



MULTICULTURAL STRATEGY

Culturally Diverse Warringah 2015-2020

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Front cover image: Students from Mackellar Girls School at their Cultural Day

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Warringah Council's Multicultural Strategy – *Culturally Diverse Warringah* – 2015-2020 provides a framework that outlines Council's commitment to developing an inclusive community, where all cultures are respected and valued.

With 28.1% of its residents being born overseas, Warringah is home to many culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities which each make a significant contribution to our area. They enrich the broader community, both socially and culturally. However, with increasing cultural diversity, certain challenges arise, and this Strategy acknowledges the challenges our CALD population faces.

Furthermore, this Strategy describes how Council will work towards ensuring its programs, services and facilities are accessible to residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It reflects Council's commitment to working together with the community to strengthen engagement, build relationships and maintain community harmony.

It aims to inspire a multicultural Warringah: to embrace, acknowledge and celebrate the diversity within our area; to identify those people in our community who may need assistance; and to create an inclusive, vibrant community for all. This Strategy outlines how Council and the community can work together to strengthen community harmony, create opportunities and improve community engagement.

The Strategy has been developed following significant research and thorough community engagement and participation. Council consulted with over 800 stakeholders including CALD groups and individuals, Council staff and service providers.

The Strategy provides direction for Council and for partnering organisations to guide effective planning of service delivery. Following the adoption of this Strategy, an action plan will be developed to outline deliverables.

For more information about Warringah Council's Multicultural Strategy in a language other than English, contact Warringah Council or Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

SETTING THE SCENE

Traditional Tibetan dance performed at cross-cultural soccer day, Dee Why

SETTING THE SCENE

Background

The development of a multicultural strategy was identified as a key priority in Council's Operational Plan for 2014/15, which is informed by the long term vision for Warringah – the Community Strategic Plan.

The Strategy is about effective planning and providing culturally appropriate and properly targeted services that will meet the diverse needs of the community.

Role and Purpose of this Strategy

Culturally Diverse Warringah will serve as a planning document for Council in terms of service delivery. The purpose is to set overarching strategic directions for how Council approaches CALD communities.

The Strategy will serve the dual function of forming the basis for Council's annual Community Services planning as well as being the basis for ongoing conversations and collaboration with CALD communities and service providers. The Strategy reflects Council's commitment to collaboration and innovation in responding effectively to the needs of multicultural communities in Warringah.

Australia's First People

Warringah Council respectfully acknowledges that Indigenous Australians were the first people of this land. We celebrate the survival of Indigenous Australians and their culture following European colonisation. Many local indigenous people were consulted for this strategy and we thank them for their insights and inputs.

Council will continue to work collaboratively with Australia's first people to foster partnerships and collaboration to improve the wellbeing of our first peoples and work towards reconciliation.



National, State and Local Government Context

This Strategy sits alongside the relevant government policies at federal, state and local levels.

National

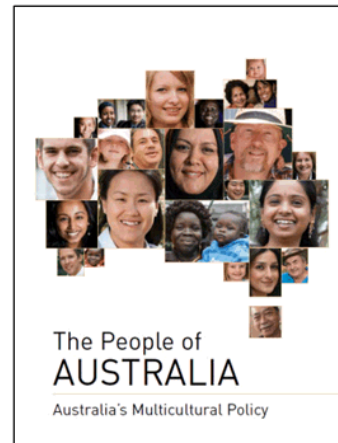
In recent years, the Federal Government has introduced a number of policies that detail its commitment to a multicultural Australia including:

- Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- The Australian Government Access and Equity Strategy 1985 and 2012
- Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society 1998
- Multicultural Australia: United in Diversity 2003
- Human Rights Framework 2010
- The People of Australia: Australia's Multicultural Policy 2011.

The Federal Government has also implemented some initiatives at a local level including the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program, National Harmony Day and the Settlement Grants Program.

The Settlement Grants Program (SGP), administered locally via the Manly Community Centre service based at Brookvale, provides funding aimed at assisting humanitarian entrants and migrants settle in Australia and participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after their arrival. To ensure that SGP funding is directed to those most in need, settlement services are directed to those permanent residents who have arrived in Australia in the last five years as:

- Humanitarian entrants
- Family stream migrants with low levels of English proficiency
- Dependants of skilled migrants in rural and regional areas with low English proficiency (Department of Social Services, 2014).



State

Since 1983, all NSW Government agencies have been required to have a multicultural plan (previously known as an Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement).

The NSW Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act (2000), requires all public authorities to implement and report on the principles of multiculturalism.

Warringah supports and implements the principles in the Act, which include:

- All individuals in NSW should have the greatest opportunity to contribute to, and participate in, all aspects of life;
- Individuals are free to profess, practise and maintain their own linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic heritage;
- Provisions are made for the culture, language and religion of others and that these are respected;
- All individuals are able to participate in relevant activities and programs provided or administered by the NSW Government;
- Cultural and linguistic assets are promoted and celebrated as a valued resource.

The NSW commitment to cultural diversity and community harmony is further strengthened through the following:

- White Paper: Cultural Harmony; The Next Decade 2002-2012
- Multicultural Advantage 2012-2015
- NSW State Plan 2021
- Implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism Locally: A planning guide for NSW Local Governments produced by NSW Community Relations Commission and Department of Local Government in 2010.

Local

At a broad level, Section 8 of the NSW Local Government Act (1993) incorporates a charter which states that councils are required to provide, after consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services are managed efficiently.

Furthermore, councils are required to exercise their functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism.

The Local Government Amendment Planning and Reporting Act (2009) introduced a new Integrated Planning and Reporting approach to councils by the Division of Local Government and strengthened councils' strategic approach to the delivery of services. It also provided greater involvement by the community in the process of forward planning and guided councils on how to address and integrate local social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.



OUR COMMUNITY (WARRINGAH'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY)

Demographic Snapshot

This section provides an overview of key demographic trends followed by more detailed demographic data in the appendix.

Warringah is home to over 155,000 people* with a steady population growth since 1991. Although Warringah has a smaller proportion of people born overseas or from a non-English speaking background than the Sydney average, Warringah is becoming increasingly diverse and there are growing numbers of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds residing in the area.

Alongside traditional 'beach' culture, Warringah is a community of many nations and faiths. Based on a population of 140, 741 (excluding overseas visitors) from 2011 census data:

- 28.1% of Warringah residents were born overseas (39,591)
 - United Kingdom 8.2% (11,547)
 - New Zealand 2.5% (3,504)
 - China 1.4% (1,991)
 - Italy 1.2% (1,748)
 - South Africa 1.2% (1,740)
 - Philippines 0.8% (1,089)
 - India 0.8% (1,083)
 - Germany 0.7% (995)
 - United States 0.7% (988)
 - Brazil 0.7% (955)
- 14.6% of Warringah residents were born in non-English speaking countries (20,556)

*"There are many faces
representing a great diversity
in the community
in which we live and
I really like that"*

- The top 10 ancestries in Warringah are listed below. Ancestry defines the cultural association and ethnic background of an individual going back three generations.
 - English 37.8% (53,166)
 - Australian 33.0% (46,453)
 - Irish 11.1% (15,555)
 - Scottish 9.2% (12,998)
 - Italian 5.2% (7,373)
 - German 3.5% (4,905)
 - Chinese 3.4% (4,758)
 - Dutch 1.9% (2,623)
 - New Zealander 1.4% (2,026)
 - Greek 1.0% (1,465)
- 85.4% of Warringah's population in 2011 were listed as Australian citizens (120,176)
- In Warringah, 2,803 people (2.0% of the population) who were able to speak another language, reported difficulty speaking English
- In Warringah, 16.1% of people speak a language other than English at home (22,644). The dominant language groups are:
 - Italian 2.0% (2,753)
 - Mandarin 1.2% (1,685)
 - Cantonese 1.0% (1,456)
 - Armenian 0.8% (1,111)
 - German 0.8% (1,103)
 - Portuguese 0.8% (1,109)
- Between 2006 and 2011, the number of people born overseas increased by 4,428 or 12.6%, and the number of people from a non-English speaking background increased by 2,493 or 13.8%.
- The largest changes in birthplace countries of the population in this area between 2006 and 2011 were for those born in:
 - United Kingdom (+1,234 persons)
 - Brazil (+624 persons)
 - India (+449 persons)
 - South Africa (+356 persons)

- Warringah is home to Australia's largest Tibetan population, however the exact numbers are difficult to measure as most have their country of origin listed as China. More Tibetans are expected to settle in Warringah in coming years as humanitarian entrants.
- 0.4% of people in Warringah (602) identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent



*Population figure of 155,289 based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated residential population from 2014.

Council's Current Activities

Community Services

- Council delivers a range of services and facilities for the CALD communities in Warringah. These include activities for seniors, people with disabilities, youth, arts and cultural which are all well attended by CALD residents.
- Warringah's Community Development Team gives regular presentations to new migrants as part of the settlement program and Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) at the Northern Beaches Institute of TAFE. These talks include a translator and deliver vital information to assist the new settlers adjust comfortably into Australian society. This includes the responsibilities of each of the three levels of government taking a particular focus on how local government is here to help in their transition into Australian life.

Warringah is home to Australia's largest Tibetan population and this number is growing – Tibetan migrants make up the majority of the AMEP.

- Council's Community and Cultural Development Grants Program has recognised the importance of this group with grants to the Tibetan Learning Centre and a Tibetan Children's Camp in recent years. Through the competitive grants program, Council has previously contributed financially to events such as Eurofest, the Sydney Multicultural Festival and the Tibetan Losar Festival.



- Council has numerous community centres which are available for use by CALD groups for meetings, cultural celebrations and other activities.
- Information booklets on home care services in Northern Sydney for seniors and people with disabilities are provided and these are available in nine community languages.
- The Pacific & Maori Work on the Street Program was set up in 2012 by the Northern Beaches Police Command, in response to high levels of contact between police and young people from those communities. They have a range of programs, from Friday Night Out Reach Patrols around Dee Why to running Cultural Days with the schools, weekly language and cultural events and Pacific Beats nights where both modern and traditional singing and dance skills are on display. More recently, the NSW Department of Family and Community Services has also helped to establish a Pacific Islander community working group for the Northern Beaches. The working group aims to prioritise key community issues and discuss how they can be addressed.
- The NSW Department of Family and Community Services has also established the Mana Allawah Project Management Group, of which Council is an active member. The purpose of the Mana Allawah Project Management Group is to collectively draw upon the specialist skills, experiences, knowledge and abilities of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working in the Northern Sydney district in the education, employment, health and community sectors to lead the implementation of the outcomes from the Mana Allawah Summit held in 2014. Mana Allawah is a Darug word meaning 'Get Together' (Darug Elder, Aunty Edna Watson 2014).
- Council also participates in the Northern Beaches Multicultural Network coordinated by the Manly Community Centre. The network meets monthly and discusses new and emerging communities and shares information and resources across the various partner organisations to address local issues.

Cultural Events

- Each year, Council celebrates its rich diversity through citizenship ceremonies, Guringai Festival, Australia Day festivities and many other events. Some of these events are CALD specific, and others intended for the broader community. Through broad publicity, CALD communities are encouraged to participate in community events.
- Harmony Day is also often celebrated in Warringah through A Taste of Harmony. For this day of celebration, staff will bring in a dish representing their culture to share with their colleagues. Similarly, events such as these have been held during Seniors Week for the general public to participate in.



Library Services

- Warringah's libraries have a vast array of multilingual resources with reading materials and language learning resources for those in the community from other cultures. There is a range of community language resources available including Tibetan, Chinese and Italian. Warringah's community language resources are borrowed from the State Library resulting in a constantly evolving collection of resources. Access to databases and information from other providers is available through links with the State Library.



Customer Service

- Warringah Council was officially declared a Refugee Welcome Zone on 17 July 2012, registered with the Refugee Council of Australia. This declaration has been used to foster an awareness of the issues facing refugees, and improve visibility of refugees, in the Warringah community.
- Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, and previously the Social Plan and Cultural Plan also support the benefits of staff being able to understand and appreciate other people's cultures to facilitate our commitment to multiculturalism, diversity and fairness.

- Council provides a range of services to residents from CALD backgrounds through Customer Service. All Council staff undertake cultural awareness training upon induction and on an ongoing basis.

Being culturally aware is one way in which staff at Warringah Council can demonstrate its equal employment opportunity responsibilities. This is done through practices that consider cultures other than our own when making decisions and delivering services to our customers and our colleagues. Being culturally aware is also a tool that can help Council's operations and teams run more smoothly, by helping us to communicate more effectively with the people we deal with every day.

- Warringah Council strongly supports Equal Employment Opportunity which is aimed at achieving:
 - equitable employment outcomes
 - a harassment-free workplace
 - full staff participation
 - a diverse workforce that reflects, and is responsive to, the community served.
- Staff also use the telephone interpreting service (TIS) to access translation if required.

Sister Cities

- Warringah Council has also developed a number of Sister and Friendship Cities over the years including:
 - Chichibu, Japan
 - Brewarrina, NSW
 - Honolulu, Hawaii
(Goodwill Beach City Agreement)



Community Engagement – The Process

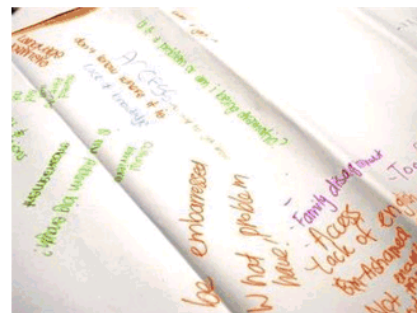
This strategy is the result of extensive conversations, workshops, focus groups, interviews and written commentary by Council staff with people from CALD backgrounds. As the highest levels of migration in Warringah are from English speaking countries (with a vast majority from United Kingdom), this research focused mainly on those communities from more culturally diverse and non-English speaking backgrounds, who would be expected to encounter far more barriers to community engagement and participation than those from similar cultures.

More than 800 people from various cultural backgrounds were consulted as part of this strategy. A variety of methodologies were chosen, including a survey (both online and paper-based), targeted small group face-to-face consultations and larger group forums. Interpreters were made available for various groups to aid in translation.

Focus Groups and Discussions

Focus group sessions and/or discussions were conducted with various cultural groups:

- Aboriginal
- Brazilian
- Chinese
- Church based groups
- Dee Why multicultural playgroup
- Filipino
- French
- Indian
- Islamic
- Italian
- Korean
- Maori
- Nepalese
- Pacific Islanders
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Tongan



- Tibetan
- School based groups
- Sporting groups
- Multicultural youth forum – a gathering of 55 secondary school students from various ethnic backgrounds

"It was an opportunity for our voice to be heard, for us to say what we think!"
- Youth forum participant

Extensive discussions were also held with service providers including:

- Health services
- Settlement services
- Welfare agencies
- Community support organisations
- Carer support groups
- Education institutions
- Small business sector
- Attendees at cultural festivals and general community events
- Council's Vibrant Connected Communities Strategic Reference Group
- Police consultation
- Internal consultation with libraries, community centres, beach services
- Other Councils



Surveys

- 135 participants completed the online version of the survey
- 188 participants completed and returned hard copies of the survey

Your Say website

- The Your Say Warringah community engagement website had close to 500 page visitors



Warringah Council would like to say thank you to all those who participated in the consultation and so generously gave up their time to provide us with their feedback.

Your involvement and contribution will ensure that the Strategy is relevant to the Warringah community.

What did our community tell us?

Key findings from our consultation

The consultations provided a rich understanding of what it's like to live, work or play in Warringah when you are from a different country. Council consulted with people who had only recently arrived as refugees through to those whose families had been in Australia for several generations.

Accordingly, people from CALD backgrounds are not one homogenous group and so their responses need to be seen in this context. Many of the challenges raised were markedly similar to those listed in Warringah's Community Strategic Plan which sets out the long term aspirations of the wider Warringah community.

The main themes raised in the Community Strategic Plan are:

- A vibrant community
- Lifestyle and recreation
- A healthy environment
- Connected transport
- Liveable neighbourhoods
- Working together

These themes echo the findings of consultation undertaken for the Multicultural Strategy. From the findings, six key themes emerged:

1. Housing
2. Employment, education and training
3. Access to information and services
4. Identity and belonging
5. Celebrations and events
6. Health and safety

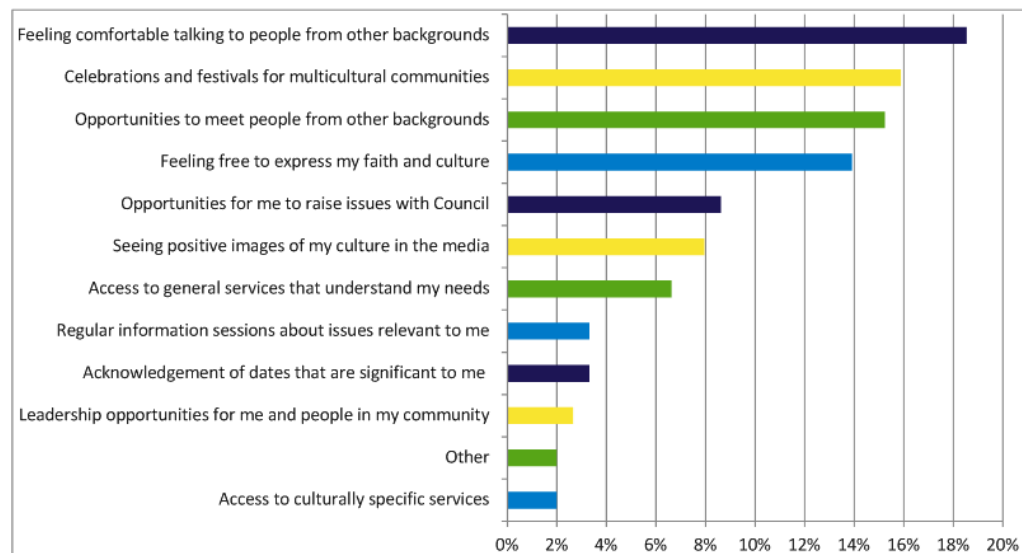


Visual representation of words used frequently by participants throughout the consultations (Tagxedo.com 2014)

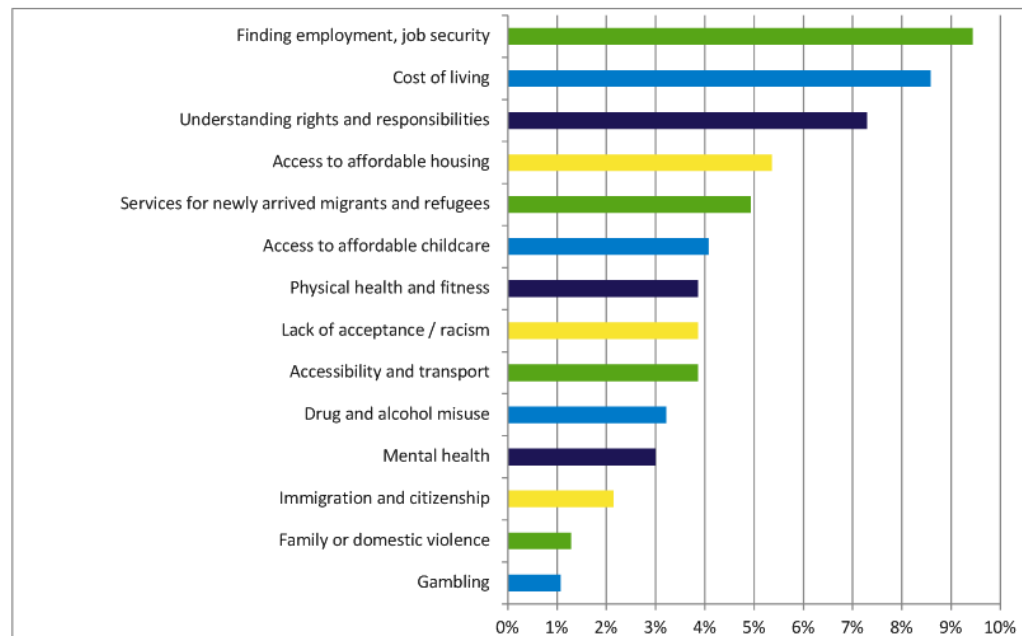
Key Findings from the Multicultural Survey 2015

More detailed survey data is listed in the appendix.

What are the three most important things that make you feel like you belong to the Warringah community?



What do you think are the five most important issues for local multicultural communities?



MULTICULTURAL STRATEGY: CULTURALLY DIVERSE WARRINGAH

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1. Housing

The cost of housing has increased significantly in recent years in Warringah and across metropolitan Sydney. According to CoreLogic RP Data, in 2015, the current median house price for the Northern Beaches is now \$1.241 million.

"Warringah is a very nice place to live, however housing affordability is very difficult"

Upon arrival in Australia, migrants often require accommodation in the private rental market. However with vacancy rates at around 1%, increasing rental prices and a tight market with limited supply, even securing rental accommodation can be a challenging task.

This high cost of housing has made it difficult for people on low to moderate incomes to secure safe, affordable accommodation for their families. In addition to the lack of affordable accommodation available, people from CALD backgrounds, may face added barriers in accessing suitable accommodation.

Local community consultation identified these barriers as:

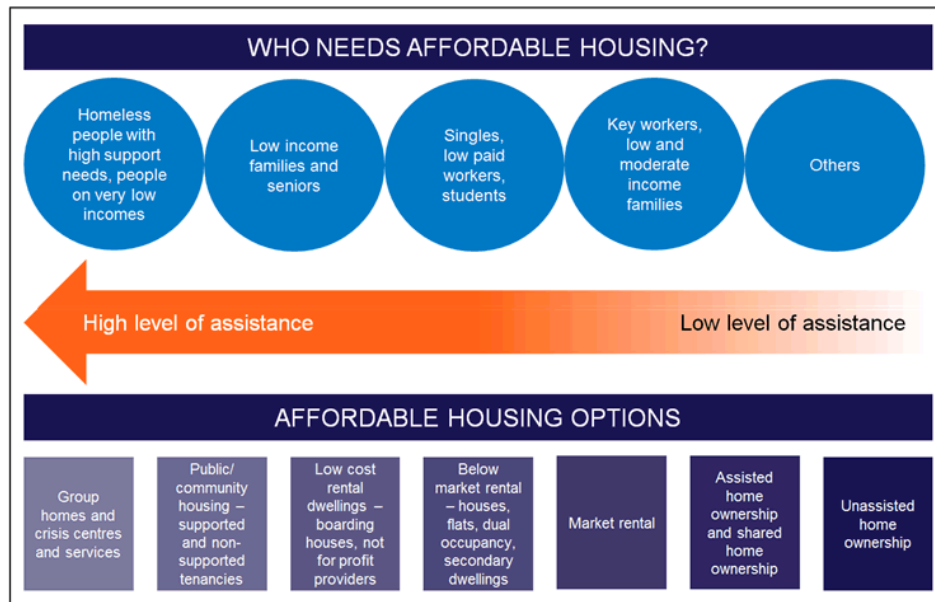
- a shortage of housing to accommodate larger families
- new arrivals having limited rental history and references
- low proficiency in English
- discrimination based on their cultural background
- not being aware of tenancy rights and responsibilities
- limited budgeting skills (Shelter WA, 2013)

In addition to increasing housing costs, the cost of living for necessities such as utilities, food and transport have all increased which contributes to significant housing stress. Throughout the consultations, the cost of living was raised numerous times as a topic of concern.



Whilst social housing is available through government programs, the demand far outweighs supply. Long waiting lists and a very limited supply of social housing stock in Warringah, means that some families feel their only option is to move out of the area.

Spectrum of Housing Needs



(Your Say Warringah, 2014)

Strategic Objectives

Our long-term objective is that increased affordable housing options are available for all residents including those from CALD backgrounds

1.1 Facilitate a diversity of housing options through the provision of a greater mix of housing, in terms of type, density and affordability, to accommodate an increasing and diverse population

1.2 Provide information to people from CALD backgrounds on a range of housing options including tenancy rights and responsibilities

2. Employment, Education and Training

Meaningful employment provides individuals and families with validation of participation in society, a source of pride and dignity (NSW Community Relations Commission, 2006) as well as social inclusion and acceptance in a community (Australian Government, 2009).

For many new arrivals, there are often barriers to obtaining employment including:

- lack of available employment
- low levels of English and/or literacy, numeracy and computer skills
- lack of recognition of overseas qualifications and skills and the need for re-training
- lack of Australian work experience
- perceived discrimination from potential employers (Maitland City Council, 2008)

Consultation with CALD communities highlighted a strong work ethic and a desire to gain employment, as obtaining employment was viewed as a measure of success. Many cited that often their overseas qualifications were not recognised in Australia and required retraining. Often retraining is an expensive exercise, or difficult due to limited training opportunities in Warringah or a lack of English.

"When I first arrived to Australia, I volunteered for three years – it was a good way to improve my English and meet people"

Whilst some people from CALD backgrounds receive up to 510 hours of free English lessons as part of the Adult Migrant Education Program, some participants secure employment prior to completing their course. Although obtaining employment is to be commended, it can mean their English literacy remains limited.



It should also be noted, however, that throughout the consultation, some people from CALD backgrounds, particularly with good English proficiency, secured employment rather quickly. This enabled them to settle into Australian life relatively easily.

Education was also raised as a key issue throughout the consultations. Many migrant and refugee students face difficulties at school after missing several years of structured learning before migrating to Australia. Often problems arise when these students with limited literacy and heightened settlement needs are placed in mainstream school classrooms (SydWest Multicultural Services, n.d.).

Alternatively, many of the young people we surveyed who were born in Australia to migrant parents stated that they had a strong desire to study hard, but there was also a lot of parental pressure placed upon them to succeed. These young people from CALD families often felt that



their parents didn't understand the modern day stresses associated with attending school or university, such as peer pressure, demanding workloads and new technologies. Similarly, parents cited they wanted to support their children with their studies but were often unsure how to do so.

Strategic Objectives

2. Our objective is that residents from CALD backgrounds have access to information related to meaningful employment, education and training opportunities

2.1 Promote and acknowledge local workplaces that accept and support cultural diversity and work in partnership with other service providers to facilitate and promote job opportunities for people of CALD backgrounds

2.2 Provide information and access to programs and services that relate to employment and education pathways for people of CALD backgrounds

3. Access to Information and Services

Access and inclusion to information and services is essential for people to fully participate in community life and assist in their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Warringah residents should have equitable and easy access to services regardless of cultural background.

The key issues for the CALD community in accessing information and services are:

- The lack of knowledge about available services
- Language barriers
- Varying cultural attitudes to various services eg fear of authorities
- Services that are not sensitive to language, cultural and religious needs

It was raised frequently throughout our consultations, that many people from CALD backgrounds were not aware of the vast array of services and so require additional support to identify and access these services. Such services included:



- Childcare
- Healthcare
- Financial and practical assistance
- Home care for older residents and aged care facilities
- Government services eg Centrelink, immigration
- Legal advice
- Transport
- Support services eg counselling
- Social activities
- Interpreters when accessing services

It was cited throughout consultations, that some groups had identified specific issues in their cultural community, however were unsure about how to take action. While some cultural groups had formal structures by way of incorporated or peak organisations, others lacked organised leadership, structure and resources and so had difficulty progressing these issues beyond the discussion stage. Forming an incorporated organisation allows groups to apply for grants and work more collaboratively on projects, rather than relying on a few key individuals, who may have limited resources.

In terms of access to programs and services, the needs of young people and older people featured prominently in discussions. Many were concerned that opportunities to engage multicultural youth outside school hours remained limited due to a lack of programs and services, or prohibitive costs.

In relation to older members of the community, the need for culturally appropriate aged care facilities was raised frequently. It is evident there are limited ethno-specific community organisations and multicultural service providers in Warringah for the CALD community. This leaves a gap for the ageing CALD community and particularly for new and emerging groups as they settle in the area.

Over recent years, however, there has been a significant shift in funding away from ethno-specific services towards more generic multicultural providers (Burwood Council, 2013). Scalabrini Village in Allambie Heights, which has an Italian focus, is one of the few aged care facilities that targets a specific cultural group.

Language was also highlighted as a key issue. Limited resources are translated into languages other than English, and this continues to be a barrier to accessing services. Ensuring there are varied methods of communication in key community languages, is vital to ensuring residents have full access to information and services. This is problematic however, as Warringah has a diverse range of smaller CALD communities, without any being highly dominant.

"Those from multicultural backgrounds with language difficulties have barriers to overcome and feel isolated because they do not know what is available to them"

According to our survey results, the library is the most used Council facility by the CALD community. Beaches, parks, playgrounds, reserves and community centres all features highly as well.

The library is a key resource for the CALD community in Warringah, particularly for new migrants. It is often the focal point for community interaction and a place to access information and local knowledge. The role of the



library for the CALD and wider community is diverse, providing access to information, communication technologies, meeting the educational and recreational needs of the community, preserving and promoting cultural heritage and enabling lifelong learning.

Access to transport was viewed as a key factor in facilitating participation by older multicultural residents in group and community activities. An overarching issue in regards to accessing services as well as employment, education and training opportunities was transport. An accessible and effective transport system is critical for people to connect with the places they work, study, learn and recreate.

Strategic Objectives

3. Our objective is that residents from CALD backgrounds have access to information and services that support their health and wellbeing

3.1 Promote existing community services, groups and programs to people from CALD backgrounds

3.2 Provide information and services that are easily accessible to multicultural communities and are appropriate to their cultural needs and language requirements

3.3 In partnership with other stakeholders, continue to lobby the State Government for an effective, interconnected public transport system that is safe, efficient and affordable which will assist people of CALD backgrounds access services, education and work

4. Identity and Belonging



Mackellar Girl School Cultural Day

Research has found that discrimination, social isolation and exclusion not only adversely affect the health status and wellbeing of individuals, but can also lead to economic disadvantage and a diminished sense of safety (Wilkinson and Marmot 1998). People who are socially isolated can feel lonely, bored and have a lower satisfaction with life. This isolation impacts on their ability to contribute and participate meaningfully in the community. As a result, not only is the individual affected but the whole community.

Consultations revealed that social inclusion is significantly enhanced when the diversity of cultures represented in the local area is visible and is reflected in the provision of services, in celebrations and in public spaces.

There are many local community groups, clubs and churches that play a key role in welcoming and including new migrants. Many survey participants felt strongly connected to their own cultural community, however felt far less connected to the wider Warringah community. All residents of Warringah have the right to be listened to, to be safe and to be accepted. The sense of belonging focuses on what people have in common, regardless of their cultural background, and highlights the many bridges between people and groups.

Many groups have a relatively small population in Warringah and often felt that there weren't visible to the broader population. They felt that a physical presence of more visible elements of cultural diversity, in the form of cultural icons and art as well as a dedicated space for cultural activities, gatherings, ceremonies and celebrations, would help to alleviate this feeling of isolation.

*"The most important issue
for me is to maintain
my culture and language,
and share
these with others"*

"I feel very accepted living in Warringah, I can practise my culture and not be persecuted. It is great to be able to keep our culture alive without fear of persecution"

Many older people from CALD backgrounds were finding it increasingly difficult to communicate with their grandchildren. This is because many older migrants spoke very little English when they arrived in Australia and since that time have only developed limited English. Their children learnt English throughout their schooling and still had a grasp on their native language. However, the grandchildren have only

been taught in English and so struggle to communicate with their grandparents. Fast-moving digital technologies have also exacerbated this divide in communication.

Interestingly, young people raised concerns of experiencing racism and discrimination in a social setting. Racism and discrimination can have serious consequences for those who experience it. It can shatter their confidence and sense of self-worth, as well as affecting their physical and mental health. A strong message came through from the consultations that taking action against racism and discrimination is critically important to build a welcoming and inclusive community.

Strategic Objectives

4. Our objective is that residents from CALD backgrounds feel welcome and have a sense of belonging to our community

4.1 Support opportunities which promote intercultural relations, and celebrate diversity and combat racism and discrimination

4.2 Continue to investigate opportunities for more visible elements of cultural diversity such as cultural icons and art and a dedicated place for cultural activities for various CALD groups

5. Celebrations and Events

Participants throughout our consultations strongly identified the need to publicly celebrate and showcase their culture through celebrations, festivals and events. They also felt strongly about having the opportunity for different cultures to come together, interact and share.

There is an opportunity for Council to strengthen its program of activities and events in collaboration and partnership with local groups to support this community need. Council already facilitates many programs for the CALD community and these can be maintained and supported.



Mackellar Girl School Cultural Day

A range of festivals and events occur in Warringah and are well attended and supported by the community. Warringah Council's Community and Cultural Development Grants Program offers funding to high quality, culturally relevant festivals and events. One such example is EuroFest, which takes place each year at Ararat Reserve in Frenchs Forest. Frenchs Forest is home to a number of cultural clubs established in the post-war era by European migrants

*"I love Eurofest,
particularly seeing
everyone take so much
pride in all their
different cultures"*

who brought their traditions to enrich our community. These clubs include the Austrian Club, the Czech Sokol Club, the Austral Armenian Club and the Dutch Club Neerlandia which band together each September to bring Eurofest to the community. The newer CALD communities do not have these dedicated cultural clubs or facilities.

Council will work with the community to continue the rich tradition of celebrating cultural diversity through festivals and events and in so doing, promote the benefits of our multicultural community, support the practice of cultural traditions and build respect for the many cultures and ethnicities that make up Warringah.

Strategic Objectives

5. Our objective is that residents from CALD backgrounds have the opportunity to celebrate their culture

5.1 Continue to provide community and cultural development grants to multicultural groups through Council's Grants Program

5.2 Provide opportunities for all residents to participate in cultural celebrations and events through collaborative efforts with multicultural groups

6. Health and Safety

As outlined in the Northern Sydney Health District Multicultural Plan 2012-16, a number of disease and health risk factors are more prevalent among some country-of-birth groups. This reflects diverse social, economic, environmental, cultural and genetic influences. The information below refers to NSW data. Some of these health concerns include:

- Cardiovascular health
- Cervical cancer
- Premature births
- Diabetes
- Psychological distress
- Tuberculosis
- Tobacco smoking
- Physical inactivity and obesity



In addition to the above diseases and risk factors, there are other factors associated with immigration and settlement which can negatively affect the health status of migrants. As documented in the NSW Policy and Implementation Plan for Healthy Culturally Diverse Communities 2012-2016 these factors include:

- Stress associated with the practical aspects of immigration and settlement in a new country such as learning a new language and culture, finding accommodation, gaining recognition of qualifications and finding suitable employment
- Pre-migration health status and risk factors
- Voluntary versus involuntary migration
- Age at the time of migration
- Limited English language proficiency and the lack of access to professional interpreting services
- Absence of a supportive family, community and social networks
- Financial, housing, employment, social status and education levels
- Racism and discrimination
- Health literacy including cultural perspectives on illness and health attitudes to preventative health care and familiarity with the health care system
- A sense of disempowerment

While individual health concerns weren't raised throughout consultations, accessing health services and the need for interpreters was raised frequently. Accessing services is explored earlier in Strategic Direction Three.

Community consultation did, however, identify that whilst many new migrants wanted to conduct themselves lawfully, they were somewhat unaware of the laws that are important for maintaining order and safety in a community. These include contractual arrangements (eg rent, payments and purchases), road rules, employment, industrial relation laws, family law, visas and citizenship, education, child protection and voting.

"We feel it's very important to understand the Australian laws but this is very hard with the language barrier. We would very much like to have this available in other languages."

Whilst a lack of understanding about the legal system is one issue, additional barriers to lawful conduct may include:

- Language and literacy issues
- Confusion about where to go to get help
- Cultural norms and roles
- Different cultural expectations, experiences and beliefs about the role of the police and the legal system

An area of concern which also featured strongly was water safety. As Warringah is a coastal environment and has a strong beach culture, many people from CALD backgrounds like to partake in beach recreation. Through observations and consultations, a number of water-based recreational pursuits were identified as areas of concern. These include swimming and surf safety, supervision of children and weaker swimmers, rock platform fishing and boating.



MULTICULTURAL STRATEGY: CULTURALLY DIVERSE WARRINGAH

These findings were markedly similar to those outlined in the NSW Water Safety Strategy 2013-2015. This strategy identified people from CALD backgrounds as a population group at a higher risk of drowning.

The overall objective of the NSW Water Safety Strategy is to reduce the rate of drowning in NSW and contribute toward the aspirational goal under the Australian Water Safety Strategy of a national reduction in drowning deaths of 50% by 2020. To do this, they are focussing their attention on:

- Improving water and boating safety culture through education, skills improvement and increasing participation.
- Increasing the uptake of personal safety equipment and behaviour, especially for high-risk activities.
- Improving the swimming ability of higher risk population groups including CALD
- Improving the understanding of weather and water conditions such as currents and rips

Strategic Objectives

6. Our objective is that residents from CALD backgrounds feel safe in the community and know where to seek help for legal and health concerns

6.1 Continue to work with local health and community services to improve the physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of CALD residents

6.2 Develop innovative approaches to community legal education for CALD communities

6.3 Work collaboratively with other stakeholders to increase water safety as outlined in the NSW Water Safety Strategy



IMPLEMENTATION

Once adopted, an action plan responding to the six strategic directions will be developed. This action plan will be reviewed and reported on annually which will enable Council to be responsive to the changing needs of the community and to changes in the social, economic and political environment.

At the end of each year, the actions that have been undertaken and future directions for the coming year will be reported upon. The subsequent year's action plan will be developed from this information.

APPENDICES



Traditional Tibetan music performed at cross-cultural soccer day, Dee Why

APPENDICES

Glossary of Terms

ABS

Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data contained in this Strategy is derived from the 2011 census conducted by the ABS.

Ancestry

Defines cultural association and ethnic background of an individual going back three generations. Ancestry is a measure used to gauge the size of cultural groups in an area, regardless of where they were born or what language they speak.

Cultural Diversity

Describes a multicultural population that is enriched by many cultural backgrounds, languages and religions. Cultural and linguistic diversity is a very broad concept and encompasses the differences that exist between people, such as language, dress, traditions, food, societal structures, art and religion.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

Culturally and linguistically diverse (abbreviated to CALD), refers to people for whom English is not their primary language, or who were born into a culture significantly different to the dominant Australian culture, and includes migrants from non-English speaking countries and refugees.

Ethnicity

Relating to or characteristic of a people, especially a group, sharing a common and distinctive culture, religion or language.

Migrant

A person who was born overseas and has obtained permanent Australian resident status prior to their arrival.

Multiculturalism

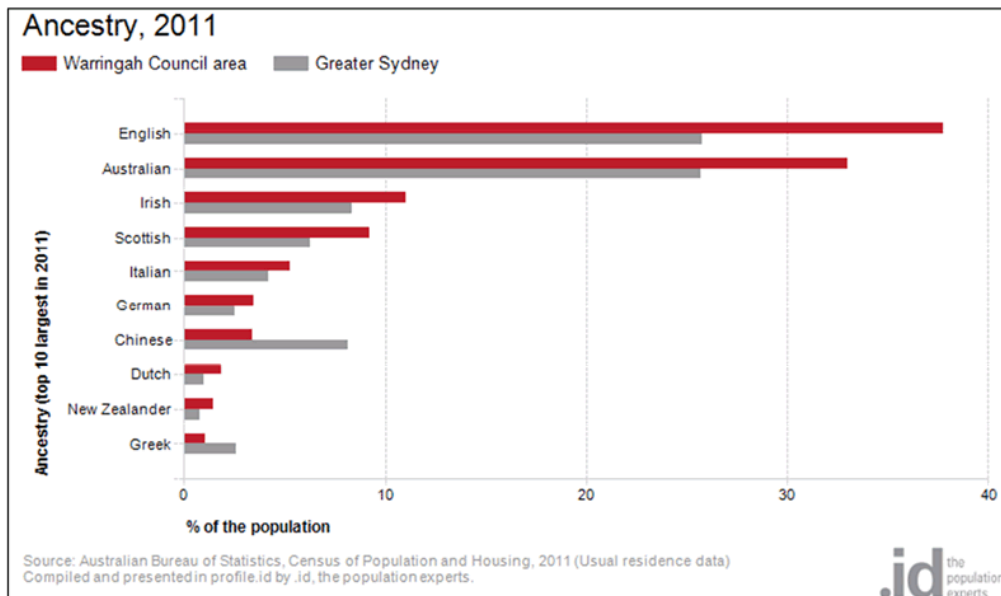
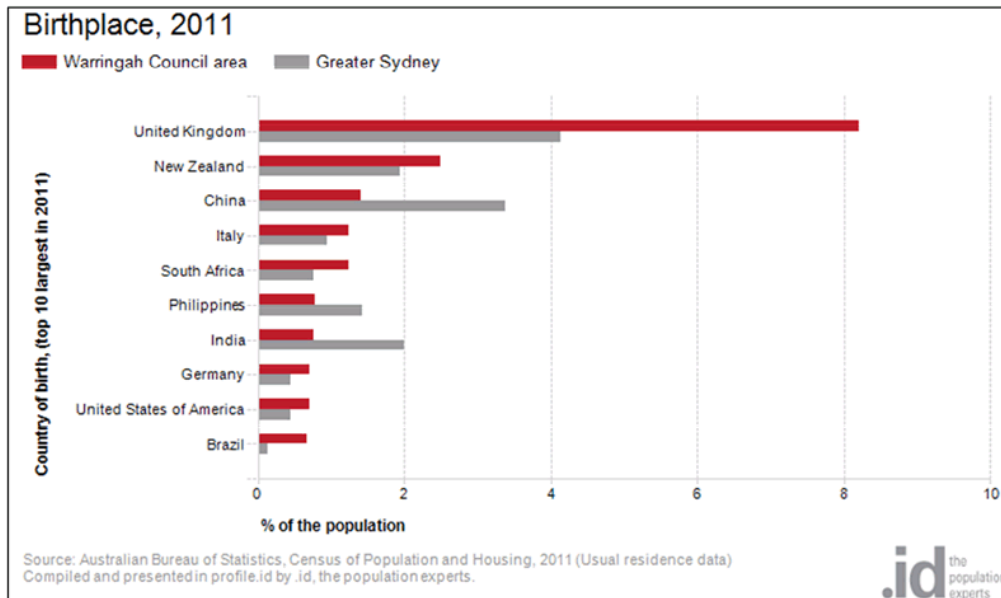
A broad concept that recognises the right of all to enjoy their cultural heritage, to equal treatment and to enjoy the same opportunities, irrespective of cultural, religious, linguistic or ethnic background.

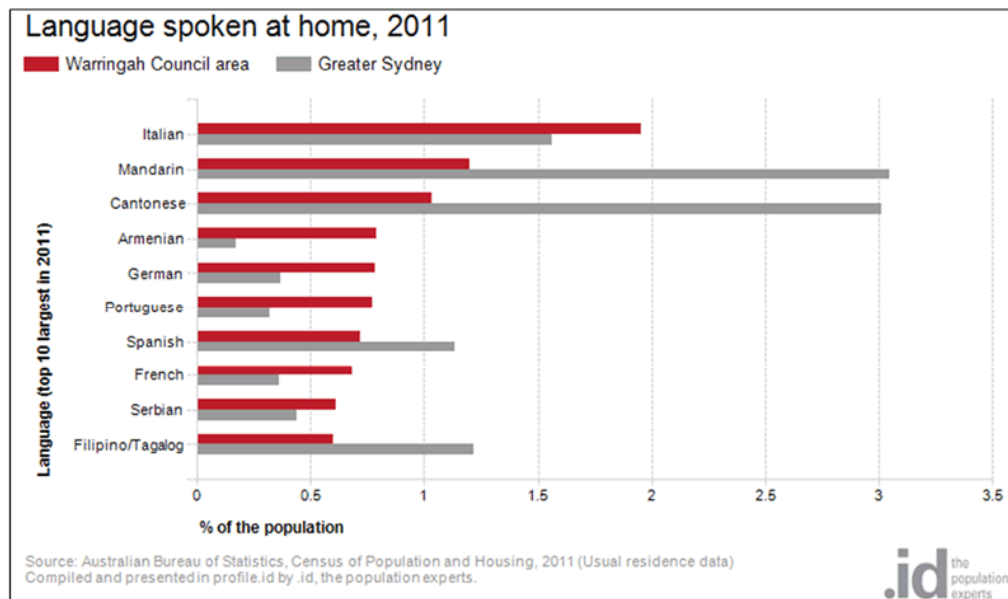
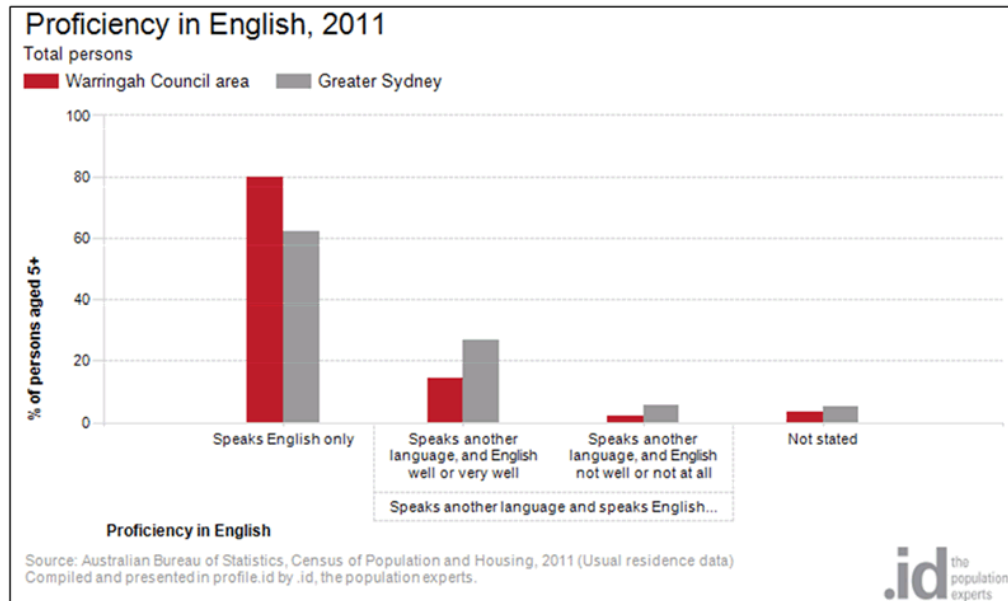
New and Emerging Communities

Groups of people that are small in number and newly arrived to an area and include groups assisted under the humanitarian program.

Detailed Demographic Data

These tables show more detailed data comparing Warringah to Greater Sydney for birthplace, ancestry, proficiency in English and language spoken at home.



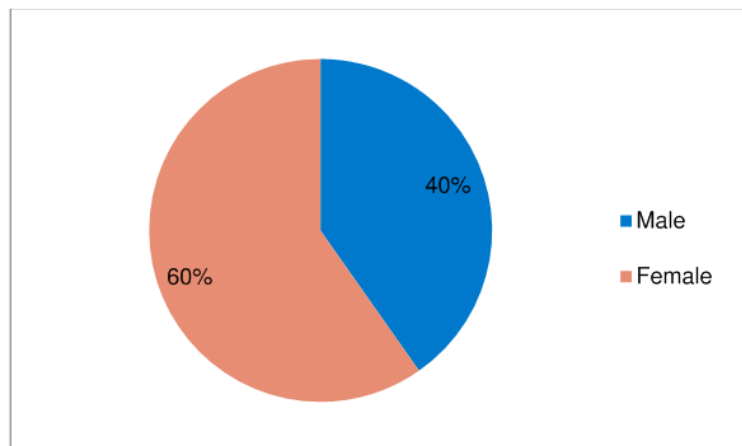


Detailed Survey Data

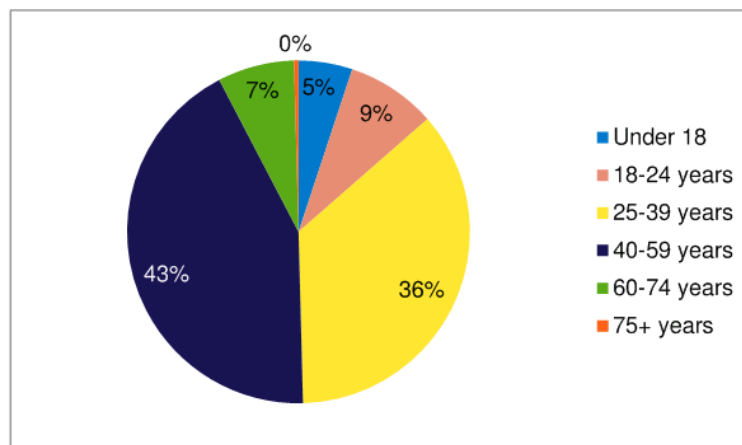
The consultation process was undertaken over a period of six months from September 2014 to March 2015.

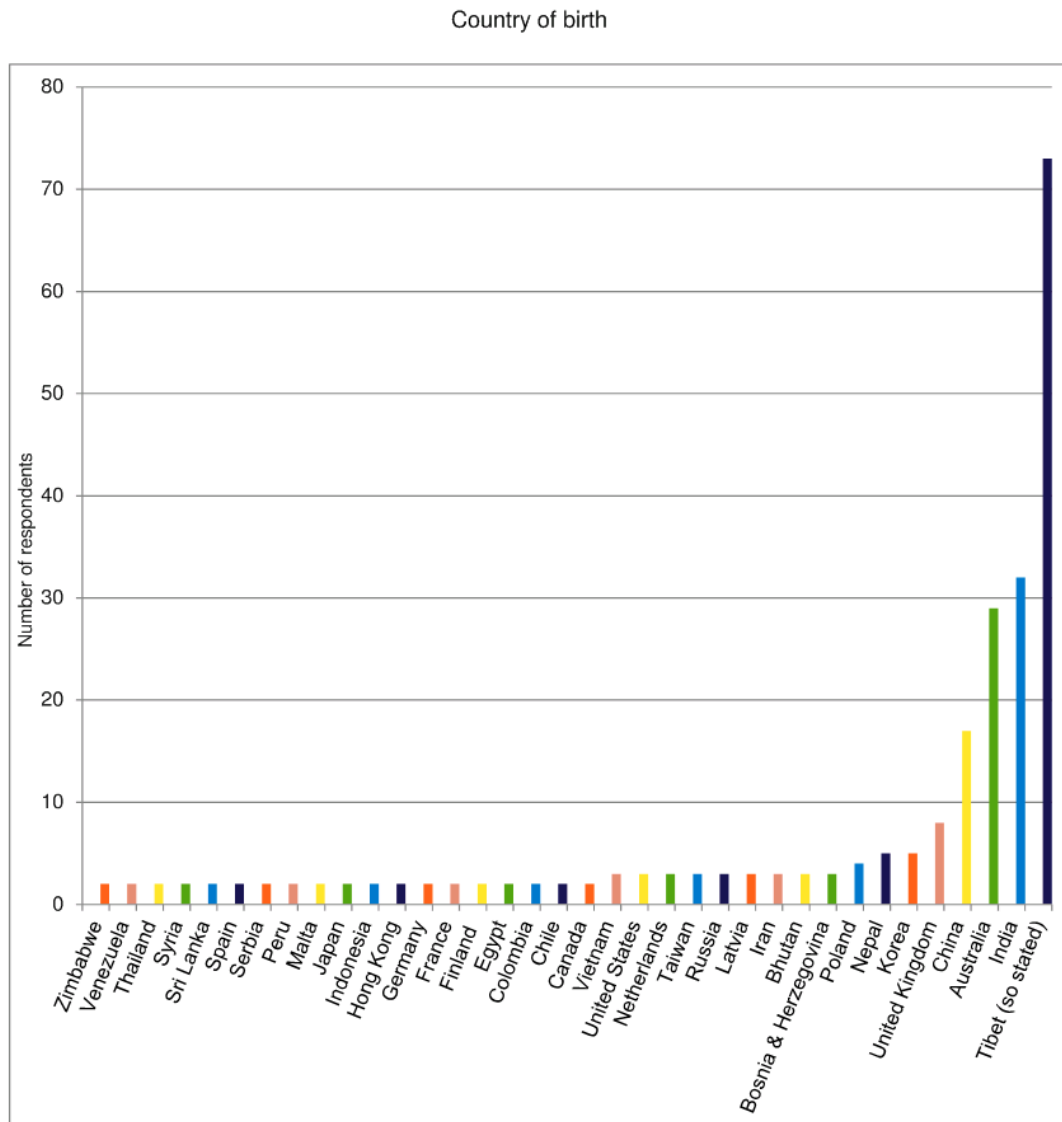
A survey was available online in which 135 completed. A simplified hard copy survey was also distributed among various groups, off which 188 were completed. The data was collated and revealed the following results:

Gender



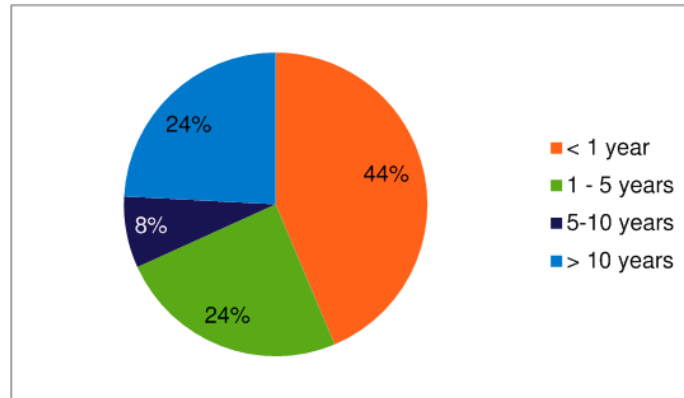
Age



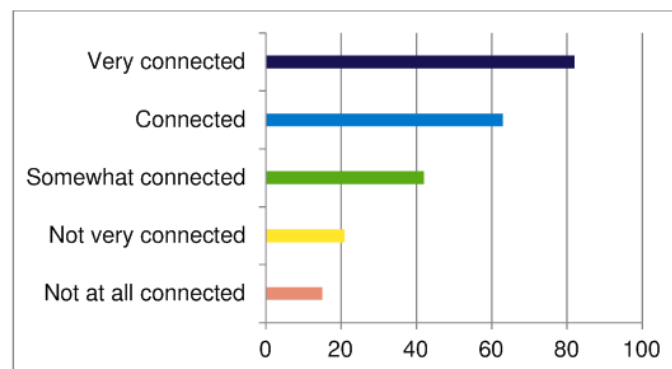


Although Warringah has a large Tibetan population, the high number of Tibetans shown in this graph is not reflective of their actual population percentage but is attributed to high levels of community engagement with this cultural group. Tibetans make up less than 1% of the Warringah population.

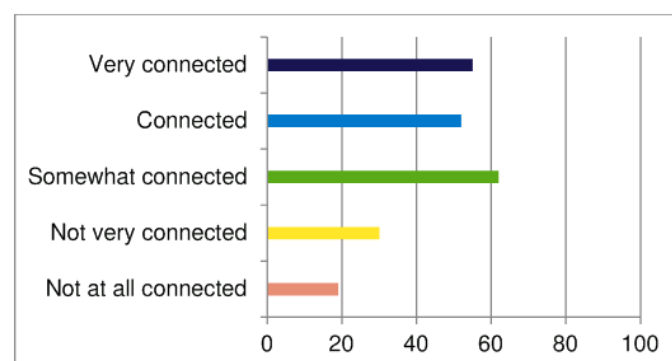
How long have you lived in Australia?



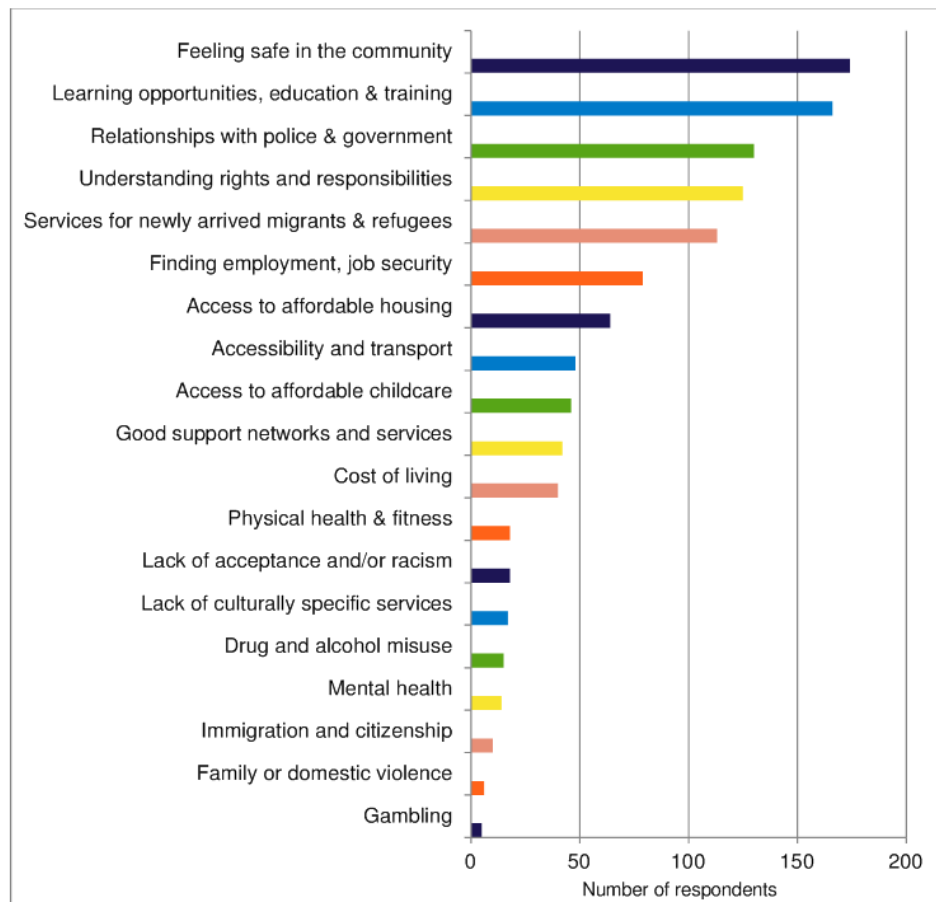
How connected do you feel to your cultural community?



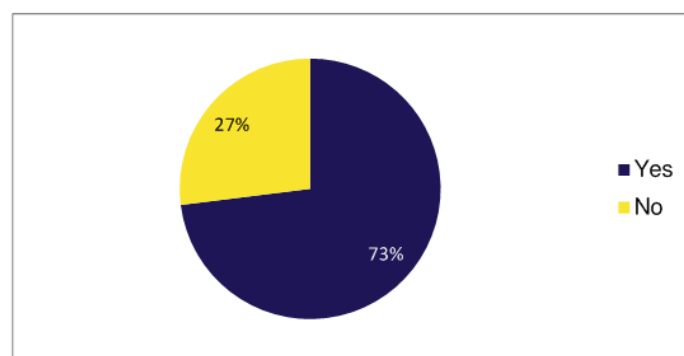
How connected do you feel to the broader Warringah community?



What do you think are the five most important issues for local multicultural communities?



Have you borrowed resources from any of Warringah's Libraries?



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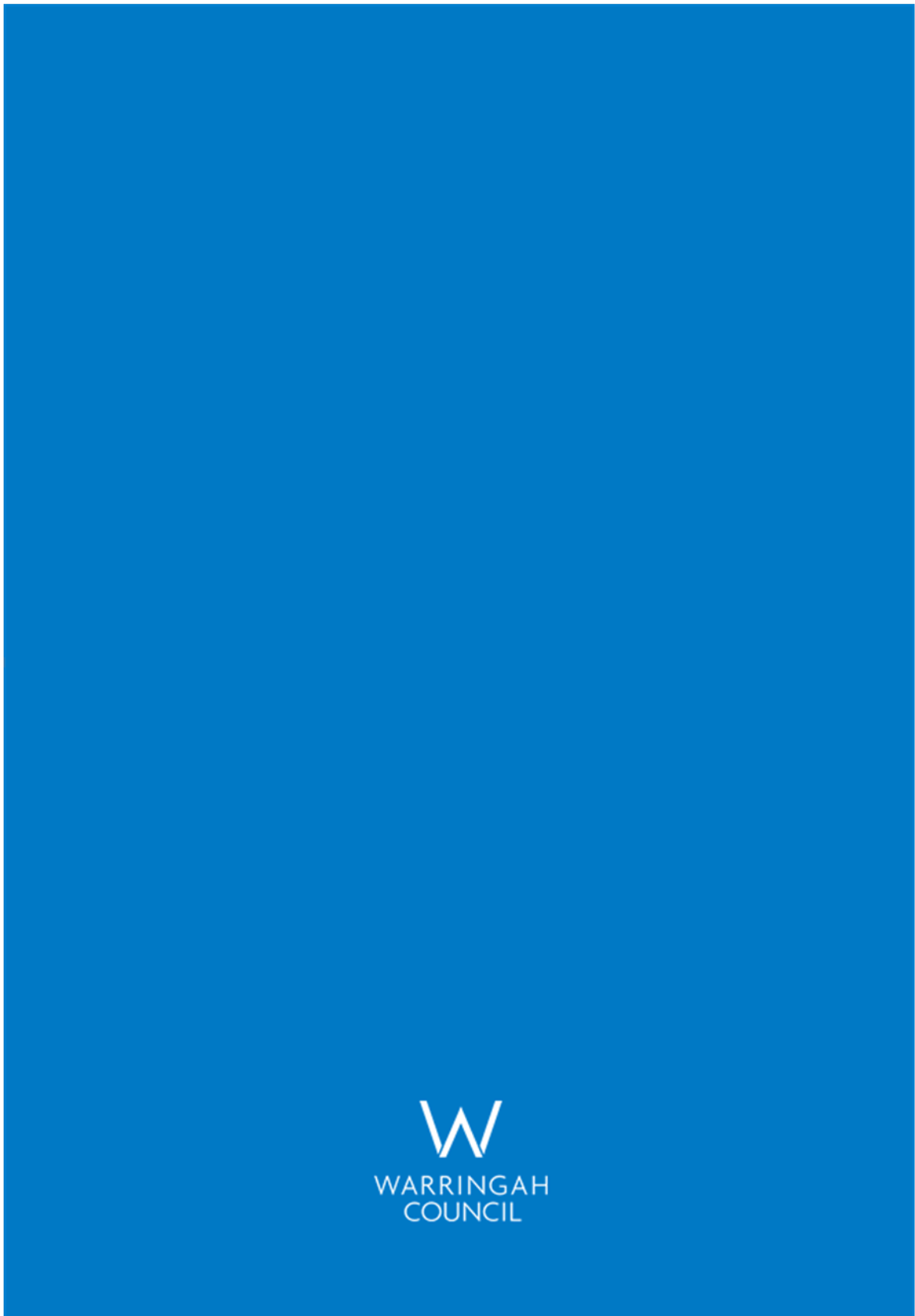
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A Spirit of Play

WARRINGAH'S OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
SEPTEMBER 2015

Draft



WARRINGAH.NSW.GOV.AU

Acknowledgment

Warringah Council would like to thank all of the community members who contributed to this strategy through their submissions, attendance at workshops, participation in planning activities and for completing surveys.

Many of the ideas contained within this strategy originated from community members. Thanks again to everybody who provided valuable input.



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Executive Summary

In Warringah, we love to play. Play is for everyone, of all ages and abilities.

Warringah's vision for the Community Strategic Plan is to have:

A vibrant, caring community, thriving in a unique beach and bush environment, supporting a balance of lifestyle, business and recreation.

This strategy is therefore framed within 'A Spirit of Play,' which guides Warringah's forward planning. Play as referred to in this strategy encapsulates all activities at Warringah's open spaces.

Warringah boasts an extensive open space network, taking in significant areas of foreshore, bushland and many parks. By taking a holistic approach to park management and recreation asset provision across all open spaces this strategy considers current and potential usage.

The strategy has been written within the context of a growing population, an increasing proportion of older people, a period of increasing technological distractions for children, the needs of youth and increasing rates of

obesity. Yet Warringah boasts a higher than average rate of participation in recreation.

For further information on the background to the strategy, the scope, objectives and consultation activities please see Section 1.

To provide some strategic context to the strategy, Section 2 presents Warringah's population statistics, participation in recreation and play and the State Government's benchmark for developed open space. However, in addition to considering the quantity of open space, this strategy addresses the quality and diversity of recreation opportunities and, most importantly, the needs of the Warringah community.

An analysis has found that Warringah is very well supplied with open space, with a range of facilities available catering to a variety of interests. An overview of Warringah's open spaces and recreation assets can be found in Section 3.

To ascertain participation in particular activities and their needs for the future, a theme analysis has been undertaken and can be found in Section 4. The needs of specific communities of interest, such as children, youth, families and older people, plus the community

in general, have been outlined based on input from a series of consultation activities. This in-depth review of themes discusses specific recreation assets and outlines some strategic directions for the future.

As one of council's largest recreation portfolios, a detailed review of Warringah's playgrounds has been conducted as part of the development of this strategy. Warringah upgrades an average of 8 of its 135 public access playgrounds each year and conducts maintenance on others as required. However, given the age and condition of many of the playgrounds we need to prioritise upgrading those that provide the greatest community benefit.

Four new playgrounds will be built and over 30 playgrounds will be upgraded over the next five years. The equipment from five ageing playgrounds will be removed within the next 12 months. Other playgrounds will be retired at the end of their useful life. Playground to be retired in the future will continue to have minor works done as required to improve their condition and may remain in place for many years to come. Once they reach the end of their useful life and can longer be repaired the equipment will be removed and not replaced. The parks will remain as green space

Principles

The strategy adopts the following principles that can be applied to projects identified in this document and to future proposals that may arise.

- the outdoors, with the option of participating in physical activity, e.g. skateparks, fitness equipment, basketball hoops and parkour
 - Continued improvement of key assets such as popular tracks and foreshore areas
 - Improved seating, toilets, water, shade, parking and picnic facilities, with consideration given to the needs of different user groups, such as older people or people with a disability
 - Future playground upgrades will focus on those that provide the most benefit to the community
 - The need to review the distribution of off-leash dog areas
 - Investigate suitable locations and designs for a new skatepark and/or skate trail in the Dee Why or North Curl Curl area
 - Provide bike dirt jumps in Warringah, potential locations include Aquatic Reserve or Miller Reserve
 - Support the further integration of facilities such as fitness equipment catering to a range of age groups, including youth and seniors
- for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.
- Details on Warringah's strategic approach to playgrounds can be found in Section 5.
- In Section 6, a summary of individual area recreation profiles and associated maps provide more detail on Warringah's open spaces and recreation assets within certain suburbs. By drawing on the suburb analysis, the theme analysis, the playground review and the strategy's strategic directions, council's commitments to new and improved open spaces and recreation facilities in each suburb are outlined here.
- A summary of the strategic directions can be found in Section 7.
- In summary, there are a number of new and improved recreation facilities in our open spaces that are recommended throughout this document, as well as recommendations for further research in some areas. Priorities for the future include:
- The integration of facilities for youth, aged and others to promote acceptance and tolerance and reduce social isolation
 - Facilities for young people to socialise safely in



1 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE

In the spirit of play, the purpose of Warringah's Open Space Strategy is to provide a suite of overarching strategic directions to guide the future management of Warringah's open spaces and the activities within them that are available for all to enjoy.

1.2 SCOPE

This strategy covers all open spaces managed by council. This includes: playgrounds, parks, reserves, some bushland areas, foreshores, gardens and sportsfield surrounds.

The strategy does not cover the use of Warringah's open spaces and sportsfields for organised sporting activities, but does consider the use of sportsfields at other times.

The strategy considers current and potential use of open spaces by specific communities of interests and the community in general.

The permissibility of certain activities and facilities need to be considered within the context of other existing plans of management and strategies.

This strategy does not identify open space for the purpose of disposal, rather it seeks to ensure an equitable and appropriate distribution of a range of open spaces and associated facilities.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

Consultation for the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) helped to guide the design of a number of objectives relating to our open spaces. The Open Space Strategy draws on these for long term strategic direction. The relevant CSP objectives are as follows:

- We have access to a diverse range of recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community and sporting groups
- We have access to attractive parks and natural areas that encourage and support a safe and healthy lifestyle
- We have inviting public spaces that are clean, green and well designed
- We can safely and conveniently walk or ride around Warringah
- We support and care for all our community members and provide opportunities to connect

In addition to the CSP objectives above, specific objectives for the Open Space Strategy include:

- Support the prioritisation of open space projects
- Provide guidance for scoping new recreational assets and renewal of existing assets
- Identify opportunities for diverse and multi-use facilities and attractive and inviting open

spaces meeting the needs of a broad range of demographics

- Encourage innovation and creativity
- Enhance the environmental, natural, cultural, heritage and built values of Warringah's open spaces, including consideration of opportunities for adaptive reuse
- Encourages and supports opportunities for a safe healthy lifestyle
- Develop and maintain Warringah's open space assets within council's foreseeable finances
- Contribute to understanding the availability or potential for open space in areas that may experience population growth

1.4 ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

While there is no predetermined role for local government in terms of providing recreation and sporting opportunities, councils have a responsibility to manage large tracts of Crown and community land in a manner that benefits the community.

An Open Space Strategy such as this, developed in concert with the community, provides an important guiding document for the current and future provision and management of open spaces and associated facilities.

Stage 1 October/November 2014

Activity	Details
Open Space Survey	423 online and hard copy surveys received.
Skater Survey	Abbreviated version of the Open Space Survey that was promoted online and circulated at skate events. 254 survey responses received.

Stage 2 March/April 2015

Activity	Details
Notifications at playgrounds	<p>A range of consultation activities were held to seek feedback on proposed changes to playgrounds as well as to gather people's ideas for new or improved open spaces and facilities.</p> <p>75 submissions were received in writing and over the phone.</p> <p>98 comments received on Social Pinpoint.</p>
Letter box drops in vicinity of playgrounds	
Social Pinpoint online engagement tool	
Swings and Roundabouts workshop	
Vacation Care play space planning exercise	
Pre School play space planning exercise	
Warringah Youth Advisory Committee	
Companion Animals Community Committee	
Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group	
Vibrant Connected Communities Strategic Reference Group	

Stage 3 Upcoming September/October 2015

Activity	Purpose
Public Exhibition of draft	To gain feedback on the draft strategy

1.5 BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

Recreation and leisure activities in open space have many far-reaching benefits. Being active can improve or maintain physical health, wellbeing and emotional and mental health for people of all generations. It can play an important role in maintaining quality of life and independence as people age and can facilitate opportunities for social interaction and minimise social isolation and loneliness.

While some spaces may facilitate participation in active recreation, either through the provision of facilities and/or connectivity, other seemingly empty spaces can provide space for quiet contemplation, relaxation or visual relief and amenity.

Open spaces also form an important component of the landscape, whether natural, cultural, heritage or built.

1.6 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Warringah is committed to a Community Engagement Framework that ensures that the community is involved in planning and decision making processes. The development of the Open Space Strategy involved the following consultation activities in order to determine community need and interest:

2 Strategic context

2.1 POPULATION STATISTICS

At the 2011 Census Warringah had a population of 138,781 people, although this is estimated to have risen to 155,289 by 2015. This is expected to further rise to an estimated 183,814 by 2036, which is an increase of 18.96% (between 2015 and 2036).¹

The suburbs projected to see the highest % population growth between 2011 and 2036 are Brookvale (57.7%), Frenchs Forest (49.4%) and Dee Why (34.1%), followed by Narrabeen (31%), Manly Vale (26.7%) and Belrose/Oxford Falls (21.7%).

While these forecast statistics are based on a set of assumptions at a given time and are subject to change, they highlight the need for open space planning to consider the long term and potentially changing needs over time.

2.2 RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Across Australia, the overall participation rates in physical recreation and sport declined between from 65% in 2011-12 to 60% in 2013-14 for people aged 15 and over (ABS 2015).

Data collected for Warringah's Recreation Strategy (2009) found that residents participated in sport and recreation at a rate 5.5% higher than the state and national averages. This could be attributed to a combination of a supportive physical environment (Vic Gov 2005) and the higher than average education level and socio-economic status (VicHealth 2010) of residents, both of which can have an influence on the rate of physical activity.

According to data from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation (2010), males over 15 participate in sport and physical activity at a slightly higher

rate than females, at 82.5% compared to 79.8%. However, females (44%) were more likely to meet the recommended physical activity three times a week, when compared to males (42.2%). Furthermore, participation rates tend to decrease with age, from 86.9% for those aged 15-24 years, to 72.9% for those over 65 years. Providing open spaces and facilities that meet the needs of residents as they age is paramount to maintaining health.

In Warringah's Open Space Survey (2014), walking rated as the top physical activity participated in on a regular basis, which for the purpose of this strategy, is considered to be at least monthly. As can be seen in Table 1, hanging out at a beach reserve rated second overall, and swimming at a rockpool third. For a further breakdown of participation according to different age groups please see Appendix B.

¹ Statistics drawn from Warringah Council website: forecast.i.d. population forecasts, based on 2011 Census data, accessed online 7 July 2015.



Table 1
Open space activities participated in at least monthly, (Open Space Survey 2014) n=423
Note that 'Commute' is not considered as an open space activity here and is addressed separately

Open space activity	Participation	Open space activity	Participation
Commute, e.g. walk or cycle as part of a trip to work, school, shops or services	87.78%	Scootering	21.28%
Walking/logging	82.74%	Skateboarding	16.31%
Hang out at a beach reserve, e.g. have a coffee, watch the surf	65.96%	Outdoor fitness equipment	15.84%
Swim at rockpool (warmer months)	45.86%	Mountain biking (formed track)	15.13%
Picnic/outdoor gathering	42.08%	Parents groups	14.42%
Small neighbourhood playground	39.72%	Kayaking/Canoeing/Stand up Paddleboard	13.00%
Bike riding	39.48%	Personal training	12.53%
Larger regional/district playground	32.62%	Birdwatching	9.69%
Bushwalking	31.91%	Hobby, e.g. Remote control/Kite flying	9.46%
Relaxation, e.g. Meditation/Yoga/Tai-Chi/Read a book	29.79%	Dirt jumping	8.98%
Informal sports, e.g. kick a ball	27.90%	Basketball (outdoor)	7.33%
Off-leash dog park	22.93%	BMX	5.91%
		Community gardens	5.67%
		Horse riding	4.26%
		Table tennis (Dee Why beachfront)	2.84%

2.3 THE BENEFITS OF PLAY

2.3.1 Play for children

There are a number of theories that consider the importance and benefit of play to a child's emotional, psychological, physical, language and social development.

Play helps a child develop skills and understanding and promotes both mental and social abilities. It gives children the opportunity to learn about themselves, to share, to interact with other children, to make friends and role play.

There are six broad categories of play that children may partake in at different stages of their childhood. These are outlined in Table 2.

Each of these types of play has value and regular participation should be encouraged. While the design of play spaces in Warringah already draws on these elements of play, future designs could benefit from input from children who have a different way of thinking than adults. Through consultation undertaken

with children for this strategy, some new, creative and innovative suggestions have already been proposed. These are discussed further in Section 4.1.4.

2.3.2 Play for adults

In the words of Bernard Shaw, *'We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.'* Play is also essential for adults. While busy work and family commitments are often prioritised over having fun, engaging in regular play can have many benefits for adults. It is an important stress reliever, is good for relationships, provides challenge, improves problem solving and creativity and increases energy.

Play for adults does not necessarily mean physical activity such as bike riding or walking. It can be found in art, books, music and spending time with pets. So by thinking creatively Warringah can facilitate a range of enjoyable activities in our open spaces that appeal to all ages.

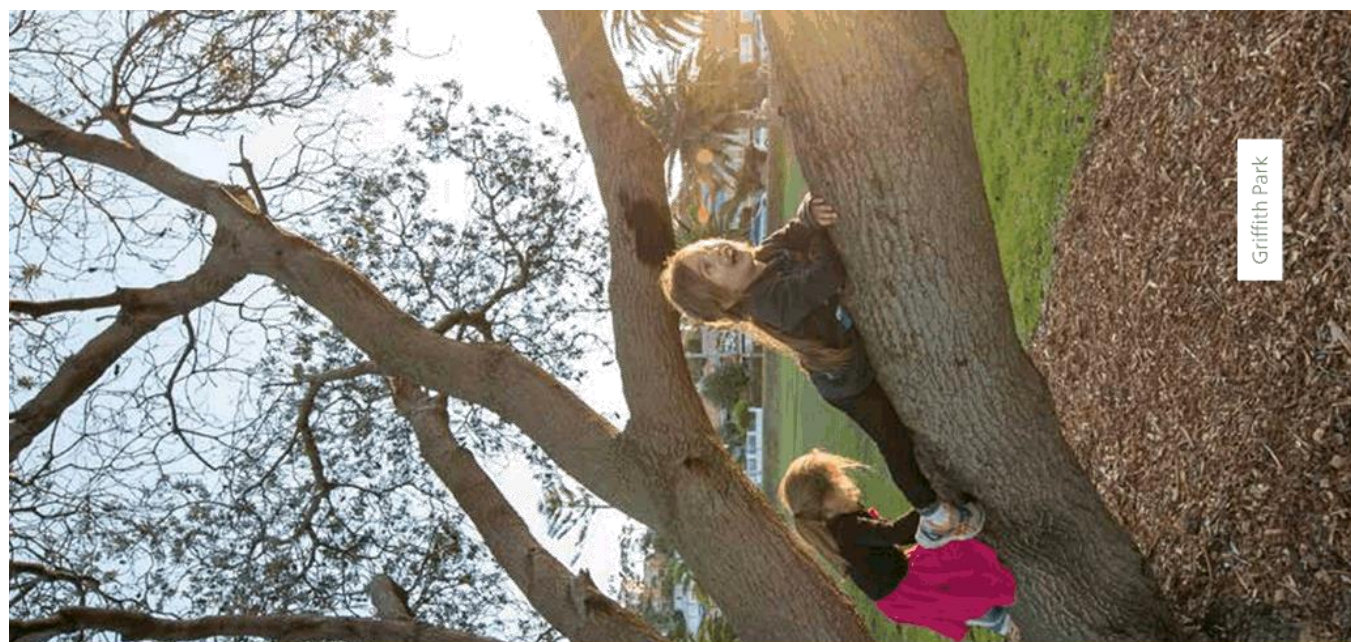
2.3.3 Risk in play

To work toward optimal health and development, children need to engage in a certain level of risk and

challenge as they play. A growing amount of literature looks at how risk adverse parenting is affecting the development of children and the longer term effects this has as they reach adulthood.

This aversion to risk has occurred rather abruptly in recent decades, with children today far more over-protected than previous generations (LeMonye et al., 2011). A number of reasons have been attributed to this change:

- Shift toward commercial forms of risk which require no degree of control or skill (Tovey, 2007)
- A rise in enrichment activities, e.g. swimming lessons and organised sport
- Smaller families with fewer children
- Busy parents, often both working
- Media created atmosphere of social panic (Landry, 2005)
- Smaller backyards
- Busier roads
- General fear of a dangerous world
- Fear of litigation



Griffith Park

Table 2 Types of play
(QLD Department of Education, Training and
Employment, 2014)

Type of play	Participation
Dramatic	Children take on roles in pretend games about familiar experiences — going on a family fishing trip, sharing a family celebration.
Fantasy	Children create props and use these as they engage in fantasy adventures — creating an ocean floor using sheets for water and baskets for rocks.
Exploratory	Children explore the properties and functions of materials, equipment and objects — experimenting with a tool to find out how it works with clay or dough, using a magnifying glass to view different objects.
Manipulative	Children manipulate and explore objects, parts and materials — threading beads, doing puzzles, using construction sets.
Physical	Children explore movements and ways to combine movements — running and playing ball, jumping, climbing, dancing, moving on an obstacle course.
Games with rules	Children follow or create rules to reach a shared objective in a game — playing outdoor games, following child-created games with rules, playing computer, board and card games.

Risk in play, in terms of there being an element of unpredictability and challenge, enables children to explore and test their own abilities and extend themselves. This gives children the skill of undertaking their own risk assessments which are invaluable later in life when faced with real life decisions and challenges within the environment they find themselves.

For council, this means providing a diversity of playgrounds and other play spaces and experiences that present a range of opportunities and challenges. This could be achieved through integrating more nature or adventure play into our open spaces, not only through playgrounds, but also through landscaping or encouraging interaction with the natural environment. Council manages these risks systematically and within the appropriate guidelines. For further information about Warringah's playgrounds see Section 5.

2.4 COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

In addition to the Community Strategic Plan mentioned in Section 1, Warringah has a number of documents that are relevant to the Open Space Strategy. These include:

- Various Plans of Management
- Recreation Strategy (2012)
- Playground Strategy (2007)
- Asset Management Strategy (2013)
- Youth Strategy (2013)
- Creative Warringah (2014)
- Living Well Warringah – Healthy Ageing Strategy (2013)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2012)
- Mountain Biking in Warringah (2012)
- Social Plan (2010)
- Warringah Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (2011)
- Warringah Bike Plan (2010)
- Warringah Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy (2007)
- Horse Paper: Horse riding trails in Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest (2009)

The council document most relevant to the development of the Open Space Strategy is the Recreation Strategy (2009). Action 1 from the Recreation Strategy identified the need for a recreational assessment and audit of all of Warringah's open space.

A review of the Playground Strategy (2007) has also been significant to the development of the Open Space Strategy, and once adopted the Playground Strategy will be superseded.

2.5 STRATEGIC LANDUSE PLANNING

The provision of open space is a key consideration in any large scale landuse project. A current example is the development of the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest and proposed changes to housing density in the surrounding precinct. In this case the likely increase in population needs to be factored into early planning to ensure that open spaces meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors.

This would be similar for all proposed rezonings. As such, this document provides a guide to the types of open spaces council could or should be providing. Further information on benchmarks for open space can be found in Section 2.6.

2.6 BENCHMARKS, CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

Open space benchmark

A current standard for open space provision is 2.83ha per 1,000 people, according to the NSW Growth Centres Code (2006). While the analysis of recreation and open space opportunities in the following sections of this strategy do cite this benchmark as a baseline guide, the Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government (2010) states that the 2.83ha per 1,000 people benchmark is irrelevant to contemporary planning because it ignores the fact that different types of open spaces can accommodate different needs. Furthermore, the benchmark is designed for greenfield development, not infill which is the more likely growth scenario in Warringah. So while this benchmark will be used as a reference point, of more importance to Warringah is the quality of the open space and its facilities.

The definition of the above benchmark includes parks, buildings directly associated with open space, sportsfields and privately owned golf courses.

Section 3 and Section 4 further discuss Warringah's provision of open space against this benchmark.

Warringah's park categories

Parks can be categorised in many ways to assist with their planning and management. According to the Generic Parks Plan of Management (2008), Warringah uses the categories of Regional, District, Neighbourhood and Local. The definitions of these can be found in Table 3. Warringah does not attribute a minimum or maximum size for its parks.

These categories also apply to Warringah's playgrounds, although the definitions vary (see Table 10 in Section 5.1).

The categories of a particular playground and the park it is within may not be the same. For instance, there may be a Neighbourhood playground within a District Park, or vice versa. The variation depends on the type of park, facilities provided, level of use and the catchment from which visitation occurs to either the playground or the park as a whole.

2.7 Legislation and Standards

When planning the design and management of open spaces the following pieces of legislation, standards and plans should be considered:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)
- Crown Lands Act (1989)
- Local Government Act (1993)
- Warringah Local Environment Plan (2011)
- Australian Standard for playgrounds

Table 3
Warringah park hierarchy definitions.

Park hierarchy	Definition
Regional	Has a catchment that extends beyond Warringah's boundaries. Services the local community as well as all Warringah residents and visitors predominantly from adjoining LGAs. They are extensively developed with a full range of facilities and are maintained to a high standard.
District	Moderate level of use, servicing residents within the suburb and visitors from neighbouring suburbs. They are more developed with landscaping, barbeques, playgrounds, toilets and other associated built facilities. Cater for a mix of informal and formal recreation.
Neighbourhood	Receives an intermittent, low level of use for a highly localised catchment within walking distance of residences and primarily provides for informal activities with some structured play opportunities. They have minimal development and may include play equipment, fencing, seating, and other minor associated built features.
Local	Small area of open space providing visual amenity more than recreational opportunities. May only have minor facilities such as seating provided.

3 Warringah's open space

3.1 Overview

Warringah boasts an array of recreation opportunities across both land and water, with 14km of spectacular coastline, nine beaches, four lagoons, two national parks and a diversity of open spaces.

This section includes an overview of Warringah's open space provision and a summary of the key recreational features of Warringah. Map 1 visually displays the distribution of Warringah's developed and natural open space. The natural open space includes national park and bushland managed by council.

Table 4 provides details of the open space and associated facilities that are provided on council owned or managed land. In summary, out of a total of 7,199ha of open space, approximately 621ha is developed open space and 6,578ha is natural open space – including national park. Of the 7,199ha, 1,254 is council owned or managed.

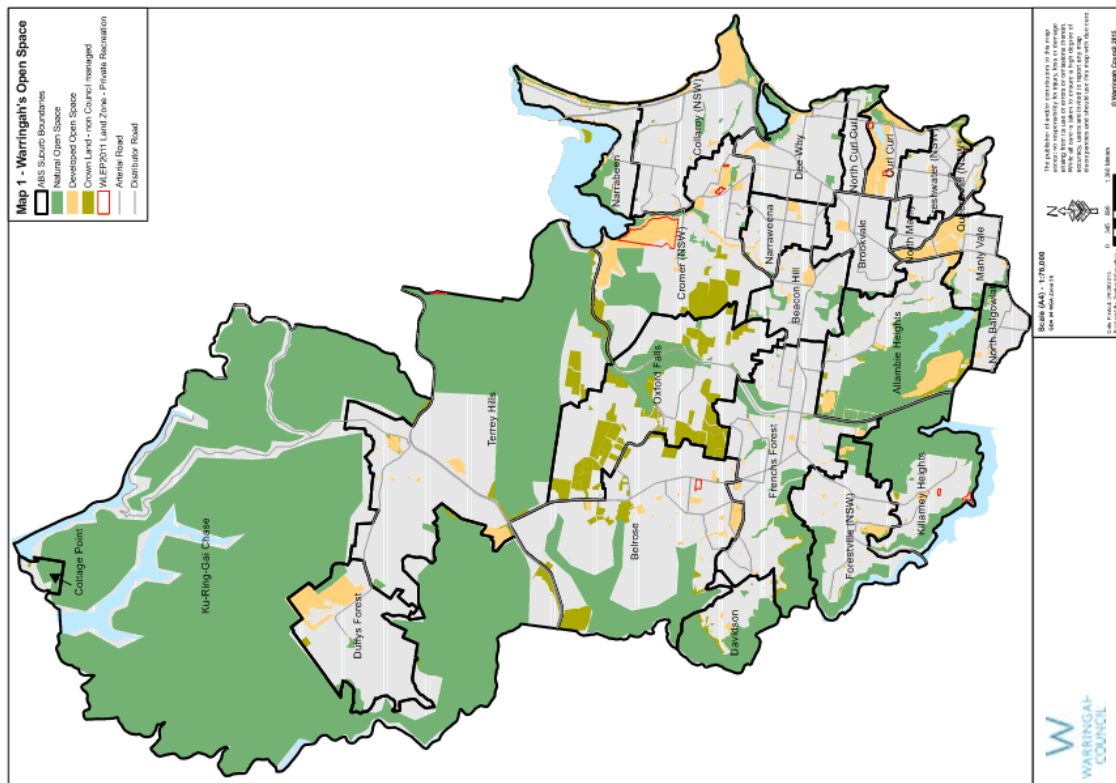
In relation to the NSW Growth Centre benchmark (2006) Warringah is very well serviced with developed open space, with 621ha compared to the benchmark of 393ha (1.83ha per 1,000 people). See further details on this benchmark in Section 2.6).

Section 6 breaks this analysis down further into area recreation profiles for particular suburbs or groups of suburbs that may share easy access to certain recreation assets.

Table 4
Open space and facilities on council owned or managed land

Open Space Provision	Number	Open Space Provision	Number
Developed Open Space (ha)	621	Tennis centres	11
Natural Open Space (ha)	6,578	Basketball hoops	9
Total Open Space (ha)	7,199	Netball courts	70
Council owned/managed open space (ha)	1,254	Exercise equipment locations	4
Playgrounds (public access)	135	Futsal pitch locations	2
Playgrounds (restricted access)	14	Mountain bike trails (km)	11
Skateparks	3	BMX track	1
Ocean rockpools	6	Horse trails (km)	9
Lagoons	4	Horse arenas	3
Botanic garden	1	BBQs	99
Sportsgrounds	54	Jetty	1
Synthetic sportsfields	3	Boat ramps	10
Beaches	9	Pathways	141
Golf courses	3	Community gardens	2
Bowling clubs	2	Viewing platforms	16

<p>3.2 Aboriginal Warringah</p> <p>Warringah has a rich Aboriginal landscape, with many heritage sites surviving in our open spaces, bushland and even on private property. The northern beaches coastline provided an abundance of marine and land based food and resources. Rock engravings survive and provide pictorial evidence depicting motifs that were important in their lives – whales, kangaroos/wallabies, emus, fish, spirit beings, mounds (footprints) and shields feature prominently. Shell middens found along the coast preserve remnants of meals which were predominantly fish, shell fish, mammals and birds. Plants, roots, berries and fruit provided an important source of food, and the plants, bark and trees were also utilised to make useful items. For example, a stone spear tip or barb bound to the end of the shaft of a Xanthorrhoea flower were used as spears.</p> <p>Other heritage surviving in the landscape includes ochre and charcoal art within rock shelters and grinding grooves along watercourses.</p> <p>Given the sensitivity of Aboriginal heritage, and due to its protection under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NSW) 1974, it is important to respect and embrace the presence or potential presence of Aboriginal heritage in the landscape.</p>	<p>For more information on how Warringah can acknowledge Aboriginal heritage in our open spaces please see Section 4.5.</p> <p>3.3 Foreshores</p> <p>Warringah's extensive foreshore is one of the area's key recreation assets. Residents relish in the beach lifestyle and visitors flock to enjoy the coastline.</p> <p>The Bicentennial Coastal Walk passes along Warringah's coastline as it stretches from North Head in the South and Barrenjoey Headland in the north. As a chain of headland walks linked by beaches, people can complete individual sections ranging from easy to hard, or undertake the whole walk. Dee Why and Collaroy beachfronts are accessible to people with mobility issues, with Collaroy also providing an all-abilities playground.</p> <p>At the beach people enjoy swimming, surfing, body boarding, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, snorkelling, diving, fishing, spear fishing, wind and kite surfing or just hanging on the beach watching the surf, building sandcastles, frisbee, reading or just relaxing.</p> <p>The beach reserves are popular for just hanging out, having a coffee or watching the surf, or for having picnics, BBQs and hosting a range of informal activities</p>	<p>such as gatherings of families and friends and mothers groups. The coast also provides plenty of space for those wanting time alone to think, reflect and relax.</p> <p>3.4 Natural open space</p> <p>Warringah is rich in natural bushland and is fortunate to have two large national parks, Garigal and Ku-Ring-Gai Chase, in addition to Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. The 6,578ha of bushland hosts a range of recreation activities. Significant bushland activities in Warringah include walking, mountain biking and horse riding, with each having many kilometres of trails accessible across council managed land and national park.</p> <p>3.5 Lagoons</p> <p>Each of the northern beaches four lagoons falls within Warringah, with Manly Lagoon jointly managed with Manly Council and Narrabeen Lagoon jointly managed with Pittwater Council. Dee Why and Curl Curl Lagoons are solely managed by Warringah Council.</p> <p>While the recreation value of Dee Why, Manly and Curl Curl Lagoons is primarily with respect to walking and cycling opportunities around the lagoon edges, Narrabeen Lagoon is one of the northern beaches most popular recreation assets.</p>
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The recently completed Narrabeen Lagoon trail provides an easy 8.4 kilometre loop that is suitable for walking, cycling, strollers, wheelchairs and scooters. The foreshore area is popular for picnics, BBQs and gatherings, and the water is popular for sailing, kayaking, fishing and stand up paddle boarding. Playgrounds are located at Berry and Wheeler Reserves, with a third playground within Bilarong Reserve which is managed by Pittwater Council. Fitness equipment and basketball is available at Berry Reserve, where there are also monthly markets.

3.6 Recreation assets

Warringah provides a range of recreation facilities across our open space network. These are itemised in Table 4 and expanded upon in the theme analysis (Section 4) and the area recreation profiles (Section 6).

3.7 Sportsgrounds

When not used for formal sports, the large number of sportsfields in Warringah provide an abundance of open space for other informal recreation activities. For example, running around and kicking a ball, walking, flying kites and general exercise. On hard surfaces such as netball courts skateboarding, bike riding and scootering are also popular. Further information on the informal use of sporting facilities can be found in Section 4.1.5.

4 Theme analysis

Based largely on input from the community from the two surveys and a range of consultation activities listed in Section 1, this theme analysis discusses the needs of particular communities of interest, existing facilities and opportunities for improvement. It is broken down into the following theme areas:

- Spaces for all, e.g. communities of interest and facilities
- Safe and accessible spaces
- Spaces for animal friends
- Environmental spaces
- Artistic, cultural and heritage spaces

Each section has an overarching goal and strategic directions for council to work toward.

4.1 SPACES FOR ALL

Goal: To have open spaces that cater for a diverse range of recreational interests that support the physical, social and mental health and well-being of park users.

4.1.1 Satisfaction with Warringah's open spaces
In Warringah's Annual Community Satisfaction Survey, the importance of parks and recreation areas, including playgrounds, consistently rates as Extremely high (Table 5). Satisfaction has remained at Moderately high and is slowly increasing.

Through the Open Space Survey respondents were asked how well Warringah's open spaces met their needs. 59% selected Good or Excellent, with 33% selecting Fair (Figure 1). Of the 8% that selected poor

36% (n=15) were in the 19-24 age bracket and 12% (n=64) were aged 13-18 years. A higher percentage of males (11%) selected poor when compared to females (6%).

While the survey respondents indicated a high satisfaction with Warringah's open spaces, those who selected poor highlighted the dissatisfaction of youth whose needs are further discussed in Section 4.1.4, with opportunities for new or improved youth related recreation facilities detailed in Section 4.1.5.

Overall how well do Warringah's open spaces meet the needs of you and your household? n=358

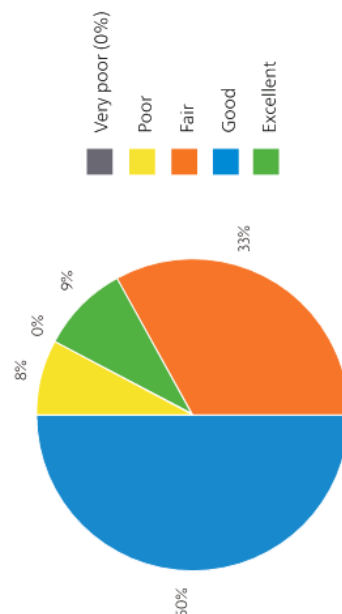


Figure 1
Survey respondents satisfaction with Warringah's open spaces (Open Space Survey 2014)

Table 5
Annual Community Satisfaction Survey ratings out of 5, with results over 4.5 being 'Extremely high importance/satisfaction' and those under 1.99 being 'Very low' (2013, 2014 and 2015) (n=601 for 2015)

Parks and recreation areas, including playgrounds	2013	2014	2015
Importance	4.58	4.53	4.61
Satisfaction	3.68	3.75	3.78

4.1.2 Participation in recreation

The Warringah Council Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey (2013) identified numerous reasons people visit a park via an intercept survey. Respondents indicated participation in active and passive health and wellbeing activities and social/dining activities. While data collected from surveys such as this have limitations, the information is still valuable. For a further breakdown please see Appendix C.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, the top three open space activities participated in by the Open Space Survey respondents were walking/jogging, hanging out at a beach reserve and swimming at a rockpool. A further breakdown of the types of activities participated in by specific communities of interest are detailed in Section 4.1.4 and a full comparative table can be found in Table 17 in Appendix B.

Open Space Survey respondents were also asked what features may encourage them to visit Warringah's open spaces more often. The top five responses overall, in order of importance, were shade/sheltered locations, toilets, places to sit, water and picnic spaces. However, there were variations between different age groups and

this is elaborated on in Section 4.1.4. A full comparison of features of interest according to different age groups can be found in Table 18 in Appendix B.

4.1.3 Uses of open spaces

Warringah's Recreation Strategy advocates for the multi-use of open space and recreation facilities where possible. In contrast, some open spaces, such as a small park with a playground, may appear to cater to one user group, in this case children and their carers. Similarly, there are some larger parks that primarily cater to one or two user groups and that could to enhanced to cater for additional uses.

Warringah's open space network also provides many opportunities for quiet contemplation and relaxation. With an abundance of open space and bushland parks, ranging from small and secluded to the vast openness of the many vantage points across our hilly landscape and oceans vistas, many residents hold dear 'their place' that they like to visit to get away from the stress of everyday life.

Strategic directions:

- Council will continue to activate open spaces where there may be capacity for increased or multi usage, for example James Meehan Reserve.
- Council will provide, and embellish where appropriate, quiet spaces available for contemplation and relaxation. These spaces may be linked to other well-activated spaces, or be separate.
- Warringah owns or manages approximately 500 reserves, of which over 300 are used for recreation. There is a need to understand the primary and secondary purposes of each of these, for example, recreation, drainage, easements, road reserve or operational purposes (e.g. carparks). An audit is recommended.

4.1.4 Communities of interest

There are many communities of interest in Warringah and council aims to have open spaces that are inviting to all. This section provides information on the needs and interests of some particular communities, such as children, youth and older people. The strategy also makes reference to families, individuals and parents groups, as well as other groups that may gather in open spaces. This could include those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. It is important for the management of Warringah's open spaces to consider principles of social justice, in that people from all backgrounds and interests have an opportunity to enjoy our parks.

Spaces for children

Open spaces provide a range of opportunities for children to play. Play is important for children in terms of developing their abilities and interests through experiencing challenge, taking risks and problem solving.

While council has historically maintained a large number of playgrounds across Warringah, it is also important to provide diversity. Consultation revealed strong support for nature play, which allows children to engage with the environment in an exploratory and imaginative way.

Council remains committed to providing an equitable distribution of playgrounds, however the types of playgrounds, or play spaces, will change in some areas as we start to integrate more nature and adventure play opportunities. This may include child friendly landscaping or public art installations that encourage physical activity and interaction.

With many of our playgrounds located adjacent to bushland reserves and water courses, nature or adventure play would be more in keeping with the surroundings. Suitable locations may be places like Manly Dam and Rabbett Reserve. In a suburban area a nature play or adventure play design can create something special and a sense of exploration and escape.

By re-defining 'playgrounds' within Warringah as being 'play spaces' for all we will move toward a more inclusive open space network. Play in this sense could include nature, adventure, creativity or sensory play and should contain an element of risk and challenge. The whole of Narrabeen Lagoon, for example, could be considered one big playground or play space under this definition and would be applicable across all age groups.

For further details on Warringah's playgrounds see Section 5.

Consultation with children aged 4-12 years old found that there was still support for standard items of playground equipment such as swings, slides and climbing frames. However, when asked to design their ideal play space other common themes that arose were tree houses, mazes, water play, rainbows and themes such as dragons featured prominently. Other commonly occurring recreation facilities that were included in the designs of children were parkour and skateparks. These are addressed in greater detail in Section 4.1.5.



Long Reef Headland

Table 6
Activities participated in at Warringah's open spaces at least monthly for survey respondents aged 13-18 and 19-24 years – excluding 'Commute' (Open Space Survey 2014)

Rank	13-18 years (n=64)	19-24 years (n=15)
1	Walking/Jogging (70%)	Walking/Jogging (87%)
2	Hang at a beach reserve (45%)	Hang at a beach reserve (67%)
3	Relaxation (37%)	Outdoor fitness equipment (53%)
4	Swim at rockpool (36%)	Mountain biking (40%)
5	Picnic/outdoor gathering (34%)	Informal sports, e.g. kick a ball (40%)

Spaces for youth

Warringah's Youth Strategy (2013) identified recreation and wellbeing as a key theme for young people, with an aim to be responsive to their evolving needs for recreational and sporting opportunities.

Although there is some support for play equipment such as giant swings suitable for older children and youth, as children grow their needs and interests change.

With youth considered to be those aged 12 to 24 years, consultation for the Open Space Strategy revealed requests from this age group for more skateparks, basketball courts, parkour facilities, bike dirt jumps, fitness equipment and space to just hang out, whether for socialising with friends or studying. Similarly, consultation for the Youth Strategy saw consistent calls for more skateparks and basketball.

When asked what activities people participate in though the Open Space Survey, the top five responses for respondents aged 13-18 and 19-24 are listed in Table 6.

Family spaces

Open spaces provide important places for families to spend time together, with 17% of visitors surveyed for the Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey (2013) indicating that they were there to spend time with children/family. This could be to visit a playground, have a picnic, walk the dog, watch the surf, go for a bike ride, to name a few.

With increasing housing density in some areas, Children need places to spend time outdoors as part of a family unit. They need space to kick a ball, fly a kite and to just run around and make their own fun and games in an unstructured and free play manner.

Trails with good connectivity enable families to walk, ride and scoot within and between open spaces, either as a recreation activity or while commuting to school or the shops. Open spaces also provide important spaces for learning to ride in a safe environment away from cars and driveways.

Trails and spaces for hanging out with family and friends are explored in greater detail in Section 4.1.5.

Healthy ageing

As we age, staying healthy and active is fundamental to ensuring a long and happy life. Council has a role in providing recreation opportunities that enable people to improve or maintain their health as they age. Open spaces provide opportunities for older people to participate in varying types of recreation that support a range of abilities and choice.

Given that people are living longer, recreation providers need to cater to a growing and changing demand from older demographics of open space users. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013), the number of people over 65 in Australia will increase from 3.2 million in 2012 to between 5.7 and 5.8 million in 2031, and will continue to increase over time.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, participation in recreation decreases as people age. Evidence also suggests that the types of recreation activities that older people will want to participate in in the future may be different to older people of today. As the baby boomers enter retirement, they bring with them a different set of values and expectations as they have grown through a period of changing social norms.

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Table 7
Top five features that may encourage an increased use of Warringah's open spaces, for 13-18 and 19-24 year old (Open Space Survey 2014)

Rank	13-18 years n=64	19-24 years n=15
1	WiFi	Outdoor fitness equipment
2	Places to sit	Other (e.g. skateparks, parkour, dirt jumps)
3	Toilets	Events/ Music/ Entertainment
4	Water	Picnic spaces
5	Picnic spaces	Places to sit

As mentioned in Section 4.1.1, the Open Space Survey revealed that youth were the least satisfied with Warringah's open spaces.² The youth who chose 'Poor' were requesting an increase in youth related facilities such as bike dirt jumping, parkour and skateparks.

When asked in the survey what features would potentially encourage people to use our open spaces more often, the top five responses for 13-18 and 19-24 year olds are listed in Table 7. This list clearly shows the difference in interest between younger youth (13-18) and older youth (19-24). While places to sit and picnic spaces feature on both lists and are closely linked to facilities that would enable youth to hang (addressed in Section 3.6), the availability of WiFi was of most interest to those aged 13-18 years and outdoor fitness equipment was of most interest to those aged 19-24 years.

Please note that skate facilities were not offered as an optional feature as there were specific skateboarding questions to which the answers are reported separately later in this section.

Opportunities for new or improved recreation assets such as those requested here are detailed in Section 4.1.5.

² Please note that the sample size for survey respondents aged 19-24 years is very small and therefore may not be representative of the age group.

The baby boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, do not think of themselves as old. They are generally healthier and more active than previous generations. Many do not need to be educated on the importance of physical activity; they just need to be provided with the opportunity.

To be able to continue to live an active life well into the older years, there are a number of recreation opportunities that council can enable. For instance, council's Living Well Warringah - Healthy Ageing Strategy (2013) identified walking as the key means for older residents to stay active. As such, to be able to walk through and between open spaces there needs to be good trails, good connectivity and footpaths. Having seats, shade, bins and water available along a trail ensures that those who need to can take a break and enjoy the scenery.

Similarly, the Open Space Survey and the survey conducted for the Recreation Strategy (2009) both found walking to be the top recreation activity in Warringah for most ages groups, including those aged over 60. Other top responses in the Open Space Survey, in order of priority, were hanging out at a beach reserve, swimming at rockpools, having a picnic/ outdoor gathering, relaxation and bushwalking.

This is based on participation at least monthly for all survey responses by people aged over 60. A further breakdown by age can be found in Table 17 in Appendix B.

As identified in the Living Well Warringah - Healthy Ageing Strategy (2013), social isolation can be common for older people, having impacts on their mental and physical health. Open spaces provide numerous opportunities to get out and about and meet people, for example, either by just going for a walk or through formal walking groups. A key is to make information about open space and recreation opportunities available via a range of mediums, such as council's website, libraries and community networks.



Curl Curl Lagoon shared path

Strategic direction:

- Council will consider the needs of different communities of interest in Warringah when designing open spaces such as picnic areas and walking trails in terms of the benefit of co-locating them with toilets and parking and the availability or potential for shade, seating and water.
- Council will make information about Warringah's open spaces and recreation facilities available to the public via a range of mediums, including on the website through the development of a user-friendly online interactive tool.

Community partnerships

Council partners with many community members and groups to provide services that benefit the community and the environment.

Friends of the Bush is a volunteer bush care program that has been running since 1991. Volunteers provide invaluable assistance at approximately 30 locations across Warringah and help to run community nurseries at Manly Dam and Stony Range.

Council works closely with and appreciates the dedication of other Friends of groups, such as Curl Curl Lagoon Friends, Narrabeen Lagoon Friends and Friends of Dee Why Lagoon.

Council's Aboriginal Heritage Office facilitates an award winning volunteer program in which volunteers monitor and report on the condition of Aboriginal heritage.

Mountain bikers are encouraged to participate in volunteer track maintenance days at Manly Dam.

Council is keen to work with and facilitate other capacity building programs as they arise. These may include programs with youth or disability programs.

Strategic direction:

Council will continue to facilitate and support volunteer and capacity building initiatives that benefit open spaces.

4.1.5 Recreation assets

This section reviews Warringah's provision of a wide range of recreation assets, including skateparks, fitness equipment, trails, picnic areas and community gardens. Opportunities for increased or improved provision are presented as are the barriers. Supporting facilities such as toilets, water and seating are discussed.

The provision of playgrounds is presented separately in Section 5.

Trails

Warringah has many trails available that cater for walking, cycling, horse riding, scooters, strollers and in some cases wheelchairs. Details on facilities for horses is covered separately in section 4.3.2.

When asked in the Open Space Survey which open space activities respondents participate in,

commuting rated highest with a 93% participation rate (commuting defined as walking or cycle as part of a trip to work, school, shops or services). Walking/Jogging rated second with an 84% participation rate.

Trails provide great opportunities for recreation. Furthermore, the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) (2011) identifies that providing good pedestrian paths throughout the LGA, and in particular along key recreational access points, could assist in minimising car trips by encouraging people to walk to where they play.

Below are further details on shared tracks, walking tracks and trails for various types of cycling. The main recreational trails in Warringah are shown in Map 2.

Note that the trails identified in Map 2 as multi-use are shared by two or more users, but the map does not state which two or more users it may be. Please check Council's website for further details on particular trails.



Narrabeen Lagoon Trail

Shared tracks

Many of Warringham's tracks are shared, for example, the Narrabeen Lagoon trail, Curl Curl Lagoon, Nolan and Passmore Reserves and the trail linking Dee Why beach and Narrabeen Lagoon. These are generally classified as easy access and are suitable for all ages and abilities. They are popular with a broad demographic.

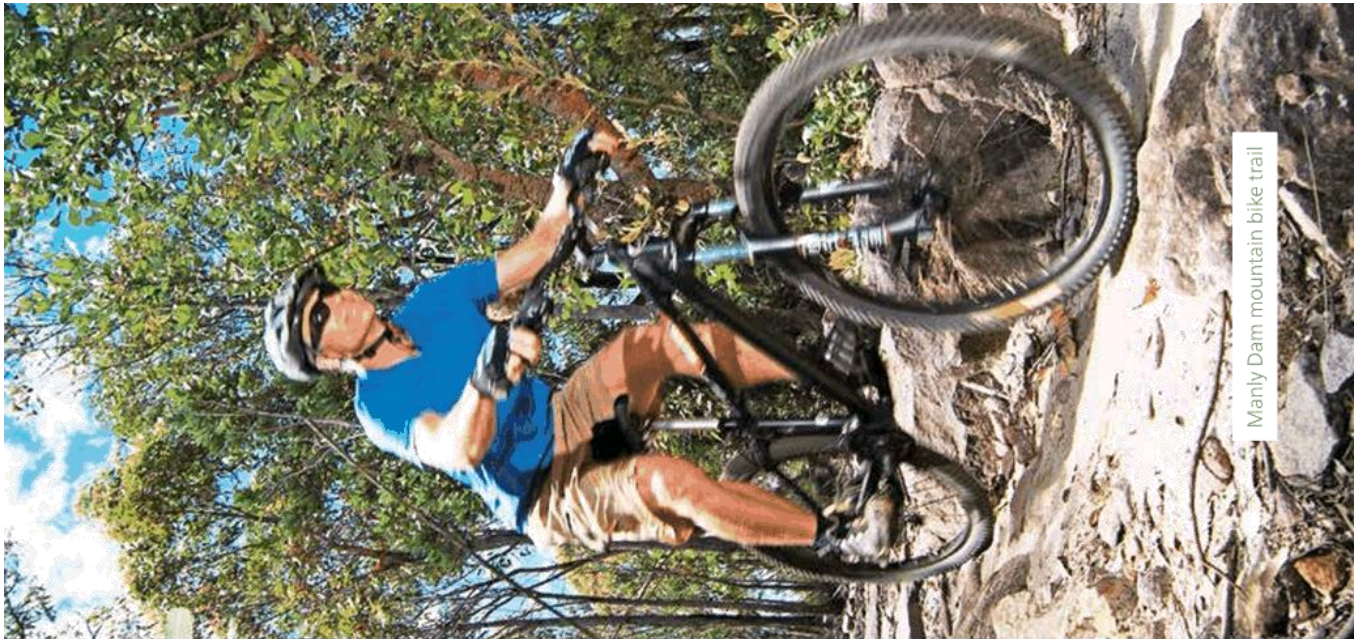
Some sections of trail at Manly Dam are shared by walkers and mountain bikers. These are the wide fire trail sections, with single tracks currently identified exclusively for either walking or mountain biking to ensure the safety of park users and reduce the likelihood of conflict.

Conflict between users on shared trails can be managed through signage and education.

Walking tracks

Due to Warringham's bush and beach setting there are diverse opportunities for walking, both on council land and in the national parks.

The Bicentennial Coastal Walk covers Warringham's 14kms of coastline and continues on to North Head in the south and Barrenjoey headland in the north, making a continuous coastal walk of approximately



Manly Dam mountain bike trail

Bikes

There are a number of styles of bike riding that are popular in Warringah, including: mountain biking, bike dirt jumps, pump tracks, downhill, shared tracks and learn to ride, to name a few. In the Open Space Survey 53% of respondents indicated that they ride a bike, 21% participate in mountain biking and 12% in dirt jumping.

Council manages an 11km mountain bike track at Manly Dam and is currently formalising an access trail across council land in Forestville Park to link up with the new mountain bike trails in Garigal National Park. There are also a number of informal trails on private property and Crown land.

Warringah does not currently have a formal bike dirt jump track. Consultation will take place over designs to build dirt jumps at Aquatic Reserve adjacent the recently upgraded half pipe skate ramp or Miller Reserve near the skatepark.

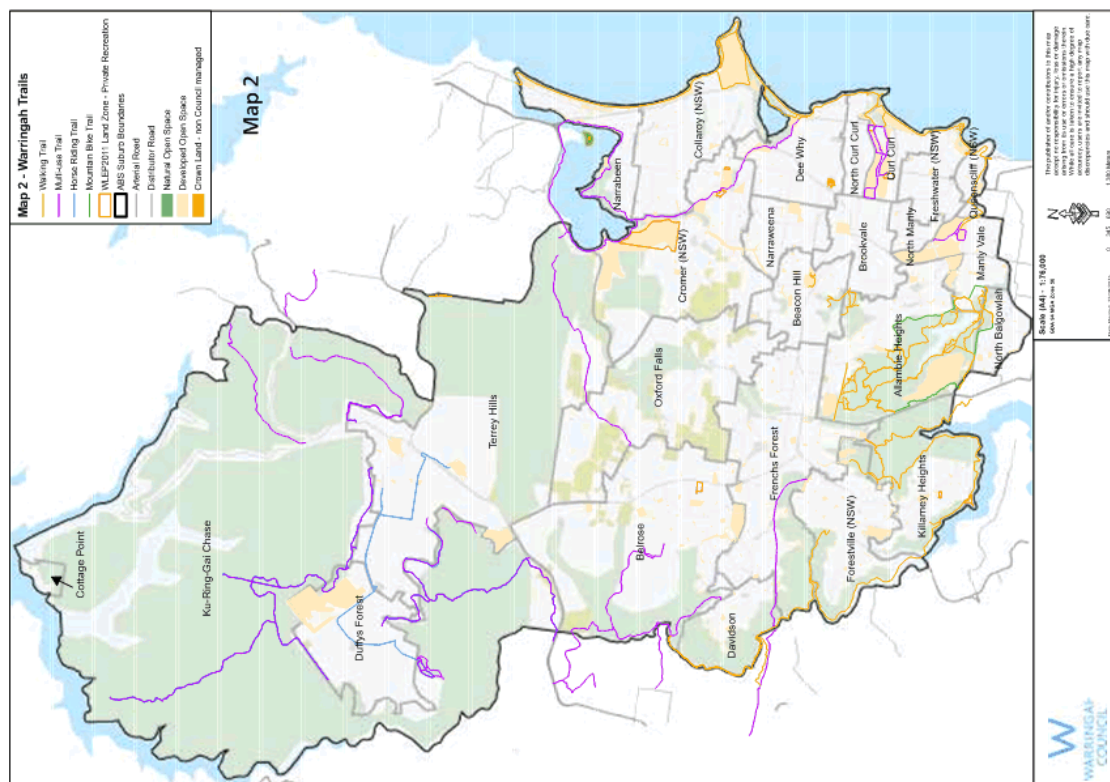
Places to learn to ride are important to families and young children. Warringah does not currently have any formal learn to ride areas, however, the netball courts at John Fisher Park and the soccer fields at Cromer are

30km. The walk consists of a series of headland walks that are joined together by enjoying a walk along the beaches. Each headland presents a different experience in terms of difficulty, views, vegetation and geology.

Bushland reserves such as Allenby Park, Anembo Reserve and Forestville Park each provide a different walking experience as the landscape varies, from rainforest in some locations to sandstone heath in others. There are also many trails within the national parks.

Some opportunities for new or improved trails have been identified in plans of management but are yet to be realised. For example, the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Corridor Plan of Management (2008) proposes a trail along South Creek which would provide residents in Beacon Hill with trails leading to Narrabeen Lagoon and Dee Why.

Council's website has an online interactive map of walking tracks which shows points of interest along the way. It is compatible with mobile phones for easy access along the trails. A series of twelve brochures on Warringah's best walks are also available to download from the website.



popular for this. Some of the easier sections of trail at Manly Dam provide good areas for learning off road cycling. Additional locations would be beneficial.

Warrangah's Bike Plan (2010) identifies priorities for bike routes and infrastructure. The Bike Plan and the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan are currently being reviewed.

The Sydney Water Pipeline is identified in the Bike Plan and the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy. Although the track is informal, it has the potential to provide a beneficial link from Forestville, through Frenchs Forest to Allambie Heights.

Strategic directions:

- Council will identify opportunities for new trails and improved accessibility and connectivity.
- Council will provide a bike dirt jump track in Warringah, potential locations are Aquatic and Miller Reserves.
- Warringah will provide learn to ride facilities.

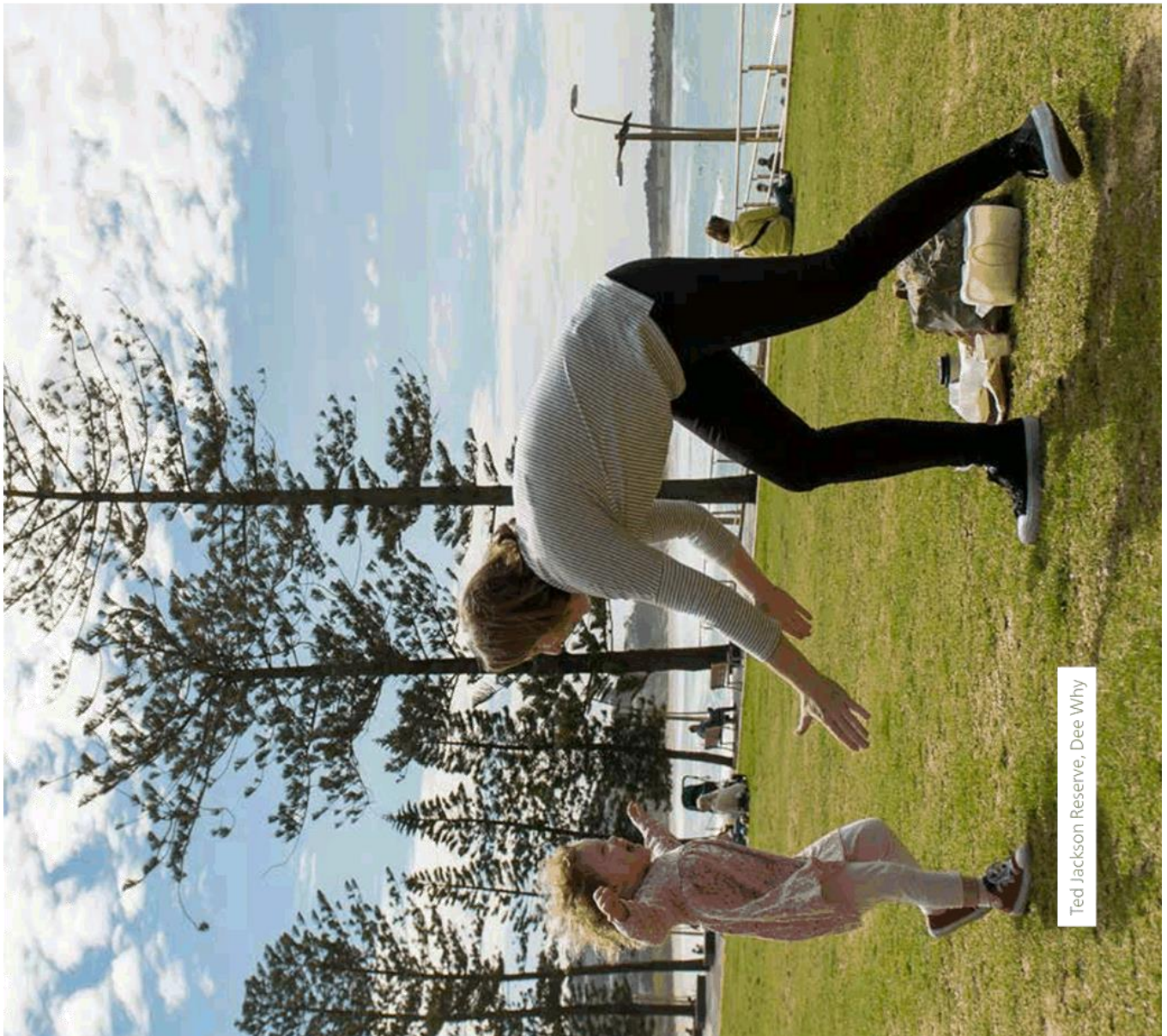
Hanging out

There were a number of activities mentioned in the Open Space Survey that relate to just hanging out. This could be spending time in a park or beach reserve by yourself or with friends or family. People may utilise facilities such as picnic tables, seats, BBQs and toilets, or they may just want a piece of grass to sit on with a coffee and a view to watch the surf or for quiet reflection.

Hanging out at a beach reserve was popular across all age groups, with 75% of all survey respondents indicating they do this at least yearly and 66% at least monthly (Table 8). Those in the 25-39 age group rated this activity the highest, with 87% indicating that they hang out at a beach reserve.

Having picnics or outdoor gatherings at open spaces are popular activities, with 63% (n=423) of Open Space Survey respondents indicating that they do this least yearly and 42% at least monthly. Warringah's open spaces are also popular with parents groups, with 46% of respondents aged 25-39 participating in this activity at least yearly and 36% at least monthly.

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Ted Jackson Reserve, Dee Why

Relaxing at our open spaces, for example, meditating, Yoga, Tai-Chi or reading a book also rated well, with 36% of respondents indicating that they visit open spaces for relaxation purposes at least yearly and 30% at least monthly. The results were even higher for those in the 12 and under, 13-18 years and 60-74 years age groups (see Table 17 in Appendix B).

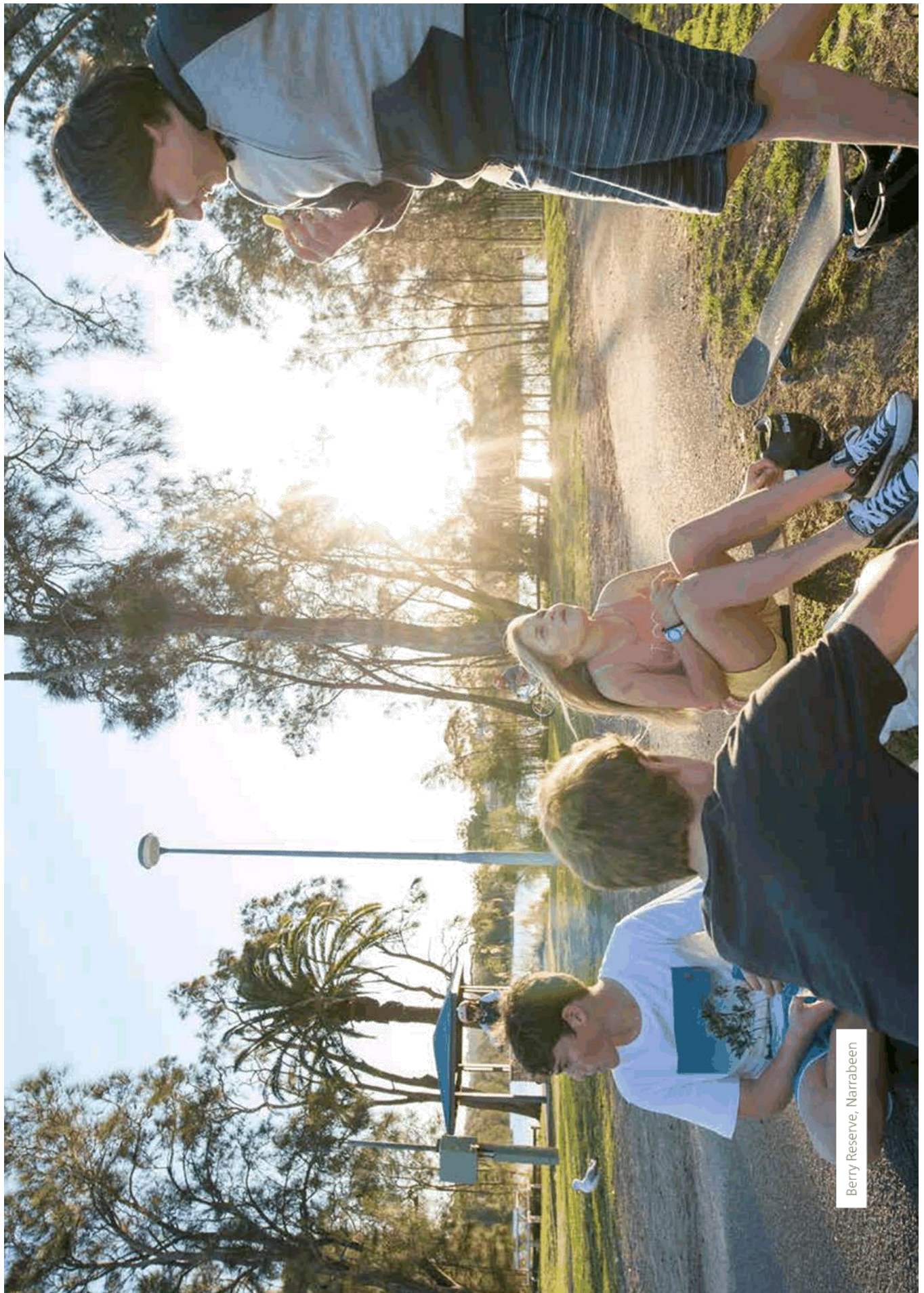
Warringah already considers the provision of facilities conducive to spending time in open spaces, such as picnic tables, seating, BBQs, water and toilets. This is done well along most foreshore areas and some of the larger parks and playgrounds. However, council is working toward providing spaces for larger groups through the provision of larger picnic tables and seating areas. For example, the Walter Gors Park upgrade at Dee Why includes large picnic tables which could be used for gatherings of families or friends, or as a study area for youth.

Strategic direction:

Council will provide facilities that cater for large groups, families and gatherings to take place at Warringah's open spaces, by providing larger picnic tables and seating for bigger groups.

Table 8
Hanging out at a beach reserve (Open Space Survey 2014 n=423)

Frequency	Overall	<12 years	13-18 years	19-24 years	25-39 years	40-59 years	60-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years
At least monthly %	66	36	45	67	80	75	69	54	75
At least yearly %	75	55	56	73	87	84	79	77	75



Berry Reserve, Narrabeen

Youth hanging out

Having spaces for youth to hang out with their mates is an essential element of socialisation. Whether it is space to just sit and chat or a space conducive to studying, youth need somewhere to go that is inviting, inclusive and meets the needs of both young men and young women. Our open space provision and designs therefore need to challenge the perception that youth who are just hanging around are engaging in anti-social behaviour. Research has found that there is no relationship between perceptions of youth behaviour and the actual prevalence of youth offences (National Foundation for Educational Research in Halsey and White 2010). By designing spaces with youth in mind they can feel safe and welcome to share Warringah's open spaces.

While such spaces can be suitably co-located with recreation activities like basketball courts, parkour, fitness equipment or skateparks, facilities should also provide for the passive use of open space by youth who just want to hang out with their mates to talk,

learn, grow, plan, build relationships, confidence and connect, either face to face or through the provision of WIFI. Youth may also like to be involved in the design of youth hang out spaces, so as to integrate funky, creative and innovative ideas and artworks. This co-location of recreation assets would be beneficial across all age groups.

Strategic directions:

- Council will look into additional locations for youth recreation facilities at Warringah's open spaces, such as basketball courts, parkour, skateparks and fitness equipment.
- Council will integrate seating, tables or appropriate landscaping into open spaces designed to facilitate youth socialisation and study opportunities. This may include the integration of WIFI where appropriate.

Skateparks

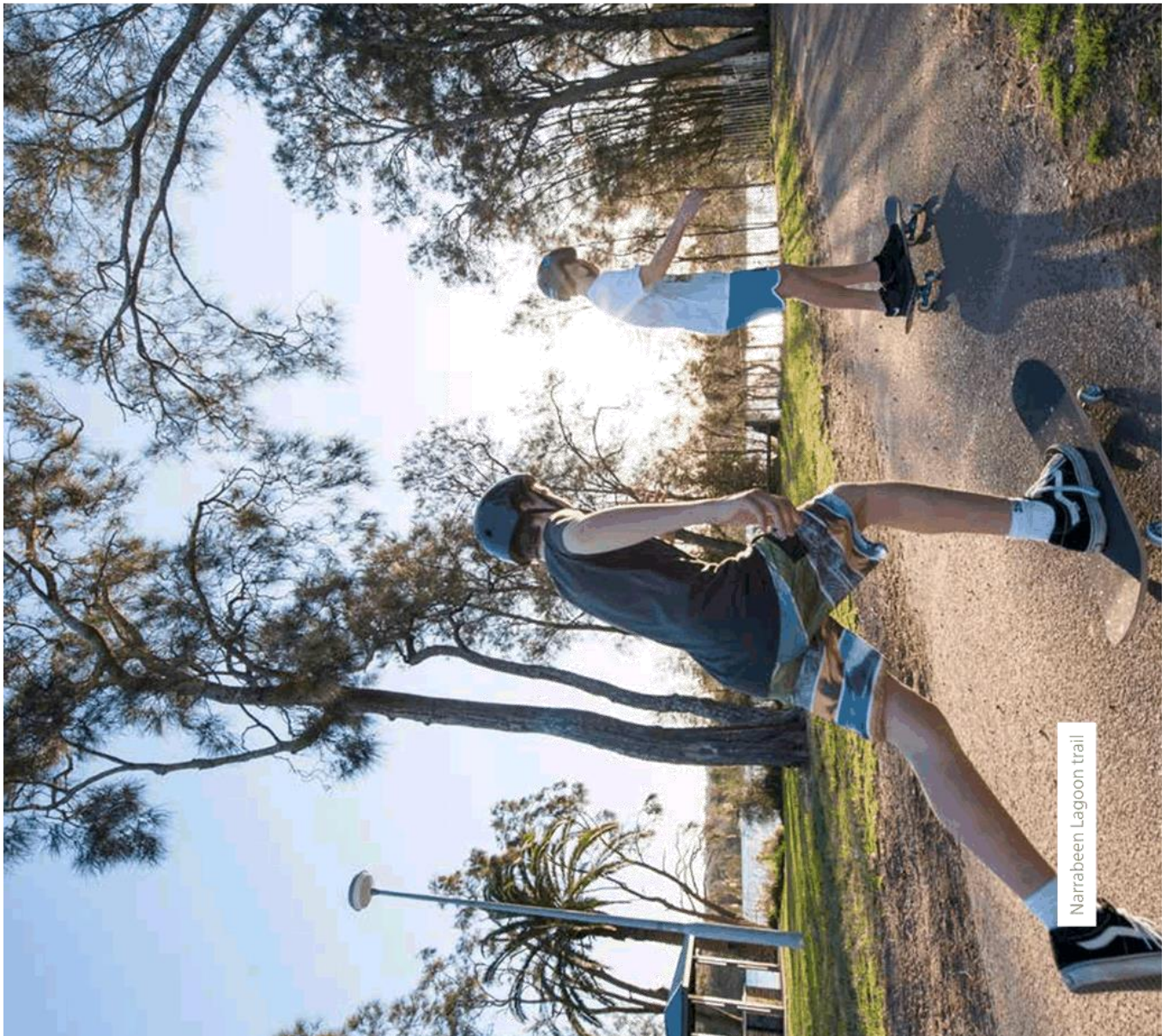
A specific Skater Survey held in October and November 2014 revealed strong support for new and improved skate facilities in Warringah.

Council has existing skate facilities at Miller Reserve Manly Vale, Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields and Aquatic Reserve Frenchs Forest. The St Matthews Farm Masterplan includes a skatepark and the design stage will occur in 2015-16. There are also skate facilities nearby in Manly and Mona Vale that are managed by neighbouring councils.

Pop-up (temporary) skate events are held at John Fisher Park in North Curl Curl which will continue and be expanded where possible at other hard surface locations such as St Matthews Farm in the lead up to a new skatepark being constructed.

Street skate is the most popular style of skateboarding according to the respondents who completed the Skater and Open Space Surveys, followed by ramps and skate bowls (See Figure 2). People who selected 'Other' primarily ride scooters, with some riding BMX.

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What style of skateboarding do you participate in? n=286

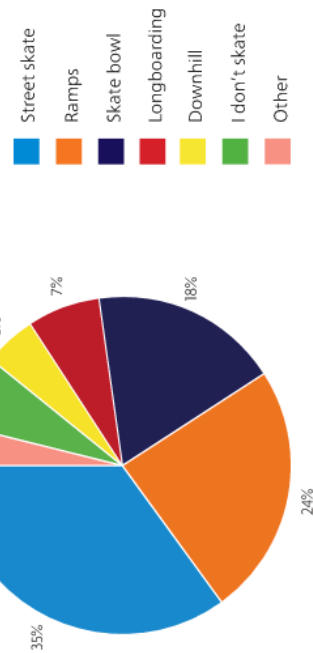


Figure 2
Participation in styles of
skateboarding (Combined
data from the Skater and
Open Space Surveys 2014)

How old are you? n=251

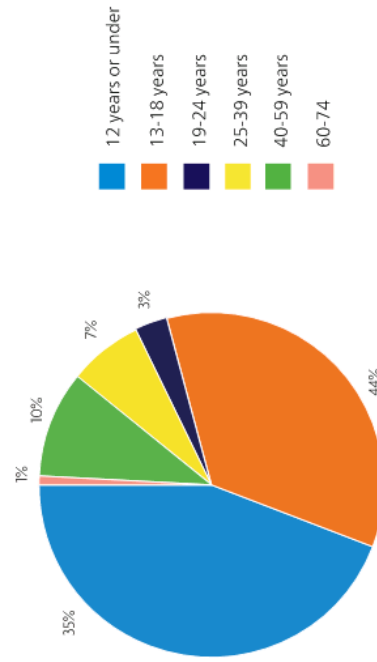


Figure 3
Age of skaters who
completed the survey
(Skater Survey 2014)

The majority of respondents were in the 13-18 years (44% n=251) and 12 and under (35%) age groups (see Figure 2), meaning that their options for getting themselves to a skate park is either to skate or catch a bus, unless a parent or carer is able to drive them. These age groups therefore need their skate facilities to be easily accessible if they are to be granted the independence to travel to and from a skatepark themselves.

Council remains committed to the existing level of service for skate facilities and to researching locations for new skateparks. As such, the ageing half pipe at Aquatic Reserve was upgraded in July 2015. The survey also drew requests for expansions to the existing skate parks at Manly Vale and Forestville, including for the further provisions of supporting facilities such as toilets, shade, picnic tables and BBQs. This would enable families and friends to enjoy time together as skaters and as spectators.

either bringing in their own equipment or utilising park furniture, stairs and railings.

There have been a number of complaints over the years, including through the Open Space Survey, raising the issue of skateboarders disrupting other park users at Dee Why beachfront. An effective way to combat the inappropriate use and damage of park assets by skateboarders would be to provide a skate facility in the area.

Depending on the availability of space, this could be a formal skate park or a skate trail where features are integrated into existing or new pathways. A B-line skate trail may be suitable in the vicinity of existing trails at John Fisher Park, James Meehan Reserve or Dee Why Park (oval).

Skateable art is also an effective way to integrate creativity and public art into our open spaces.

Strategic Direction:

Council will continue to maintain and grow existing skate facilities and investigate opportunities for new skate facilities, including, but not limited to, the Dee Why and North Curl Curl areas.

Specifically, Curl Curl/North Curl Curl received 50% (n=157) of all requests for new skate facilities, followed by Dee Why with 11% (see Figure 4). The demand for skate facilities in this area is further evident given that the John Fisher Park netball courts and Dee Why beachfront are already being frequented by riders

Opportunities for new skate facilities should be explored for the coastal areas of North Curl Curl and Dee Why. There are currently no skate facilities in this area and the survey attracted a significantly higher number of requests compared to other suburbs.

Suggested locations for new or improved skate facilities (aside from St Matthews Farm) (n=157)

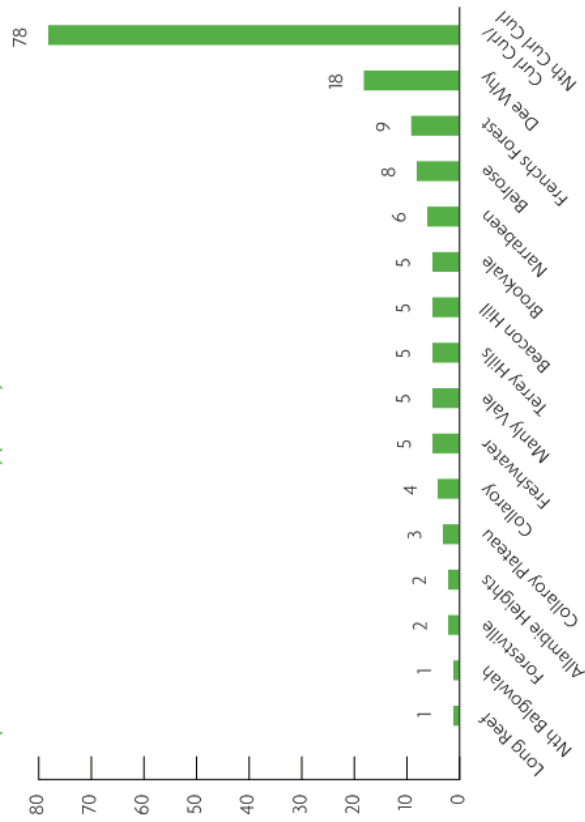
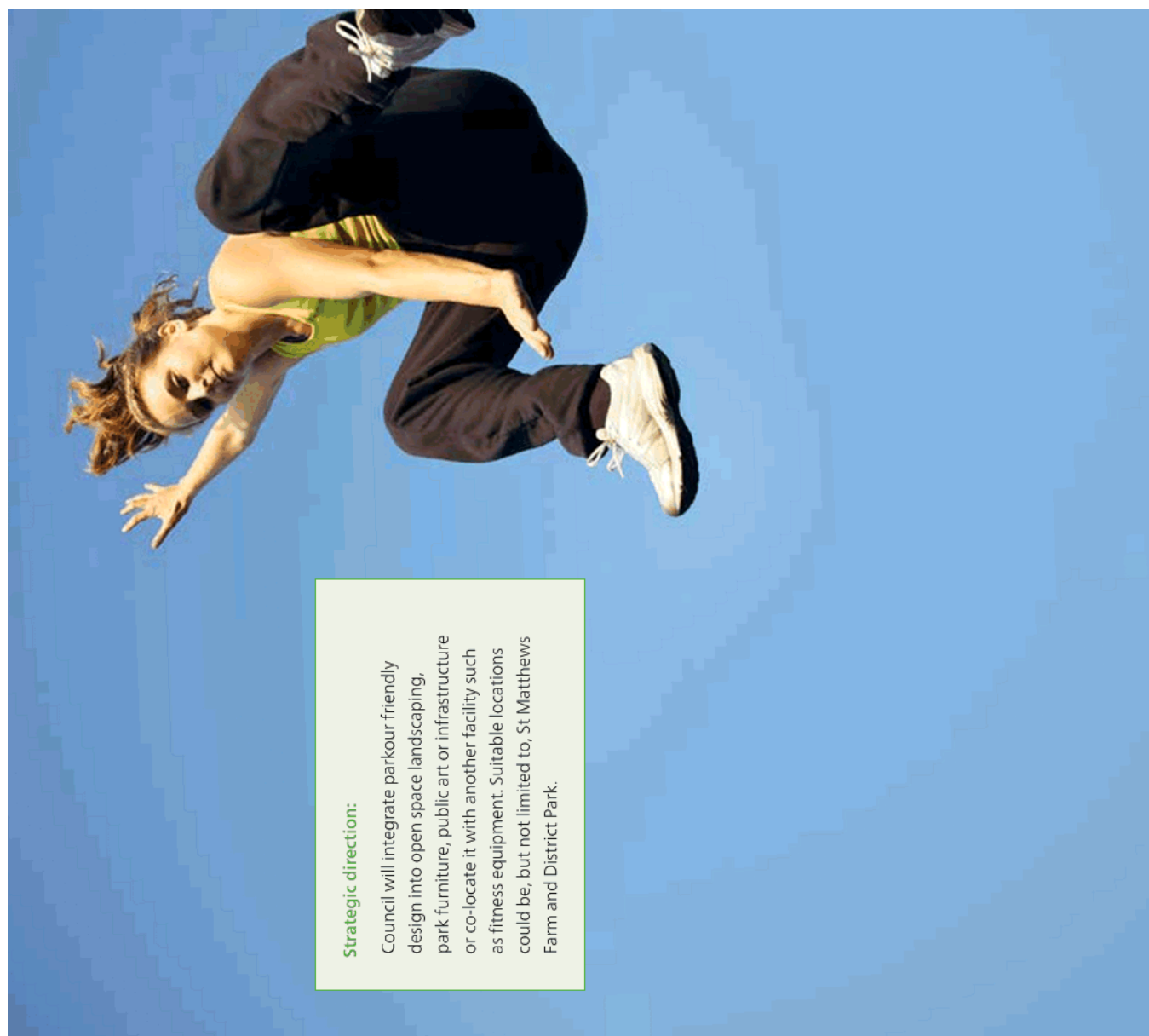


Figure 4
Requests for new or improved skate facilities (Combined data from the Skater and Open Space Surveys 2014)



Strategic direction:

Council will integrate parkour friendly design into open space landscaping, park furniture, public art or infrastructure or co-locate it with another facility such as fitness equipment. Suitable locations could be, but not limited to, St Matthews Farm and District Park.

Parkour

Parkour is an emerging activity in Warringah, although council does not currently provide any parkour facilities in our open spaces. It is difficult to gauge how much usage a dedicated outdoor parkour facility would attract. However, consultation resulted in many requests for parkour and several more play space designs by children aged 6-12 that incorporated parkour.

Parkour has the ability to be integrated into other elements of open space facilities, such as landscaping, park furniture, public art and infrastructure. It could also be incorporated into a multi-use space, for example with fitness equipment. Further, it can double as a hang out space for youth by providing a destination for socialising that also encourages physical activity.

By trialling the integration of parkour friendly design into some of our open spaces we can monitor usage with the view to increasing parkour opportunities in the future should there be a demand.



Berry Reserve, Narrabeen

Basketball

Warringah provides ten basketball hoops at various locations across the LGA. Three are full sized courts, at: Lionel Watts Reserve, Belrose; Forestville Memorial Playing Fields; and Terrey Hills Oval. The others are either half or quarter courts and can be found at: Akora Reserve, Frenchs Forest; Beacon Hill Reserve; Berry Reserve, Narrabeen; Brookvale Oval; John Fisher Park, North Curl Curl; Nolan Reserve, North Manly; and St Matthews Farm, Cromer.

In the Open Space Survey basketball was found to be most popular with those aged 13-18 years, with 27% (n=64) indicated that they play at least monthly. Similarly, of the respondents to the Skater Survey who were aged 13-18 years (n=110), 34% indicated that they play basketball. Of those aged 12 or under (n=88), 39% play basketball.

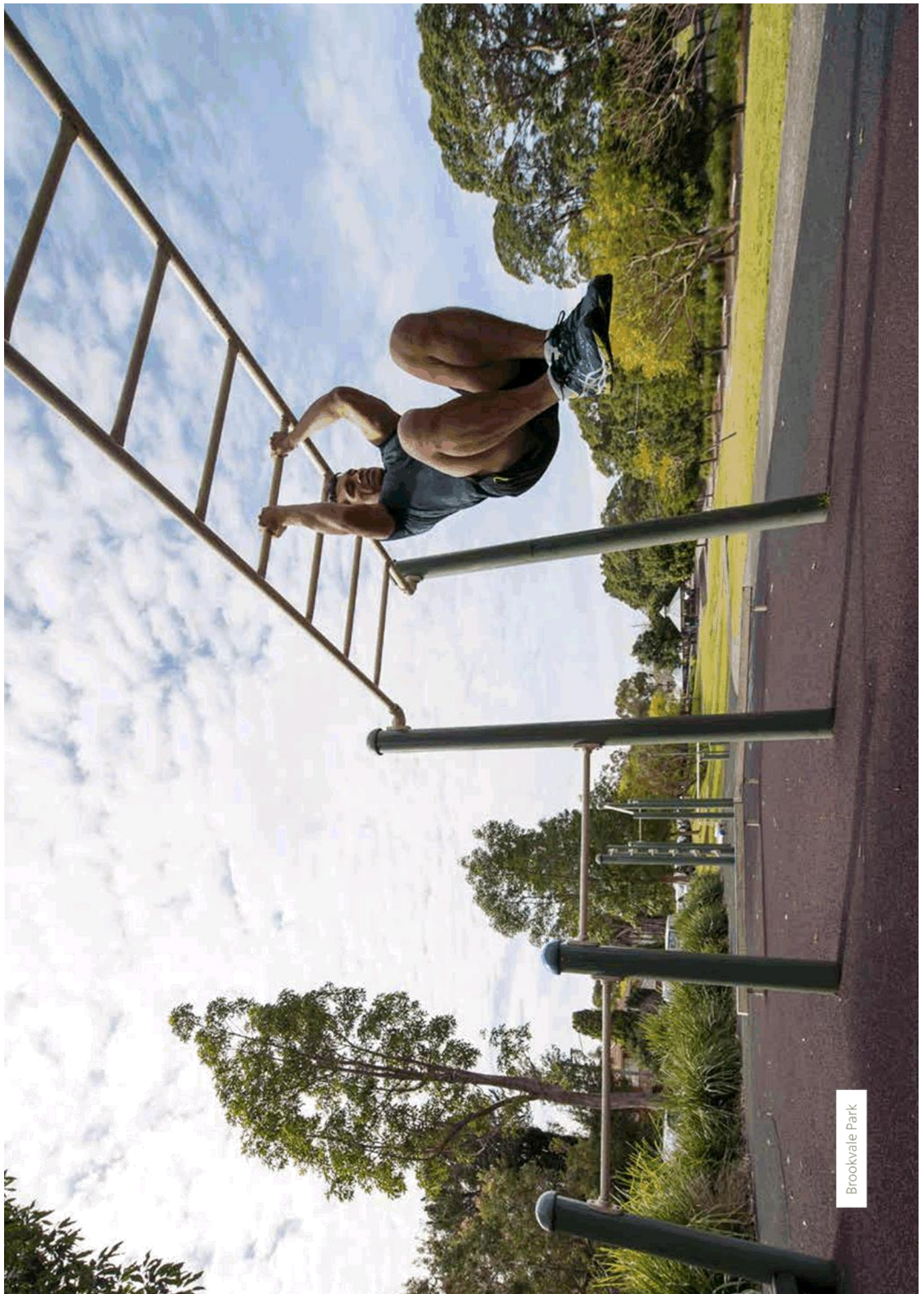
Through the surveys and via consultation with the Warringah Youth Advisory Committee, there was strong support for an increase in the number of basketball hoops, in particularly full size courts. The above survey data supports that basketball is popular with children and youth and an increase in facilities should be

supported. Given the identified need to integrate more facilities suitable for youth into our open spaces, there is potential to construct additional basketball hoops at existing parks.

It may be difficult to find space for additional full-sized basketball courts, however, many schools have them. Council has lease arrangements with some schools to enable public access to sportsfields. It may be possible to negotiate access to other recreation facilities such as basketball courts and playground equipment. This should be investigated further.

Strategic directions:

- Council will seek opportunities to integrate additional basketball and netball hoops into open spaces.
- Council will approach the Department of Education and Communities and other bodies to discuss the potential for public access to recreational facilities such as basketball courts and playground equipment outside of school hours.



Brookvale Park

Fitness equipment

Warringah has fitness equipment at four parks and is supportive of installing more at additional locations in the future. They are currently located at Brookvale Park, Berry Reserve, Lionel Watts Reserve and F.J Machon Reserve.

The Open Space Survey revealed that 22% of respondents (n=423) used fitness equipment at least yearly, with 16% using it at least monthly (see Table 9). Those aged 19-24 (n=15) used fitness equipment the most often, with 53% using it at least once a month.

Fitness equipment can be designed to cater for a range of ages and abilities. For instance, some councils have had success with installing fitness equipment for seniors. This can help with increasing fitness, strength and balance and reducing the risk of falls. Consultation for this strategy resulted in 12 requests for the installation of fitness equipment at additional locations, particularly along foreshore areas. It would be compatible to co-locate with other open space facilities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, basketball, skateparks and parkour. Clear instructions for use and introductory programs should be considered to encourage usage, especially with fitness equipment for older residents.

Strategic directions:

Council will install fitness equipment for all ages at additional locations, for example, but not limited to, foreshore areas such as James Meehan Reserve.

Table 9
Participation in fitness equipment (Open Space Survey 2014 n=423)

Frequency	Overall	<12 years	13-18 years	19-24 years	25-39 years	40-59 years	60-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years
At least monthly %	16	18	23	53	17	13	8	8	0
At least yearly %	22	27	31	53	24	21	12	8	0

Informal sports

While organised sports on sportsfields are outside the scope of this strategy, sportsfields offer an opportunity to engage in many informal activities when not being used for organised sport. Facilities include, for example, cricket pitches, netball courts, and fields for baseball, rugby league, union, AFL, softball, T-ball, hockey and football (soccer). Practice nets are also available for sports such as cricket and baseball.

Of all of the Open Space Survey respondents, 34% (n=423) indicated that they participate in informal sports such as kicking a ball at least yearly, with 28% at least monthly (see Table 17 in Appendix B). Participation was relatively consistent across all age groups, from those aged 12 and under to those aged 40-59. Participation petered off for those aged 60 and over.

Informal sports have different benefits to formally organised and structured sports. Individuals and groups can practice their skills in a relaxed and fun environment, without the pressure of competing. If playing with friends, especially children and youth, informal sports enable the development of social and

interpersonal skills as they improvise, make their own rules, learn to cooperate and problem solve. Playing with extended families can promote intergenerational communication. So access to sporting facilities for informal recreation by the general community is an important factor in open space provision.

Other sporting facilities that could be integrated into Warringah's open spaces for informal use are hitting walls for tennis, birdie cages for golf, handball courts and outdoor table tennis. The provision of basketball hoops is addressed separately earlier in this section.

Strategic directions:

- Council will encourage and/or facilitate shared and informal use of purpose built sporting facilities where possible.
- Council will integrate sports infrastructure into open spaces for informal use where there is demand, for example, practice nets, birdie cages, handball courts, table tennis and hitting walls.

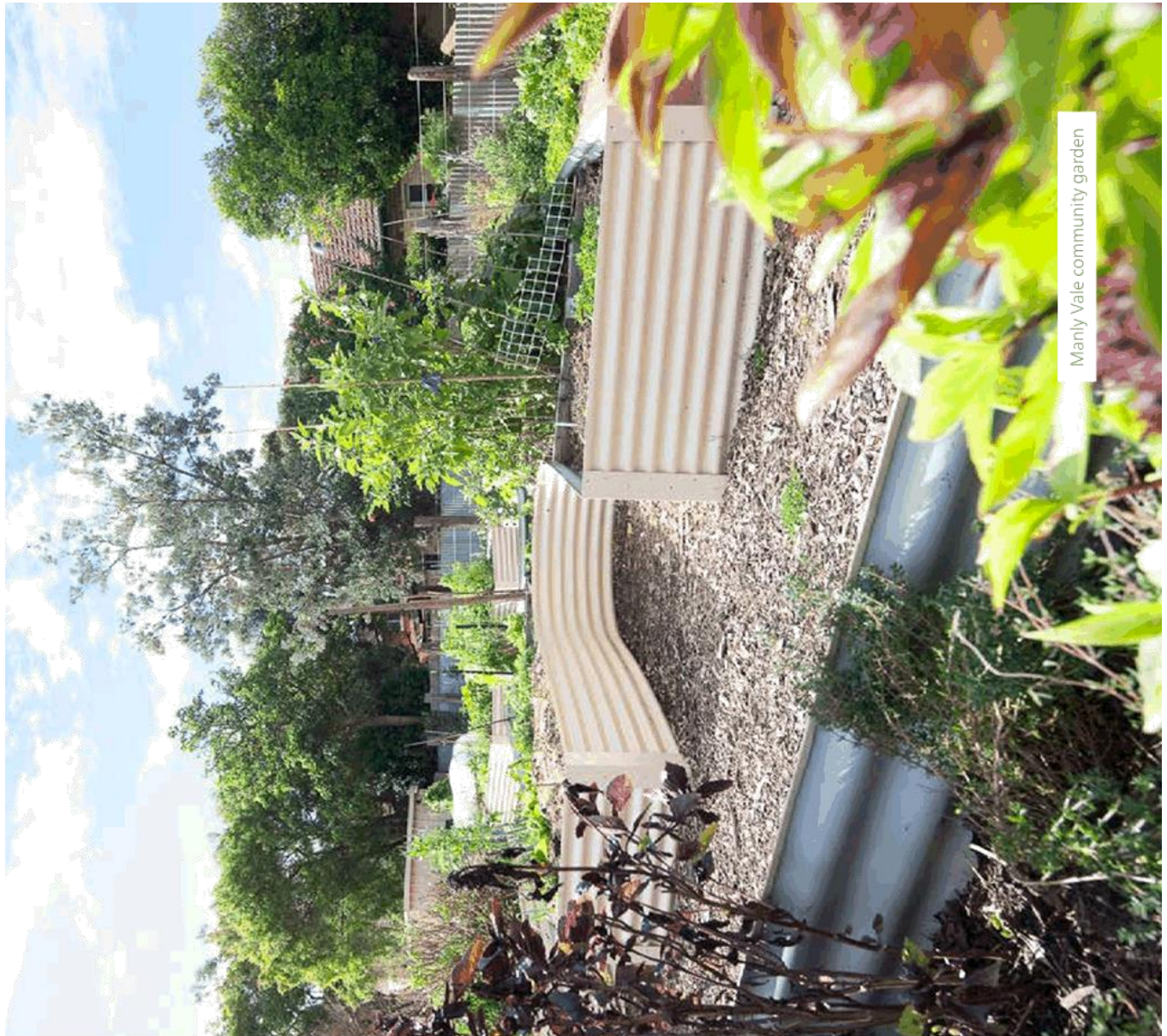
Sporting clubs and commercial providers

With the exception of organised sports that use sportsfields - which are excluded from this strategy - Warringah's open spaces provide locations for other sporting, recreation and community clubs and commercial providers for activities such as kayaking, sailing, horse riding, personal training and yoga.

Licensing arrangements, regulations and policy frameworks for these activities are inconsistent at present and non-existent in some cases. Council needs to gain a holistic view on how these clubs and commercial providers use council's open spaces and work toward a clear and equitable management framework.

Strategic direction:

Council will review the use of Council reserves (excluding sportsfields) by clubs and commercial providers and design and implement an equitable management framework.



Community gardens

There are currently two community gardens in Warringah, at Manly Vale and Queenscliff. Consultation revealed requests for additional community gardens. The Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines outline the parameters for establishing a community garden in Warringah. In summary, council supports the establishment of community gardens on council owned or managed land.

Strategic direction:

Council supports the development of community gardens on Council land in line with the Community Gardens Policy.

Supporting facilities

In the Open Space Survey respondents were asked what features would encourage them to visit Warringah's open spaces more often. Supporting facilities rated highly, with shade/sheltered locations rating highest, followed by toilets, water, seating, bins and picnic areas with tables and BBQs (see Table 18 in the Appendix).

The provision of supporting facilities can be essential to the enjoyment and satisfaction of some park users. For example, having toilets allows visitors to stay longer, and water and seating can allow older people or those with health conditions to enjoy a stroll along a trail and take breaks along the way.

However, new toilet blocks are costly to build. Adaptive reuse of existing buildings can reduce the cost in some cases, for example by considering adapting the maintenance building at Jacka Park, Freshwater, into a multi-purpose toilet and baby change facility.

In the harsh Australian summer sun it is important to provide shade in certain locations. Shade could be

Data capture

Council employs different methods of capturing data to use when monitoring, planning and managing open spaces. Counters have been used at the Narrabeen Lagoon trail and Manly Dam and these are beneficial to understanding park usage and change over time.

Intercept surveys can provide more detail about a person's visit. In 2013 council participated in the Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey which was an intercept survey conducted at 20 locations. The Annual Community Satisfaction Survey also helps to gauge council's performance in open space management.

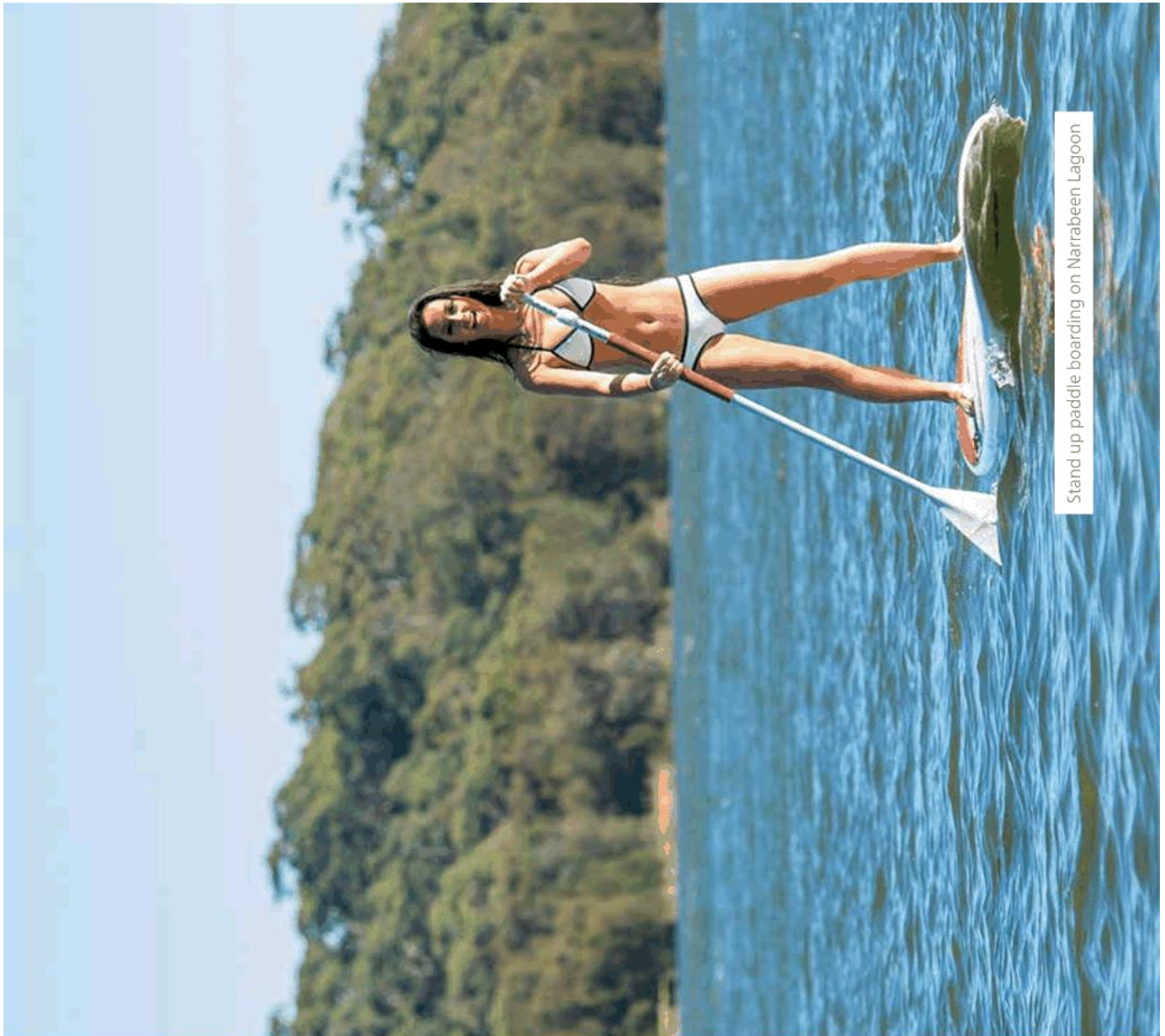
There would be benefit to council collecting additional usage data, for example at playgrounds.

Strategic direction:

Council will collect data on usage of open spaces to assist in the planning, monitoring and management of recreation assets.

Strategic direction:

Council will review the provision, distribution and access to toilets at Warringah's open spaces and in other areas that may be accessible to open space users



Barriers

There are a number of barriers to providing new or improved open spaces and recreation assets.

Determining demand is the first step to providing a recreation facility, but finding an appropriate location can be a challenge. Residents often do not want to see any increased use of areas close to their houses. Concerns vary from noise, litter, parking and traffic congestion to the likelihood of attracting antisocial behaviour. However, the benefit of living adjacent open spaces comes hand in hand with that area being available to the general public. These impacts have to be managed and minimised where possible.

Cost is another prohibiting factor to developing recreation facilities. While grants can sometimes be available, the allocation of funds is competitive and it can be challenging to prioritise the order in which projects get placed into Council's four year delivery program. This strategy will assist in determining community needs and priorities.

4.2 SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACES

Goal: To have safe and accessible open spaces that support inclusion and foster a sense of belonging.

Safety

The issue of safety can be both real and perceived. In either case, concerns over safety have the potential to be a barrier to the ways that people use spaces and places (Planning Institute of Australia 2009).

In the Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey (2013) 99% of participants felt that parks were safe to visit during the daytime (n=401), although only 24% felt that parks were safe to visit at night.

In the Open Space Survey (2014) some of the respondents stated that they do not go walking or jogging in early mornings or evenings due to concerns for their safety, particularly if female and alone. Similarly, some people avoid certain areas that are dark (e.g. toilet blocks), have poor sight lines, or where there may be groups of people affected by alcohol.

The Open Space Survey response that received the second highest rating for concern over safety was off-leash dogs with 11 responses. Dogs are addressed separately in Section 4.3.1.

By minimising opportunities for crime, the real and perceived risks to safety can be reduced. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) involves strategies to reduce the likelihood of crime by focusing on the planning, design and structure of cities and neighbourhoods. Similarly, the Safer By Design program ensures that development application proposals are routinely assessed for crime risk, with preventable risk to be reduced prior to approval.

Subsequently there are methods and strategies that council can draw on to minimise risk and safety concerns in our open spaces. For example, while it would not be feasible to provide lighting along all pathways through open spaces, there may be opportunities for providing lighting at some particular locations. For example, the path through James Meehan Reserve and around Dee Why Lagoon is not only a popular recreation trail, but also an important connectivity link. This was raised several times during the survey as a location that could benefit from lighting.

Strategic Directions

Council will use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Safer by Design strategies to minimise risk and safety concerns for open space users.

Council will provide safer access to Warringah's open spaces, for example, by researching the feasibility of providing lighting at key locations and implementing improvements where warranted.

Accessibility

There are a number of factors to ensuring our open spaces are accessible to all members of the public. Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, there are rights and responsibilities about equal access and opportunity for people living with a disability. In terms of access to open spaces, these standards refer to access to toilets, parking, slope, footpath design and curb heights.

Where possible, trails should be built to accessible standards to allow participation and enjoyment by



Bruce Bartlett Reserve, Collaroy

people of varying levels of mobility. Improving linkages and ensuring connectivity within and between open spaces can maximise opportunities for access.

The new Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW), makes further provision for government departments and local councils to develop and implement a Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The new Act reflects that people with disabilities should be central to decisions that affect them.

Having clear signage within and on approach to open spaces can also ensure park users can enjoy an easy and intuitive visit.

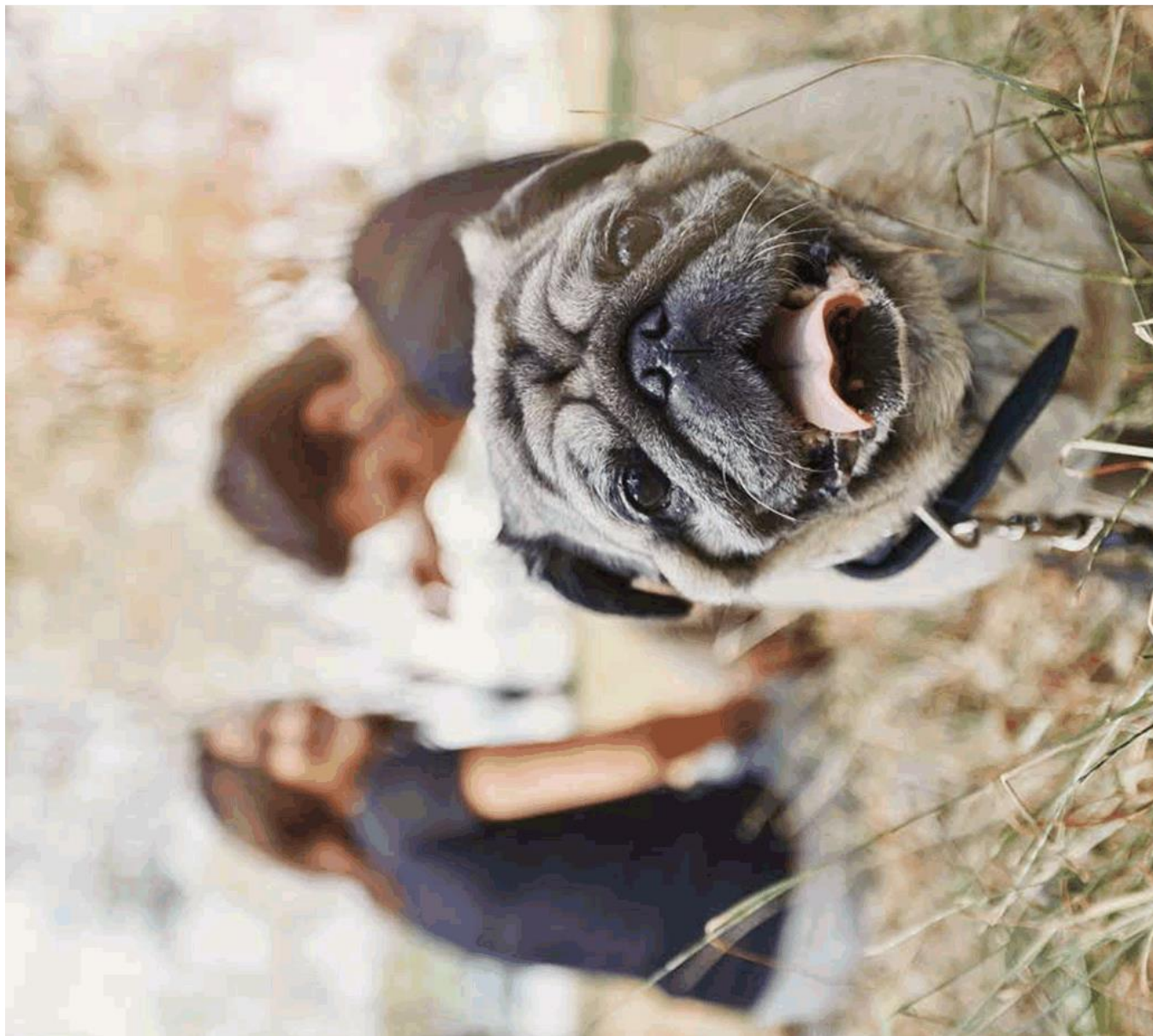
Parking near open spaces can be a challenge at peak times, such as the beaches in summer. Overflow carparks exist at some locations. As mentioned earlier, the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (2011) suggests that the availability of footpaths and connecting trails to and through recreation areas can encourage people to walk or ride a bike and leave their cars at home.

Strategic direction:

Council will develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan in line with the requirements of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW).

4.3 SPACES FOR ANIMAL FRIENDS
Goal: To be able to spend quality time with our animal friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

4.3.1 Dogs
Dogs play an important role in human companionship. Our general health and well-being are enhanced through the physical, emotional and social benefits of owning a dog. Similarly, dogs depend on their owners to obtain an appropriate level of physical activity. Insufficient play and stimulation can result in a variety of behavioural problems (Lansberg et. al. 2013).
Dogs are permitted in most council reserves when on a leash, including along trails within bushland reserves. However, dogs are not permitted with 10 metres of a playground, at rockpools or on beaches in Warringah. According to the Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998, each Local Government Area is required to provide one off-leash dog area. At present Warringah provides eight locations where dogs can be exercised off the leash at any time, and a further four locations with time restricted access. Council is therefore providing



a level of service beyond legislative requirements. Further information on locations and timed access of Warringah's dog exercise areas can be found on the council website.

Through consultation there were five requests for additional locations for dogs to be permitted off the leash. Suggestions included allowing dogs off the leash in some of the smaller, seemingly underutilised open spaces. The need for small dogs to play without the stress of larger dogs being present was also raised.

Conversely, there were three requests for increased compliance of off-leash dogs, including in off-leash areas where dogs are still required to be under the effective control of their owner. Reasons varied from recounts of having been attacked or threatened by aggressive dogs, to the issue of perception of safety, whereby the mere presence of an off-leash dog can cause anxiety or fear for other park users. Through the Open Space Survey 11 people expressed concern for their safety over dogs being off the leash. This was the second ranked safety concern raised through the survey, following concerns over being in open spaces after dark.

Dog swimming is permissible on the southern bank of Curl Curl lagoon when accessed from Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve, although the water quality is variable. The potential for allowing dogs on beaches within Warringah has been the subject of much research in recent years. A trial of dogs swimming at Manly Dam was abandoned after an unacceptable amount of dog faeces was collected. Extensive investigations into Narrabeen and Curl Curl beaches found that they were not suitable for environmental and social reasons respectively.

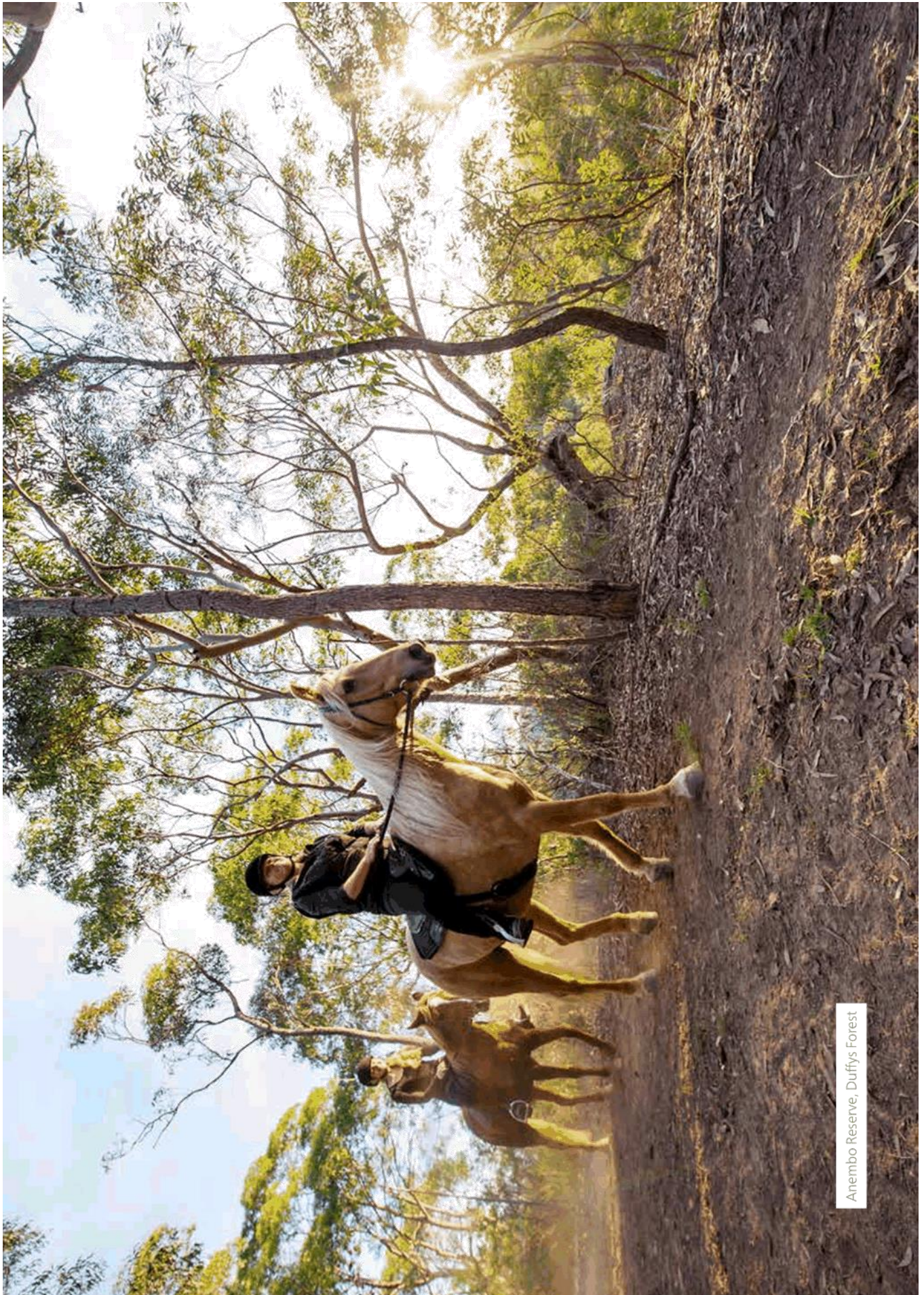
The importance of dog owners picking up after their animals continues to be an issue. This is of particular concern where un-leashed dogs are allowed on sportsfields which could present a health risk to people using the field. Further, this is a health issue for mowing and maintenance staff. Additional dog facilities such as water bowls and waste disposal bins were requested during consultation.

With 21,748 dogs registered in Warringah, council remains committed to providing opportunities for dog owners to enjoy open spaces with their dogs off the leash. There may be opportunities for additional

off-leash areas, thereby improving the equity of distribution, while reassessing the suitability of the current allocation. Having an increased number of off-leash areas may reduce the level of non-compliance in other areas.

Strategic directions:

- Council will continue to encourage responsible dog ownership in Warringah through education and enforce it in line with the Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998.
- Council will reassess the distribution and diversity of off-leash dog areas, taking into consideration the appropriateness of allowing off-leash dogs on sportsfields and the opportunity for dogs to be allowed off the leash at some of the smaller, underutilised parks in Warringah.



Anembo Reserve, Duffys Forest

4.3.2 HORSES

The Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest area has a large horse riding community, with a network of trails accessible to horses across both council managed land and national park.

Council provides horse arenas at J.J. Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve, Anembo and Kinka Reserves. Council also provides the Bridle Trail which is important for providing connectivity across the area. Improvements have been made to many of the trails and arenas in the area, and they will continue to be made as funding becomes available.

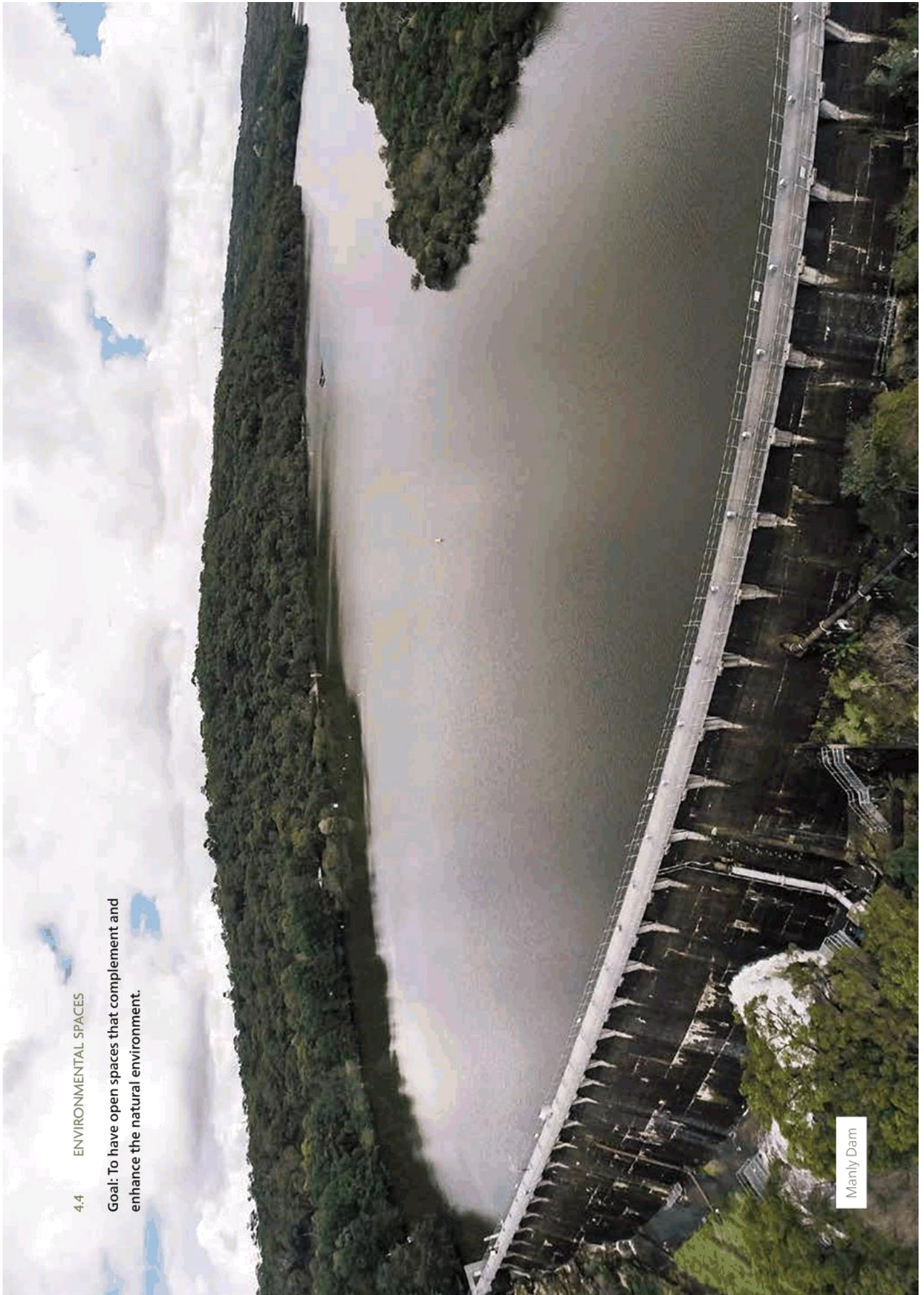
The connectivity of trails across different land tenures is an area that warrants further research. Signage to clarify permissibility of access in terms of shared or sole use as well as trail etiquette and safety are needed across the trail network and adjacent roads. These issues, and others, have been captured in Warringah's Horse Paper (2009). Similarly, the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy identifies the need for clear signage.

Strategic Direction:

- Council will continue to implement the priorities for signage, trails works and improved connectivity in line with the Horse Research Paper (2009) and the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy (2007).
- Council will liaise with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and neighbouring councils to coordinate consistent signage and to identify opportunities for improving trail access and connectivity for horse riding across shared borders.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SPACES

Goal: To have open spaces that complement and enhance the natural environment.



Manly Dam

Sympathetic design

Open spaces can be located within a variety of environmental contexts, from bushland settings, coastal areas, historically significant areas or highly developed parks and public areas. There is a need to ensure that open spaces are designed and maintained in a manner that is sympathetic to its surrounds, in particular the natural environment.

In a bushland reserve for example, a play structure could have a nature based theme and include more natural landscaping elements, rather than brightly coloured playground equipment. The aim would be for children to explore and learn from interacting with the environment, rather than playing on equipment in isolation from the context in which it is located.

Play equipment and other landscaping, facilities and infrastructure therefore have the ability to enhance and highlight the key features of its setting.

The planting of trees and shrubs in open spaces can enhance Warringah's environment, whilst also providing shade and aesthetics.

Environmental impacts of recreation

The Recreation Strategy (2009) has a principle for adopting a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to recreation planning and development. This is important given that the draft Biodiversity Conservation Study (2011) identifies that uncontrolled recreation access in natural areas is widespread and primarily affects areas with high to very high conservation significance. The threats have been related to impacts in the vicinity of formal and informal trails from activities such as cycling, horse riding, four wheel driving, trail biking and walking. Impacts can include habitat fragmentation, habitat loss, weed invasions, erosion, sedimentation of natural waterways, disturbance to natural fauna behaviour, fauna

predation by foxes, cats and dogs, and edge effects extending into bushland from trail boundaries.

As identified in Warringah's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2012), there is a need to consider and balance environmental values with recreation demands. However, where land is not managed by council the effects can be complex to control.

As population levels rise, housing density increases and people continue to seek recreation opportunities in bushland areas, the impacts will need to be carefully managed, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas. Volunteers can play a role in working with council to manage these impacts. Community partnerships are explored further in Section 4.1.4

Environmental education

Environmental education can occur either face to face through council run and supported programs and events or through interpretive signage.

There are many council run events that take place in our open spaces. These are guided by a Sustainable Events Policy (PL-530-Events), as are all events held in Warringah. Environmental messages are often promoted by council and others through stalls and activities at events.

There are further opportunities for interpretive signage to be integrated into our open spaces. The interpretation could be aimed at varying demographics, depending on the target audience. For instance, simple, fun and potentially interactive environmental education messages for children and more detailed environmental themes for adults.

At some of our parks the existing interpretive signage is ageing and requires removal. Graffiti and vandalism can

further shorten the life of signage. In these cases the suitability of the location will need to be re-assessed, together with the benefit gained from the sign content and message.

Climate change

A number of climate change impacts have the potential to impact open spaces and recreation assets. Specifically, sea level rise, an increase in storm frequency and intensity and associated storm surges are likely to place increased pressure on coastal recreation assets and infrastructure, such as beaches, rockpools, foreshore areas, dunes, lagoons and coastal trails. An increase in storm frequency and intensity as well as increased periods of draught will also further complicate the management of turf at council reserves, particularly sportsfields. These factors will need to be considered in terms of the design and maintenance of recreation assets into the future.

Strategic directions:

- Open spaces will be designed and maintained in a manner that is sympathetic to its context, in particular with reference to natural settings.
- Council will consider opportunities for integrating environmental messages into new or improved interpretative signage in our open spaces and via online material.
- Protect the natural and cultural values of Council managed lands while ensuring that visitor access and use is sustainable (Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012, p.41).
- Council will plant trees and shrubs in open spaces for shade, aesthetics and environmental purposes.



4.5 ARTISTIC, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SPACES

Goal: To integrate art, culture and heritage into our open spaces through creative and innovative ways.

Embracing art, culture and heritage

According to the Creative Warringah Strategy (2014), 'Our community is enhanced by its cultural life, connections and wellbeing – catering for all generations and needs.' The Creative Warringah Strategy seeks to integrate public art, creative expressions and cultural experiences into projects within the public domain to create high quality, innovative, distinctive and welcoming places.

Open spaces can provide opportunities to embrace and celebrate our culture and heritage. This can range from the acknowledgment of Warringah's Aboriginal past to a celebration of the area's strong beach culture.

Recognition can occur through permanent installations in the form of public art, plaques, monuments or interpretive signage, or could be through conducting, supporting or enabling activities and events. Art can be integrated into areas such as skateparks and playgrounds and sculptures can double as climbing frames.

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<p>Permanent installations continue to have a place within Warringah's open spaces, with the latest being the Knitting Girl and Care Package sculpture which was unveiled at Collaroy beachfront in April 2015. Others include Kiah the whale and Dance of the Tides sculptures at Long Reef Headland, the Duke Kahanamoku Statue and Memorial Garden at Freshwater and the many war memorials across Warringah.</p> <p>Art in Odd Places, held in 2013, was an exciting and innovative project that surprised and thrilled the unsuspecting audience, by presenting a combination of visual and performance art.</p>	<p>Further events such as those mentioned above will continue to be supported as appropriate opportunities arise. Council may be able to improve facilities that enable activities, events and private bookings to take place, for example, by providing improved access to power at council reserves.</p> <p>Warringah does not have any permanent performance areas such as stages or amphitheatres, but these could be considered in the future should there be demand. Busking can be an effective way to activate public areas.</p>	<p>The naming of parks, streets, buildings and other landmarks is also raised.</p> <p>Warringah does not have any significant pieces of public art or other acknowledgments of our Aboriginal connections. The Gulgadya Muru Aboriginal self-guided walk at Manly Dam does provide an insight into Warringah's Aboriginal past, however, there are further opportunities for traditional or modern artworks, sculptures, themed landscaping, interpretation and educational play spaces that have the potential to educate park users of the area's Aboriginal culture and heritage.</p>
<p>Events</p> <p>Council runs a number of regular events in our open spaces, such as Australia Day, Christmas by the Beach and the Brookvale Show. Regular community run events include Eurofest, Guringai Festival, the Berry Reserve Markets and many more.</p> <p>The success of events such as the La Lune – Energy Producing Art exhibition held at Long Reef in May 2014 and the Bush Sculptures exhibition at Stony Range shows that the community is supportive of integrating art and creativity into our open spaces.</p>	<p>Aboriginal heritage and culture</p> <p>Warringah's open spaces, bushland and foreshore areas are rich in evidence of Aboriginal heritage, with the whole of Warringah being an historic Aboriginal landscape.</p> <p>Although the exact location of sites is confidential, there is an opportunity to acknowledge our Aboriginal past, present and future within our open spaces. For instance, Warringah's Reconciliation Action Plan (2008) calls for 'opportunities for Indigenous art and artists to be featured in prominent locations such as parks, town centres and roads in accordance with council's Public Art Policy.' It further calls for the acknowledgement of Aboriginal heritage through signs in public locations, sites of significance and in publications and publicity.</p>	<p>Strategic directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will continue to support and improve facilities for activities and events to take place within Warringah's open spaces. Council will continue to acknowledge Warringah's history, culture and heritage through public art installations. Council will integrate Aboriginal themes into Warringah's open spaces. This may include public art, landscaping, interpretation and educational play spaces.

5 Playgrounds

Goal: To provide a sustainable and equitable distribution of quality play experiences.

5.1 SUMMARY

Warringah is well-serviced with 135 public access playgrounds, with most households having access within a reasonable walking distance. The variety of high quality playgrounds ranges from those that are small and local to larger district and regional playgrounds catering to various age groups and with associated facilities such as BBQs and picnic tables. The definitions for playgrounds can be found in Table 10. The category of 'Local' is new and acknowledges playgrounds servicing a highly localised catchment. An average of eight playgrounds are upgraded each year and many others receive maintenance as required. Some recent upgrades include the all-abilities playground at Collaroy, Beverly Job, F.J. Machon, Cootamundra, Peppercorn, Starkey and Belmore, among others.

Table 10
Warringah playground category definitions, life cycle and cost.

Playground category	Definition	Approx. cost of asset	Approx. life cycle
Regional	Has a catchment that extends beyond Warringah's boundaries. Services the local community, Warringah's residents and visitors from outside Warringah.	\$600K	15 years
District	Serves a wider catchment for residents within the suburb and visitors from neighbouring suburbs.	\$170K	20 years
Neighbourhood	Caters for a localised catchment within 10 minutes walking time from residences.	\$40K	25 years
Local	Serves a highly localised catchment for residences within 10 minutes walking distance and may include limited equipment such as a swing.	\$10K	25 years



Cootamundra Reserve Playground, before



Cootamundra Reserve Playground, after

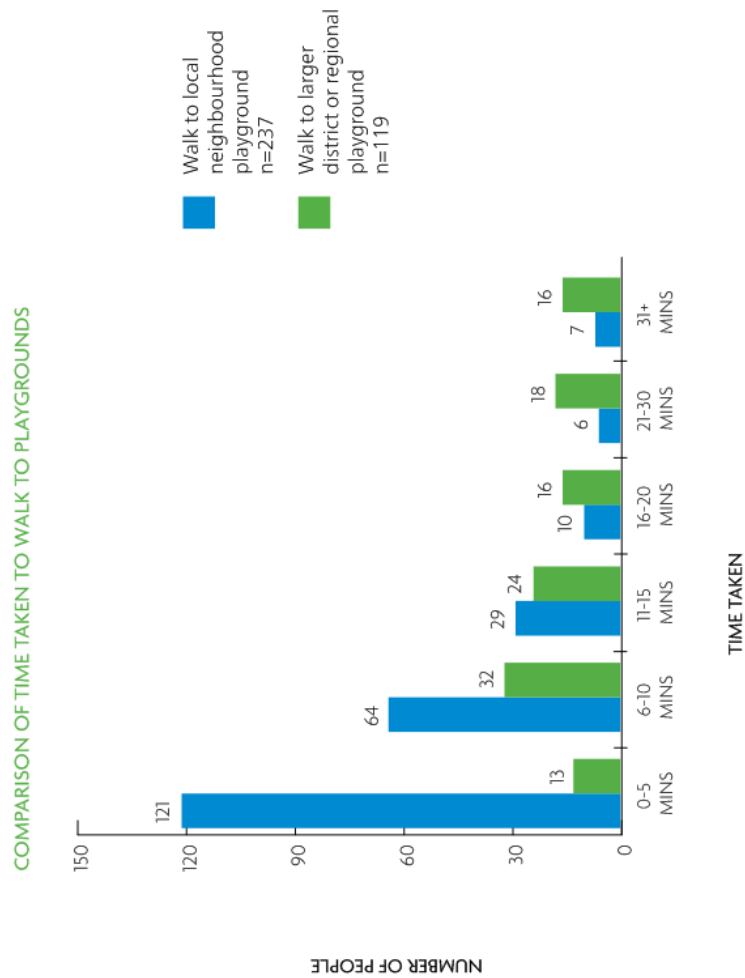


Figure 5
Time taken to walk to playgrounds (open space survey 2014)

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Over the next five years a further 30 playgrounds will be upgraded, including those at the following reserves: Quarry, Frank Beckman, Wandella, Rabbett, Fairway, Duncan, Brookvale Park, Passmore, Wentworth and many more.

However, given that many of Warringah's playgrounds were installed in the 1960s and 70s, a large number are ageing, in poor condition and reaching the end of their useful life. In recent years the annual playground renewal budget has been doubled to approximately \$500,000 in an attempt to upgrade and maintain such a large number of playgrounds.

While there is no intention to reduce the playground budget, part of the asset management process involves identifying which playground upgrades should be prioritised.

As part of the Open Space Strategy, in order to move toward a sustainable portfolio of good quality playgrounds that are equitably distributed across

Warringah, a review was undertaken that looks holistically at the priorities for the future. For example, it is noted that the coastal areas are predominantly serviced by a smaller number of District playgrounds, compared to other areas that may have a much larger number of Local or Neighbourhood playgrounds. Furthermore, while the Open Space Survey found that more people are likely to walk to a small playground close by, they are willing to walk considerably further for a bigger and better playground experience (see Figure 5).

It is also important to consider what other recreation activities may be available. So while residents on the coast have other coastal activities available to them at the beaches and lagoons, residents who live away from the coastal strip have access to expanses of natural open space, such as, national park and Manly Dam. This was taken into consideration when considering playground distribution.

Furthermore, Warringah would like to breakdown the boundaries around the definition of a playground. A broader definition of 'play space' would encompass many other types of play that could apply across all age groups. This is further explored in Section 4.1.4.

A full list of playgrounds can be found in Table 16 at Appendix A.

5.2 CONSIDERATIONS

As part of this strategy each of Warringah's playgrounds has been reviewed on a case by case basis. The following factors have been taken into consideration:

- Many playgrounds are ageing and require significant investment to maintain or renew.
- Number of residents benefiting from each playground, for example, playgrounds located on thoroughfares would get higher use than those located in a cul-de-sac with no passing foot traffic.
- Proximity to other playgrounds.
- Number of children per playground in each suburb.
- The asset condition rating (0-5). See further details in Section 5.2.1 below.
- Equity of distribution across suburbs.
- Playground categories to better reflect definitions, actual use, and to acknowledge the areas likely to experience growth. Changes to categories are noted in Table 16 in Appendix A.
- Future playground renewals are to consider a diversity of play experiences and be in keeping with the surrounds, e.g. nature based play.
- The Playground Strategy (2007) was reviewed.

5.2.1 Playground condition rating

Each year all playgrounds are assessed by an independent auditor to determine their condition rating. Ratings are 0-5 as follows:

0	No equipment
1	Near perfect condition
2	No work required
3	Minor repairs/Improvement required
4	Major repairs/Improvement required
5	Unserviceable – Recommended to be removed

These ratings assist council to prioritise necessary repairs or improvements. Following the 2014 audit, 35 of Warringah's 135 public playgrounds were rated 4. This is a significant improvement from the 61 playgrounds that were rated 4 in 2013. Council aims to reduce the number of rated 4 playgrounds to zero within two years.

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5.3 CHANGES TO PLAYGROUND PROVISION

5.3.1 New playgrounds

Four new playgrounds are proposed and have been carried over from the Playground Strategy (2007). These are listed in Table 12. Each of the locations has been found to have a gap in playground provision.

While maintaining and upgrading existing playgrounds is the priority overall, the location of each of these four new playgrounds have the ability to provide greater community benefit than some of the existing ageing playgrounds, for which there are alternatives close by.

5.3.2 Playground removals

The process for prioritising which playgrounds should be upgraded has also involved identifying a number of playgrounds from which the ageing equipment should be removed. In each case there are alternative play experiences close by. Note that the removal of playground equipment does not mean the loss of the space. The parks will remain available to the community as green space which could be used for relaxation, games or informal activities.

The equipment at the five playgrounds listed in Table 13 is in poor condition and is to be removed within 12 months from the adoption of this strategy.

The equipment at a further 12 playgrounds (see Table 14) will be maintained for as long as possible until they reach the end of their useful life, then they will not be replaced. The playground equipment to be retired in the future may remain in place for many years to come. As mentioned previously, alternative playgrounds and recreation opportunities are nearby and the likelihood of increased usage will be factored into future upgrades. This list of playgrounds to be retired includes the future loss of the Belrose Library playground due to the sale of the land.

5.3.3 Playground relocations

Two playgrounds are to be relocated due to circumstances outside of council's control. The first is the Orara Reserve playground at Allambie Heights which is currently on land owned by the Department of Education and Communities. A bigger and better new playground is to be situated at a park 130m to the south, between Lily and Orara Rds.

The second is the District playground at Brick Pit Reserve at Frenchs Forest which is to be impacted by the Roads and Maritime Services road widening project. As a replacement, a new District level playground is to be installed at nearby Akora Reserve which is currently in poor condition. The new playground will cater for increased use and varying ages.

5.3.4 Number of children per playground

In order to further qualify the changes to playground provision, Table 11 illustrates that the suburbs to be most affected by playground removals have a small ratio of playgrounds to children when compared to some other suburbs. For example, Dee Why has the highest ratio of children to playgrounds (1:335), with the focus being on primarily providing a small number of District playgrounds in a densely populated area that is likely to experience further growth. On the other hand, suburbs such as Belrose/Davidson (1:132) and Frenchs Forest/Killarney Heights (1:145) have a much smaller ratio of playgrounds to children. The type, quality and location of playground therefore play an important role and not necessarily the quantity.

The data in Table 11 is referred to further in the suburb breakdowns in Section 6.

Table 11
Number of children per playground. Table sorted according to the far right column.
Based on Census 2011 data.

Warringah Council area – enumerated – 2011 Census					Current provision		Open Space Strategy	
Suburb (Census)	Population	Number 0-11 yrs	% 0-11 yrs		Playgrounds	Number of children per playground	Playgrounds	Number of children per playground
Terrey Hills/ Duffys Forest/ Cottage Point	3,487	540	15		7	77	6	108
Belrose/ Davidson	11,025	1,841	17		19	97	14	132
Forestville/ Killarney Heights	12,066	2,319	19		20	116	15	155
Frenchs Forest	12,556	2,425	19		20	121	15	162
Brookvale	2,572	343	13		2	172	2	172
Beacon Hill	6,999	1,223	17		8	153	7	175
Allambie Heights/ North Balgowlah	9,966	1,965	20		11	179	11	179
Cromer	7,284	1,268	17		7	181	7	181
Manly Vale/ North Manly	8,493	1,458	17		8	182	8	182
Narraweena	5,989	980	16		4	245	4	245
Freshwater/ Queenscliff	11,343	1,693	15		6	242	5	282
Collaroy/ Collaroy Plateau/ Wheeler Heights/ Narrabeen	21,567	3,210	15		10	321	11	292
Curl Curl/ North Curl Curl	5,868	1,227	21		5	307	5	307
Dee Why	19,415	2,677	14		8	335	8	335
Oxford Falls	180	30	17		0	NA	0	NA
Total	138,810	23,199	17		135		118	
Average						172		197

Table 12
New playgrounds.

	Suburb	Reserve	Justification
1	Allambie Heights	Allambie Heights Oval	This area does not have a District playground. Council continues to receive requests for a playground here. This is a good location near the shops.
2	Allambie Heights	Lyly Rd to Orara Rd	This playground is to replace the one presently located on Department of Education and Communities land at Orara Reserve, 130m to the north.
3	Collaroy Plateau	Parks Rd	There are no playgrounds available to families in this vicinity. Management of this land was transferred to council from the Department of Lands following a recommendation in the Playground Strategy (2007). Sourcing funds for this playground is a priority over the upgrade of the Michele Reserve playground as it would service many more residences. Michele Reserve will be upgraded with new equipment in line with the Local category.
4	Collaroy Plateau	Condoval	Residents in this area are isolated from accessing other playground due to steep topography and no footpaths. There have been requests in the past for a playground to be installed here.

Table 13
Ageing playground equipment to be removed from the following reserves, with parks remaining as green space for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.

	Suburb	Reserve	Justification
1	Allambie Heights	Gilai	Equipment has non-conforming parts, worn items and no softfall. Three playgrounds within small area. Wandella Reserve 270m away to be upgraded in 2015-16.
2	Belrose	Birrong	Equipment has non-conforming components, no softfall and general poor condition. Alternate playground 300m away at Wingara Reserve.
3	Duffys Forest	Anembo	Equipment has non-conforming parts, worn items, corrosion and no softfall. Consider installing nature based landscaping that encourages play, in keeping with the natural setting.
4	Frenchs Forest	Kalgal	Equipment has non-conforming components and no softfall. The age and condition of equipment would make repairs and modifications unfeasible. Alternate playgrounds are available 300m away at Nianbilla Reserve and 700m away at Lionel Watts Reserve.
5	Frenchs Forest	Jindabyne	Equipment has non-conforming components, worn items and no softfall. The playground 480m away at Peppercorn Park was upgraded in 2014 and Rabbett Reserve 400m away is to be upgraded in 2016-17. Nice park to be maintained for passive recreation value. Consider installing seats.

Table 14
Parkground equipment to be maintained for as long as possible at the following reserves then retired at the end of their useful life.
Parks are to remain as green space for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.

	Suburb	Reserve	Justification
1	Allambie Heights	Maroo	Three playgrounds within small area. Wandella Reserve playground 270m away to be upgraded in 2015-16. Existing equipment to be maintained for as long as possible. Consider installing seats or picnic tables to encourage visitation.
2	Belrose	Belrose Library	This land has been sold. The playground will remain accessible in the short term while the library is still operating. Alternate playgrounds are at Wingara Reserve 200m away and Lionel Watts 500m away.
3	Belrose	Maple	Softfall installed in 2012 which improved the condition and extended the life of equipment. At the end of a small cul-de-sac, the playground services a small number of residences. New playground 440m away at Undula Reserve.
4	Belrose	Windrush	Playground in good working order at present and is likely to remain for many more years. Orana Reserve playground 270m away.
5	Forestville	Casuarina	Equipment has non-conforming parts, no softfall and is in generally poor condition. Improvements will be made to improve the condition of this playground to prolong its life. Alternate playground 300m away at Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.
6	Forestville	Brown	Bark mulch was installed as softfall in 2012 which has extended the life of this playground. Alternate playground 400m away at Lindsay Reserve which has the potential to be further improved, for example through the integration of youth facilities.
7	Forestville	Wellman	Bark mulch softfall was installed in 2012. Non-conforming parts on slide. Alternate playground available 500m away at Lindsay Reserve.
8	Frenchs Forest	Aranda	Non-conforming components, no softfall. At end of useful life consider alternate locations for a playground to service the residents in this area. For example Yindela Reserve
9	Frenchs Forest	Merrilee	Non-conforming components, worn items, no softfall and generally poor condition. Lionel Watts 750m away. Springvale 500m away.
10	Freshwater	Freshwater Beach Sth	This area is going to be rejuvenated. Consideration will be given to the type of play experience that could be integrated into the design and the availability of the alternate playground behind the surf club 140m away.
11	Killarney Heights	Donegal	Non-conforming components, no softfall and generally poor condition. Starkey Reserve playground 350m away was recently upgraded.
12	Killarney Heights	Cashel	Non-conforming components, no softfall. Alternate playground at Forestville War Memorial Park 430m away.

5.4 The future of playgrounds

The following strategic directions will guide the development and renewal of playgrounds in the future:

Strategic directions:

- Playground upgrades will focus on providing an equitable distribution of high quality play experiences that benefit a broad range of people, rather than smaller playgrounds that may only service a small catchment.
- Playground distribution and categories to consider the likelihood of future growth, either in residential density or increased visitation.
- Playground designs are to:
 - * be sympathetic to the surrounding environment,
 - * incorporate creative and innovative designs that inspire the imagination of children,
 - * facilitate an appropriate level of risk and challenge to enable children to test their limitations and learn new skills.
- The co-location of assets can encourage the sharing of space and activity across generations, including families, carers and grandparents.
- Where playgrounds are removed consider alternate uses such as quiet spaces, BBQs, seating or pathways.

6 Area recreation profiles

This section provides an overview of current recreation opportunities within a certain area. It is based on one or more suburbs that may share access to particular recreation assets. Statistics are based on 2011 Census suburb boundaries to ensure consistent analysis throughout the strategy. A series of maps numbered 4-17 support each area's recreation profile.

A summary of the population, hectares and open space of each suburb or group of suburbs can be found in Table 15, including a comparison to the NSW Growth Centres benchmark (2006) of 2.83ha per 1,000 people (detailed further in Section 2.6).

The data in Table 15 is referred to in the following recreation area profiles. The analysis shows that while some suburbs may appear to be under supplied with developed open space, there is generally additional open space nearby in neighbouring suburbs and often right at the boundary. Warringah also has extensive natural open space within two national parks, Crown land and the many council owned or managed bushland reserves. These are all taken into consideration in the area recreation profiles.

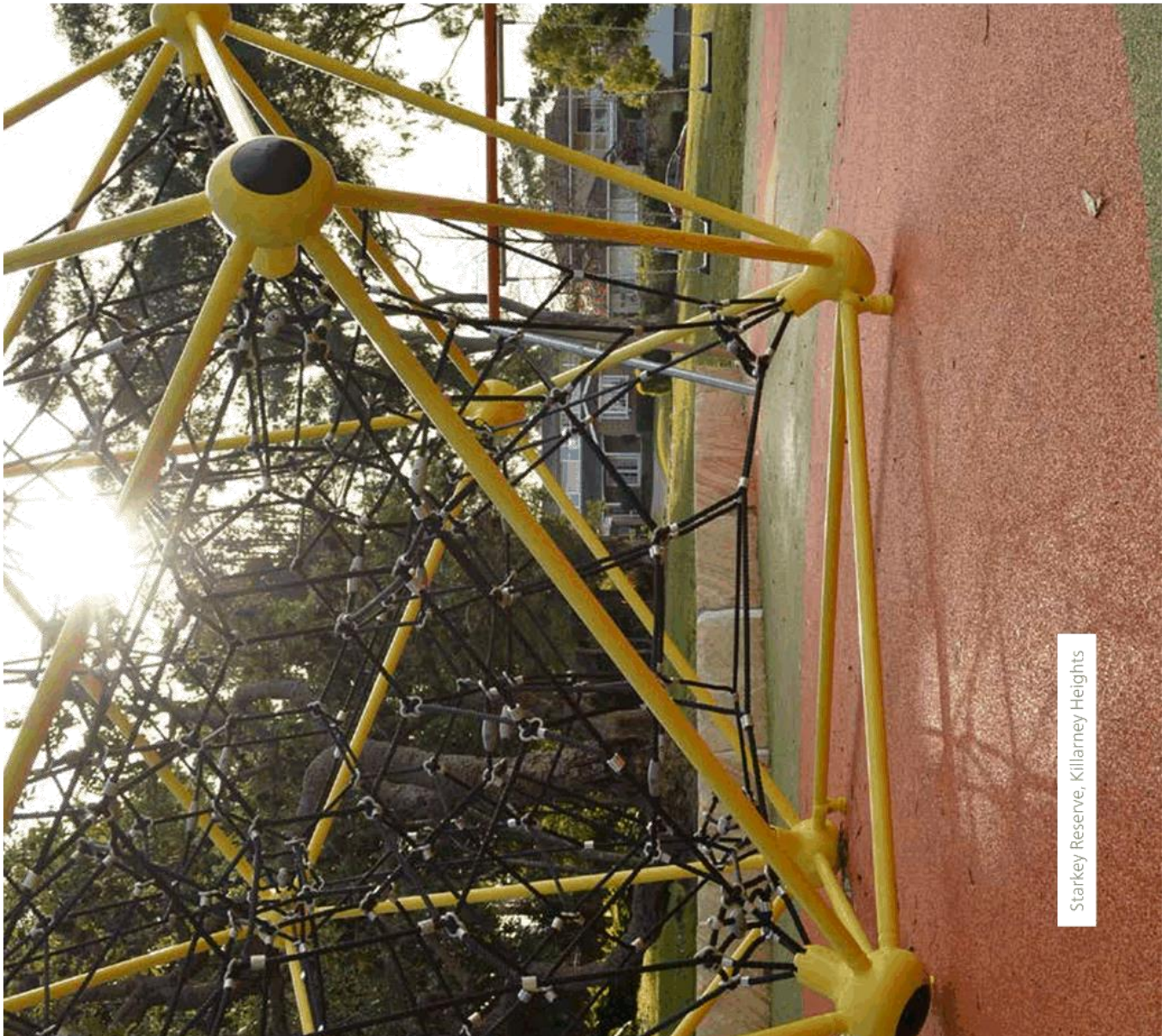
The second purpose of this section is to outline some commitments to improvements that can be made to the open space and recreation facilities in each area.

Table 15
Open space availability by suburb/s. Note that Crown Land that is not managed by council is not included in these figures.

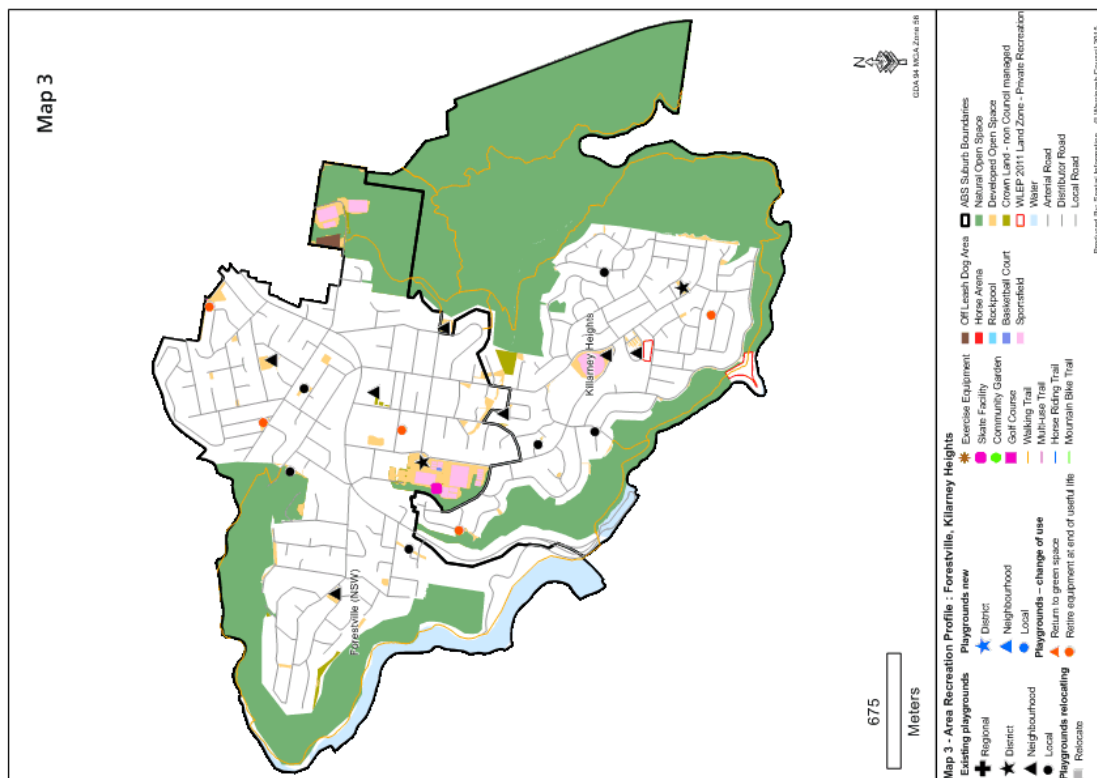
Warringah Council - Enumerated Census 2011			Open space data (hectares)			
Suburb/s (Census)	Population	Hectares	Total open space	Natural open space	Developed open space	Developed open space benchmark
Allambie Heights, North Balgowlah	9966	768	406	330	76	28
Beacon Hill, Narraweena	12988	453	53	31	22	37
Belrose, Davidson	11025	1488	402	367	35	31
Brookvale	2572	219	10	5	5	7
Collaroy, Collaroy Plateau, Wheeler Heights, Narrabeen	21567	708	160	72	88	61
Cromer	7284	636	222	116	106	21
Curl Curl, North Curl Curl	5868	246	76	16	60	17
Dee Why	19415	307	45	28	17	55
Forestville, Killarney Heights	12066	906	397	369	28	34
Frenchs Forest	12556	840	187	168	19	36
Freshwater, Queenscliff	11343	226	23	10	13	32
Manly Vale, North Manly	8493	282	70	14	56	24
Terrey Hills, Duffys Forest, Cottage Point	3487	7031	1070	979	91	10
Oxford Falls	180	832	90	88	2	1
Ku-ring-Gai Chase National Park			3988	3985	3	
Total	138,810	14,937	7199	6578	621	393

- 6.1 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: FORESTVILLE,
KILLARNEY HEIGHTS - See Map 3
- Predominantly low density detached dwellings.
 - While the 28ha of developed open space in Forestville and Killarney Heights does not quite meet the benchmark of 34ha, there is extensive natural bushland (369ha) within the adjoining Garigal National Park.
 - Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields contains a skatepark, netball and basketball courts, a District playground and new synthetic sportsfields.
 - Forestville Park has opportunities for walking and mountain biking and linkages to Garigal National Park. Killarney Heights Oval has cricket nets and a playground.
 - Off leash dog walking is available in designated areas of Forestville Park and Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.
 - This area is well supplied with 20 playgrounds. With 1 playground per 116 children this ratio is one of the lowest in Warringah (see Table 11 in Section 5.3.4).
 - Playgrounds have been upgraded in recent years at Forestville Library and Cook St, Calca and Starkey Reserves.

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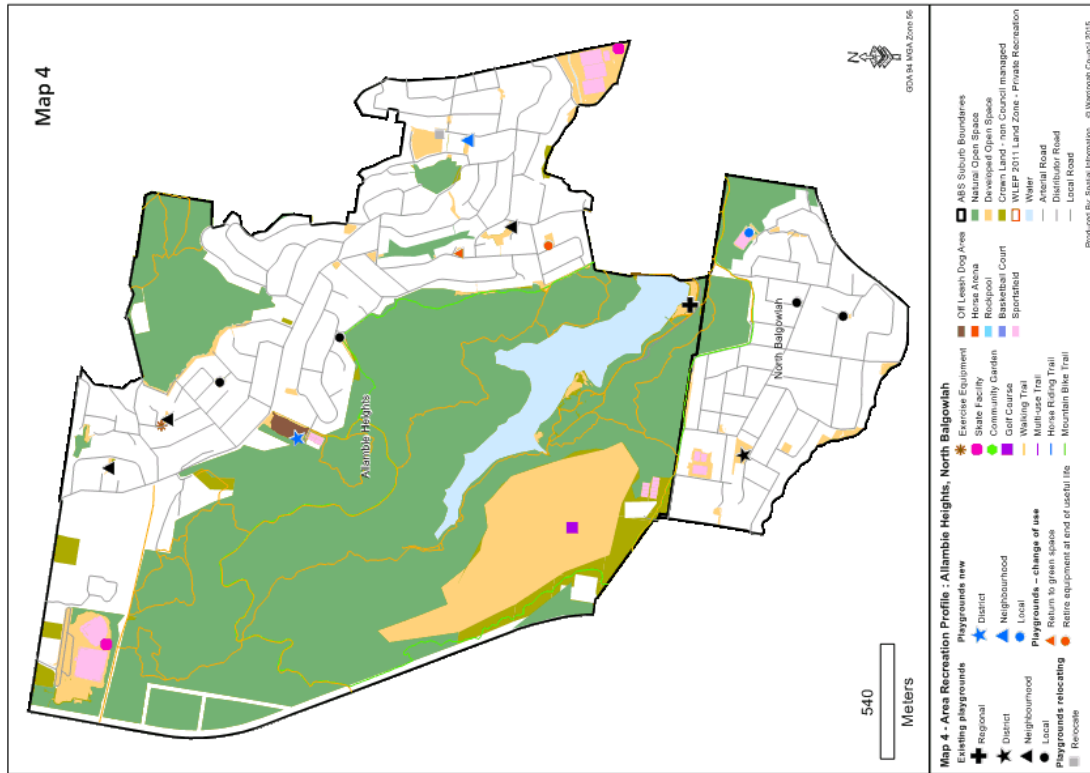


Starkey Reserve, Killarney Heights



In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Continue to implement the Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields Masterplan, including the enclosed dog exercise area, pathways, linkages and expand the skatepark.
- Implement the Killarney Heights Oval Masterplan, including new pathways, cricket nets, landscaping, street trees, seating and picnic areas.
- Formalise the mountain bike trail link between Forestville Park and Garigal National Park.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Gwarra, Ryrie, Epacris, Waterford and Adare Reserves and Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.
- Retire five playgrounds when they reach the end of their useful life. Those being at Casuarina, Brown, Wellman, Donegal and Cashel Reserves.
- Consider additional recreation facilities for Lindsay Reserve, for example, basketball hoop.
- Determine if there is demand for the installation of fitness equipment in the area. Potential location could be Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields.



6.2 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS, NORTH BALGOWLAH

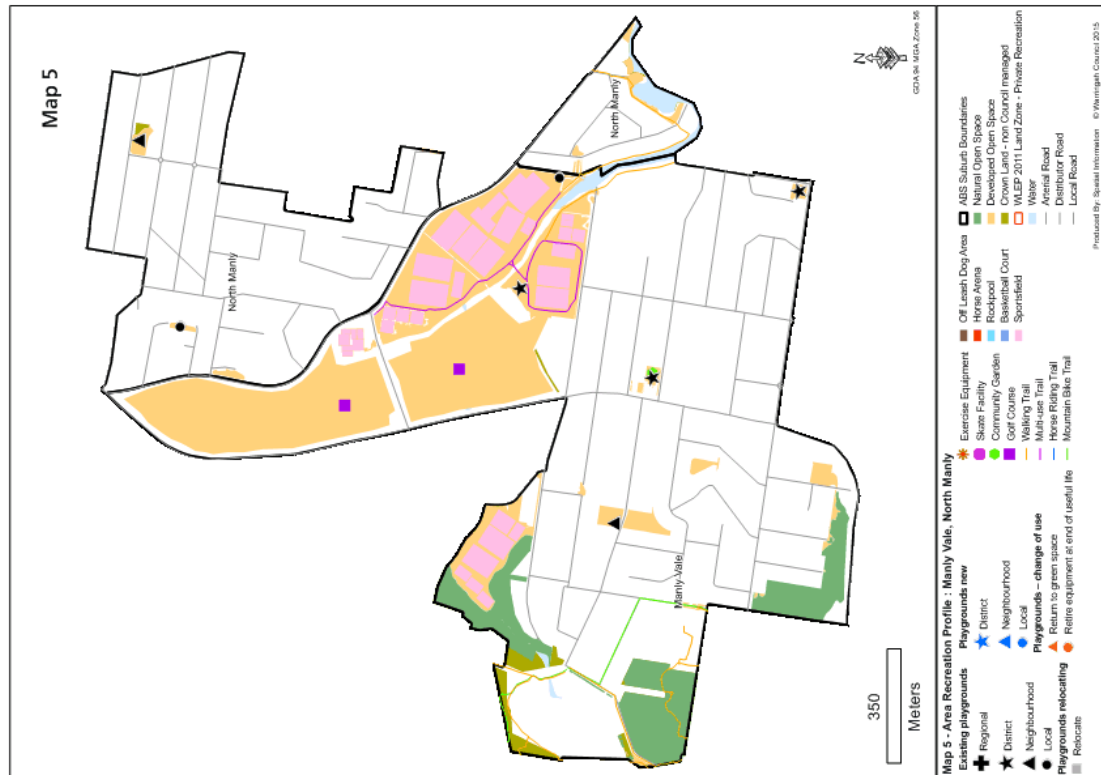
– See Map 4

- Low density detached dwellings.
- The Allambie Heights and North Balgowlah areas are well supplied with developed open space, with 76ha compared to the benchmark of 28ha. While some of this falls within the Wakehurst Golf Club, the area includes Miller Reserve, which forms part of the larger District Park.
- There is extensive natural open space in the area (330ha). This falls predominantly within the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam), which provide opportunities for walking, mountain biking, water skiing, water sports, picnics and BBQs, among other activities.
- Allenby Park also contains significant natural open space and provides trails linking Allambie Heights and Beacon Hill to Brookvale.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash at Allambie Heights Oval at particular times of the day.
- The half pipe skate ramp at Aquatic Reserve was upgraded in July 2015. The skatepark at Miller Reserve is very popular.
- There are 11 playgrounds in this area. Playgrounds have been upgraded in recent years at F.J. Machon, Cootamundra, Arnhem and Woodbine Reserves.
- Fitness equipment is located at F.J. Machon Reserve.



F.J. Machon Reserve Playground

- In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:
- Manage and upgrade the walking and mountain bike trails according to the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) Plan of Management.
 - Develop and implement a Masterplan for the Manly Dam carpark and picnic areas, including the playground.
 - Upgrade signage at Manly Dam.
 - Provide a new District playground at Allambie Heights Oval.
 - Install playground equipment at Condover Reserve should there be demand.
 - Install a new playground at Lyly and Orara Rds to replace the one at Orara Reserve which is on land owned by the Department of Education and Communities.
 - Upgrade the playground at Wandella Reserve.
 - Remove the playground equipment at Gilai Reserve. An alternate playground is nearby.
 - The playground at Maroa Reserve is in fair condition at present. When it reaches the end of its useful life it will not be replaced due to the Wandella Reserve playground being upgraded nearby.
 - Review the Multiple-Use Trails Strategy's proposal to formalise trails between Condover Reserve and Manly Dam.
 - Consider additional support infrastructure at the Miller Reserve Skate Park, such as water, shade and picnic tables.



6.3 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: MANLY VALE, NORTH MANLY - See Map 5

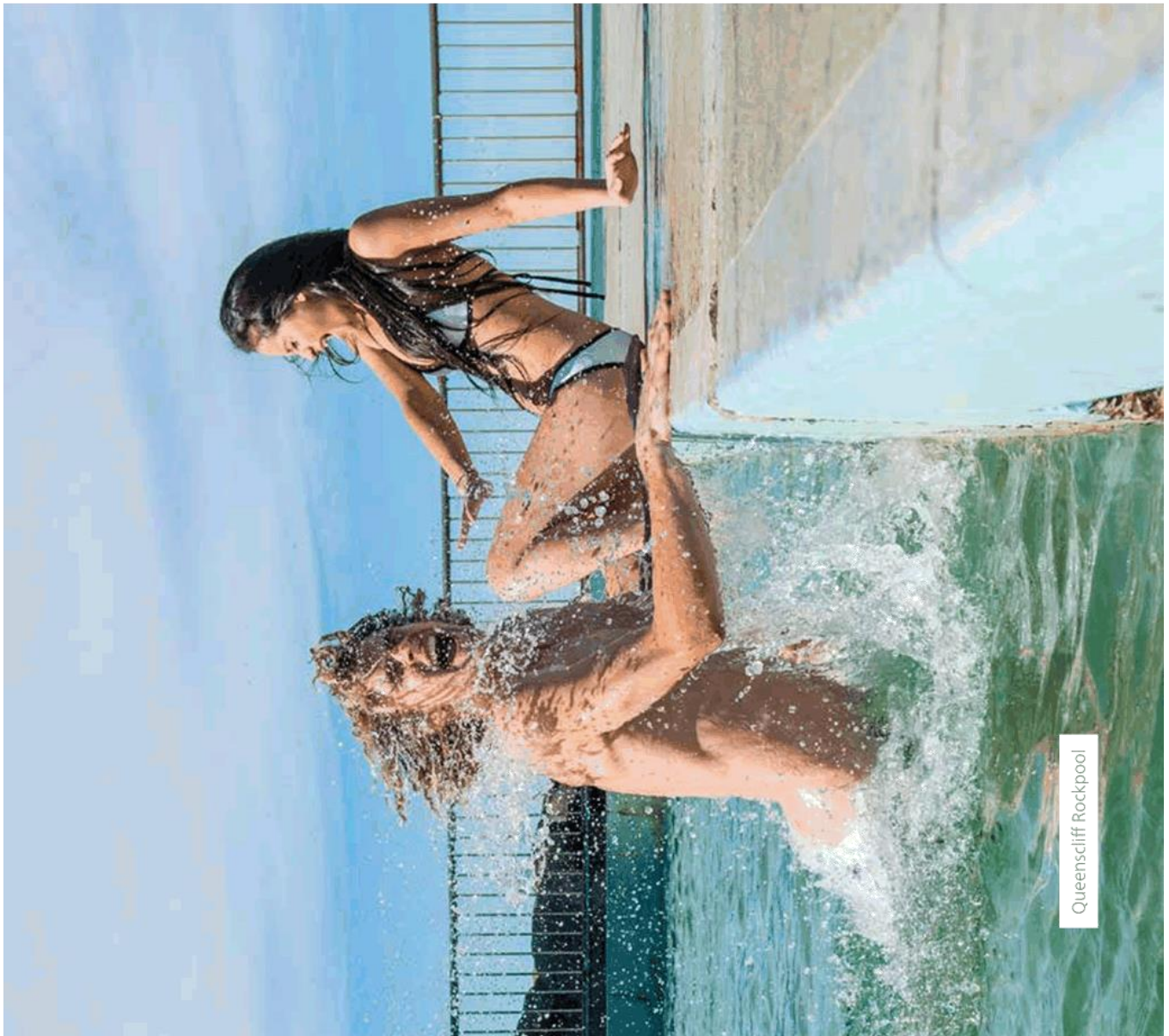
- Predominantly low density detached dwellings, combined with some high density housing in Manly Vale.
- This area contains more than double the recommended developed open space, with 56ha, compared to the benchmark of 24ha. This falls predominantly within District Park, although there are also a number of smaller parks.
- Although these two suburbs only account for 14ha of natural open space, nearby Manly Dam is within walking distance of many residences and provides a range of land and water based recreation activities.
- District Park provides for golf, organised sport, basketball and playground. Nolan and Passmore Reserves contain a multi-use trail that is wheelchair accessible. The Warringah Recreation Centre provides tennis, futsal and squash.
- Although the Miller Reserve skate park falls within the census suburb of Allambie Heights, it is actually within District Park and is easily accessible to skaters.
- There is a community garden at Manly Vale which contains a playground.
- There are seven playgrounds in the area.

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Implement the District Park Plan of Management, including consideration of parkour, fitness equipment, expanding the skatepark, improve pathways and linkages and consider the need for bike parking.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Passmore, Fairway, King St, Ankali and Quarry Reserves.

- 6.4 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: FRESHWATER, QUEENSCLIFF – See Map 6
- Queenscliff consists of high density housing, with Freshwater being a mix of high density and low density detached dwellings.
 - While the Freshwater/Queenscliff area appears to have a low supply of developed open space, with 13ha compared to the benchmark of 32ha, District Park and John Fisher Park at the suburb boundaries to the south and north respectively both contain extensive developed open space and associated activities which are readily available to the residents of Queenscliff and Freshwater.
 - The foreshore and rocky coastline provide popular recreation opportunities such as swimming, surfing and walking, as well as play equipment, picnic tables and BBQ facilities. Rockpools are located at the northern ends of Freshwater and Queenscliff beaches.
 - There is 10ha of natural open space in the area. It is found predominantly along the coastline.
 - The Freshie Community Garden is co-located with a playground, which is one of six in the area.
 - Opportunities for walking the dog off the lead exist nearby at Hinkler Park, Adam St Reserve and Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve.

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Queenscliff Rockpool



In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

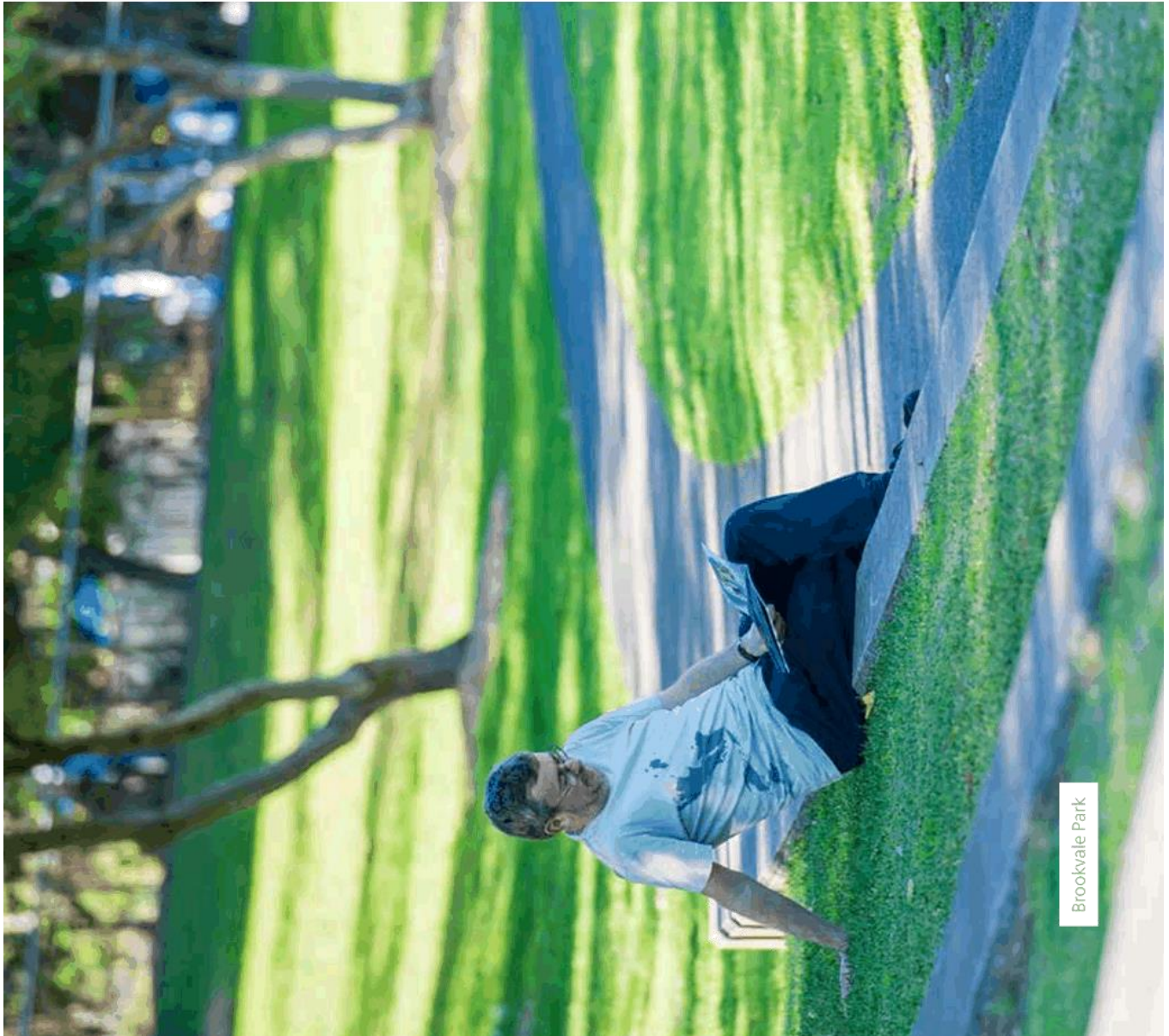
- Rejuvenate Freshwater Beach Reserve South. This may involve removing the existing play equipment and including play friendly landscaping in the new design. The future upgrade of the playground at Freshwater Beach Reserve North should consider the potential for increased use.
- Maintain heritage assets such as Freshwater View Reserve and the Duke Kahanamoku Statue and Memorial Garden.
- Consider adapting the maintenance building at Jacka Park into a amenities building with a toilet and baby change facilities.
- Install fitness equipment in the area, potential locations include Freshwater Beach Reserve and Jacka Park.
- Continue to maintain existing playgrounds.

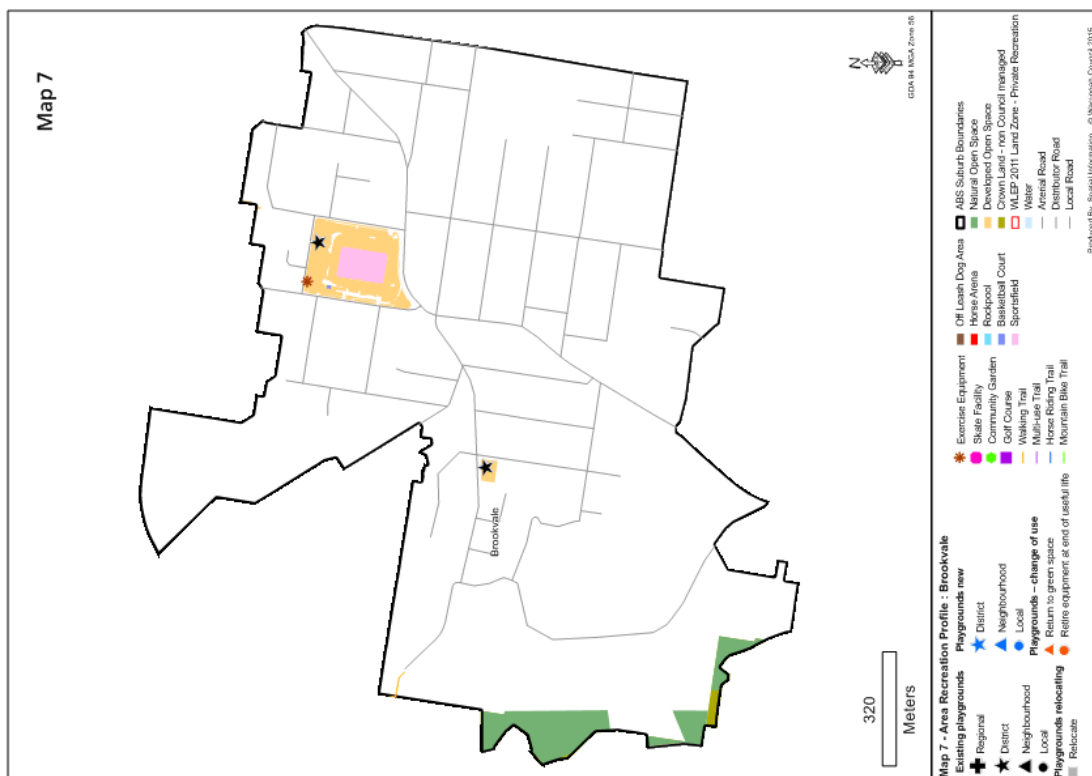
6.5 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: BROOKVALE

– See Map 7

- Brookvale is a mix of low and medium density, with much of the suburb being a retail and industrial area.
- While Brookvale falls slightly short of the benchmark for developed open space, with 5ha, compared to 7ha, nearby John Fisher Park fills this gap.
- The majority of developed open space falls within Brookvale Park, which provides green open space, a District playground, basketball, cricket net and fitness equipment. The sportsfield itself is available for public access and bookings when not being used by the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles for rugby league.
- There is a second District playground at Green St.
- The 5ha of natural open space is a small slice of the much larger Allenby Park, which provides a tranquil setting for a walk through the rainforest and a picnic.

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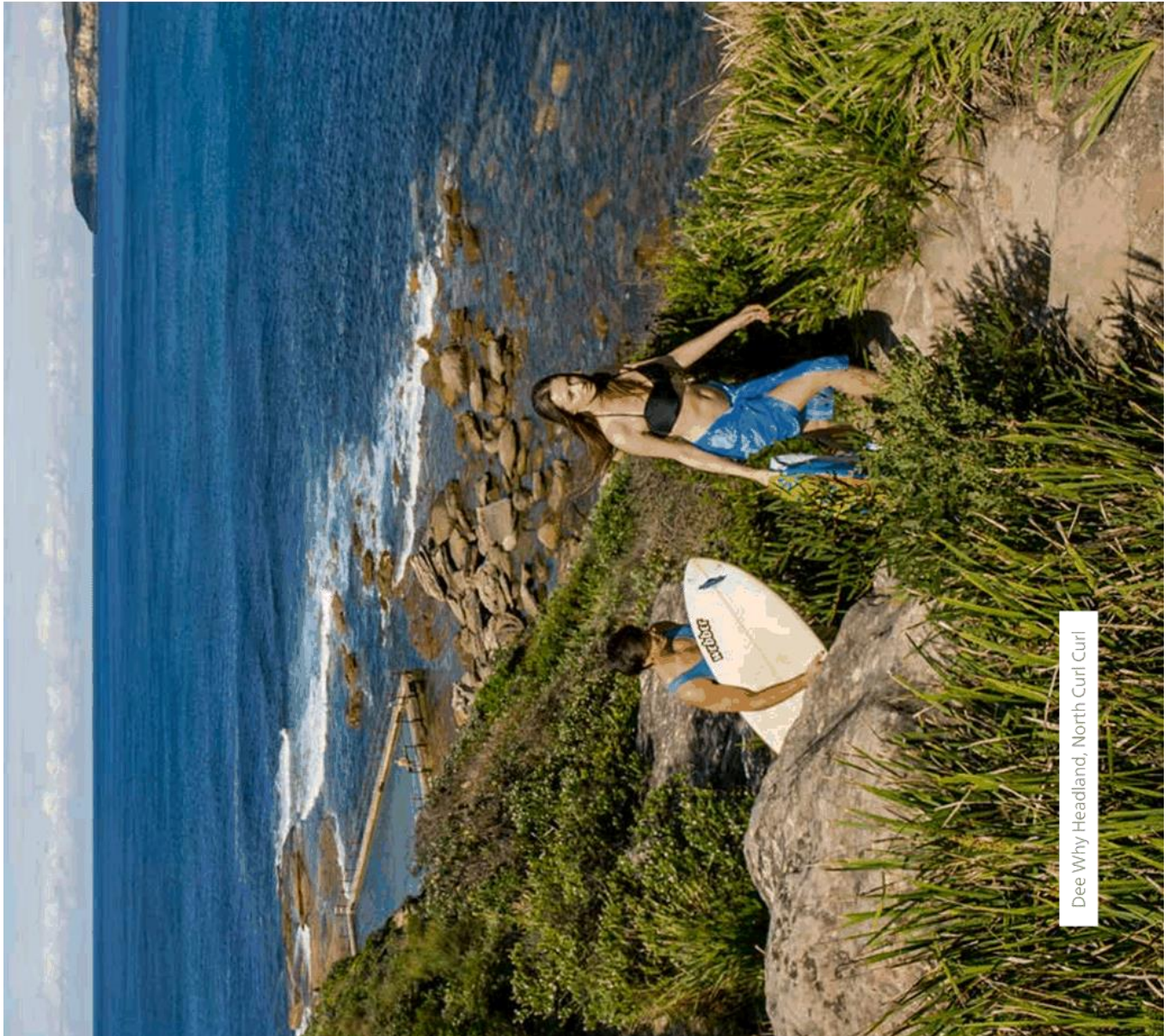


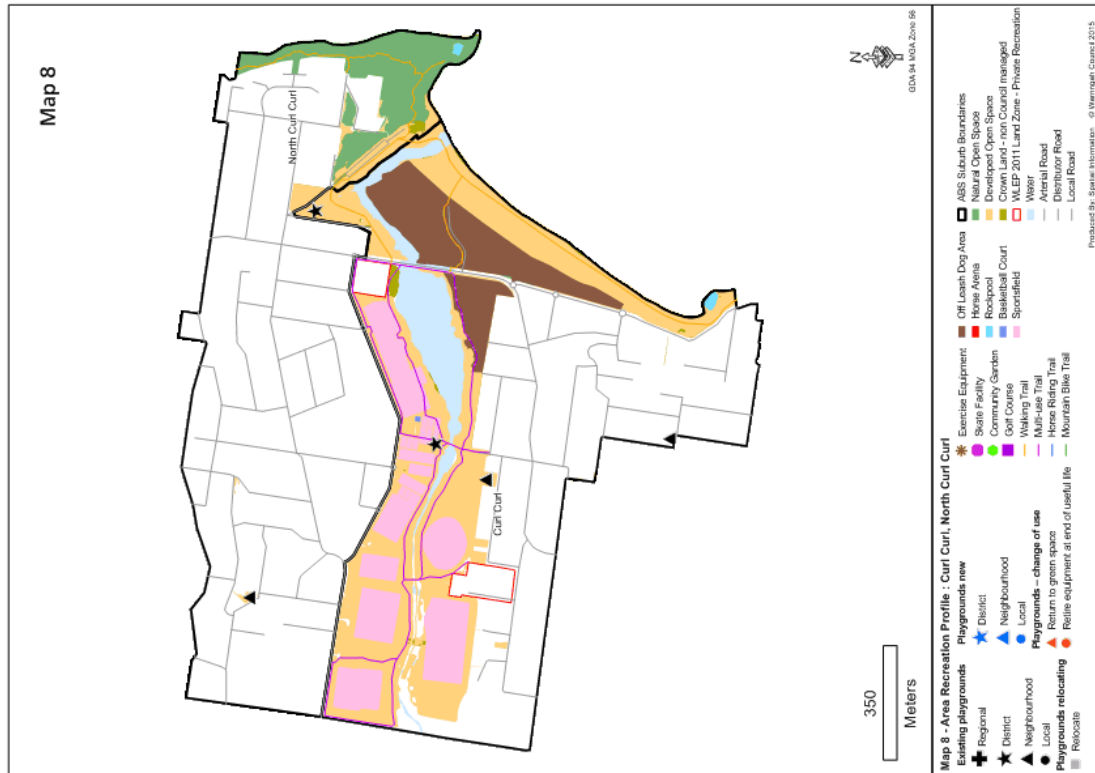
In response to the findings of this strategy,
Council will:

- Upgrade the playground at Brookvale Park.
- Consider installing signage on the approach to, at the entry to and within Allenby Park.
- Determine if there is demand for fitness equipment at Green St Reserve.

- 6.6 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: CURL CURL, NORTH CURL CURL – See Map 8
- Curl Curl and North Curl Curl consists of low density detached dwellings.
 - John Fisher Park (JFP) and the beach foreshore provide significant developed open space, with 106ha compared to a benchmark of 21ha. An additional 16ha of natural open space is present at Dee Why Headland.
 - This area is great for walking, either around Curl Curl lagoon or along the coast. As a shared path, the lagoon walk is popular for bikes, scooters, strollers and dog walking. Much of the trail is wheelchair accessible.
 - Dogs are permitted off the leash at Adams Street Reserve and much of Flora and Richie Roberts Reserve. They must be on the lead at all other locations.
 - JFP is used for many informal recreation activities and general exercise. The netball courts provide a hard surface for many activities such as skateboarding, learn to ride, remote control cars and shooting hoops. A basketball hoop is also present.
 - There are five playgrounds in the area.
 - Rockpools are available at each end of the beach, at North Curl Curl and South Curl Curl.

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In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

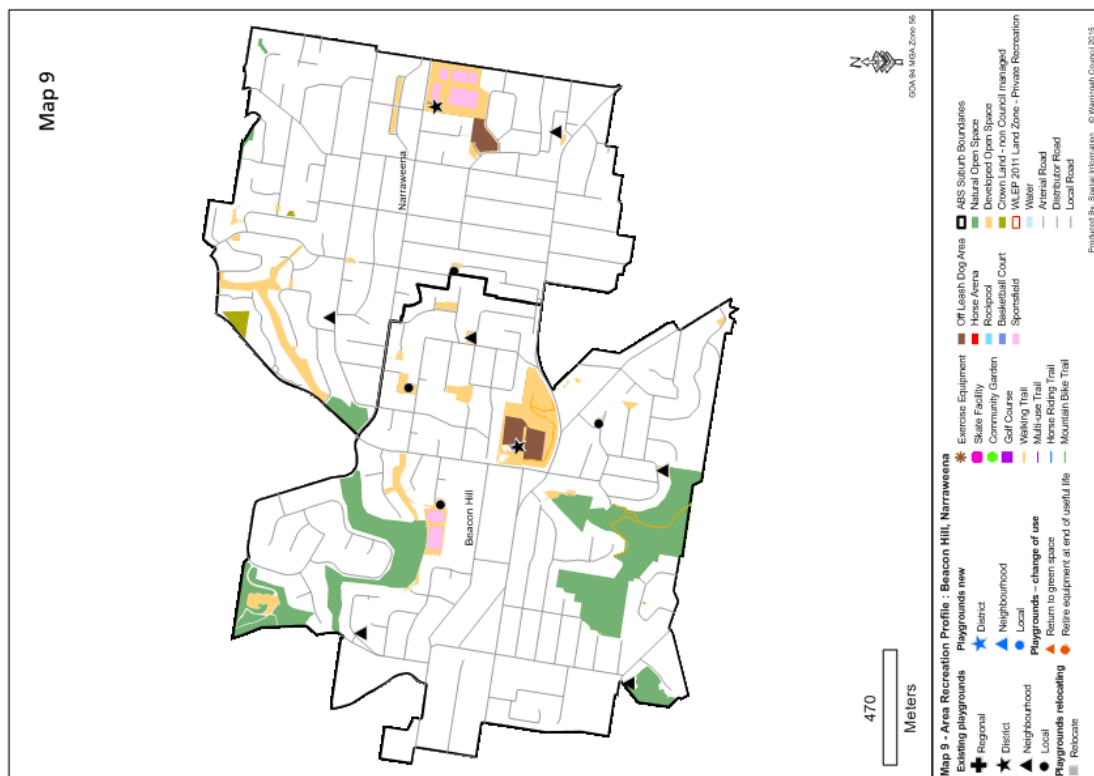
- Continue to work toward improving the catchment of Curl Curl Lagoon and its surrounds.
- Continue to implement the Curl Curl Beach Masterplan, including pathways, seating, showers, picnic areas, shelters and changes to the carpark.
- Investigate opportunities for a skate park and/or skate trail in the vicinity of Dee Why or North Curl Curl.
- Improve access to Tea Tree Lookout at Dee Why Headland, off Molong St, to reinstate wheelchair access.
- When the Surf Rd playground reaches the end of its useful life it should be upgraded from Neighbourhood to District level.
- Consult with the community over the future use of the land surrounding the North Curl Curl Community Centre (former Dee Why RSL Bowling Club).

- 6.7 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: BEACON HILL, NARRAWEENA – See Map 9
- Predominantly low density detached style housing, with small pockets of medium and high density.
 - Although the 22ha of developed open space in Beacon Hill and Narraweena doesn't quite meet the benchmark of 37ha, there are some prominent recreation spaces at Beverly Job Park and Beacon Hill Reserve.
 - Beverly Job Park and Beacon Hill Reserve both contain sportsgrounds, a District playground and off leash dog areas. There are a number of smaller reserves.
 - Governor Phillip Lookout adjoins Beacon Hill Reserve and has panoramic views across Sydney, stretching from the coastline, to the city and west to the Blue Mountains.
 - There is an additional 31ha of natural open space, primarily in the areas of South Creek, Red Hill and Allenby Park. Each of these provides opportunities for walking, picnicking and enjoying nature.
 - There are 12 playgrounds. The District playground at Beverly Job Park was upgraded in 2015.

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Beverly Job Park, Narraweena



In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

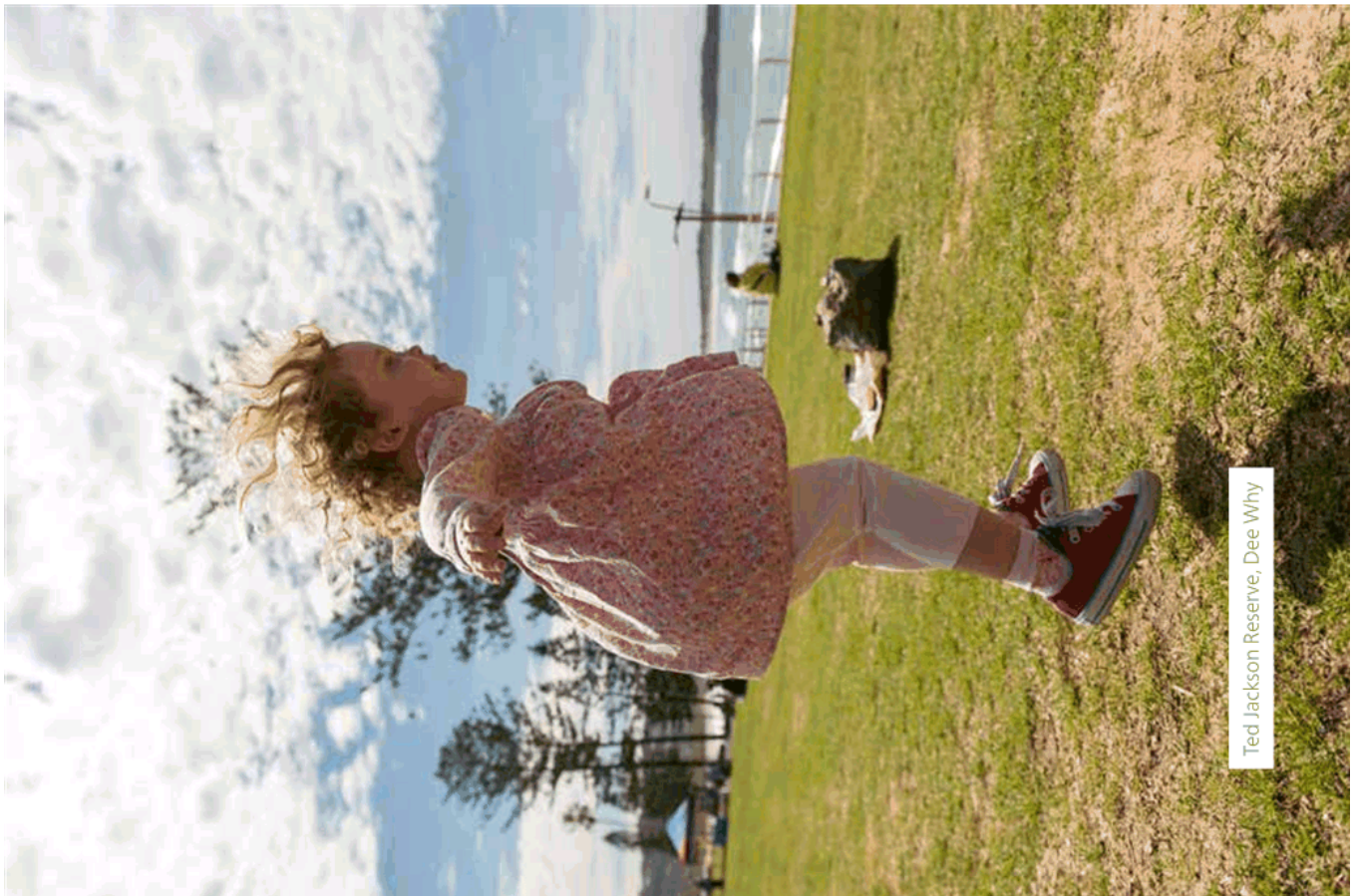
- Develop a Masterplan for Beverly Job Park to provide guidance on future recreational use.
- Consider formalising trail access between Beacon Hill and Narrabeen Lagoon via South Creek.
- Review the use and potential use of Red Hill Reserve and the connectivity of trails in the area.
- Upgrade the playground at Wedgewood Reserve.
- Improve the condition of the Kalliana Reserve playground equipment. When it reaches the end of its useful life consider whether it should be replaced with more playground equipment or something different, for example, nature play landscaping.
- Determine if there is demand for fitness equipment at either Beverly Job Park or Beacon Hill Reserve.

6.8 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: DEE WHY

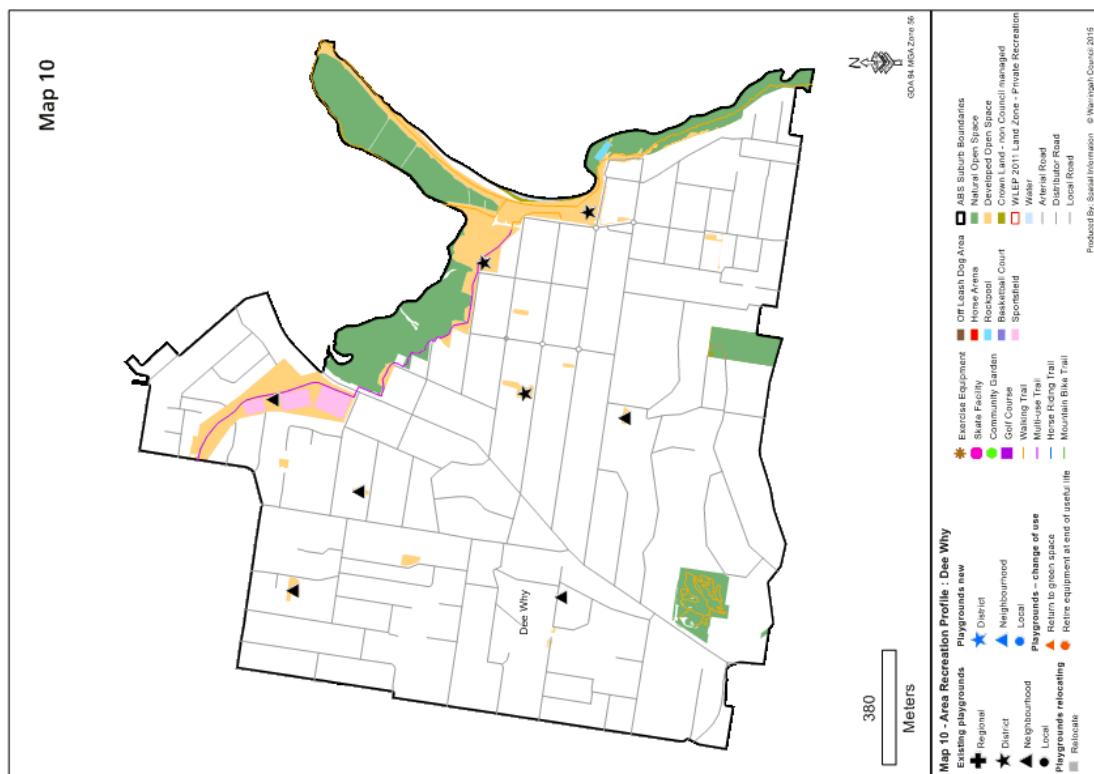
– See Map 10

- Primarily high density in the vicinity of the beach and town centre, with low density detached dwellings elsewhere.
- The beach foreshore, lagoon surrounds and creek corridor at Dee Why Oval provide the majority of Dee Why's 17ha of developed open space, with many smaller parks in the area. Although the benchmark for the current population is 55ha, the suburb also has extensive natural open space(28ha) around the lagoon edge, the beach foredunes, Dee Why Headland, Stony Range Botanic Garden and Wingala Reserve.
- As part of the Dee Why Town Centre Masterplan, a planned major upgrade of Walter Gors Park will improve the quantity, quality and amenity of developed open space for residents living close to the town centre.
- There are many interesting walking tracks and the suburb is well serviced with bike paths. The foreshore is popular for informal recreation activities such as picnics, BBQs or just hanging out with family or friends.
- Once the playground at Walter Gors is upgraded Dee Why will have three District playgrounds and a further five Neighbourhood playgrounds. The playgrounds at Holborn and Stoddart have been upgraded in recent years.
- There is a rockpool at the southern end of Dee Why beach.
- A Police Citizens Youth Club is being constructed in Dee Why and will provide indoor sport and recreation facilities as well as study space and support. Once completed, it will complement the facilities available to youth in the open space network.

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Ted Jackson Reserve, Dee Why

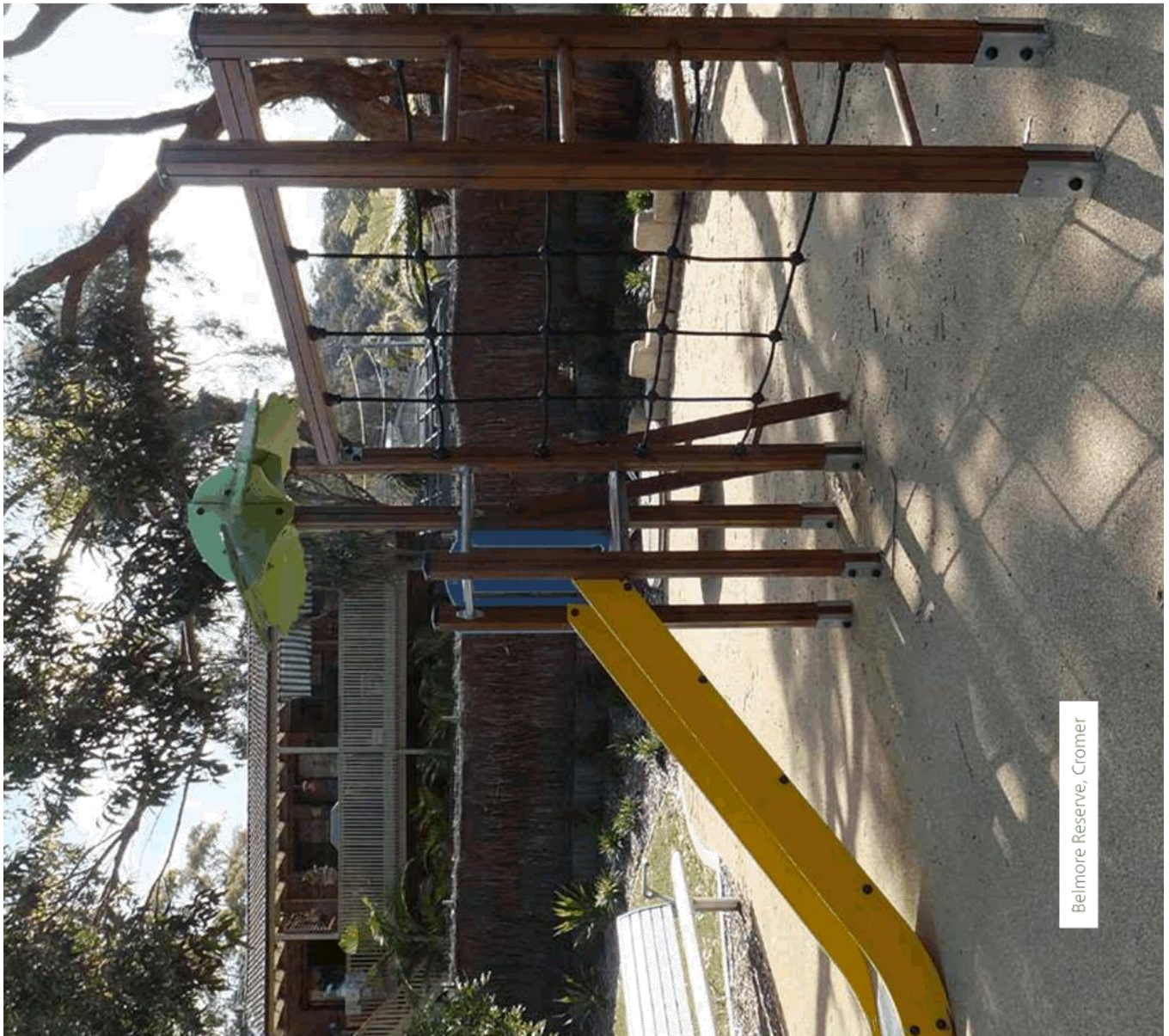


In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Continue to implement the Dee Why town Centre Masterplan, including the Walter Gors upgrade with outdoor kitchen, large seating area, water feature, playground and fitness equipment. Improve the pedestrian and bike connectivity between the town centre and the beach.
- Continue to work toward improving the condition of Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area.
- Continue to implement the Masterplan for Stony Range Botanic Gardens, including the upgrade of the pavilion building and nursery.
- Consider installing fitness equipment at James Meehan Reserve and along the trail between Dee Why Beach and Narrabeen Lagoon.
- Investigate opportunities for a skatepark or skate trail in the vicinity of Dee Why or North Curl Curl.
- Install a shade structure over part of the seating area at the Dee Why toddler rockpool.
- Research the feasibility of providing power to James Meehan Reserve to accommodate events.
- Consider installing lighting James Meehan Reserve.
- Install fitness equipment in James Meehan Reserve, considering suitability for varying ages and abilities.

- 6.9 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: CROMER
– See Map 11
- Dominated by low density detached dwellings, with small pockets of medium and high density housing.
 - The open space benchmark of 21ha for Cromer is well exceeded at 106ha. While this includes the sportsfields at St Matthews Farm and Cromer Park with its synthetic pitch, it also includes Cromer Golf Club.
 - An approved Masterplan for St Matthews Farm will see the future integration of a skatepark, a full sized multi-use hard court, a picnic/BBQ area, improved trail linkages and upgraded facilities.
 - There is extensive natural open space (116ha) along Dee Why Creek and South Creek, as well as natural area owned by the Crown, NSW Department of Education and Communities and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
 - There are ample opportunities for walking and cycling, with a formal shared path linking Dee Why beachfront to Narrabeen Lagoon.
 - Dogs are permitted off the leash at Truman Reserve.
 - There are seven playgrounds. The playgrounds at Tyagarah and Belmore Reserves have been upgraded recently.

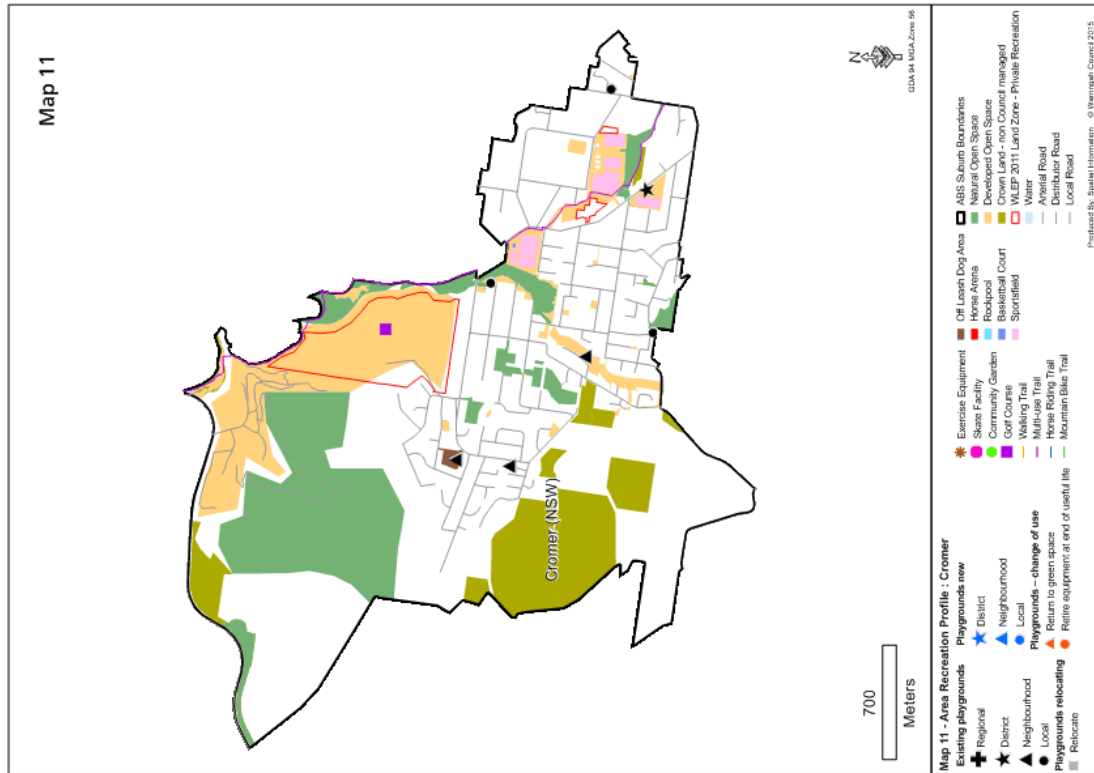
80



Belmore Reserve, Cromer

In response to the findings of this strategy Council will:

- Implement the St Matthews Farm Masterplan upgrades, including the integration of a skatepark, cricket nets, a multipurpose hard court, seating, carpark extension, new and improved pathways, a link to Wabash Reserve and the potential for parkour.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Michele and Lillihina Reserves.
- Consider installing fitness equipment along the trail that links Dee Why beach to Narrabeen Lagoon



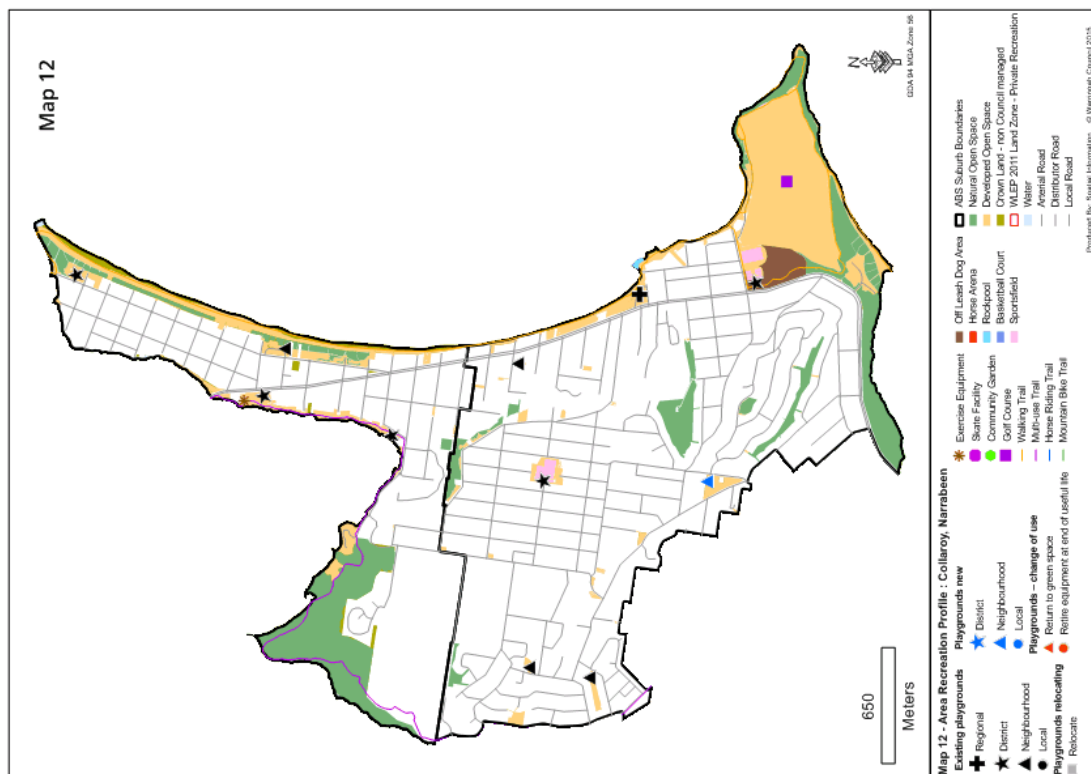
**6.10 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: NARRABEEN,
COLLARROY, COLLARROY PLATEAU,
WHEELER HEIGHTS – See Map 12**

- The foreshore of Collaroy and Narrabeen are dominated by medium and high density housing. Collaroy Plateau and Wheeler Heights consist of low density detached dwellings.
- The developed and natural open space is predominantly along the foreshore areas of the coast, including Long Reef headland, as well as Narrabeen Lagoon. The developed open space equates to 88ha, compared to a benchmark of 61ha, with a further 72ha of natural open space. There are a number of smaller parks around the area.
- Both Narrabeen Lagoon and the coastline provide extensive opportunities for walking, while the 8.4km lagoon trail also provides for cyclists, scooters, strollers and wheelchairs.
- The lagoon provides for water based activities such as sailing, kayaking, fishing and stand up paddle boarding. There is fitness equipment and a basketball hoop at Berry Reserve.
- Along with the new Regional all-abilities playground at Collaroy beach, there are a further nine playgrounds.
- Dogs are permitted off the leash within the designated area of Griffith Park, but must be on the leash at all other times. Dogs are not permitted on the beach or rock platform.
- There is a rockpool at Collaroy beach.

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Kayaking on Narrabeen Lagoon

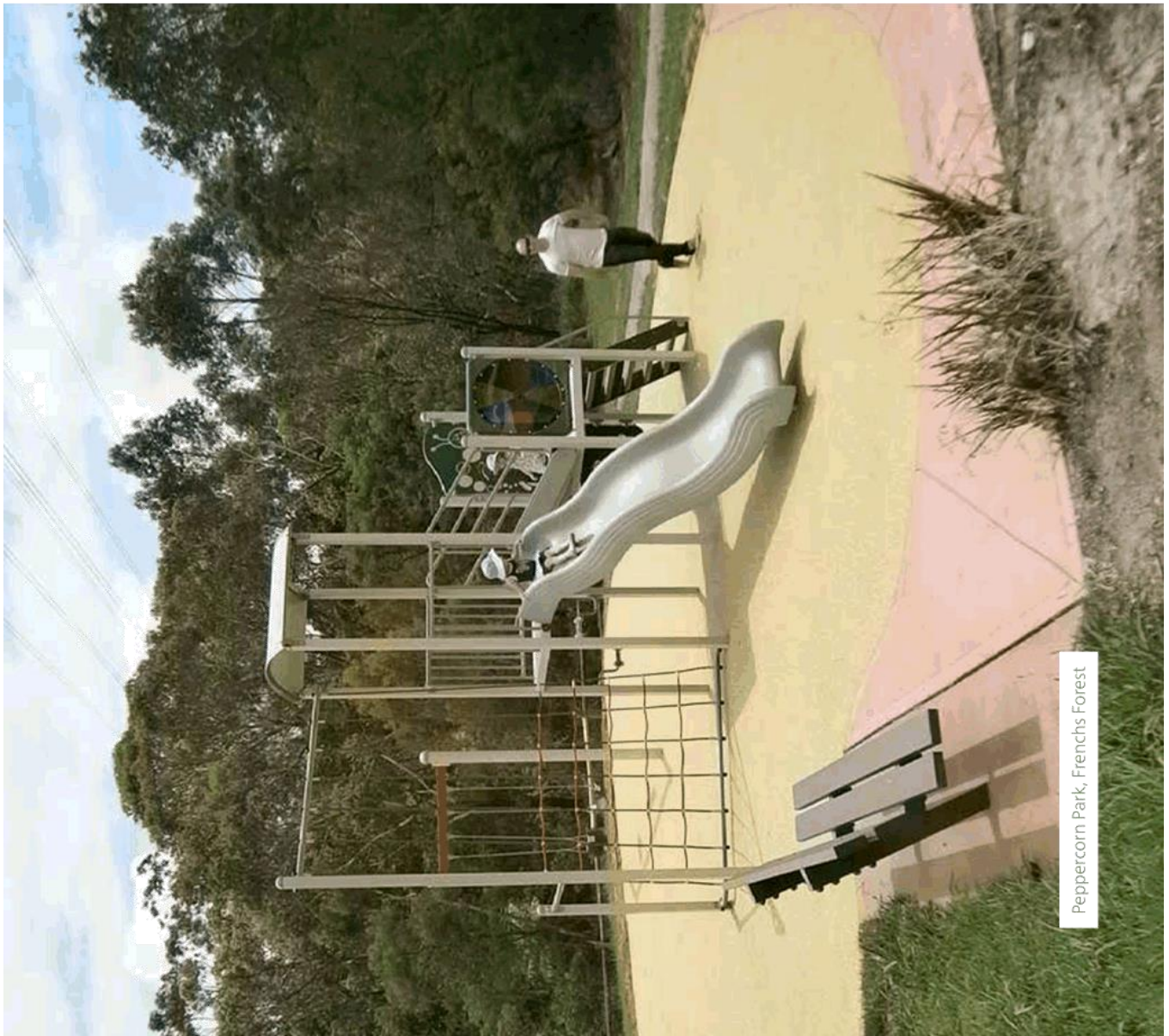


In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

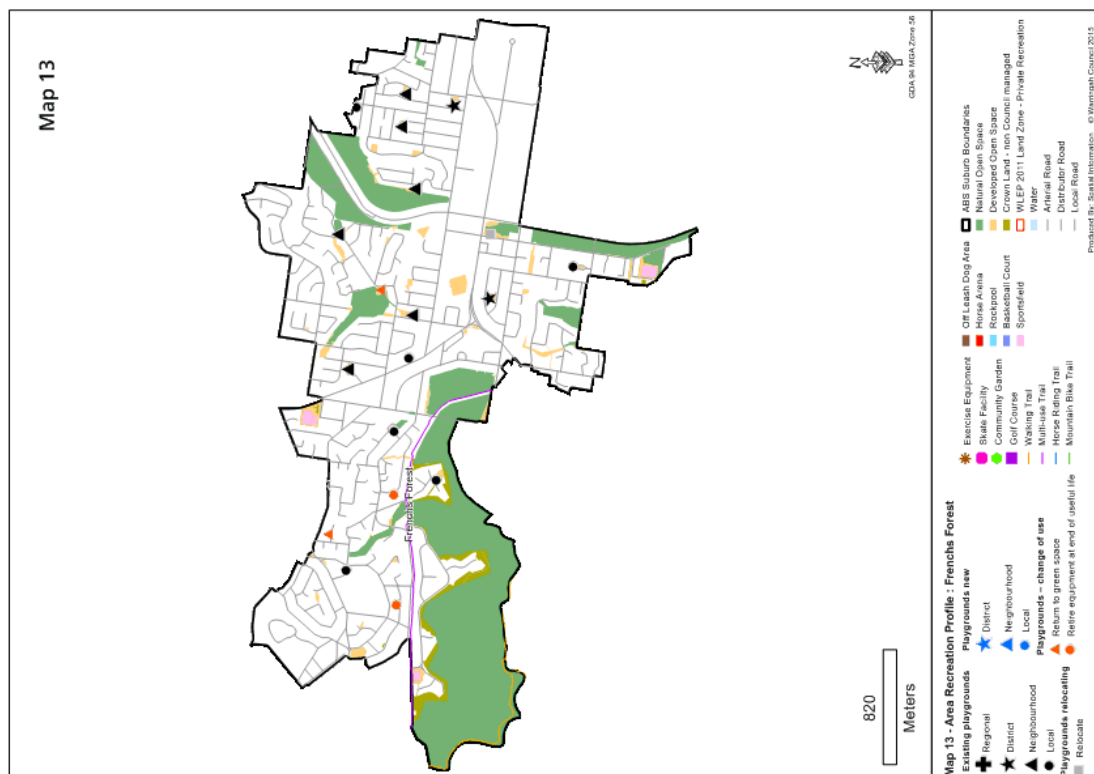
- Continue to implement the Collaroy All Abilities Accessibility Precinct, including works to amenities building, lighting, promenade, carpark and landscaping.
- Continue to implement the Birdwood Park Masterplan, including upgrade to the carpark on the lagoon edge and surrounds. Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design.
- Install a new playground at Parks Rd Reserve, Collaroy Plateau, should there be demand.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Grasmere Reserve and Birdwood Park.
- Consider installing fitness equipment along the beachfront e.g. Narrabeen or Collaroy beachfront or Long Reef/Griffith Park.
- Upgrade the Collaroy rockpool.
- Continue with improvements to Berry Reserve and Jamieson Park, including remediation of pathways, line marking and signage to address user safety. Improvements to landscaping and amenity.
- Upgrades to trail at Griffith Park and Long Reef Headland.
- Install a drink station at Wheeler Park.
- Construct an accessible beach shower at Jamieson Park.

- 6.11 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: FRENCHS FOREST
– See Map 13
- Frenchs Forest consists of low density detached dwellings, however, there may be increased density in the future in the vicinity of the new Northern Beaches Hospital.
 - Although Frenchs Forest only has 19ha of developed open space, compared to the benchmark of 36ha, there are additional open space opportunities at the suburb boundaries, such as Lionel Watts Reserve at Belrose and Aquatic Reserve at Allambie Heights.
 - There is a further 136ha of natural open space in the many bushland reserves as well as Garigal National Park, providing opportunities for walking, mountain biking, bird watching and enjoying the outdoors.
 - The suburb of Frenchs Forest is well-supplied with 19 playgrounds. With 1 playground per 121 children, this ratio is one of the lowest in Warringah (see Table 11 in Section 5.3.4).
 - The playgrounds at Peppercorn, Coster, Jimada and Greendale 1 Reserves have been upgraded recently.
 - This area is likely to experience growth due to future increased housing density in the vicinity of the new Northern Beaches Hospital.

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Peppercorn Park, Frenchs Forest



In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

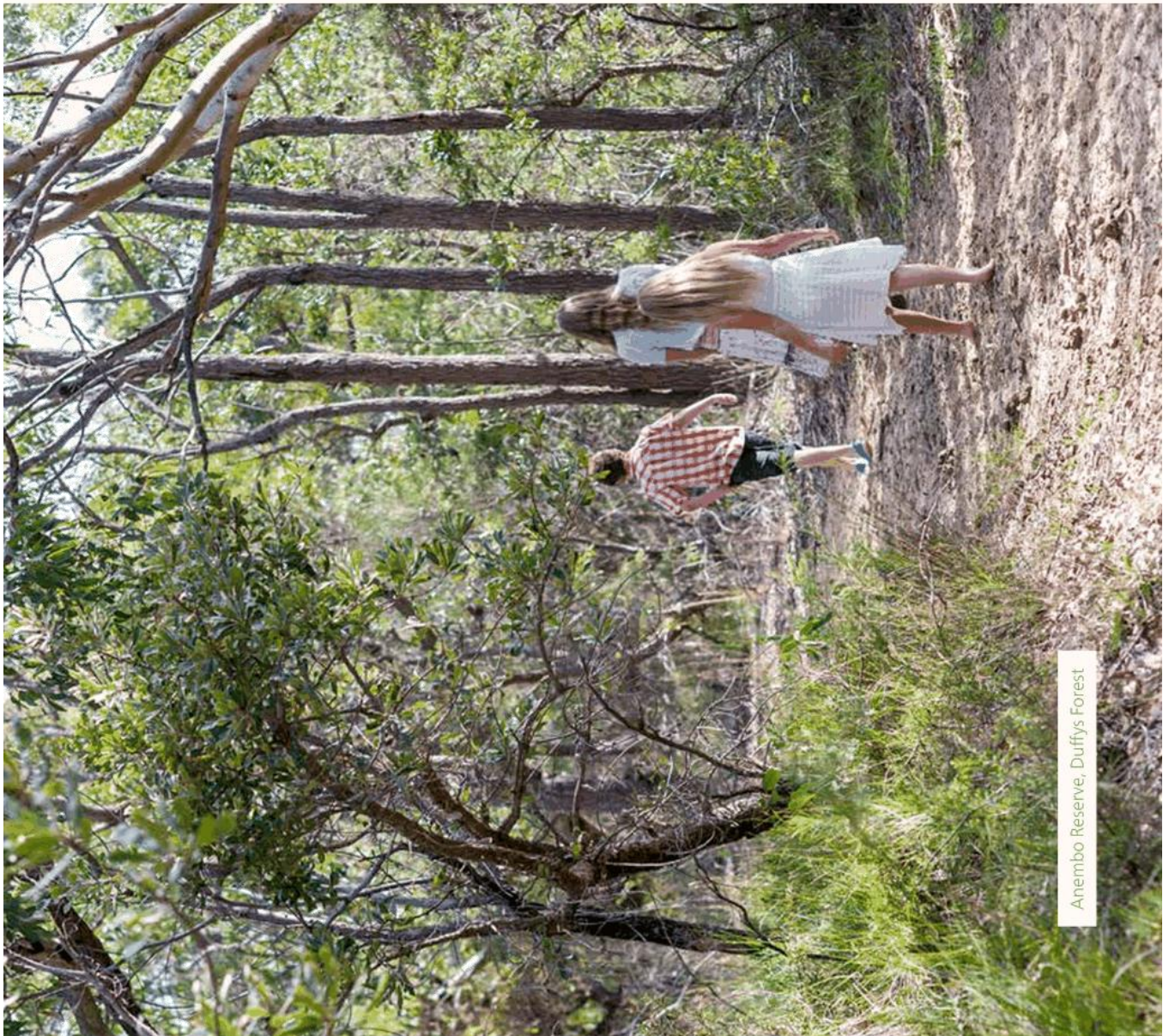
- Approach Sydney Water to formalise recreational access to the Pipeline trail.
- Ensure there are quality open spaces available to cater for an increase in population in the vicinity of the new Northern Beaches Hospital.
- The playgrounds at Rabbett, Patanga, Akora, Nandi, Jimada, Nianbilla and Brentwood Reserves are to be improved or upgraded.
- The playground at Brick Pit Reserve is to be impacted by the RMS road widening project. The Akora Reserve playground will be significantly upgraded to cater for increased usage.
- The ageing playground equipment at Kalgal and Jindabyne Reserves are to be removed and the parks will remain as greenspace. Alternate playgrounds are nearby.
- The playgrounds at Wellman and Merrilee Reserves are to be retired when they reach the end of their useful life.
- The playground at Aranda Reserve requires some work to improve its condition. When it reaches the end of its useful life the local residents should be consulted over potential alternate locations.
- Determine if there is demand for fitness equipment at parks such as Patanga and Akora Reserves.

- 6.12

AREA RECREATION PROFILE: TERREY HILLS, DUFFY'S FOREST, COTTAGE POINT - See Map 14

 - Low density detached dwellings on a mix of house blocks and rural acreages.
 - This area is well-serviced with developed open space, with 91ha, compared to the benchmark of 10ha, although, some of this is golf course (Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club and Terrey Hills Par 3). Terrey Hills Oval and J.J. Melbourne Hills are the largest developed open spaces in this area aside from the golf courses. There are a number of smaller parks.
 - Terrey Hills Oval has a full-sized basketball court, netball court, tennis courts and cricket nets and has sportfields that provide for rugby union, cricket and soccer.
 - J.J. Melbourne Hills provides a horse arena, BMX track, cycling and field archery. Horse arenas are at Kinka and Anembo Reserves. The Bridle Trail through Duffys Forest and Terrey Hills provides important connectivity.
 - The 979ha of natural open space, plus an additional 3,988ha within the national park makes for a wide range of recreational opportunities. Horse riding, bushwalking and mountain biking are very popular in this area.
 - Dogs are permitted off the leash at Terrey Hills Oval at certain times of the day.
 - Frank Beckman Reserve provides a District level playground, which is one of seven in the area. The Kurara Reserve playground was upgraded in late 2014.

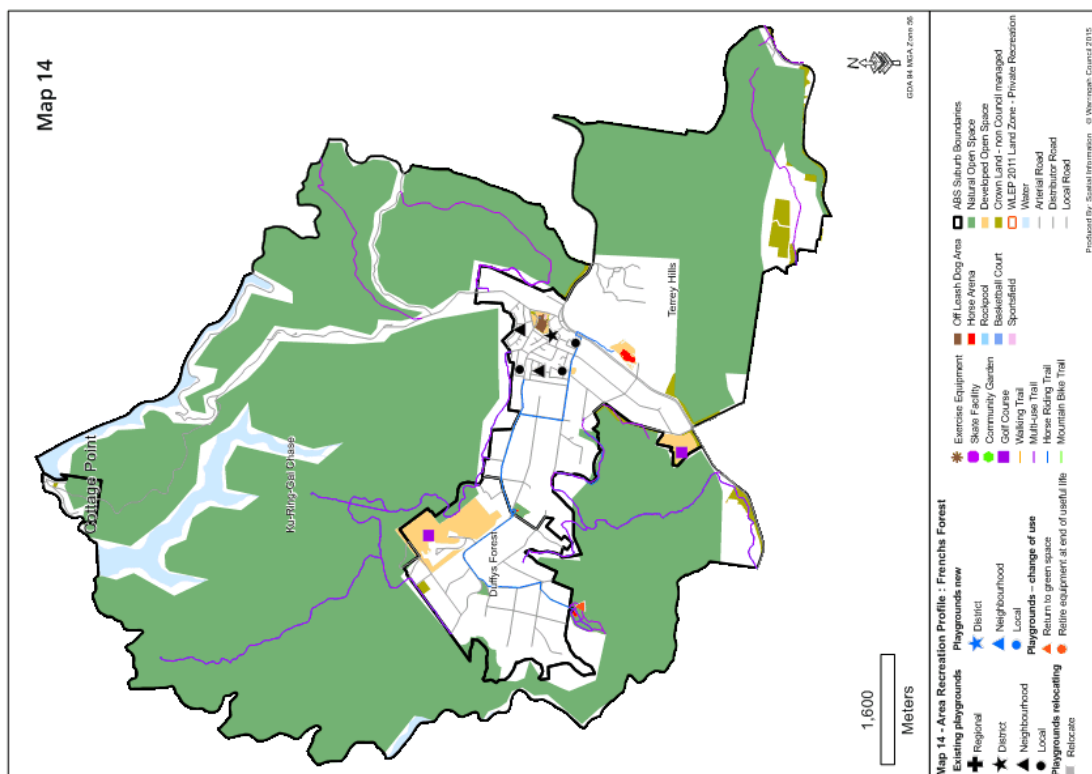
86



Anembo Reserve, Duffys Forest

In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Consider what improvements could be made to the Bridle Trail.
- Consider installing trail etiquette signage in line with the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy.
- Upgrade the corners of the BMX track at J.J. Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Frank Beckman, Terrigal, Burriga and Duncan Reserves.
- Remove the ageing swing at Anembo Reserve and consider installing some landscaping features to encourage nature play.
- Review trail linkages across Council and national park boundaries.

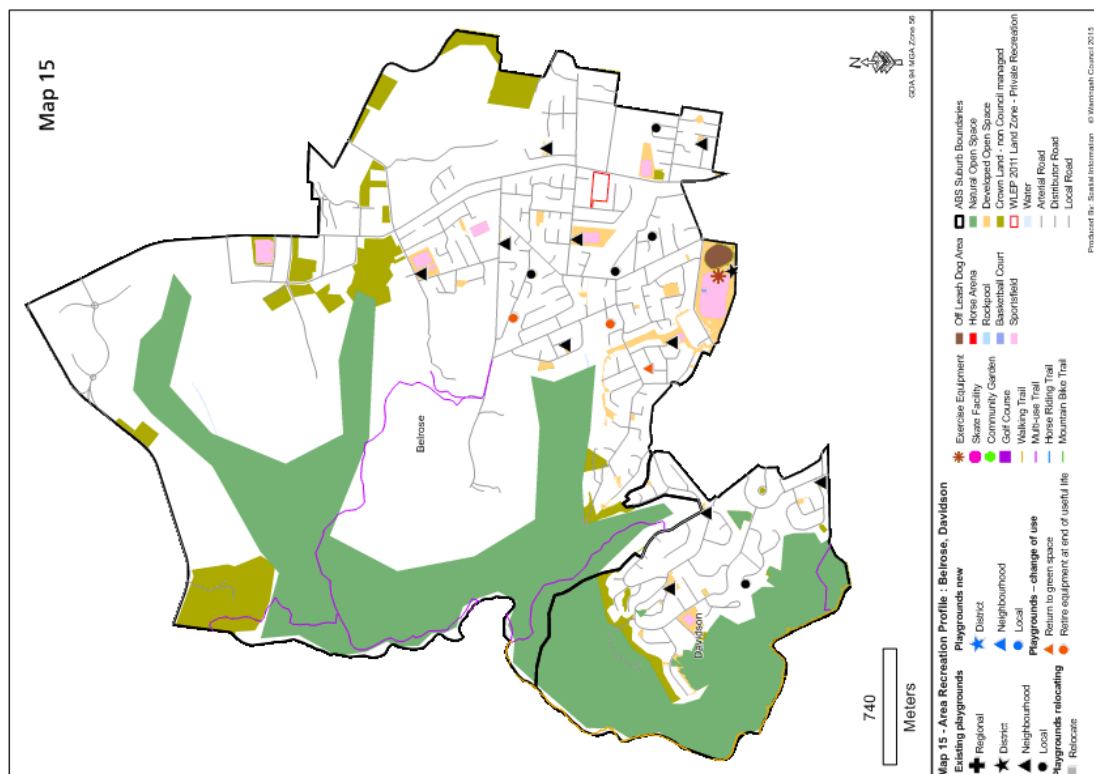


- 6.13 AREA RECREATION PROFILE:
BELROSE, DAVIDSON – See Map 15
- Largely low density detached dwellings, with some medium density.
 - The Belrose and Davidson suburbs have a number of developed open spaces of varying sizes equating to 35ha, compared to a benchmark of 31ha.
 - The largest park is Lionel Watts Reserve and Frenchs Forest Showground, which provide sportsfields, a District playground, enclosed off leash dog area, fitness equipment, crickets nets, full sized netball and basketball courts and, from time to time, horse riding.
 - Wyatt Reserve has tennis courts, a playground and sportsfield.
 - There are a number of smaller parks and reserves.
 - There are 19 playgrounds in this area. With 1 playground per 97 children, this ratio is one of the lowest in Warringah (see Table 11 in Section 5.3.4).
 - The playgrounds at Undula and Wayne Schimanski Reserves were upgraded in recent years.
 - There is extensive natural open space (367ha), predominantly within Garigal National Park. This bushland provides opportunities for walking, mountain biking and horse riding.

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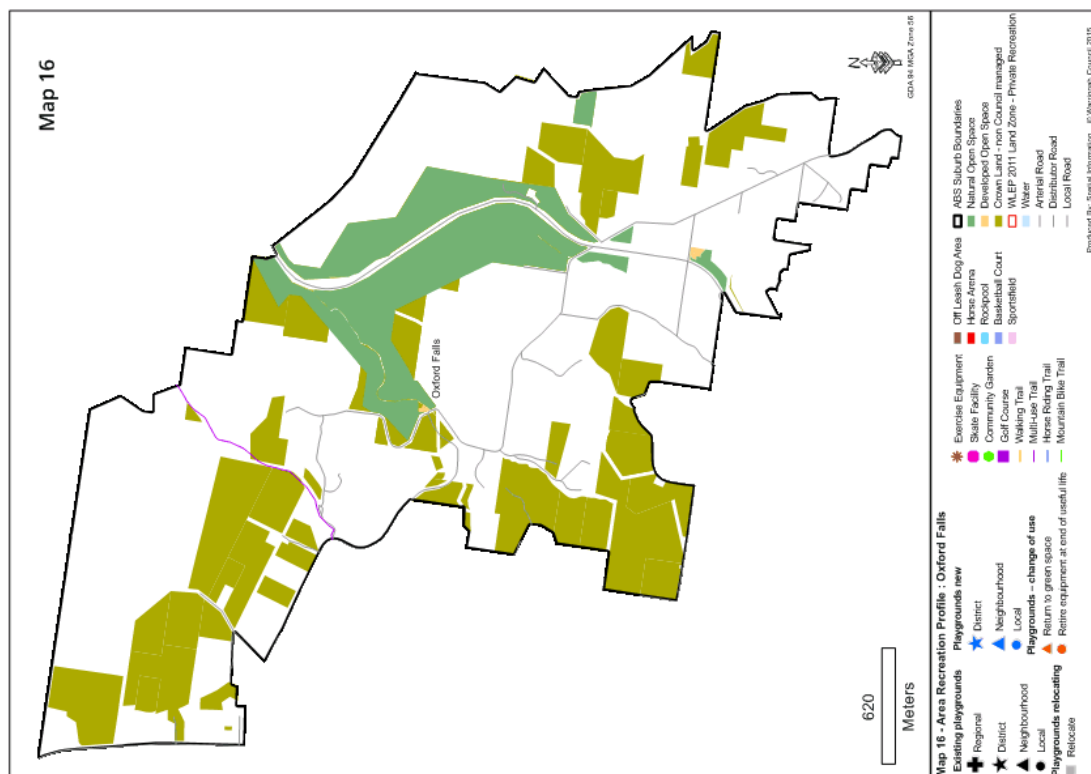
Undula Reserve, Belrose



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In response to the findings of this strategy, Council will:

- Prepare a Masterplan for improvements to Lionel Watts Reserve.
- Consider the integration of a skatepark, learn to ride area and connecting pathways.
- Upgrade the playgrounds at Wentworth, Kapunda, Karina, Opala and Allworth Reserves.
- Remove the ageing playground equipment from Birrong Reserve. There is an alternate playground nearby.
- Due to the sale of Belrose Library, the playground will be closed once the new library has been constructed at the Glen St Theatre site.
- The playgrounds at Maple and Windrush Reserves are in fair condition at present, however when they reach the end of their useful life they will not be replaced (retired) and will remain as greenspace.
- Research the availability of horse trails in Belrose and connectivity between Council and national park trails.



6.14 AREA RECREATION PROFILE: OXFORD FALLS – See Map 16

- Low density detached dwellings, primarily acreages.
- Given the small population of Oxford Falls (180 people at the 2011 census), and the primarily bushland environment, the 2ha of developed open space exceeds the 1ha benchmark.
- The 88ha of natural open space is under-stated given the large tracts of bushland that are excluded from this figure that fall under the ownership of the Crown, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council or other private land holders.
- Oxford Falls is popular for mountain biking, although there are no formal trails. Bike dirt jumping and trail bike (motorised) riding occurs at some locations, however, this is not authorised and has been known to damage sensitive vegetation communities. There is limited open space in Oxford Falls under the management of council, making planning and managing such activities difficult.
- There are no public playgrounds in Oxford Falls.

In response to the findings of this strategy Council will:

- Work with land owners when required with respect to recreational access to land.

7 Summary of strategic directions

Spaces for all

Goal: To have open spaces that cater for a diverse range of recreational interests that support the physical, social and mental health and well-being of park users.

Recreation assets and facilities

1	Council will continue to activate open spaces where there may be capacity for increased or multi usage, for example James Meehan Reserve.
2	Council will provide, and embellish where appropriate, quiet spaces available for contemplation and relaxation. These spaces may be linked to other well-activated spaces, or be separate.
3	Warringah owns or manages approximately 500 reserves, of which over 300 are used for recreational purposes. There is a need to understand the primary and secondary purposes of each of these, for example, recreation, drainage, easements, road reserve or operational purposes (e.g. carparks). An audit is recommended.
4	Council will identify opportunities for new trails and improved accessibility and connectivity.
5	Council will provide a bike dirt jump track in Warringah, potential locations are Aquatic and Miller Reserves.
6	Warringah will provide learn to ride facilities.
7	Council will consider the needs of different communities of interest in Warringah when designing open spaces such as picnic areas and walking trails in terms of the benefit of co-locating them with toilets and parking and the availability or potential for shade, seating and water.
8	Council will provide facilities that cater for large groups, families and gatherings to take at Warringah's open spaces, by providing larger picnic tables and seating for bigger groups.
9	Council will look into additional locations for youth recreation facilities at Warringah's open spaces, such as basketball courts, parkour, skateparks and fitness equipment.
10	Council will integrate seating, tables or appropriate landscaping into open spaces designed to facilitate youth socialisation and study opportunities. This may include the integration of WiFi where appropriate.

11	Council will continue to maintain and grow existing skate facilities and investigate opportunities for new skate facilities, including, but not limited to, the Dee Why and North Curl Curl areas.
12	Council will integrate parkour friendly design into open space landscaping, park furniture, public art or infrastructure or co-locate it with another facility such as fitness equipment. Suitable locations could be, but not limited to, St Matthews Farm and District Park.
13	Council will seek opportunities to integrate additional basketball and netball hoops into open spaces.
14	Council will approach the Department of Education and Communities and other bodies to discuss the potential for public access to recreational facilities such as basketball courts and playground equipment outside of school hours.
15	Council will install fitness equipment for all ages at additional locations, for example, but not limited to, foreshore areas such as James Meehan Reserve.
16	Council will encourage and/or facilitate shared and informal use of purpose built sporting facilities where possible.
17	Council will integrate sports infrastructure into open spaces for informal use where there is demand, for example, practice nets, birdie cages, handball courts, table tennis and hitting walls.
18	Council will review the use of council reserves (excluding sportsfields) by clubs and commercial providers and design and implement an equitable management framework.
19	Council supports the development of community gardens on council land in line with the Community Gardens Policy.
20	Council will review the provision, distribution and access to toilets at Warringah's open spaces and in other areas that may be accessible to open space users.
21	Council will collect data on usage of open spaces to assist in the planning, monitoring and management of recreation assets.
22	Council will make information about Warringah's open spaces and recreation facilities available to the public via a range of mediums, including on the website through the development of a user-friendly online interactive tool.

Safe and accessible spaces

Goal: To have safe and accessible open spaces that support inclusion and foster a sense of belonging.

23	Council will use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Safer by Design strategies to minimise risk and safety concerns for open space users.
24	Council will provide safer access to Warringah's open spaces, for example, by researching the feasibility of providing lighting at key locations and implementing improvements where warranted.
25	Warringah owns or manages approximately 500 reserves, of which over 300 are used for recreational purposes. There is a need to understand the primary and secondary purposes of each of these, for example, recreation, drainage, easements, road reserve or operational purposes (e.g. carparks). An audit is recommended.

Spaces for animal friends

Goal: To be able to spend quality time with our animal friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Dogs

26	Council will continue to encourage responsible dog ownership in Warringah through education and enforce it in line with the Companion Animals Act (NSW) 1998.
27	Council will reassess the distribution and diversity of off-leash dog areas, taking into consideration the appropriateness of allowing off-leash dogs on sportsfields and the opportunity for dogs to be allowed off the leash at some of the smaller, underutilised parks in Warringah.

Horses

28	Council will continue to implement the priorities for signage, trails works and improved connectivity in line with the Horse Research Paper (2009) and the Regional Multiple-Use Trails Strategy (2007).
29	Council will liaise with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and neighbouring councils to coordinate consistent signage and to identify opportunities for improving trail access and connectivity for horse riding across shared borders.

Environmental spaces

Goal: To have open spaces that complement and enhance the natural environment.

30	Open spaces will be designed and maintained in a manner that is sympathetic to its context, in particular with reference to natural settings.
31	Council will consider opportunities for integrating environmental messages into new or improved interpretative signage in our open spaces and via online material.
32	Protect the natural and cultural values of council managed lands while ensuring that visitor access and use is sustainable (Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012, p.41).
33	Council will plant trees and shrubs in open spaces for shade, aesthetics and environmental purposes.
34	Council will continue to facilitate and support volunteer and capacity building initiatives that benefit open spaces.

Artistic, cultural and heritage spaces

Goal: To integrate art, culture and heritage into our open spaces through creative and innovative ways.

35	Council will continue to support and improve facilities for activities and events to take place within Warringah's open spaces.
36	Council will continue to acknowledge Warringah's history, culture and heritage through public art installations.
37	Council will integrate Aboriginal themes into Warringah's open spaces. This may include public art, landscaping, interpretation and educational play spaces.

Playgrounds

Goal: To provide a sustainable and equitable distribution of quality play experiences.

38	Playground upgrades will focus on providing an equitable distribution of high quality play experiences that benefit a broad range of people, rather than smaller playgrounds that may only service a small catchment.
39	Playground distribution and categories to consider the likelihood of future growth, either in residential density or increased visitation.
40	Playground designs are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be sympathetic to the surrounding environment • incorporate creative and innovative designs that inspire the imagination of children • facilitate an appropriate level of risk and challenge to enable children to test their limitations and learn new skills
41	The co-location of assets can encourage the sharing of space and activity across generations, including families, carers and grandparents.
42	Where playgrounds are removed consider alternate uses such as quiet spaces, BBQs, seating or pathways.

8 Summary

<p>Warringah Council is fortunate to have an amazing bush and beach environment and a wide range of recreation assets available to the community.</p> <p>Consultation and research revealed ideas for a host of new and improved open spaces and recreation assets. Gaps in demand were identified for certain youth facilities such as skateparks, parkour and places to just hang out. Fitness equipment has been found to be a worthwhile asset across all age groups, from youth right up to older people who can benefit from training in strength and balance.</p> <p>Council is keen to develop spaces that encourage interaction across generations by co-locating some recreation facilities and by developing areas that are welcoming to everyone. Open spaces have the ability to bring people together and promote acceptance, tolerance, and reduce social isolation.</p>	<p>Areas that facilitate large gatherings for study or families can be developed through the integration of large picnic tables and shelters. Similarly, quiet spaces for reflection and relaxation are also important.</p> <p>Council would like to be more adventurous in the design of play spaces, by taking on the ideas of children who were involved in consultation activities for the development of the strategy – rainbows, dragons, tree houses and water play all featured prominently and further consultation with children would be beneficial on a project by project basis.</p> <p>Conversely, some future playgrounds and landscaping in general would benefit from drawing on the surrounding environment for inspiration. Safety, accessibility and inclusion are also important design factors.</p>	<p>Overall, this strategy has taken a holistic view of Warringah's open spaces and provides a suite of strategic directions and commitments that are largely based on feedback from the community.</p> <p>The implementation of the strategy will occur over time. Maintenance of existing assets will continue and funding has already been secured for some new projects. Further research is required in some areas, with the strategy providing guidance on future priorities. Overall the strategy provides direction to ensure that Warringah's open spaces provide opportunities for all community members to enjoy the outdoors.</p>
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9 References

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10 Appendices

APPENDIX A: PLAYGROUNDS

Table 16 - Full list of Warringah's 135 public access playgrounds, including rationale behind changes in categories and removals.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Allambie Heights	B	Arnhem	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	New playground installed in 2014.
Allambie Heights	B	Canea	Neighbourhood	Local	2	300m from proposed new playground at Allambie Heights Oval and 300m from the recently upgraded playground at FJ Machon Reserve. Maintain as Local playground until new playground at Allambie Heights Oval is installed then consider retiring at end of useful life.
Allambie Heights	B	Cootamundra	Neighbourhood	Local	1	Upgraded in 2015.
Allambie Heights	B	F.J. Machon	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	New playground installed in 2014.
Allambie Heights	B	Gilai	Neighbourhood	Remove	4	This is a very small street corner reserve with a swing. The equipment requires major repairs/improvements and it would be difficult to make compliant with softfall due to site constraints, particularly the slope. Wandella Reserve is 270m away and is to be upgraded with a nice playground and other open space improvements to service residents in the south-western portion of Allambie Heights. Wandella is a much larger reserve, with multiple street access, shade, walking trails and potential for enhancements for a variety of current and future users.
Allambie Heights	B	Maroa	Neighbourhood	Retire	2	The play value of Maroa Reserve has been decreasing over time as non-complaint pieces of equipment have been removed. Major investment would be required to improve the play value. Wandella Reserve is 250m away and is a larger, more central reserve with multiple street access. Wandella will therefore be upgraded to provide new and improved recreation experiences, including a new playground. The play equipment at Maroa Reserve will be maintained for as long as possible. Consider alternate uses, such as picnic area with seating.
Allambie Heights	B	Orara	Neighbourhood	Relocate	4	This playground is located on land owned by the Department of Education and Communities. When it reaches the end of its useful life the new replacement playground will be built on a council managed reserve approximately 130m further south between Lily and Orara Rds.
Allambie Heights	B	Wandella	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4	Wandella Reserve will be improved to service a variety of park users for the south-western section of Allambie Heights, including a new playground. It has multiple street access, walking trails and natural shade from trees. The equipment 270m away at Gilai is to be removed and the equipment 250m away at Maroa is to be retired at the end of its useful life.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Beacon Hill	C	Beacon Hill	District	District	2	Maintain.
Beacon Hill	C	Brooker	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Swing to be provided. Investigate the feasibility of trail linkages via Brooker Reserve to Red Hill and Golden Grove.
Beacon Hill	C	Careden	Neighbourhood	Local	2	New playground at Princess Mary Reserve 300m away, and a playground 600m away at Beacon Hill Oval.
Beacon Hill	B	Goroka	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	This playground would benefit from shade through tree plantings.
Beacon Hill	B	Kalianna	Neighbourhood	Local	4	21 objections to the proposal to remove this ageing playground equipment. Non-conforming components, no softfall. Wedgewood Reserve 250m away to be upgraded, however, access can be difficult due to narrow verge and blind corner. Once the Kalianna equipment reaches the end of its useful life, consider usage, demographics in the area at the time and potential alternate play experiences should there be demand.
Beacon Hill	C	Kerry	Neighbourhood	Local	2	Bark mulch was recently installed to improve condition rating from 4 to 2.
Beacon Hill	C	Princess Mary	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3	Playground upgraded in 2009.
Beacon Hill	B	Wedgewood	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3	Wedgewood services a large number of residences on the southern side of Warringah Rd in Beacon Hill. The playground is to be upgraded to meet this demand.
Belrose	C	Belrose Library	Neighbourhood	Retire	3	The Belrose Library site has been sold. The library and the playground will remain available to the public until the new library is built across the road within the Glen St Theatre site. Alternate playgrounds are located 200m away at Wingara Reserve and 500m away at Lionel Watts Reserve.
Belrose	C	Birrong	Neighbourhood	Remove	4	Birrong was earmarked for removal in the 2007 Playground Strategy following the establishment of a new playground further west in the vicinity of Haige/Ashworth. No suitable location for such a playground has been found. The equipment at Birrong Reserve would require major repairs/improvements to retain. Wingara Reserve contains a playground 300m away and provides adequate open space for the residents in the vicinity of Birrong Ave. Birrong Reserve is to be retained for recreation such as ball games and relaxation.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Belrose	C	Childs Circuit	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	When this playground is due to be renewed in the future, consider relocating it to Lindrum Reserve. A playground at Lindrum Reserve would cater for more residents, including those living on both sides of Perentie Rd.
Belrose	C	Hews Parade	District	Neighbourhood	2	This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District.
Belrose	C	Kapunda	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Maintain due to dual street access and position on a thoroughfare. Improvements required to improve the condition rating.
Belrose	B	Karina	Neighbourhood	Local	4	12 objections were received opposing the proposed removal of the Karina Reserve swings, including a petition with 75 signatures. There are a large number of children and visiting grandchildren in the area who use the park and may find it difficult to access nearby Wentworth Reserve which is across a road and up a long set of stairs. Improvements will be made to the existing playground equipment to extend its life. Once it reaches the end of its useful life and needs to be removed, consultation should occur with residents to determine a suitable future use for the reserve, for example a new swing, a basketball or netball hoop, or a more nature based theme such as climbing logs. Consideration should be given to the area's current and future demographics and park usage.
Belrose	B	Maple	Neighbourhood	Retire	2	The remaining double swing had mulch softfall installed in 2012 which improved the condition rating and extended the life of the play equipment. At the end of a small cul-de-sac, the playground services a small number of residences. The new playground at Undula Reserve is 440m away. There is a playground at Wingara Reserve 450m away. The fair condition of the play equipment will see it remain in place for many more years.
Belrose	C	Orana	Neighbourhood	Local	3	This playground was earmarked for removal in the 2007 Playground Strategy due to its close proximity to playgrounds at Ralston (350m away) and Windrush (270m away) Reserves. It is now proposed to maintain Orana as a Local playground instead of Windrush due to the large trees providing natural shade.
Belrose	C	Pusan	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Pusan is a small reserve which has multiple street access and is on the walking route to the school which would facilitate lots of passing foot traffic who may use the playground. Improvements are required to improve the condition rating.
Belrose	C	Ralston	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.
Belrose	C	Undula	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Upgraded in 2012.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Belrose	C	Wentworth	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3	The playground at Wentworth Reserve services a large number of residences and has multiple access points. The playground needs to be upgraded to meet current demand.
Belrose	C	Windrush	Neighbourhood	Retire	2	Orana Reserve is 270m away and is preferred to be maintained as the local playground servicing residences in this area, primarily due to the natural shade from the large trees present. However, the play equipment at Windrush Reserve is in good working order and is likely to remain in place for many years to come. Windrush is a large flat reserve and council would be open to alternate recreation uses for the space in the future.
Belrose	C	Wingara	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Bark mulch softfall installed in 2012 to improve the condition rating. When it comes time to upgrade the equipment it should be made larger to accommodate increased use resulting from the removal of the Birrong and Belrose Library equipment.
Belrose	C	Wyatt	District	Neighbourhood	2	This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District.
Brookvale	B	Brookvale Oval	Regional	District	3	Category changed to District to better reflect actual usage and facilities, e.g. enclosed playground, picnic tables, BBQ.
Brookvale	C	Green St	District	District	2	Maintain.
Collaroy	C	Bruce Bartlett	Regional	Regional	1	New Regional playground opened in 2014.
Collaroy	C	Griffith	Neighbourhood	District	2	Category changed to District to reflect actual usage and facilities, e.g. enclosed playground, picnic tables and high usage.
Collaroy	A	Ramsay	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3	Maintain.
Collaroy	A	Collaroy Plateau Park	District	District	3	Maintain.
Cromer	A	Belmore	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	Playground upgraded 2013.
Cromer	A	James Morgan	District	District	3	Maintain.
Cromer	A	Lillihina	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Major repairs/improvement is required to improve the condition rating.
Cromer	A	Michele	Neighbourhood	Local	3	Michele is to be retained as a Local playground. It is proposed that a new playground be installed at Parks Rd Reserve. A playground at Parks Rd Reserve would service a larger number of residences, many of which do not currently have easy access to a playground.

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	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Cromer	A	Truman	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3	Maintain.
Cromer	A	Tyagarah	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2011.
Cromer	A	Wabash	Neighbourhood	Local	2	The play equipment has had bark mulch softfall installed to improve the condition rating. The equipment serves a large number of residences, with no other playgrounds nearby. It is proposed to construct a trail linking Wabash Reserve to St Matthews Farm to enable residents to have easier access to a wider range of recreational experiences.
Curl Curl	B	Stirgess	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.
Davidson	C	Allworth	Neighbourhood	Local	4	No other playgrounds within easy walking distance. Improvements required to improve the condition rating.
Davidson	C	Kambora	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2010.
Davidson	C	Maitland	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2009.
Davidson	C	Wayne Schimanski	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	Playground upgraded in 2013.
Dee Why	A	Holborn	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2012.
Dee Why	A	James Meehan	Regional	District	2	Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage.
Dee Why	A	Michaela Howie	District	District	3	Maintain.
Dee Why	A	Mooramba	District	Neighbourhood	2	This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District.
Dee Why	A	Stoddart	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Although this playground was upgraded in 2012 to the equivalent of the new Local category, it will retain its Neighbourhood category due to the large number of residences it services.
Dee Why	B	The Crescent	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2009.
Dee Why	A	Tulich	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2009.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Dee Why	A	Walter Gors	Neighbourhood	District	4	A new District playground is to be incorporated into the Walter Gors upgrade.
Duffys Forest	C	Anembo	Neighbourhood	Remove	4	This swing cannot be repaired to a satisfactory condition rating and needs to be removed. It is not proposed to be replaced with another swing, however, there may be an alternate play experience that is more sympathetic to the bushland surrounds, for example, log stepping stones. Anembo Reserve provides horse riding and bush walking experiences and is home to the Duffys Forest Rural Fire Brigade.
Forestville	A	Angophora	District	Neighbourhood	3	This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District.
Forestville	C	Brown	Neighbourhood	Retire	2	Bark mulch was installed in 2012 as softfall which has extended the life of the playground. Lindsay Reserve 400m away is a large reserve with multiple street access and is to be enhanced to provide recreation space for a range of people, including a new playground and potential for youth activities.
Forestville	C	Calca	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	Playground upgraded in 2014.
Forestville	C	Casuarina	Neighbourhood	Retire	4	This playground would require major repairs/improvement to retain in the long term, however it is possible to extend its life in the short term. The playground at Forestville War Memorial Playing Fields is 300m away. Casuarina is a nice reserve with natural shade from large trees and a seat. It should be maintained for passive recreation value.
Forestville	C	Cook St Reserve	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2011.
Forestville	C	Epacris	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Improvements required to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Forestville	C	Forestville Community Arts	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2012.
Forestville	C	Forestville memorial	Regional	District	3	Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage.
Forestville	C	Gwarra	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Forestville	C	Lindsay	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain playground. Consider addition recreation opportunities at Lindsay Reserve to cater for a broader range of interests and age groups, e.g. youth facilities such as a basketball hoop.
Forestville	C	Ryrie	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Forestville	C	Wellman	Neighbourhood	Retire	2	Lindsay Reserve 500m away is to be enhanced to provide a range of recreation experiences, including the potential for youth activities. This playground is in fair condition and will remain for many years to come until it reaches the end of its useful life, upon which the equipment will not be replaced.
Frenchs Forest	C	Akora	Neighbourhood	District	2	This playground is due for renewal. Given that the Brick Pit Reserve playground is to be impacted by road widening the playground at Akora reserve will be upgraded to District level to cater for likely population growth and additional usage. The reserve contains a basketball hoop which is to be retained and upgraded as required.
Frenchs Forest	C	Aranda	Neighbourhood	Retire	4	Six submissions were received objecting to the removal of this playground equipment. It had been proposed to replace this playground with a new one at nearby Yindela Reserve, however, eight submissions were received objecting to a playground being installed at Yindela. The Aranda Reserve equipment is to have some improvements made to extend the life of the equipment. When it reaches the end of its useful life community consultation should take place to determine the most appropriate location for a playground to service the residents in this area. Alternatively residents could attend the next nearest playgrounds at Prahlan, Nianbilla or Kambora Reserves. Consideration should be given to the area's current and future demographics and park usage.
Frenchs Forest	C	Brentwood	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Nice location with view over bushland. No footpaths so not so easy access to other playgrounds nearby. Improvement are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Frenchs Forest	C	Brick Pit	District	Relocate	2	This playground will be impacted by the RMS road widening project. The playground at nearby Akora Reserve will be upgraded to District level to cater for future population growth and increased usage. Once construction is completed in the vicinity of Brick Pit Reserve consideration will be given to the potential use of the remaining reserve and the need for a playground. The heritage plaques should be salvaged and considered for reinstallation at the reserve once construction is complete.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Frenchs Forest	C	Coster Reserve	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2011.
Frenchs Forest	C	Gilbert	Neighbourhood	Local	3	Maintain the Gilbert Reserve equipment as a Local playground.
Frenchs Forest	C	Greendale No 1	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	Playground upgraded in 2014.
Frenchs Forest	C	Jimada	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	3	The swing was replaced in 2014. This is a nice reserve with lots of trees for natural shade.
Frenchs Forest	C	Jindabyne	Neighbourhood	Remove	4	This playground would require major repairs/improvements to improve the condition rating and play value. The playground 480m away at Peppercom Reserve was upgraded in 2014. Rabbett Reserve is 400m away and is proposed to be upgraded into a nice Neighbourhood playground to service the residences in this area. Jindabyne Reserve may benefit from the installation of picnic tables or seats.
Frenchs Forest	C	Kaigal	Neighbourhood	Remove	4	Major repairs/improvements would be required to improve the condition rating of this playground. The playground at Nianbilla Reserve is 300m away and there is a District playground at Lionel Watts 700m away. The storm of April 2015 brought a tree down on the swings, with a slide and spring animal remaining. These are to be removed.
Frenchs Forest	C	Lionel Watts	Regional	District	3	Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage.
Frenchs Forest	C	Merrilee	Neighbourhood	Retire	4	Improvements would be required to improve the condition and play value of this playground. Springvale Reserve playground is 600m away, Lionel Watts is 850m away and Yanco Reserve is 700m away.
Frenchs Forest	C	Nandi	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4	Playground due for renewal.
Frenchs Forest	C	Nianbilla	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Dual street access and positioned on a thoroughfare, this playground services many residences. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Frenchs Forest	C	Patanga	District	District	2	This playground does not currently reflect a District category playground. When due for renewal the playground and reserve are to be improved to provide recreation opportunities for a broad range of people, including an improved playground and potential youth facilities and fitness equipment
Frenchs Forest	C	Peppercorn Reserve	District	Neighbourhood	1	Playground upgraded in December 2014. The playground aligns more accurately with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground.
Frenchs Forest	C	Rabbett	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4	This playground is due for renewal. The upgrade should be sympathetic to the natural creek setting.
Frenchs Forest	C	Springvale	Neighbourhood	Local	2	Maintain.
Frenchs Forest	C	Wareham	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Dual street access and positioned on a thoroughfare, this playground services many residences. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Frenchs Forest	C	Yanco	Neighbourhood	Local	2	Maintain. No other playgrounds nearby.
Freshwater	B	Cooksey	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2009.
Freshwater	B	Freshwater Beach North	District	District	2	Maintain.
Freshwater	B	Freshwater Beach Sth	Neighbourhood	Retire	2	Significant investment is planned to improve the Freshwater Beach South Reserve and it is recommended that the design consider elements of play. It is proposed to consolidate the current playground at Freshwater Beach South with the upgrade of the Freshwater Beach North playground in coming years.
Freshwater	B	Jacka Park	District	District	3	Consider if the onsite maintenance shed could be adapted to provide a toilet and baby change facilities.
Freshwater	B	Palomar Reserve	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2011.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Killarney Heights	C	Adare	Neighbourhood	Local	4	The residences here are relatively isolated from other play equipment due to topography and distance. Starkey Reserve playground is 650m away and was recently upgraded to District level, however access is uphill with no footpaths and requires crossing a busy road. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of the Adare Reserve equipment.
Killarney Heights	C	Cashel	Neighbourhood	Retire	4	This playground would require major repairs/improvement to improve the condition rating and play value. It services a small number of residents. The District playground at Forestville Memorial Playing Fields is 430m away.
Killarney Heights	C	Donegal	Neighbourhood	Retire	4	Major repairs/improvement would be required to improve the condition rating and play value of this playground. A new District playground has been installed at Starkey Reserve 350m away.
Killarney Heights	C	Killarney Heights Shops	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.
Heights	C	Killarney Oval	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.
Killarney Heights	C	Shannon	Neighbourhood	Local	2	Upgraded with softfall, rocker and swing.
Killarney Heights	C	Starkey	Neighbourhood	District	2	This playground was upgraded in 2013 and is now a District level.
Killarney Heights	C	Waterford	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Manly Vale	B	Corbett - Innes Rd	District	District	2	Maintain.
Manly Vale	B	Fairway	District	District	2	Due to be upgraded in the coming years.
Manly Vale	B	King St	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Manly Vale	B	Manly Dam	District	Regional	2	Category changed from District to Regional to allow for future upgrade of playground within this regional recreational asset. Being within a natural area future playground upgrades here should consider themes sympathetic to the surrounds, such as nature based, adventure based, environmental education or an Aboriginal or historical theme. Designs should not be restricted to the current playground footprint and could spread across the different picnic areas and facilitate less structured play. While demand is strong for existing playground equipment such as the swings, alternatives or additions to be considered could include, a flying fox, water play, climbing wall or a slide built into the slope. Given the area's rich Aboriginal heritage, a replica rock shelter or rock platform with engravings or ochre could be integrated into the landscape.
Manly Vale	B	Passmore	Regional	District	2	Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage.
Narrabeen	A	Berry Reserve	Regional	District	3	Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage.
Narrabeen	A	Birdwood Park	District	District	2	Maintain.
Narrabeen	A	Furlough	District	Neighbourhood	2	This playground aligns more with the definition of a Neighbourhood playground, rather than District.
Narrabeen	A	Wheeler Park	District	District	2	Maintain.
Narraweena	B	Beverley Job	District	District	1	Playground upgraded in July 2015.
Narraweena	B	May	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.
Narraweena	A	Parr	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground renewed in 2011.
Narraweena	B	Warri	Neighbourhood	Local	3	This playground services a large number of residences due to its position on a thoroughfare with dual street access. There are no other playgrounds nearby. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
North Balgowlah	B	Winsome	Neighbourhood	Local	2	Located on a thoroughfare with dual street access. No other playgrounds nearby.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
North Balgowlah	B	Woodbine	Neighbourhood	Local	2	New equipment installed in 2012.
North Balgowlah	B	Woolgoolga	District	District	2	Maintain.
North Curl Curl	B	John Fisher Park Netball	District	District	2	Maintain.
North Curl Curl	B	Makim St Reserve	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground renewed in 2010.
North Curl Curl	B	Surf	Neighbourhood	District	2	When due for renewal the playground should be upgraded to District. Consideration should be given to providing picnic tables, BBQs and fencing or screening to provide a barrier from the large number of dogs who travel through this reserve to access the off-leash dog area.
North Manly	B	Ankali	Neighbourhood	Local	3	There are no other playgrounds in this area. The reserve is a thoroughfare with dual street access. Retain as a Local playground.
North Manly	B	Nolan Reserve No. 2	Neighbourhood	Local	3	Although close to the larger playground at Passmore Reserve 300m away, this play equipment is well used. Bark mulch installed in 2012.
North Manly	A	Quarry	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4	To be upgraded in 2015-16.
Queenscliff	B	Aitken	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Maintain.
Queenscliff	B	Crown Street	Neighbourhood	District	2	Category to be upgraded to District to better reflect actual usage and facilities.
Terrey Hills	C	Burruga	Neighbourhood	Local	4	The next nearest playground is 550m away at Kurara Reserve which is on the other side of busy Booralie Rd. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Terrey Hills	C	Coreen	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	Playground upgraded in 2010.

	Ward	Reserve	Previous category	New category	Condition rating 1-5	Comment
Terrey Hills	C	Duncan	Neighbourhood	Local	4	Duncan Reserve is a nice shady reserve which provides a link from the residential area through to a nursery, bus stop and school. Although the number of children living in the area is low, relative to other suburbs, there are many grandparents in the area caring for grandchildren during the day. The equipment should be repaired or replaced as necessary and seating should be installed to allow carers and others to sit and enjoy the quiet space. The District playground at Frank Beckman Reserve is less than 400m away and is due to be upgraded in the 2015-2016 financial year.
Terrey Hills	C	Frank Beckman	Regional	District	2	Category has been changed to District to better reflect actual usage.
Terrey Hills	C	Kurara	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	1	Playground upgraded in February 2015.
Terrey Hills	C	Terrigal	Neighbourhood	Local	4	The playground 500m away at Kurara Reserve was upgraded in 2014. Improvements are needed to improve the condition rating of this playground.
Wheeler Heights	A	Ambleside	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	2	This playground was renewed in 2010.
Wheeler Heights	A	Grasmere	Neighbourhood	Neighbourhood	4	This playground is to be upgraded in the 2015-2016 financial year.

APPENDIX B: OPEN SPACE SURVEY RESULTS

10.1.1 Open space activities participated in at least monthly

Table 17 - Open space activities participated in at least monthly, that is, respondents selected daily, few times a week, weekly, fortnightly or monthly (Open Space Survey 2014) n=423

	Overall	12 years or under	13-18 years	19-24 years	25-39 years	40-59 years	60-74 years	75-84 years	w
Walking/jogging	82.74%	72.73%	70.31%	86.67%	92.08%	86.33%	96.15%	76.92%	75.00%
Bushwalking	31.91%	18.18%	18.75%	20.00%	35.64%	38.13%	40.38%	15.38%	0.00%
Bike riding	39.48%	54.55%	32.81%	20.00%	48.51%	51.08%	19.23%	15.38%	0.00%
Mountain biking (formed track)	15.13%	36.36%	15.63%	40.00%	17.82%	17.27%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Dirt jumping	8.98%	9.09%	17.19%	26.67%	7.92%	8.63%	1.92%	0.00%	0.00%
BMX	5.91%	9.09%	10.94%	6.67%	7.92%	5.76%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Skateboarding	16.31%	27.27%	23.44%	13.33%	5.94%	26.62%	7.69%	0.00%	0.00%
Horse riding	4.26%	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	1.98%	7.19%	5.77%	0.00%	0.00%
Scotering	21.28%	18.18%	12.50%	6.67%	41.58%	24.46%	1.92%	7.69%	0.00%
Small neighbourhood playground	39.72%	27.27%	29.69%	13.33%	66.34%	38.85%	36.54%	23.08%	0.00%
Larger regional/district playground	32.62%	27.27%	17.19%	13.33%	54.46%	37.41%	17.31%	23.08%	0.00%
Kayaking/Canoeing/Stand up Paddleboard	13.00%	9.09%	14.06%	6.67%	14.85%	18.71%	3.85%	0.00%	0.00%
Basketball (outdoor)	7.33%	9.09%	26.56%	6.67%	0.00%	7.19%	1.92%	7.69%	0.00%
Table tennis (Dee Why beachfront)	2.84%	9.09%	10.94%	0.00%	0.99%	0.72%	0.00%	7.69%	0.00%
Swim at rockpool (warmer months)	45.86%	27.27%	35.94%	6.67%	58.42%	52.52%	46.15%	38.46%	25.00%
Picnic/outdoor gathering	42.08%	18.18%	34.38%	33.33%	56.44%	39.57%	53.85%	30.77%	0.00%
Hang out at a beach reserve, e.g. have a coffee, watch the surf	65.96%	36.36%	45.31%	66.67%	80.20%	74.82%	69.23%	53.85%	75.00%
Parents groups	14.42%	0.00%	7.81%	6.67%	35.64%	10.07%	5.77%	7.69%	0.00%
Community gardens	5.67%	0.00%	1.56%	0.00%	13.86%	3.60%	3.85%	15.38%	0.00%

	Overall	12 years or under	13-18 years	19-24 years	25-39 years	40-59 years	60-74 years	75-84 years	w
Personal training	12.53%	9.09%	6.25%	13.33%	18.81%	15.11%	7.69%	7.69%	0.00%
Outdoor fitness equipment	15.84%	18.18%	23.44%	53.33%	16.83%	12.95%	7.69%	7.69%	0.00%
Relaxation, e.g. Meditation/Yoga/Tai-Chi/Read a book	29.79%	36.36%	37.50%	26.67%	28.71%	25.18%	44.23%	23.08%	0.00%
Off-leash dog park	22.93%	18.18%	15.63%	33.33%	22.77%	32.37%	17.31%	0.00%	0.00%
Birdwatching	9.69%	9.09%	1.56%	13.33%	5.94%	13.67%	13.46%	15.38%	0.00%
Hobby, e.g. Remote control/Kite flying	9.46%	18.18%	21.88%	6.67%	8.91%	7.19%	3.85%	15.38%	0.00%
Informal sports, e.g. kick a ball	27.90%	36.36%	32.81%	40.00%	31.68%	33.81%	5.77%	23.08%	0.00%
Commute, e.g. walk or cycle as part of a trip to work, school, shops or services	87.78%	100.00%	84.38%	100.00%	87.10%	86.84%	85.00%	87.50%	100.00%

10.1.2 Features that may encourage survey respondents to visit Warringah's open spaces more often
Table 18 - Features that may encourage people to use open spaces more often (Open Space Survey 2014)

What features would potentially encourage you to visit Warringah's open spaces more often?										
	Overall	12 years or under	13-18 years	19-24 years	25-39 years	40-59 years	60-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years	
Shady/sheltered locations	9.43%	5.81%	6.44%	6.36%	10.42%	10.62%	10.81%	9.80%	3.70%	
Toilets	9.32%	10.47%	7.95%	6.36%	9.72%	9.32%	10.54%	9.80%	11.11%	
Places to sit, e.g. seats, benches, rocks	8.98%	8.14%	8.14%	7.27%	8.73%	8.78%	10.81%	10.78%	14.81%	
Water	8.09%	8.14%	7.58%	6.36%	9.30%	8.45%	7.03%	6.86%	3.70%	
Picnic spaces with tables and BBQs	8.06%	4.65%	6.63%	7.27%	8.31%	7.91%	10.00%	10.78%	11.11%	
Bins	6.55%	4.65%	5.87%	6.36%	7.04%	6.28%	6.49%	9.80%	11.11%	
Improved access to parking	5.83%	3.49%	4.92%	4.55%	5.92%	5.20%	8.38%	9.80%	7.41%	
Events/Music/Entertainment/Markets	5.66%	4.65%	5.49%	7.27%	5.49%	6.07%	5.41%	2.94%	7.41%	
Improved accessibility, e.g. footpaths	4.87%	2.33%	6.06%	5.45%	3.52%	4.23%	5.95%	7.84%	7.41%	
Improved safety, e.g. lighting, passive surveillance	4.56%	3.49%	4.73%	4.55%	4.65%	3.90%	4.86%	6.86%	7.41%	
Public art	4.08%	3.49%	4.17%	5.45%	2.96%	4.33%	4.86%	3.92%	7.41%	
Other, please specify	3.98%	5.81%	3.22%	7.27%	3.38%	4.98%	2.43%	2.94%	0.00%	
Outdoor fitness equipment	3.94%	5.81%	5.30%	9.09%	4.08%	3.68%	1.62%	0.00%	0.00%	
Wi-Fi	3.94%	8.14%	8.90%	4.55%	2.82%	2.82%	2.43%	0.00%	3.70%	
Less activity and smaller crowds	2.95%	4.65%	2.65%	2.73%	2.96%	3.58%	2.43%	1.96%	0.00%	
Fences/boundaries	2.78%	2.33%	1.89%	1.82%	5.35%	1.52%	2.97%	1.96%	3.70%	
Outdoor table tennis	1.89%	4.65%	3.41%	3.64%	1.41%	1.84%	0.27%	0.00%	0.00%	
Handball court	1.85%	4.65%	3.22%	1.82%	0.99%	2.28%	0.54%	0.98%	0.00%	
Hitting wall (for tennis)	1.85%	1.16%	1.52%	0.00%	1.97%	2.60%	1.62%	0.98%	0.00%	
Outdoor chess	1.41%	3.49%	1.89%	1.82%	0.99%	1.63%	0.54%	1.96%	0.00%	

APPENDIX C

Warringah Council Benchmark Park User Survey (2013). Reasons for visiting a park recorded during park intercept surveys.

Reasons for visiting the park	WC n = 730	Region n = 4337
PASSIVE HEALTH & WELL-BEING	20%	27%
Be alone	-	0.2%
Beach activities	-	0.2%
Camping	-	0.1%
Enjoy environment	4%	8%
Enjoy peace & quiet	0.3%	1%
Feed ducks/birds	0.4%	0.3%
Fish	0.3%	0.4%
Fly kite	-	-
Meditate/Spiritual practices	0.1%	0.02%
Read/Study	0.3%	1%
Relax	2%	5%
Sightsee	0.3%	3%
Spectate sport	11%	4%
Sunbathe	-	1%
Take a break	0.1%	1%
Take photos	0.3%	1%
Undertake arts & crafts	0.1%	0.05%
Use model boat/aircraft/car	0.1%	0.05%
Watch wildlife	0.4%	1%

Reasons for visiting the park	WC n = 730	Region n = 4337
SOCIAL/DINING	36%	29%
Attend social/family function	5%	4%
Have meal break	1%	3%
Have picnic/BBQ	8%	4%
Meet friends/socialise	4%	6%
Spend time with children/family	17%	11%
Visit Café/restaurant	1%	1%
COMMUNITY	0.1%	1%
Participate in community event	0.1%	1%
Participate in community program	-	0.1%
Visit markets	-	0.02%
ACCESS	2%	5%
Access other locations – pass thru park	1%	3%
Access public transport	-	0.2%
Park is convenient	0.4%	1%
Wait/pick up/drop off	0.3%	1%
VOCATIONAL	0.3%	2%
Vocational purposes	0.3%	2%

Reasons for visiting the park	WC n = 730	Region n = 4337
ACTIVE HEALTH & WELL-BEING	44%	38%
Boat/canoe/kayak/sail	1%	1%
Children's play/visit playground	9%	8%
Cycle	2%	3%
Dog exercise/recreation	12%	6%
Exercise	1%	2%
Hike/bushwalk	0.4%	0.2%
Jog	1%	1%
Other aquatic activities	1%	1%
Play/train sport	1%	2%
Play ball/social games	1%	1%
Recreate/play	1%	2%
Ride BMX/stunt bike	-	0.1%
Ride mountain bike	0.1%	0.1%
Rollerblade	-	-
Skateboard/scooter	1%	1%
Swim	2%	1%
Undertake martial arts/Tai Chi	-	0.1%
Walk	10%	8%