

# RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS STRATEGY 2018-2028









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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Liverpool City Council's Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy. Our vision is to create recreational, open space and sports facilities that connect residents and foster a healthy community.

The strategy is designed to guide future provision and management of Liverpool's recreational, open space and sporting facilities.

We live in one of the fastest-growing parts of Australia. The population of Liverpool is estimated at 217,736 residents – that is 62,878 or a 40.6% increase in residents since the introduction of Council's last Recreation Strategy.

This growing population necessitates the planning and delivery of contemporary open space and recreation facilities. Population projections estimate that the residential population of Liverpool LGA will significantly increase over the next ten years to more than 300,000 people.

The Strategy is made up of three components:

Recreation – strengthening Council's recreation offerings by delivering new and upgraded infrastructure that meets the needs of the community;

Open Space – improve our open space and liveability by delivering best practice management of open space and greening the Liverpool City; and

Local Sports – strengthening Liverpool's local sports sector by delivering new and upgraded infrastructure and improving the understanding of the needs of local sporting clubs and the wider community.

Council officers are already working at translating this strategic vision into an action plan that will be delivered over the next few years.

Various national, state and regional policy and planning documents adopted by State Government underpin Council's Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy policy framework. The directions and sub-strategies found in Council's Community Strategic Plan, Our Home - Liverpool 2027 have also directly informed the development of this Strategy.

Council conducted extensive consultation with community members as well as local and district sporting bodies to capture feedback and input into Council's recreation, open space and sporting facilities about what they would like to see delivered and improved. The consultation delivered a consistent message about the community's priorities for Liverpool and Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Waller'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**WENDY WALLER**  
MAYOR

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council last formulated and adopted a recreation strategy, the *Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020*

in Council last formulated and adopted a recreation strategy, the *Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020* in 2003. Since then, Liverpool has experienced significant population growth and, over the next 10 years, will experience further transformative change in the areas of economic development, population growth, infrastructure development and social make-up.

The Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy (the Strategy) seeks to build on past success and to plan for future needs of a diverse and growing population. It sets out Council's direction in three critical areas of:

- Recreation;
- Open space; and
- Local sports.

While it is impossible to predict with certainty the requirements and trends over the next decade, it is possible to make explicit a set of core principles which will inform future decision-making processes on a case by case basis.

Current trends and strategic issues are also examined, leading to the identification of a new classification system for open space and recreational facilities. Key actions are identified to illustrate how the principles outlined in the Strategy could guide future actions.

Following adoption by Council, the Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy will guide the development of a comprehensive action plan. Council's performance against strategic objectives will be driven by a Project Control Group and a regular review of the Strategy will be conducted every two years. A formal review will be conducted after five years to ensure its ongoing relevancy.

## ***Our Vision***

**“To create best practice recreation, open space and sports facilities for the community that connect residents and foster a healthy community.”**

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The need for a Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy

Open space, opportunities for recreational activities and sport play a vital role in the advancement of the social and economic life of a city.

Council last formulated and adopted a recreation strategy, the *Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020*, back in 2003. Since then, Liverpool has experienced significant population growth with an additional 50,000 residents<sup>1</sup>, and the future promises even more transformative change in the areas of economic development, population growth, infrastructure development and social make-up.

The 2003 Strategy has served Council well, however, shifting trends, changing preferences and new development patterns demand a new long-term framework to guide Council's decision-making and investment. Building on the success of progress to improve our open space and recreational opportunities, this Strategy has two primary aims:

- To establish Liverpool as an exemplary area in South West Sydney for the provision of recreation, open space and sports.
- To improve the efficacy of Council's delivery of recreational opportunities and open space management through a strategic and collaborative decision-making process.

Central to this Strategy is the desire to create distinctive 'places for people' that encourage greater opportunities for meetings and daily activities, enabling one to be among, to see, and to hear others. Through this, people can learn about other people's lives, helping to establish a confident relationship with their immediate locale and broader world<sup>2</sup>, and helping to reduce social isolation and improve social cohesion.

Creating welcoming and attractive spaces that are conducive to a range of recreational activities will also assist in promoting physical activity and other health-affirming behaviours, improving the overall health and well-being of residents. Similarly, greening our city through improved landscaping and increased tree canopy will continue to strengthen the liveability of our communities.

Council is confident that this Strategy will contribute to creating thriving communities across Liverpool, in a way that reflects contemporary aspirations and preferences as well as those of future generations.

**"The message from residents is consistent across Liverpool: development must be balanced with the environment and space for the recreation..."**

**Mayor Wendy Waller,  
Delivery Program 2017 -  
2021 & Operational Plan  
2017 - 2018**

1. 2001 Census of Population and Housing and 2016 Census of Population and Housing – Liverpool LGA.  
2. Gehl J. (2011) *Life Between Buildings; Using Public Space*, Island Press, USA



## 1.2 Scope of the Strategy

The Strategy's specific focus is on open spaces, physical activity, sport and active recreation within the Liverpool City Council boundaries and includes:

- Review and assessment of existing policies, strategies and programs.
- Consultation with key stakeholders in Liverpool, including sporting clubs, residents and users of recreation facilities and services.
- A strategic framework to guide future provision and management of Liverpool's recreational, open space and sporting facilities and services.

Whilst the Strategy endeavours to incorporate all aspects of sport and recreational pursuits within Liverpool, activities relating to aquatics and leisure, cycling and environmental restoration programs are covered in more detail under other strategic plans.



## 2. Policy Framework

The policy framework that underpins Council's Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy is through various national, state and regional policy and planning documents adopted by State Government. The directions and sub-strategies found in Council's Community Strategic Plan, *Our Home – Liverpool 2027* have also directly informed the development of this Strategy.

As summarised below, this is a complex policy and operational field. The policy framework identifies planning documents that influence the way in which recreation, open space and sporting facilities and services are planned, maintained and managed. Further detail on the policy framework may be found at Appendix B.

<b>National</b>	Australian Sports Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Play. Sport. Australia</li> <li>- The Future of Australian Sports</li> <li>- Australian Sports – the pathway to success</li> </ul>		Active Living Healthy Parks, Healthy People	State of Australian Cities Report
<b>State</b>	NSW Government Architect's Office Greener Places Policy  NSW Government Architect's Office Sydney Green Grid 3 South West District	Office of Sport Strategic Plan and Western City District Sport Facility Plan  Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government	NSW Disability Inclusion Plan  State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)  South West Growth Area Plans	NSW Physical Activity Participation Data  NSW Ageing Strategy  Western Sydney Parklands' Southern Parklands Vision 2036
<b>Metro</b>	A Metropolis of Three Cities – The Greater Sydney Region Plan Towards Our Greater Sydney 2056			
<b>Regional</b>	A Plan for Growing Sydney – Western City District Plan			
<b>Liverpool City Corporate, Strategies and Planning Controls</b>	Community Strategic Plan, <i>Our Home, Liverpool 2027</i> Delivery Program 2017 – 2021 & Operational Plan 2018 - 2019 Resourcing Strategy			
	Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan  Disability Inclusion Action Plan  Community Facilities Strategy 2017  Liverpool Bike Plan 2017-2022	Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2018  Cultural Strategy 2017  Draft Social Justice Policy  Safer by Design Guidelines 2012	Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2008  Development Control Plans 2008  Section 94 Contributions Plan	Property Acquisition Strategy 2018  Biodiversity Management Plan 2012  Aquatic and Leisure Centres Strategy
<b>RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS STRATEGY</b>				
<b>Liverpool City Implementation Plans</b>	Plans of Management for Community and Crown Lands	Capital Works Programs  Asset Renewal Plans	10-year Asset Management Plans	Voluntary Planning Agreements  Precinct master plans

## 2.1 Council's Role

Council has a multi-faceted role in building a healthy and active community. At the forefront, Council's primary mandate for this provision is threefold:

1. Our legislated responsibilities under the Local Government Act (1993)<sup>3</sup> and Crown Lands Act (1989)<sup>4</sup> is to manage public land for the benefit of the community;
2. A long-held expectation from our community that Council manages and delivers public space to meet the many recreational pursuits of the community; and
3. To address an area of market failure where the provision and management of land assets, programs and services are often not financially viable for the private sector to provide.

Council will continue to encourage and facilitate community's involvement in sport and recreation by prioritising Council's vision and ensuring the needs of the community are met through the implementation of the Strategy including:

- Strategic planning and policy development;
- Service and facility management, maintenance and development;
- Marketing, promotion and communications;
- Research and needs analysis;
- Liaison, support, consultation and advice to key stakeholders;
- Advocacy to State and Federal Governments and national / state sporting associations regarding Liverpool's sport and recreation needs;
- Review of relevant Federal and State Government policies related to open space, recreation and sports;
- Analysis of key demographic trends likely to drive activities, programs and services; and
- Review of literature relating to best practice open space, recreation and sports.

It is intended to introduce practices that represent 'best in class' across all dimensions of the organisation as a means of effectively managing the change process. This approach will lead to a consideration of policies, structures and relationships – both internal and external – with a view to unlocking the potential, and subsequently harnessing the optimum contributions, of all stakeholders within the process of strategy formulation and implementation.

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3. Local Government Act (1993) Section 8A and Section 36

4. Crown Lands Act (1989) Section 76



## 3. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles reflect best practice approaches to open space management, sports and recreation facilities. They are intended to be used as a guiding tool for Council in regard to future decision-making processes within an integrated and flexible approach.

### 3.1 Planning for the future

As Liverpool's population continues to grow, more pressure will be placed on Council's existing open space network and recreation and sports facilities. This increased demand necessitates that Council deliver an efficient and flexible network of open spaces and recreation facilities that meet future community needs and can be delivered in a financially sustainable manner. This includes:

- Adopting a new classification and hierarchical approach to managing and developing open space and recreation facilities;
- Adopting a strategic approach where needs, issues, and opportunities will be assessed having regard to this strategy's broader priorities and from a whole of Council approach;
- Adapting to decreasing block sizes and an increase in apartment living; and
- A commitment to the Liverpool community that open space will be retained, and where possible expanded, particularly in the City Centre.

### 3.2 Creating a 'sense of place'

Open space and recreation facilities are an integral component of our City and contribute strongly to the vitality of our urban centres and local identity. Local stories and culture will be ingrained into landscape design and recreation facilities to assist in fostering community identity and ownership, creating visible change at street level, and in creating a climate of confidence that is necessary to encourage further private sector involvement.

### 3.3 Equity and access

Where possible, every household in urban and suburban areas should be within close walking distance (400m) to at least one parcel of high quality open space. Higher order passive spaces should be central to the communities they are intended to serve.

The design of open space will promote the principles of universal design by facilitating physical access for all abilities. The needs of parents and children, older persons, and persons with a disability shall be given a high priority.

### 3.4 Multi-purpose

Multi-purpose spaces allow for a multiplicity of uses, enabling a wide range of activities and ensuring maximum use and optimisation of space, as well as creating connection among Liverpool's diverse population. Wherever possible, open space and recreation facilities shall be designed for multiple users encouraging shared use.

## 3.5 Connections

Connecting our green spaces will help drive utilisation and help people get to and from parks without the use of private vehicles. Shared paths in our green spaces that allow cycling and walking will encourage people to use active transport means along green 'connector' streets and Council's shared path network.

## 3.6 Promoting social capital

Open space and facilities shall respond to identified community need and interests facilitating both organised and chance meeting and thereby promoting social capital and connection amongst the Liverpool residents. District and regional facilities will become key focal points and will act as a key meeting space for the community.

## 3.7 Green infrastructure

Open spaces are the green lungs of our city. Open space will also mitigate the impact of climate change, play a vital role in reducing urban storm water runoff, and continue to provide a broad range of environmental and ecological benefits. Leisure centres will lead by example in reducing ongoing operational costs through the minimisation of water and energy use. Our open spaces will minimise water use through a variety of means including planting of native species, and utilise solar lighting wherever possible. Increased tree canopy will help mitigate the impact of urban heat islands and provide much needed shade.

## 3.8 Safety and security

Our open space and recreation facilities will provide a high degree of personal safety and minimise vandalism and other antisocial behaviours by firstly attracting people, improving passive surveillance, and incorporating and applying Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. New developments should maximise opportunities of casual surveillance towards open and recreation spaces.

## 3.9 Commercial development

Appropriately located and planned commercial and tourism development will be supported where there is a clear social or cultural benefit, and where it adds to a 'sense of place'.

## 3.10 Building partnerships

Developing partnerships with key state government agencies, non-government organisations, businesses and community groups will support success in delivering key elements of this Strategy. Innovative partnerships need to be nurtured, together with creative delivery mechanisms in collaborative approaches to planning,



# THE LIVERPOOL LGA



# 4. The Place

## 4.1 Spatial context

Liverpool is the regional capital of South West Sydney and lies approximately 27km south west of Sydney CBD and approximately 16km from Parramatta CBD. The Liverpool Local Government Area (LGA) stretches from the Georges River to the East and the Nepean River to the West, the urban areas of Fairfield to the North and peri-urban/rural lands to the South. Consisting of 42 suburbs, it is a large area roughly divided evenly into suburban and rural settings.

The topography of the land is largely flat with the exception of the Georges River which cuts into the land in the east and in the centre, and the Western Sydney Parklands providing some vertical relief. Although not easily accessible (in some cases), significant vistas can still be viewed from elevated open space in Lurnea, Miller, West Hoxton and Cecil Hills towards Sydney CBD and south across Holsworthy and also across Western Sydney Parklands.

Liverpool is divided by a network of major roads including the M5 and M7 Motorways, other arterial roads, a new Airport precinct and the Inner West and South Line and South West Rail Link rail links. These tend to act as physical and psychological barriers to movement (helping to define place) but are effective in moving commuters and freight within Liverpool LGA and to neighbouring LGAs and further afield.

Liverpool City Centre, with the changing economic mix and increased residential development, is an area undergoing rapid transformation. Smaller centres such as Lurnea, Hammondville, Moorebank, and Wattle Grove provide an opportunity for strengthened 'village' style settings. Areas such as 2168 are characterised by older traditional detached housing with some three-storey walk-ups in Miller.

The newer urban release areas to the west are characterised by modern large family homes on smaller land parcels. Cecil Hills and Elizabeth Hills are defined by their views to the surrounding hills from which they derive their name.

To the east, the Georges River is the major defining natural feature separating the urban areas of Liverpool and Moorebank and bounding the suburbs of Casula, Chipping Norton, Hammondville, Voyager Point and Pleasure Point. The latter enjoy a natural bushland setting that extends into the local road network, strengthening its presence. Warwick Farm and the famous racecourse represent an industry that has all but disappeared from metropolitan Sydney. Wattle Grove is defined by its strong garden setting.

The western half of the LGA is almost defined by its rural setting and activities, however due to the Federal Government approved plans this area is undergoing rapid and significant change in the medium to long term. The development of Western Sydney Airport and the 'Western Sydney City Deal' is accelerating this change.



## 4.2 'Special' Places

Liverpool has a number of 'special' places that strengthen the appeal of the LGA. These special places are valuable community resources that support a diverse range of activities and often provide a connection to the past. They provide opportunities to strengthen the social, cultural, economic and environmental fabric of the community whilst reinforcing the liveability and reputation of Liverpool. They include:

- Bigge Park – Liverpool's premier open space. A large central park servicing the city centre flanked by significant heritage items, including a War Memorial;
- Carnes Hill Community and Recreation Precinct – Liverpool City Council's premier flagship development. The precinct delivers a new library, multi-purpose recreation centre and community centre, café and outdoor spaces that cater for all ages and accessibility needs;
- Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and Casula Parklands – a cultural facility offering workshops, gallery exhibitions and programs to the community adjacent to the Casula Parklands that provides opportunities for a range of passive recreation activities along the riverside;
- Chipping Norton Lakes – the largest water body in South Western Sydney complemented by an extensive foreshore parkland which can cater for a variety of activities;
- Collingwood Precinct – an Aboriginal place of significance and heritage-listed regional museum;
- Georges River – an important environmental corridor that forms part of the Green Grid and Blue Grid of Greater Sydney;
- Lighthorse Park – an historically significant recreational space in close proximity to the Liverpool City Centre. Stretching for 1.5km along the western bank of the Georges River, it includes the convict-built sandstone weir and the pylons of the railway bridge that carried the rail link from Liverpool to the Holsworthy Army Camp prior to and during World War Two;
- Liverpool Pioneers' Memorial Park – historic cemetery, the resting place of more than 13,000 people;
- Macquarie Mall – 'the heart of Liverpool', which provides the community with retail, dining, play and cultural opportunities;
- Michael Wenden Leisure Centre – aquatic fitness and sporting facility;
- National Parks – Leacock Regional Park, Edmondson Regional Park, Bents Basin and Kemps Creek Nature Reserve;
- Rosedale Oval – cricket ground in Warwick Farm;
- Rossmore Grange including South Creek – largest expanse of community land in the Liverpool area, with a primarily agricultural/rural land use history;
- Warwick Farm Racecourse – Offers an opportunity to enjoy racing with a hint of a country experience. The new complex's sales arena features ringside dining, corporate boxes, a mezzanine bar, 44-room William Inglis Hotel, restaurant and a day spa;
- Western Sydney Parklands – spanning 5,280 hectares and over three LGAs (1,500 ha of the Southern Parklands is in the Liverpool LGA) the Parklands offer unique activity spaces for different users such as the International Shooting Range. When complete, the Parklands will be the largest urban parkland in Australia;
- Woodward Park – main sporting precinct containing a number of outdoor playing fields and the Whitlam Leisure Centre.







# 5. Community Engagement

Engaging with the community on significant Council strategies is important to ensure Council is meeting the expectations of residents. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement approach underpins this Strategy. Council consulted with the community using numerous platforms and methods including face-to-face and online surveys, observation studies and targeted engagement to gather feedback and input into Council's recreation, open space and sporting facilities and what they would like to see delivered and improved.

Avenues of stakeholder engagement included:

- General community feedback received as part of the Community Strategic Plan;
- Online surveys through Liverpool Listens;
- Stakeholder consultations with Sports Committees and Liverpool Youth Council;
- Targeted consultation at 2017 Disability Expo;
- Discussions with District and State sporting associations;
- Interviews with 2168 Children's Parliament, local schools and sporting clubs; and
- Community engagement related to specific projects.

The consultation delivered a consistent message about the community's priorities for Liverpool and Council, which can be categorised under the following broad themes:

- Encourage and enable physical activity and utilisation;
- Increase opportunities for connections between places and people;
- Protect and enhance natural bushland and green spaces; and
- Design infrastructure of excellence that ensures safety and accessibility.

A detailed list of the comments and issues arising from the consultations may be found at Appendix E. Council will continue to engage with the community and sporting groups on the implementation of this Strategy and future projects.



## 6. Socio-Demographic Trends

This section outlines the key socio-demographic trends driving the need for a rejuvenated network of recreation, open space and sporting opportunities in Liverpool.

### 6.1 A fast-growing community

Liverpool is one of the fastest growing local government areas in Australia with its population doubling in just 20 years. The population of Liverpool LGA is currently estimated at 217,736 residents – that is 62,878 or a 40.6% increase in residents since the introduction of Council's last Recreation Strategy. This growing population necessitates the planning and delivery of contemporary open space and recreation facilities with a particular focus on delivering high quality places in the western release areas, Chipping Norton, future Western City, Western Sydney Parklands and the City Centre.

Population projections estimate that the residential population of Liverpool LGA will significantly increase over the next ten years to more than 300,000<sup>5</sup> people. The majority of this increase will be accommodated in the new release areas found in the western half of Liverpool LGA and within the City Centre and immediate surrounds.

The recently released *Western City District Plan* reconceptualises Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three major cities, Eastern City (Sydney CBD), the Central City (Parramatta) and a future 'Western City' focussed around Western Sydney Airport (Badgerys Creek). The Western City, whilst just an early concept, provides opportunities for siting major regional sporting facilities which cannot be readily located in Liverpool's existing urban areas.

The recently endorsed City Deals will bring together all three levels of government, the community and private enterprise partnerships to deliver across six priority domains in particular Planning and Liveability as well as improved Connectivity for Sydney's outer west. Council will work to align planning and provide input and governance to support and supplement this reform.

### 6.2 Apartment living

Whilst there has been consistent construction of separate houses in Liverpool's growth areas to the west in suburbs such as Middleton Grange, Edmondson Park, and more recently Austral, there has also been a boom in apartment construction in the Liverpool City Centre, which is expected to continue for the coming decades. Between the 2001 and 2016 Census more than 1,700 new apartments have been completed within the Liverpool LGA.

Given that most apartment dwellers will only have access to a small balcony and communal space, there is greater demand for a range of high quality public open spaces for residents to remain in touch with nature and to enjoy many outdoor activities. Ensuring that residents of new apartment buildings have access to adequate greenspace is an increasingly challenging exercise given the lack of undeveloped land within the Liverpool LGA.

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5. Department of Planning - <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Demography/Population-projections>

## 6.3 Families

Family households account for 60% of all households in Liverpool with 75% of families having children under 15 years of age. Families require different services at different stages of the family lifecycle. Parks and low-cost recreation facilities are integral to providing opportunities that meet their needs.

## 6.4 Children

Liverpool has a relatively high proportion of children aged less than 12 years of age. In 2011, there were over 14,000 babies and pre-schoolers (0-4 years) and 20,000 primary school aged children (5-11 years) – a rate 25% higher than the Greater Sydney average. Considerable focus is required to ensure a broad range of play opportunities for children and sufficient junior sporting facilities are available, easily accessible and family friendly.

## 6.5 Young people

Liverpool is home to one of the largest populations of young people (12-24 years) in Sydney, with approximately 1 in 5 residents in this age group. Young people require activities and youth friendly space to help foster self-identity, provide opportunities for self-development and a foundation for a healthy lifecycle.

Rates of participation in organised sports typically drops during this age range, but is more pronounced for teenage girls. Greater consideration of the needs of young persons, particularly teenage girls is required to ensure their needs are met.

## 6.6 Females

Despite accounting for more than half the population, females are under-represented in organised sports and have fewer sporting role models, whilst few of our sporting and recreation facilities truly cater for the needs of women and girls.

Research shows a lack of participation by women and girls in physical activity and sport is not the same as lack of interest. Women face many personal, social and environmental barriers to participating. Opportunities therefore exist to inspire women to re-engage with physical activity and sport if issues are considered holistically and within the context of their everyday lives. The application of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles when designing sport and recreation facilities will help to begin to







## 6.7 An ageing population

The latest population projections indicate that the population aged over 65 years will increase by over 180% between 2011 and 2031. Ensuring the City's older and less mobile residents' needs are met and that they are included in civic life will be an increasing concern for Liverpool.

## 6.8 A home of diversity

With more than 40% of residents born overseas, Liverpool is home to one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia. Liverpool also has one of the largest concentrations of people from a refugee background in Australia. Over 11,500 migrants settled in Liverpool LGA between 2008 and 2014; a third of whom arrived through the Humanitarian Stream making Liverpool LGA the fifth highest local government area in Australia for settling humanitarian migrants.

This large and growing cultural diversity will require consideration of a wider range of recreational and social interests reflecting these cultural groups, as well as facilitation of targeted programs to meet their needs. The design and feel of our open space and recreational facilities should also reflect this strong cultural diversity.

## 6.9 Disadvantage

Liverpool is home to pockets of severe disadvantage, including the 2168 postcode area and Lurnea, which rank as some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas in Sydney. The 2168 area is characterised by lower incomes, lower educational achievement, and higher levels of disability, unemployment, and disengaged young persons.

High quality open space and access to low cost recreational opportunities can help improve social connection, provide mental and physical stimulation, opportunities for self-development and an environment for health





## 6.10 Growing income inequality

Despite advances over the last decade, household incomes in Liverpool are increasing at a slower rate compared with those in the broader Metropolitan Sydney area. Research shows inequality exacerbates disadvantage, which impacts on people's mental health, physical health and well-being. Open space, and in particular, high quality spaces and infrastructure, provide an opportunity for residents to connect, share ideas, and create socially sustainable communities.

## 6.11 Transport

Improving liveability in urban environments requires planning for a mix of places that engage, activate and connect people and communities. There is an opportunity across all levels of Government to establish integrated and sustainable approaches to land use and transport solutions that encourage residents to adopt healthier lifestyles, enjoy the natural environment and to help reduce traffic congestion by encouraging active transport alternatives of commuting. Consideration of the Greater Sydney Commission's aspiration to deliver a 30-minute city will be used to guide decision making on locations for transport links and other amenities.

It is crucial for Council to complement planning, where possible, its local network by ensuring public transport routes and enabling infrastructure such as sufficient parking capacity, quality pathing and access to bus stops and cycle ways allow for optimal access by various modes of public transport.

## 6.12 Poor health outcomes

The Liverpool community rates poorly across many health indicators when compared with other local government areas<sup>6</sup>. Health Statistics NSW identified that the Liverpool LGA rated lower than the NSW 2015 rates for health behaviours and health status, for residents aged 16 years and over. In the NSW Adult Population Health Survey 2015 the rate of persons aged 16 years and over in the Liverpool LGA that were classed as overweight is 25.2% with an additional 23.3% classed as obese. Within the South West Sydney Local Area Health District (SWSLHD), the community experiences a range of health concerns, including:

- An increased rate of chronic disease, cancer, diabetes, mental health;
- Lower rates of people within a normal weight range;
- Higher rates of physical inactivity;
- Higher rates of smoking and drug and alcohol abuse; and
- Higher rates of people with Type 2 diabetes.

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6. PHIDU, Social Health Atlas of Australian LGAs 2010



# 7. Strategic issues

This section provides an overview of the strategic issues facing Liverpool. How this Strategy responds to these issues will ultimately determine its success and the overall outcomes for residents.

## 7.1 Meeting the needs of a growing population

The Liverpool LGA population is expected to reach 330,000 by 2036. The majority of this growth will occur in and around the City Centre, urban release areas and urban renewal areas. Higher than planned for growth is anticipated to occur in the City Centre, near major train stations. The recreation and sporting needs of future residents and workers will be a key undertaking of Council into the future.

This issue of growth needs be addressed by Council because:

- It requires consideration of Council's current and future assets;
- Council's assessment of planning proposals must better align with the provision of recreation infrastructure, and also with value capture, to provide for larger than anticipated populations in certain areas; and
- Council has a legal and historical mandate to manage growth in a socially sustainable manner.

Failing to plan now for the future population's recreational needs will create ongoing operational issues that could take decades to rectify, and generally require large-scale intervention (i.e. costly urban renewal projects). If the provision and embellishment of open space does not keep pace with increasing high-density development, Liverpool will risk significant under provision of recreational space that may have health, social and reputational consequences.

## 7.2 Improving Liverpool's place on the regional sporting stage

The provision of high quality open space and recreational opportunities can assist in promoting Liverpool, and attracting investment and new businesses. Opportunities include hosting state and regional sporting events, and recognising the potential of the Georges River and Chipping Norton Lakes for improved informal recreation opportunities. This aspiration creates significant expectations of higher order facilities and event programming that attracts tourists and locals alike. In turn, such expectations create issues such as how to finance and fund the infrastructure that supports these activities, and how to resource a calendar of events with limited budgets.

## 7.3 The rise of higher density living

The results of the 2016 Australian Census clearly demonstrate that high density urban living is becoming more common place across the country over traditional stand-alone dwellings. This trend is being driven by many factors including affordability and a growing public desire to live closer to employment, retail and services, recreational opportunities and public transport than previous generations. The trade-off in proximity directly relates to a reduction in size of living quarters and private open space.

There are many benefits to higher densities, but density alone does not create increased liveability within communities. Research indicates that the loss of the traditional backyard means that private open space that was once available to people on their own property must now be provided for as open space by local government. Good urban design improves 'liveability' and enhances people's lives.

It is essential therefore that recreation and open space planning is a critical consideration when planning

## 7.4 The shrinking backyard

Reduced backyards are one of several local and national trends that will impact on the provision of community recreation and open space. Liverpool's backyards are shrinking (see Figure 1). Since 2008, most areas of Liverpool required a back yard of minimum 60m<sup>2</sup>. Newer areas such as Middleton Grange have this reduced to 50m<sup>2</sup>. Other councils require a minimum of 80m<sup>2</sup>. Houses are growing larger and blocks smaller; therefore, more and more new dwellings only meet the minimum private open space size. This is partly due to a behavioural change in our society (from egalitarianism to aspirationalism), where houses are increasingly valued as an investment, rather than as shelter. If this trend continues it will heighten the importance of high quality public open space for recreation.



[Modern Detached Housing – Moorebank](#)



[Older Detached Housing – Lurnea](#)

**Figure 1** - Source: Nearmap 2017

This, in conjunction with strong population growth indicates further demand for meeting spaces for people to connect, and a greater consideration of multi-purpose facilities that accommodate many uses and cater for a variety of age groups.

## 7.5 The rise of unstructured recreation

Research into recreation participation trends demonstrates an increasing interest in unstructured recreational pursuits. This national trend is supported by community engagement activities undertaken by Council staff<sup>7</sup>. This necessitates a new approach to planning for open space that provides areas for unstructured play as well as organised sport as more people are participating in informal recreational activities at their schedule and leisure.

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7. Consultation activities undertaken in 2016 by Council staff for proposed projects at Phillips Park, Lurnea and Stante and Cirillo Reserves, Middleton Grange both demonstrated a high level of interest in facilities and infrastructure to support unstructured recreational pursuits such as walking, cycling and use of passive parks.

## 7.6 Shared space and partnerships

As growth continues across Liverpool, it will place increasing pressure on Council to provide more open space to facilitate recreation for the community and the local schools that currently utilise them. At the same time, increasing land costs will mean that Council must be innovative in its provision of open space and facilities in order to deliver and maintain infrastructure in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

In addition to the reduction in public and private schools open space the emergence of the vertical school model in Australia indicates that close collaboration with Council will be essential to pre-determine how this will impact carry capacity and functionality at local sporting fields. At present, plans for vertical schools are being advanced in Parramatta, Ballina, South Melbourne and Edmondson Park.

Partnering with local primary and high schools is another approach Council will need to explore to help ease the demand on current council sporting fields and open space. In this case, the complying infrastructure will need to be built within the school venue (i.e. floodlighting and amenity facilities).

## 7.7 Improve planning and construction of facilities in new release areas

Timely social infrastructure supports new residents when they arrive by making people ‘feel at home’ and helping to foster a sense of community by enabling residents to meet their neighbours. Evidence from around the world indicates that social infrastructure (including community facilities) needs to be in place before new residents move in, and confirms the positive effects of social networks on community wellbeing and resilience (Social Life 2012). By comparison, not providing facilities can create long-term problems such as social isolation (particularly pertinent for new mothers and new migrants), frustration, and a lack of opportunity.

Deficient social infrastructure at an early stage can also result in problems of dissatisfaction from residents, meaning new communities can quickly gain a poor reputation, influencing whether people would like to move to an area. It is important for Council to take a leadership position in improving required funding mechanisms and in alignment with property acquisition strategies to enable the provision of social infrastructure and working with the private sector to deliver outcomes that benefit the broader community.

## 7.8 Climate change adaption

Climate change presents a serious ongoing threat to Liverpool with diverse impacts on the welfare of residents, service delivery, infrastructure and the environment. In recent decades, Australia has experienced observable climatic changes including an increase in average temperatures, increasing frequency of extreme weather events, and extended periods of reduced rainfall.

A recent risk assessment undertaken on behalf of Council found that climate change will have serious impacts on Liverpool’s weather in future, particularly in terms of increased temperature and extreme weather events<sup>8</sup>. The United Nations Paris Agreement adopted in 2015, by over 196 countries, with the target to limit global temperature rise to less than two degrees Celsius by the end of the century. This presents an opportunity to “think globally, act locally” and devises both means for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and also reducing greenhouse gases at a local level.

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8. SLR Consulting Australia (2012) Liverpool Climate Change Risk Assessment.



The Architect Government NSW is developing a NSW Greener Places policy framework to guide the planning and construction of a network of high quality green areas that connect town centres, public transport networks and major residential areas in Sydney. Council's *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy* will need to ensure programs are strategically aligned to support good quality of life in the urban environment for residents of the Liverpool LGA.

## 7.9 Declining participation in organised sport

Research shows nationwide participation in organised sports is declining. Despite an increasing population, district sporting associations and clubs reveal that, with the exception of soccer, the number of registered participants and volunteers is generally stable or declining.

Some of the key trends impacting participation include:

- General shift to non-organised recreational activities;
- Emergence of new technologies and other recreational pursuits;
- Household and parental preference for other activities;
- Competition between sports and other activities;
- Cultural understanding of organised sport and its benefits;
- General higher cost of living related to housing, technology and food;
- Longer working hours leading to an overall decline in leisure time across the community; and
- Higher costs associated with playing a sport e.g. insurances, fees payable to peak bodies, hire fees, higher quality equipment, referees fees and uniforms.

Liverpool is an area with higher relative disadvantage compared to Greater Sydney and NSW, and home to a higher number of jobless family households. Evidence suggests that there is a strong relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and children's participation in organised sport. According to the ABS (2012) children who reside in the most disadvantaged areas (bottom quintile) were 9% less likely to participate in organised sports than middle class children (3rd quintile), whilst children in households where both parents were unemployed were 20% less likely to participate in sport compared with households where one parent worked full-time.





# RECREATION STRATEGY







## 8. Recreation Strategy

This section aims to strengthen Council's recreation offerings by delivering new and upgraded infrastructure that meets the needs of the community whilst strengthening the sense of place. This will be achieved through improved understanding of the needs of the community, applying a place-making lens, and focussing on providing health-affirming spaces.

### 8.1 Defining Recreation

Recreation is an activity that people engage in during their free time that is enjoyable, and is recognised as having positive social values. Recreation enhances physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation. Recreation may occur in public open spaces, local streets, sporting facilities and include gardens, open parklands, community gardens, corridor links, amenity spaces, community use facilities, civic commons or squares. For the purposes of this Strategy, Council seeks to address recreation that occurs in public spaces.

The benefits of recreational pursuit have been widely studied and confirmed. They include improved physical and mental health, as well as a range of social and community benefits<sup>9</sup>. This Strategy asserts that recreation provides a positive contribution to Liverpool and its community. Given the high proportion of families with children that reside in Liverpool, and the high rates of children and young people, it is a priority of Council to support and foster improved unstructured recreational opportunities.

### 8.2 Current context

As outlined previously, Council provides for the recreational needs of its constituents due to both a legal mandate and community expectation. The primary means by which Council does this is through the provision, embellishment and maintenance of land<sup>10</sup>.

Council's contribution to recreation comes in a variety of forms including:

- Allocation of land for a range of recreational purposes;
- Planning to determine future need and the allocation of resources to meet this need;
- Planning and delivery of assets and infrastructure on Council and government owned land to support recreation e.g. playgrounds, social and sporting infrastructure and outdoor gym;
- Facilitation of recreational programs that help to address identified community need e.g. school holiday sport program;
- Maintenance of land, assets and infrastructure associated with recreation; and
- Management and access to Council land through casual hire arrangements, licences and lease agreements with organisations, sports clubs and associations.

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9. Hajkowicz, S.A., Cook, H., Wilhelmseder, L., Boughen, N. (2013). The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over coming decades: A Consultancy Report for the Australian Sports Commission.

10. As well as managing land owned by Council, land owned by the Crown but under the care and control of Council, also plays a significant role in meeting the recreational needs of residents.

## 8.3 Key themes

### 8.3.1 Creating places for people

A place making approach will guide the development of district and regional open space. Investment in higher order open space and facilities will encourage multiple uses and greater social connection. High quality design of our open space is critical in promoting higher utilisation and physical activity.

### 8.3.2 Promoting active living

This theme aims to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents through everyday health promoting activities. In order to do so it is important to acknowledge and address the structural and systemic issues that affect people's capacity to adopt and maintain healthy behaviours.

### 8.3.3 Improving play opportunities

Play is an essential component of childhood development and learning, providing the basis for many life-long skills. Council manages a high number of local playgrounds (156) across Liverpool and has invested heavily over the last 10 years in renewing and upgrading these assets. These local playgrounds provide simple activities for young children (typically catering for children aged < 4 years) and a free healthy alternative for parents looking to entertain their children.

Council's current network of playgrounds is challenged by four main issues:

- They are typically small installations with limited activities and limit opportunities for older children;
- They are expensive to maintain and consume considerable Council resources;
- They lack amenities for children and parents that allow them to stay longer i.e. public toilets; and
- They often do not contribute to a sense of place.

Opportunities exist for developing 'play spaces' that integrate with nature and adventure play. Opportunities may also include child friendly landscaping or public art installations that also encourage physical activity and social interaction.



Image source: Western Sydney Parklands Trust

### 8.3.4 Planning for off-leash dog areas

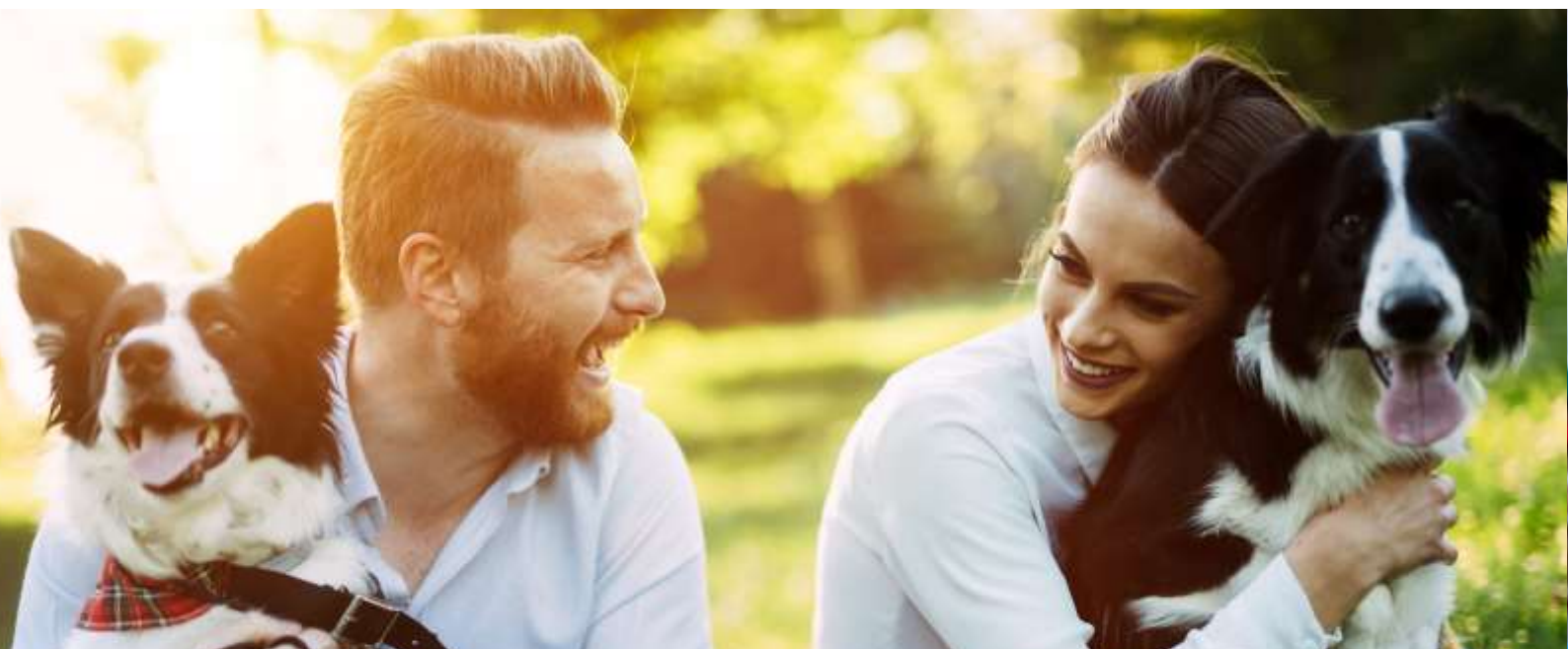
The Local Government Act 1993 requires all local councils to provide at least one off-leash dog area. Council currently provides three off-leash dog areas in Liverpool which are located at:

- Macleod Park, Prestons;
- Hoxton Park Reserve, Hoxton Park; and
- Lieutenant Cantello Reserve, Hammondville.

Off-leash areas bring many benefits to dogs and owners including:

- Reduced nuisance dog behaviour;
- Socialisation of dogs;
- Healthier and friendlier dogs;
- Increased chance of owner exercise and social connection, both spontaneous and planned; and
- Connection with nature for both dogs and owners.

The increasing number of community requests received by Council for additional dog parks across the LGA supports the case that there is an under-supply. Evidence from other LGAs indicates that an equitable provision of dog-friendly areas is required and that they should be located where people like and can walk to. As indicated in this Strategy the rise of high density and apartment living will mean designated spaces for dogs will become increasingly important.





There is at times a conflict between dogs and other park uses (e.g. children's playgrounds and sporting fields) requiring careful placement and management. Council's current dog parks are all fenced to help assist with this conflict. Experience of providing fenced off-leash suggests each space costs approximately \$70,000 for installation. However, fences in parks can contribute to exclusionary spaces, whilst fencing itself is often unsightly and requires continual maintenance and repair.

This Strategy asserts that whilst further off-leash areas are required, these do not necessarily need to be fenced. Depending on community need and locale, entire parks could be designed as a 'dog-friendly' space. To this end, more research is required to determine an optimal solution for each location.

### 8.3.5 Improving safety

Evidence suggests that people will avoid spaces where they feel unsafe. Consultation on this Strategy identified that people felt unsafe when using Council's recreation, open space and sporting facilities, particularly at night. Lighting is one of many ways we aim to improve safety in our parks at night whilst enabling extended hours of use and improving overall amenity. Regular safety audits of Council facilities and open spaces will ensure that crime 'hot spots' are adequately monitored and safety issues are resolved effectively. The importance of applying the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design is crucial when planning facilities to mitigate potential safety issues.

A preliminary set of actions are identified and designed to address the issues noted above. This is set out in Appendix H.







# OPEN SPACE STRATEGY



# 9. Open Space Strategy

This section focuses on strategies to improve our open space and liveability by delivering best practice management of open space and greening the Liverpool City.

## 9.1 Defining open space

The following table outlines the framework for classifying open space with respect to catchment and function of open space in Liverpool<sup>11</sup>.

Classification	Approximate Size (m <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated Service Group	Description of Function
<b>Regional/State</b>	10,000m <sup>2</sup> or more	Local and neighbouring communities	Assets that have and support state or local significance. They serve the whole local government area and provide the highest level of service - in some cases the catchment may extend into other government areas. These parks are principally designed to provide for organised formal sport but includes facilities for passive recreational pursuits, children's playground and nature space. They accommodate important recreation and organised sport spaces as well as significant conservation and/or environmental features. They should include significant public art and landscaping, as well as be connected to major road and public transport networks. They must also have the capacity to accommodate required field dimensions for both junior and adult sporting competition and suitable supporting amenity with ample parking.
<b>District</b>	5,000m <sup>2</sup>	Serves two or more neighbourhoods	Parks which provide for a diverse range of recreational opportunities providing activity nodes in an attractive high maintained landscape setting. The parks will be visited by residents from a wide area, much of who will drive or cycle to it. Visitors will stay for several hours at the park and will use it predominately on weekends. Facilities may include a large highly developed playground catering for a wide range of ages and abilities, a range of infrastructure including car parking, public toilets, picnic shelters, barbeques and irrigation. These parks should also ensure strong links or public transport routes and include public art and landscaping. These parks are major recreation or sports parks that offer a wide variety of opportunities to a broad section of residents. Large in size and well known among residents, these parks are major destinations. May incorporate grassed areas for informal/formal games, organised sports and hard surface sporting activities. Space should be connected to major road and public transport networks i.e. cycle ways.

11. This framework is adapted from the Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation's, Classification of Public Open Space (2012). It is important to note that whilst useful, this framework cannot be used in all circumstances and depends on the context.



<b>Neighbourhood</b>	1,500 to 5,000m <sup>2</sup> or more	Serves 1,000 dwellings or more	A well-developed park within walking distance from most households. Most visitors will spend up to an hour in the park, although some may stay several hours using the facilities. They are mid-sized parks providing a range of infrastructure and activity space for recreation or informal sports. They may cater for larger groups and are appealing to a range of users. They are built on sense of place through public art and landscaping. They service several communities or suburbs and are a fairly well known destination for those people living within their catchment. Facilities to include a good quality playground, facilities for teenage play, picnic tables and shelters, at least one public toilet, formal garden beds and good quality grassed area.
<b>Local</b>	500 to 1,500m <sup>2</sup> or more	Serves less than 1,000	Provides a basic local playground and areas for relaxation and play. The parks are used by residents who live within 5 – 20 minutes walking distance who spend less than an hour at the park, but may use it on a daily basis. Infrastructure may include a basic playground, tree plantings and kick around spaces. They are smaller parks providing a limited range of recreational opportunities for local residents. They are passive in nature and designed for local children's play, dog walking, potable water, relaxation and gatherings. Provides good visual supervision.
<b>Pocket</b>	100 to 500m <sup>2</sup>	Services less than 500	Provides a small playground or single equipment. The parks are used mainly as walkways or linkages to other streets, parks, used on a daily basis. Infrastructure may include basic playground equipment, tree plantings and pathways. They are smaller parks providing limited or no recreational opportunities for local residents.
<b>Natural</b>	Generally 3,000m <sup>2</sup> or more	Local community	Any natural area, there are generally no infrastructure in these areas. May include river foreshore areas, bush regeneration areas, nature reserves and regional conservation reserves.

The Greater Sydney Commission's Western City District Plan (2018) prioritises the delivery of high quality open spaces and asserts that public open space needs to be durable, multi-purpose and accessible to a wide variety of users. People in urban neighbourhoods should be able to walk to local open space. High density development (over 60 dwellings per hectare) should be located within 200 metres of open space and all dwellings should be within 400 metres of open space.

These guidelines and the above classification framework will be used in the planning of open space to ensure the most equitable and viable quantity, quality and distribution of open space is delivered for each area.

## 9.2 Benefits of open space

Evidence shows that spending time in nature produces wide ranging physical, social, environmental and economic<sup>12</sup> benefits to communities. Living within an accessible distance of community parks and other green spaces provides space for:

- A multitude of recreational opportunities to excite, relax, and create enjoyment;
- Enhancing social connection;
- Building cross-cultural understanding;
- Promoting opportunities for physical activity;
- Positive psychological impacts on our ability to concentrate, learn and be creative;
- Improved connection with nature;
- Aesthetic enjoyment with a variety of colours, shapes, textures, and sounds; and
- Providing educational opportunities especially for children.

Environmentally open space provides for:

- Pollution reduction
- Flood control
- Mitigates urban heat island effect
- Provides habitat for native flora and fauna
- The “green lungs” of the Liverpool area<sup>13</sup>

Economically open space provides for:

- Regional identity
- Place identity
- Promotes tourism
- Increased property values



Image source: Western Sydney Parklands Trust

## 9.3 Liverpool’s open space network

The commonly used benchmark for open space that is applied across NSW is 2.83ha per 1,000 persons<sup>14</sup>. Its continued use is strongly correlated with the application of development contributions on developers by local councils, and decisions made by the NSW Land and Environment Court.

The State Government’s *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines* (2010) provides alternate area percentage standards for open space planning in NSW. This includes benchmarks of:

- 9% of site area for local and district level open space including parks, linear and linkage corridors and outdoor sport; and
- 6% of site area for regional open space including parks, linear and linkage corridors and outdoor sport

This equates to 15% of a given area being devoted to open space.

12. Wright, A. (2013) *Future Park*, CSIRO Publishing.

13. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (2015) *Urban Green Cover in NSW*, [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

14. This figure is based on the UK National Playing Fields standard of provision that was set in the early 1900s and has been widely applied in Sydney since 1948.

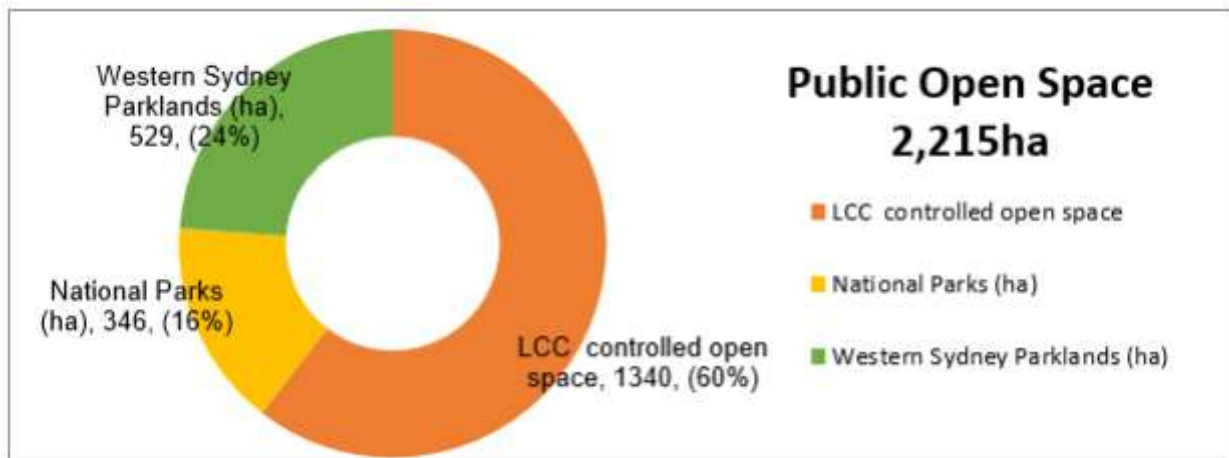








Council controls approximately 1,340 hectares (ha) of open space<sup>15</sup>. In addition, a further 875ha of open space is controlled by Western Sydney Parklands and National Parks. This represents approximately 7.3% of the total land area of the Liverpool LGA. Council's Open Space Network Map may be found at Appendix F.



Given that there are approximately 217,736<sup>16</sup> residents and 2,215ha of open space in Liverpool, this equates to approximately 11ha per 1,000 persons. Whilst at first glance this seems high, much of the land currently classified as open space cannot be used for other purposes as it is constrained by flooding (approximately 30%), service easements, gradient, road reservations, ecological considerations, heritage (Aboriginal or European), or in a smaller number of instances, potentially contamination. In some areas such as the City Centre, there is an existing shortage of open space that will only be exacerbated by increasing density and strong population growth.

## 9.4 Key themes

### 9.4.1 Delivering best practice open space management

Council's open space represents a significant public investment, ratepayers in turn require assurance they are being cared for and that we will continue to implement best practice assets management in accordance with Australian Standards at the most economical cost to the community.

Council's general funding for capital improvements account for only 16% of Council's annual capital allocation compared to the road and footpath program which has an allocation of over 60%. Therefore it is pertinent that Council not only have a clear process for prioritising capital works but also explores alternative funding sources so that infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner for the benefit of the community.

Planning for open space requires a holistic approach that considers the community's needs, land availability, site constraints, existing facilities, land ownership and adequate financial resources. Often the challenge in new release areas is the presence of several stakeholders with competing priorities. Council must manage this challenge adequately to plan and deliver facilities that best serves new and expanding communities.

15. This figures is based on current known figures using GIS data available to Council staff

16. Profile ID currently calculates the 2016 estimated residential population of Liverpool at 217,736 persons.



## 9.4.2 Implementing a 'landscaping first' approach

Landscaping is both aesthetically pleasing and relatively inexpensive. The investment comes in time taken to establish and mature landscaping. To this end, this strategy envisages greater community involvement to achieve desired outcomes.

Council's City Presentation and Sustainable Environment teams will play an important role in advising on which parks would be suitable to be landscaped to ensure sustainability of design and reduction of future maintenance costs. In addition, there are existing community connections in which Council could use to assist in the design and management of landscaped areas.

## 9.4.3 Greening our City

Open space plays a vital role in supporting health, wellbeing, biodiversity and ecosystem services by providing space for tree canopy, increased amenity, whilst also protecting and enhancing our natural areas.

Council must ensure that our spaces are climate resilient and promote sustainability. There is a need to drive improved integration between functioning passive recreational parks and tree planting or bush regeneration activities to adapt to negative climate change effects especially in areas most vulnerable to urban heat and mitigate urban heat islands where possible.

Previous international studies, as well as detailed analysis of the Parramatta City Centre, and Western Sydney as a whole (including Liverpool and its suburbs), highlights that the Liverpool City Centre, and many of Liverpool's suburbs are highly vulnerable to the impacts of urban heat and the urban heat island effect. Green infrastructure, such as trees and roof gardens, can mitigate some of these effects, however other aspects, such as dwelling design, and efficient city planning are also fundamental in tackling the issue of urban heat. No single solution will solve the problem, and a multi-faceted approach is required. It is recommended that issues of urban heat and the urban heat island effect are addressed as part of an urban sustainability framework, which includes the Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy.

A preliminary set of actions are identified and designed to address the issues noted above. This is set out in Appendix H.







# LOCAL SPORTS STRATEGY







# 10. Local Sports Strategy

This section aims to strengthen Liverpool's local sports sector by delivering new and upgraded infrastructure and improving the understanding of the needs of local sporting clubs and the wider community. This assists with Council's resources being more effectively applied to increase the rate of participation in sports and physical activities.

## 10.1 Defining sports spaces

Sport facilities provide a setting for formal and structured sporting activities such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. Sport spaces are designed to accommodate playing surface, buffer zones and infrastructure requirements of specific or general sporting activity. Players and spectators attend with the express purpose of engaging in organised sporting activity, training or competition, or watching the game.

## 10.2 Current context

Council continues to be the main supporter of organised sports in Liverpool and currently assists organised sports through the following:

- Seasonal allocation of sporting fields for summer and winter sports;
- Provision of sporting facilities including amenities buildings;
- Convenes the Liverpool Sports Committee, which consists of representatives from all sporting codes operating in Liverpool;
- Maintenance of facilities and playing surfaces e.g. turf maintenance and emergency repairs to buildings;
- Planned capital renewal and upgrades, such as amenity building upgrades, floodlighting, irrigation of fields;
- Direct employment of staff to liaise with clubs and sporting organisations to plan, design, and project manage new facilities;
- Funding support for development of local athletes and facility improvements
- Project management support to sporting clubs;
- Financial support to the South West Academy of Sport and presence on the Academy's Sports Subcommittee; and



Image source: Western Sydney Parklands Trust



## 10.2.1 Supply analysis of current sporting facilities

Council currently manages 42 organised sporting venues<sup>17</sup> across Liverpool. A Network Map of Sporting Facilities has been provided at Appendix G. The following table provides an overview of these venues. Key points:

- 230ha of open space devoted to organised sports across Liverpool;
- 42 venues; incorporating approximately 199 ovals, courts and fields;
- More than 75% of sporting venues are affected by flooding; and
- Almost all venues have amenities buildings and floodlighting.

17. Does not include Council's network of tennis venues as they currently cater for more social and recreational play due to not being large enough to cater for organised competition.



## 10.2.2 District analysis

The following table provides a breakdown of useable open space for sports purposes by each of the six district boundaries of Liverpool. Key points include:

- More than 85% of all useable land for sports is located in the Established, Eastern and 2168 Districts, despite accounting for only 73% of the total population;
- The New Release District is under-serviced for sports; and
- The Established District is well serviced. However, this includes Woodward Park which also caters for the City Centre District. Given that the City Centre District is likely to continue to grow; both areas will be underserved in 2036.

District	Land area (Useable)	% of total open space devoted to organised sports in Liverpool LGA	Persons	Persons per hectare of Active Open Space	Ha of Active Open Space per 1,000 persons
<b>2168</b>	47.46	20.6	44,500	937.6	1.1
<b>Established</b>	95.3	41.4	56,000	587.6	1.7
<b>Eastern</b>	58.2	25.3	35,708	613.5	1.6
<b>City Centre</b>	0	0.0	12,600	0	0.0
<b>New Release</b>	8.1	3.5	31,186	3850.1	0.3
<b>Rural</b>	20.9	9.1	7,242	346.5	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>229.96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>187,236</b>	<b>814.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>

The following issues have been identified as requiring greater acknowledgement and change in Council priorities:

- A nation-wide trend of declining participation in organised sports;
- Viability of local clubs particularly in low socio-economic areas;
- Local sporting participation levels and needs are not documented or well understood;
- A lack of regional sporting facilities in South West Sydney;
- Lack of female friendly environments;
- More socially modified competitions allowing for flexibility of participation and extending the seasonality of sports into what was traditionally their "off-season";
- Under-provision of tennis facilities across the Liverpool LGA to be investigated as a matter of priority;
- Growing demand from social sporting groups outside of traditional structures; and
- Lack of storage for equipment.

According to the Australian Sports Commission, sports that “fail to recognise or accept the changing landscape risk losing relevance and ground to other sports and leisure activities that are willing and able to adapt.”







## 10.3 Key themes

### 10.3.1 Working collaboratively

Working collaboratively with key internal and external stakeholders to successfully meet objectives and deliver optimal solutions for the community. This approach will lead to a consideration of policies, structures and relationships with a view to unlocking the potential, and subsequently harnessing the optimum contributions of all stakeholders within the process of strategy formulation and implementation.

Innovative partnerships with key state government agencies, non-government organisations, businesses and community groups need to be nurtured, together with creative delivery mechanisms in collaborative approaches to planning, financing, construction and life-cycle operation and maintenance of Council's assets.

### 10.3.2 Policy development

A clear strategic framework provides guidance on the delivery and ensures the efficient operation and management of Council's sporting facilities.

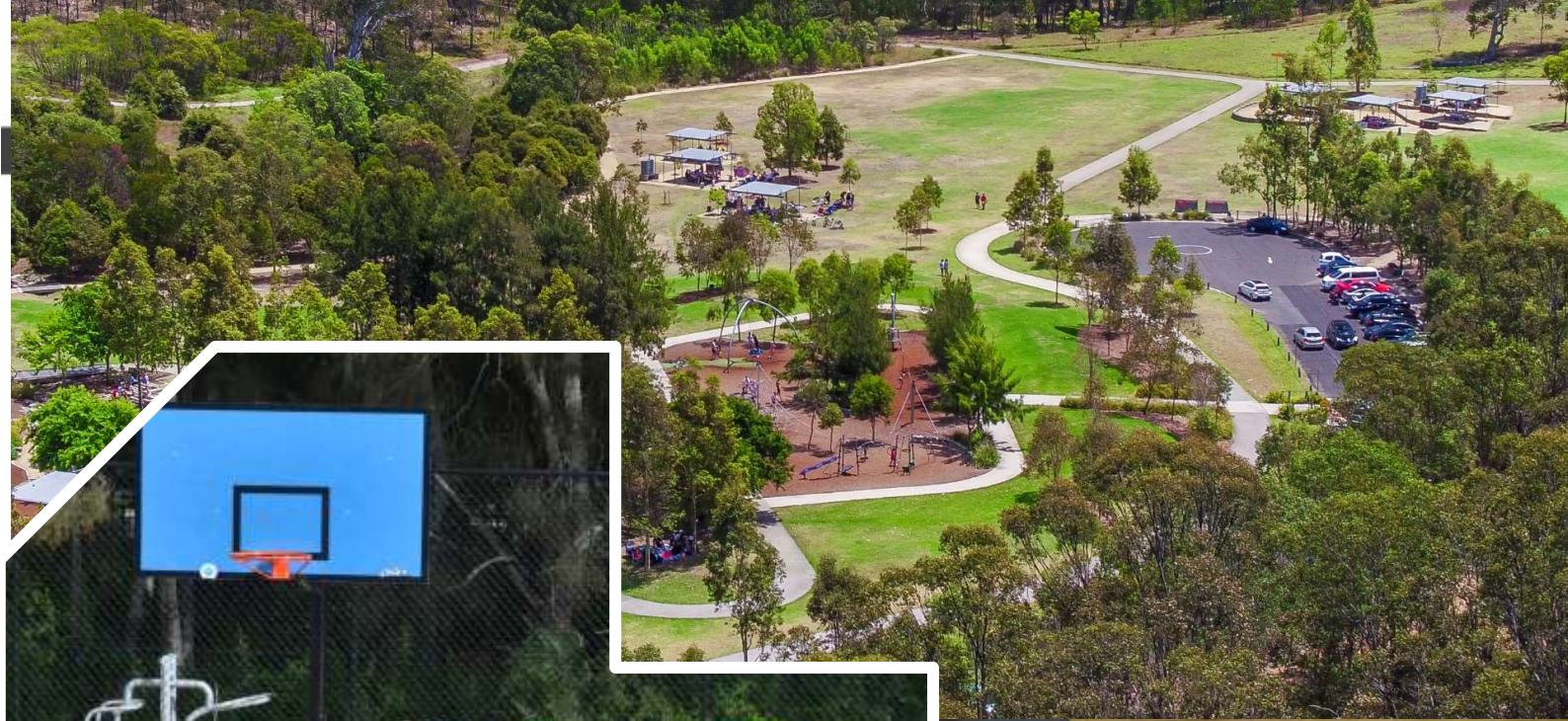
### 10.3.3 Improving planning for sport

Developing partnerships with key state, regional and local sporting and recreation planning agencies and organisations to deliver new facilities and services using an integrated approach.

There are opportunities for a collaborative approach to improve planning for sporting facilities through the development of the Western City District Sport Facility Plan and other plans across Greater Sydney driven by the NSW Office of Sport.









### 10.3.4 Inclusive design

Park amenities buildings assist organised sports to administer their club and deliver sport at a local level. These facilities typically include change rooms and storage. Buildings needs to be multi-purpose, with plans consistent with the principles of CPTED and Accessibility and Universal Design and be adaptable for future uses.

### 10.3.5 Delivering new infrastructure

The timely delivery of infrastructure in line with needs contributes to the sense of place and community. This is particularly pertinent for new release areas whose residents do not have strong social ties. Sporting facilities are ideally placed to serve this function as well as providing for health affirming activities.

### 10.3.6 Improved resourcing

It is not always possible for Council to be a sole financial contributor for major infrastructure projects. While adequate planning can be undertaken to ensure that work plans and operational budgets could fund capital infrastructure projects, Council should explore alternative resourcing options for the timely delivery of infrastructure and other actions. This Strategy will ensure an evidence-based approach to resourcing and decision-making is implemented.

Projects and actions may be resourced through several funding streams:

- Commonwealth Government funding;
- Developer contributions;
- Council's annual capital works budget for parks and open space;
- Grants available to Council from Federal or State Governments including state sporting bodies;
- Voluntary planning agreements, where Council will capture uplift value from planning proposals via its VPA and Social Impact Assessment policies;
- Council's Property Reserve;
- Town Improvement Fund (for city centre locations only);
- Public Private Partnerships: Collaboration with industry, peak agencies and/or Department of Education and Independent schools;
- Joint use facilities: Collaboration with Department of Education, Independent schools, private providers, and clubs/user groups;
- Sponsorship: Collaboration with industry groups, private providers; and
- Asset sale and consolidation: Proceeds from the rationalisation of assets targeted towards specific improvements to recreation facilities.

Given the predicted growth levels and corresponding demand for sports and recreational facilities it is critical that Council is prepared to explore new funding instruments to meet anticipated demands.

A preliminary set of actions are identified and designed to address the issues noted above. This is set out in Appendix H.







# 11. Implementing the Strategy

## 11.1 Implementation

Council is aware that many of the strategic actions are long term in nature and require significant planning and resourcing to progress this strategy. For each initiative, more detailed work is required to determine feasibility, project costing, stakeholder consultation, timeframes, and due asset management processes.

The following steps will be undertaken for the implementation of the Strategic Actions:

- Establish a Strategy specific Project Working Group to develop an implementation strategy that provides for ongoing review;
- Reflect Strategy Actions including new hierarchy into Council's Section 94 Contributions Plans;
- Adopt new open space classification and hierarchy system for prioritising planning and delivery of new infrastructure;
- Periodically review Strategic Actions to determine timeline, resource allocations, lead directorate, and opportunity for partnerships;
- Reflect Strategic Actions in Council's planning framework including Delivery Program and Operational Plan;
- Consider the Strategy intentions and Strategic Actions when determining priorities; and
- Benchmarking of facilities against relevant standards.

In addition to this, working groups have been formed to look at improving compliance, maintenance and condition ratings and also to consider better marketing. Implementation of the Strategy will be carried out by Council departments identified in the Action Plan to be prepared following adoption of the Strategy.





## 11.2 Governance

The Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy Project Working Group will provide regular quarterly updates and monitor the progress of each key action contained in this Strategy and will report to the Strategic Projects Project Control Group (PCG). The PCG provides the required level of management direction and decision making to progress actions within this Strategy. It will direct the project and define how the project should interface with programs and other work in Council.

The PCG will be responsible for reporting to Council on a regular basis and for securing the political support necessary for high level decisions that are essential to the delivery of project outputs and the attainment of investment outcomes. It is also responsible for ensuring appropriate management of project components outlined in the project plan. In particular, the PCG is responsible for probity, risk and issue management.

Key tasks of the PCG will typically include:

- Providing overall strategic guidance on implementation of actions;
- Responsibility for the project's feasibility, business plan and realisation of outcomes/benefits;
- Approving the appointment of, and providing advice, support and direction to the project manager/director;
- Setting the delegation and monitoring of project tolerances for time, quality and cost as well as escalating when necessary;
- Authorising any major deviations from the agreed scope, budget and schedule within tolerances including (if appropriate) approval (or recommendation) for expenditure of contingency and risk based budget;
- Identifying need for strategic intervention, including termination, where appropriate;
- Overseeing the communication of information about the project to stakeholder groups as necessary; and
- Resolving conflicts between the project team, asset managers and suppliers, or escalating issues that have significant implications for the project.

## 11.3 Review and evaluation

This Strategy covers the period 2018-2028. A regular review of the Strategy will be conducted every two years and a formal mid-term review will be conducted to ensure the continuing relevancy of the Strategy in line with Council's long-term vision for the future.

A comprehensive action plan, based on the Strategic Actions will be developed to guide implementation of the Strategy. Performance against Strategic objectives will be monitored by the consolidated Project Control Group comprised of relevant Directors and officers who will make recommendations to the Strategic Panel for consideration.

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# 13. Appendices

## Appendix A - Definitions

### **Active recreation**

Activities engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.

### **Bushland**

Uncultivated land that is covered with trees, shrubs, or other natural vegetation.

### **Concept plan**

An orderly arrangement of parts of an overall design or objective. A concept plan is intended only to illustrate what is proposed to be done.

### **District boundaries**

The six district areas within Liverpool Local Government Area broken down from its 42 suburbs to allow consideration of local characteristics and developmental stages:

- > Rural District
- > New Release District
- > 2168 District
- > Established District
- > Eastern District
- > City Centre District

### **Green space**

Land or space that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation.

### **Master plan**

A framework in which activities, facilities, landscaping, circulation and amenities are defined in enough detail to define predictable outcomes but with sufficient flexibility to allow various responses of which there may be several or many within one master plan area.

### **Open space**

Open space is public land primarily designated and managed to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities, as well as land set aside for landscape, amenity, economic, cultural, conservation, or biodiversity purposes. It provides the necessary space where public activities can occur and is an essential component of community life contributing strongly to the development of liveable and sustainable communities.

### **Organised sports**

Sporting activities organised by a club or recreation association such as a sporting body, a social club, church group or other association.

### **Natural bushland environments**

Geographical areas in a city that have innate physical and cultural individuality developed through natural growth rather than design or planning.

### **Non-organised physical activity**

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



### Passive recreation

Outdoor recreational activities, such as wildlife observation, walking and biking, that require minimum use of facilities or development and that have minimal environmental impact on the recreational site.

### Private open space

Land or space that is owned or controlled by dwelling occupiers and available for private use only (e.g. a backyard or balcony).

### Public space

Land or space that is open and accessible to all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic level.

### Publicly accessible open space

Open land or space, which the public is invited to use, but remains privately owned and maintained (e.g. a golf course). Public access is generally restricted by time, purpose of use, ability to spend money and various security measures.

### Recreation

An activity that people engage in during their free time that is enjoyable and is recognised as having positive social values. Recreation may or may not occur in public open spaces and occurs across the social spectrum.

### Sport

A human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport.

### Social capital

The network of social connections that exist between people, and their shared values and norms of behaviour, which enable them to lead full lives and allow society to function effectively.



# Appendix B – Policy Context

## Federal

**Play Sport Australia** is the Australian Sports Commission’s plan to increase participation in sports. The Plan identifies three key areas to increase participation, which are:

- Better understand the environment by gaining and sharing deeper insights and measurement;
- Focusing on younger Australians; and
- Strengthen Australia’s national sporting organisations.

Although largely focusing on supporting national sporting organisations to boost participation, the Plan also offers grass-root investment through the ‘Sporting Schools Programme’, which provides children with direct access to sport before, during and after school hours.

## NSW

### Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act sets out the legal framework for the system of local government in NSW. The object of the Act is to provide guidance to enable councils to carry out their functions in a way that facilitates local communities that are strong, healthy and prosperous. With regard to open space and recreation, the Act sets out how:

- community land is required to be managed;
- land can be acquired for public purposes;
- land can be disposed; and
- how the needs of the community is to be taken into consideration.

### Crown Lands Act 1989

The Crown Lands Act sets out the legal framework for the management of Crown land in NSW. The Act sets out objectives and principles for the management of crown land including:

- The sale and leasing of crown land; and
- Dedication and reservation of crown land.

### NSW Premier’s Priorities

The NSW Premier has released 12 key priorities that aim to make NSW a better place to live and work, and includes ‘Tackling childhood obesity’. The Plan recognises that:

- Children who are overweight or obese are more likely to have poor health and wellbeing outcomes, compared with healthy children, and
- Children who are overweight or obese are likely to carry excess weight through later life, increasing the risk of chronic disease.

The explicit aim is to reduce the rate of children who are overweight or obese by five percent within 10 years. The Plan also recognises that childhood obesity is a complex issue, and proposes taking a whole-of-government, systematic approach to supporting children and families to be healthy and active.



## **A Plan for Growing Sydney, Towards our Greater Sydney 2056, Draft South West District Plan and the 'Western Sydney City Deal'**

Recently, the NSW Government released an amendment to a Plan for Growing Sydney titled, *towards our Greater Sydney 2056*. This document reconceptualises Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three major cities, Eastern City (Sydney CBD), the Central City (Parramatta) and a future 'Western City' focussed on Western Sydney Airport (Badgerys Creek). This three cities concept will act as the central organising strategy in the planning for the Greater Sydney area, guiding future decision-making and the priorities of government.

This *Western City District Plan* sets out a vision, priorities and actions for the development of the South West District of Greater Sydney. This area encompasses Liverpool, Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly LGAs. Liverpool city centre is designated as a 'Strategic Centre'.

At the outset, the Draft Plan identifies South West Sydney as:

- Greater Sydney's urban parkland, where urban lifestyles meet rural living;
- An area rich in Aboriginal, colonial and migrant history and heritage; and
- One of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia.

The Draft District Plan contains a number of important actions related to this strategy including:

- Development of specific guidelines to inform the planning of new communities in land release areas;
- Develop a South West District sport and recreation participation strategy and sport and recreation facility plan;
- Support planning for shared spaces including an increase in community facilities and open space;
- Use funding priorities to deliver the South West District Green Grid priorities;
- Develop support tools and methodologies for local open space planning; and
- Review criteria for monitoring water quality and waterway health

Liverpool is also designated as a 'Collaboration' Area, which is defined as:

*"A place where a significant productivity, liveability or sustainability outcome is better achieved when different levels of government and in some cases the private sector or landowners collaborate on an agreed outcome"*

Pertinent to this Strategy is the following aims for the Collaboration Area:

- Improve urban amenity and the sense of place; and
- Improve environmental outcomes around the Georges River

Finally, the Australian and NSW Governments have recently agreed to work with local government (including Liverpool) on the development of a '*Western Sydney City Deal*'. Although largely conceptual, the deal aims to deliver almost 100,000 jobs, more housing and improved transport for outer Western Sydney. The majority of this funding will be limited to the area known as the Western Sydney Priority Growth Area which lies in Penrith and Liverpool LGAs.

Amongst many things, the Western Sydney City Deal pledges to support clean air, green spaces, vibrant arts and cultural initiatives.

## Local

### Our Home, Liverpool 2027

Our home, Liverpool 2027 is Liverpool's long-term vision for the future. Based on consultation with more than 1,500 members of our community, it is a plan to develop Liverpool as a high quality, attractive regional city for South Western Sydney. It sets several key strategic directions and promotes Council as an organisation that embraces innovation, excellence, sustainability and equity in delivering the most efficient and effective services for our community.

The Community's vision for the future is "Liverpool, an innovative and sustainable city delivering for our community." The following directions and sub-strategies found in *Our Home, Liverpool 2027* have directly informed the development of this strategy:

Key Direction	Key Strategy
<b>Direction 1</b> <i>Creating Connection</i>	2.b Create clean and attractive public places for people to engage and connect
	2.c Improve the community's sense of safety in Liverpool
<b>Direction 1</b> <i>Creation Connection</i>	3.a Foster social inclusion, strengthen the local community and increase opportunities for people who may experience barriers
	3.b Celebrate and respect Liverpool's rich cultural and social diversity and embrace the opportunities it provides
	3.c Improve health and wellbeing and encourage a happy active community
	3.d Plan, support and deliver high quality and accessible services, program and facilities
<b>Direction 1</b> <i>Creating Connection</i>	4.d Provide first class and iconic facilities and places
<b>Direction 1</b> <i>Creating Connection</i>	6.b Encourage sustainable and alternative transport options such as walking, cycling and integrated public transport
<b>Direction 2</b> <i>Strengthening and protecting our environment</i>	5.a Lead the community to develop and implement environmentally sustainable practices
	5.b Enhance and protect natural corridors, waterways and bush land
	5.c Reduce adverse environmental impacts for present and future generations
<b>Direction 4</b> <i>Leading through Collaboration</i>	7.a Position Council as an industry leader, delivering best practice and innovation



## Appendix C – Recreation facilities benchmarks<sup>18</sup>

Facility	Definition	Benchmark
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	Rectangular grass fields between 90-120m long by 54-90m. A minimum of three fields side by side should be provided with amenities. Orientation should be North-South. Most facilities should have a minimum of 50 lux lighting to facilitate weeknight training.	1: 4,000 persons
<b>Rugby league/ Rugby Union</b>	Rectangular grass pitch with preferred dimensions of 100m by 70m. A minimum of two fields side by side should be provided. Orientation should be North-South. Most facilities should have a minimum of 50 lux lighting to facilitate weeknight training.	1: 7,000 persons
<b>AFL Ovals</b>	Ideally co-located with cricket fields used during summer. Orientation should be North-South. Most facilities should have a minimum of 50 lux lighting to facilitate weeknight training.	1: 7,000 persons
<b>Baseball Diamonds</b>	Diamond shaped grass pitch facility requiring pitch boundaries of 98m, with 122m striking outfield (baseball) and 91.44m (softball).	1: 10,000 person
<b>Cricket Pitches</b>	Oval grass field with synthetic pitch having at least 70m boundaries. Ideally, co-located with AFL fields used during winter. Orientation should be North-South.	1: 10,000 persons
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	Synthetic surface preferred, 23.77m by 10.97m with 6.4m depth of baseline. A minimum of 6 courts for local and 12 for district facility. Stand-alone 1, 2, or 3 court facilities will not be supported unless developed as part of district multi-sports/recreation hub. Orientation of courts should be North-South. Must have artificial lighting.	6 courts: 15,000 persons (local) 12 courts: 30,000 persons (District)
<b>Hockey</b>	Synthetic surface. 91.4m by 55m with 5m end and 4m side run-offs. Orientation of courts should be North-South. Must have artificial lighting.	1: 75,000
<b>Indoor Basketball Courts</b>	Minimum 2x full sized hard-court surface with sufficient runoffs, change rooms, good ventilation and natural light, artificial lighting, scoreboard and spectator seating.	1: 10,000 persons
<b>Netball</b>	Hard flat surface requiring 30.5m by 15.25m with minimum run-off of 3.05 or 3.65 between courts. A minimum of at least 16 courts on one site shall be provided to allow competitions. All facilities shall be artificially lit.	1: 4,000 persons
<b>Athletics</b>	Formal synthetic provision or marked grassed oval with ancillary jumping pits and throwing areas.	1: 200,000 persons
<b>Other</b>	Archery, Shooting, etc.	1 for entire LGA
<b>Aquatic Facilities</b>	Indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities including opportunities for lap swimming, recreational swim and play, learn to swim, crèche, change rooms, kiosk. Size and dimensions of pool should be determined based on community need, optimal operational models and available funding.	1 per 50,000 residents

18. Judith Stubbs – Liverpool Housing, Population and Social Infrastructure Study 2016 Liverpool City Council







## Appendix D - Demand assessment of sporting facilities

This section provides an overview of Council's current supply, benchmarks and demand for sporting facilities. Benchmarks are based on available information and adjustments made on assumptions regarding preferences and local context.

Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	41	1:4,000 persons	-10 x Soccer fields	-35 x Soccer fields	Soccer is the most popular organised sport in Liverpool. As the population continues, the demographic trend in young people and families is likely to increase the need for soccer facilities. Benchmarking suggests a shortage of soccer pitches now and into the future.	Plan for soccer facilities in the western release areas.  Consideration of synthetic facilities is required in high demand areas and where provision of open space in these localities is insufficient to provide for a multitude of activities
<b>Rugby league/ Rugby Union</b>	19	1:7000 persons	-9 x RL/RU	-24 x RL/RU	Rugby League is popular within Liverpool, but the popularity of the code is generally in decline. This means that the identified gap of fields may be lower than that indicated by the benchmark. Future rugby League facilities should be considered in western area of the LGA.	Plan for rugby league and rugby union fields in the western area.  Strengthen Paciuillo oval as the home of rugby league in the eastern area.



Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>AFL Ovals</b>	5	1:10,000 persons	-15 x AFL Ovals	-25 x AFL Ovals	Benchmarks suggest a shortage of AFL ovals now and into the future. However, demand for AFL in Liverpool is not as high as other areas, mainly due to the prominence of soccer. Despite this there is a need to cater for AFL in the western area of Liverpool.	Plan for AFL oval in western re-lease areas including Austral and future Western City.
<b>Baseball/ Softball Diamonds</b>	34 (17 senior and 7 Junior)	1:10,000 person	+14 baseball/ softball diamonds	+4 baseball/ softball diamonds	Provision for baseball and softball is adequate given above benchmark provision. In addition, facilities at Jacqui Osmond Reserve are considered as a regional facility. However to ensure an equitable distribution across the LGA, new baseball and softball diamonds will need to be considered in western areas.	Plan for a centralised baseball/ softball facility in the western area of Liverpool.

Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>Cricket Pitches</b>	19	1:10,000 persons	-1 x cricket pitch	-11 cricket pitches	Benchmarking suggests cricket field provision is adequate currently however there will be a shortage over time as population grows.	Ensure provision of cricket fields is included in future western release areas.
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	13 Courts	6 courts:15,000 persons (local) 12 courts:30,000 persons (District) Note: Tennis Australia recommends a minimum 16 courts	-10 x Local Complexes Or -5 x District complexes	-16 X local complexes Or -8 District complexes	There is a severe shortage of tennis facilities across Liverpool now and into the future. The current facilities are considered too small for competition and have basic amenities for modern tennis needs. However, this shortage is tempered by the decline in tennis participation.	Retain local courts at Australis Park, Bigge Park, and Carnes Hill.  Provide at least two-district tennis complexes located in the western and eastern regions. A third should be investigated as part of planning for the future western city. Recommended locations are: > Chipping Norton Lakes (Eastern area) > Carnes Hill North (Western Area)
<b>Hockey</b>	3 Synthetic Fields + 3 grass fields (Moorebank)	1:75,000 persons	0	-1-2	Current supply is considered adequate for eastern region of Liverpool. An opportunity exists to expand current facility and amenities at Moorebank to create a regional complex.	Pursue options to strengthen and expand hockey's presence at Moorebank. Hockey fields will need to be considered in western region once development proceeds.



Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>Basketball Courts (indoor)</b>	7	1:10,000 persons	-14 x Courts	-24 x Courts	Basketball remains a popular sport, however the current supply is considered inadequate to service future western area. Further opportunities can be provided via outdoor courts that are typically used for unstructured games and practice.	Retain existing basketball courts at our leisure centres. Plan for a minimum three court multi-purpose indoor stadium in Austral. Expand provision of informal courts in passive reserves in line with hierarchy of open space.
<b>Netball Courts</b>	1 regional facility with 32 Courts 13 Courts (local)	1:4,000 persons	-5 x Courts	-30 x Courts	Current provision is adequate, however strong population growth in the western area necessitates a facility in this area. Consultations with local netball association indicate large centralised facilities are preferable.	Retain existing courts at Woodward Park and expand floodlighting. Plan for a district facility in the western area.
<b>Golf Facilities</b>	2 Courses (New Brighton Golf Course)	1:30,000 persons	- 5 x Courses	- 8 x Courses	Liverpool has a shortage of golf courses although this is somewhat tempered by a general decline in the participation of golf. However, a number of courses lie just outside of Liverpool LGA in Bankstown (Bankstown GC, Liverpool GC, and Georges River GC) and Fairfield (Cabramatta GC), which are easily accessible to residents in the eastern area of Liverpool.	Facilitate the provision of one golf course in western region of Liverpool. Options include Western Sydney Parklands or potential Regional Sporting Complex in future Western City. Alternatively, an area can be set aside for a golf course and zoned RE2 – Private Recreation. Council can investigate ownership and management options for this golf course. Investigate a driving range as a commercial opportunity.

Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>Athletics</b>	4 x Grass facilities (local)	1:200,000 persons	-1 x Regional Facility	-1 x Regional Facility	Investigations reveal that Woodward Park, Western Sydney Parklands or potential regional sporting complex in the Western City are the only suitable options.	Retain network of local grass athletics facilities. Provide one high-level synthetic athletics facility in a flood free area.
<b>Aquatic facilities</b>	2 x Aquatic centres 1 x local pool (Holsworthy)	1:50,000	-2 x aquatic centres	-4 x aquatic centres	Current provision of aquatic centres is inadequate to service growth in western areas. In addition, existing centres are ageing requiring significant investment.	Four centres are recommended: 1 in Eastern area – relocate Holsworthy Pool to Hammondville Sporting Reserve 1 in Liverpool city centre / established area – Upgrade Whitlam Centre/ investigate relocation of centre in Woodward Park 1 in 2168 area – Explore options to provide new facility within McGirr Park and ensuring there the centre differentiates activities with Whitlam Centre. An indoor pool will drive the greatest benefit to both community and Council. (1 in new release area Austral).



Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>Other (Specialised)</b>	1 International shooting range	1 per LGA	0	0	Existing facility is located in Western Sydney Parklands.	Nothing required by Council.
<b>Other (Specialised)</b>	One Archery Centre	1 per LGA	0	0	Archery is currently located at Helles Park, Moorebank. However, the site is currently flood affected significantly constraining expansion and upgrading of facilities. Investigation of potential other sites revealed a poor land capability in Council owned or managed open space.	Explore options to relocate archery to Western Sydney Parklands.
<b>Other (Specialised)</b>	Barefoot Water Skiing	1 per LGA	0	0	Barefoot skiing is a specialised activity requiring a highly defined locality. The Georges River north of the weir is one such area capable of accommodating this activity. Issues include: Launch facilities are not well formalised. Upstairs area of clubhouse remains uninhabitable Water quality is variable	Based on demand alone for this activity, it is not feasible to upgrade facilities. Investigate options for a compatible use that can share facilities.

Facility	Current Supply	Benchmark	Gap as of 2015 (Based on population of 200,000 persons)	Gap as of 2031 (Based on future population of 300,000 persons)	Gap Assessment	Recommendation
<b>Other (Specialised)</b>	Sailing	1 per LGA	0	0	Chipping Norton Sailing Club currently operates out of the 'Boatshed' community facility. Current facilities are at capacity and cannot accommodate future growth. Existing concrete boat ramps are unsuitable for sailing as they can damage boats. Instead, sailing club accesses Grand Flaneur Beach for launching and landing purposes. This creates conflict with other park uses and is contrary to risk management principles.	As part of Chipping Norton Lakes Master plan, explore options for expanded facility and improved launch facilities within parklands.



# Appendix E – Community Feedback Summary

The following provide a representative sample of the comments and issues arising from the community consultations.

## Residents told us:

- They want more family friendly spaces including within walking distance to home.
- They want a higher level of cleanliness, public toilets and amenities to allow longer stays.
- They want higher quality facilities, running, and walking and cycle tracks.
- They want to enjoy outdoor gyms with appropriate cover and access to drinking water.
- They want to see more trees, plants and beautification in our parks.
- They want a greater level of comfort with seating, shade, shelter and toilets as priorities
- Illegal dumping in open space was an issue.

## District sporting associations told us:

- Council does a good job in facilitating sport in Liverpool.
- There is a lack of higher-level sporting facilities in Liverpool.
- Priorities include increasing female participation, increasing the number of grounds to cater for growth.
- Decline in participation in rugby league was 30% over three years.
- For soccer, the large growth in participation and volunteers requires a greater allocation of sporting fields and of higher quality.
- For some sports, increased competition from other codes has led to declining participation.
- There is a shortage of sporting fields in the new release areas.
- With the exception of netball, female participation in all codes was significantly lower compared to males.

## Sporting clubs told us:

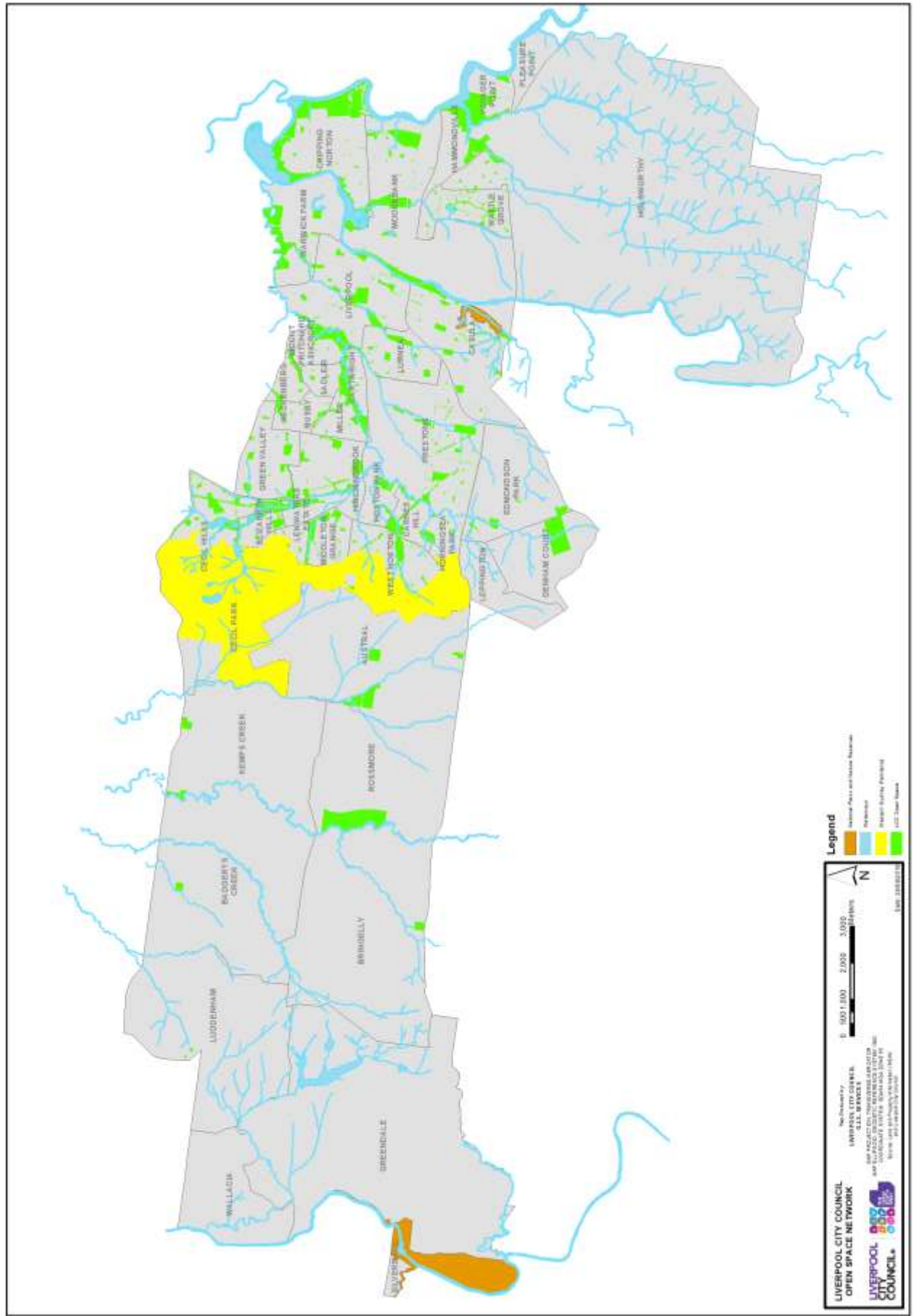
- There is stable participation across sports
- Increasing costs related to insurance and fees payable to state sporting association is making participation expensive
- For winter codes, lighting is essential for training
- Across the board, local sporting clubs need more storage
- Overlapping of seasons between winter and summer codes is increasingly problematic
- Increasing competition with alternate activities has contributed to a decline in participation
- More flexibility in leasing or hiring fields is required.
- Council's program of aeration and topdressing is essential to maintain the condition of sporting surfaces
- More socially modified competitions allowing for flexibility of participation for people who are time







# Appendix F – Liverpool’s Open Space Network











# STRATEGIC ACTIONS



# Appendix H

The following is a preliminary set of actions designed to address issues noted in each section. A comprehensive action plan will be developed following adoption of this strategy and will detail the responsible department, timeframe and measures for tracking progress.

Recreation	
THEME	KEY ACTIONS
<b>Creating Places for People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise a place making approach to guide development of open space and facilities</li> <li>Ensure planning principles are adopted and applied to all open space development</li> <li>Ensure diversity in the function, feel and setting of recreational opportunities</li> <li>Ensure community needs assessments are undertaken prior to any major works</li> <li>Develop planning and design guidelines for open space</li> <li>Direct investment and resources towards creating integrated spaces of distinction</li> <li>Prioritise landscape master plans for City Centre, regional and district spaces and implement works in accordance with plans</li> <li>Renew Plans of Management that consider active recreation and surrounding natural bushland ensuring licence agreements reflect level of detail sufficient to educate users</li> </ul>
<b>PLANNING</b>	
A place making approach will guide the development of district and regional open space. Investment in higher order open space and facilities will encourage multiple uses and greater social connection. High quality design of our open space is critical in promoting higher utilisation and physical activity.	
<b>Promoting Active Living</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop formal partnerships with key government agencies with the aim to promote healthy lifestyles</li> <li>Develop strategies for encouraging and improving walking and cycling in the City Centre</li> <li>Plan and deliver and identify key green corridors that connect key open spaces with major activity generators</li> <li>Deliver an active transport plan for the City Centre</li> <li>Ensure principles of active living are incorporated into the new Local Environmental Plan</li> <li>Developing projects for active Living is to be included as a condition of consent for all new subdivision applications and development applications in the City Centre</li> <li>Continue Council's outdoor gym program in line with adopted hierarchy of open space</li> <li>Improve accessibility and aesthetic improvement of open space to encourage use that promote active living</li> <li>Improve and update Council's Open Space website content</li> </ul>
<b>PLANNING</b>	
This theme aims to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents through everyday health promoting activities. In order to do so it is important to acknowledge and address the structural and systemic issues that affect people's capacity to adopt and maintain healthy behaviours.	
<b>Improving Play Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Play Strategy and Guidelines that will guide decision making for the next 10 years including renewal, upgrades and potential decommissioning of excess playgrounds</li> <li>Provide for a regional play space as part of future Chipping Norton Lakes Parklands Master Plan</li> <li>Provide at least one major play space in each district which includes a high number of accessible features and caters to a broad range of ages and abilities</li> <li>Increase involvement of children in design and decision-making</li> <li>Enhanced funding mechanisms to ensure delivery of play</li> </ul>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY</b>	
Opportunities exist for developing 'play spaces' that integrate with nature and adventure play. Opportunities may also include child friendly landscaping or public art installations that also encourage physical activity and social interaction. In	

<p>order to integrate more nature, adventure, and inclusive play opportunities for children, a new means for improving and encouraging 'play' is required.</p>	<p>space and park embellishment (i.e. paths, shade, natural play opportunities).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-located district and Regional play spaces with supporting infrastructure such as toilets, cafes, community hubs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning for Off-leash Dog Areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver at least one large fenced off-leash area in each district</li> <li>• Ensure that the off-leash design guidelines are met for each fenced area</li> <li>• Develop at least one off-leash area in every suburb, depending on location, they can be unfenced</li> <li>• Explore options for un-fenced off-leash areas including application of timed spaces allowing co-use of spaces</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for off-leash areas whilst planning for designated open space in new release areas</li> <li>• Attach dog bowls on new water refill stations, where possible</li> <li>• Ensure animal waste disposal bags and bin is conveniently located at each off-leash area (fenced or otherwise)</li> <li>• Develop clear and consistent signage outlining responsibilities of owners</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to facilitate dog-related information sessions/talks at the dog parks</li> </ul>
<p><b>INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY</b></p>	
<p>There are many benefits to pet ownership including companionship. Spaces for dogs to run and socialise in a controlled setting are generally known as "off-leash areas".</p>	
<p><b>Improving Safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake regular safety audits of open spaces</li> <li>• Undertake CPTED assessment before major works are carried out in open space.</li> <li>• Ensure CPTED principles are applied to all major park upgrades.</li> <li>• Prioritise lighting in parks in accordance with hierarchy of open space, City Centre parks and in areas such as laneways or connecting spaces that link residential areas with retail/transit stations</li> <li>• Develop and implement Lighting guidelines that facilitates improved lighting in our parks</li> <li>• Installation of energy efficient lighting technologies</li> </ul>
<p><b>MAINTENANCE</b></p>	
<p>Evidence suggests that people will avoid spaces where they feel unsafe. Lighting is one of many ways we aim to improve safety in our parks at night whilst enabling extended hours of use and improving overall amenity.</p>	





## Open Space

THEME	KEY ACTIONS
<b>Delivering best practice open space management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement agreed levels of service in accordance with open space hierarchy</li> <li>• Improve the inspection, monitoring and recording process of maintenance activities</li> <li>• Investigate the introduction of mobile technologies to support field staff in their duties</li> <li>• Undertake analysis and mapping of existing recreation facilities, both public and private</li> <li>• Reclassification of environmentally sensitive areas from recreation zones to categories identified in the Local Government Act</li> <li>• Develop a natural asset management plan to inform Plans of Management and the preparation of local level plans and policies consistent with the NSW Government Architect Green Places Strategy</li> <li>• Undertake a review of the LEP to ensure adequate provision is made for recreation and open space opportunities</li> <li>• Renew and apply Plans of Management</li> <li>• Develop a strategy to identify suitable formal open spaces, which can be modified for informal and unstructured activities</li> </ul>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY</b>	
<p>Council's open space represents a significant public investment, ratepayers in turn require assurance they are being cared for and that we will continue to implement best practice assets management in accordance with Australian Standards at the most economical cost to the community.</p>	
<b>Implementing a 'landscaping first' approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify parks suitable for a greater level of landscaping</li> <li>• Identify sustainable sources of irrigation for parks that identified for a greater level of landscaping.</li> <li>• Seek community partnerships to assist in design and management of landscaped areas</li> <li>• Determine appropriate annual funding for works</li> <li>• Engage City Presentation in the project design phase to ensure sustainability of design and reduction of maintenance costs</li> </ul>
<b>COLLABORATION / PLANNING</b>	
<p>Landscaping is both aesthetically pleasing and relatively inexpensive. The investment comes in time taken to establish and mature landscaping. To this end, this strategy envisages greater community involvement to achieve desired outcomes.</p>	
<b>Greening our city</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote, support and strengthen environmental education initiatives</li> <li>• Ensure tree-planting activities in passive recreational areas align with CPTED principles and future Open Space and Design Guidelines</li> <li>• Commence climate change adaption activities through increased tree canopy in urban areas (select tolerant species)</li> <li>• Promote the city's natural assets and increase recreational activities within them</li> <li>• Develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy that guides Council in its planning for a green and sustainable future</li> <li>• Investigate sustainable ways to reduce water and energy consumption in our open spaces</li> <li>• Increasing the number of water structures and water play features to assist with temperature moderation and urban heat islands</li> <li>• Consider active and passive recreation uses in the planning of natural area restoration activities.</li> </ul>
<b>COLLABORATION / PLANNING</b>	
<p>Council must ensure that our spaces are climate resilient and promote sustainability. There is a need to drive improved integration between functioning passive recreational parks and tree planting or bush regeneration activities to adapt to negative climate change effects especially in areas most vulnerable to urban heat and mitigate urban heat islands were possible.</p>	

## Local Sports

THEME	KEY ACTIONS
<b>Working collaboratively</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and convene an internal project working group to monitor and report against the implementation of this Strategy</li> <li>• Improve alignment of investment in sporting facilities to the delivery of Council's community development strategies including the promotion and provision of youth, migrant, refugee, seniors, persons with a disability and women's programs and services</li> <li>• Continued convening of the Liverpool Sports Committee</li> <li>• Engage on a regional and local level with Department of Education to reach a long-term agreement for shared use of facilities on Council and the Department of Education public and private lands.</li> <li>• Provide input into development of the Western City District Sport Facility Plan.</li> <li>• Develop a sport and recreation facility plan, in partnership with Office of Sport</li> </ul>
<b>COLLABORATION</b>	
Working collaboratively with key internal and external stakeholders to successfully meet objectives and deliver optimal solutions for the community.	
<b>Policy development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Hire of Playing Surface Policy</li> <li>• Review land classification for sporting facilities to align with this Strategy and were needed separate environmentally sensitive areas in accordance with the Local Government classification framework</li> <li>• Review and update Specific and Generic Plans of Management for Sporting Fields</li> <li>• Ensure current and proposed statutory frameworks for the delivery of local infrastructure are incorporated into the Action Plan with differentiation between local and district open space and sport opportunities</li> <li>• Develop a Sporting Facilities Hierarchy to improve guidance on appropriate facility development</li> </ul>
<b>POLICY</b>	
Policies ensure the efficient operation and management of Council's sporting facilities.	
<b>Improving planning for sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for a major regional sporting precinct in the Western City catering for South Western Sydney's regional sporting needs</li> <li>• Determine optimal provision and most appropriate location(s) for consolidated major tennis facilities across the LGA</li> <li>• Ensure community needs assessments that inform future works are undertaken prior to major upgrades</li> <li>• Avoid planning for single playing fields and investigate co-location or incorporation of community facilities in new large sporting facilities</li> <li>• Ensure business cases and feasibility studies are undertaken for all major sporting upgrade projects in excess of \$10 million</li> <li>• Explore the feasibility of providing synthetic playing surfaces where high use of existing facilities or an inability to adequately maintain grass fields to suitable standards is evident</li> </ul>
<b>PLANNING</b>	
Developing partnerships with key state, regional and local sporting and recreation planning agencies and organisations to deliver new facilities and services using an integrated approach.	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an audit of community land under care and control of external organisations to negotiate wider community access.</li> <li>• Complete review of sporting and recreation facilities and capacity across the Liverpool LGA.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive design</b>	
<b>PLANNING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure incorporation of female-friendly design principles for all new and upgraded facilities</li> <li>• Ensure principles of CCPTED are applied to all upgrades</li> <li>• For new major facilities, consider options for combining general community facility/space that can be administered by Council for use by sporting club/association and community groups</li> <li>• Amenities development at single field venues will be given a low priority unless it is district or regional facility</li> </ul>
Park amenities buildings assist organised sports to administer their club and deliver sport at a local level. These facilities typically include change rooms and storage. The following actions provide direction for the design of new facilities.	
<b>Delivering new infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and deliver new district and local sporting venues in new release areas of Austral, Carnes Hill, Edmondson Park and Middleton Grange.</li> <li>• Plan and deliver a priority works program for six major upgrades to local and district sporting facilities in the established areas of Chipping Norton (+1), Heckenberg (+2), Liverpool (+1), Lurnea (+1) and Moorebank (+1)</li> <li>• Explore the potential provision of community indoor sporting facilities in Liverpool</li> <li>• Over time, plan and deliver minor upgrades to local sporting facilities in accordance with adopted hierarchy and future condition assessments</li> <li>• Ensure that clubs and district associations or community groups applying for funding for capital works are supported to undertake the appropriate planning and approvals for capital works under relevant planning legislation and they are designed and built to industry standards</li> </ul>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY</b>	
The timely delivery of infrastructure in line with needs contributes to the sense of place and community. This is particularly pertinent for new release areas whose residents do not have strong social ties. Sporting facilities are ideally placed to serve this function as well as providing for health affirming activities.	
<b>Improved resourcing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review optimal resourcing required to deliver the Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy.</li> <li>• Align Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, Development Contributions Plan, Voluntary Planning Agreement Policy with priorities identified in this strategy</li> <li>• Advocate and apply for increased Federal and State Government funding of improved facilities</li> <li>• Continued support for individuals, clubs and the local academy of sport and financial support through existing funding channels and grant programs</li> <li>• Partnering with State Government agencies and State sporting associations to plan and deliver new major facilities</li> <li>• Undertake periodic condition assessments of facilities to inform planning every three - five years.</li> <li>• Encourage clubs and district associations to apply for funding for capital works in line with the Replacement and Renewal program and should align with the priorities in this Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCING</b>	
Exploring alternative resourcing options for the timely delivery of infrastructure and other actions.	











## For further information

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