

NOTES

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING

held in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Dee Why on

THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

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Notes of the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group Meeting

held on Thursday 20 April 2017

in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Dee Why

Commencing at 5.10pm

ATTENDANCE:

To Committee Members

Jean Hay (Chair)	Implementation Advisory Group
Duncan Kerr	Local Representative Committee - Social
Jim Buda	Manly Warringah Cycle Club
James Channon	Tennis Northern Beaches
Lynne Czinner	Warriewood Residents Association
Caroline Ghatt	Resident – Frenchs Forest Ward
Brent Manieri	Surf Life Saving NSW/Surf Life Saving Services
Steve McInnes	Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc.
Antony Pecar	Northern Beaches Cricket Council
Chris Stead	Resident – Pittwater Ward
Matthew Ward	Resident – Curl Curl Ward
Julie Whitfield	Resident – Narrabeen Ward

Council Officer Contacts

Steven Lawler	Executive Manager Parks and Reserves
Damian Ham	Manager Open Space Planning & Management
Jeremy Smith	Manager Park & Assets Projects
Lynne Jess	Administration Officer Governance

Quorum

Majority of members (excluding vacant positions)

Jean Hay AM, opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of Country.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Paul Smith, Steve Beatty and Wayne Stevenson.

2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 NOTES OF OPEN SPACE & RECREATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 16 FEBRUARY 2017

DECISION

That the Notes of the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group held 16 February 2017, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting with an amendment to page 4.1.

4.0 AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 CONNECTING THROUGH WALKING AND CYCLING PROJECT - WORKSHOP

DISCUSSION

Jeremy Smith, Manager Park & Assets Projects gave a presentation to the group on Connecting the *Northern Beaches - Walking and Cycle Ways*. (Attachment 1)

Members were briefed on the following highlights of the project:

- 36km of continuous all-weather coastal walkways from Palm Beach to Manly.
- 36km of new cycle ways and shared paths connecting north-south and east-west across the Local Government Area.
- New shared paths including around Bilgola Bends and from Collaroy to Narrabeen.
- NOTE: Council are currently in discussion with Transport NSW with a view to install a bridge which will enable residents / visitors to circumvent Narrabeen lake.

DECISION

That members of the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group participate in a workshop on the Connecting the Northern Beaches through Walking and Cycling Project.

4.2 CONNECTING THROUGH PLAY PROJECT - WORKSHOP

DISCUSSION

Jeremy Smith, Manager Parks & Assets Projects gave a PowerPoint presentation and defined the playgrounds and current levels of service in the Norther Beaches LGA. (Attachment 2)

It was noted that prior to amalgamation there were several different classifications to playgrounds and we are working to make this one.

Current playgrounds were classified into the following categories:

Former Manly and Warringah:

- Regional
- District
- Neighbourhood
- Local; and
- Former Pittwater had Central Local playgrounds

J Smith discussed the functionality of each level of playground and asked members for their input on the topics below.

- What type of play?
- Level of inclusion?
- Diversity of play?
- Level of risk?
- Sustainability social and environmental?
- How to make parks more appealing for all?
- What age groups?

After discussing these topics members put forward numerous ideas in relation to the playgrounds and how to make them more appealing.

These include:

- Looking at the whole park and create spaces where there are a variety of activities which connect the young to more advanced activities as well as sporting fields.
- Create open ended activities.
- Simulating senses through play, e.g. water and sand
- Identified the 3-5yr old age group as a most important age group.
- 5-10yr old also need consideration
- Create space for older kids to hang out to help with encouraging positive interactions and reducing antisocial behaviour.
- Need for dynamic play
- NOTE: The members were advised that playgrounds built in the 1900's were built with a focus on safety to avoid risk, however, there are differing views including that there are positive development opportunities by including risk in play.

- Question: Steve Lawler asked what they considered was a reasonable distance between parks?
- Response: Some members considered that no one should be more than 10 minutes from a playground. While others considered it was more about the suitability rather than distance.

DECISION

That members of the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group participate in a workshop on the Connecting the Northern Beaches Through Play Project.

4.3 NORTHERN BEACHES SPORTSGROUNDS STRATEGY - DISCUSSION PAPER

DISCUSSION

Damian Ham, Manager Open Space Planning and Management provided an update on the Sports Ground Strategy (Attachment 3) and the community engagement currently underway.

D Ham then distributed the Northern Beaches Sportsgrounds and Golf Courses Discussion Paper and advised members that this information supporting research and the community engagement opportunities could be viewed on Council's website.

http://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sportsgroundreview

D Ham outlined the key aspects of the Discussion Paper and the findings of the research including the shortage of sportsfields and increase in sports participation particularly women.

Possible potential actions to make better use of sports fields before we look at Golf Courses:

- Make better use of existing sports grounds
- Convert existing sports fields to synthetic
- Access school facilities
- Acquire and embellish additional land for sports fields as part of new land release areas
- Convert existing open space to sports fields e.g golf courses
- Acquire and embellish additional land
- Discussion was held about the merits of implementing all potential actions before conversion of golf courses

Members also discussed ways to avoid neighbours' complaints should it be decided to install new lighting on sporting fields that are currently lit.

DECISION

That the Open Space and Recreation Strategic Reference Group participate in a workshop on the Sportsgrounds and Golf Courses Discussion Paper.

4.4 DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE

DISCUSSION

Nil.



5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Nil

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Open Space & Recreation Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 20 April 2017 and confirmed on Thursday 22 June 2017

CONNECTING THE NORTHERN BEACHES





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CONNECTING THE NORTHERN BEACHES

One Northern Beaches Council creates the unique opportunity to truly connect our villages, towns and centres and unite the Northern Beaches community.

Through a partnership between the NSW Government and Northern Beaches Council, the Connecting the Northern Beaches initiative is a once in a lifetime opportunity to connect our communities and link to major B-Line transport hubs and services.

The centrepiece is an iconic fully continuous coastal walkway linking Palm Beach to Manly together with cycleways linking north and south, east and west.

This corridor will also showcase the spectacular coastline and views from some of the most beautiful spots in Sydney as well as the diversity of history in the region.

With the new 'Northern Beaches' brand, this initiative will also create extensive ecotourism opportunities throughout the area. It will build local economic capacity by attracting more local and international tourism, while maintaining our area's lifestyle and natural beauty.

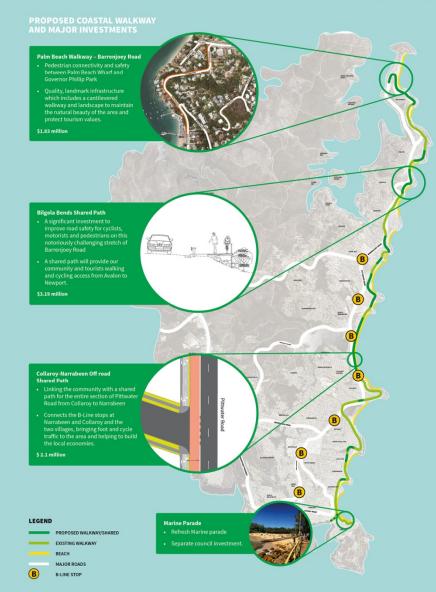
Funded by the Stronger Communities Program allocated to the newly merged Council together with the NSW Government's B-Line Active Travel Program.

Highlights

- Connecting our community through linkages with existing public transport connections, the B-Line and Northern Beaches Hospital
- **36 km** of continuous all-weather coastal **walkways** from Palm Beach to Manly
 - Including 8km of new footpaths, boardwalks and stairs
 - New footpaths and tracks, including the Palm Beach Walkway from Palm Beach Ferry to Beach Road
- 30 km of new cycleways connecting northsouth and east-west across the Local Government Area
 - Including 10km of new off-road shared paths, 20km designated as on-road routes, connecting to the existing network
 - New shared paths including around Bilgola Bends and from Collaroy to Narrabeen.

Community benefits

- Physical connections between Northern Beaches' towns and villages via walkways and cycleways creating greater connection between our communities
- Delivers on community priority for major active transport network
- Integrates with the B-Line, providing great pedestrian and cycleway access to faster public transport
- With the pathways and cycleways situated near town centres and existing businesses, it supports local business and economic development through tourism
- Creates the infrastructure for the development of ecotourism in the area, such as cycling and walking tourism businesses, for which the natural assets of the area are well-suited
- Increased use and convenience of facilities and services, as well as community health benefits, with **active transport options.**



WHERE YOU CAN WALK

Palm Beach Ferry to Avalon Beach

Leaving the Palm Beach ferry, head north to take in the spectacular views of the Barrenjoey Lighthouse, then follow the route around to the beach and up the stairs near the rockpool for breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and Pittwater. Follow the route along the top of the headland before descending into Avalon for a coffee at a local café.

Avalon Beach to Newport

After taking in the sights of Avalon Beach, the route follows the coast around the Avalon Golf Course to Bilgola Headland for pristine, undisturbed views of the ocean and coastline. The track continues around the headland stopping at Bilgola Beach before descending through a bush path into Newport Beach.

Newport to Mona Vale

From Newport, the route follows Barrenjoey Road providing plenty of opportunities for walkers to end their walk and catch a bus home or cool down with a dip at Bungan Beach via beach access paths. The track then veers off the main road along Hillcrest Avenue through Mona Vale Headland before descending down onto Basin Beach and Mona Vale Beach. A new shared pathway behind the Golf Course hugs the coastline offering spectacular coastal views.



Mona Vale to Narrabeen

The route winds through local streets allowing easy access to public transport stops along Pittwater Road. The track passes by Warriewood Beach, with a detour around the Turimetta Headland for walkers. The route continues along Narrabeen Headland with views of the coast and Narrabeen Lagoon. A detour to the amazing existing Narrabeen Lagoon trail is a must.

Narrabeen to Dee Why

After crossing the Narrabeen Lagoon entrance, the route follows the long stretch of the Collaroy coastline to Long Reef, with easy access to the new B-Line facilities or the beach. Passing by the Collaroy Surf Life Saving Club, the route continues around Long Reef Point, with views across Curl Curl and Dee Why as well as Collaroy and Narrabeen. Crossing Pittwater Road, the route heads south towards Dee Why Park and then through a scenic off-road bush track to Dee Why Beach.

Dee Why to Manly

Walkers can enjoy an unspoilt view of the ocean along the Dee Why Beach promenade or stop to grab a bite to eat or drink. Passing by the rockpool, this popular bushland track goes off-road along the Dee Why Headland all the way to North Curl Curl. The route passes through reserves on either side of the Curl Curl Lagoon. Walkers enjoy views of the Curl Curl coastline from the boardwalk before descending down to Freshwater Beach. Up and over Queenscliff headland and down some stairs and you're in Manly. Continue walking along the promenade and opt for a surf or bite to eat, or head round to North Head showcasing diverse flora and military remains, or simply head through The Corso to Manly Wharf to catch a ferry to the city.





WHERE YOU CAN CYCLE

Dee Why to Northern Beaches Hospital

From Dee Why Beach, an off-road route crosses Pittwater Road for access to Dee Why PCYC (due to be completed in 2017). The route continues along McIntosh Road, with a mix of off-road and on-road linkages to Beacon Hill Primary School. A new designated route on local roads direct cyclists to the Northern Beaches Hospital Precinct, avoiding Warringah Road. From there, cyclists can use other designated cycleways through Allambie Heights and Forestville.

Manly Beach to Warringah Mall and B-Line

Leaving Manly Beach, the off-road shared path along North Steyne connects cyclists to an off-road shared path along the Manly Creek. Cyclists can then choose to head north along a new off-road shared path on Pittwater Road to head to Warringah Mall and the Brookvale Community Centre where a B-Line stop is proposed (under construction), or ride along Kentwell Road to link up with the designated cycleway to Allambie Heights.

Alternatively, cyclists can opt to head south to the newly constructed Manly Boy Charlton Swim Centre, the B-Line stop, or the designated cycleway to Manly Dam.

Curl Curl to Warringah Mall and B-Line

Cyclists heading west to Pittwater Road from Curl Curl Lagoon can cycle to the Warringah Mall entirely off-road via the shared paths along the Curl Curl Lagoon inlet and John Fisher Park, and the proposed shared paths through Miles, Ada, Wattle, Short and William Streets. Alternatively, cyclists can connect through existing on-road designated routes through Freshwater, along Oliver Street, deviating along Wyadra Avenue, Thomas Street and Corrie Road and connecting to William Street and Pittwater Road.

Dee Why Beach to Dee Why Town Centre

An off-road link along Howard Avenue is proposed for extensive public consultation which connects Dee Why Beach to the Dee Why Town Centre. Existing links connect Dee Why Town Centre to Brookvale and Warringah Mall, along with proposed B-Line stops at Warringah Mall and Dee Why.









Palm Beach Ferry to Avalon Beach

Setting off from the ferry at Palm Beach, cyclists follow the on-road designated route to Palm Beach along Ocean Road before climbing to the top of the headland to cycle along Whale Beach Road. The route then diverts off to Avalon via Burrawong Road, Binburra Avenue and North Avalon Road, before following the off-road shared path along Careel Creek through Des Creagh Reserve to Avalon Beach.

Avalon Beach to Mona Vale

A mix of on and off-road sections connect Avalon to Newport around Bilgola Headland. Diverting through the reserve to a new off-road section along Ross Street, the cycleway crosses Barrenjoey Road at traffic lights before heading south along Barrenjoey Road. Following the route around Crescent Road and along Bassett Street and onto Surfview Road, cyclists can stop at Mona Vale Beach or continue along a new off-road shared path behind the Mona Vale Golf Course. Cyclists can easily access Pittwater Road and public transport hubs by heading west from the route.

Mona Vale to Dee Why

The route follows Narrabeen Park Parade along Sydney Road via local shops before connecting to the existing cycleway adjacent to Rat Park and heading south to the Narrabeen Lagoon via Pittwater Road. Here, cyclists can join the existing Narrabeen Lagoon Trail. Crossing the Lagoon, the route uses the existing off-road shared path before connecting to the new off-road shared path along Pittwater Road, passing B-Line stops and Collaroy Beach. At Long Reef, the route heads west along Hay Street and Cumberland Avenue, before crossing Dee Why Park and connecting to the existing off-road shared path to Dee Why Beach.

Dee Why to Manly

With existing designated on-road links, the cycleway provides a continuous connection from Dee Why Beach to Manly, via the Curl Curl Lagoon and beaches, Freshwater, and Manly Beach. Following the off-road shared path along the North Steyne, cyclists can access the Manly Wharf for a variety of public transport options to the city.









ESTIMATED INVESTMENT FOR CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

The proposed investment for creating landmark walkways and cycleways from Manly to Palm Beach, with key linkages east to west and with transport hubs and the Northern Beaches Hospital is a symbolic opportunity to unite and connect the Northern Beaches community.

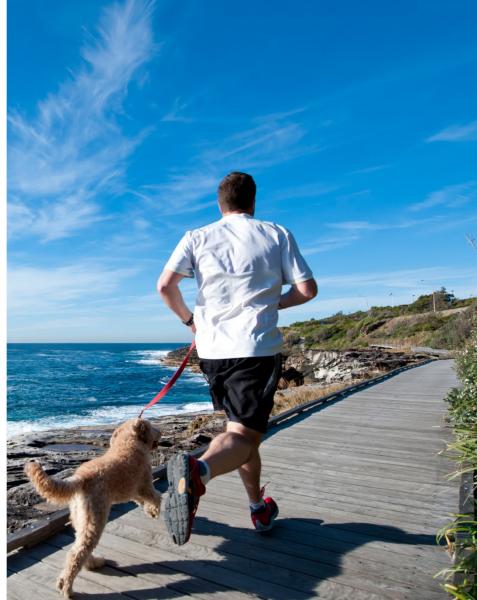
Made possible through the Stronger Communities Fund provided to newly merged councils, together with a significant investment from the NSW Government's B-Line program.

	Stronger Community Funds	Transport for NSW funding for B-line Active Transport	TOTAL
Walking	\$6.39m	\$0.5m	\$6.89m
Cycling	\$2.61m	\$8.67m	\$11.28m
Total	\$9.0m	\$9.17m	\$18.17m

Proposed Timeline

Stage One: Completion by October 2017

Stage Two: January 2019



CONNECTING ALL THROUGH PLAY





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Connecting All Through Play Map Community Benefits Major Projects Estimated Investment for the Connecting All Through Play Program Timeframe

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CONNECTING ALL THROUGH PLAY

The community of the Northern Beaches has a strong focus on inclusivity, and loves to get out into the environment to enjoy all that this region has to offer.

With the whole of the Northern Beaches now one Council, the NSW Government and Northern Beaches Council have an opportunity to connect our communities by bringing people of all abilities and ages together through the development of the Connecting All Through Play program.

The accessible playground program will increase the capacity and improve the quality of the Northern Beaches regional and district playground environments to maximise inclusion and participation by providing equitable access to major playgrounds and provide two new all-abilities playgrounds.

These works will be designed to not only create exciting and vibrant play spaces but to connect the community, in particular, less able children to natural areas.

The greater accessibility of these major play spaces will enable people of all-abilities to participate in play and reap the benefits of increased physical activity, social interaction and mental stimulation.

The Program

The whole program is valued at \$5.8 million. The Stronger Community Fund would contribute \$4.5 million and fund the priority works, while the balance will be required to be funded from other sources such as Government Grants.

The Northern Beaches has three all-abilities playgrounds Located at Collaroy, Manly and now Newport Beach. The Connecting All Through Play program will create two major new inclusive playgrounds that will be destinations for residents from across the Local Government Area, and also invest in inclusive and accessibility upgrades to the 50 district and regional playgrounds across the Northern Beaches.

Manly Dam, Manly Vale

- A new all-abilities nature play based playground which will be the flagship inclusive play space for Northern Sydney
- A new accessible boardwalk connection linking different recreational spaces with Manly Dam.

Lionel Watts, Frenchs Forest

- A new all-abilities playground
- An activated accessible precinct including Sydney's first inclusive skate park.

Accessible Playground Program

 Access works to provide opportunities for everyone to access the Northern Beaches favourite playgrounds.





COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Build community capacity by creating spaces where all the community, of all generations and abilities, can come together and play
- Collaborate with children and others to design play spaces and experiences connecting the users to the spaces
- Provide spaces that develop better physical, social and mental skills
- Provide equal geographic access to all ability playgrounds across the Northern Beaches
- To provide access to existing major playgrounds within the Northern Beaches
- Risk based play will improve decision making and adaptability
- Provision of a diversity of different play experiences.



MAJOR PROJECTS

Lionel Watts All-Abilities Playground

- New all-abilities playground similar scale to Collaroy All-Abilities Playground
- Integration of a variety of inclusive physical, sensory and educative play opportunities.



MAJOR PROJECTS

Manly Dam All-Abilities Nature Playground

- Provide a challenging play space that connects children of all-abilities to the natural area that surrounds them
- Integration of a variety of inclusive physical, sensory and educative play opportunities.



Manly Dam Boardwalk

- Creation of an accessible boardwalk to provide a safe connection between different recreation areas at Manly Dam
- Means that the community will not have to share a busy road to walk or ride between the two recreation areas
- This will provide equitable access to one of Sydney's most valued natural areas.



ESTIMATED INVESTMENT FOR THE CONNECTING ALL THROUGH PLAY PROGRAM

	Stronger Community Fund	Grant Funding*
Manly Dam Playground and Boardwalk	\$2.25	\$500,000
Lionel Watts Playground and community hub (including skate park)	\$1.75m	\$800,000
Accessible Playground program	\$1m	
Total	\$5m	\$1.3m

*To realise the vision of the Connecting All Through Play program, \$1.3 million in additional funds is required through grants or other external sources of funding. If funding is not received, Council will seek to identify alternative funding sources or modify the program accordingly.



TIMEFRAME

Accessibility works - Complete June 2018

Lionel Watts Playground and community hub - Complete October 2018

Manly Dam Playground and Boardwalk - Complete **February 2019**



NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

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Sportsgrounds and Golf Courses Discussion Paper Presentation 20 April 2017

Agenda

- Background
- Key findings of our research
- Potential actions
- Where to from here?
- Update 18 April 2017
- Discussion & Questions?

Background

- In 2016, sports approached Council about urgent needs for more sportsfields and new / improved facilities to meet growing participation.
- Sports also advocated Council review whether golf courses could be more equitably used for other sports.
- In response Council is developing a Sportsground Strategy a 15 year plan.
- Experts in sports planning and golf feasibility were engaged to conduct independent research and to consult with sport / golf clubs.
- Based on this research a Sportsgrounds & Golf Courses Discussion Paper was developed for community input.

Background

- 6 April Discussion Paper briefing with Sports Associations
- 7 April Discussion Paper briefing with Golf Clubs
- 8 April 2017 Discussion Paper and research reports released for community input on Council's online Your Say hub

Sportsgrounds Needs Analysis: Key Findings

- Current supply
 - 122 sportsfields, 116.5 hectares of playing area
 - Half per capita compared to some similar size Councils
- Large and growing participation rates
 - Over 50,000 playing members, 17 sports
 - Average increases in participation rates over 10% in last 3 years
- Sportsfield sustainable capacity 35 hours / week
- Fields overused and a shortfall of supply
 - 92 of 122 fields over-used based on capacity
 - Over-used fields are booked more than 800 hours / week over capacity
 - Current shortfall 24 hectares playing area (24 fields)
 - Increasing to a shortfall of 41 hectares playing area by 2031 (41 fields)

Golf Market Assessment: Key Findings

- 13 Northern Beaches golf courses, 453 hectares, over 10,000 members
- 7 golf courses on public land, 180 hectares, over 4,000 members
- Declining membership on public courses 16% decline over the last decade
- Double the number of 18 hole golf courses compared to Sydney-wide
 - One course per 49,867 people across Sydney
 - One course per 23,151 people on Northern Beaches
- Profits are currently being achieved, but not at a level that allows for sustained re-investment in infrastructure
- A reduction in supply may assist the local market to achieve greater sustainability

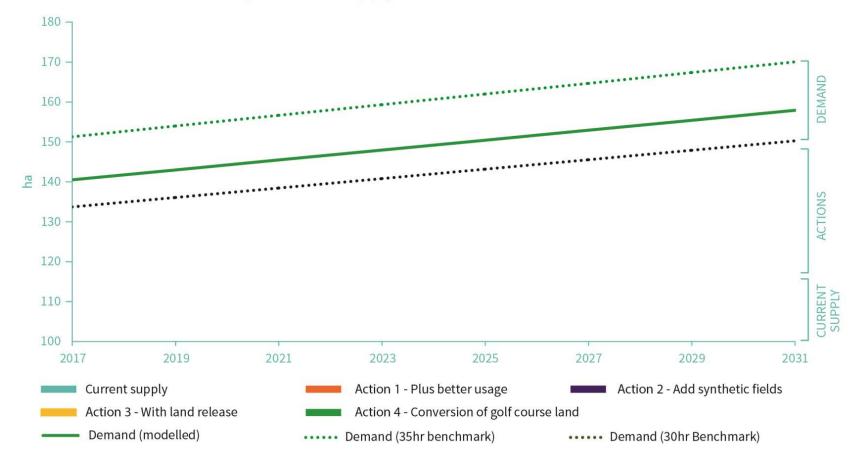
Potential Actions to address the shortfall

Action	Impact on shortfall (playing area)
1. Make better use of existing sportsgrounds	4.4 hectares
2. Convert more sportsfields to synthetic	5.5 hectares
3 Acquire and embellish additional private land as part of new housing developments	3.6 hectares (Warriewood)
	7.8 hectares (Ingleside)
4 Convert existing open space to sportsfields e.g. golf courses	11 hectares (example)
5. Acquire and embellish additional land	11 hectares (example)
6 Do nothing and accept the shortfall	Nil

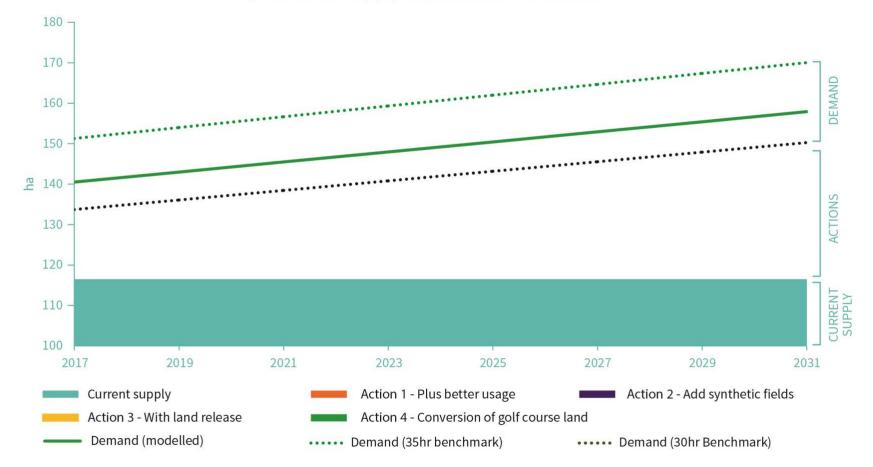
Potential Actions: Funding and Cost Estimates

Action	Impact on shortfall (playing area)	Funding per hectare (estimate)	Cost to rates per household over 15 years (estimate)
1. Make better use of existing sportsgrounds	4.4 hectares	\$270 thousand	\$49 (\$3.25 pa)
2. Convert more sportsfields to synthetic	5.5 hectares	\$2.7-\$3 million	\$239 (\$15.93 pa)
3 Acquire and embellish additional private land as part of new housing developments	3.6 hectares (Warriewood)	\$4.75-\$5.25 million	\$0 (funded by new housing development)
	7.8 hectares (Ingleside)	\$6.5-\$7 million	\$0 (funded by new housing development)
4 Convert existing open space to sportsfields e.g. golf courses	11 hectares (example)	\$1.4-\$1.8 million	\$231 (\$15.40 pa)
5. Acquire and embellish additional land	11 hectares (example)	\$6.5-\$7 million	\$1,059 (\$70.60 pa)
6 Do nothing and accept the shortfall	Nil	Nil	Nil

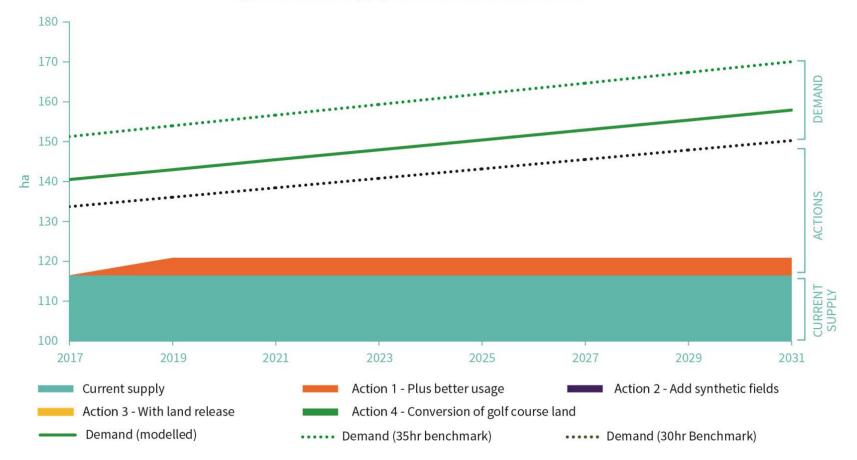
Sportsfields: Demand



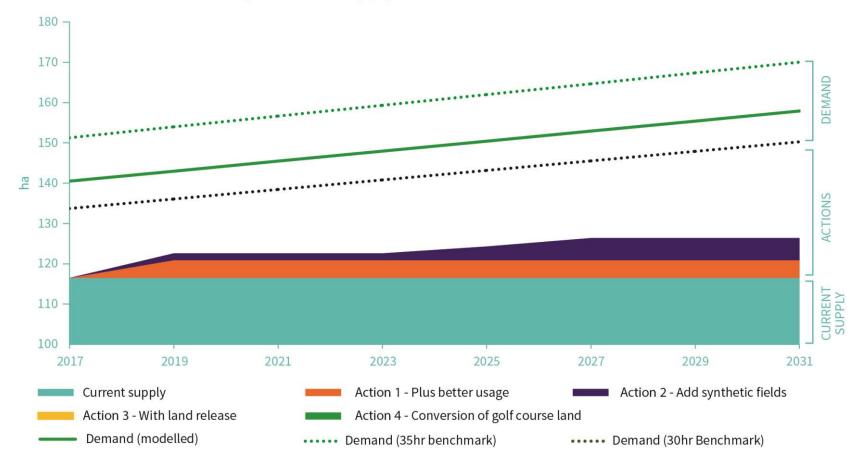
Sportsfields: Demand and Current Supply



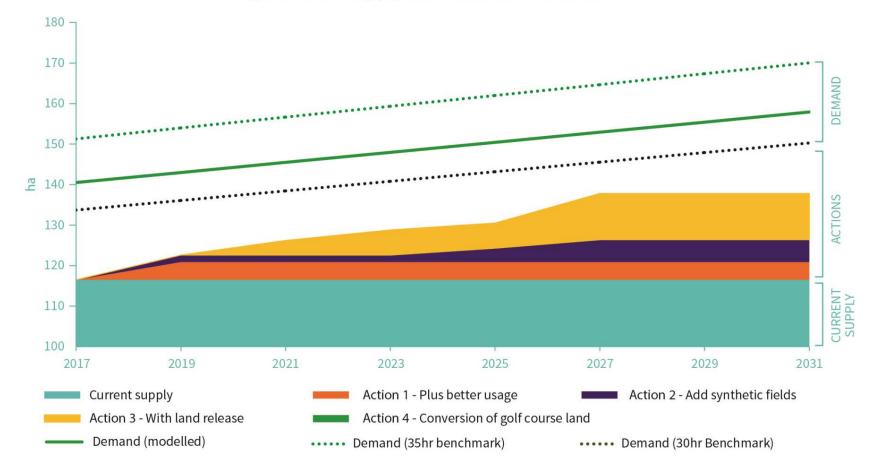
Scenario: Better use of existing fields (4.4ha)



Scenario: Convert existing fields to synthetic (5.5ha)

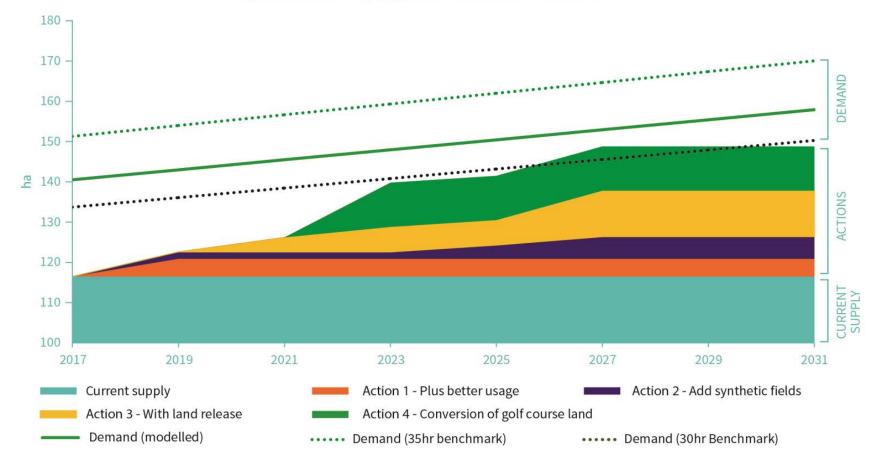


Scenario: Land release (11.4 ha)

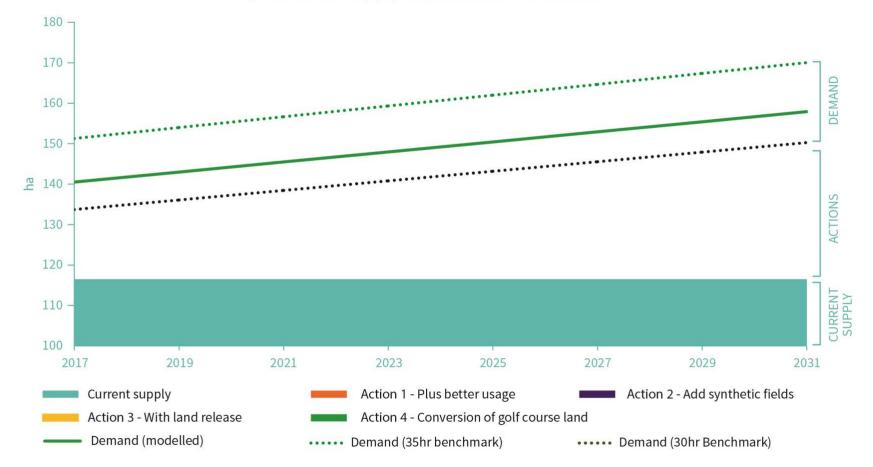


Scenario: Convert golf course land (example 11ha)

If all actions are taken the shortfall would be substantially reduced by 2027



Scenario: Do nothing and accept the shortfall



Where to from here?

- 8 April 2017: Discussion Paper and research reports released for input
- April 2017: Community engagement
 - Six drop-in information sessions, telephone survey
 - Online project page and feedback form
 - Sports Forum for associations and clubs to discuss improvements
- 7 May 2017: Submissions close
- 30 May 2017: Draft Strategy reported to Council to approve exhibition
- June, July 2017: Public Exhibition of Draft Strategy for community input
- 25 July 2017: Final Sportsgrounds Strategy presented to Council

Update 18 April 2017

- As at 18 April, the responses to the online Your Say information are
 - 76 submissions received
 - 798 total visits
 - Downloads/views
 - Discussion Paper 321
 - Golf Report 92
 - Sports Report 89

Discussion

Potential Actions

- 1. Make better use of existing sportsgrounds
- 2. Convert existing sports fields to synthetic
- 3. Acquire additional land for sports fields as part of new land release areas (e.g. Warriewood and Ingleside)
- 4. Convert existing open space to sports fields e.g. Golf Course
- 5. Acquire and embellish additional land

Questions?

