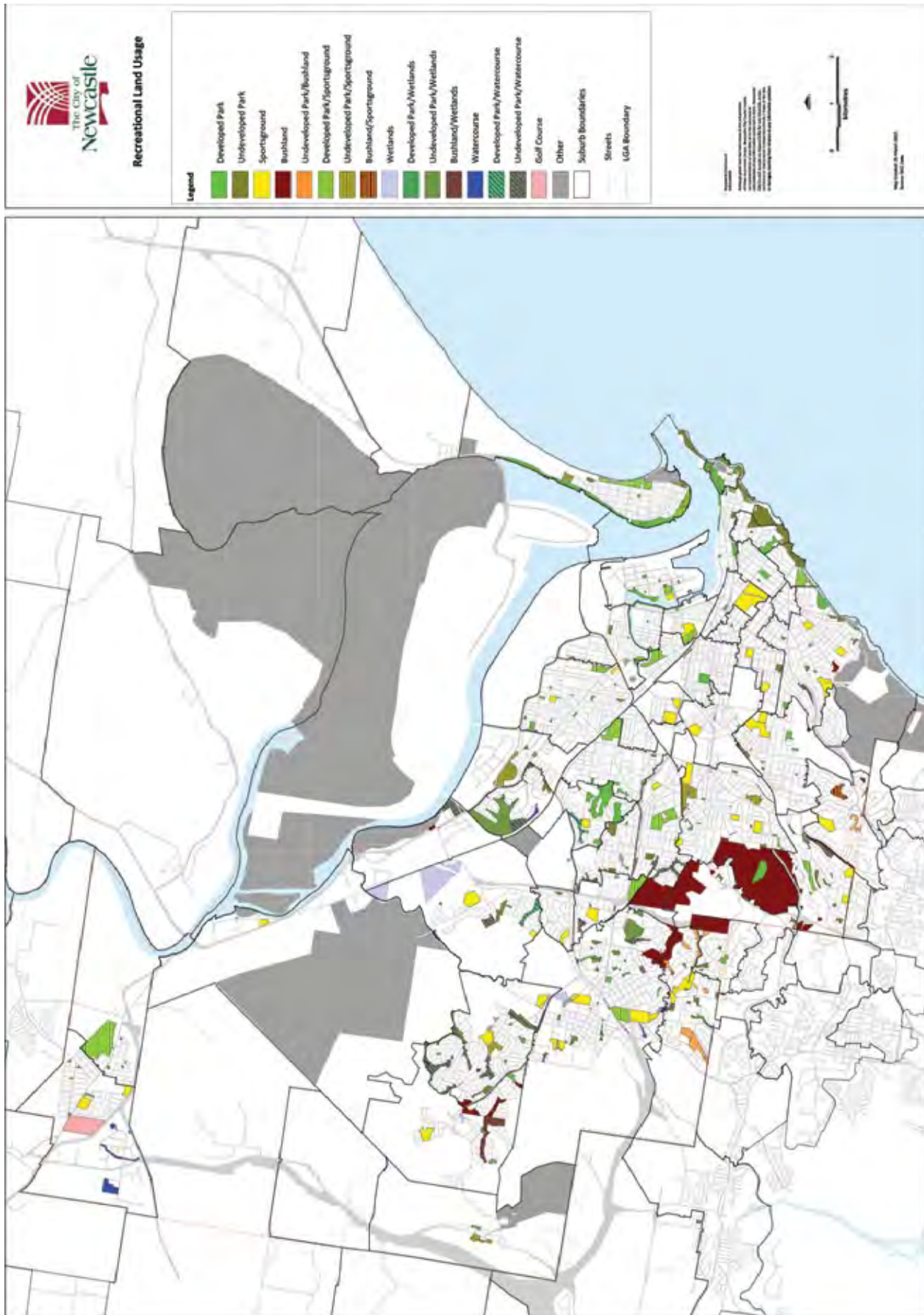
Appendix H: Planning Catchment Areas

Population Catchment Areas	Suburbs	2011 pop	2036 pop
Adamstown – Kotara	Adamstown, Adamstown Heights, Kotara and Kotara South (which extends into the Lake Macquarie LGA).	15,045	16,517
Beresfield - Hexham	Beresfield, Tarro, Hexham, Lenaghan, Woodberry (which extends into the Maitland LGA).	8,362	8,811
Hamilton - Broadmeadow	Hamilton, Hamilton North, Hamilton East, Hamilton South and Broadmeadow.	11,738	13,011
Lambton - New Lambton	Lambton, New Lambton	16,407	16,491
Maryland - Fletcher – Minmi	Maryland, Fletcher and Minmi.	11,213	16,040
Mayfield – Warabrook	Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West and Warabrook.	14,642	16,299
Merewether - The Junction	Merewether	13,396	14,337
Newcastle - Cooks Hill	Newcastle, The Hill, The Junction, Cooks Hill, Newcastle East and Newcastle West.	10,135	13,451
Shortland - Jesmond	Shortland, Jesmond, Callaghan, Birmingham Gardens, Sandgate.	10,083	11,089
Stockton - Fullerton Cove	Stockton, Fern Bay (which extends into the Port Stephen's LGA)	6,121	9,194
Wallsend - Elernmore Vale	Wallsend, Rankin Park and Elernmore Vale.	19,037	21,224
Waratah - North Lambton	Waratah, North Lambton, Georgetown and Waratah West.	11,859	16,707
Carrington - Tighes Hill – Wickham	Carrington, Maryville, Islington, Tighes Hill and Wickham.	7,668	8,411
	Total	155,706	81,582

Source: Figures compiled by TCoN based on popular forecast data prepared by forecast id.

Popular forecasts indicate people located outside Newcastle LCA but within designated population catchment areas.

Appendix I: Recreation Facility Maps





Playgrounds

Legend

- Playgrounds (Green teardrop icon)
- Parks (Green square icon)
- SA2 Census District (Black outline icon)
- Water (Blue square icon)
- Streets (Grey line icon)
- Railways (Black dashed line icon)
- LGA Boundary (Red dashed line icon)

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Map Created: 24 July 2013
Source: NCC Data





Netball Courts

Legend

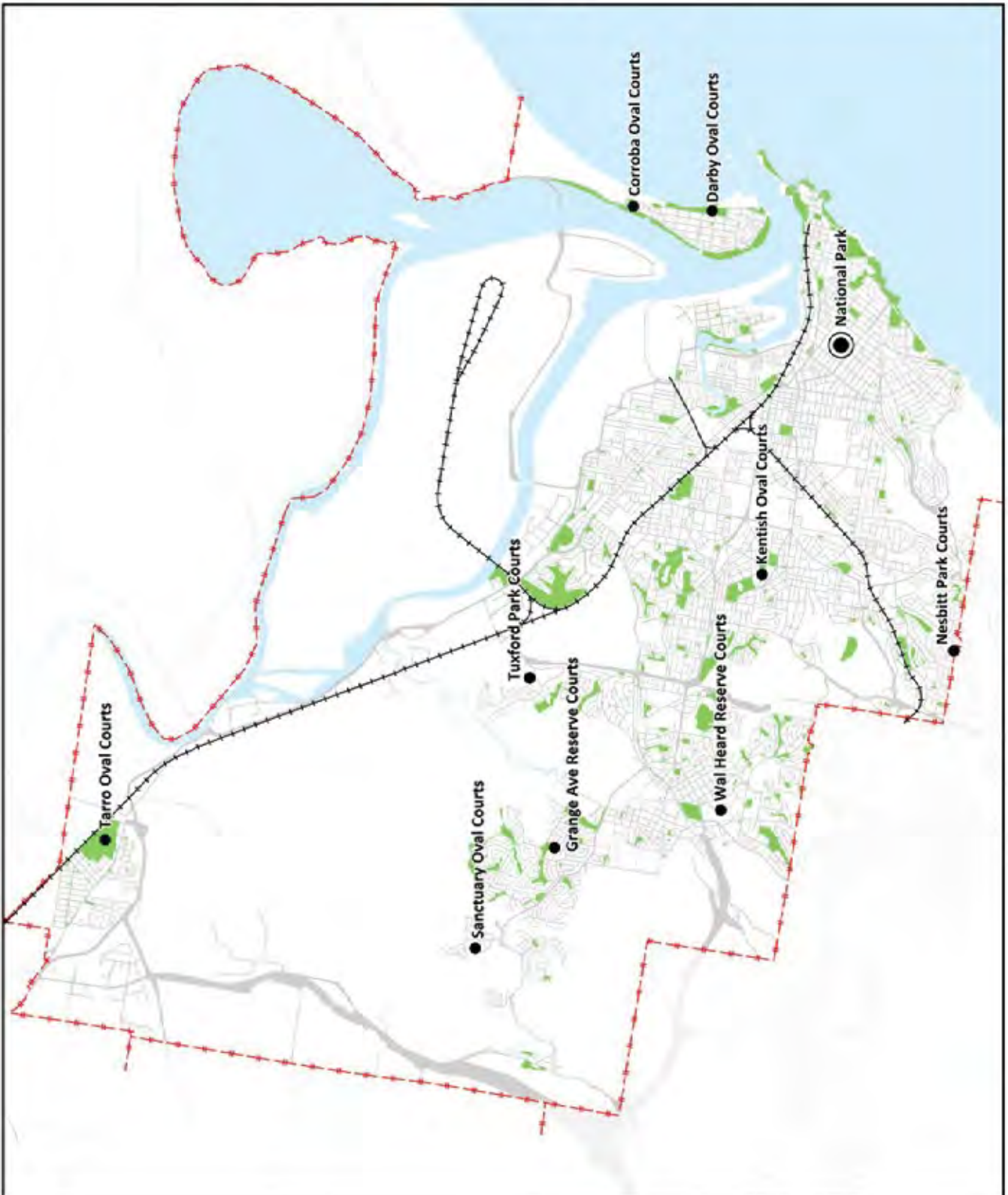
- Local Netball Courts
- Regional Netball Courts
- Parks
- SA2 Census District
- Water
- Streets
- Railways
- LGA Boundary

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Map Created: 30 October 2013
Source: NCC Data





Basketball Courts Full and Half Court

Legend

- Half Sized Courts
- Full Sized Courts
- Parks
- SA2 Census District
- Water
- Streets
- Railways
- LGA Boundary

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Map Created: 30 October 2013
Source: NCC Data





Tennis and Batball Courts

- Legend**
- Local Tennis Courts
 - Regional Tennis Courts
 - Batball Courts
 - Parks
 - SA2 Census District
 - Water
 - Streets
 - Railways
 - LGA Boundary

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Map Created: 30 October 2013
Source: NCC Data





Skate/BMX Parks

Legend

- Local Parks
- District Parks
- Parks
- SA2 Census District
- Water
- Streets
- Railways
- LGA Boundary

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Map Created: 30 October 2013
Source: NCC Data





Golf Courses and Driving Ranges

Legend

- 18** Golf Courses and Number of Holes
- Driving Ranges
- Parks
- SA2 Census District
- Water
- Streets
- Railways
- LGA Boundary

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Map Created: 30 October 2013
Source: NCC Data





Swimming Pools and Ocean Bathes

- Legend**
- NCC 50m Pools
 - NCC Ocean Bathes
 - Private 50m Pools
 - Private 25m Pools
 - Parks
 - SA2 Census District
 - Water
 - Streets
 - Railways
 - LGA Boundary

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Indoor Sport Centres

- Legend**
- Indoor Sports Centres
 - Parks
 - SA2 Census District
 - Water
 - Streets
 - Railways
 - LGA Boundary

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Source: NCC Data





Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas

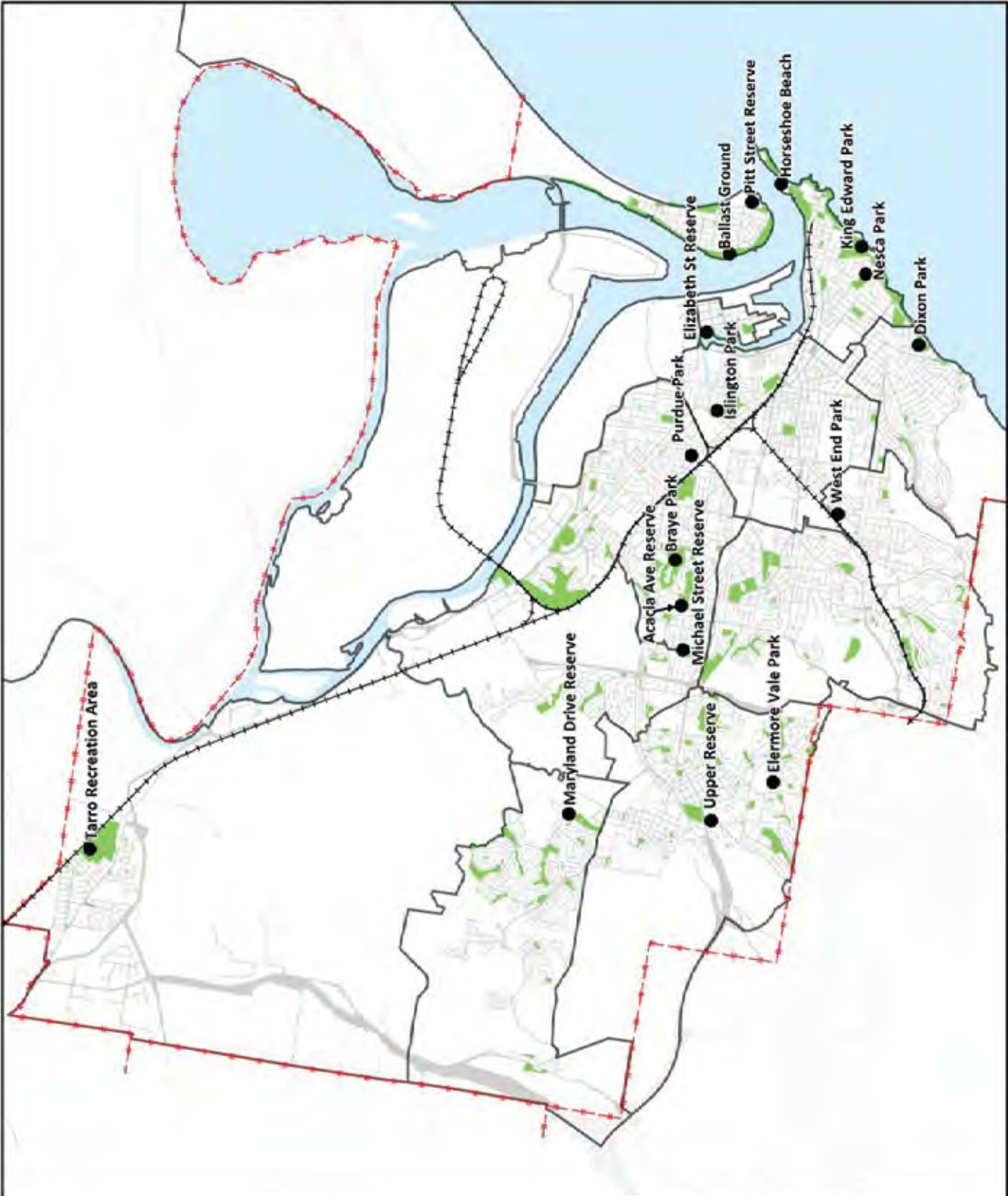
Legend

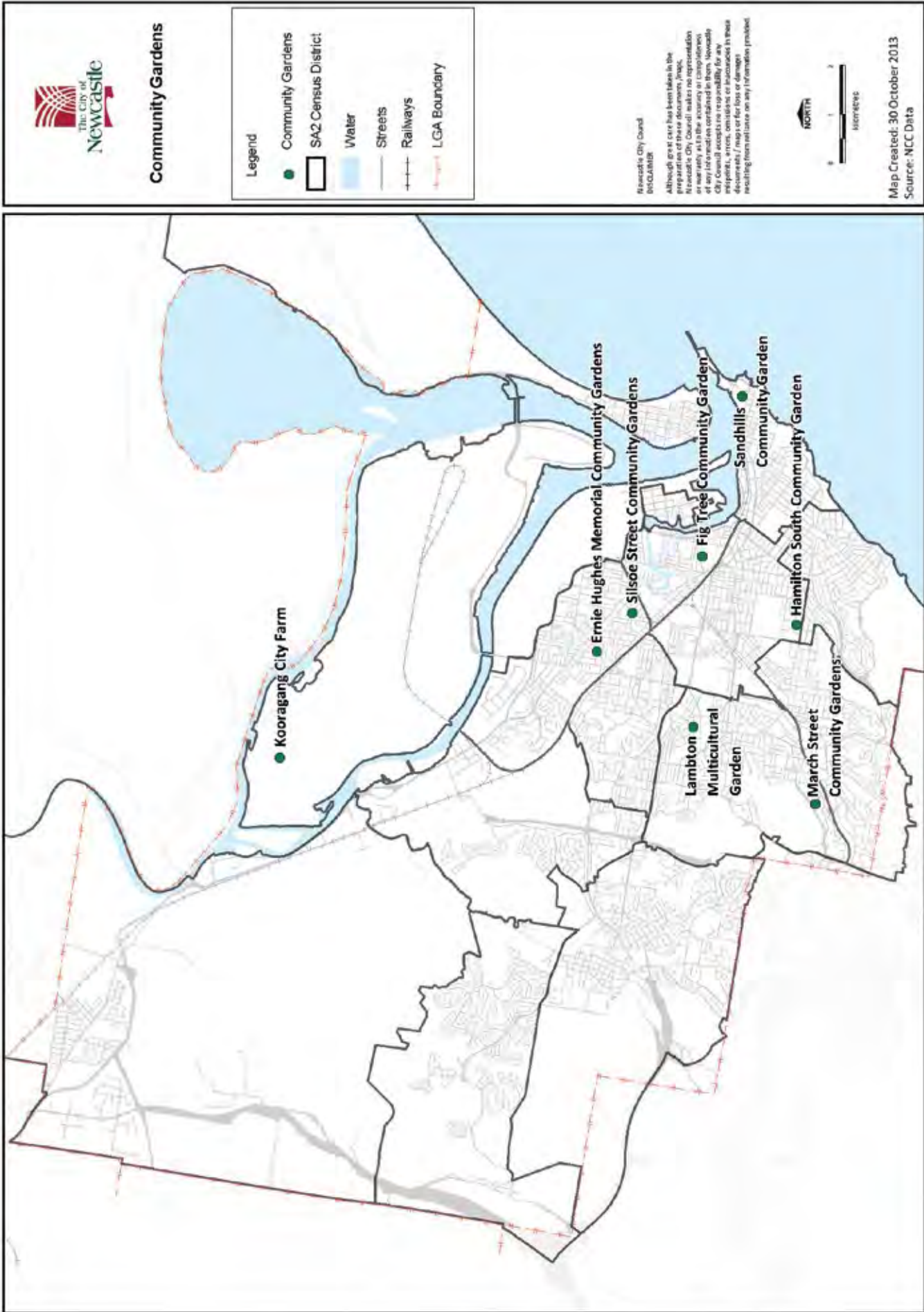
- Off Leash Areas
- Parks
- SA2 Census District
- Water
- Streets
- Railways
- LGA Boundary

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