

# BATHURST 2040 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

FINAL REPORT

Adopted 15 April 2020



BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Parkland Planners and Otium Planning Group sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the preparation of the Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy:

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Armidale Regional Council  
Dubbo City Council  
Mid-Western Regional Council  
Orange City Council  
Tamworth Regional Council  
Wagga Wagga City Council

## Other organisations

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## Community

Sporting and recreation groups, schools and community members who responded to surveys and community engagement in December 2017.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

This Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy sets out the rationale for planning and provision of open space to meet the needs of the Bathurst Region community over the next 20 years.

## Supply of open space

The Bathurst Region includes a wide range of open spaces from community parks, sporting land, natural areas, and multiple use open space, to “special” open space such as a greyhound racing track.

The distribution of open space by 12 Planning Areas in the Bathurst Region is shown below. The distribution of open space by Planning Area is uneven, which is addressed in the recommended actions.

## Summary of Open Space Supply in Bathurst Region

Planning Area	Community Parkland (hectares)	Sporting Land (hectares)	Dual Purpose, Natural Areas, Special Open Space, Other (hectares)	Total Open Space (hectares)
Abercrombie - Llanarth	13.57	0.0	41.79	<b>55.36</b>
Bathurst	29.01	40.9	25.96	<b>95.87</b>
Eglinton (all “parkland” is in linear drainage open space)	0.0	8.47	15.05	<b>23.52</b>
Kelso North - Laffing Waters	10.44	53.09	199.77	<b>263.3</b>
Kelso South	0.89	6.21	58.67	<b>65.77</b>
Mitchell - Robin Hill – Mt Panorama	27.81	78.66	259.24	<b>365.71</b>
Perthville	0.49	5.96	0.2	<b>6.65</b>
Raglan	4.75	5.39	15.38	<b>25.52</b>
South Bathurst – Gorman’s Hill - White Rock	4.01	60.45	7.99	<b>72.45</b>
West Bathurst	15.95	7.39	31.7	<b>55.04</b>
Windradyne	17.04	2.68	17.35	<b>37.07</b>
Rural Remainder	24.93	82.46	3,238.83	<b>3,346.22</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148.89</b>	<b>351.66</b>	<b>3,911.93</b>	<b>4,412.48</b>

Bathurst Region compares favourably with other regional inland Councils in NSW in terms of the amount of public open space in general, developed parkland, active developed parkland, and natural areas; and slightly less favourably regarding passive developed parkland.

## Demand for open space

The Bathurst Region population increased by 15% in the last 10 years from 36,900 people in 2006 to 42,400 people in 2016. The Bathurst Region population is expected to further increase in the next 20 years by 30% to 55,250 people in 2036. Increased population and development area will lead to demand for increasing areas of maintained open space.

Urban growth areas shown in the Bathurst Local Environmental Plan 2014 and listed in the Housing Strategy show that expected development will be:

- ❑ on the fringe of Eglinton with some penetration into the village.
- ❑ within the newer suburban areas of Kelso, Llanarth and Windradyne.
- ❑ as infill development in the older areas of the city of Bathurst, and urban and rural villages.
- ❑ scattered development throughout the rural areas.

## Community and stakeholder engagement

The community and stakeholder engagement undertaken for this Strategy highlighted a number of key themes in regard to open space planning:

- ❑ **appreciation of Council's efforts in key "destination" parks** such as Victoria Park, Machattie Park, and the Macquarie River parks. It appears that community appreciation of open spaces is centred in Bathurst City and there is less mention of satisfaction in other towns or villages or the outer suburbs of the city.
- ❑ **concern regarding potential loss of existing parks or open space.** Existing parks and natural areas are valued and the comments indicate that there may be a concern Council is considering disposing of some parklands.
- ❑ **minimise urban sprawl.**
- ❑ **need to match provision of parkland and its development for community use to the growth in numbers of residents.** There is a strong theme received as part of the community engagement for this project that Council has not been timely in providing parkland for recreation or sport in the new development and growth areas.
- ❑ **preference for larger, more developed and diverse parklands.** A number of comments and responses appear to indicate that the community appreciates the value of district and higher level parks that provide for longer stays and have a diversity of recreation uses. To illustrate, one comment indicated support for greater investment in this level of parks rather than trying to provide numerous small local parks with minimal development.
- ❑ **better accessibility and distribution.** A number of comments indicate that there are some concerns regarding the lack of good/safe active transport links to parks for local/neighbourhood level recreation. This theme also seems to be reflected in comments about lack of footpaths, insufficient road frontage of some parks (e.g. provided as internal reserves with very little visibility) and the issues emerging from transport barriers affecting access.
- ❑ **improve the standard of multiple use open space.** Where the dominant level of provision is linear drainage related open space, there is indication that the community is comfortable with some level of multiple use open space to provide park opportunities but that the open space should be embellished to a standard that supports recreation use.
- ❑ **improve maintenance of parks.** There were wide ranging comments on maintenance, which complemented Council for much of the maintenance activity in the main Bathurst area and the high standard of key parks. However there were negative comments received which related to the frequency and ongoing maintenance of parks in the Bathurst suburbs, particularly during the summer growing season; and that rural areas seemed to

lack the same level of maintenance and that the linear open space systems could be better maintained.

## Desired Recreation Opportunity Outcomes

The following outcomes for open space are desirable:

- ❑ Most residents will have safe walking and cycling access to **recreation parks and informal outdoor recreation** and local play opportunities.
- ❑ Within the Bathurst Region **a community park opportunity should be within 400-500 metres safe walking distance from residences in urban areas**. For rural villages, access to a community park is desirable within 1,000 metres.
- ❑ Most residents will have access to **a larger destination recreation park and/or sporting opportunities** within 10-20 minutes via car.
- ❑ Public parks and community facilities are **located and designed so as to maximise visual and physical access** and to allow for a wide range of potential uses and user groups.
- ❑ All parks **should provide opportunities for physical activity**, social inclusiveness, interaction and participation in outdoor recreation.
- ❑ Public parks should **improve the visual amenity of the locale** for both residential and non-residential areas. To achieve this it is desirable that a diversity of landscape settings are provided across the network and that opportunities to define character through the inclusion of unique or notable landscape features (such as elevated features, mature trees, view scapes) be taken where possible.
- ❑ Public parks should be **complemented by a walk and ride pathway network** which adds value to the accessibility of parks and contributes to the diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities available to a community.
- ❑ **Public parks should contribute to the strengthening of community** by providing spaces and places for social interaction, expression of community culture (including youth) and the activities of community based groups.

## Standards of Service for open space

The overall Standards of Service for Public Open Space is comprised of two main elements:

- ❑ a preferred **Minimum Level of Supply (MLS)** of various types of land for parks which cater for informal and formal public recreation. This can be described as the “planned provision” of raw land supply that will be embellished (or developed) to provide for a range of public recreation opportunities.

In overall terms the anticipated broad outcome of land supply for public recreation is:

- 3 hectares per 1,000 residents for community parks ie. formal parkland settings providing non-organised outdoor recreation opportunity at local and “destination” levels.
- 1.5 hectares per 1,000 residents for formal sporting and organised public recreation activity.
- ❑ a Minimum Level of Development or embellishment for each type of park. This is termed the **“Minimum Level of Development” (MLD)**.

Criteria for community parks – local and district – and sports parks – district and regional – are given in terms of preferred minimum size (stand-alone and recreation node), service access radius, minimum road frontage, useable area for main purpose, slope and topography, flooding and other hazards, and paths and access.

Design criteria for each open space type are also provided in terms of boundary fencing, water taps and irrigation, toilets, bike/ pedestrian paths and facilities, power and lighting, playgrounds, youth facilities- informal active facilities, active recreation elements, sporting fields/courts, picnic tables/seats/barbecues, shade, landscape works, car parks and internal roads, and special elements.

## Assessment

The current rate of provision of community parks in the Bathurst Region is 3.51 hectares per 1,000 people. Provision of land for local and district community parks currently and/or will in 2036 fall below the recommended 3 hectares per 1,000 people in Abercrombie-Llanarth, Bathurst, Eglinton, Kelso North/Laffing Waters, Kelso South, Perthville, South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock, and West Bathurst.

Across the Bathurst Region sporting land provision is currently around 3.58 hectares/1,000 people (excluding major “outliers” such as the Bathurst Bicycle Park, racecourses and private facilities). This includes whole parcels which, while predominantly used for sport, can have large areas of bush-land or other open space within the boundary. Taking into account the forecast population in 2036 of 55,250 people the rate of provision then will reduce to 2.78 hectares per 1,000 people, but will still be above the recommended rate of 1.5 hectares per 1,000 people.

Provision of active open space and land for sport is uneven, with local planning areas such as Bathurst having high rates of provision of sporting land, but North Kelso/Laffing Waters having undesirably low provision of active open space and land for sport. By 2036 provision of sport land will be below the recommended 1.5 hectares per 1,000 people if no additional land is provided in Abercrombie-Llanarth, Kelso South, Perthville and Windradyne.

## Recommendations

Recommended actions by Planning Area are:

Planning area	Recommendations
<b>Abercrombie-Llanarth</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to enhance the riverside parklands as district level parks with play, picnic and active facilities.</li> <li>2. Consider a new community park within the western growth area of at least 1 hectare, with frontage to Evernden Road.</li> <li>3. Provide a community park of at least 1 hectare to service future residential areas on the western boundary.</li> <li>4. Ensure all new parks or dual purpose open space have at least 50% road frontage.</li> <li>5. Develop informal/ training only fields in the detention basin adjacent to Eglinton Road.</li> <li>6. Acquire a corridor along the western side of Sawpit Creek (Windradyne and Llanarth) when the land is developed for residential purposes.</li> <li>7. Implement the Freeman Park Masterplan.</li> </ol>
<b>Bathurst</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long term strategic planning for the Macquarie River corridor to become a major regional open space corridor with public access, pathways and recreation nodes from Gorman's Hill to Abercrombie-Eglinton.</li> <li>2. Short- to medium term master planning for the eastern side of the river corridor to link multiple areas of public open space and provide links and informal recreation use.</li> </ol>

Planning area	Recommendations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Develop an extended running/walking cycling path network along the river and levee banks.</li> <li>4. Implement the Centennial Park Master Plan.</li> <li>5. Continue to develop Victoria Park (the Adventure Playground). Stage 2 works are proposed in the 2019/20 budget.</li> <li>6. Retain all existing open space within the Bathurst Planning Area, acknowledging that it is difficult to acquire additional open space into the future.</li> </ol>
<b>Eglington</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider a longer term strategy to create an open space and park corridor along Saltram Creek linking the river to the Saltram Circuit open space.</li> <li>2. Provide for local play in the Saltram Crescent open space and in the proposed new park mentioned in (1) above.</li> <li>3. Plan in the longer term for additional investment in the riverside open space to create a new picnic and nature focused play area. Development should be complementary to the Ranken's Bridge/O'Keefe Parks on the opposite bank.</li> <li>4. Explore opportunities for active recreation within the land use buffers on the northern, eastern and western sides of the village.</li> <li>5. Develop an additional sports precinct of a minimum of 5 hectares on the western boundary of the village, inclusive of local play.</li> <li>6. Explore opportunities for cycle paths and tree planting in the open space surrounding the village.</li> </ol>
<b>Kelso North – Laffing Waters</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement proposals for open space shown on the Laffing Waters Master Plan.</li> <li>2. Consider developing a local community park including play and active space in the four sites around Coates Drive.</li> <li>3. Develop two new local parks of at least 0.5 hectares (preferably 1 hectare) as part of the Laffing Waters Master Plan as development progresses.</li> <li>4. Provide one new district level community park of 2+ hectares using part of the existing sports area and other open space.</li> <li>5. Provide active transport links to the river and to larger community parks and the future Neighbourhood Activity Centre at Laffing Waters.</li> <li>6. Develop a large multi use district park and sports field north of Marsden Lane (5 hectares) as part of the Laffing Waters Master Plan.</li> <li>7. Explore opportunities for cycle paths and tree planting in the open space between the rural and residential land.</li> </ol>
<b>Kelso South</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquire additional land for a district park (minimum 3 hectares) and a new local park (minimum 0.5 hectares). Ensure land is fit for purpose and has minimum 50% road frontage.</li> <li>2. Encourage Housing NSW to improve Bell Park to minimum standard for local community park.</li> <li>3. Explore opportunities for cycle paths and tree planting in the open space between the rural and residential land.</li> </ol>
<b>Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mount Panorama</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a new dual use riparian open space corridor along Sawpit Creek (south of the Mitchell Highway) and include a local-district sized community park as part of this with road frontage access to new development to the east.</li> </ol>

Planning area	Recommendations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Consider enhancing the local play area in George Park and increase local park opportunities here- possibly in the Rankin-Brilliant Street corner.</li> </ol>
<b>Perthville</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement the Perthville Village Square Master Plan (CL 52) to provide a multi-use district park for the village with both play and picnic facilities, multi-use courts and small informal field.</li> </ol>
<b>Raglan</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a local play opportunity in the west of the planning area at either Christie Street dual use open space, Elmo Lavis Park, or Landseer Street Park.</li> <li>2. Develop a district park at Ralph Cameron Oval with larger play area, youth activity node and picnic and community gathering facilities.</li> </ol>
<b>South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgrade and investigate opportunities to expand Gorman's Hill Park.</li> <li>2. Consider further enhancement and embellishment of Jacques Park.</li> <li>3. Prepare and implement a landscape master plan for multiple uses of Alec Lamberton Field: informal and formal sport, and informal community recreation use.</li> </ol>
<b>West Bathurst</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide locally accessible community park and play in the two locations identified as underprovided ie. around Green Street and Osbourne Avenue in the north-west corner, and Rosehill Street in the north.</li> <li>2. In response to (1) consider strategies for enhancing access to and opportunities in Edgell Street Drainage Reserve.</li> <li>3. Purchase land when the opportunity arises to provide road frontage and access to PK00051. Investigate the possible expansion of PK00051 into private land to the north.</li> <li>4. Retain existing parks if urban renewal proceeds, and seek opportunities to expand local parks both in area and access/road frontage.</li> </ol>
<b>Windradyne</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Duplicate the Sawpit Creek Riparian Corridor on the western side of Sawpit Creek when the land is rezoned, but ensure that road frontage and some larger areas of land (minimum 0.5 hectares of usable space) are provided.</li> <li>2. Upgrade Booth Street reserves as a district park.</li> <li>3. Consider the potential for informal sport and training use of a field in the Richardson Street detention basin.</li> <li>4. Develop a central local park within Council's current Windradyne 1100 subdivision (minimum 0.5 hectares).</li> </ol>
<b>Rural Remainder</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider adopting a minimum service level for parkland opportunities for rural villages of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Access to a community parkland supporting play and picnic opportunities within the village.</li> <li>b. Access to sport and active recreation via either outdoor courts or a sports field/ sports reserve (within or adjacent to village and can include shared use of school facilities).</li> <li>c. Access to a community hall or covered space for indoor activities, meetings.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Planning area	Recommendations
	<p><b>Sofala:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Provide a multi-use sport field for Sofala at the showgrounds, Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds, or in consultation with Wattle Flat and Sofala Public Schools.</li> <li>3. Investigate a new recreation area on the Turon River based on Crown land (as shown on Provision Plan).</li> </ol> <p><b>Peel</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Provide a playground and picnic setting at the Peel tennis court and community hall.</li> </ol> <p><b>Wattle Flat</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Investigate potential for a public park and play area at the Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds or the Crown conservation areas.</li> </ol> <p><b>Rockley</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Enhance play and other recreation opportunities at Stevens Park at Rockley.</li> </ol> <p><b>Trunkey Creek</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Investigate opportunities to improve the Trunkey Creek Recreation Ground for informal recreation.</li> </ol>

Recommendations for effective open space planning and management processes within Council include to:

- ☐ ensure Council's Workforce Plan identifies the needs of the Recreation team to have the relevant skills and experience in greenkeeping, horticulture, landscape architecture, recreation planning and project management, and arboriculture.
- ☐ prepare, and update as necessary, Plans of Management for community and Crown land.
- ☐ ongoing development assessment.
- ☐ rezone identified open space land as RE1 Public Recreation or E2 Environmental Conservation as appropriate.
- ☐ zone drainage lines as SP2 Drainage to reflect their drainage use and function rather than as RE1 Public Recreation.
- ☐ develop and adopt guidelines on the minimum expected embellishment of local open space by developers at the time of dedication to Council.
- ☐ identify open space in the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan with its intended use (eg local open space, community parks, sport, drainage, natural, district, sport) to inform the community on the planned open space provision.
- ☐ include open space planning controls and design requirements in the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan.
- ☐ refer development applications and subdivision plans with open space land to be dedicated to Council or landscape plans to the Recreation team for their review and comment.
- ☐ review developer contributions plans to reflect the estimated cost of open space works.
- ☐ continue to levy and collect developer contributions (Section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
- ☐ prioritise operational and capital expenditure and Council resources on open space.

- ☐ adopt the recommended classification system for open space.
- ☐ community engagement in planning and design of open spaces, then get a professional to design in conjunction with community engagement with local residents (letterbox drops, surveys, interest groups).
- ☐ ongoing asset management.
- ☐ benchmark activity to determine the appropriate maintenance budget.

Recommendations for masterplanning in new subdivisions to plan and provide open space early in the planning process are given.

Embellishment of open space is to be completed by the developer prior to the dedication of the open space as a works-in-kind arrangement.

The process for acquiring, rationalising and disposing of land for open space are also provided.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The Bathurst Region is situated in the Central West of NSW, 200 kilometres north-west of Sydney. Bathurst was declared a town site on 7 May 1815 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on the bank of the Macquarie River, which makes Bathurst Australia's oldest inland settlement.

Today, over 200 years later, the Bathurst Regional local government area (LGA) is approximately 3,821 km<sup>2</sup> in area. The Bathurst Region has a wide range of informal, active and natural open spaces to cater for the recreation, sporting, community and social needs of its 43,000 estimated residents in 2017, of whom 86% live in the “urban overlay” of Bathurst and its nearby villages such as Eglinton, Perthville and Raglan. Bathurst's open spaces importantly also cater for workers, tertiary students and visitors to the Bathurst region.

Such open spaces include Macquarie River riverside parks, civic parks and gardens such as the historic Machattie Park which was dedicated in 1890, memorials, sporting fields and courts, natural areas such as river and creek foreshores and bushland, children's playgrounds, and parks used for informal recreation activities such as picnics and barbecues.



The current adopted Open Space Study for Bathurst was prepared some 25 years ago in 1993. Since that time the population of Bathurst has increased by approximately 50% from 28,000 people in 1992. Bathurst Region is the fourth-ranked regional centre in NSW in terms of population growth. Rapid residential development has resulted in suburban subdivisions and higher density in the urban areas of the Bathurst Region, bringing increased and diverse community demands and expectations for open space.

The population of the Bathurst Regional LGA is expected to grow by 12,170 people by 2036. This equates to approximately 5,245 additional dwellings, based on an assumed 2.32 persons per dwelling between 2011 and 2036.

Open space plays an important role in our society, including providing places for diverse activities such as exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport. However, as communities grow and change, greater attention needs to be placed on planning open spaces to ensure that they are able to respond to current and future needs.

Bathurst Regional Council wants to understand the open space values, demands and expectations of its growing community, and to better match open spaces to those demands now and over the next 20 years. Is the demand for small local spaces or larger regional spaces? Is the demand for open space more for active recreation or for informal recreation? How can residential development be planned better so that developers don't ask Council to rezone open space land?

The outcomes of the Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy will inform Council's strategic plans including its Developer Contributions Plan, Local Environmental Plan and other planning controls, operational plans and delivery programs, and Plans of Management and Master Plans for specific open spaces.

## 1.2 Scope of this Strategy

This Strategy has a primary focus of public open space (POS) which can be described as those areas of land within cities and towns that have not been developed for residential, industrial and commercial purposes and have a predominance of natural or "green" landscape uses. Open space can include agriculture and other "non-built" use and, in that form, provide visual and physical relief from the built environment and development.

Public open space is also generally described as land set aside for the purpose of public enjoyment and protection of unique, environmental, social and cultural values for existing and future generations. In the widely used Framework for Open Space Classification<sup>1</sup> public open space refers to " *urban green spaces: parklands, play areas, playing fields, bushland, greenways and other similar spaces people use for recreation, sport and social interaction.*

The provision of public open space for sport, recreation and protection and enjoyment of nature can occur in multiple settings. Within the scope of this strategy, public open space includes the following:

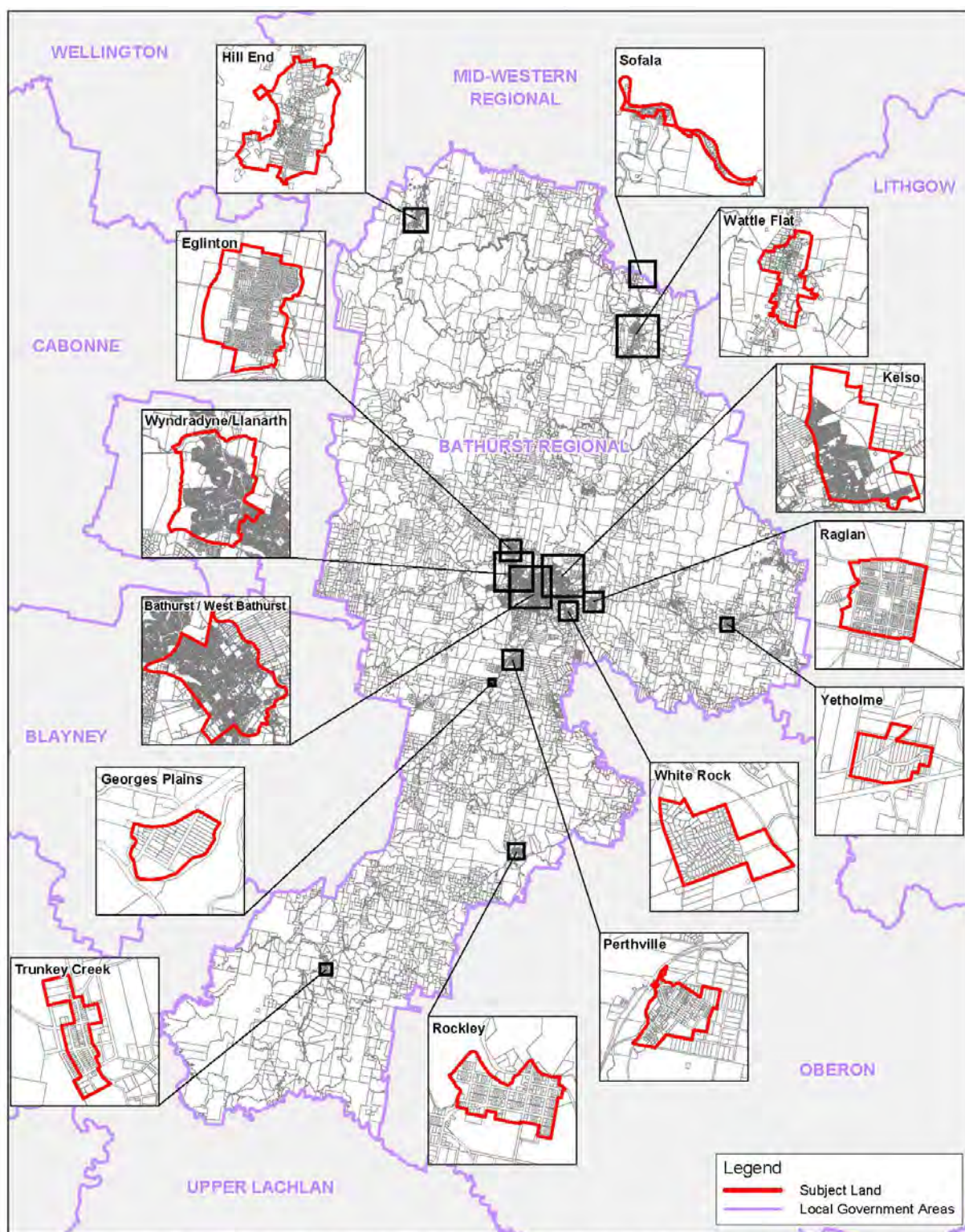
- ☐ formal parks developed with facilities for community outdoor recreation
- ☐ land and spaces providing for organised and social sport and physical activity
- ☐ conservation areas and bushland
- ☐ waterways and protected riparian corridors
- ☐ largely undeveloped areas with primary drainage purposes
- ☐ other publicly owned undeveloped lands.

This Strategy applies to open space in Bathurst and its suburbs, and the urban and rural villages in the Bathurst Region local government area, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Western Australia Department of Sport and Recreation, and Parks and Leisure Australia (WA) 2012 "Classification framework for public open space" p. 5

Figure 1 Bathurst Regional Council local government area



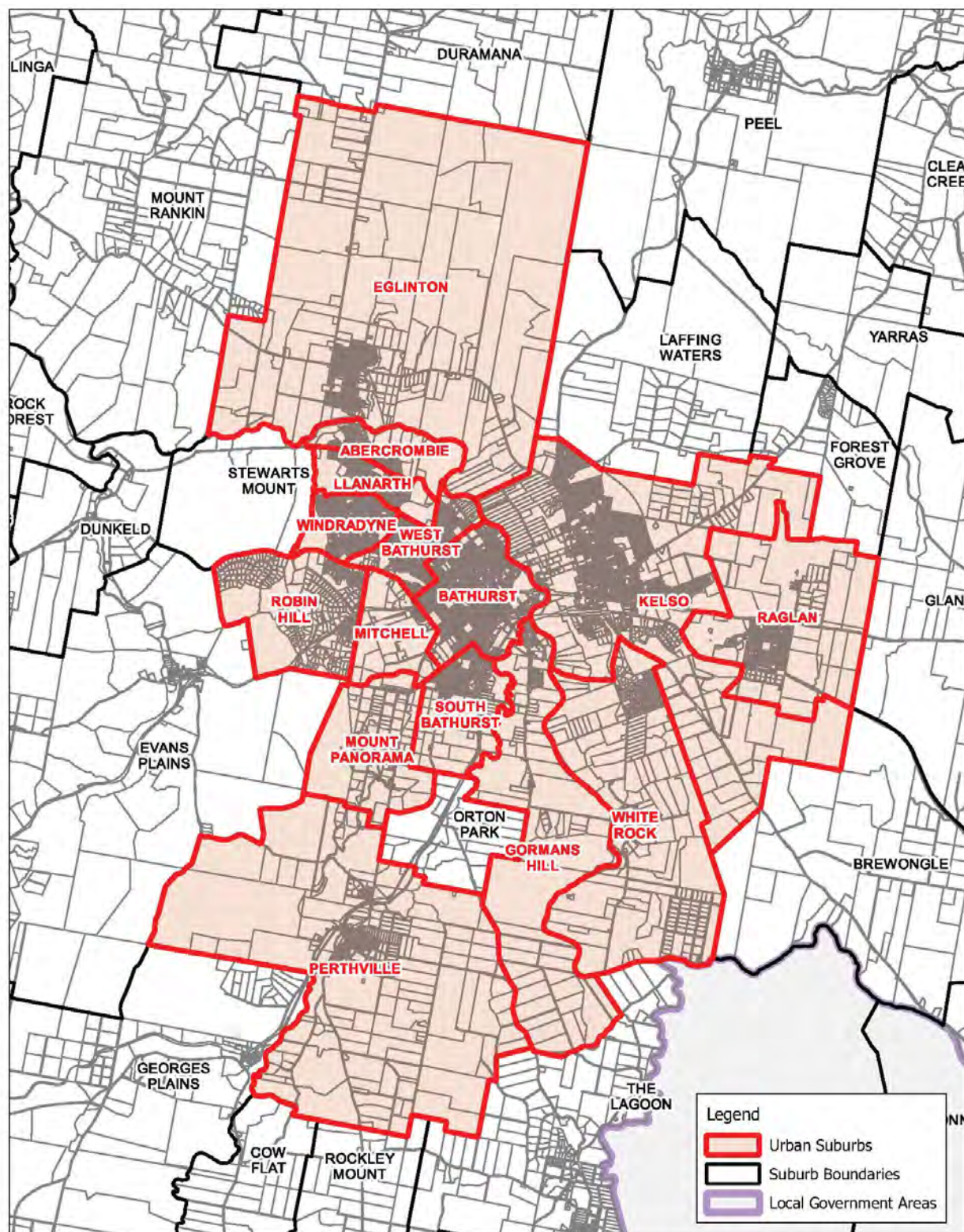
Date 22/10/2010

Bathurst Regional Council expressly disclaims all liability for errors or omissions of any kind whatsoever, or any loss, damage or other consequence which may arise from any person relying on information in this Plan.

Note: The colours on this Plan do not indicate landuse zones under the Bathurst Regional (Interim) Local Environment Plan 2005.

"Base Maps: © Department of Lands 2006"

Figure 2 Urban suburbs in Bathurst Regional Council local government area



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Note: The colours on this Plan do not indicate landuse zones under the Bathurst Regional Local Environment Plan 2014.

Date 28/06/2017

"Base Maps: © Department of Lands 2006"

The urban area of Bathurst includes the suburbs of Abercrombie, Bathurst, Gormans Hill, Kelso, Llanarth, Mitchell, West Bathurst, Windradyne, South Bathurst and the urban villages of Eglinton, Perthville and Raglan. These suburbs are the primary residential areas of the City of

Bathurst, the areas where the majority of Bathurst's population resides, and where the majority of the population growth has and will occur. The rural villages include Hill End, Sofala, Wattle Flat, and Peel to the north; Sunny Corner and Yetholme to the east; and Georges Plains, Rockley and Trunkey Creek to the south.

The focus of the Strategy is on land owned, managed or leased by Bathurst Regional Council, while taking into account other open spaces which are owned and managed by other organisations. Such spaces include open spaces on Charles Sturt University and public and private school grounds, State Forests and National Parks, and private open space such as Bathurst Golf Course.

The planning timeframe for the Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy is 20 years.

## 1.3 Aims and objectives of this Strategy

Council's aim for this Strategy is to review the existing facilities, programs and services and provide Council with an open space strategy for the next 20 years.

Following on from the aim, Council's objectives for the Strategy are to:

- ☐ identify current open space (local and regional level and active and passive), its current usage level and facilities available at each location.
- ☐ predict the optimum level of open space provision (on a per capita basis) for the population of Bathurst (local/regional and active/passive).
- ☐ prioritise the actions of Council in relation to purchase, embellishment and/or upgrading of open space.
- ☐ identify any open space that may be suitable for disposal or repurposing.
- ☐ establish and/or review the minimum standards (including embellishment) of open space in accordance with Council's adopted open space hierarchy or asset maintenance level classifications.
- ☐ identify the optimum location of future open space (local and regional and active and passive open space), particularly in the growing suburban locations.



## 1.4 Process of preparing this Strategy

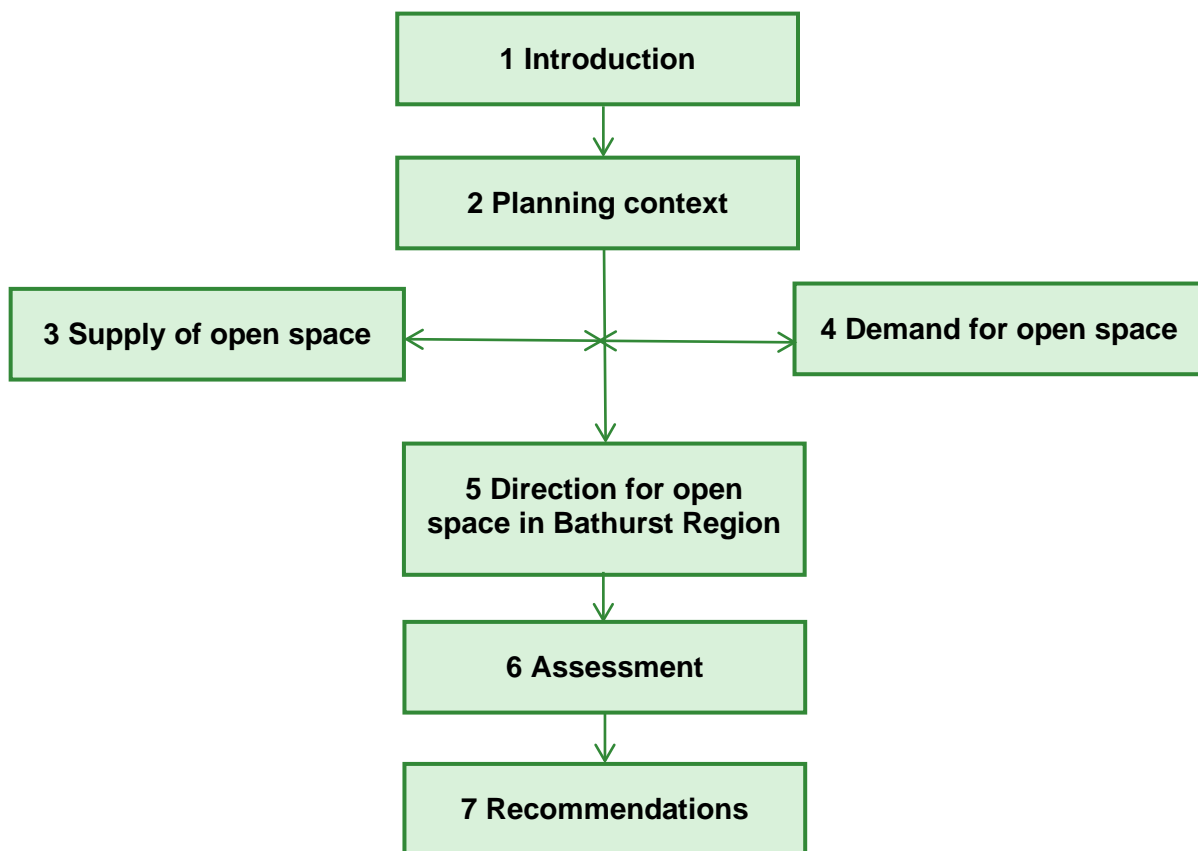
The tasks and outputs of each stage of preparing this Strategy are in Table 1.

Table 1 Process of preparing the Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy

Stage	Tasks	Outputs
Inception	Inception meeting Meetings with Council staff Inspections of open spaces	
↓		
Collection and review of background information	Collect and review background information	
↓		
Open space inventory	Mapping of open spaces Contact with adjoining Councils and other open space land owners	Inventory GIS maps
↓		
Community engagement Nov-Dec 17	Meeting with Bathurst Sport and Recreation Council Online community survey Sport and recreation group survey School survey Interviews at Community Garage Sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- publicity – Western Advocate, signs at parks, Facebook</li> <li>- sport and recreation organisations survey</li> <li>- schools survey and visits</li> <li>- community online survey</li> <li>- Community Garage Sale survey</li> <li>- Feedback from Housing Strategy</li> </ul>	Draft Community Engagement Strategy  Community Engagement Outcomes Report – Stage 1
↓		
Councillor Workshop	Councillor Workshop Feb 2018	
↓		
Prepare Discussion Paper	Prepare Discussion Paper	Discussion Paper
↓		
Prepare Draft Strategy	Prepare Draft Strategy Council review Council resolution	Draft Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy
↓		
Public exhibition and community engagement 10 Feb – 10 Mar 2020	Draft Strategy on display on Your Say website Referral to people involved in preparation of the Strategy and to regional schools	Community Engagement Outcomes Report – Stages 1 and 2
↓		
Prepare Final Strategy	Review public submissions Prepare Final Strategy Council adoption 15 April 2020	<b>Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy</b>
↓		
IMPLEMENTATION		

## 1.5 Contents of this Strategy

The remaining sections of this Strategy are:



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## 2 PLANNING CONTEXT

### 2.1 Introduction

The planning context of open space in the Bathurst Region is shown in Tables 2 and 3. Information from planning legislation, reports and policies is integrated in the relevant sections of this Strategy.

Table 2 Planning context of open space planning in Bathurst Region

	Land use	Open space	Recreation	Environmental	Access
<b>National</b>	-	Peak sporting groups facility requirements	AusPlay physical activity data	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	Disability Discrimination Act 1992
<b>NSW</b>	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 Local Government Act 1993 Crown Land Management Act 2016 Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2017 Commons Management Act 1989	Greener Places 2017 Draft Open Space for Recreation Manual NSW Office of Sport	-	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 Noxious Weeds Act 1993 Pesticides Act 1999 Rural Fires Act 1997 Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997	Disability Inclusion Act 2014
<b>Regional</b>	Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036				
<b>Bathurst Region</b>	Refer to Table 3				

Table 3 Context of open space planning in Bathurst Region

	Integrated Reporting	Landuse	Housing	Open space	Recreation / tourism	Community	Environmental	Access	Community engagement
Strategic	Bathurst 2040 Community Strategic Plan 2018	Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014 Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan 2014 Bathurst Region Rural Strategy 2008 Bathurst Regional Urban Strategy 2007	Bathurst Regional 2036 Housing Study 2018 Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy – Stage 1: Consultation 2017 Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy – Stage 2: Discussion Paper 2017	BATHURST 2040 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY  Section 94 Developer Contributions Plan – Bathurst Regional Open Space 2014 Section 94 Development Contributions Plan – Eglinton Open Space and Drainage 2014	Bathurst Destination Management Plan 2017	Bathurst Regional Community Facilities Section 94 Plan 2014 Social and Community Plan 2011-2016	Bathurst Regional Biodiversity Management Plan 2012 Bathurst Urban Waterways Management Plan 2010 Vegetation Management Plan 2003 (currently under review)	Disability Inclusion Access Plan 2017 Bathurst Community Access & Cycling Plan 2011	Community Engagement Strategy 2011
Operational	Bathurst Operational Plan Bathurst Resourcing Strategy	Geographic Information System (GIS) base maps		Recreation Asset Management Plan 2010 Asset Management System: Recreation Section 2017			Bathurst Urban Drainage Reserve Vegetation Link Stage 1 and 2 Design Report 2010		Community Engagement Policy BRC Community Survey 2016
Specific places		Village plans 2015: - Hill End - Peel - Rockley - Sofala - Sunny Corner - Trunkley Creek - Wattle Flat - Yetholme		Centennial Park Scoping Study 2017 Machattie Park Management Plan	Mount Panorama Regional Tourism and Recreation Strategy 2003		Nature Reserves Plans of Management: - Copperhania 2007 - Wambool 2007 - Winburndale 2007 - Eusdale 2012 Plans of Management: - Blayney Road Common - Boundary Road Reserve		

## 2.2 Open space planning and management in the Bathurst Region

### 2.2.1 Planning

The previous Open Space Strategy for Bathurst City was prepared in 2003 (Manidis Roberts Consultants, 2003) prior to amalgamation of Bathurst City and Evans Shire in 2004 to form Bathurst Regional Council.

Since that time, planning for open space for the Bathurst Region has been addressed in a suite of plans produced in 2014. The Bathurst Region Local Environmental Plan 2014 and the Bathurst Region Development Control Plan 2014 identified land zoned for open space, and land to rezone for open space. The Development Contributions Plan – Bathurst Regional Open Space 2014 and Development Contributions Plan – Eglinton Open Space and Drainage 2014 set out requirements for developers to provide land for open space. Development Contributions Plan – Community Facilities provides a pathway to fund the embellishment of local and regional parks.

Following on from these plans, Council requires additional direction regarding provision of better quality land by developers for open space.

### 2.2.2 Allocation

Council's Recreation section allocates sporting facilities to sporting associations, which run their own competitions and events.

Park and general sports field hire is done by application to Council.

### 2.2.3 Maintenance and staffing

#### Council

##### Maintenance activities

Maintenance of public open space is done according to Council's service level classifications and land use descriptions as set out in the Asset Management Plan 2018.

Council's Recreation section is responsible for the maintenance of:

- ☐ informal parks, including mowing and playground inspection and maintenance
- ☐ active sports parks, including mowing and greenkeeping
- ☐ natural areas, while contractors with specific skills maintain some natural areas
- ☐ Bathurst Showground
- ☐ Cemetery maintenance (limited basis)
- ☐ road reserves, roundabouts, median strips, and verges.

Maintenance crews are responsible for showcase parks such as Machattie Park and Bicentennial Park. A number of crews look after general residential parks and open space

areas. A sportsground crew maintains all of the active parks and sports grounds in Bathurst and one crew maintains open spaces at Mount Panorama.

Council's Recreation section also undertake ad hoc inspections, with formal inspections done according to the asset and classification (weekly or monthly).

Council staff inspect a number of village parks and active spaces, however do not undertake formal maintenance there.

## Issues

Council's maintenance budget currently does not allow for appropriate ongoing maintenance (particularly mowing) of open space land that meets the community's expectations. Increases in the area of developed parkland and "dual use" open space are not being matched with sufficient budget increases, further exacerbating the issue. This represents a looming crisis for "business as usual" where standards will need to decline further and the lack of recurrent budget will cause a disincentive to develop parks for new communities or upgrade existing spaces to minimum standards. The overall effect will be to increase inequity of provision and community dissatisfaction with one of the most visible and used elements of public infrastructure.

Council inherits a parcel of land through dedication of identified open space, and is responsible for its ongoing maintenance. Maintenance issues arise if the land is not suitable for open space purpose, such as having a steep batter.

## Other organisations

Maintenance and management of open spaces in the Bathurst Region is also carried out by:

- ☐ local clubs which assist Council with maintenance e.g. bike groups at Bathurst Bike Park
- ☐ sporting groups which manage a facility owned by Council, such as hockey
- ☐ Green Army
- ☐ Boundary Road Reserve Landcare Group
- ☐ Wattle Flat Heritage Lands Trust
- ☐ contractors such as Skillset (highway maintenance) and Glenray (City gateways and Mount Panorama)
- ☐ Corrective Services team from Bathurst and Kirkconnell which maintains rural cemeteries
- ☐ volunteers who built facilities such as the community hall at Ralph Cameron Oval in Raglan or facilities at Alec Lamberton Oval in Kelso.

### 2.2.4 Expenditure on open space

The cost of planning, developing and maintaining public open space is not always easily defined as there are many open space maintenance activities (such as mowing) which will combine both park and other (such as footpath, road and drainage) expenditure. This makes a cost per hectare difficult to cite as different types of open space have different levels of maintenance.

A good measure of the "value" the community receives is to consider the cost per person of the delivery of sport, parks and recreation spaces and opportunities.

Based on the most recent operating plan and 2017/18 Budget, Bathurst Regional Council will be spending a nett amount of \$6,972,089 in the recurrent (operating) budget for all forms of public open space (including those state owned areas Council is responsible for). This equates to

\$162.52 per person<sup>2</sup>. Further analysis shows that the cost of recreation administration and the management of sporting fields is \$91.97 per person. Given the level of benefit that sport and active open space provides to the community in terms of reduced health costs, increased productivity and improved social cohesion, the indirect return is many times this investment.

However, there are risks in assuming that this level of expenditure is adequate both for the existing population and future communities. The analysis of the current and planned supply and quality of open space in the Bathurst region indicates that:

- ☐ there are significant differences in both quality and level of provision across the Council area.
- ☐ much of the “new” land nominally allocated for public open space has significant constraints, not the least of which is large areas having a primary purpose of managing stormwater.
- ☐ community expectations in regard to quality of parks and local access are becoming more informed and demanding of higher standards of provision.
- ☐ the cost to develop and maintain land that is “sub -optimal” may be higher and this will have an impact on capital and recurrent budgets.
- ☐ in some cases it appears that quantity of land has replaced quality. This means that larger areas of less functional land need to be maintained as multiple use open space (rather than smaller well designed parks), putting further pressure on maintenance budgets without a corresponding return on recreation opportunity outcome.

## 2.2.5 Funding sources

Sources of funding for capital and recurrent costs associated with open space include:

### Council

- ☐ Transfers from capital and recurrent reserves
- ☐ Capital grants
- ☐ Recurrent grants and subsidies
- ☐ Developer contributions
- ☐ User fees and charges
- ☐ Capital revenue.

### Government grants previously received by BRC

- ☐ Public Reserves Management Fund Program
- ☐ NSW Environmental Trust
- ☐ NSW Department of Primary Industries
- ☐ Fish River Habitat
- ☐ Conserving Koalas in the Central Tablelands
- ☐ Floodplain Acquisition Fund (Federal)
- ☐ Stronger Country Communities Fund
- ☐ Infrastructure Grants Program.

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<sup>2</sup> 42,900 people Estimated Resident Population in 2017 (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

## Other funding sources

- ☐ Sponsorship by private companies
- ☐ Fund raising by local community and service groups
- ☐ Club membership fees
- ☐ Lease fees.

## 2.3 Best practice models of open space planning

### 2.3.1 Introduction

Determining best practice for planning and provision of public open space is a continually debated realm of planning policy. Defining best practice is problematic as every local government area has different constraints and opportunities. The following section reviews several recently produced guidelines and whole of industry analysis to provide guidance for the Bathurst Region.

This review suggests that any best practice approach would have the following characteristics:

1. Public open space planning includes natural areas, waterways, public parks, sporting spaces, linear open space and green corridors.
  - a. Contemporary planning also considers how other public spaces can contribute to an overall network (e.g. sporting spaces in schools, buffer corridors, strips and footpaths, bikeways and public plazas).
  - b. Transitional use of public space is also emerging as a “staged” approach to providing public parks. This recognises that as a neighbourhood matures different activity outcomes may be required. Transitional use also recognises that growth in new areas may need to reach threshold populations before investment in public parks or sporting spaces can be resourced.
2. Public open space networks benefit from a localised planning approach that considers access, location and complementing the urban form.
  - a. New urban areas which have public open space planned “up-front” can make more efficient use of space and provide greater diversity of setting.
  - b. Localised planning for existing areas can often find a range of solutions including multiple uses of open space and reconfiguring existing spaces to meet new needs. The emphasis in localised planning is on providing a range of opportunities on suitable pieces of land (as opposed to a defined number of parks of a certain size).
  - c. Emerging best practice recognises the contribution public open space (including parks, waterways and natural areas) makes to defining urban character and protecting local environmental values.
3. Public parks should be considered a “versatile” resource and renewal/ redesign of spaces is a regular response to changing local community characteristics.
  - a. This suggests that selection of land for public parks should seek to maximise the flexibility of the site in providing for recreational use.

- b. Land which is too heavily constrained or too expensive to reconfigure becomes inefficient infrastructure.
  - c. Constraints that are continually identified as making open space unsuitable for public parks (i.e. unsuitable for recreational use) include: frequent flooding and poor drainage; proximity to high voltage corridors; land contamination; excessive slope; poor visibility and limited road frontage and; proximity to noxious or dangerous activities.
4. While reliance on a simple “standards” approach that specifies a number of hectares per 1,000 residents is not considered best practice, it is accepted that a sufficient quantum of park land to meet needs and provide diversity of recreation opportunity is critical to best practice provision.
- a. There is no readily identified “best practice” quantum for public parks for general recreation purposes. However, the issue of size, particularly for local parks, has been identified as a critical factor. Preferred minimum sizes of 0.4 to 1 hectare are frequently identified for local parks. Council’s preference in the Draft Asset Management Plan – Recreation (2010) for a minimum of 0.25 hectares for passive parks and reserves and general community land to ensure some civic value is lower than the preferred minimum size.
  - b. The 2013 State of the Sector Report (see next section) identifies that for “passive” park-land both the national median and the median for Regional Inland Areas is 4 hectares/ 1,000 people.
  - c. Emerging approaches acknowledge that spatial standards are more critical in provision of sporting land as there are specific size and shape requirements for formal sports fields and courts.
  - d. For sporting land (Active Developed Parkland) between 1 and 2 hectares/1,000 people is most commonly cited as a provision target. The national median is 1.5 hectares/1,000 people and the median for Regional Inland Areas is 2 hectares/1,000 people.
  - e. Many guides are also recognising provision rates for sports fields or facilities based on population numbers (e.g. 1 rugby league field per 4,000 residents, and 1 tennis court per 1,500 people). These rates are usually developed to reflect participation numbers within each state or region.
  - f. Minimum sizes are critical in providing sporting parks. Emerging best practice is to provide larger areas (8 hectares +) which can accommodate a number of sporting uses, and are more efficient to develop and service a larger catchment. These “district” or “regional” facilities are better able to respond to diverse and changing participation trends; and in new urban areas, allow for user groups and participation to grow. Council’s preference in the Draft Asset Management Plan – Recreation (2010) for a minimum of 2.0 hectares for sporting grounds and active parks to allow adequate space for activity and to lower maintenance costs is lower than the preferred minimum size, but may be appropriate in limited circumstances such as in rural villages. This standard should be reviewed in line with the recommendations of this Strategy.
5. Best practice ensures sufficient distribution of public open space so that all residents have access at local and higher catchment levels.
- a. Access to local park opportunities within 400-500 metres safe walking distance is considered best practice in most states. This is also supported in nationally endorsed guides such as Healthy Places and Spaces and other “active urban design” guides.

Some guides also recommend access for higher density areas should be within a smaller radius such as 200 metres.

- b. Emerging approaches focus more on opportunity provision rates (e.g. 1 district park per 5,000 residents) than spatial standards (1 hectare per 5,000 people).
6. Planning should provide a hierarchy of public parks that provide both local and destination public spaces.
  - a. Best practice public open space planning provides for local and destination opportunities. This “hierarchy” is usually expressed in terms of catchments serviced (e.g. local, neighbourhood, district, city wide, regional). The use of a hierarchy also encourages diversity in settings and expands the range of opportunities available to residents.
  - b. Newly acknowledged best practice planning identifies the importance of active transport and suggests a hierarchy of path networks (and by association open space corridors/ linear parks) which provide a range of distances and destinations for walking, cycling and running opportunities.
7. Recognition of the importance of linear public open space corridors,<sup>3</sup> providing “green” connections as part of the public park networks and critical linkages and access points to active recreation or parkland recreation opportunity.
  - a. Best practice planning acknowledges the importance of providing opportunities for active recreation and physical activity. The development of a network of pedestrian/cycle paths and trails linked to residential areas and linking public open space is now a core part of open space planning.
  - b. Providing linkage to and between public open space areas can increase the availability of opportunities and use of linear open space to facilitate increased access can replace more formal approaches involving isolated park areas.
  - c. Linear parks can complement existing linear open space (such as waterways) but need to be designed to be accessible and visible.
  - d. Providing a high % of road frontage and visibility is recognised as best practice for linear parks, rather than housing backing on to these areas and limiting visibility.
8. Development of a sustainable public parks network considers environmental, economic and social needs.
  - a. Best practice approaches seek to maximise the recreation benefit for the maintenance investment. Design of spaces, land suitability, location and management of constraining factors are critical in creating an efficient and affordable network.
  - b. Emerging best practice also considers how public space and public parks can better integrate with local economies and provide “merged” spaces where public space and service, retail or café interests combine to create vibrant and well used *public places*.
  - c. It is increasingly clear that very small isolated parks provide limited benefit for recreation and become costly “landscape features”. Best practice seeks to invest in public parks commensurate with the recreational benefit provided.

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<sup>3</sup> This does not include narrow laneways as “built” corridors, rather it refers to overland flow and drainage corridors, creeks and other linear park elements that are predominantly open space.

- d. Equity of provision is increasingly being defined in terms of walkable access to specific opportunities rather than hectares per 1,000 residents.
- e. The potential for open space to fulfil a number of environmental and social functions has been widely accepted and integration of WSUD<sup>4</sup> treatments and multiple use of open space is increasingly encouraged. Best practice approaches identify a number of design parameters that need to be met to ensure that recreation potential and user safety is not compromised.
- f. Contemporary planning approaches build on strengths within an area and seek diversity rather than trying to replicate a “model” provision for each place.

The State of the Sector Report: Urban Parkland Provision (IOSS, 2013) undertook a comprehensive analysis of public open space provision across Australia. The data collated included 28 local government areas in NSW alone and 84 nationally. Data was collated for different classes of councils, with the most relevant to Bathurst Region being Regional Inland. The following median<sup>5</sup> rates of provision for public open space per 1,000 population were determined.

**Table 4 Comparison of public open space supply in Bathurst Region with Regional Inland Councils**

Public open space type	Description	Median hectares/ 1,000 population Regional Inland Councils	Bathurst <sup>6</sup> hectares/ 1,000 people
Public Open Space	Public open space managed by local or state government – includes: parks, sporting lands, conservation and natural areas, linear parks and riparian parks	31	102.9 (with Hill End Common) 53.9 (without Hill End Common)
Parkland	Public open space managed by Council	27	as above
Developed Parkland	Parkland managed by the LGA- including both sport and recreation parks (majority mown on regular basis)-excluding bushland etc.	9	10.4
Active Developed Parkland	Parkland managed by LGA primarily used for sporting purposes	2	3.58 (excluding racecourses, private grounds and Bathurst Bicycle Park)
Sportsfields (Playing Surface)	Managed by LGA and includes synthetic and natural playing surfaces	1.7	1.11
Passive Developed Parkland	Managed by LGA includes developed parkland dominant use for recreation.	4	3.51
Natural areas managed by LGA	LGA managed conservation and bushland areas	6	58.4 (including 2,101 hectares of Hill End Common)

*Source: IOSS (2013) State of the Sector report*

<sup>4</sup> Water Sensitive Urban Design

<sup>5</sup> Median being the midpoint in the data set is a more effective measure than an average which can be heavily skewed by outliers and atypical data.

<sup>6</sup> Section 3 provides the analysis and classification of the public open space estate

Bathurst Region compares favourably with other regional inland Councils in terms of public open space in general, developed parkland, active developed parkland, and natural areas; and slightly less favourably regarding passive developed parkland.

### 2.3.2 Comparison with other NSW inland Councils

Benchmarking public open space planning and provision across a number of NSW inland Councils was attempted to gain an understanding of contemporary practice in NSW. Councils selected are part of the Evocity network of seven regional inland centres (Albury, Armidale, Dubbo, Orange, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga, along with Bathurst), and Mid-Western Regional Council which, along with Orange, is a larger LGA adjoining Bathurst Region.

There are a number of issues in benchmarking due to the differences between Councils in how they plan, provide and measure public open space and the classifications systems used. The following table attempts to capture provision of formal (i.e. developed) parklands and sport land, controlled or owned by the Council. There are differences as to the level of inclusion of some riparian and bushland parks and some Councils were not always able to provide clear breakdowns of provision of certain types of open space.



Mid-Western Region



Ploughmans Creek Wetland, City of Orange

Table 5 Open space provision in larger NSW inland centres and adjoining LGA

	Bathurst <sup>7</sup>	Albury	Armidale Regional Council	Former Dubbo City <sup>1</sup>	Orange City Council	Tamworth Regional Council	Wagga Wagga	Mid-Western Regional Council
Current open space provision	369.9 ha 8.6 ha/ 1000pp	460 ha 9 ha /1000 pp	n/a	343.5 ha 8.19 ha/1,000pp	850 ha 21.6 ha/1000pp	243.3 ha 4.08 ha /1000pp	817 ha 13.1 ha/1000pp	144.5 ha 6.0 ha/1,000pp
Current population	42,900 (ABS 2016)	51,076 (ABS 2016)	29,449 (ABS 2016)	41,934 (ERP 2015)	40,344 (ABS 2016)	59,663 (ABS 2016)	62,385 (ABS 2016)	24,076 (ABS 2016)
Forecast population 2036	53,361 (forecast.id)	67,427	n/a	51,550 (KPMG mid series estimate)	n/a	75,676 (forecast.id)	80,984	n/a
Community characteristics	19.7% 0-14 yrs 20.4% 65+ yrs	18.8% 0-14 17.9% aged 65+	18.1% aged 0-14 16.9% aged 65+	24% aged 0-15 years 14% aged 65 +	21.2% aged 0-14 16.8% aged 65+	20.2% aged 0-14 18.8% aged 65+	20.3% aged 0-14 15.2% aged 65+	20.3% aged 0-14 15.2% aged 65+
How open space quantum is determined	Currently ad hoc	n/a	n/a	Local parks 1.5 ha/1,000 people District parks 3.0 ha/1,000 people Regional parks 0.5 ha/1,000 people Sporting parks 2.8 ha/1,000 people Total open space 7.8 ha/1,000 people	Council does not have an endorsed quantitative methodology for open space within the LGA. <sup>8</sup>	Local Parks: 95% of the residential population have access within 500m or 5-10 minutes walk. District Park – 1:10,000 population Regional Parks – 2-3	2.5 ha/1000 for outdoor recreation facilities 1.5 ha/1000 for sporting facilities. 1.0 ha/1000 for outdoor recreation. 3.0 ha/1000 for sporting facilities in rural areas. All proposed residential lots will be within a 500m radius of a passive open space area. District parks are within	Local/pocket parks 1.3 ha/1,000 people District parks and sportsgrounds 4.9 ha/1,000 people Local park or play-ground to be provided within 400m of all dwellings in urban areas of towns. Provision of or access to parks and open space within any residential

<sup>7</sup> Includes land included in the "Community Parks" and "Sport" classification (see Section 3)- excludes the racecourses and private (bowls and golf).

<sup>8</sup> Lantz Marshall (2011)

	Bathurst <sup>7</sup>	Albury	Armidale Regional Council	Former Dubbo City <sup>1</sup>	Orange City Council	Tamworth Regional Council	Wagga Wagga	Mid-Western Regional Council
						per LGA	2 km of residents.	subdivision of 20 lots or more.
Council priorities for provision of open space				Acquire land: former Sewage Treatment Plant RAAF Base Urban release areas Expansion and embellishment of City-wide and local parkland and sporting facilities, including creation of central Dubbo City Park that integrates existing Macquarie River parks and many smaller urban parks into one contiguous major recreation facility. Embellishment of Regional Botanic Garden		Improve 13 local parks, 3 district parks and a number of rural centres.	Implementing the existing strategies and policies.	Stages 2 and 3 of Glen Willow regional sporting complex. Improvements to walking tracks along Cudgegong River. Shared walkways/ cycleways. Youth facilities (skate park, basketball half- courts etc.). Picnic facilities in natural areas. Support for non- traditional uses (motorcross, mountain biking, equestrian).

A similar analysis of local Councils in rapidly developing areas in Greater Sydney was undertaken for comparison.

Table 6 Comparison of open space provision in developing areas in Sydney

Local government area	Current open space provision	Provision rate for planning additional total open space	Provision rate for planning additional active open space	Provision rate for planning additional informal open space
Blacktown City Council	5,513 hectares of open space / 356,859 ERP 2017 = 15.5 ha/1,000 people. 4.3 ha of open space zoned RE1 / 1,000 population	2.83 ha/1,000 people as a starting point	There are no new rates of provision. Distance and minimum size requirements have been developed. Specific rates of provision for various sports facilities: 1:1,850 Sports fields 1:4,500 Tennis courts 1:3,500 Netball court (these 3 equate to around 0.7 ha/1000)	n/a
Camden Council	12.7 ha of open space zoned RE1 / 1,000 people	2.49 ha/1,000 people in Austral and Leppington North Precincts <sup>9</sup> . 22.98m <sup>2</sup> per additional resident in Leppington Precinct = 2.3 ha / 1,000 people <sup>10</sup>	n/a	n/a
Campbelltown City Council <sup>11</sup>	Total open space zoned RE1 18.1 ha/ 1,000 people. Open space managed by CCC 9.21 ha / 1,000 people	Residences to be located: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 400m of local open space 0.2-1 ha in size</li> <li>- within 800m-1km of a neighbour-hood park &gt; 0.5 ha</li> <li>- within 5km of district open space &gt;2 ha - &gt; 5ha</li> <li>- regional open space &gt;10 ha</li> </ul>	n/a	n/a
Liverpool City Council	2,215 ha of total open space <sup>12</sup> /217,736 ERP 2017= 6.15 ha /1,000 for LCC owned/managed open space	2.83 ha/1,000 people for greenfield release areas. A "more contextual and nuanced approach for urban consolidation in existing urban areas."	0.83 ha / 1,000 people for active open space	2 ha / 1,000 people for passive open space

<sup>9</sup> Camden Council (2017) *Camden Growth Areas Contributions Plan: Technical Document*.

<sup>10</sup> Camden Council (2017) *Camden Growth Areas Contributions Plan: Main Document*.

<sup>11</sup> Campbelltown City Council (2018) *Campbelltown Open Space Strategic Plan*; Campbelltown City Council (2018) *Draft Open Space and Land Review Strategy*.

<sup>12</sup> Liverpool City Council (2018). Including Liverpool City Council owned/managed open space (1,340 ha), Western Sydney Parklands (529 ha), and National Parks (346 ha).

## 2.4 Industry trends in open space planning and provision

There are multiple industry trends affecting public open space planning and provision. The following points summarise the key trends observed from multiple studies across NSW and Queensland:

- ❑ Most local governments are facing increasing financial constraints in regard to the funding of infrastructure development and future maintenance.
- ❑ Community expectations are increasing as to the quality of parks and sporting areas and the level of access they have to these. In particular there is increasing awareness of “high quality” destination parks with regional scale play and active recreation elements.
- ❑ There is increasing pressure on available land stocks and affordability of housing. This is impacting on land quantity and quality provided for public open space.
- ❑ Provision of land for sport is trending towards larger multi-use precincts as opposed to small single or double field facilities.
- ❑ Active transport provision and linkage has become a prominent consideration in urban and parks planning.
- ❑ Many councils are dealing with a legacy of land notionally allocated as public open space that is not fit for purpose and would be expensive to develop as park and difficult to maintain.
- ❑ Many councils are reviewing their levels of open space provision and the public open space land they have with a view to rationalising their estate in favour of more targeted investment for public parks and reducing costs associated with marginal (semi-functional) open space.
- ❑ Access has become a key measure of performance for public open space. This is expressed both in the walkability radius as well as the ratio of street frontage to total boundary.
- ❑ In response to many of the above pressures there are increasing attempts to provide multiple use open space that provides recreation as a secondary function.
- ❑ Increasing pressure on available sporting land is being compounded by the difficulty in acquiring new suitable land. Strategies to address this demand include:
  - Increased investment in field and court lighting to increase use hours
  - Installation of synthetic fields and courts where high use hours and demand can justify the capital and recurrent cost
  - Dual provision partnerships with education institutions to jointly develop and use facilities
  - Increased amalgamation of clubs and multiple clubs sharing facilities
  - New management of fields with councils controlling the field and allocating use hours to multiple users, rather than leasing fields to a single sport
  - “new space” solutions such as synthetics on roof tops of car parks.

## 2.5 Issues with open space provision

The State of the Sector (IOSS, 2013) report identified significant issues associated with local government and the planning and management of parklands. Most importantly, the issues surrounding failure to understand the interdependencies between:

- ❑ Open Space Provision
- ❑ Landscape Development
- ❑ Landscape Maintenance

- ❑ Quadruple Bottom Line (Social/cultural; Environmental; Financial; Governance).

In effect, efforts to adjust performance or cost in any of these areas will have an impact on the other. Sometimes the impact is immediate, and other times it can be deferred and affect future Council operations. The key examples provided were:

- ❑ **Allocation and development of parkland without full consideration of long term maintenance.** Development of parklands at a high landscape quality can assist developers to sell land. However the standard of maintenance established initially and then required as an ongoing standard is beyond that of council. Council cannot afford to maintain to the higher standard yet the community expects service levels to stay the same as when the developer was maintaining.
- ❑ **Higher whole of life costs associated with the maintenance of poorly developed open space.** Cost cutting in the parkland development phase (through sub optimal land, shortcuts on landscape development or installation of non-standard/ approved park infrastructure) can lead to far higher maintenance costs which can overrun the initial capital saving in a matter of a few years. This issue also arises when land selection does not consider the remediation costs of frequent flooding.
- ❑ **Poor Communication between landscape planners, developers and landscape maintainers.** Poor consideration of maintenance requirements and costs during the design phase can lead to difficulties in maintaining parks (e.g., access to areas, slope, terrain, location of facilities, visibility). Conversely, too great a focus on future maintenance costs/impacts can constrain creative design solutions and innovative outcomes.

## 2.6 The importance of public open space to healthy communities

Numerous studies have identified the importance of public parks to improving the health of communities. Key benefits of living in a suburb with a supply of accessible, well developed and linked parks include:

- ❑ improved participation in physical activity
- ❑ improved social interaction and community connectedness
- ❑ improved mental health
- ❑ local climate benefits from increased vegetation and green space
- ❑ increased participation in outdoor recreation for young people
- ❑ savings in health costs. The city of Sacramento<sup>13</sup> estimated the annual saving in health costs from residents' increased physical activity due to parks was \$19,871,863.

Design that maximises active living and creates a healthy environment considers such things as:

- ❑ proximity of parks and paths
- ❑ visibility of public spaces and pathways and perceived safety issues
- ❑ desirability of setting
- ❑ connectivity
- ❑ supporting infrastructure
- ❑ diversity of settings and opportunities.

<sup>13</sup> The Trust for Public Land (2009) The Value of Parks.

Governments at all levels have acknowledged the importance of parks and pathways to community social, physical and environmental health. However, while State and Federal governments are the major beneficiaries of future health budget savings, the cost of provision is predominantly that of local government.

## 2.7 Multiple Use of Open Space and Water Sensitive Urban Design

### 2.7.1 What is Multiple Use of Open Space?

Multiple use of open space seeks to combine a number of functions within the one parcel of open space. Most commonly it refers to combining public parks and stormwater/drainage management. Open space can also include other infrastructure such as utility corridors, active transport, and built features such as transformers, reservoirs, pump stations and public transport stops.

Increasing pressures on availability of land for residential use and the increasing use of marginal land for residential development (i.e. land with flooding, drainage and other constraints) has meant that urban design solutions are being sought that minimise use of quality land for public open space. In addition state legislation has increased requirements for protection of waterways (e.g. requirements for buffer widths) and the management of stormwater. Natural treatments involving vegetated corridors and wetlands are emerging as preferred solutions under such approaches as Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).

There is increasing acceptance of multiple use of open space in urban design, however there are also a number of issues which have emerged with attempts to combine too many functions into a single open space this compromising its use for public open space. In most cases design is critical as is the development of clear guidelines regarding appropriate application of multiple use approaches.

### 2.7.2 Water Sensitive Urban Design

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) is based on the integration of stormwater treatments systems into the urban landscape (generally in public open space) whilst maintaining visual amenity, protecting natural systems, enhancing or maintaining recreation function, protecting water quality, utilising the natural topography and minimising development costs. In theory WSUD appears to be an answer to a planning dilemma, however the balance between infrastructure function and recreational/amenity function can be difficult to achieve.

The inclusion of stormwater management systems and infrastructure in public open space is unequivocally a greatly debated topic amongst town planners, recreation and open space professionals and land developers alike. The key issue is that attempts to install multiple use frameworks on public open space can easily fail through poor design and result in space that does not function well for any of the intended uses. Further poor outcomes can lead to disproportionate maintenance costs compared with the recreation value of a site.

Most state planning authorities have developed WSUD guidelines or standards. Bodies such as Melbourne Water, Healthy Waterways (QLD), and Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Authority act as advocates of the principles, designing programs to assist in the implementation and evaluation of WSUD in the community and conducting educational seminars. Whilst there is overwhelming documentation of WSUD and support in its implementation, there is some ambiguity as to when it should be applied. Most WSUD policy explored through a literature review failed to identify the circumstances as to when WSUD should be applied.

Whilst many of the guidelines provide clear criteria for the installation of structures, there is minimal guidance as to the trigger for WSUD application. It is often assumed that the WSUD principles pertain to all facets of public open space and its application is discretionary. In many cases this discretion may be led by the developer. This approach is not desirable as Council should determine when such an approach is suitable as part of multiple use of open space in any development.

### 2.7.3 Key lessons about multiple use of open space

1. The review of existing guidelines and emerging approaches across Australia suggest that multiple use of open space is now a consistent part of urban planning for public open space. The major issues associated with multiple use are:
  - ☐ Loss of functional/ useable parkland for active recreation
  - ☐ Increased levels of risk for users of public parks associated with WSUD and stormwater treatments
  - ☐ Negative visual and landscape impacts on public open space from poorly planned or constructed treatments
  - ☐ Creation of access and mobility barriers due to WSUD and stormwater treatments
  - ☐ Impacts on maintenance costs where stormwater treatments dominate public park areas and recreational use is limited.
2. Multiple use of open space is possible and can be accommodated with clear guidelines on appropriate application and design parameters. The best practice approaches include:
  - ☐ Guidelines that limit the % of area of public parks that can be applied to other uses.
  - ☐ Design guidelines that ensure WSUD treatments proposed for public open space are aesthetically pleasing, pose no risk to users and do not unreasonably increase maintenance burdens.
  - ☐ Acknowledgement that some treatments for stormwater are not suitable in public open space and should not be included in multiple use approaches.
  - ☐ Guidelines that identify the minimum functional area required for recreation and the tolerance to impacts such as infrequent inundation.
  - ☐ Water quality standards and design guidelines that ensure any water bodies do not become significant maintenance concerns.

### 2.7.4 Recreational use of drainage reserves

Section 51 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that:

*Land that is held by council for drainage purposes may be used for any other purpose that is not inconsistent with its use for drainage purposes, subject to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and any environmental planning instrument applying to the land.*

Any permissible uses of or structures in drainage corridors used for recreation should not impede the drainage function, nor be subject to damage from inundation. Constructed wetlands with footpaths, seats and perhaps a viewing platform would be desirable if water is permanent. Minimal structures such as goal posts, picnic facilities, signs, seats, and footpaths would be acceptable in drainage reserves which are intermittently inundated, while play equipment would not.

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# 3 OPEN SPACE IN THE BATHURST REGION

## 3.1 Overview

Bathurst Region has over 4,412 hectares of open space including parks, reserves, dual purpose, riparian open space, natural areas and other open space. This includes approximately:

- ❑ 2,506 hectares of natural areas
- ❑ 809 hectares of special purpose lands which includes Mount Panorama, difficult to locate sports (e.g. shooting) and the Bathurst Showground
- ❑ 352 hectares of sporting lands (including large precincts such as the Bathurst Bicycle Park and horse and greyhound racecourses)
- ❑ 164 hectares of dual purpose open space where recreation is a secondary function
- ❑ 149 hectares of developed community parks
- ❑ 433 hectares of other open space.

The open space system in the Bathurst Region has a diverse mix of sporting facilities, playgrounds, passive open spaces, river frontage reserves and bushland, connected by trails and corridors.

Natural bushland areas include Brooke Moore Reserve, Boundary Road Reserve, Peel Common, Hill End Common, and the Mount Panorama Precinct which play an important role in the provision of open space for both local residents and the wider Bathurst community.

The Macquarie River is also a significant part of the open space system that provides additional recreational amenities for users.

Bathurst Regional Council has 45 parks that contain some form of play equipment, varying from only one or two pieces of equipment to large and elaborate play opportunities.

The City also provides facilities for a broad range of sporting activities, including several dedicated single-sport precincts.

Table 7 summarises the current supply of open space in the Bathurst Region. More detail is contained in Section 6.



Table 7 Summary of Open Space Supply in Bathurst Region

Planning Area	Community Parkland (hectares)	Sporting Land (hectares)	Dual Purpose, Natural Areas, Special Open Space, Other (hectares)	Total Open Space (hectares)
Abercrombie - Llanarth	13.57	0.0	41.79	<b>55.36</b>
Bathurst	29.01	40.9	25.96	<b>95.87</b>
Eglinton (all "parkland" is in linear drainage open space)	0.0	8.47	15.05	<b>23.52</b>
Kelso North - Laffing Waters	10.44	53.09	199.77	<b>263.3</b>
Kelso South	0.89	6.21	58.67	<b>65.77</b>
Mitchell - Robin Hill – Mt Panorama	27.81	78.66	259.24	<b>365.71</b>
Perthville	0.49	5.96	0.2	<b>6.65</b>
Raglan	4.75	5.39	15.38	<b>25.52</b>
Sth Bathurst – Gorman's Hill - White Rock	4.01	60.45	7.99	<b>72.45</b>
West Bathurst	15.95	7.39	31.7	<b>55.04</b>
Windradyne	17.04	2.68	17.35	<b>37.07</b>
Rural Remainder	24.93	82.46	3,238.83	<b>3,346.22</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148.89</b>	<b>351.66</b>	<b>3,911.93</b>	<b>4,412.48</b>

## 3.2 Public open space classification used in the analysis

Classifying the supply of open space is a complex task as many parcels can have multiple values or primary and secondary functions. In addition, land that may become a developed park in the future may be included as potential parkland or other/undeveloped open space. The best way to understand supply is by examining each of the planning areas adopted for this strategy which are based around the profile.id<sup>14</sup> population forecasting catchments using Australian Bureau of Statistics small area boundaries.

The existing public open space estate in Bathurst Region was assessed to make a broad determination about classification according to two main criteria:

1. Primary function or Purpose
2. Hierarchy of supply, which only applies to community parks and sporting lands.

The classification system is not based on operational determinations based on the level of maintenance service defined for a particular site. Rather it deals with the planning framework around which public open space is considered. In general, this planning framework considers:

<sup>14</sup> [www.profile.id.com.au](http://www.profile.id.com.au)

- ❑ provision of public parks for outdoor recreation which are fit for purpose and have some level of development to enable recreation use. Often provided based on a planning standard.
- ❑ provision of public lands for organised sport. Often provided based on a planning standard.
- ❑ protection of natural and cultural assets such as bushland, landscape features, memorials, heritage sites and natural riparian corridors. These are “opportunistic” and are not provided according to any planning standard.
- ❑ other open space which is required for water cycle management (e.g. stormwater), buffering between incompatible uses, or as connectivity for active transport or ecological linkage. These are opportunistic and/or site design related.

The following table explains the classification system used for this Strategy.

**Table 8** Classification system used for public open space analysis

Function	Hierarchies	Description
Community Park	Local District Regional	Parks that are predominantly developed for general recreation and community use. These parks may include active elements such as youth spaces or outdoor gyms.
Sport	District Regional	Spaces developed for formal organised sport
Special	N/A	Public land developed for special purposes such showgrounds or motor racing.
Dual Purpose	N/A	Public open space with a primary function other than recreation (such as drainage or buffering) where recreation is anticipated as a secondary use, or facilities have been provided to facilitate recreation. This could include detention/retention basins with dual use as informal sporting fields.
Natural	N/A	Conservation and bushland areas which are predominantly in a natural state and riparian corridors which have not been developed as riverside/Creekside parks and may only have a pathway.
Other	N/A	Other open space and formed drains including buffer lands, undeveloped open space, overland flow paths or where the purpose is unknown.



## 3.3 Ownership/management

### 3.3.1 Overview

Open space in the Bathurst Region is owned by a range of organisations as set out below.

Table 9 Ownership of open space in the Bathurst Region

Organisation	Hectares 2018
Bathurst Regional Council	3,844.8
Crown (managed by BRC) Land for public purposes of Public Recreation or Conservation	431.4
State Forests	29,956.0
Nature Reserves	15,648.0
<b>TOTAL OPEN SPACE</b>	<b>49,880.2</b>
Area of Bathurst Region	381,965
% of Bathurst Region as public open space	13%

### 3.3.2 Bathurst Regional Council

The following table summarises supply of public open space managed by Council and some Crown lands not included in NPWS and State Forest estates.

Table 10 Open space managed by Bathurst Regional Council

Function	Area (hectares)	Comment
Community Park	148.89	-
Sport	351.60	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bathurst Bicycle Park 69.46 ha</li> <li>- Racecourses (Club managed) 77.47 ha</li> <li>- Private 53.21 ha</li> </ul>
Special	808.58	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Much of the Mount Panorama event precinct</li> <li>- Showgrounds</li> <li>- Cemeteries</li> <li>- Chifley Dam lands</li> </ul>
Dual Purpose	164.41	Includes Toronto Street Open Space 33.9 ha – primarily used for drainage, but large size
Nature	2,505.89	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hill End Common 2101.4 ha</li> <li>- Peel Common 148.8 ha</li> </ul>
Other	214.85	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 218.2 ha undeveloped recreation reserve at Eusdale. Crown land managed by BRC. Council is negotiating the transfer of land with OEH to be managed by NPWS</li> </ul>

### 3.3.3 National Parks and Wildlife Service

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service manage four nature reserves within the Bathurst region, totalling approximately 15,650 hectares.

Table 11 Nature reserves in Bathurst Region

Nature Reserve	Area (hectares)	Public access?
Winburndale NR	10,719	Not encouraged to reduce impacts on the natural ecosystem
Copperhannia NR	3,497	Not encouraged to reduce impacts on the natural ecosystem
Eusdale NR	1,238	Not encouraged to reduce impacts on the natural ecosystem
Wambool NR	194	Low impact activities such as bushwalking on existing management trails, and nature appreciation and study
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,648 ha</b>	

The Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve near the southern boundary of Bathurst Region is managed by NPWS.

NPWS also manage the Hill End Historic Site and its open spaces and parkland.

### 3.3.4 NSW Forests

State Forests in the Bathurst Regional Council LGA are softwood plantations as follows:

Table 12 State Forests in Bathurst Region

State Forest	Area (hectares)	Public access?
Sunny Corner	19,415	
Pennsylvania	6,759	
Turon	1,912	
Vittoria	1,870	Macquarie Woods Recreation Area – camping
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,956</b>	



### 3.3.5 Charles Sturt University

The Bathurst campus of Charles Sturt University includes two sporting fields (rugby union, and rugby league/football), one informal sport area, 4 tennis courts, 2 basketball/netball courts, and parkland. Walking through the campus is a popular activity by locals.



While none of these facilities are managed by Council, they do contribute to the overall resources for sport available to the community. The University is keen to encourage local community use of their sporting facilities as there is spare capacity available.

The University proposes to construct a circuit walking track and to install seating and exercise equipment along the track.

### 3.3.6 Schools

Public and private primary and high schools have open spaces – usually a multi-purpose sports field, cricket wicket and nets, and multi-purpose and/or basketball sports courts - on their grounds. Primary schools have play equipment for the children.

Private schools, such as All Saints College and St Stanislaus, allow limited community use of their sporting fields. There is clubs use of All Saints (co-ed) cricket fields (Stiles Oval and Watson Oval), equestrian and orienteering facilities; The Scots School Main Oval for cricket; and fields at St Stanislaus for rugby and cricket.

Public and private schools use Council-managed sporting fields and courts and the privately owned Bathurst Golf Course for school sport and other activities.



### 3.3.7 State Rail

State Rail owns the land on which Loco Oval in Bathurst is situated. Loco Oval has a cricket wicket which is used by the Bathurst District Cricket Association.

### 3.3.8 Private

Privately owned land used for open space purposes in the Bathurst Region includes:

- ☐ Bathurst Golf Course (18 holes)
- ☐ Bathurst Golf Driving Range
- ☐ Bathurst RC Model Sports Club (radio control cars, drones) operates from a private property north of Limekilns Road/Pymonts Lane in Limekilns.
- ☐ Riding for the Disabled
- ☐ Pistol Club
- ☐ Rifle Range
- ☐ Bathurst Thoroughbred Racing Club
- ☐ Bathurst Greyhound Racing
- ☐ Bathurst Harness Racing.

## 3.4 Recreation opportunities on public open space

### 3.4.1 Community parks

Council is responsible for maintaining 55 passive parks and reserves as follows.

Table 13 Passive parks and reserves in Bathurst Region

Passive Parks and Reserves	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total
Classification	Community Parks	Irrigated local parks	Non irrigated local parks	Village/Rural Parks	
No. in Bathurst Region	5	3	40	7	55
Examples	Bicentennial Park Haymarket Reserve King's Parade Machattie Park Okuma Gardens	Berry Park Cousens Park Macquarie Park	Bunora Park Jacques Park Laffing Waters Park	Sofala Community Park Wattle Flat Recreation Ground	



Some of Bathurst's most popular community events are held in its community parks, such as Party in the Park in Victoria Park on New Years' Eve, and country music in Bicentennial Park.

Machattie Park and Bicentennial Park are popular for weddings.

Bicentennial Park is the venue for Park Run which regularly attracts 300 participants.

## Playgrounds

Council classifies its 40 playgrounds throughout the Bathurst Region as follows:

Table 14 Playgrounds in Bathurst Region

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total
<b>Parks/Playgrounds</b>					
Classification	Regional Playground	Community Playgrounds	Residential Playground	Village/rural playgrounds	
No. in Bathurst Region	1	3	33	3	40
Examples	Bathurst Adventure Playground	Bonnor Street Playground Macquarie Playground McPhillamy Park Playground	Windradyne Reserve Playground Abercrombie Fitness Station	Chifley Dam Playground	

Bathurst Adventure Playground is Bathurst's premier children's playground.



## Youth spaces

Bathurst Skate Park is Bathurst's active youth space located near Berry Park, Kelso. Council has received a \$295,000 grant to expand the existing skate park, with design work completed.



## Fitness

Fitness equipment has been installed next to the Macquarie River bridge in Bathurst, and along Eglinton Road.



## Unleashed dog exercise areas

Council has designated unleashed dog exercise areas at 12 locations:

### Bathurst

- ☐ Kefford Street, Bathurst (fenced) – includes a “small dogs” off leash area (fenced)
- ☐ Centennial Park, Bathurst
- ☐ Russell Street
- ☐ George Street

### Eglinton

- ☐ Cubis Park, Eglinton

### Kelso South

- ☐ Bell Park

### Perthville

- ☐ Brian Booth Reserve, Perthville

### Raglan

- ☐ Elmo Lavis Park, Raglan

### South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock

- ☐ Jacques Park, Rocket Street

### West Bathurst

- ☐ Hector Park

### Windradyne

- ☐ Bradwardine Road, Windradyne

Gaps in unleashed dog exercise areas in Abercrombie-Llanarth, Kelso North/Laffing Waters, and Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mount Panorama.



## Community gardens

Community gardens are located at:

- ❑ Bathurst Community Garden – between Stephens Lane and Church Lane, Kelso (off River Road)
- ❑ Rahahmin Community Garden – 34 Busby Street, South Bathurst (owned by Sisters of Mercy)
- ❑ Whiddon Kelso Community Garden – in aged care facility open to the community
- ❑ Bathurst Hope Church, Gilmour Street.

## Tourist rest areas

Facilities for tourists have been provided in Hector Park (tourist information, recreational vehicle (RV) dumping point) and in Berry Park. A specific RV dumping point is available at the entrance to the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Morrisset Street.



### 3.4.2 Sport

Council classifies its 20 active parks / sportsgrounds as follows.

Table 15 Active parks and sports grounds in Bathurst Region

Active parks/ Sports grounds	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total
Classification	Regional Facilities	Community Sports Fields	Un-irrigated Residential Sports Fields	Village/ rural facilities	
No. in Bathurst Region	3	11	2	4	20
Examples	Ann Ashwood Park Bathurst Sportsground Carrington Park	Eglinton Oval	Brian Booth Recreational Ground Ralph Cameron Oval	Hill End/ Tambaroora Racecourse Trunkey Recreation Ground	



Sporting facilities in the Bathurst Region and user groups are listed below.

Table 16 Sporting facilities in the Bathurst Region

**Home grounds/facilities for each sport are in bold**

Facility	Suburb/ village	Area (ha)	No. main facilities	Ancillary facilities	User groups
<b>Fields</b>					
Carrington Park	Bathurst	4.56 ha	<b>1 football/rugby league/union field</b> Premier rectangular field in Bathurst	Canteen Toilets Change rooms Grandstand Carpark Lights	Bathurst Panthers RLFC Bathurst Panthers Jnr RLFC Penrith Panthers RLFC 1/yr Rugby union: Football: A-League
Alan Morse Park	Bathurst	4.7 ha	Athletics track – grass 8 lanes Long jump pit, discus and shot put pads 2 x turf Cricket pitches	Toilets	Bathurst Cricket Association Athletics: Football: Rugby league Boot camps
Learmonth Park	Kelso	27.6 ha	11 x touch football fields 4 x concrete Cricket wickets Open space for various field use	Toilets	Bathurst Touch Football Association Bathurst Hockey Association Cricket Ultimate Frisbee
Cooke Hockey Complex	Kelso	0.6 ha	<b>3 synthetic hockey fields</b> – 1 water-based, 2 sand-based Several turf fields	Toilets Car parking Lights Canteen	Bathurst Hockey Association
Bathurst Sportsground	Bathurst	4.1 ha	<b>1 turf cricket field</b> <b>Athletics track</b>	Canteen Toilets Change rooms	St Pats Senior Rugby League St Pats Junior Rugby League

Facility	Suburb/ village	Area (ha)	No. main facilities	Ancillary facilities	User groups
			Old Cycle track (proposed to be removed) Rugby league field 4 x Cricket nets	Grandstand Carpark Lights	Bathurst Little Athletics Bathurst Cycling Club
George Park	Bathurst	6.7 ha	<b>AFL fields</b> Cricket wickets x 2 Cricket nets x 3	Toilets Lighting	Bathurst Giants AFL Bathurst Giants Junior AFL Bathurst Bushrangers AFL Bathurst and District Cricket
Ann Ashwood Park	Bathurst	8.2 ha	<b>2 x rugby union fields</b>	Clubhouse Toilets Lights seating	Bathurst Bulldogs RUC
Proctor Park	Bathurst	9.8 ha	<b>12 to 15 football fields</b> (range of field sizes)	Canteen Toilets Change rooms Lights	Bathurst District Football Association – competition Various football clubs
Police Paddock	Bathurst	10.0 ha	5 football fields 2 cricket wickets	Toilets Lighting	Bathurst District Football Association – training Cricket Boot camp
Walmer Park	Windradyne	7.54 ha	Football field	Old clubhouse Minimal field Lighting	Football NRL overflow training St Pats Hockey Club Bathurst City RSL Band Assoc.
Jack Arrow Rugby League Complex	Kelso	6.8 ha	2 x rugby league fields Clubhouse	Toilets Changerooms Lights	St Pats Rugby League Club
Brooke Moore Oval		6.95 ha	Turf Cricket wicket 3 x Cricket nets	Toilets	Rugby Union Cricket Club
Loco Oval	Bathurst		Cricket wicket		
Archery Field			<b>Archery range</b>	Club house	Bathurst Archers
Brian Booth Oval	Perthville	4.5 ha	Concrete Cricket wicket Equestrian grounds Unirrigated rugby field	Toilets Canteen	Perthville Cricket Club Bathurst Pony Club
Cubis Park/ Eglinton Oval	Eglinton	7.0 ha	Football fields Cricket nets Rugby league fields 6 x tennis courts (with lighting) & 4 x hot-shots courts Play equipment	Hall Canteen Toilets Change rooms Clubhouse and Shed	St Pats Junior Cricket Club Eglinton District Football Club Eglinton Eels Rugby League Denison Dog Club Lapidary Club

Facility	Suburb/ village	Area (ha)	No. main facilities	Ancillary facilities	User groups
Ralph Cameron Oval	Raglan	5.2 ha	2 x cricket fields 2 x Cricket nets 2 x tennis courts with lights Playground equipment	Hall Toilets	Raglan Hall Committee
Rockley Sportsground	Rockley	2.4 ha	Football field 2 cricket nets	Hall Toilets	Rockley Sport and Recreation Association Rodeo Committee Villages United Football Club
Trunkley Creek Recreation Ground	Trunkley Creek	2.0 ha	Cricket wicket	Toilets	Trunkley Creek Progress Association
<b>Courts</b>					
John Matthews Centre	Bathurst	3.9 ha	<b>14 netball courts</b> <b>17 tennis courts</b>	Clubhouse Toilets Lights Parking	Bathurst Netball Association Tennis
Macquarie View Park		0.5 ha	2 tennis courts Playground equipment	Clubhouse	Macquarie View Tennis Club
Ralph Cameron Oval	Raglan		2 tennis courts		
	Peel		1 tennis court		
	Perthville		2 tennis courts		
Rockley Sportsground	Rockley	2.4 ha	1 tennis court	Hall Toilets	
<b>Lawns / greens</b>					
Bathurst City Community Club	Bathurst		4 bowling greens	Club house Toilets	Bathurst City Bowling Club
Bathurst Majellan Bowling Club	Bathurst		4 bowling greens	Club house Toilets	Bathurst Majellan Bowling Club
Bathurst Croquet Facility	Bathurst	0.3 ha	<b>2 croquet lawns</b>	Club house Toilets	Bathurst Croquet Club
<b>Golf</b>					
Bathurst Golf Club	Mitchell		<b>18 hole golf course</b>	Club house Function rooms Toilets	Bathurst Golf Club
Bathurst Driving Range	Abercrombie		<b>Driving range</b>	Toilets Shop	



### 3.4.3 Special

Recreational facilities located on open space classified as ‘Special’ are listed below.

Table 17 Recreational facilities on “special” open space

Facility	Suburb/ village	Area (ha)	No. main facilities	Ancillary facilities	User groups
<b>Cycling facilities</b>					
Bathurst Sportsground	Bathurst		Cycle track		Bathurst Cycling Club
Bathurst Bicycle Park			<b>Velodrome</b> <b>BMX track</b> <b>Mountain bike track</b>		Bathurst BMX Club Bathurst Mountain Bike Club Bathurst Cycling Club
River Road			BMX track – poor condition		
<b>Showgrounds</b>					
Bathurst Showground	Bathurst			Pavilions Grandstand Toilets Showers Camping Stables	Bathurst Showground Trust
Wattle Flat Racecourse	Wattle Flat				
Sofala Showground	Sofala	6.4 ha		Sheds Toilets	Sofala and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society
<b>Race tracks</b>					
Bathurst Showground	Bathurst		Trotting track	Stables	Bathurst Showground Trust
Kennerson Park	Gormans Hill		<b>Greyhound racing track</b>	Club house Toilets	Bathurst Greyhound Club

Facility	Suburb/ village	Area (ha)	No. main facilities	Ancillary facilities	User groups
Bathurst Harness Racing Club			<b>Harness racing track</b>	Club house Toilets	Harness racing
Tyers Park Racecourse			<b>Thoroughbred racing track</b>		Bathurst Thoroughbred Racing
<b>Shooting ranges</b>					
Bathurst Rifle Club	Mount Panorama		Shooting range		Bathurst Rifle Club Bathurst Gun Club
Bathurst Pistol Club			Shooting range – outdoor	Toilets	Bathurst Pistol Club Bathurst Shooters Association Bathurst Racing Pigeon Club
<b>Motor sports</b>					
Mount Panorama	Mount Panorama		<b>6.2 km motor racing circuit</b>	Circuit Pits Camping Amenities	Bathurst Light Car Club Bathurst 1000 (annual) Supercars (3 x per year) Inland Sea of Sound event Mount Panorama Punish running event
Panorama Motocross Track	Sulman Park, Mount Panorama		<b>Motorcross track</b> DA for go-kart track	Toilets	Panorama Motorcycle Club
<b>Water</b>					
Chifley Dam	The Lagoon		<b>Open water dam</b>	Cabins Primitive camping Boat ramp Playground Toilets	Bathurst Pan Dragons Bathurst Rowing Club Aqua Park





### 3.4.4 Dual purpose

Dual purpose open space includes drainage open space. Drainage reserves include:

- ☐ corner Richardson, Mitchell Highway and Bradwardine Road
- ☐ Wentworth and Ignatius
- ☐ Gilmour Street drainage basin
- ☐ South of Willow Drive/Poplar Place
- ☐ Sunnybright residential estate
- ☐ South of Marsden lane, reservoir, Limekilns Road
- ☐ Redding Drive
- ☐ Birch Close
- ☐ Evernden Road to Eglinton Road
- ☐ Negundo Place.



### 3.4.5 Natural

Council classifies its natural areas as follows.

Table 18 Classification of natural areas in Bathurst Region

Natural Areas	Level 1	Level 2
Classification	Maintained Land Areas	Non maintained land areas
No. in Bathurst Region	1	21
Examples	Boundary Road Reserve	Macquarie River Environs Peel Common Sawpit Creek Riparian Corridor

Boundary Road Reserve is Bathurst's "premier" public natural area. Boundary Road Reserve (40.7 ha) is the one of the few remaining Box-Gum Grassy Woodland patches at a regional scale, and the last such habitat within the City.

Other valuable natural areas include:

- ☐ Blayney Road Common
- ☐ Sawpit Creek to Mount Panorama – natural habitat corridor
- ☐ Brooke Moore – threatened ecological community
- ☐ Ophir Road – Casuarina forest along the Kath Knowles cycleway.



### 3.4.6 Linkages

- ☐ Macquarie River and six urban waterways
- ☐ Cycleways on Bike map including Kath Knowles Cycleway.

## 3.5 Proposed open space in the Bathurst Region

### 3.5.1 Land for open space

Council intends to rezone and acquire land for open space. The Bathurst Local Environmental Plan 2014 identified that of the 550 hectares of land to be rezoned for residential use, 187 hectares, or 34%, of that land would be rezoned for open space, as follows.

Table 19 Proposed rezoning and acquisition of open space

Location	Area of land (ha)	Land area / 1,000 new residents	Reason for acquisition
Bathurst 1-5	11.59	-	Macquarie River Park along the western bank between Evans Bridge at Kelso and Rankens Bridge at Eglinton.
Kelso/Laffing Waters 1-20	121.37	17.35 ha/1,000	Meet the recreation needs of the new residents
Llanarth and Windradyne 1-5	32.61	14.28 ha/1,000	Meet the recreation needs of the new residents
Perthville	1.39	11.58 ha/1,000	Meet the recreation needs of the new residents
Gateway Enterprise Park	2.83	-	Access and riparian corridor
Eglinton Open Space/Buffer	29.00	19.37 ha/1,000	Meet the recreation needs of the new residents
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198.79</b>		

Source: Bathurst Regional Council (2014) Section 94 Development Contributions Plan: Bathurst Regional Open Space.

Other proposals for additional open space in Bathurst Region are plans for a sporting precinct of 6 rugby league / rugby union fields on the floodplain in south Hereford Street. Construction of the fifth and sixth fields is included in the 2019/20 capital works budget.

### 3.5.2 Proposed improvements to open space

Council has budgeted in their 2017-18 and 2018-19 budgets for the following capital improvements to open spaces:

- ☐ Alec Lamberton Field Master Plan - \$150,000
- ☐ Centennial Park Landscape Design
- ☐ Freeman Circuit Playground construction
- ☐ Perthville Village Square
- ☐ New tennis clubhouse.

### Community Parks

- ☐ Victoria Park: Adventure Playground Stage 2
- ☐ Machattie Park: picnic tables
- ☐ Bicentennial Park: shelters.

### Sport

- ☐ Carrington Park: change room modifications, extension of grandstand to 2,200 seats
- ☐ Proctor Park: upgrade
- ☐ Hereford Street Rugby Fields: construction of additional fields
- ☐ John Matthews Complex: restoration of netball courts, replace synthetic tennis court surfaces
- ☐ Bathurst Sportsground: redevelopment

- ☐ Hockey complex: replacement of sand-based synthetic hockey field.

## Natural

Implementing the Vegetation Management Plan and Urban Waterways Management Plan:

- ☐ Creek restoration works including rock structures
- ☐ Revegetation for the whole length of Hawthornden Creek, including Jacques Park
- ☐ Better access to urban waterways and to make better use of waterways for recreation.

## Other

- ☐ Entrance statement into the CBD south of Learmonth Park.
- ☐ Other entry statements on Oberon/Raglan Roads.



# 4 DEMAND FOR OPEN SPACE IN BATHURST REGION

## 4.1 Approach to assessing demand for open space in the Bathurst Region

### 4.1.1 Introduction

This section outlines the principles and process which underpin the approach used to determine the open space needs of the residents, workers, students, tourists, shoppers and other visitors to the Bathurst Region.

### 4.1.2 Benefits of open space

This demand assessment is based on the philosophy that the opportunity to experience open space and to participate in recreational activities in open space is a benefit to individuals and to the community in general, and is therefore worth providing. Recent initiatives overseas and in Australia have attempted to identify and quantify the benefits of open space to the community as outlined below.

#### Personal and individual benefits

Participation in recreation activities in open space can:

- ☐ reduce physical health problems, including cardiovascular disease and lower back pain.
- ☐ improve psychological wellbeing through reducing stress, anxiety and depression.
- ☐ increasing personal development, self-esteem, self-confidence and sense of achievement through developing skills.
- ☐ intangible psychological benefits such as happiness, enjoyment, satisfaction and spiritual experiences through participation in physical exercise.

It is widely recognised that participation in sport, recreation and leisure pursuits is critical to the health and wellbeing of individuals, and that physical inactivity is an independent risk factor for a number of health conditions<sup>15</sup>.

#### Social and community benefits

Participation in recreation activities in open space can:

- ☐ strengthen social bonds at the local community level through involvement of volunteers in recreation and sport, and by local residents meeting each other in recreational settings.
- ☐ help children make friends, increase their sense of belonging and fitting in, limit the amount of time they spend with no direction, work in groups and think of others.
- ☐ maintain and strengthen family relationships by joint involvement in sporting and recreational activities.

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<sup>15</sup> National Physical Activity Recommendations for Older Australians: Discussion Document, Australian Government Department of Health.

- ❑ increase social inclusion and connectedness through participation and volunteering.
- ❑ promote appreciation and understanding of people with disabilities and their carers and families through participating in mainstream activities.
- ❑ lessen boredom and the amount of unsupervised leisure time spent by young people which can sometimes lead to the incidence of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The Australian Institute of Criminology has shown that youth crime can be prevented and the likelihood of re-offending can be reduced by involving young people in sport.

Sport can help to achieve a number of important health and community objectives including supporting and enhancing mental and physical health, crime prevention, and social development<sup>16</sup>. Research shows that sport and recreation play an important role in promoting community cohesion and supporting community building<sup>17</sup>. For these reasons, the provision of sport, recreation and open space facilities are seen as key components for healthy and sustainable communities.

## Environmental benefits

Open spaces:

- ❑ offer protected natural environments for physical activity and visual pleasure. Looking out over natural spaces and green spaces gives visual relief from urban development.
- ❑ green spaces with shade trees help with cooling the urban heat island.
- ❑ are one of the key factors that are considered when people have a choice about where they live.
- ❑ encourage people to walk and cycle rather than using cars, which improves air quality.

## Economic benefits

Opportunities for participation in recreation result in:

- ❑ economic benefits from the development of sporting facilities, production and sale of related goods and services, and employment of people in the recreation and sport industry.
- ❑ significant savings in health costs, allowing such funds to be redirected into other areas of health services.
- ❑ gains in workforce productivity through physical activity resulting in a healthier workforce.
- ❑ attraction of tourists for sporting events.
- ❑ increased property values adjacent to or near open space, resulting in a better environment for the property owner and higher land tax contributions to the community.
- ❑ improved work performance and productivity, decreased absenteeism and staff turnover, and reduced work accidents.

<sup>16</sup> Australian Sports Commission (2013), The Future of Australian Sport, Australian Sports Commission and CSIRO

<sup>17</sup> Sport and Recreation and Community Building, Literature Review for the NSW Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation, Andrew Larkin, 2008

### 4.1.3 Approach to determining demand for open space in Bathurst

#### Introduction

A review of exemplary open space and recreation needs strategies in Sydney and elsewhere in NSW and Australia undertaken for the Department of Planning and Environment by Parkland Planners in 2016 showed such studies:

- ❑ consider the whole spectrum of open space and recreation needs, including on public and private land, outdoor and indoor, active and informal, land and water (if relevant).
- ❑ consider needs of residents as well as workers, students, and other people who will visit a particular area.
- ❑ determine the activities people want to engage in within open space, and the facilities and settings required for those activities.
- ❑ analyse likely future demand for open space using a range of methods rather than just simply applying numerical standards.

#### Demand assessment

##### Introduction

Forecasting demand for open space is not an exact science. Assessing the current and future demand for open space for a particular community relies on the analysis of several qualitative and quantitative information sources. No one source of data is used exclusively to forecast demand – rather a “triangulation” of several sources of data is applied and interpreted to arrive at a more informed and reasonable expectation of likely demand.

This evidence-based approach relies on interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data including current activity participation patterns, trends in informal and active recreation, latent demand from non-existent or under supply of facilities, demographic characteristics and population projections, and expressed needs from open space users and the community.

##### Demand data sources

The following data sources have been used to develop demand estimates and recommendations for provision of open space in the Bathurst Region:

##### Demographics

- ❑ **Demographic analysis** – analysing the characteristics of a population with the most influence on use of open space: age, followed by gender, household/family type, household income, dwelling type and tenure.
- ❑ **Inferred Needs** – are those that have been compiled from a range of research and investigation tools such as community surveys and demographic analysis. These needs often provide both a picture of current needs for open space but also provide insight into trends and emerging changes in participation and recreation demand.
- ❑ **Projected demand**- is the projection into the future of the likely demand for a range of recreation opportunities in open spaces, and may be based on a combination of expressed and inferred need and other analysis such as comparison data from similar communities to that being planned for.

##### Expressed demand

- ❑ **Expressed demand** – this is the known unmet demand that has been expressed by users and groups unable to access facilities. This is often expressed through submissions to

Council, or as the results of surveys of existing user groups. Expressed demand can also be reflected by the actual use of an open space or participation in a recreational activity.

- ❑ **Importance/satisfaction** – this is a measure on a scale of how important certain open spaces are to the community, compared to the community's actual satisfaction with those spaces.

#### Participation and trends

- ❑ **Participation and trend data** – usually sourced from demographic analysis and periodic surveys (such as ERASS, CASRO and AusPlay – the most recent) and trends reported by local, regional, state and national sports associations.
- ❑ **Demand and capacity analysis** – this method applies physical activity participation rates (based on ABS, ERASS and AusPlay data) to estimated capacity of open spaces to accommodate likely demand.

#### Comparisons and benchmarks

- ❑ **Comparative assessment of provision** – this method compares the rate of provision of open space in one area compared to another. As not all variables (current provision of open space, expected population and characteristics), are the same between two or more areas this tool should be used in combination with other demand assessment tools.
- ❑ **Planning and provision standards** – this method applies recommended rates of provision of open space, and sporting and recreation facilities, which have been published or proposed in state or national guidelines. In most cases provision of open space is estimated in relation to total population or on a per person/capita basis.

In all cases it is important to be cautious with over-reliance on any single source of demand information.

## 4.2 Community attitudes regarding open space

After family-friendly atmosphere, sense of community, weather, beautiful natural landscape, clean environment, and small country town appeal .... our parks, reserves and sporting facilities are the best thing about living (or visiting, working or studying) in the Bathurst Region to 4% of community survey respondents.

### 4.2.1 Values of open space

The values that the community places on parks and open spaces have been identified during the preparation of the Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan. These objectives include:

- ❑ Strategy 1.4 Protect and improve the region's landscapes, views, vistas and open space
- ❑ Strategy 2.6 Promote our City and Villages as a tourist destination
- ❑ Strategy 3.1 Protect and improve our natural areas and ecosystems, including the Macquarie River and other waterways
- ❑ Strategy 3.4 Protect and improve the region's biodiversity
- ❑ Strategy 5.1 Provide opportunities for our community to be healthy and active
- ❑ Strategy 5.2 Help make the Bathurst CBD, neighbourhoods and the region's villages attractive and full of life
- ❑ Strategy 5.4 Make our public places safe and welcoming

A key message from community engagement for the Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy Stage 1 is to

: **‘Provide quality public and private open space areas’**

Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy Stage 1 online survey: 16% of respondents moved to their current house because “Close to parks and recreation areas”

Key messages from community engagement for the Centennial Park Scoping Study are:

- Preserve public green open space
- Improve amenities to increase activation of open space
- *ie. **Keep it green, keep it open, make it useful***

#### 4.2.2 Satisfaction with open space

The majority of Bathurst Region community survey respondents<sup>18</sup> are satisfied or very satisfied with:

- ☐ parks and gardens in the Bathurst Region (85.3%), an increase from 77% in 2006.
- ☐ recreational areas along the Macquarie River (73.5%)
- ☐ local sports fields and sporting amenities (70.5%)

The most important public open space opportunities for survey respondents are:

- ☐ larger parks I can go to for picnics and social activities
- ☐ natural areas, conservation spaces and bushland
- ☐ local parks that I can walk to
- ☐ walking/cycling/running paths
- ☐ parks along waterways.

Satisfaction most closely matches importance regarding:

- ☐ playing areas for field and other outdoor sport
- ☐ large destination playgrounds
- ☐ playing areas for court sports
- ☐ golf courses.

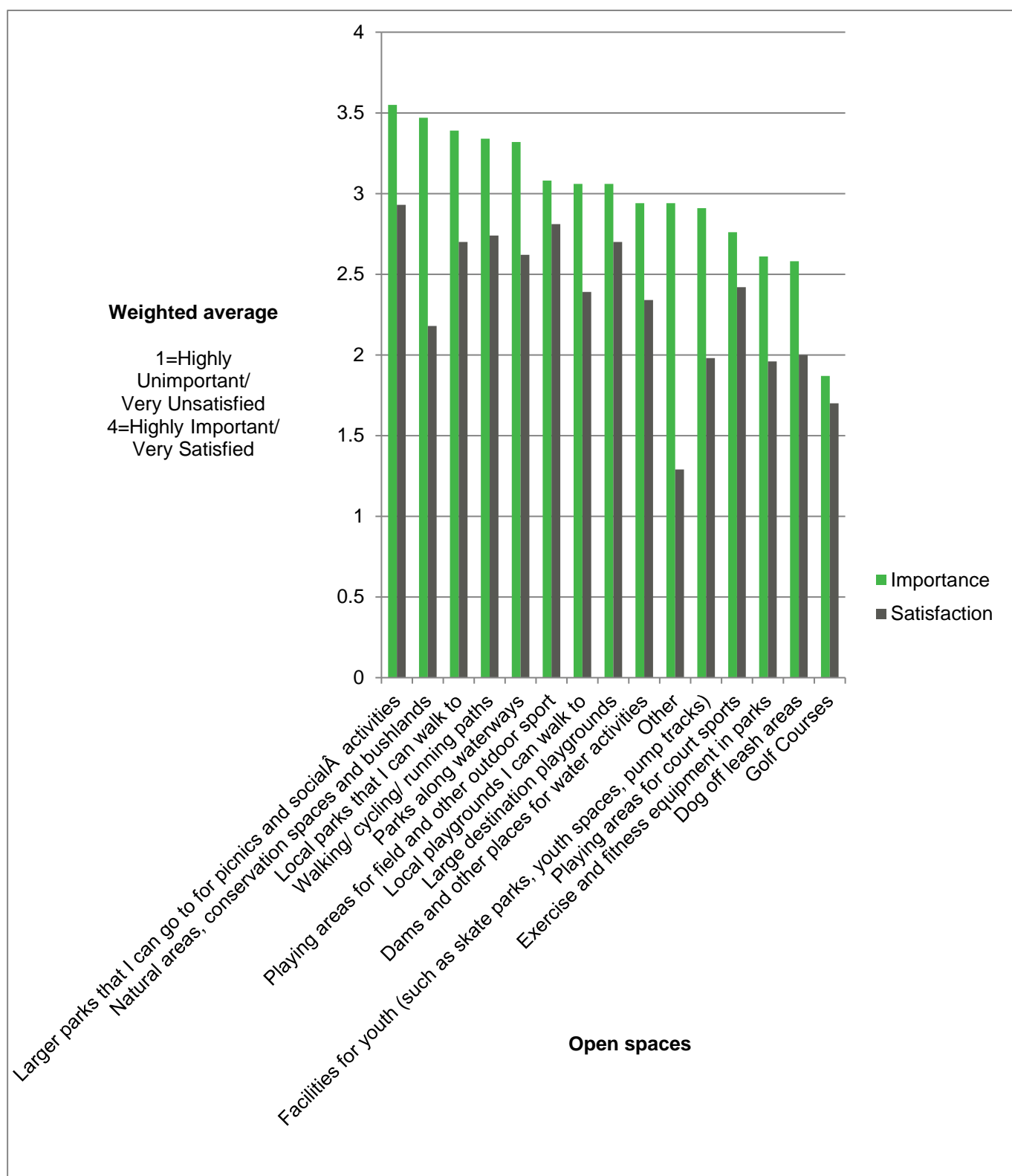
Gaps between importance and satisfaction, particularly high importance but relatively low satisfaction where management attention would best be directed, are:

- ☐ Natural areas, conservation spaces and bushlands
- ☐ Facilities for youth.

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<sup>18</sup> Cochrane Research (2016)

Figure 3 Importance of and satisfaction with open spaces and recreational opportunities in Bathurst Region



### 4.2.3 Gaps in and priorities for provision of open space

16% of survey respondents<sup>19</sup> identified sport and recreational facilities as a local planning and development priority.

Gaps in community or cultural services and facilities identified by survey respondents included:

- ❑ activities and places for children, youth and families (15% of total references)
- ❑ improvements to sport, leisure and parkland spaces (10% of total references).

## 4.3 Demographics

### 4.3.1 Current population

#### Introduction

A description of the existing population of the Bathurst Region in general is derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing in 2016, and from profile.id.

#### Total population

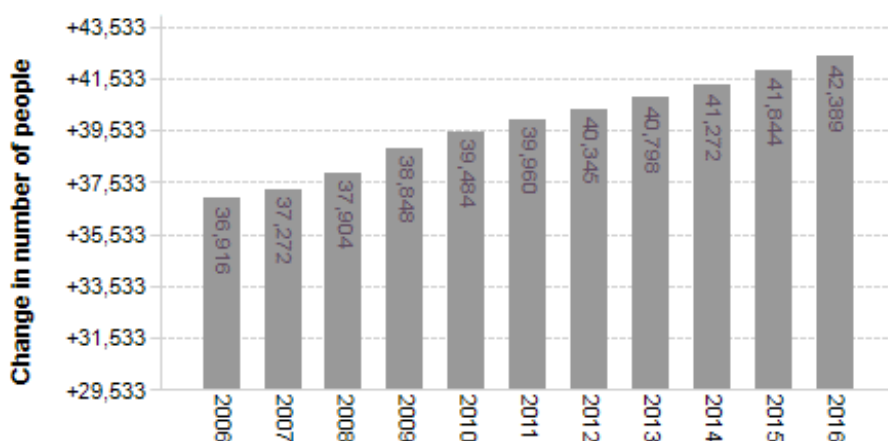
The total population of the Bathurst Region local government area in 2017 was 42,900 people (ABS Estimated Resident Population).

Over the last 10 years the total population of the Bathurst Region has increased by 14.8% from 36,916 people in 2006.

The Housing Strategy recognises that the Bathurst Regional LGA has experienced, on average, an annual population growth of approximately 1%.

The change in total population of the Bathurst Region since 2006 is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Estimated resident population Bathurst Regional Council area



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented by .id the population experts

<sup>19</sup> Cochrane Research (2016)

## Gender

There is an almost even proportion of males (50.1%) and females (49.9%) in the Bathurst region.

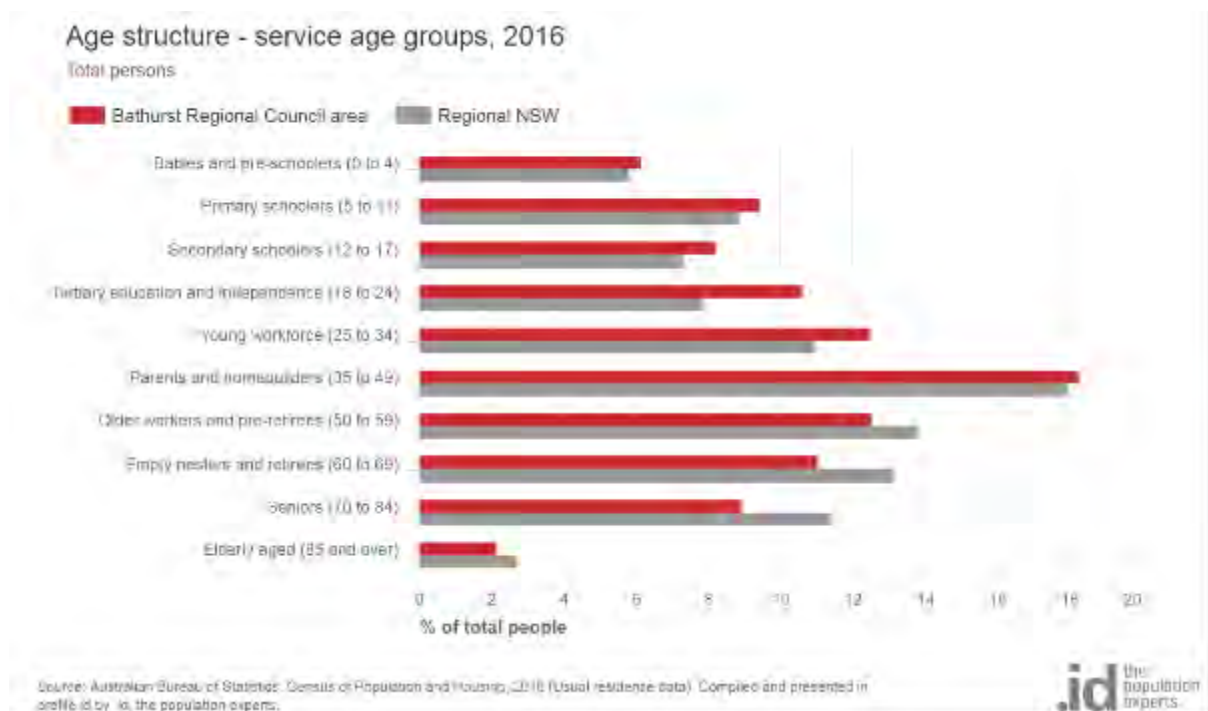
## Age

Bathurst Region has a slightly younger population than Regional NSW, but the Bathurst population has aged overall since 1991.

The median age of the Bathurst Region population is 37 years, compared to 43 years in regional NSW, and 38 in NSW. The median age is highest in Sofala (50 years), areas which include retirement villages and seniors living developments, and in Gormans Hill where 14% of the population is aged 85 years and over. The 'youngest' areas in the Bathurst Region are the boarding schools (All Saints College co-educational, MacKillop College – girls, St Stanislaus – boys, The Scots College – co-educational), Charles Sturt University student accommodation (median age = 20), and young couples and families in Laffing Waters (median age = 29).

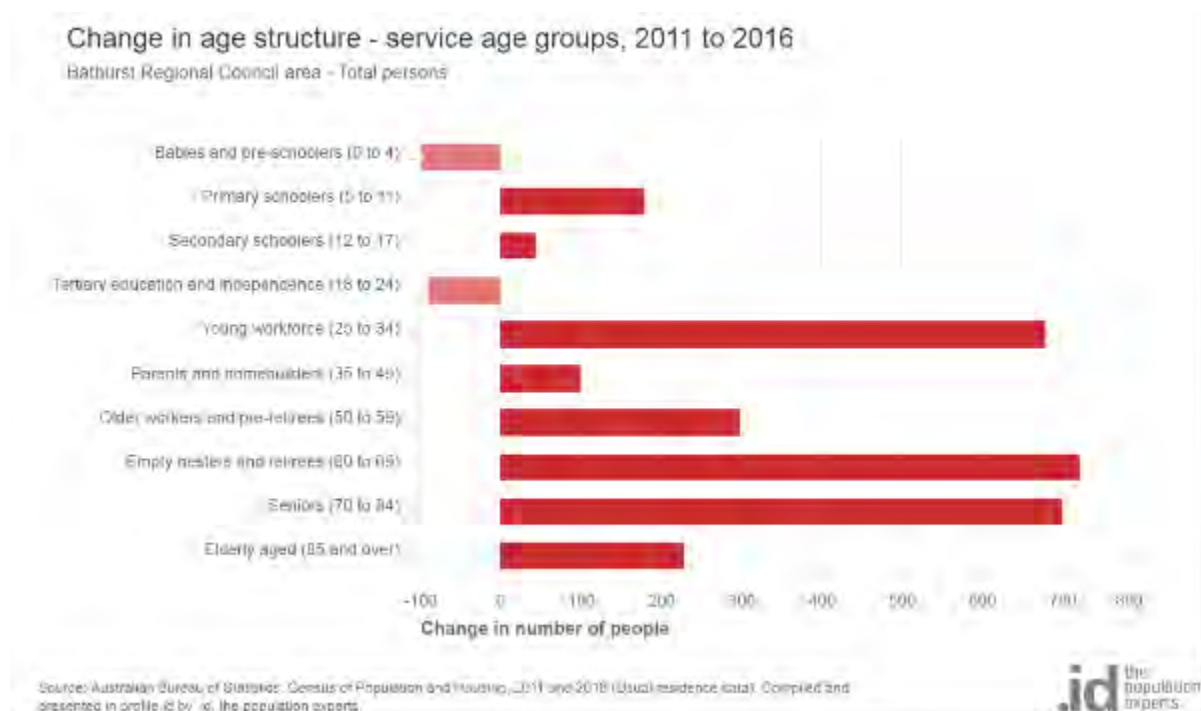
'Parents and homebuilders' aged 35 to 49 years is the dominant service age group in the Bathurst Region, followed by the 'young workforce' 25 to 34 years and older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59 years).

Figure 5 Age structure – service age groups 2016



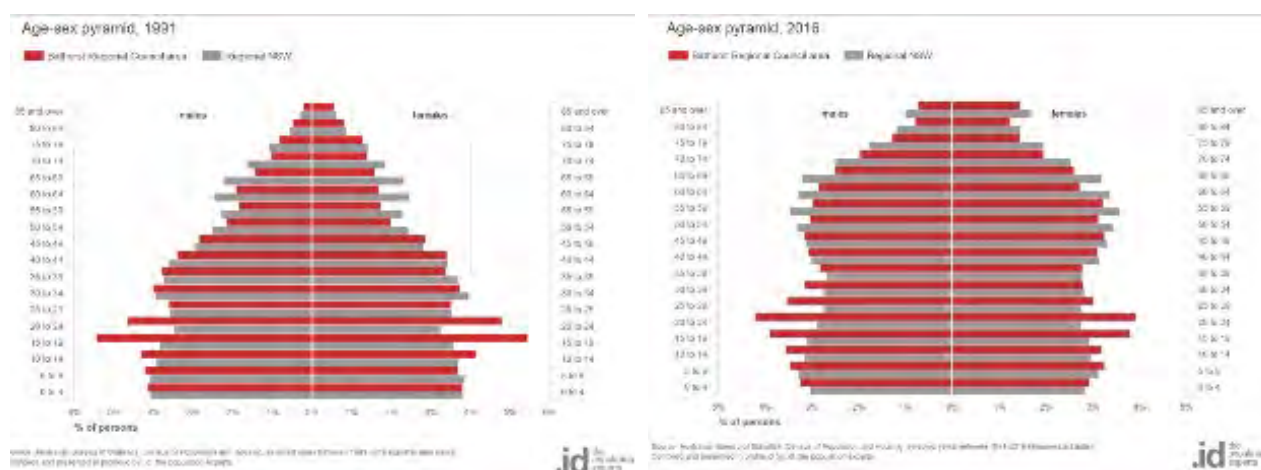
The change in age structure of the Bathurst Region over the last 5 years shows that the highest growth in numbers has occurred in the 60 to 84 years (1,423 people) and 25 to 34 years age groups (680 people). Meanwhile there has been a reduction in numbers of people in the 'Tertiary education and independence' age group (probably due to secondary and tertiary students leaving the region after their studies and an increase in online study modes). There has been a slight reduction in the number of babies and pre-school children within the Bathurst Region, however they still represent approximately 6% of the population.. There is a concentration of babies and pre-schoolers in the new release areas of Bathurst Region.

Figure 6 Change in age structure – service age groups 2016



The age-sex pyramid for the Bathurst Region in 1991 and 2016 show some marked changes in the composition of the region's population. Since 1991 the population has generally aged, with much higher proportions of the population aged over 40 years, particularly women. The dominant age group 15-24 years has remained constant since 1991, reflecting the region's secondary and tertiary education focus.

Figure 7 Age-sex pyramids for Bathurst Region 1991 and 2016



## Ancestry, cultural and language diversity

The ancestry of the Bathurst Region population is predominantly Australian (31.5% ABS, 43% id.profile) including 5.4% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people; and United Kingdom/Ireland based (English (29.5%), Irish (11%), Scottish (7.5%)). 7% of the Bathurst Region

population claim mainland European ancestry (German 2.5%, Italian 2%, and Dutch 1%). People of Chinese ancestry form 1% of the Bathurst Region population.

Similarly the Bathurst Region population reflects a comparatively high incidence of being born in Australia. Only 9% of Bathurst Region residents were born overseas (mainly in the UK and New Zealand) compared with regional NSW (11%) and 28% in NSW.

Only 4% of Bathurst Region residents were born in a country where English is not the first language. Likewise 6% of Bathurst Region residents speak a language other than English at home. Such languages are Filipino/Tagalog, Mandarin (each 0.3% of the population), Arabic, Cantonese, Punjabi and German (each 0.2% of the population). Proficiency in English is very high, with only 0.5% of Bathurst Region residents speaking another language and not speaking English well or at all.

## Disability

5% of Bathurst Region residents need help in their daily lives because of a disability.

## Education

The level of education of Bathurst region residents has increased since 2011.

44% of Bathurst Region residents 15 years and over had no qualifications which is in line with 43% in NSW.

In 2016 42% of Bathurst Region residents had completed Year 12 compared to 52% in NSW.

16% of Bathurst region residents aged 15 years and over held a bachelor degree or higher degree in 2016, compared to 20% in NSW. People currently attending an educational institution are 3,678 primary students, 2,931 secondary students, 905 technical or further education students, and 2,070 University or tertiary institution students.

## Employment

94% of people aged 15 years and over in the Bathurst Region are employed, with 58% of employed people working full time and 31% part time. 41% of employed people worked 40 or more hours per week.

Only 6% of the Bathurst region labour force was unemployed in 2016, compared to 6.3% in NSW and 6.9% in Australia.

Higher than average unemployment occurs in south-east Kelso (27%), students at Charles Sturt University (21%), and in Wattle Flat (14%).

Large employers in the Bathurst region are Bathurst Regional Council, Charles Sturt University, and the manufacturing industry.

Figure 8 Unemployment rate in Bathurst Region urban area 2016



Employed people in the Bathurst Region work in a range of industry sectors, particularly the tertiary sectors of Health Care and Social Assistance (13.4%, increase of 392 people since 2011), Education and Training (12.0%), Retail Trade (10.5%), Public Administration and Safety (8.7%, increase of 102 people since 2011).

The Construction sector employs 8.3% of employed people in the Bathurst Region, an increase of 290 people since 2011 reflecting the recent boom in residential dwelling construction. Manufacturing is declining in importance employing 8.2% of employed people, but showing a decline in 395 people employed since 2011.

The most common occupations of the Bathurst Region workforce are:

- Professionals (19% of the workforce, increase of 146 people since 2011).
- Technicians and trades workers (14.5%, increase of 9 people)
- Community and personal service workers (13.5%, increase of 485 people)
- Clerical and administrative workers (12%, decrease of 53 people)
- Managers (12%, increase of 18 people)
- Labourers (11%, decrease of 35 people)
- Sales workers (10%, increase of 11 people).

87% of workers in the Bathurst region also live in the Bathurst Region. Of the 13% who live outside, 3% live in Orange, and in other adjacent local government areas.

## Unpaid work

70% of Bathurst Region residents aged 15 years and over did unpaid domestic work in the week prior to the Census, of which 31% worked 15 hours or more doing unpaid domestic work.

In the two weeks before the 2016 Census 29% of people aged 15 years and over cared for a child/children, and 12% provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability.

21% of Bathurst region people aged 15 years and over did voluntary work through and organisation or group, which is slightly higher than voluntary work done by Australians (19%).

## Families and households

Couples with children comprise 28% of Bathurst Region households compared with 32% of NSW households. 15.4% of households include young children under 15 years. Such

households tend to live in the new release areas, such as White Rock (more than 50% of households), Laffing Waters, Kelso East, Llanarth/Abercrombie, Eglinton and Robins Hill.

Single or lone person households are the fastest increasing household type in the Bathurst Region. In 2016 27% of households were one person, an increase of 336 people since 2011. Most of this increase was 286 older lone persons.

One parent families are 11% of households in the Bathurst Region. 82% of one parent families are headed by women.

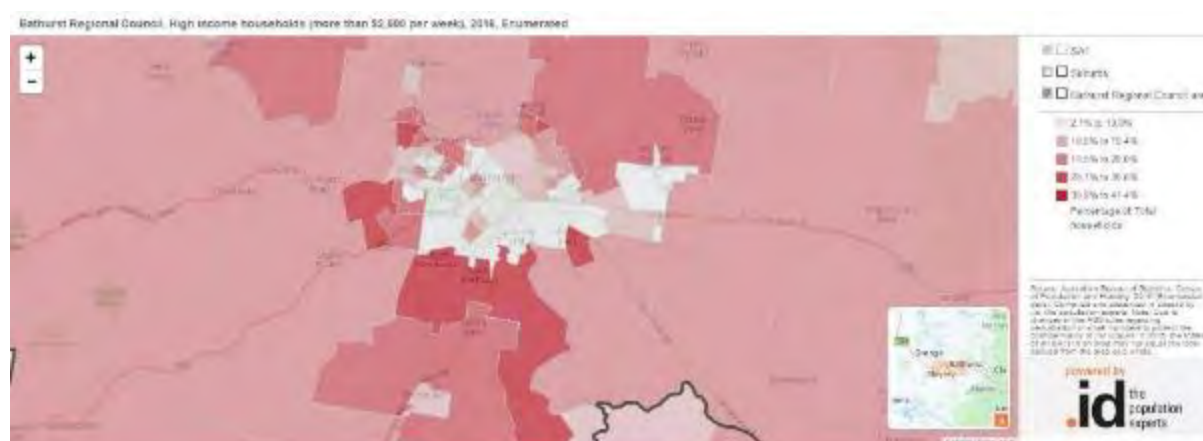
Group households comprise 4% of households in the Bathurst Region, with a concentration of group households in the blocks close to Charles Sturt University.

## Household Income

Households in the Bathurst Region have a higher median weekly income (\$1,310) than regional NSW (\$1,166) but less than NSW (\$1,481) and Australia (\$1,438).

17% of Bathurst Region households earn \$2,500 or more per week. Higher income households are located on the city fringe. 40% of White Rock households earn \$2,500 or more per week. High household incomes correspond with larger houses on larger blocks in White Rock where 84% of houses are 4+ bedrooms, Abercrombie (77-88% 4+ bedrooms), Robin Hill (77-89% 4+ bedrooms), and Laffing Waters (69-82% 4+ bedrooms).

Figure 9 High income households 2016



Low income households in the urban area are concentrated in central and south-east Bathurst, Kelso and Windradyne. Low income rural areas are located in the north, particularly in Wattle Flat where 41% of households earn less than \$650 per week.

Figure 10 Low income households 2016



## Dwellings

Occupied private dwellings in the Bathurst Region are predominantly separate houses (84%) which is higher than 65% in NSW. There was an increase of 1,050 separate dwellings in the Bathurst Region between 2011 and 2016.

10% of dwellings in the Bathurst Region are semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc. or medium density dwellings, and only 4% of dwellings are a flat or apartment over 3 storeys. Medium and high density dwellings in Bathurst Region is similar to regional NSW (17% of dwellings) but is well below NSW at 33%.

The highest density of dwellings in the Bathurst Region is in the Bathurst CBD where over 60% of dwellings are medium density. Mitchell also has a high proportion of medium density dwellings as student housing.

Figure 11 Medium density dwellings 2016



Detached dwellings are the dominant housing type in the newer suburban areas and in the urban villages.

Houses in the Bathurst Region are larger on average than in NSW. The average number of bedrooms per dwelling in the Bathurst Region is 3.3, and 3.1 in NSW. 79% of dwellings in the

Bathurst Region have 3 or 4 bedrooms. Houses in the Bathurst Region are being constructed with more rooms on average, with an increase of 640 dwellings since 2011 having 4 or more bedrooms. The largest dwellings on average are in Llanarth.

The number of people per dwelling in the Bathurst Region has slightly declined from 2.51 people per dwelling in 2011 to 2.48 people in 2016, which is lower than 2.61 people per dwelling in NSW. The number of people per dwelling is highest in the new release areas. Household size is lowest in the older suburbs, and in the suburbs closest to Bathurst CBD and Charles Sturt University.

## Dwelling tenure

Home ownership/purchase in the Bathurst Region (66% of dwellings) is on par with that of Australia (65.5%). 32% of households in the Bathurst Region fully own their dwelling, and 34% are purchasing their home. Home ownership is highest in Robin Hill (59% of dwellings), Sofala/Wattle Flat (54%), O'Connell (54%), Abercrombie and Llanarth (52%), Rural South/Trunkey (51%), and Laffing Waters (48%).

24% of dwellings in the Bathurst Region are rented privately, an increase of 337 households since 2011. Private rental is most common in the Bathurst CBD, Gormans Hill and Windradynne.

Social housing comprises 4% of dwellings in the Bathurst Region, which is similar to 4.4% of dwellings in NSW. Social housing areas include College Road/Lloyds Road (36% of dwellings), Kelso South (34-35% of dwellings), and Gormans Hill south (29%).

## Length of residence

The most transient population in Bathurst Region lived on the Charles Sturt University campus, where 92% of residents moved address in the past five years.

Short times of residence also occur in the new development areas, such as Kelso, as people move in to new houses.

## Internet connection

75% of households in the Bathurst region have an internet connection compared to 78% in NSW.

## Motor vehicles

The average number of motor vehicles per dwelling in Bathurst Region in 2016 was 1.9.

In 2016 6% of households in Bathurst Region did not have a vehicle. Households without a vehicle are generally concentrated in the oldest suburbs, especially Bathurst CBD south of Machattie Park (24% of households), south-east Kelso (21-22%) and in Windradynne.

54% of households in the Bathurst Region have two or more vehicles, an increase of 689 households since 2011. Vehicle ownership is highest in the rural areas where 70-80% of households have two or more cars. Exceptions are Rockley and Wattle Flat where only 45% and 44% respectively of households own two or more cars.

Figure 12 Households with two or more cars 2016



## Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage in 2016 showed that Bathurst Regional Council local government area had a SEIFA index of 986, lower than 1001 for NSW.

Table 20 SEIFA Index by small area in Bathurst Region

Area	2011 index	2016 index	2016 Percentile <sup>1</sup>
Abercrombie - Llanarth	1092.0	1,088.9	94
Mitchell - Robin Hill - Mount Panorama	985.0	1,051.5	77
Eglinton	1033.8	1,034.0	66
Rural Remainder	1029.0	1,028.9	63
Kelso (North) - Laffing Waters	1044.3	1,025.3	61
Australia		1,001.9	46
New South Wales		1,001.0	45
Raglan - Perthville	1019.8	999.9	45
<b>Bathurst Regional Council area</b>	<b>991.0</b>	<b>986.0</b>	<b>37</b>
Windradyne	983.2	972.4	31
South Bathurst - Gormans Hill - White Rock	947.7	962.5	26
Bathurst (Central)	957.0	948.8	21
West Bathurst	931.4	910.3	12
Kelso (South)	835.8	831.9	4

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing 2016](#). (Usual residence data) Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#), the population experts.

(1) A higher number indicates a higher socio-economic status. For instance, a percentile of 72 indicates that approximately 72% of Australia's suburbs have a SEIFA index lower than this area (more disadvantaged), while 28% are higher.

Abercrombie-Llanarth, Mitchell - Robin Hill - Mount Panorama, Eglinton, Rural Remainder and Kelso (North) - Laffing Waters are above the Australian and NSW SEIFA indexes. Mitchell - Robin Hill - Mount Panorama demonstrated the highest increase in the SEIFA index over the previous five years.

### 4.3.2 Population and household projections

#### Total population

Three sources of population and household projection data are available:

Table 21 Population forecasts for the Bathurst Region 2016-2036

Source	2016 population	2036 population	% change 2016-2036
Department of Planning and Environment <sup>1</sup>	43,300	55,250	27.6%
BRC Housing Strategy <sup>2</sup>	-	55,250	-
Forecast id <sup>3</sup>	42,388	53,361 <sup>4</sup>	25.9%
1	NSW Planning and Environment Population and Household Projections 2016		
2	Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy, p. 53, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Population and Housing Projections, 2016		
3	copyright © 2018 .id Consulting Pty Ltd		
4	Assuming average annual population change = 1.2%, average annual increase of 229 dwellings per year to 2036, and average household size will remain at 2.51 people		

Although the 2016 and projected 2036 populations differ between the three sources, the general expected population trends are similar ie. a population increase in the order of 27% by 2036.

Urban growth areas shown in the Bathurst Local Environmental Plan 2014 and listed in the Housing Strategy show that expected development will be:

- ☐ on the fringe of Eglinton with some penetration into the village.
- ☐ within the newer suburban areas of Kelso, Llanarth and Windradyne.
- ☐ as infill development in the older areas of the city of Bathurst, and urban and rural villages.
- ☐ scattered development throughout the rural areas.

The Bathurst Region population increased by 15% in the last 10 years from 36,900 people in 2006 to 42,400 people in 2016.

The Bathurst Region population is expected to further increase in the next 20 years by 30% to 55,250 people in 2036.

Increased population and development area will lead to demand for increasing areas of maintained open space

## Dwellings and households

### Migration patterns

Source: forecast id

The Bathurst Region has recently drawn families and young adults from surrounding local government areas and from the fringe of Western Sydney. Families are attracted by the available supply of residential land in the outer suburbs of Bathurst, and young adults are more often attracted to opportunities for education, transport and employment.

This importance of the Bathurst Region to families and young adults is expected to continue for the next 20 years. New residential development in Kelso (North) – Laffing Waters, Abercrombie-Llanarth, Eglinton and Windradynne will cater for incoming families, while continued infill development in Bathurst (Central) and West Bathurst will attract young adults.

People moving from high population areas with high levels of open space amenity expect similar facilities in the Bathurst Region

### Housing role and function

Profile id:

With its variety of residential and rural locations, different areas within the Bathurst Regional Council area have developed different roles within the housing market. Areas on the outskirts of Bathurst such as Kelso, Abercrombie – Llanarth, Windradynne and Eglinton are attractive to both young and mature families as well as some retirees. Bathurst (Central) and West Bathurst have a significant component of medium and high-density housing, which attracts a large share of younger adults to these areas, while Mitchell – Robin Hill – Mount Panorama, South Bathurst – Gormans Hill – White Rock and Rural Remainder offer larger lots of ‘rural residential’ options that attract a more mature family market. These varieties of function and role of the small areas in the Bathurst Regional Council area means that population outcomes differ significantly across the LGA.

### Housing supply

Profile id :

There are also significant differences in the supply of residential property within the Bathurst Region which will also have a major influence in structuring different population and household futures within the Bathurst Regional Council area over the next five to ten years. Significant new ‘greenfield’ opportunities have been identified in Kelso (North) – Laffing Waters, Abercrombie – Llanarth, Eglinton and Windradynne. Older parts of the council area like Bathurst (Central), West Bathurst and some parts of South Bathurst are expected to experience continued levels of residential regeneration or ‘infill’ development. Other small areas such as Kelso (South), Mitchell – Robin Hill – Mount Panorama, Raglan – Perthville, South Bathurst – Gormans Hill – White Rock and Rural Remainder are expected to have lesser growth in dwellings, based predominantly on the development of vacant lots and/or more intense use of land.

Increasing housing density and popularity of multiple dwelling allotments leads to greater demand for open spaces in CBD

## Forecast household types

In 2016, the dominant household type in Bathurst Region was couples without dependents, which accounted for 29.5% of all households, closely followed by couples with dependents. These household types will also dominate in 2036.

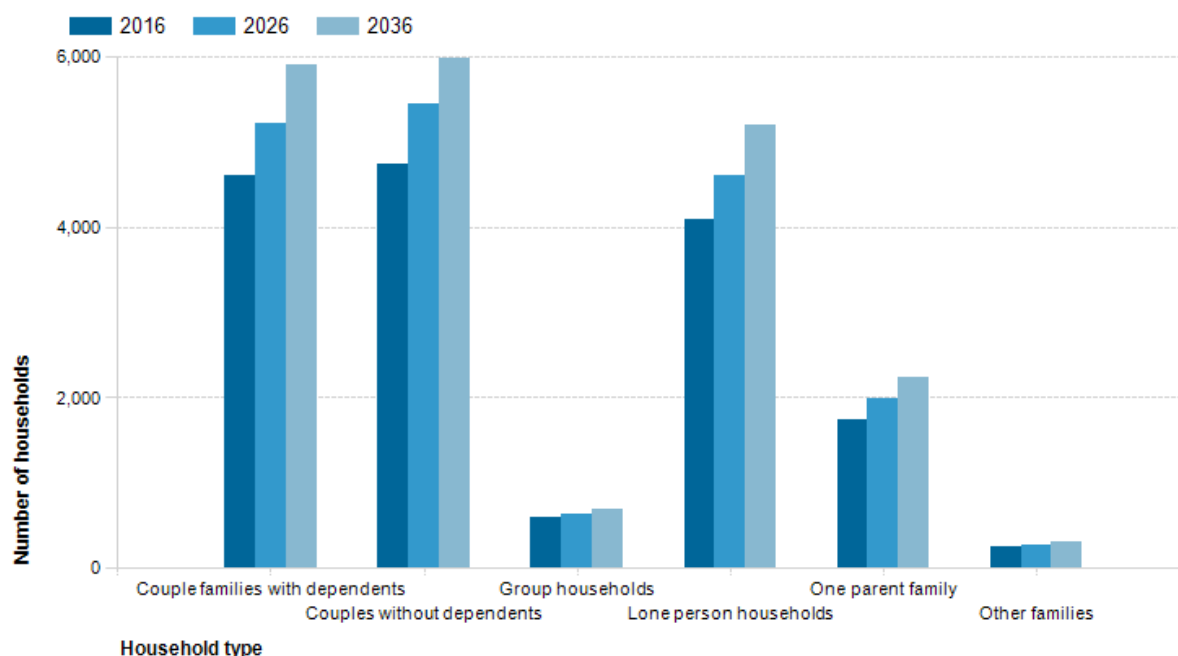
The largest increase between 2016 and 2026 is forecast to be in couples without dependents, which will increase by 704 households and account for 29.9% of all households. Similar rates of growth to 2026 and 2036 are expected in couples with dependents, and lone person households.

In contrast, 'other families' is forecast to increase by only 28 households to comprise 1.5% of all households in 2026, compared to 1.5% in 2016.

Figure 13 Forecast household types in Bathurst Region to 2036

### Forecast household types

Bathurst Regional



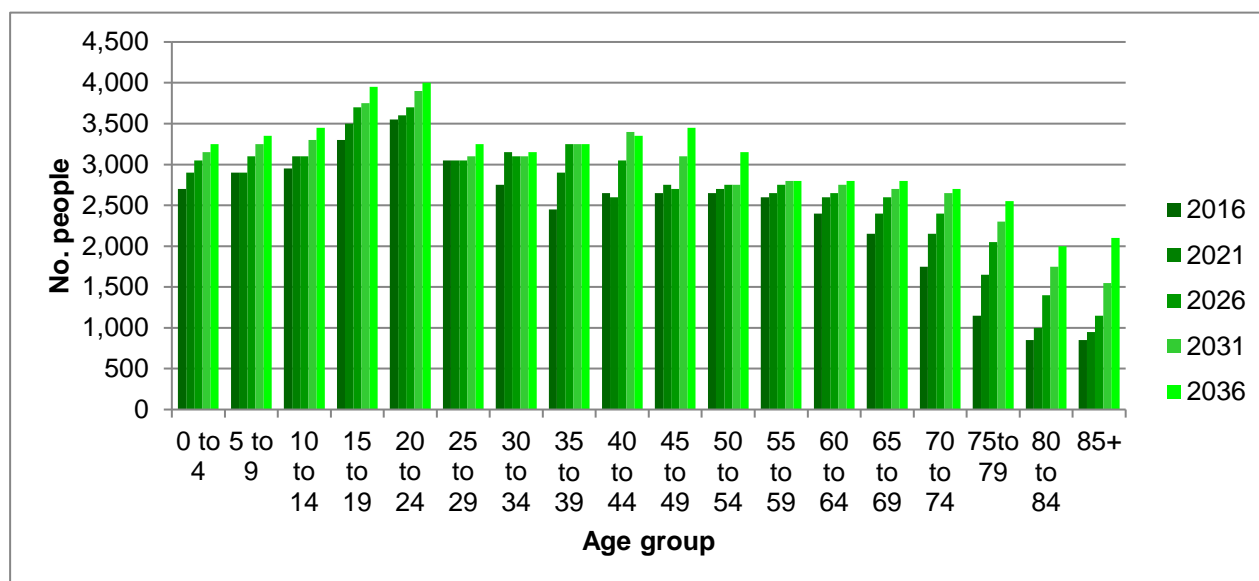
Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2036, prepared by .id the population experts, December 2017.

.id the population experts

## Age groups

All age groups are expected to increase in terms of numbers, as shown in Figure 14. The older age groups, particularly 65 years and over, will increase in numbers at a faster rate than the younger age groups.

Figure 14 Bathurst Region population by age group 2016-2036



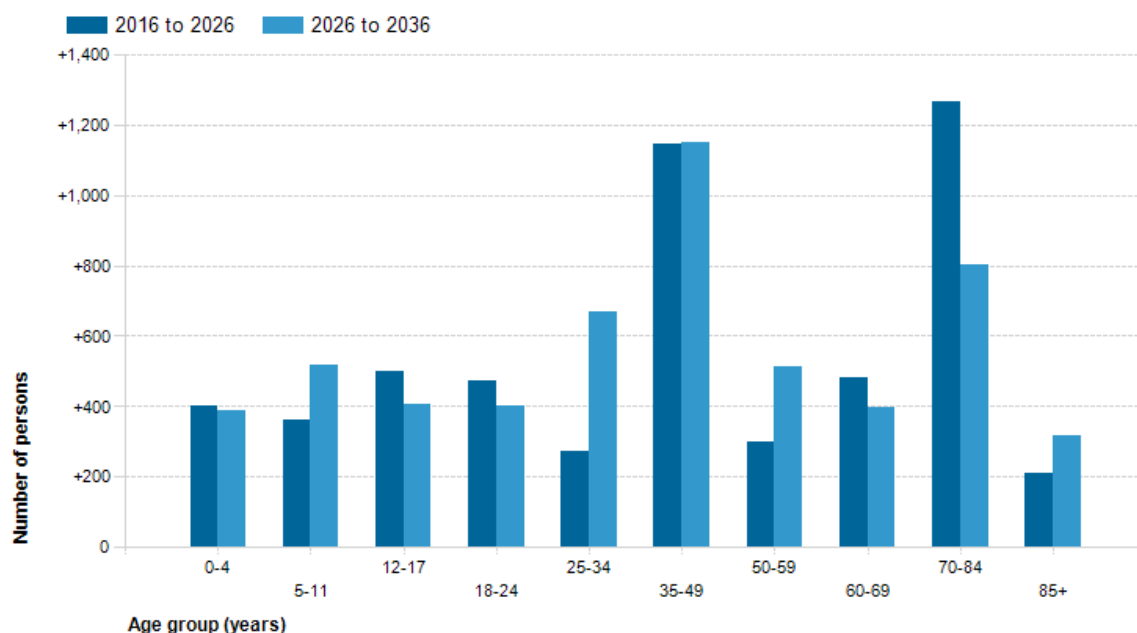
Source: NSW Planning and Environment Population and Household Projections 2017

Forecast.id states that between 2016 and 2036, the age structure forecasts for Bathurst Region indicate a 11.2% increase in population under working age, a 9.8% increase in population of working age, and a 26.9% increase in population of retirement age.

Figure 15 Forecast change in age structure of service age groups in Bathurst Region 2016-2036

### Forecast change in age structure - Service age groups

Bathurst Regional - Total persons



Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2036, prepared by .id the population experts, December 2017.

.id the population experts

Demand for facilities for young people will be consistent

Increased demand for facilities directed at retirees

## Forecast population by small area

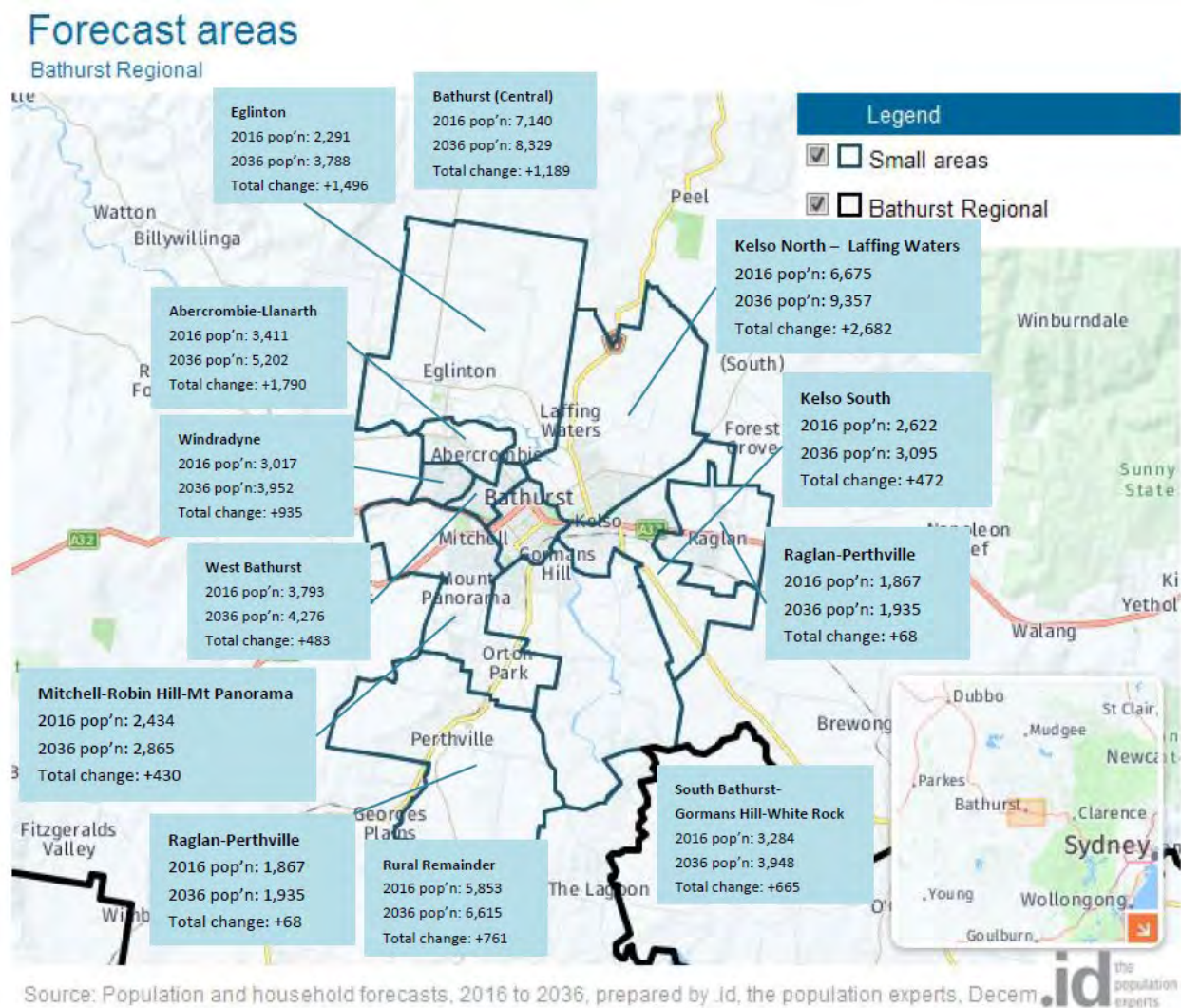
The small areas used by forecast.id in their population forecasts are the same as those used by forecast.id for the 2016 population analysis above.

The current (2016) and forecast (to 2036) populations of each small area are shown in Figure 16.

The population of every small area is expected to increase by 2036.

Significant population changes are expected to occur in Kelso North-Laffing Waters (increase of 2,682 people and 1.7% average annual change), Abercrombie-Llanarth (1,790, 2.1%), Eglinton (1,496, 2.5%) and Bathurst Central (1,189, 0.8%).

Figure 16 Forecast population of small areas in Bathurst Region to 2036



The implications of population changes include:

- ❑ Increase in population results in an increase in demand for open space
- ❑ Increasing population density in central Bathurst results in the need for activation of open space such as Centennial Park.

Council thinks it is likely to have a residential land shortage in the next 12 months because dwelling consents have not kept pace with demand. Average demand is 250 dwellings per year.

## 4.4 Participation trends

### 4.4.1 Trends in informal use of open space

Table 22 Trends in informal activities in open space

Then	Now	Implications for provision
Children played in the bush, in less busy streets, or in local parks Children played in playgrounds in local parks with swings, see-saws, roundabouts and rockets with sand softfall	Children play in adventure playgrounds in larger parks with off-the-shelf or bespoke play equipment such as climbing nets and tyre swings, natural materials such as rocks and sand, with rubber softfall. The community expects a diverse range of play destinations where groups of friends can meet.	Playgrounds with more sophisticated play equipment for several age groups and softfall which meets Australian safety standards. More diversity in play spaces and provision of larger central play areas in larger parks which cater for groups as well as individuals.
Children swam in backyard and municipal swimming pools	Desire for children to keep cool in summer without necessarily going to an aquatic centre. Increasing demand for water play.	Water play parks with fountains, sprays and buckets in public spaces and parks
Parents took their children to play in a park, and played with them or sat and watched them play	Parents and carers like to enjoy coffee and other food and beverages in open space or nearby	Cafes in public open space
Children with physical disabilities have difficulty accessing or cannot access play equipment and spaces. Provision was focused around “special” playgrounds and Liberty swings in a separate fenced area	Children with disabilities want to play with other children and don't want to be segregated. Positive aspects of inclusive play reinforced by NSW Government's ‘Everyone can Play’ guidelines. Many LGAs are adopting inclusive playground design for all playspaces not just “special” ones	Access for all children's playgrounds such as Livvi's Place in Ryde, Five Dock, Blacktown All playspace design to be inclusive.
Dogs were kept at home and walked regularly on a lead. Many owners had yards for pets.	Dogs are taken to public places such as markets, parks and cafes. Community expectation is that spaces for dog exercise are provided as part of high density urban areas.	Unleashed dog exercise areas, dog parks with play equipment and agility obstacles, cafes for dogs in parks e.g. Cafe Bones in Leichhardt
Favourite picnic spots such as national parks or beaches	Desire for families and other groups to visit parks with “something for everyone” for a	Variety/ diversity of settings in district and regional open spaces which accommodate extended

Then	Now	Implications for provision
	day out	stays and multiple activities.
Picnics and barbecues were enjoyed by families using a wood barbecue and sitting on a picnic blanket in a park	<p>Large groups of family and friends organise picnics and barbecues to socialise.</p> <p>Public BBQs are expected to be gas or electric and supported with shelters, toilets and other amenities.</p> <p>In some parks bring-your-own barbecues using heat beds are allowed, with disposal of the beads an issue.</p>	<p>Large covered shelters with seats, tables and barbecues in public open space.</p> <p>Parks expected to support multiple groups picnicking. BBQs provided at “stations” instead of one per table.</p>
Socialising occurred in neighbourhoods and clubs	<p>Desire for opportunities to socialise and meet new people.</p> <p>Increased demand for community events and “entertainment” in public space</p>	<p>Informal, community-focused activities such as community celebrations and events, music concerts, festivals, open-air markets</p>
Growing food and flowers in the garden of detached dwellings	<p>People living in medium and high density dwellings want to grow food and flowers sustainably</p>	<p>Community gardens in public open space</p>
Sheds in back yards of detached dwellings	<p>Opportunity for people living in higher density areas and/or living alone to socialise and participate in activities such as carpentry, sewing, bike and toy repairs in mens’ sheds, womens’ spaces, community sheds</p>	<p>New or reused buildings in open space used for community sheds</p>
People flew model aeroplanes and operated radio-control cars in parks	<p>Increasing use of parks has resulted in conflicts between model aeroplanes, radio control cars and other users. Such areas are separated from other open space uses.</p> <p>Use of new technology such as drones</p>	<p>Dedicated facilities and management of activities which may conflict with other uses.</p> <p>Privacy concerns from use of drones.</p>
Children took a ball to the park to play games with their friends	<p>Declining interest of older children and young people to spend time outdoors, preferring to play electronic games on screens indoors</p> <p>Demand for more variety of activities and facilities for children and young people</p>	<p>Commercial indoor children’s play, trampoline, laser tag and rock climbing centres.</p> <p>Increased “facilitation” of outdoor activity and enticements to get outside</p>
Informal games were played in open space “Bring your own” chess boards and pieces	<p>Desire for a wider range of activities in open spaces including table games</p>	<p>Chess tables and table tennis tables in open spaces where people want to gather</p>

## 4.4.2 Trends in active recreation and sport

Considering trends in participation in active recreation are a key consideration in forecasting future demand.

### Megatrends in Australian sport

The “megatrends” in sport in Australia (Hajkowicz, et. al. 2013) which influence participation in sport and delivery of sporting facilities and opportunities in Australia are as follows.

Table 23 Megatrends in Australian sport

Megatrend	Description
<b>A Perfect Fit: Personalised Sport</b>	<p>Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise.</p> <p>People may be less willing to commit time needed for training and match fixtures in some team sports. Discretionary time available for sport and leisure is limited and the amount of time people spend on sport and outdoor activities has decreased. People are fitting sport into their increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles to achieve personal health objectives. We are increasingly playing sport to get fit, rather than getting fit to play sport.</p> <p>Participation rates in aerobics, running, walking, and gym membership have risen sharply in the past decade, while participation rates in many organised team sports has held constant or declined.</p> <p>People are increasingly opting to go for a run with headphones and a music player when the opportunity arises, rather than commit to a regular organised sporting competition.</p> <p>Australians are becoming more health conscious. Health is likely to feature to a greater extent in people's choices about sport.</p> <p>There has been significant growth in the number of fitness centres (including the rise of 24 hour access gyms).</p>
<b>From Extreme to Mainstream: the rise of lifestyle sports</b>	<p>Rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular with younger generations. These sports typically involve complex, advanced skills and have some element of inherent danger and/or thrill seeking. They are also characterised by a strong lifestyle element and participants often obtain cultural self-identity and self-expression through these sports. These sports are likely to attract participants through generational change and greater awareness through online content and social media.</p> <p>Sports such as BMX cycling have recently been added to the Olympic Games program. International associations for skateboarding and rock climbing have succeeded in having these sports included in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. However opinion is divided among the extreme sports communities (such as snowboarding) about the merit of their inclusion in mainstream competitions due to the nature of lifestyle sports being about constant change and experimentation.</p>
<b>More than Sport: Health, Community and Overseas Aid</b>	<p>Sport can help achieve the objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- mental and physical health – reduction in rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and chronic illness in children and adults.</li><li>- reduction in crime by helping to achieve social inclusion for marginalised groups.</li><li>- social development and inclusion of marginalised groups.</li><li>- international co-operation through building bridges to other countries, and achieving overseas aid, peace, development and foreign policy objectives.</li></ul> <p>These broader benefits of sport are being increasingly recognised by governments, business and communities. However, despite the physical and psychological benefits of sport, there has been a decrease in the prominence of sport and physical activity in the school curriculum and a reduced number of teachers trained in the delivery of sports programs.</p>

Megatrend	Description
	Sport can build bridges to other countries and contribute to economic and foreign policy objectives.
<b>Everybody's Game: Demographic and cultural change</b>	<p>Australia faces an aging population with increasing life expectancy, which will change the types of sports we play and how we play them. Australians are embracing sports further into their old age. The popularity of the World Master Games suggests that the ageing population is still keen to participate in sporting activities. Sports of the future will need to cater for seniors to retain strong participation rates.</p> <p>Sports will also have to cater for the changing cultural makeup of Australia. Our society has, and will continue to, become highly multi-cultural. Different cultures have different sporting preferences and recreation habits. Sporting organisations will be challenged with capturing the interest and involvement of diverse cultures.</p>
<b>New Wealth, New Talent: Economic Growth and Sports Development in Asia</b>	Growth in population and income throughout Asia (particularly in China and India) will create tougher competition and new opportunities for Australia on the sports field and in sports business. Asian countries are investing heavily in elite sport, and especially in China, have rapidly improved their recent performance at the Olympic Games. As disposable incomes grow, the populations of Asian countries are becoming more interested in sport. This may create new markets for sports television, tourism, equipment, services and events.
<b>Tracksuits to Business Suits: Market Pressures and New Business Models</b>	<p>Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport in coming decades. In some sports elite athletes have had considerable pay rises and large sponsorship deals. Sports with higher salaries may draw athletes away from sports with lower salaries. Loosely organised community sport associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems.</p> <p>There will be more pressure on sport from market forces (eg virtual participation, smartphone broadcasting, adaptation of game rules to capture emerging markets and offer a better customer experience, move from sport-oriented business to an entertainment business).</p> <p>The cost of participating in sport is also rising, which is a participation barrier to many people.</p> <p>Volunteering in sport and physical recreation organisations accounted for 37% of the total volunteer population in Australia in 2010. However, barriers to volunteering are growing (eg time pressures, increased bureaucracy, lack of local Council support, lack of appreciation and fear of being sued).</p>

The Australian Sports Commission, peak sporting groups and local sporting groups have identified factors which increase participation in sporting activities including:

- ☐ successful performance of Australian individuals and teams internationally, particularly in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, World Cup etc.
- ☐ staging of international sporting events in Australia e.g. netball world championships in 2015.
- ☐ opportunities for both sexes to play the same sport, for example the increase in participation in football, AFL, rugby league and rugby union by women.
- ☐ active efforts by the sports themselves to attract participants, such as visiting schools, and conducting coaching clinics and junior development programs.
- ☐ sports played in schools.
- ☐ improved club administration.

Additionally the Australian Sports Commission (2015) has highlighted threats to participation in active recreation. Australians are:

- ☐ increasingly leading sedentary lives

- ❑ increasingly time-poor
- ❑ have limited budgets
- ❑ have access to new forms of entertainment
- ❑ dropping out of participating in active recreation in their teenage years.

## Trends in active recreation participation and provision

General trends in active recreation participation and provision that we have researched and observed are set out below.

Table 24 Active recreation trends and implications for provision

Then	Now	Implications for provision
Sport played primarily through a club system on weekends	<p>Busy lifestyles and work/study commitments mean limited time or inability to commit to a regular time to play sport.</p> <p>Increasingly participation in social and “consumer/ fast food” sport.</p> <p>Decreasing club sport but increasing self-directed exercise or endurance related sport</p>	<p>Social sporting competitions played mid-week in the evenings under lights, during lunchbreaks and other “peri – employment” time slots.</p> <p>Increased use of public open space for running, cycling, walking, fitness, exercise.</p> <p>“Turn up and play” sports such as Rock Up netball, Baseball5</p> <p>“Fast-food” sport such as Twenty-20 cricket, Fast 4 tennis, Fast 5 netball</p>
Sports played in defined winter and summer seasons	<p>Winter sports such as football are more popular than summer sports such as cricket.</p> <p>Many sports trying to extend season to retain player base or improve financial viability.</p> <p>Overlapping winter and summer seasons</p> <p>Rise of many all-year “social” sports e.g. touch, oztag, court sports, futsal</p>	<p>Lower use of some sporting fields in summer.</p> <p>Some sports changing seasons to take advantage of available capacity in summer.</p> <p>Flat grassed spaces in informal parks used for informal and organised social sport throughout the year</p>
Organised team sports	<p>Decline in commitment to many organised team sports</p> <p>Increasing demand for social sports provided at more convenient times</p> <p>Rise of individual sport and fitness activities</p>	<p>Social lunchtime and after work sporting competitions for workers and tertiary students</p> <p>Lunchtime corporate sports in employment centres in the Sydney CBD, North Sydney, Chatswood</p> <p>Social “pay as you play” and “organise your own team” such as touch football.</p> <p>Informal sporting facilities such as practice walls, cricket nets, basketball hoops</p>
People got fit to play sport	<p>People are playing sport to get fit</p> <p>The focus of a lot of active recreation is fitness and health as opposed to organised competitions.</p>	<p>Increased demand for consumer/ social modes of sport.</p> <p>Increased use of public space for self directed fitness (e.g. People opting to go for a run with headphones rather than playing sport)</p> <p>New modes of participation focused on group fitness. (e.g. boot camp).</p>

Then	Now	Implications for provision
		Personalised fitness facilities and services, such as personal trainers, home gyms
Limited knowledge of the health benefits of regular exercise and access to outdoor open space.	Concern about obesity and Type 2 diabetes in children and adults. Mounting evidence about the importance of access to green space and public parks for population health and disease prevention. Rapidly increasing health costs of physical inactivity	Planning for healthy urban environments recognises need for active transport and public open space networks. Physical activity programs for children and for adults
Traditional sports such as cricket, lawn bowls, golf, rugby league, tennis were played	Increasing cultural diversity and “importing” activities from overseas has resulted in participation in a range of other traditional sports such as football (soccer) and bocce, and the emergence of new sports such as quidditch, padel, roller derby, ultimate Frisbee. Football (soccer) is the most popular physical sporting activity in NSW Decline in participation in lawn bowls, golf and other traditional sports.	Provision of sporting facilities and spaces to cater for a range of new sporting activities such as gridiron, quidditch, ultimate frisbee Better planning of sporting spaces to ensure flexibility and ability to reconfigure as use preferences and needs change. Closure or changed use of lawn bowls clubs for futsal courts, netball courts etc.
Sports were played on grass or asphalt	Preference for quality sporting facilities Levels of use of grass fields exceeding sustainable levels. Preference for a flat, consistent synthetic surface for hockey and athletics	Synthetic sporting fields, courts, cricket wickets, athletics tracks and field facilities
Women and girls played netball and tennis	Women and girls are increasingly participating in traditional male sports such as rugby union, cricket, rugby league, AFL and football	Increased demand for use of sporting fields by women Increased need to have sporting facilities design for inclusive use.
Children played sport on full-sized fields and courts	Adaptation/modification of children’s sporting codes to their age and physical development to encourage them to participate and persist with the sport	Construction or line marking of smaller fields and courts for children’s sport including small-sided football, cricket, AFL, T-ball, Hot Shots tennis, Minky hockey, Netta netball, Jack Attack (lawn bowls).
People over 40 years played less intensively physical sports such as lawn bowls	Increasing participation by older people in sport, Masters Games	Over 35s sporting competitions and Masters Games Provision of facilities for “whole-of-life” sports such as tennis, golf, swimming.
Sufficient land was available for sporting facilities, and grounds were allocated to one or two sports	Limited land available in urban areas for sporting facilities and increasing competition for fields and other developed facilities.	Sporting fields and courts located on building rooftops. Increased multi-use design and multiple users of sports fields and facilities. Innovative solutions for space needed such as building into the harbour for sporting fields, constructed aquatic facilities Games played on fields smaller than

Then	Now	Implications for provision
		regulation size
Timing exercise with a stop-watch and taking your pulse after a run	Increasing use of wearable technology and mobile apps which encourage people to be active in public spaces	Exercising using Fitbit, Endomondo, Map My Walk, Map my Run, Strava. Children and young people using apps on mobile devices to play Pokemon GO to catch Pokemon in public places
Walking, jogging/running and cycling are popular	Increasing sales of hybrid and mountain bicycles, and scooters Uptake of active transport and increase participation in recreational running, walking and cycling	Shared linear circuit paths linking transport, community and social destinations or hubs Increased need for active transport corridors. Trails and tracks in natural areas for mountain biking, BMX and running
Participation in a limited range of activities on water	Increased popularity of water sports such as stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, dragon boat racing. Rapid increase in popularity of surfing.	Water equipment hire at watercraft launching points Water access points such as pontoons, steps, boat ramps Increased demand for access to beaches and the sea.
“Mass participation” running events such as the City to Surf and half-marathons. Limited number of large endurance sport events such as marathons.	Numerous mass participation” running and endurance events such as the City to Surf, triathlons and half-marathons Rise of smaller community fitness and endurance events such as community Park Runs, Tough Mudder	Open spaces need to be flexible and resilient to accommodate a range of event scales.
Young people gathered in public places (and were often moved on), skating using other spaces (such as car parks) and building bike tracks and jumps in bushland areas.	Rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports such as skateboarding, parkour and BMX which involve advanced skills, some element of danger, and from which participants obtain cultural identity and expression. Popularity of TV shows such as ‘Ninja Warrior Australia’	Provision of skate parks/ youth spaces in open space which are increasingly including parkour and other climbing elements.  BMX tracks are of increasing quality and cater for higher skill levels
Rock climbing and abseiling are “minor” sports	Increasing popularity of “extreme” sports such as rock climbing and abseiling in natural areas Acceptance of rock climbing into the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games	Access to and management of appropriate natural and constructed areas for rock climbing and abseiling
People went to indoor gyms to get fit	Interest in getting and keeping fit by younger and older generations	Outdoor gyms and weights/”muscle parks for adults in open space

Then	Now	Implications for provision
Most sport was played outside	Growth in participation in indoor sport, particularly basketball and futsal Increase in demand for indoor courts as training venues for outdoor sports Elite players of outdoor sports such as netball are choosing to play indoors	Construction of indoor sports courts which are marked for several sports on open space
Membership of gyms was not widespread	Increase in popularity of aerobics, weights, yoga, Pilates Increase in gym memberships	Gyms, fitness centres and exercise studios associated with indoor sports and community facilities and aquatic centres on open space 24 hour gyms and fitness centres Group fitness activities such as boot camps, mothers' fitness groups, triathlon groups
Golf and squash are popular sports	Decline in participation in golf and squash	Review of use of golf courses for other sporting or recreation activities Sale of squash courts for development Conversion of squash courts to higher yield activities such as health and fitness centres



Table 25 Participation by NSW adults and children in organised physical activities  
2016-17

Organised physical activity	Children <sup>1</sup> 2016-17 %	Children 2017 %	Participation – gender	Adults <sup>2</sup> 2016-17 %	Adults 2017 %	Participation – gender
Walking (recreational)	-	-	-	42.5%	42.1	Females 51.4%
Fitness/gym	-	-	-	33.5%	34.2%	Females 36.1%
Swimming	33.5%	34.4%	Females 35.9%	16.8%	15.8%	Females 18.3%
Football/soccer	21.7%	19.2%	Males 33.9%	7.0%	7.3%	Males 11.2%
Dancing (recreational)	10.9%	8.8%	Females 18.9%	-	-	-
Gymnastics	8.7%	8.3%	Females 12.9%	-	-	-
Netball	5.7%	5.6%	Females 11.3%	2.5%	2.3%	Females 4.4%
Athletics, track and field (incl. jogging)	5.1%	5.8%	Females 5.4%	14.9%	15.3%	Males 16.0%
Cycling	-	-	-	9.8%	9.3%	Males 13.2%
Bush walking	-	-	-	6.4%	5.5%	Males 7.3%
Golf	-	-	-	5.5%	5.0%	Males 9.2%
Yoga	-	-	-	5.0%	5.1%	Females 8.2%
Rugby league	4.4%	4.5%	Males 7.9%	-	-	-
Basketball	4.3%	5.5%	Males 5.0%	2.9%	2.9%	Males 4.1%
Tennis	4.2%	4.5%	Males 5.2%	5.0%	5.0%	Males 5/7%
Cricket	4.1%	5.2%	Males 7.6%	2.3%	2.3%	Males 4.3%
Surfing	-	-	-	3.8%	3.4%	Males 5.9%
Touch football	-	-	-	-	2.4%	-

Source:

Australian Sports Commission AusPlay survey July 2016-June 2017 and January 2017-December 2017

1 Organised participation in physical activities outside school hours by children 0-14 years at least once per year. Top 10 activities reported

2 Participation in physical activities by adults 15+ years at least once per year. Top 15 activities reported

### 4.4.3 Trends in use of natural open space

Table 26 Recreation in natural areas and implications for provision

Then	Now	Implications for provision
Playing in parks and bush areas was commonplace.	Declining interest of older children and young people to spend time outdoors, preferring to play electronic games on screens indoors "Nature deficit disorder" and lack of exposure to green space.	Specialist "nature play" spaces to encourage playing outdoors. Increased "facilitation" of outdoor activity and enticements to get outside.
Bushland areas mostly used by individuals and small groups for bushwalking and nature appreciation	Increased use of natural area trails for walking and running exercise and group participation events. Mountain bike riding increasing in popularity with new E-Bike technology increasing ease of access.	New modes of organised recreation as a social group emerging to use natural areas. Increased use of and demand for off road trails (cross country and downhill MTB) and for multi-use trails supporting running, riding and walking.
Natural areas seen as safe to use apart from venomous fauna.	Safety concerns from parents, 'stranger danger' and individuals with concerns regarding personal safety in bushland and less used areas.	Increased group use. New mobile phone apps to reassure users of safety. Increased demand for mobile coverage in bushland areas and remote parks.

## 4.5 Current use of open space in Bathurst Region

### 4.5.1 Community parks

The most popular parks in the Bathurst Region<sup>20</sup> are:

- ☐ Peace Park (29)
- ☐ Victoria Park/Adventure Playground/Dinosaur Park (25)
- ☐ Machattie Park (21)
- ☐ Centennial Park (11)
- ☐ Macquarie River parks – general (10).

### 4.5.2 Sport

Although detailed data on actual hours of sporting field use is not readily available it does appear that many sporting fields in Bathurst region are not used to capacity, or underutilised due to the lack of necessary infrastructure such as lights, amenities, irrigation and the like. There are some unused fields, a lack of expressed demand for new fields (except in planning areas where there is currently no sport field provision) and there is a high number of single user club managed facilities. Much of the demand expressed by sporting groups was for field improvements and facility enhancements. Some of these (such as lighting) would increase capacity of fields for use.

Field design and layout in some locations have not incorporated multiple use across seasons. In many local government areas where there is a shortage of land it is common for sports such

<sup>20</sup> Online survey November-December 2017

as AFL and Cricket to share and for rectangular fields to support multiple codes (such as touch, Oztag, Rugby Union, Football and Rugby League) limited sharing of fields between sporting groups e.g. summer sports such as cricket and touch are not played on rugby league fields in summer. This is because of the demand for a large number of fields at one location to support the number of teams for the local touch season. Existing rugby fields are generally insufficient in quantity to support the touch season. Sporting groups in Bathurst Region want several fields in one location to make running competitions easier.

However, there are several instances of sharing where council has implemented seasonal use agreements as opposed to long term leasing. One of the key issues is the overlap of seasons and an increasing trend from sports to expand their season with additional social or modified modes of their sport which creates difficulties in both sharing and reconfiguring fields across seasons. There is already some overlap occurring across seasons, and this makes it difficult to manage shared fields.

Sharing of facilities is occurring at Police Paddock (football and cricket).

Feedback from sporting groups regarding field use and demand was:

- ☐ Touch use 11 full-sized fields, and half fields for certain competitions.
- ☐ Touch football want additional facilities, and school groups want to, and do use sporting fields during the week
- ☐ Football is the most popular field sport in NSW. Football is also very popular in Bathurst – There are 22 under 6 football teams in Bathurst
- ☐ Cricket juniors use every cricket field in Bathurst. In 2017 two junior fields were added in Centennial Park. Junior cricket want another 3-4 fields.
- ☐ Senior cricket is happy with the number of fields they have.
- ☐ Hockey starts in March – 4 large fields and 3-4 mini fields for juniors. In 2017 hockey didn't want grass fields because there was sufficient capacity on synthetic fields for juniors. Increased use of synthetic fields is more efficient but does increase maintenance costs.. There may be a future demand for more grass fields especially to accommodate any growth in junior participation in hockey.
- ☐ The grass fields formerly used for hockey are now used for touch.



### 4.5.3 Natural Areas

There is a mix of natural and conservation areas across the Bathurst Council area. large areas are managed by State agencies. The areas closest to the urban populations are those receiving the most use.

Feedback from the community and observation suggest that there are numerous activities supported by natural areas, including:

- ☐ volunteer bushland care and river care
- ☐ volunteer based restoration projects
- ☐ walking, running and mountain bike riding
- ☐ passive uses such as nature appreciation
- ☐ environmental education activities for the community and schools
- ☐ organised outdoor recreation such as orienteering or rogaining.

## 4.6 Requests for open space in Bathurst Region

### 4.6.1 Target groups

Specific demands of social target groups for open space opportunities revealed during the community engagement in late 2017 are:

#### Children

- ☐ Family day care – fenced playgrounds

#### Young people

- ☐ Spaces for young people both as formal “youth spaces” and making existing public space appealing for youth to use.
- ☐ Development of youth activity spaces such as skate parks and half courts in larger parks accessible to each planning area/ neighbourhood.
- ☐ A specific mention of the need for more attention to youth provision both programs and spaces in the villages where few alternatives and no public transport exist.

## Seniors

While there were no specific comments received from the community about provision for older adults the following observations are offered in regard to this target group and acknowledging that they will be increasing in number and as a proportion of the population over the time of this study:

- ☐ There will be an increased need for walkways and bikeways as these are likely to remain as the most popular activity.
- ☐ Access to safe walking and riding paths will be required in all urban areas and villages and this includes key elements such as wayfinding, drinking water and seats.
- ☐ Access to multi-use trails in natural areas is likely to be part of the increased demand.
- ☐ Improved accessibility of parks and open spaces will be needed to accommodate reduced mobility and confidence, this includes kerb treatments, footpaths and facility design.

## Women

There was little specific feedback regarding planning for women. However analysis of trends elsewhere and general comments made, indicate that a primary concern for women using public spaces is personal safety and family friendly spaces.

There is an increasing demand for use of public space for exercise and fitness and this means running/ riding paths need to be visible and safe as do outdoor exercise sites such as outdoor fitness gyms. In addition use is expanding much more into evening and early morning times so as to accommodate work and other responsibilities.

The main strategies to consider are:

- ☐ Use of CPTED design principles
- ☐ Lighting of picnic and use areas, pathways and carparks
- ☐ Offering high visibility locations such as paths being in linear parks but visible from the road
- ☐ Areas that are big enough to support group use
- ☐ Parking that is close to sporting facilities and active facilities.

## People with disability

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan<sup>21</sup> identified priority service areas for Council to make improvements to benefit people with disability:

- ☐ sporting grounds
- ☐ parks
- ☐ children’s playgrounds

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<sup>21</sup> Bathurst Regional Council (2017)

- ☐ public toilets and changing facilities.

The design responses include both improved access and facilities that are designed and built for all to use (as opposed to adding a “disabled” section as a design after-thought).

## People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

The Bathurst Region is not particularly culturally and linguistically diverse, and there were no specific needs of CALD communities raised. In consideration of potential change in this area no major actions for the open space strategy emerged except for management initiatives such as providing information and guides in different languages or working with ethnic groups around specific parks to create a greater sense of place and inclusion in the community.

### 4.6.2 Demand by type of open space

Requests by sporting and recreation groups in Bathurst for improvements to community parks, sport land, natural areas and linkages are listed in Appendix A.

Such requests are:

- ☐ Community parks: water play, seating in unleashed dog exercise area
- ☐ Sport: improvements for football, hockey, rugby league, rugby union, netball, equestrian, and shooting sports.
- ☐ Natural areas: conservation spaces and bushland, lookout/arboretum.
- ☐ Linkages: walking/cycling/running paths.

### 4.6.3 Suggestions for more open space

61% of online survey respondents thought there are not sufficient parks or open space areas in the Bathurst Region, and will not be in future with increasing development. Suggestions for new parks are listed in Appendix A.

Suggestions for new parks included:

- ☐ Along the Macquarie River from the CBD to Eglinton
- ☐ In higher density housing areas
- ☐ In new suburbs, subdivisions and estates (Ashworth Estate, Marsden Heights, Kelso, White Rock, Eglinton, Llanarth, Windradyne).

### 4.6.4 Desired features of open space

#### What type of park or features are needed?

Respondents were asked to talk about the key features they saw as important in different types of parks. Specific comments are in Appendix A. Key desired features are:

- ☐ Community recreation parks: regional park, botanic gardens, formal gardens
- ☐ Sport: sports academy
- ☐ Natural: nature reserves, bushland with walking trails, improvements to the Macquarie River banks, wetlands

## Important features and facilities on open space

The community thinks the most important features or facilities that should be provided when considering parks or open spaces that you can walk to from home are shade, children's playgrounds/equipment, toilets, walking/cycling paths/tracks, seating, and greenery/vegetation/trees, shrubs, grass. In addition, for destination parks, natural areas or open spaces visited for several hours or more, drinking water, picnic areas and carparks are very important.

Parking, toilets, shade, seating and maintenance are the most important considerations for sporting areas for formal / organised sport.

### 4.6.5 Desired activities in open space

About one-third of online survey respondents stated there was an activity they would like to undertake in parks and open space but can't. There was a wide range of activities mentioned (refer to Appendix A) but cycling was mentioned most.

### 4.6.6 Desired improvements to existing open spaces

Improvements to existing open spaces desired by the community, listed by planning area, are in Appendix A. Centennial Park, Alec Lamberton Field, Victoria Park and Peace Park were the most frequently mentioned parks for desired improvements.

### 4.6.7 Other general comments about parks and public open space

Respondents were asked if they would like to make any specific comments about Council's provision and management of parks and public open space. The comments are listed in Appendix A, and in key themes:

- ☐ Compliments to Council
- ☐ Retain open spaces
- ☐ Praise for CBD parks
- ☐ Control sprawl
- ☐ Timely provision of open space in new developments
- ☐ Centralise recreation facilities
- ☐ Provide open space in newer areas
- ☐ Embellish open space
- ☐ Improve quality of drainage reserves
- ☐ Open space in rural areas
- ☐ Maintenance – general, mowing, weed control, watering.

## 4.7 Summary of key themes from community engagement

The community engagement highlighted a number of key themes in regard to open space planning:

- ☐ Appreciation of Council's efforts in key "destination" parks such as Victoria Park, Machattie Park, and the Macquarie River parks. It appears that community appreciation of open spaces is centred in Bathurst City and there is less mention of satisfaction in other towns or villages or the outer suburbs of the city.

- ❑ Concern regarding potential loss of existing parks or open space. Existing parks and natural areas are valued and the comments indicate that there may be a concern Council is considering disposing of some parklands.
- ❑ Minimise urban sprawl.
- ❑ Need to match provision of parkland and its development for community use to the growth of residents. There is a strong theme that Council has not been timely in providing parkland for recreation or sport in the new development and growth areas.
- ❑ Preference for larger more developed and diverse parklands. A number of comments and responses appear to indicate that the community appreciates the value of district and higher level parks that provide for longer stays and have a diversity of recreation uses. To illustrate, one comment indicated support for greater investment in this level of parks rather than trying to provide numerous small local parks with minimal development.
- ❑ Accessibility and distribution. A number of comments indicate that there are some concerns regarding the lack of good/ safe active transport links to parks for local/ neighbourhood level recreation. This theme also seems to be reflected in comments about lack of footpaths, insufficient road frontage of some parks (e.g. provided as internal reserves with very little visibility) and the issues emerging from transport barriers affecting access.
- ❑ Improve the standard of multiple use open space. Where the dominant level of provision is linear drainage related open space, there is indication that the community is comfortable with some level of multiple use open space to provide park opportunities but that the open space should be embellished to a standard that supports recreation use.
- ❑ Maintenance of parks. There were wide ranging comments on maintenance which complemented council for much of the activity in the main Bathurst area and the high standard of key parks, while reflecting that rural areas seemed to lack the same level of service and that the linear open space systems could be better maintained.

# 5 DIRECTION FOR OPEN SPACE IN BATHURST REGION

## 5.1 Introduction

Bathurst Regional Council aims to create healthy vibrant communities that are well resourced, resilient and responsive to change. To do this Council needs a strategic approach to the planning, provision and management of public open space.

The provision of public open space is an essential role for Council. The public open space network is critical infrastructure that supports communities through:

- ❑ providing community parks for general recreation and sporting parks for active recreation. This is complemented by dual purpose, other and natural area focused open space which can support recreation as a secondary function.
- ❑ providing a diverse range of outdoor and active recreation assets which leads to healthier more cohesive communities.
- ❑ protecting natural waterways which assist in managing stormwater, providing local habitats, linking natural areas and enhancing landscape settings for adjacent parklands.
- ❑ securing opportunities for linear open space to protect waterways and provide corridors for active transport.
- ❑ protecting memorial and heritage space, significant natural areas and unique landscapes which contributes to a sense of identity for local communities and protection of biodiversity in the region.

## 5.2 Values of open space

The values of open space articulated by the Bathurst community were outlined in Section 4. In summary, the Bathurst community are proud of their open spaces, particularly the highly maintained parks in the CBD, riverside parks and the Adventure Playground.

The roles that the community expects open space in the Bathurst Region to play include:

- ❑ Venues for active and informal recreation
- ❑ Venues for community and tourism events
- ❑ Environmental protection.

## 5.3 Vision for open space in the Bathurst Region

**Open space in the Bathurst Region is diverse, accessible, and offers a range of natural and embellished spaces in established, developing and rural areas to provide active and informal recreation, social, and nature appreciation opportunities for everyone in the community.**

## 5.4 Objectives for open space

Following on from the vision, the community wants to ensure:

- ☐ urban development does not encroach on open space.
- ☐ open space is provided in new residential developments that is embellished or activated in a timely manner.
- ☐ open spaces and facilities are centralised in hubs rather than small dispersed spaces.
- ☐ open space is embellished to make it usable.
- ☐ an improved quality of drainage open space.
- ☐ open space is provided in rural areas as well as urban areas.
- ☐ maintenance of open space, particularly mowing, weed control and watering.

## 5.5 Developing open space provision standards for Bathurst Region

### 5.5.1 Planning principles

An overall set of planning principles is recommended to assist in developing provision standards for open space in the Bathurst Region. The following are suggested for consideration.

To ensure there is an adequate supply of public open space means:

- ☐ ensuring there is sufficient supply of land that is “fit for purpose” to be developed to meet the park, sport and recreation needs of current and future communities.
- ☐ developing open space in a way that provides for current needs and allows flexibility in meeting future needs.
- ☐ establishing a network of public open space that is efficient to manage and maintain.
- ☐ ensuring effective utilisation of existing open space resources enables a range of uses and maintains equity of access.

### Ensuring sufficient supply of land

The following principles should be considered when planning to ensure there is a sufficient supply of land:

- 1. Minimum areas are required to accommodate sport.** Different sports require different field configurations. An efficient and sustainable area is one that can accommodate a range of configurations so it can respond to changing demand over time.
- 2. Land parcels acquired are very rarely “perfect”.** Marginal land (land which is not prime residential land) is often selected for public parks and sporting fields. However these parcels will have constraints to functionality such as shape, topography, drainage and other issues. It is very rare that any parcel would be 100% usable for any intended purpose and therefore additional area (beyond a simple playing field footprint) may be necessary to compensate for spatial inefficiency due to less optimal land.
- 3. Shape is as important as size.** Particular minimum dimensions apply to sporting uses and can be defined for general park uses. These dimensions mean the land can be used effectively and efficiently for the intended purpose.
- 4. All land has a “carrying capacity”.** A given park or sports field can only accommodate a certain level of use before it becomes dysfunctional or degrades to unsafe conditions.

Consideration of carrying capacity must be in the context of time and demand. Demand occurs at certain times and these peaks are what defines the supply needed.

- 5. Visibility and amount of road frontage are critical measures of quality.** Being able to easily see within a park and to see the parkland as part of the urban setting is a core measure of functionality and visibility is important in perceptions of safety. A minimum of 50% road frontage is recommended to ensure parks are accessible and visible

There are no Australia wide industry standards on provision of public open space. Draft Open Space for Recreation Planning Guidelines are being prepared for the NSW Government Architect for use across NSW.

In the meantime, different approaches have applied to defining a provision standard and they have generally been based on one (or a combination of) the following:

- ❑ An assessment of the area needed to accommodate active recreation/ sport and an allowance for land for general parkland
- ❑ An assessment of the current levels of supply and an assessment of adequacy based on current unmet demands and other issues. The current supply (e.g. hectares/1,000 people) is then used as the basis for defining desired future supply (having regard to shortcomings or indicated oversupply).
- ❑ Adoption of a published standard or suggested standard used in state guidelines or neighbouring councils.
- ❑ Planned “outcome –to- standards” approach. This uses a master planned approach to defining the actual park and sporting field areas required for a new community or large planned area and then converting the outcome back to a per capita supply rate as a mechanism for distributing costs across the whole community.

### 5.5.2 Recommended rates for land supply

#### Sport

When providing land for sport, the current evidence suggests **that a reasonable rate of supply is between 1-2 hectares of sporting land (land for all sports such as courts, fields, pools, indoor facilities) per 1,000 people.**

This is based on:

- ❑ analysis of current participation rates in formal sport and projections of the land needed to accommodate current participation. This analysis did not allow for major “spatial inefficiency” of land and assumes land is predominantly functional.
- ❑ comparisons with other approaches and levels of provisions. The 2013 State of the Sector report identified that the median for sports fields in inland regional areas across Australia was 2 hectares/1,000 and the median across all groups was 1.5 hectares/1000<sup>22</sup>). Recently published guidelines in Western Australia suggest rates of around 1.5 hectares/1,000 for sporting fields and courts.<sup>23</sup>

Across Bathurst Regional Council sporting land provision is around 3.58 hectares/1,000 people (excluding major outliers such as the bicycle park, racecourses and private facilities). This includes whole parcels, which while predominantly used for sport, can have large areas of bushland or other open space within the boundary.

<sup>22</sup> 2013 State of the Sector report, Parks Base. Based on data from 84 LGAs across Australia. Data was for sports fields only and did not include facilities land.

<sup>23</sup> Department of Sport and Recreation and PLA WA August 2012.

**If the land acquired for sport ensures that the land is “fit for purpose” then a rate of around 1-2 hectares/1,000 people is considered sufficient. Given that Bathurst has an average supply rate above this, and existing areas where additional sport use could be accommodated, then the mid point of this range should be sufficient (1.5 hectares/1,000 people).**

## Parkland for Recreation (Community Parks)

The primary purpose of parkland is to enable outdoor recreation and to do this it must be accessible, safe, functional for a range of uses and able to be maintained efficiently.

Parkland is best supplied as a network of parks linked with pathways and as part of an open space network that includes waterways and natural areas.

Community use of parkland for active recreation is increasing. Participation trends are showing increased use of pathways for running and cycling and urban parks are increasingly the venue for exercise related recreation, personal trainer programs and informal active recreation.

Achieving a parks network that provides locally accessible opportunities, diversity of settings and a hierarchy of destinations is more important than achieving an overall supply ratio of “X hectares /1,000 people”. However, parkland has a carrying capacity in the same way that sports fields or roads do and residents anticipate a certain level of openness (lack of crowding) and a less developed environment to feel that they are in a “park”.

To provide for small children’s play, some quiet spaces, areas for exercise and informal active recreation a local park needs to have a minimum size. Numerous very small parks providing limited opportunity are more expensive to maintain than fewer larger more diverse parks.

Across Bathurst the average rate of supply of those open space areas considered as “community parklands” in the assessment undertaken for this strategy is 3.36 hectares/1,000 people. When individual planning areas<sup>24</sup> are assessed the median rate of provision is 3.98 hectares/1,000 people.

Provision in each of the planning areas ranges from 0 to 11.43 hectares/1,000 people (the latter being high due to including parklands associated with Mount Panorama. When each planning area’s supply is adjusted to remove regional level parklands, the supply of local and district level open space ranges from 0 to 5.89 hectares per 1,000 people.

However it should be noted that even those planning areas with no formal parkland, there may be supplies of conservation, drainage and multiple use open space which in some cases has been nominally developed for “secondary use “ recreation. Only in Perthville is the total supply of non- sport parkland and other open space almost negligible. However there is a 5.9 hectare sporting and active use park in Perthville, and the proposed new park will help address the shortage of non-sport parkland in Perthville.

For local and district parks (which are those planned with direct reference to local communities) the rate of supply is 2.8 hectares/1,000 people. When individual rates for planning areas are analysed the median rate of provision is 2.6 hectares/1,000 people. This excludes regional parks which are planned on a city wide basis and are largely opportunistic.

To enable parks to provide local (walk to) opportunities as well as higher level destination experiences, and to ensure that all communities have access to a larger public space to come together and celebrate their community, a supply of 2- 3 hectares/1,000 people of functional and accessible land is likely to be the minimum required.

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<sup>24</sup> See section 0 for explanation of the planning areas used for analysis

**Adopting the upper end of this range would seem to be prudent given the issues associated with acquiring suitable land and the need to often use sub-optimal land for parks. Therefore a target of 3 hectares/1,000 people for community parks is recommended.**

This would be supplemented with other open space protecting waterways and natural areas (i.e. with conservation or riparian protection as primary purpose).

### 5.5.3 Establishing performance criteria

To ensure that land is functional (i.e. suited for its intended purpose) and that it has the capacity to be reconfigured as needs change over time, a range of performance criteria are applied to the selection of land and the provision of parks.

- ❑ Land selection criteria ensure the land is functional and safe and that the cost of developing the land for public parks or sporting fields will not be excessive.
- ❑ Park planning criteria ensure that parks are located appropriately for community use, that they are accessible and appealing, and can provide for the desired range of settings and activity.

The proposed performance criteria are dealt with in detail in Section 5.8.

The key elements and rationale for performance criteria are:

Table 27 Summary of Performance Criteria

Criteria	Purpose	Rationale
Size and Shape	Ensures a parcel of land is able to be used for intended purpose and is not too small to efficiently provide the desired range of opportunities	Size is important to enable formal uses such as sport as there are minimum dimensions which must be met. Shape impacts on what can be accommodated as well as the potential for access, and development as a public space.
Proximity Radius	Ensures that residents can access a park opportunity within a reasonable walking (or travel) distance	400-500 metres walking distance to local parks has been identified in several guidelines as the preferred proximity standard. Studies have shown that having parks close by encourages use <sup>25</sup> and increases levels of physical activity.
Access and Visibility	Ensures that parks have easy access from surrounding residences and that high visibility provides passive surveillance and increased safety for users.	Minimum road frontage requirements such as 50% will mean that the park can be accessed easily and that high visibility will make the space safer. In addition highly visible public spaces are less likely to suffer vandalism and inappropriate behaviour.
Flooding and Hazards	Ensures that flooding and stormwater management do not reduce the functionality of the park. Ensures that parks can adequately accommodate proposed uses and activities. Also recognises that a range of land quality can comprise a park, although some minimum areas of flood free land are needed.	If flooding is too frequent and too intense it constrains usability of parkland and increases maintenance loads making the resource inefficient to provide. While generally parks do not require 100 % ARI 100 (or 0.01 AEP) flood immunity they do require some proportion of the overall area which is suitable for built facilities. Hazards such as contamination, slope, utility corridors (such as high voltage lines), major transport corridors can create unsafe environments for public use.

<sup>25</sup> A recent study in Western Australia found that residents moving to suburbs with easy access to a beach, sports field or a park increase their walking by 21 minutes for each. This has a major health benefit for the community. (UWA, Giles Corti 2013)

Criteria	Purpose	Rationale
	Ensures that environmental or adjacent hazards do not place users at risk or force areas of parkland to be restricted from public use	Similarly specific uses will require minimum spaces able to accommodate particular activities without significant development cost.

### 5.5.4 Appropriate level of development

The overall public open space network is comprised of a number of elements:

- ☐ protection and enhancement of waterways which assists in managing the city's stormwater and provides local habitats and linkages between natural areas.
- ☐ provision of a network of linear open space that protects overland flow and drainage lines and can provide active transport linkages for local neighbourhoods.
- ☐ provision of public parks and sporting fields that support active and passive recreation and lead to healthier more socially integrated community.
- ☐ protection and enhancement of natural areas and local landscapes which contribute to the tropical character of the city and a sense of local character within the city's suburbs.

The "formal" provision of public parks and sporting fields is complemented by opportunities provided in other open space areas. *For example; while natural areas may be managed to protect conservation values, development within these areas that includes walking tracks and picnic facilities may not threaten these values and will provide a valuable contribution to the diversity of recreation opportunities.*

Similarly, linear systems associated with waterways or transport corridor buffers may complement adjacent parkland and provide linkages for pathways and bikeways increasing active recreation opportunities.

**However, investment in recreation infrastructure in public open space needs to balance the return (in terms of recreation opportunity) against the ongoing cost of maintenance and management.**

The draft embellishment standards within this Strategy have been developed to ensure functionality while considering effective maintenance and cost management.

Developers may want to have a higher standard of development of a park or other open space to assist in estate marketing (for example small parks developed as entry statements for subdivisions or "centre piece" parks). This can be problematic for Council, who will ultimately inherit the higher level of maintenance required, as it represents an inequitable approach to provision across the community.

*The setting of preferred levels of development for parks and the establishment of development standards or guides for parks and other public open space is a critical tool in ensuring that a range of opportunities are provided in a way that is equitable across the city and sustainable within the resources of the community.*

The timing of embellishment is also an important issue and one that many communities raise in open space studies. It is important that parks are embellished as demand arises from the community, i.e. as the population grows within a given catchment. For Council this can be a balancing act between sufficient funding in capital accounts and developer contribution funds and, as there is often a backlog, only so much can be achieved in any given year.

The recommended approach in the future is to encourage development of at least local parks in a timely manner and as estates are being built and sold, and for district parks to be programmed when the subject development area reaches 75% of lots occupied.

For housing projects being undertaken by private developers, they should be required to develop all local parks in the same stages as land release and to have those parks developed to Council's minimum standards or if exceeding that, according to an approved landscape plan. The market reality is that quality developed parkland sells housing and increases prices, so it is a worthwhile investment.

### 5.5.5 Sustainable management and cost effectiveness

Providing public parks and land for sporting facilities is one of the essential services delivered by local government. As with any infrastructure there are constraints on both capital and recurrent resources available for development and maintenance.

Residents expect Council to manage these spaces cost effectively, but they recognise there will be feature parks which help create a sense of place in townships and have a higher profile. This means that some parks will warrant a higher standard of maintenance than others. It also means that different levels of service apply to the maintenance and management of parks and other public open space.

Key considerations are:

- ❑ the need to balance the level of development and amount of public open space land with the ability to maintain within budget capabilities.
- ❑ ensuring timely development of public parks and sporting areas. This means parks and sporting areas are developed as need reaches a certain threshold.
- ❑ transitional planning for public open space offers a longer view of the use and management of land. Acquiring land at a very early stage of urban development (in advance of demand) can offer savings in the capital cost of the land. However this saving must be considered against the cost of managing / maintaining the land until it is required. Applying a transitional strategy will use the land for an alternate purpose until it is required. This purpose may be revenue generating (such as lease for farming) or it may simply remove any maintenance burden (such as agistment) while the land is "banked" for future need. Conversely there may be opportunities to temporarily use land designated for an alternative purpose as public park while more permanent solutions are being developed.
- ❑ the cost of development of a park and the ongoing maintenance burden can be significantly influenced by the land selected for the park. If very poor quality land is selected with numerous constraints, then the cost of development (to meet minimum standards) is likely to be far higher than that of a more suitable parcel of land. However, in some cases the reduced acquisition cost of the land parcel may justify the increased development cost.
- ❑ forward consideration of maintenance costs may identify that some land is not suited for development or continued use as park. A revision of the asset purpose may enable a conversion to a naturally vegetated block or other purpose that minimises maintenance costs and maintenance resources can be applied in a location where the recreation benefit for the community is higher.
- ❑ the potential for partnerships and collaboration with other agencies and community groups should also be explored and pursued where possible. Pooling public agency and community resources such as land, capital and maintenance budgets offers an effective way to develop and maintain public infrastructure. This is particularly relevant with sporting precincts and the potential to share the development and management of precincts with other agencies (such as schools) and community sport groups.

### 5.5.6 Protection of open space values

Public open space is valued by the community for a range of reasons, including recreation, sport, landscape protection and conservation, contribution to tourism, and contribution to community life.

Protecting these values can become a challenge in an environment where land resources are diminishing and other demands are placing pressure on existing public open space. For parks and sporting areas the major concerns are:

1. Increasing demand for multiple use of parks or excision of portions for alternative uses which may not be compatible with public use (e.g. transport corridors or proposals to locate all stormwater treatments in parkland).
2. Broadening of uses in public parks that allows increased diversity of activity complementary to its function as a public space (e.g. adding small commercial elements to parks such as cafes or allowing formal uses such as group exercise or commercial recreation).
3. Multiple small decisions with minor impacts, which over time accrue and diminish the space available and functionality of the site.
4. Displacement pressure caused by residential or other development occurring adjacent to an existing park or sporting area (e.g. new resident complaints about the noise from sporting areas which were present before residential development).

*Council needs to ensure that it uses both planning scheme protections as well as management strategies to protect established open space values.*

### 5.5.7 Multiple use of open space

Multiple use of public open space is possible when the proposed use does not impact on the main purpose of the area, does not greatly diminish the landscape quality of the park and does not constitute any threat to park users. In some cases the proposed use may be complementary to the public space aspects of the park (such as kiosks or discretionary recreation activities).

To assist in defining what constitutes acceptable impact the following initial policy approach is proposed:

- ☐ no more than 10 % of the total area of a park can be converted or reallocated to alternative uses. This includes cumulative impacts of multiple uses and means that 10% is a maximum for all alternative uses collectively.
- ☐ any alternative use must not generate any risk for users of the park.
- ☐ the alternative use must not create barriers to access or impede access to or use of the main use areas of the park.
- ☐ any proposals for impact beyond the 10% must include strategies to offset any additional loss with an alternative provision of park area that provides the same or better level of service to local residents.

Conversely other “non-park” forms of open space may have a primary purpose other than recreation, such as conservation or stormwater management. These open space areas may offer opportunity for recreation as a secondary use. In these cases the performance criteria around providing community parks or sport need to be considered to see if the secondary use can effectively be accommodated. Key considerations include:

- ☐ level of road frontage available
- ☐ slope and levels of inundation
- ☐ ability for the community to access the proposed recreation use area

- ☐ suitable access for maintenance
- ☐ minimising risk from flooding or other hazard associated with the primary purpose.

**A more detailed policy on multiple use of open space should be developed by Council that considers a broader range of aspects and assessment approaches.**

## 5.6 Open space classification

The classification of open space in Table 28 below is based on Bathurst Regional Council's classification system, but adapted to suit the type of open spaces in Council's inventory. The proposed classification system is for provision planning only and is not suggested as a basis for maintenance planning, which relies on more detailed area breakdowns and assessment of multiple use functions and appropriate regimes for those areas.

This classification system is used in the assessment of open space in Bathurst Region in Section 6.

Table 28 Classification of open space in Bathurst Region

Function	Hierarchies	Description
Community Park	Local District Regional	Parks that are predominantly developed for general recreation and community use. These parks may include active elements such as youth spaces or outdoor gyms.
Sport	District Regional	Spaces developed for formal organised sport
Special	N/A	Public land developed for special purposes such as showgrounds or motor racing.
Dual Purpose	N/A	Public open space with a primary function other than recreation (such as drainage or buffering) where recreation is anticipated as a secondary use, or facilities have been provided to facilitate recreation. This could include detention/retention basins with dual use as informal sporting fields.
Nature	N/A	Conservation and bushland areas which are predominantly in a natural state and riparian corridors which have not been developed as riverside/creekside parks and may only have a pathway.
Other	N/A	Other open space and formed drains including buffer lands, undeveloped open space, overland flow paths or where the purpose is unknown.

## 5.7 Desired Recreation Opportunity Outcomes

The following statements define the desired opportunity outcomes for residents in the Bathurst Region.

The following outcomes are desirable:

- ☐ Most residents will have safe walking and cycling access to **recreation parks and informal outdoor recreation** and local play opportunities.
- ☐ Within the Bathurst Region a community park opportunity should be within 400-500 metres safe walking distance in urban areas. For rural villages, access is desirable within 1,000 metres.

- ❑ Most residents will have access to **a larger destination recreation park and/or sporting opportunities** within 10-20 minutes via car.
- ❑ Public parks and community facilities are **located and designed so as to maximise visual and physical access** and to allow for a wide range of potential uses and user groups.
- ❑ All parks **should provide opportunities for physical activity**, social inclusiveness, interaction and participation in outdoor recreation.
- ❑ Public parks should **improve the visual amenity of the locale** for both residential and non-residential areas. To achieve this it is desirable that a diversity of landscape settings are provided across the network and that opportunities to define character through the inclusion of unique or notable landscape features (such as elevated features, mature trees, view scapes) be taken where possible.
- ❑ Public parks should be **complemented by a walk and ride pathway network** which adds value to the accessibility of parks and contributes to the diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities available to a community.
- ❑ **Public parks should contribute to the strengthening of community** by providing spaces and places for social interaction, expression of community culture (including youth) and the activities of community based groups.

## 5.8 Desired Levels of Service for Provision of Public Open Space in Bathurst Region

### 5.8.1 The need to define levels of service for provision of Public Open Space

To be able to plan for and provide a public parks network, Council needs to define a level of service for provision that is desired for all residents. This is usually expressed in terms of the “Opportunity Outcome” that Council would like to deliver. In other words, based on the strategic and policy context Council will determine that all residents should have access to outdoor recreation, active recreation, sport, nature based recreation, etc. This outcome is then further defined to provide some framework around what constitutes successful or sufficient provision. This generates a number of performance criteria which ensure that the outcome for the community meets Council’s intended result.

*The term “level of service” refers to planning for the recreation opportunity to be provided not a maintenance standard or a measurement of the level of the maintenance activity to be provided.*

Of course, in reality, the “ideal” needs to be tempered with what is possible within a specific resourcing context so a range of strategies to deliver a performance outcome will be developed: some of which may be a “standard solution” e.g. 1 local park of 0.5 hectares per 1,000 people, while others will be performance based solution e.g. access to public open space within 500 metres walking distance that offers opportunities for play, exercise and enjoyment of nature.

In planning to deliver the desired level of service, Council will then investigate the available public open space resources for those that can readily be “conscripted” into service as public parks and sporting fields. Where no existing land or existing developed parks or sporting areas are available then the search will broaden to include the other public open space available that may be modified or enhanced or even re-purposed to meet the outstanding need. In the case where there is no land available then acquisition of new land is the only remaining strategy to meet the desired service standards.

The planning of new residential areas is good example to consider. In a new residential estate, Council's desired standards of service will define the opportunity outcome council wishes for the new residents. This will be expressed in terms of access to park opportunities within a certain walking distance and access to sporting facilities within a certain distance. Further, the quality provisions of the standards of service will articulate those characteristics that ensure a given parcel of land will be suitable for the proposed use and can be developed and managed by Council at reasonable cost. For example, the need to provide a local park within 500 metres walking distance from the majority of homes requires land that is accessible, land of a minimum area to allow the range of activities anticipated for a local park, and importantly land of a suitable quality that can be embellished for public use and maintained without a significant cost burden.

The use of a narrow grass channel which is often wet and has no level area for play would not be suitable. Similarly, a wetland that would require major investment in construction of platforms and boardwalks to be useable, and has a high level of maintenance, may also be unsuitable even though significant capital investment could create public recreation opportunities. This cost and the ongoing cost of maintenance should be weighed against the other alternatives for provision.

### 5.8.2 Proposed new provision standards

The overall Standards of Service for Public Open Space is comprised of two main elements:

- ❑ a preferred **Minimum Level of Supply (MLS)** of various types of land for parks which cater for informal and formal public recreation. This can be described as the “planned provision” of raw land supply that will be embellished (or developed) to provide for a range of public recreation opportunities.
- ❑ a Minimum Level of Development or embellishment for each type of park. This is termed the “**Minimum Level of Development**” (MLD).

Land for parks, sporting fields and recreation facilities is usually secured through “planned provision” where specific park and facility outcomes are identified as part of a planning scheme (Developer Contributions Plans) or planning strategy such as an Open Space Plan or a Sport and Recreation Plan. In addition this planned provision is complemented by “opportunistic provision” where land acquired for other purposes such as stormwater management, bushland protection or open space buffers can also provide some additional recreation benefit such as recreational trails.

The provision standards are mainly concerned with the planned provision of parks and sporting lands. However, where opportunistic provision is proposed on land acquired for other open space purposes the standards can be used to inform requirements to ensure that secondary recreation values can be realised.

### 5.8.3 Minimum level of land supply

In overall terms the anticipated broad outcome of land supply for public recreation is:

3 hectares per 1,000 residents for community parks ie. formal parkland settings providing non-organised outdoor recreation opportunity at local and “destination” levels.

1.5 hectares per 1,000 residents for formal sporting and organised public recreation activity.

This definition of broad supply should not be considered in isolation of the detailed performance criteria which guide the size, distribution, primary function and level of development of individual parks detailed in this section, and the broad use categories for land for community purposes.

Table 29 Minimum level of open space supply by hierarchy and distribution

Hierarchy setting type/ broad supply rate	Local	District	Regional
<b>Recreation</b> 3 hectares/ 1,000 people	Park (0.5 hectares minimum) or node <sup>26</sup> (0.2 hectares minimum) within 400 metres safe walking distance.	Larger more developed park (preferably greater than 1 hectare) within 2 km.	No planned provision- but opportunistic use of sites with significant features
<b>Sport</b> 1.5 hectares/ 1,000 people	For Rural Villages -a minimum provision of a multi-use field or space (e.g. sports courts) – minimum area of 1.5 hectares. Provision for Bathurst urban areas is provided as District types.	For Bathurst urban areas larger sporting parks accommodating several users, with preferred minimum size 5 hectares.	Larger, more specialist developments for specific sports or built multi-use such as aquatic. Minimum sizes vary- no standard supply
<b>Natural Areas</b>	Provided “opportunistically to protect habitat, landscape, healthy riparian corridors or cultural areas of significance to the local or regional community. No minimum level of supply- but conservation parks can provide recreation park outcomes and would therefore need to meet those standards to be deemed to provide a Recreation Park as well as Conservation Park.		

#### 5.8.4 Opportunistic provision of open space

Where other open space areas such as waterway corridors are provided and they have sufficient amounts of usable space which is free from hazards or other major constraints then there are opportunities to develop some basic facilities which can provide some limited recreation opportunity and complement the planned provision of parks and sporting fields.

In terms of infrastructure planning and charging, the land component of “opportunistic provision” is not considered offset against park requirements as the land component has been acquired for other purposes (such as waterways) and due to its constraints would not be considered suitable for public park as a primary purpose. However some embellishment of these “other open space” areas to provide recreation outcomes can be planned for and may allow a reduction in planned provision of local or district community parks. In some cases the land cost savings could be converted to the development cost of these other open space areas.

The main types of other open space and the opportunity for some complementary recreational use are discussed below.

<sup>26</sup> A local recreation node is an area within a higher level park, a sport park or within other open space (eg. waterway corridor) that is developed for local play and picnic use.

## Local (Linear Open Space and Other Open Space Areas such as creeks and local linkages)

### Other open space/ dual purpose open space

- ☐ Land provided from other infrastructure networks or development (water cycle management/drainage, bushland protection, road/rail buffers).
- ☐ Pathways developed and access points provided
- ☐ 50% road frontage and good visibility and casual surveillance
- ☐ Informal use only
- ☐ May provide linkages to local recreation nodes.

## Major (Linear Open Space and Conservation Areas such as rivers and regional open space)

### Linear systems provided along larger waterways or foreshores.

- ☐ Minimum corridor widths of 20-50 metres<sup>27</sup> from top of bank or high water mark.
- ☐ Provided opportunistically.
- ☐ 50% or higher road frontage.
- ☐ Bikeway and pathways.
- ☐ Lights and fencing provided.
- ☐ May have recreation nodes developed adjacent.
- ☐ May have conservation objectives.

Bushland / conservation areas which can provide some outdoor recreation opportunity through development of picnic areas and trails.

### 5.8.5 Planning and performance criteria

The following Table 30 details the performance criteria applying to the various open space types recommended in the Minimum Level of Supply.

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<sup>27</sup> Widths should be subject to updated advice from Council in terms of flood levels and any requirements of NSW Office of Water. If a minimum "exclusion zone" is specified by state policy then the additional width needed to allow for paths or recreation nodes may need to be increased.

Table 30 Preferred outcomes for minimum level of supply of open space

Open space type	Hierarchy of provision	Preferred minimum size (stand-alone)	Preferred minimum size (recreation node) <sup>28</sup>	Service access radius <sup>29</sup>	Road frontage Minimum (measured as a % of the park's perimeter)	Useable area for main purpose <sup>30</sup>	Slope and Topography (Maximum)	Flooding <sup>31</sup> and other hazards (see following table)	Paths and access	Other comments
Local Community Park	Serves a neighbourhood or small community (up to 1,000 people)	0.5 Ha min	0.2 Ha	Generally 400-500m. 1,000m in rural villages.	50%	0.2 Ha No boundary to be less than 25 metres	1: 20 for main use area 1: 6 for remainder	Whole area free of regular flooding (i.e.: above ARI 5) with the Main Purpose Area or 10% (whichever is the greater) of total area above ARI 50. Free of hazards	Safe walking access and pathway links to park	Should have good visibility from surrounding residences. Narrow linear shapes are to be avoided.
District Community Park	Serves several neighbourhoods. Designed for longer stays, group gatherings.	2-5 Ha	1 Ha	2+ Km	50%	1-2 Ha No boundary to be less than 50 metres	1: 20 for main use area Variable topography for remainder	Whole area free of regular flooding (i.e. above ARI 5) with Main Purpose Area or 10% (whichever is the greater) of total area above ARI 50. Free of hazards	Safe walking access and pathways into the park and facilities. Car access catered for.	Will also provide level 1 recreation park function for immediate neighbourhood

<sup>28</sup> Refers to a local park facility provided as part of a larger open space area such as district sports fields or open space corridor.

<sup>29</sup> Service Access Radius refers to the desirable safe walking or travel distance from any given household.

<sup>30</sup> Useable area refers to the space within the park available for sport or recreation activity and facilities. This therefore excludes creeks, stands of vegetation, water bodies, wetlands, steeply sloping land and other "constrained" land.

<sup>31</sup> Flooding is expressed as the Average Recurrence Interval. This means the average no of years to exceed a given rainfall total (or in this case level of inundation). However the probability of exceeding this level in any one year (AEP) is a different value e.g. an ARI 5 means there is an 18% chance of this level being exceeded in any one year.

Open space type	Hierarchy of provision	Preferred minimum size (stand-alone)	Preferred minimum size (recreation node) <sup>28</sup>	Service access radius <sup>29</sup>	Road frontage Minimum (measured as a % of the park's perimeter)	Useable area for main purpose <sup>30</sup>	Slope and Topography (Maximum)	Flooding <sup>31</sup> and other hazards (see following table)	Paths and access	Other comments
District Sports Park	Serves a larger catchment-several local planning areas/ several suburbs	No specific-depends on key features Generally a minimum of 5 Ha is recommended	NA	Up to 10 km	25-50%	At least 90% of site functional for sporting use. No boundary to be less than 150 metres.	Use areas 1: 20	Free of hazards. Facilities above ARI 100 At least 50% of park to be above ARI 50	Car, and bike access if possible Off-street parking.	Usually master planned and located due to key feature.
Regional Sports Facility	Serves whole city	No minimum – purpose dependant. Sports fields should be minimum of 10-20 Ha. For built facilities 1 Ha Minimum.	n/a	15-30 km	25%-external. Served by internal road network	At least 80% of site functional for sporting use if for field sport. For built facilities 90%. No boundary to be less than 150 metres.	1: 50 for all playing surfaces	Free of hazards. Fields/ courts above ARI 50. Built Facilities above ARI 100	Car, foot and bike access. Internal road and parking network	Usually a planned facility and location dependant on purpose.

### 5.8.6 Criteria for recreation and sport parks

General criteria to apply to land for all recreation and sport parks are listed in Table 31.

Table 31 General criteria to apply to all recreation and sport parks

Criteria	Considerations
Land must be free of Hazards and Constraints to Community Use.	Unacceptable land includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land listed on Contaminated Land Register or Environmental Management Register</li> <li>- Land known or suspected as being contaminated</li> <li>- Land under high voltage power lines or within 50 metres of the line easement.</li> <li>- Land constrained by easements</li> <li>- Land constrained by proximity to noxious uses</li> <li>- Constructed drainage lines and infrastructure such as concrete channels</li> </ul>
Minimum widths	Land should be comply with minimum boundary lengths specified in the performance criteria- unless part of a linkage or minor entry point then a 20 metre minimum applies. Land for sporting use must generally be 150 metres or greater for any dimension to allow for proper orientation of fields or courts.
Safety and Design	All location and development of public parks and community facilities should consider CPTED <sup>32</sup> principles and any design guidelines for public spaces and facilities adopted by Council.
Buffers and adjacent land use	Parks should consider adjacent land uses and be adequately buffered from incompatible uses. Solutions may include vegetation corridors, planted mounds and fencing.

### 5.8.7 Embellishment (minimum level of development)

Embellishment of open space is important to the Bathurst community, as outlined in Section 4.

All parks and sporting areas should be developed to a minimum level to enable the community to use the park for the intended purpose. The development of features and facilities within parks is often termed “embellishment”. A minimum level of embellishment is defined to allow for better forward capital works planning to provide recreation and sport parks for the community. Defining a minimum level or “standard” of embellishment also enables council to negotiate with developers who may wish to provide parklands in a developed state, ready for use by the new residents. It is important that the level of development resulting from this external investment meets council’s requirements and ensures equity of provision across a community and minimises the ongoing maintenance costs from parks and playgrounds that have been over-developed.

The timing of embellishment should be set to:

- ☐ Local Parks- embellished at the same time as land sales and building commence within any given stage. Preference is for the developer to provide and embellish as part of staged development.
- ☐ District parks at or before the overall estate/ subdivision reaches 75% of lots occupied.

<sup>32</sup> Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- ❑ Sporting Parks at 75% of lots sold. Unless sporting parks and district parkland are combined as a multi-use park- then 50% of lots sold is the threshold. Developed by Council with developer contributions.

For Other Open Space such as Linear/ Riparian and Conservation Parks, the embellishment guidelines are provided for those occasions when these are contributing to the range of recreation opportunities.

The following table provides a summary of the embellishment outcomes considered as the minimum level of development (or embellishment) for each park type. The information in this table should be considered as a summary only and should be further informed by any current or future planning park planning and design guidelines identified by Bathurst Regional Council documents.



Table 32 Minimum Level of Development (embellishments)

Park / Facility Type	Local Community Park	District Community Park	District Sport Park	Regional Parks And Specialist Sports Park/ Precinct	Linear/ Riparian-Dual Purpose Open Space	Natural Area Parks
Boundary fencing	Bollards to prevent car access are to be installed prior to dedication to Council.	Bollards to prevent car access are to be installed prior to dedication to Council.	Range of fencing/ boundary definition styles as appropriate to location. May also include chain wire to restrict access. Bollards separating vehicle manoeuvring and carpark areas from fields.	Fencing/ bollards to control access into site as well as limiting internal traffic access to field and facilities.	Boundary fencing/ bollards on road frontage	As needed at public access points.
Water taps Irrigation	Drinking taps/ fountains provided where active facilities are provided. Water connection to be provided prior to dedication to Council.	In ground irrigation. 2+ drinking fountains. Taps for picnic areas. Taps at active recreation nodes. Water connection to be provided prior to dedication to Council.	Irrigation of grass playing areas. Drinking fountains and taps provided	In ground irrigation. Taps located on built facilities and 1 per field.	Taps provided at Recreation nodes or trail heads. Water connection provided before dedication to Council.	Not normally provided. May be provided at some picnic areas and trail heads.
Toilets	Not generally provided	Usually Provided	Provided if not being provided as part of club facilities	Provided by clubs as part of facilities or public facilities provided if major event precinct	Not provided	Not usually provided. Possibly if park is major long stay destination
Bike/ pedestrian paths and facilities	Footpath providing access to boundary.	Paths and links to park and within park. Bike racks provided	Bikeway links to park. Internal links to facilities. Bike racks provided	Bikeway links to park. Internal links to facilities. Bike racks provided	Shared paths/ bikeways provided.	Walking tracks and board walks provided.
Playgrounds <sup>33</sup>	1-3 play events <sup>34</sup> provided	Large multiple play events provided.	Not provided except as part of recreation nodes.	Not provided except as part of recreation nodes.	Not provided	Not provided

<sup>33</sup> Playgrounds provided according to Council standard which includes soft fall and shade.

<sup>34</sup> Play event is defined as a single unit or structure that provides a play activity (e.g. a single swing = one play event or a single small climbing play structure is a single event)

Park / Facility Type	Local Community Park	District Community Park	District Sport Park	Regional Parks And Specialist Sports Park/ Precinct	Linear/ Riparian- Dual Purpose Open Space	Natural Area Parks
Features						
Power and lighting	Safety lighting provided by street lights	For carpark, toilets, youth space and picnic area. Provision for charging of mobility aids and electronic devices.	For carpark, toilets, security lighting for buildings. Field lighting responsibility of clubs. Provision for charging of mobility aids and electronic devices.	For carpark, toilets, security lighting for buildings. Field lighting responsibility of clubs. Provision for charging of mobility aids and electronic devices.	Lighting at road/ path entry points to bikeways	Not normally provided.
Youth facilities- Informal Active facilities	If the only park in a small community then a facility for older youth eg: half court or open area for kickabout should be provided.	Youth “active” facilities provided- ½ court, Bike tracks, youth space etc.	Not provided except as public access to sporting fields or as dedicated facility (e.g. skate park)	Not provided except as public access to sporting fields or as dedicated facility (e.g. skate park)	Not provided	Not provided
Active Recreation Elements	Pathways	Fitness stations, exercise equipment, activity spaces	Pathways and sporting facilities. Community access to fields and practice elements such as cricket nets	Pathways and sporting facilities. Community access to fields and practice elements such as cricket nets	Pathways	Trails
Sporting Fields/ Courts	NA	Informal space provided if space permits	Fields developed to playing standard.	Fields developed to playing standard.	n/a	n/a
Picnic tables, seats, BBQs	1- table, 2 + seats No BBQ normally provided	2+ tables 4+ seats BBQs usually provided. Sheltered tables.	Not provided except as recreation nodes. 2 perimeter seats per field.	Not provided except as recreation nodes. 2 perimeter seats per field.	Seats provided every 1000 metres, associated with paths.	Picnic facilities may be provided if park is a major destination and longer stay

Park / Facility Type	Local Community Park	District Community Park	District Sport Park	Regional Parks And Specialist Sports Park/ Precinct	Linear/ Riparian- Dual Purpose Open Space	Natural Area Parks
Features						
Shade	Shade from trees or structures provided for play events and picnic node. Advanced trees to be planted prior to dedication to Council.	Built shade for play and picnic facilities if natural shade unavailable	Perimeter shade for fields from trees.	Perimeter shade for fields from trees.	Shade planting as part of general landscape works along corridor.	n/a
Landscape works	Shade species. Buffer plantings with other use nodes. Planting and irrigation to trees and garden beds is to be completed prior to dedication to Council.	Enhancement plantings and shade plantings along with screening and buffers. Planting and irrigation to trees and garden beds is to be completed prior to dedication to Council.	Planted buffer areas adjacent to residential. Screening/buffer plantings for recreation	Planted buffer areas adjacent to residential. Screening/buffer plantings for recreation	Minor works at entry points and plantings as appropriate to constraints of corridor (eg. flooding)	Hardening of access points, regeneration and enhancement plantings.
Car parks and internal roads.	On street. Mainly a walk to park	Off- street parking provided unless sufficient on-street available	Off street parking provided as central hubs to facilities/ filed areas-linked by internal road network	Off street parking provided as central hubs to facilities/ filed areas-linked by internal road network	No dedicated parking.	Off street or on street parking at access points and use areas.
Special elements	Footpath kerbing and entry to park should allow for people with mobility challenges. Signage indicating access points and park name	Location and directional signage. Open areas for community events. Public art and expressions of local culture and heritage.	Location and directional signage.	Location and directional signage. Branding signage such as for Aquatic Centres.  For Memorial Parks large space for community gatherings and commemorations should be provided.	Directional signage.	Location, interpretive and directional signage and displays.

# 6 ASSESSMENT

## 6.1 Introduction

This section sets out:

- ❑ gaps in provision of community parks and land for active open space and sport
- ❑ opportunities to improve the quality of and access to drainage open space and natural areas
- ❑ opportunities for linkages and connections across more than one local planning area.
- ❑ the application of the spatial guidelines from Section 5 by the 12 Local Planning Areas in the Bathurst region.

## 6.2 Assessment of open space by local planning areas

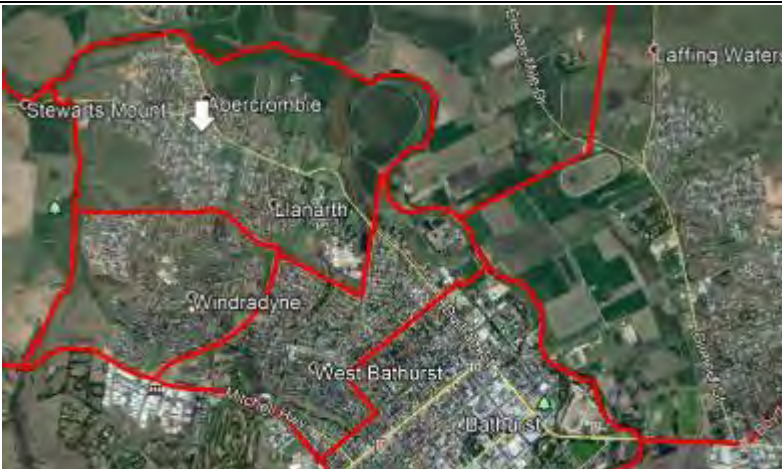
### 6.2.1 Introduction

The following section examines open space supply according to the following Local Planning Areas which have been defined based on the ABS small area boundaries and the Population forecasting boundaries identified by Profile ID.:

1. Abercrombie - Llanarth
2. Bathurst City
3. Eglinton
4. Kelso North and Laffing Waters
5. Kelso South
6. Mitchell – Robin Hill – Mt Panorama
7. Perthville
8. Raglan
9. South Bathurst
10. West Bathurst
11. Windradyne
12. Rural Remainder.



## 6.2.2 Abercrombie – Llanarth

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Abercrombie</b> <b>-Llanarth</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> Population 2036: Population Growth:	3,411 5,202 1,791 (52%)				
<b>Current supply of open space</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	13.57 ha	0 ha	0 ha	<b>13.57 ha</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		0	0	<b>0 ha</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0 ha	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	15.64 ha	<b>41.79 ha</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	14.89 ha	<b>Other</b>	11.26	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large areas of Dual Purpose as undeveloped open space</li> <li>- Riverside park main destination</li> <li>- High use of internal reserve (poor road frontage)</li> <li>- Freeman Park embellishments will improve access to developed parkland</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b> <u>Median supply levels</u> <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>35</sup> 3.58 ha/1000 <u>Proposed Provision Standard</u> 3 ha/1000 Local and District Community Park (access within 400 m safe walking) 1.5 ha/1000 Sporting Parks	<b>Broad provision ha/1,000 (2016)</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 3.98 ha/1,000 people Sport: 0 (including regional facilities)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	Access to community parks for about 80% of residences within 400 m walking distance. However very limited development of some locations, such as the western end of Howarth Close has no access within 500 metres.			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Limited range of opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trail and path based</li> <li>- Local play</li> <li>- River side parkland</li> <li>- Some active informal spaces</li> </ul>			
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Embellishment of local parks inconsistent and at basic level with exception for Rankens Bridge and future Freemans Park.			

<sup>35</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

	<b>Other quality issues</b>	Poor levels of road frontage to parks and dual purpose open space.
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undeveloped land (OP091)<sup>36</sup> has potential as park and possibly some active recreation</li> <li>2. Further enhancement of riverside parks (O'Keefe and Rankens Bridge) as district level and destination parks linked to regional path network</li> <li>3. Development of Freeman Park as a District Park</li> <li>4. Informal sports fields in detention basin adjacent to Eglinton Road (PK00193).</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	No specific requests	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 2.61 ha/1,000 people  <b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: 0 ha/1,000 people (including regional facilities)  <b>NO SUPPLY</b></p>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	<p>Demand from an additional 1,791 persons will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional embellishment to create more diversity and improved access to opportunities</li> <li>- Development of new parks in the western section</li> <li>- Provision of active recreation and sport. For this planning area and Eglinton there will be insufficient sporting land supplied. Additional land for active recreation and sport to service both Abercrombie-Llanarth and Eglinton should be considered.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to enhance the riverside parklands as district level parks with play, picnic and active facilities.</li> <li>2. Consider a new community park within the western growth area of at least 1 hectare, with frontage to Evernden Road.</li> <li>3. Provide a community park of at least 1 hectare to service future residential areas on the western boundary.</li> <li>4. Ensure all new parks or dual purpose open space have at least 50% road frontage.</li> <li>5. Develop informal/ training only fields in the detention basin adjacent to Eglinton Road.</li> <li>6. Acquire a corridor along the western side of Sawpit Creek (Windradyne and Llanarth) when the land is developed for residential purposes.</li> <li>7. Implement the Freeman Park Master Plan.</li> </ol>	

<sup>36</sup> This site forms part of a future Council development site. The land is identified in Council's Development Control Plan as open space.

Figure 17 Access to Community Parks within 400 metres in Abercrombie-Llanarth

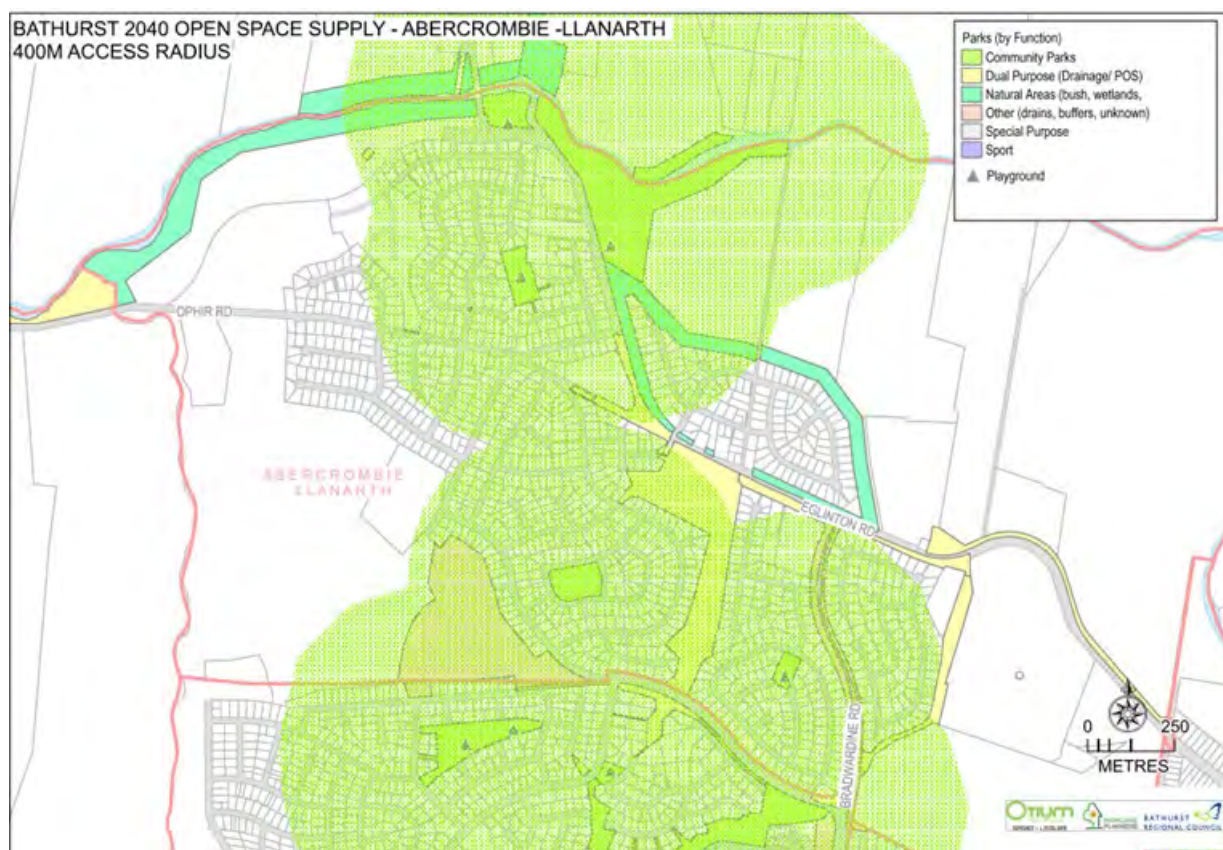


Figure 18 Access to any Open Space within 400 metres in Abercrombie-Llanarth

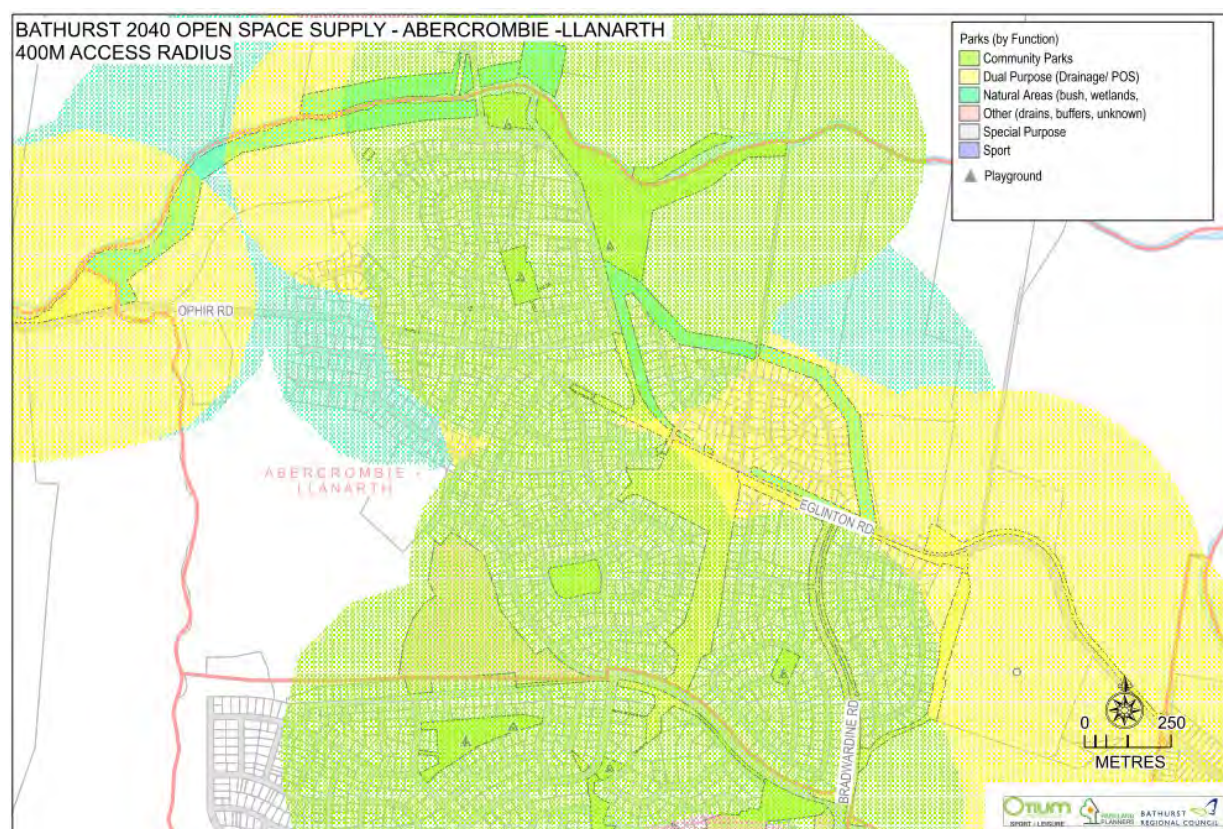
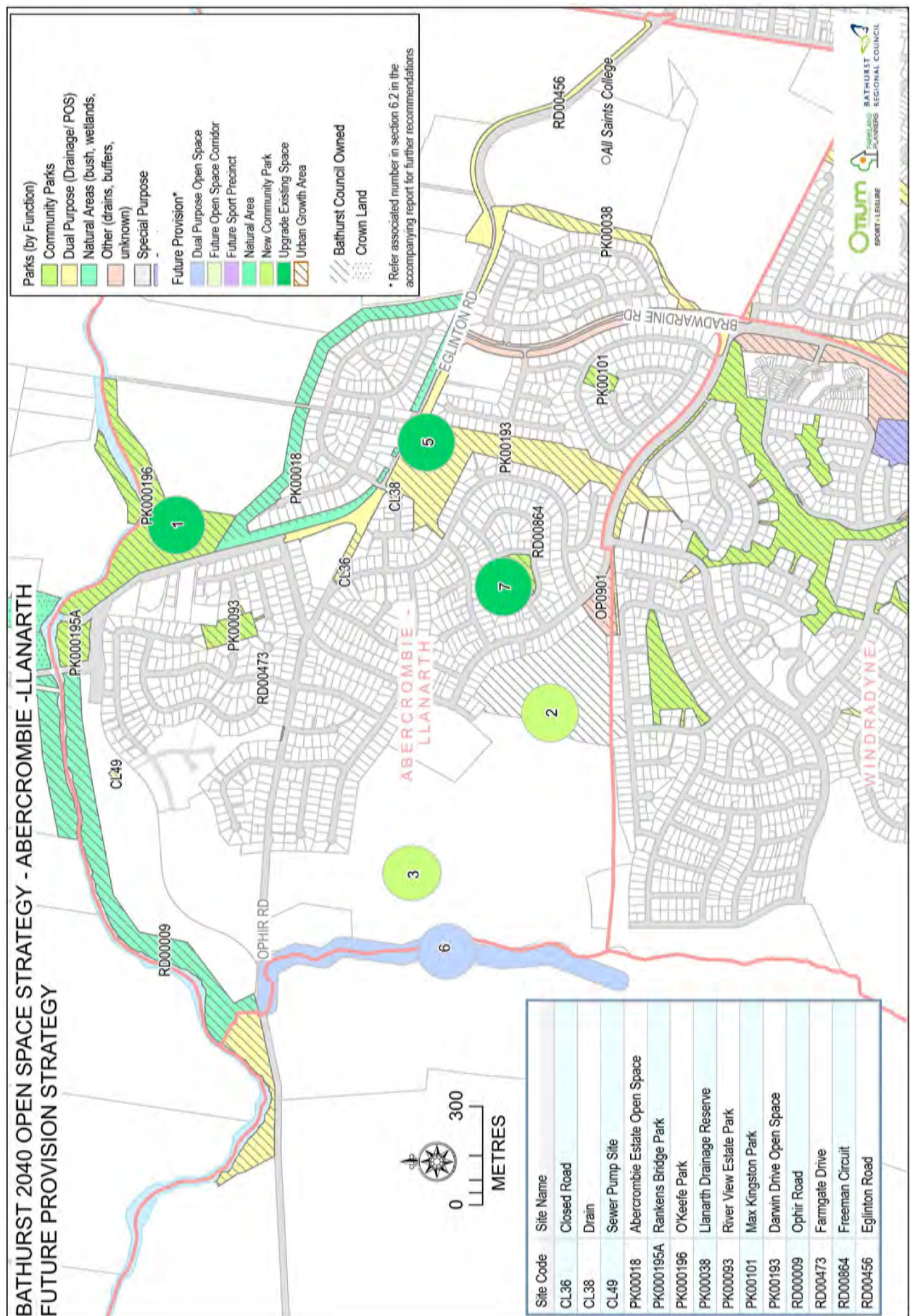
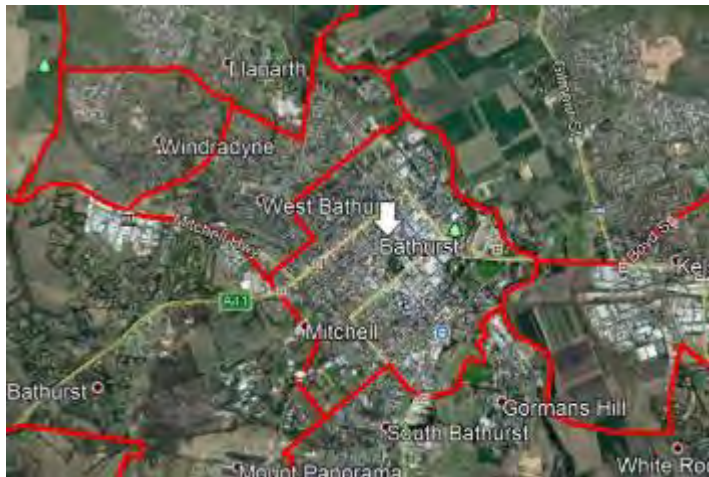


Figure 19 Recommendations for Abercrombie-Llanarth



## 6.2.3 Bathurst

Planning Area: <b>Bathurst</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> Population 2036: Population Growth:	7,140 8,329 1,189 (17%)				
<b>Current supply of open space</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	7.56 ha	6.45 ha	15 ha	<b>29.01 ha</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		30.48	10.42	<b>40.9 ha</b>
	<b>Special</b>	16.24 ha	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	8.12 ha	<b>25.96 ha</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	0	<b>Other</b>	1.6	
	<b>Comments</b>	Regional Parks: Machattie Park, King's Parade, Victoria Park, Macquarie River Bicentennial Park, Centennial Park  Sport facilities: Aquatic Centre, Bathurst Sports Ground, John Mathews Complex  Special Purpose: Bathurst Showground			
<b>Planning and Provision</b>  Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>37</sup> 3.58 ha/1000 <u>Proposed Provision Standard</u> 3 Ha/1000 Local and District Community Park (access within 400 m safe walking) 1.5 ha/1000 Sporting Parks	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local & District Community Parks: 1.96 Sport: 5.73 (including regional facilities)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	High rate of access with most residences within 400 m walking of community parks or sporting grounds and nearly 100% within 500 metres.			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Diverse range of opportunities : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Trail and path based</li><li>- Local and regional play</li><li>- High quality parkland settings (destination parks)</li><li>- Field sport, greens, aquatics, indoor sport</li><li>- River side parkland</li><li>- Dog off-leash areas</li><li>- Active space</li></ul>			
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Embellishment standards high due to predominance of regional and destination parks.			
	<b>Other quality issues</b>	Good road frontage to most parks, highly visible and accessible.			

<sup>37</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further expansion and enhancement of the river corridor and linkage to Brick Pits and pedestrian/bike links across river</li> <li>- Investigate possible use of levee banks for trail/ walking loop</li> <li>- Increased use of margins around sporting areas for general recreation</li> <li>- Ensure the zoning in the Local Environmental Plan permits continued use of Loco Oval and Switchyard Park (Railways) for recreation and sport.</li> </ul>
<b>Requests from the community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve the athletics facility at Alan Morse Park</li> <li>- Landscape and embellish Centennial Park for recreation for everyone</li> <li>- More picnic tables in Machattie Park (Implemented 2018/19)</li> <li>- Repair the walkway along the river (Completed mid -2018)</li> <li>- Link the river to Eglinton, Perthville and Raglan</li> <li>- Peace Park: fence the playground, shade, sheltered picnic tables, toilets</li> </ul> <p>Proctor Park: improve field quality, seating and change rooms. Current work delivering 3 redeveloped fields, formal carpark (320 spaces), new change facilities, additional land acquired to develop additional fields in the future.</p>
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 1.68 ha/1,000 people  <b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: 4.91 ha/1,000 people (including regional facilities)  <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p>
<b>Future planning needs</b>	Demand from an additional 1,189 persons can be accommodated within existing supply.
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Long term strategic planning for the Macquarie River corridor to become a major regional open space corridor with public access, pathways and recreation nodes from Gorman's Hill to Abercrombie-Eglinton.</li> <li>2. Short- to medium term master planning for the eastern side of the river corridor to link multiple areas of public open space and provide links and informal recreation use.</li> <li>3. Develop an extended running/walking/cycling path network along the river and levee banks.</li> <li>4. Implement the Centennial Park Master Plan.</li> <li>5. Continue to develop Victoria Park (the Adventure Playground). Stage 2 works are proposed in the 2019/20 budget.</li> <li>6. Retain all existing open space within the Bathurst Planning Area, acknowledging that it is difficult to acquire additional open space into the future.</li> </ol>

Figure 20 Access to Community Parks within 400 metres in Bathurst

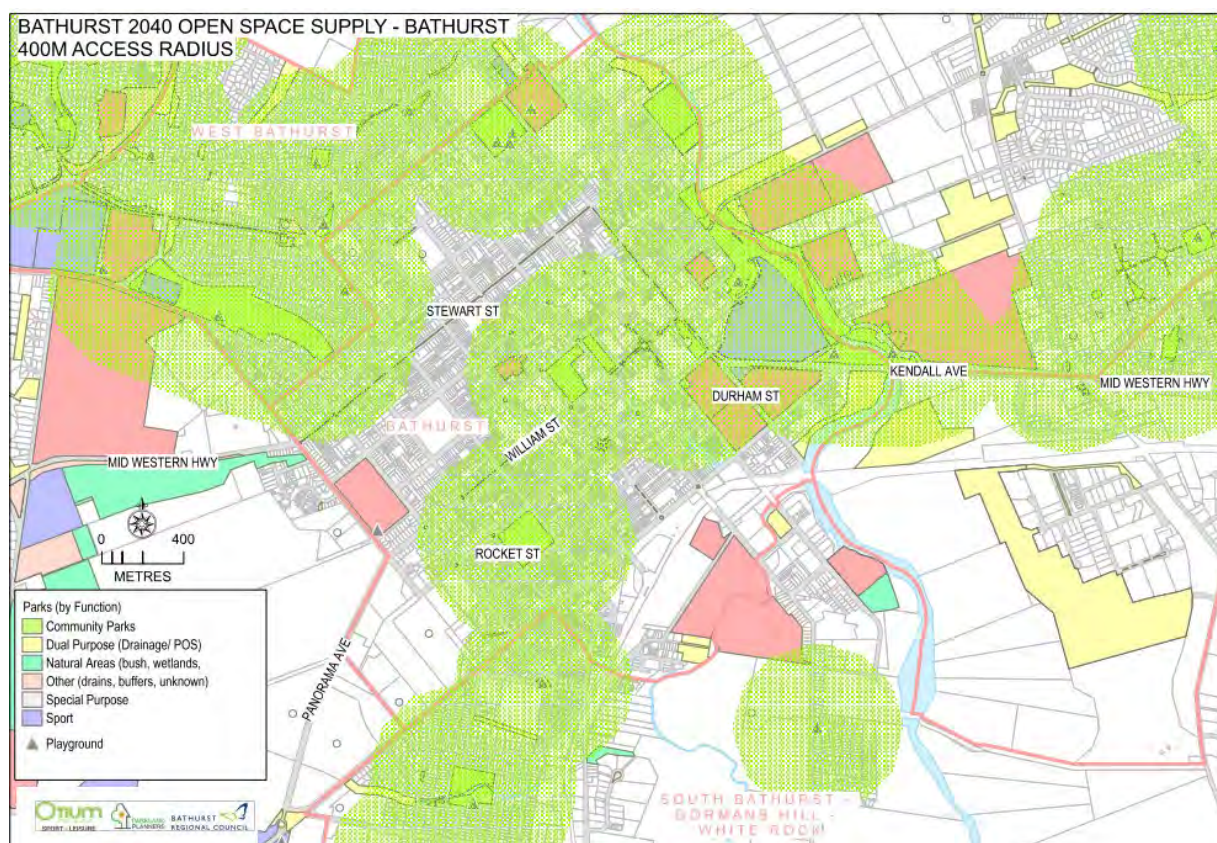


Figure 21 Access to any Open Space within 400 metres in Bathurst

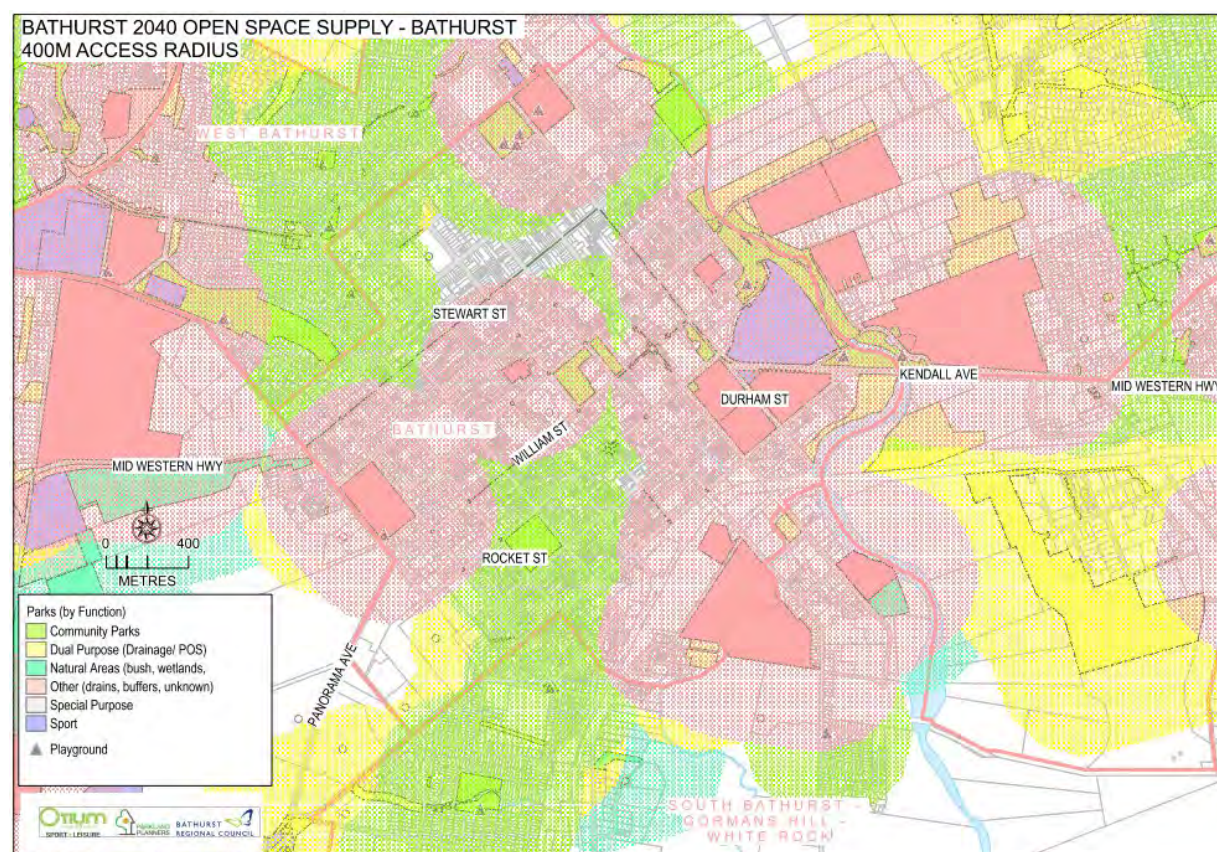
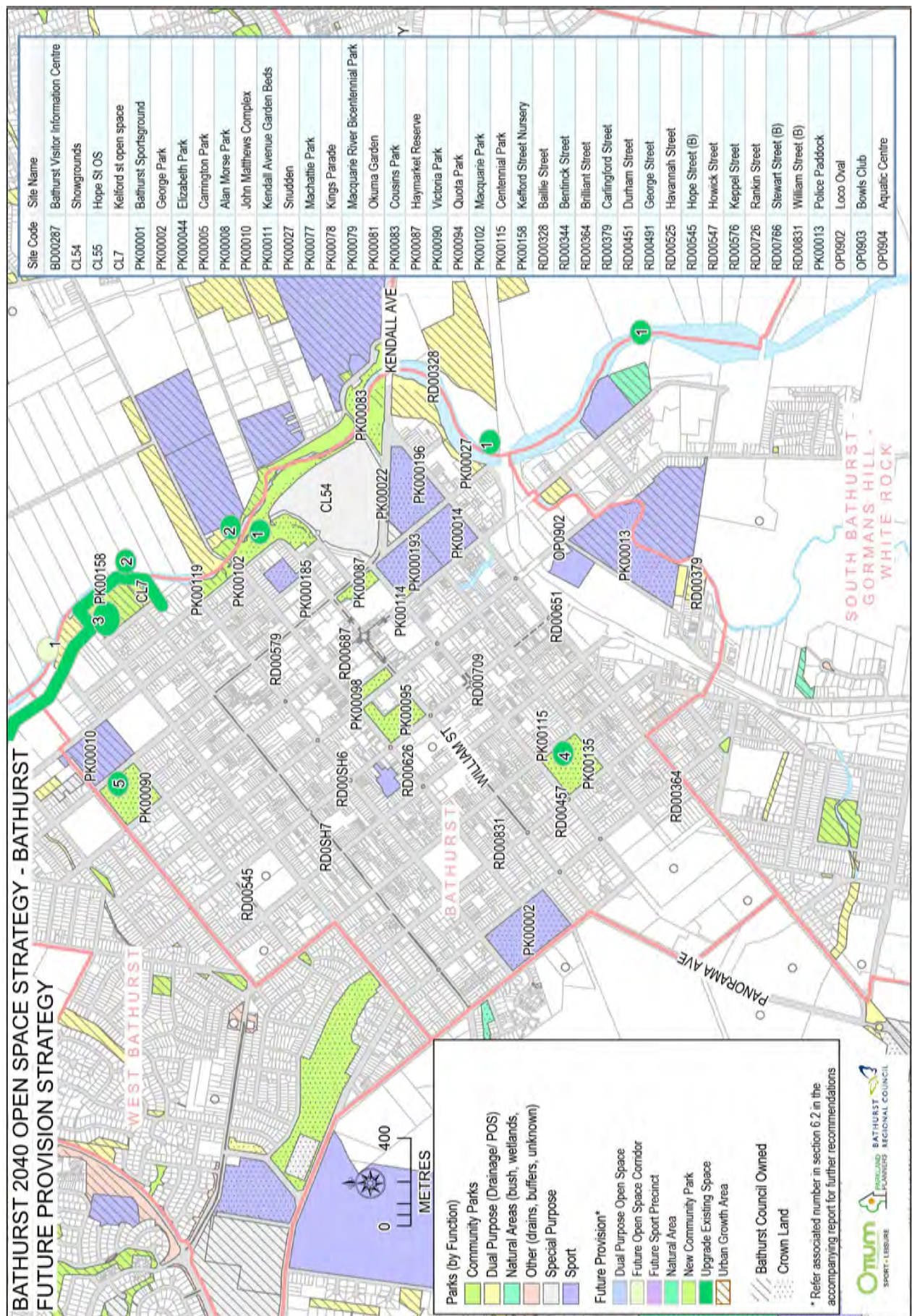
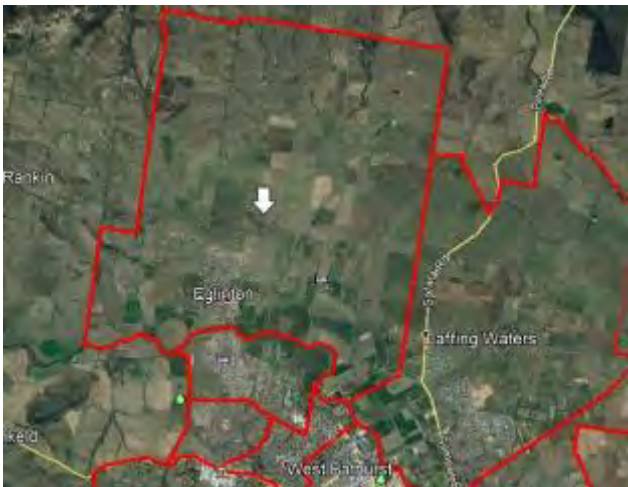


Figure 22 Recommendations for Bathurst



## 6.2.4 Eglinton

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Eglinton</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Growth:</b>	2,291 3,788 1,497 (65%)				
<b>Current supply of open space</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	0 ha	0 ha	0 ha	<b>0 ha</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		8.47 ha	0	<b>8.47 ha</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0 ha	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	7.37 ha	<b>15.05 ha</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	7.5 ha	<b>Other</b>	0.18	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Parkland provided as part of mixed use sport and parks precinct (Eglinton Oval /Cubis Park)</li> <li>- Riverside open space included in nature - mostly undeveloped for parkland use</li> <li>- Most other open space is dual purpose and developed with paths only, but PK0296 has good road frontage and potential.</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b> Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (L&amp;D)</b> 2.6 Ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>38</sup> 3.58 ha/1000	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local & District Community Parks: no stand-alone - combined provision with sport Sport: 3.7 (including regional facilities)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to Eglinton Oval-Cubis Park is within 400 metres for 50% of residences.</li> <li>- Dual use and Nature Open Space provide for most of the remainder with an area in the northwest (Willott Close) with no park access within 500 metres.</li> <li>- Only 50% of homes have access to local play within 400 metres.</li> </ul>			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sporting fields and courts</li> <li>- Trail and path based</li> <li>- Local play only provided in Cubis Park</li> </ul>			

<sup>38</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

		- Riverside open space including natural riparian.
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Cubis Park/ Eglinton Oval well developed and provide district level park facilities.  Other dual purpose open space not embellished for park use except for pathway.
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	n/a
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opportunity to develop an open space and park corridor along Saltram Creek which could link from the river to the dual purpose open space on Saltram Circuit (and other existing public open space).</li> <li>2. Further enhancement of riverside open space at the end of Hobson Close and adjacent to the bridge.</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	<p>Eglinton Oval: manage overuse, balance rugby league and soccer use.</p> <p>Rankins Bridge Reserve: shaded seats, toilets, more exercise equipment</p>	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 0 ha/1,000 people</p> <p><b>BELOW RECOMMENDED – Note: community park opportunities are provided within the mixed use area at Cubis Park/ Eglinton Oval, and at the Rankens Bridge park. If a combined outcome of 4.5 hectares/1,000 people for community and sporting park was tested then provision is around half that recommended.</b></p> <p>Sport: 2.23 ha/1,000 people (including regional facilities)</p> <p><b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	<p>Demand from an additional 1,497 persons will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- additional embellishment of Saltram Circuit open space with local play diversity and improved access to opportunities</li> <li>- development of new local park and play space in the Willow Close area.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider a longer term strategy to create an open space and park corridor along Saltram Creek linking the river to the Saltram Circuit open space.</li> <li>2. Provide for local play in the Saltram Crescent open space and in the proposed new park mentioned in (1) above.</li> <li>3. Plan in the longer term for additional investment in the riverside open space to create a new picnic and nature focused play area. Development should be complementary to the Ranken's Bridge/O'Keefe Parks on the opposite bank.</li> <li>4. Explore opportunities for active recreation within the land use buffers on the northern, eastern and western sides of the village.</li> <li>5. Develop an additional sports precinct of a minimum of 5 hectares on the western boundary of the village, inclusive of local play.</li> <li>6. Explore opportunities for cycle paths and tree planting in the open space surrounding the village.</li> </ol>	

Figure 23 Access to Community Parks within 400 metres in Eglinton



Figure 24 Access to any Open Space within 400 metres in Eglinton

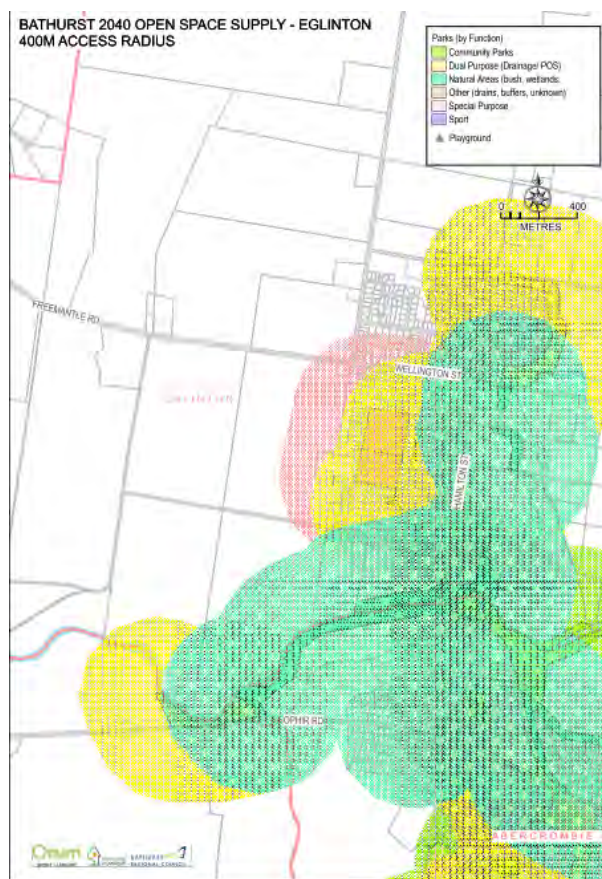


Figure 25 Proposed open space in Eglinton

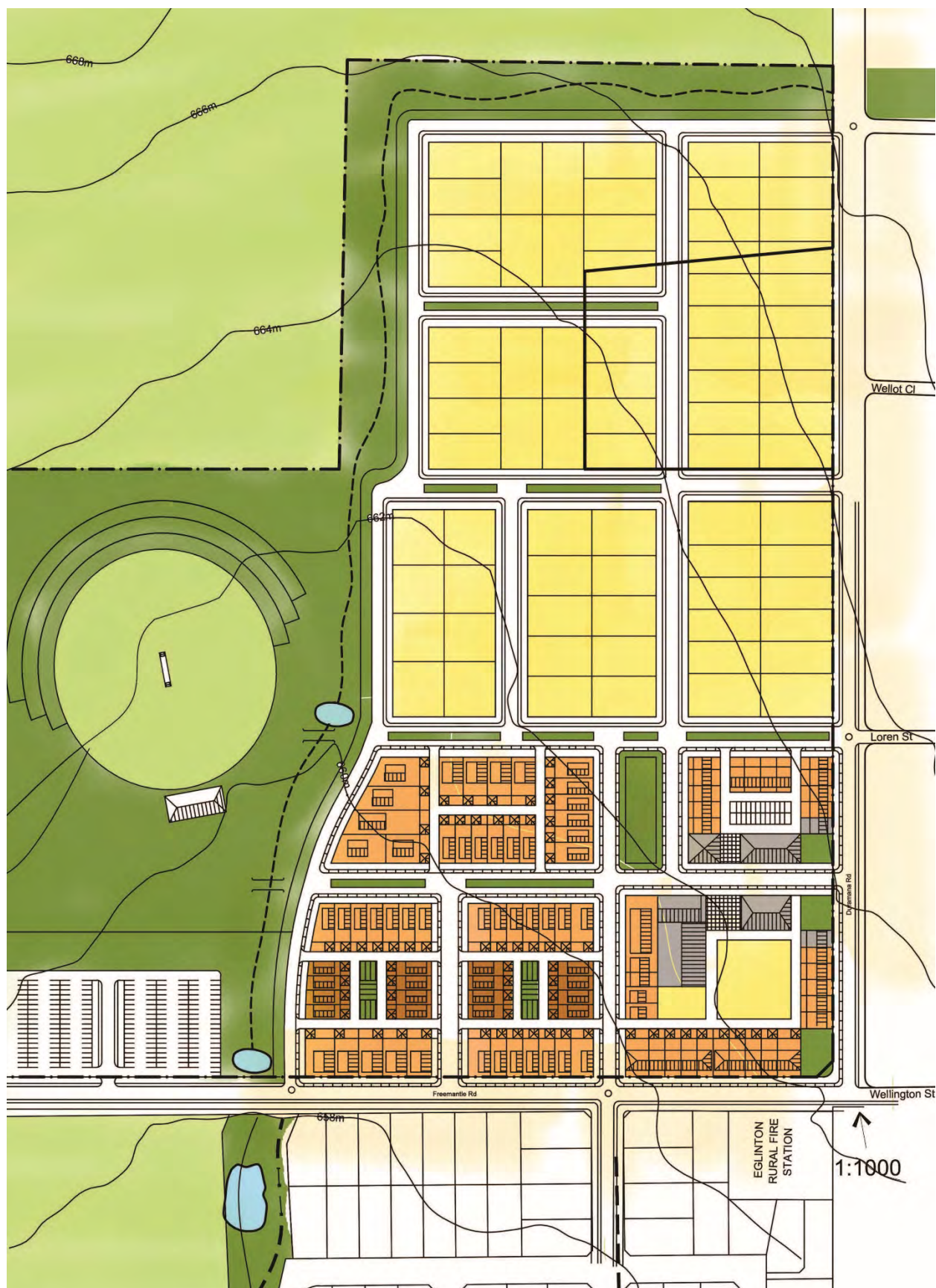
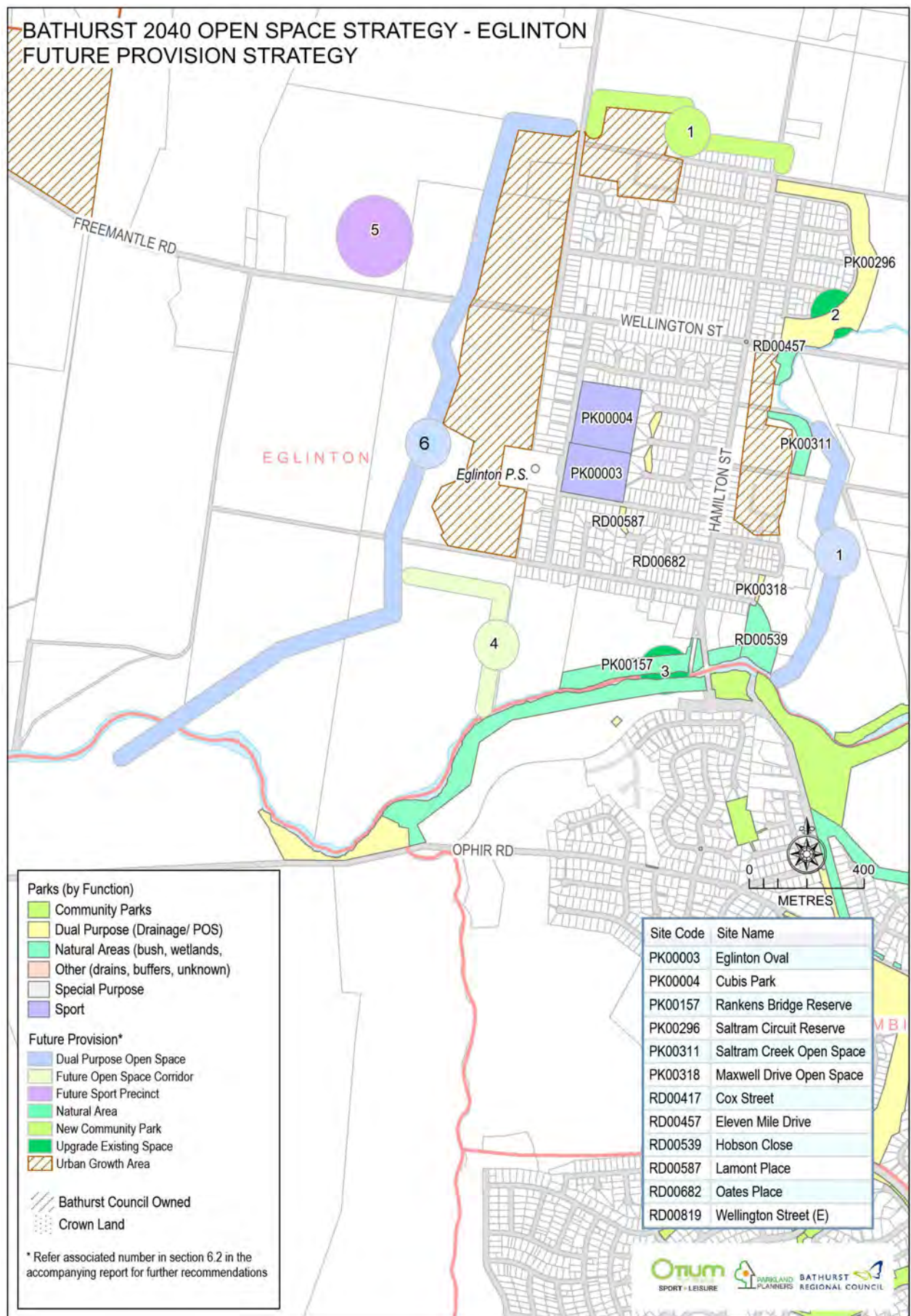
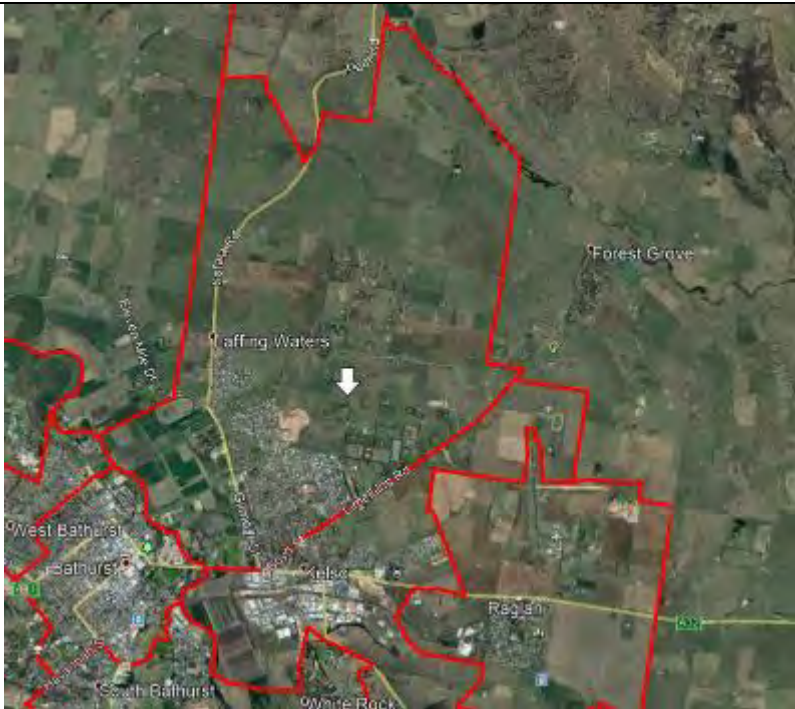


Figure 26 Recommendations for Eglinton



## 6.2.5 Kelso North- Laffing Waters

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Kelso North- Laffing Waters</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Population Growth:</b>	6,675 9,357 2,682 (40%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total (ha)</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	2.52	7.92	0	<b>10.44</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		13.18	39.91	<b>53.09</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	40.43	<b>199.77</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	0	<b>Other</b>	1.61	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes regional sport Learmonth Park (30.2 ha)</li> <li>- Only district open space is riverside parklands</li> <li>- Most of area is only serviced by dual purpose open space. Some areas are larger but have poor road frontage/access.</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b> Median supply levels  <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>39</sup> 3.58 ha/1000 Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 1.56 ( <i>significantly lower than proposed provision rate and Bathurst median</i> ) Sport: 7.95 (including regional facilities)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to developed local or district community park very poor to less than 50% of homes.</li> <li>- Access to local play as above.</li> <li>- Generally all residences have access to dual purpose open space within 400m. This is mostly undeveloped primary drainage land with poor road frontage/visibility.</li> <li>- Gilmour Street acting as barrier to open space access for residential area to east.</li> </ul>			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sporting fields</li> <li>- Trail and path based- short links and river corridor</li> </ul>			

<sup>39</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

<b>Proposed Provision Standard</b> 3 Ha/1000 Local and District Community Park (access within 400 m safe walking) 1.5 ha/1000 Sporting Parks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local play - limited</li> <li>- District/ regional parklands along river</li> </ul>
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Levels of embellishment are generally poor with a number of dual purpose open space areas not developed in any significant way to provide community park.
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	High proportion of drainage / dual purpose open space and low levels of road frontage for parks and dual open space makes improving provision a challenge.
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A number of dual purpose sites in the north (Mendel, Coates, Keen Drive) could be developed to create a linked local park opportunity.</li> <li>2. Possible future use of undeveloped parcel (CL14) should include a district level park with destination playground.</li> <li>3. Improve bikeway/ active transport links to the river- possibly along Hereford Street and to the future Laffing Waters Neighbourhood Activity Centre.</li> <li>4. Increase community access to/use of school fields.</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Berry Park: innovative sports court spaces for football</li> <li>- Jarrah Park: shade over play equipment and seating, more tables and seats</li> </ul>	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 1.11 ha/1,000 people <b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b> Sport: 5.67 ha/1,000 people (including regional facilities) <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	Demand from an additional 2,682 persons will require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least two new community parks with minimum 50% street frontage and land that is fit for purpose.</li> <li>- Embellishment of a limited number of dual purpose open space areas where they provide the best opportunity to provide for outdoor recreation.</li> <li>- Provision of active open space and active recreation for youth.</li> <li>- Additional sporting space.</li> </ul> To address existing under-provision issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Embellish existing open space to provide new play/park nodes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement proposals for open space shown on the Laffing Waters Master Plan.</li> <li>2. Consider developing a local community park including play and active space in the four sites around Coates Drive.</li> <li>3. Develop two new local parks of at least 0.5 hectares (preferably 1 hectare) as part of the Laffing Waters Master Plan as development progresses.</li> <li>4. Provide one new district level community park of 2+ hectares using part of the existing sports area and other open space.</li> <li>5. Provide active transport links to the river and to larger community parks and the future Neighbourhood Activity Centre at Laffing Waters.</li> <li>6. Develop a large multi use district park and sports field north of Marsden Lane (5 hectares) as part of the Laffing Waters Master Plan.</li> <li>7. Explore opportunities for cycle paths and tree planting in the open space between the rural and residential land.</li> </ol>	

Figure 27 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in Kelso North-Laffing Waters

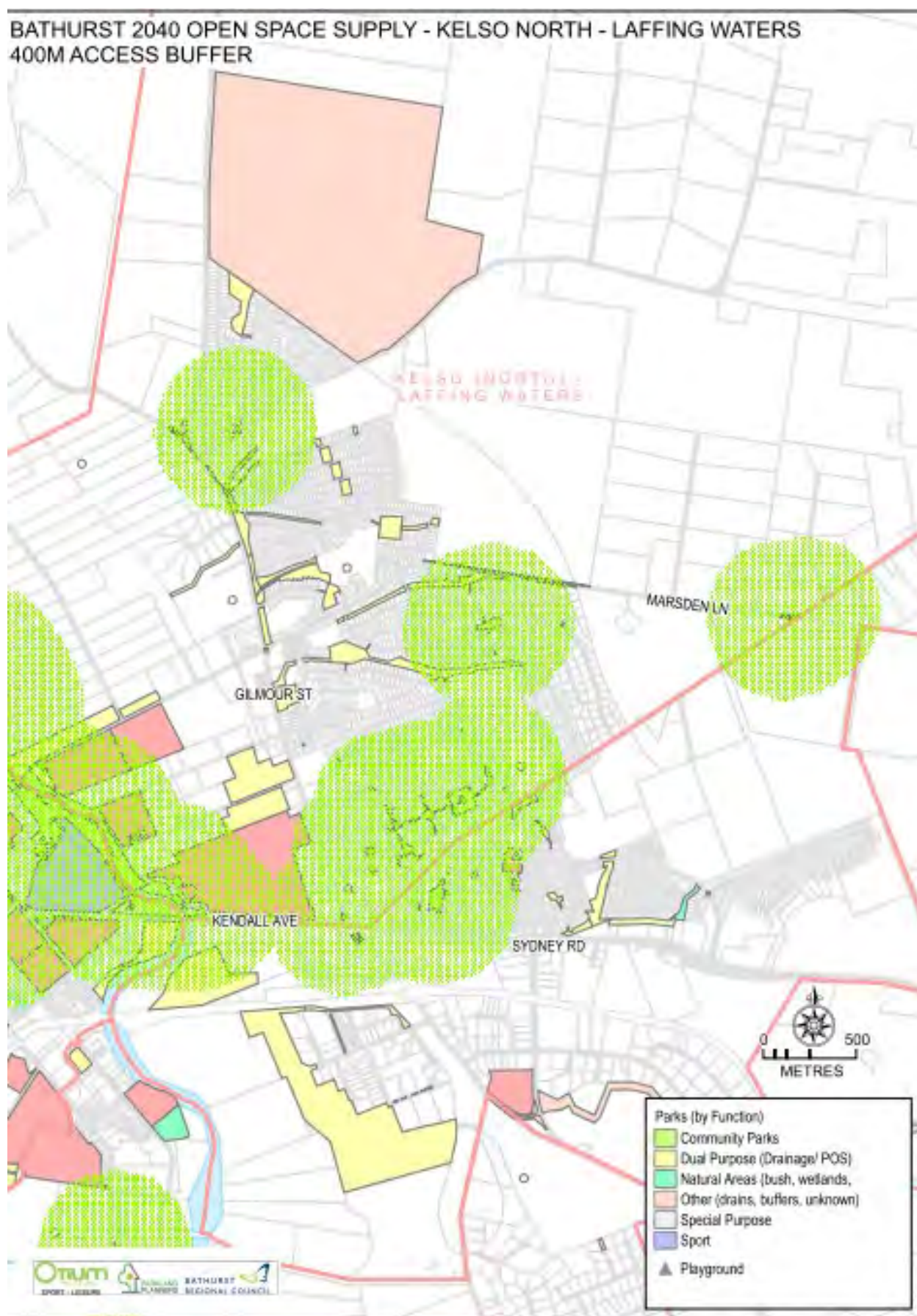
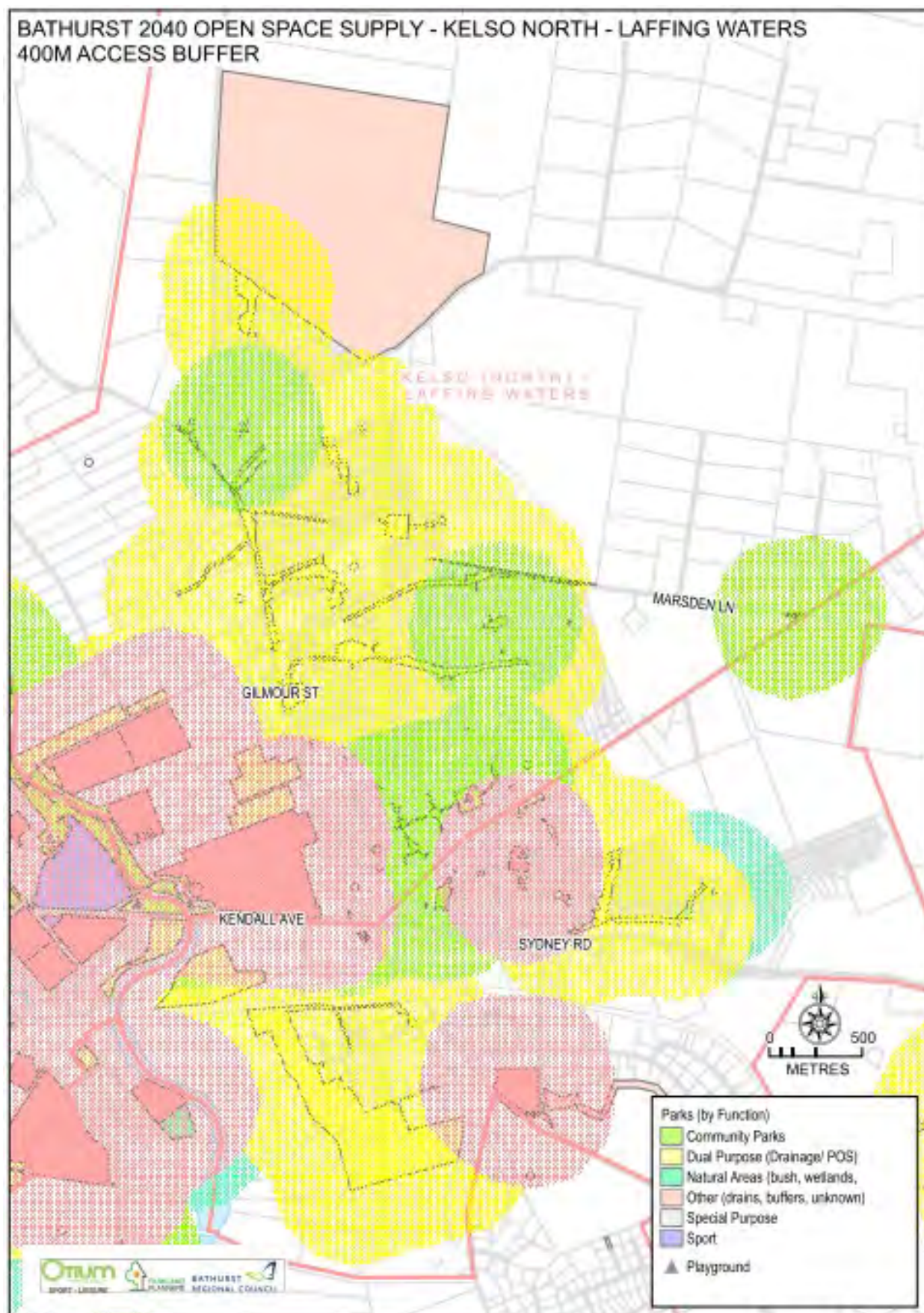


Figure 28 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in Kelso North-Laffing Waters



**LEGEND**

- Boundary - Title 1
- Passive Open Space
- Active Open Space
- Drainage Reserve
- Retarding Basin
- Local Town Centre
- Future School
- Future Medium Density (Superlot)
- Future Conventional Density (Superlot)
- Future Low Density (Superlot)
- Shared Path
- 1m Contours
- 25m Collector Road
- Main street
- 20m Key Local Access Street
- Ecrates Place - short / medium term formal entry

**DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS**

Core Area	
TOTAL SITE AREA	159,895 ha <sup>2</sup> % TSA % NDA
EDUCATION	
Government Schools	1,003 ha 0.63% 1.48%
SUB-TOTAL	1,003 ha 0.63% 1.48%
OPEN SPACE	
DRIVE OPEN SPACE (UNDEVELOPED)	
Drainage (Low / Drainage Line / Retarding / Retarding)	14,484 ha 9.06% 11.75%
SUB-TOTAL	14,484 ha 9.06% 11.75%
CREDITED OPEN SPACE (UNDEVELOPED)	
Active Open Space	5,964 ha 3.73% 7.72%
Passive Open Space	10,502 ha 6.57% 8.19%
SUB-TOTAL	16,466 ha 10.30% 15.94%
TOTAL OPEN SPACE	30,950 ha 19.36% 27.69%
Net Developable Area (NDA) ha	128,945 ha 77.11%

**NET DEVELOPABLE AREA (NDA)**

DESCRIPTION	Area (ha)	% of TSA	% of NDA
RETAIL, EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER			
Local Centre / Commercial / Mixed Use	3,900 ha 2.44% 4.04%		
SUB-TOTAL	3,900 ha 2.44% 4.04%		
NET RESIDENTIAL AREA (NDA) ha	115,045 ha 72.66%		
RESIDENTIAL			
Low Density (Including Medium Density)	12,794 ha 8.00% 10.96%		
SUB-TOTAL	12,794 ha 8.00% 10.96%		
RESIDENTIAL			
Residential - Low Density Residential	26,015 ha 16.30% 20.51%		
Residential - Conventional Density	10,308 ha 6.45% 8.07%		
Residential - Medium Density	14,484 ha 9.06% 11.75%		
SUB-TOTAL	50,807 ha 31.81% 40.33%		

**RESIDENTIAL LOT MIX**

DESCRIPTION	Dwellings	% Dwellings
10m x 20m (Low Density Superlot)	140	12.27%
10m x 20m (Medium Density Superlot)	96	8.48%
10m x 20m (High Density Superlot)	17	1.51%
10m x 20m (Low Density Superlot)	99	8.74%
10m x 20m (Medium Density Superlot)	181	16.04%
10m x 20m (High Density Superlot)	171	15.24%
10m x 20m (Low Density Superlot)	140	12.27%
10m x 20m (Medium Density Superlot)	99	8.74%
10m x 20m (High Density Superlot)	181	16.04%
10m x 20m (Low Density Superlot)	140	12.27%
10m x 20m (Medium Density Superlot)	99	8.74%
10m x 20m (High Density Superlot)	181	16.04%
10m x 20m (Low Density Superlot)	140	12.27%
10m x 20m (Medium Density Superlot)	99	8.74%
10m x 20m (High Density Superlot)	181	16.04%
TOTAL	1,148	100.00%
AVERAGE LOT SIZE (m <sup>2</sup> )	579	
RESIDENTIAL DENSITY (YIELD / NDA)	18	40.33%

**SCALE 1:5000 @ A1**

**DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

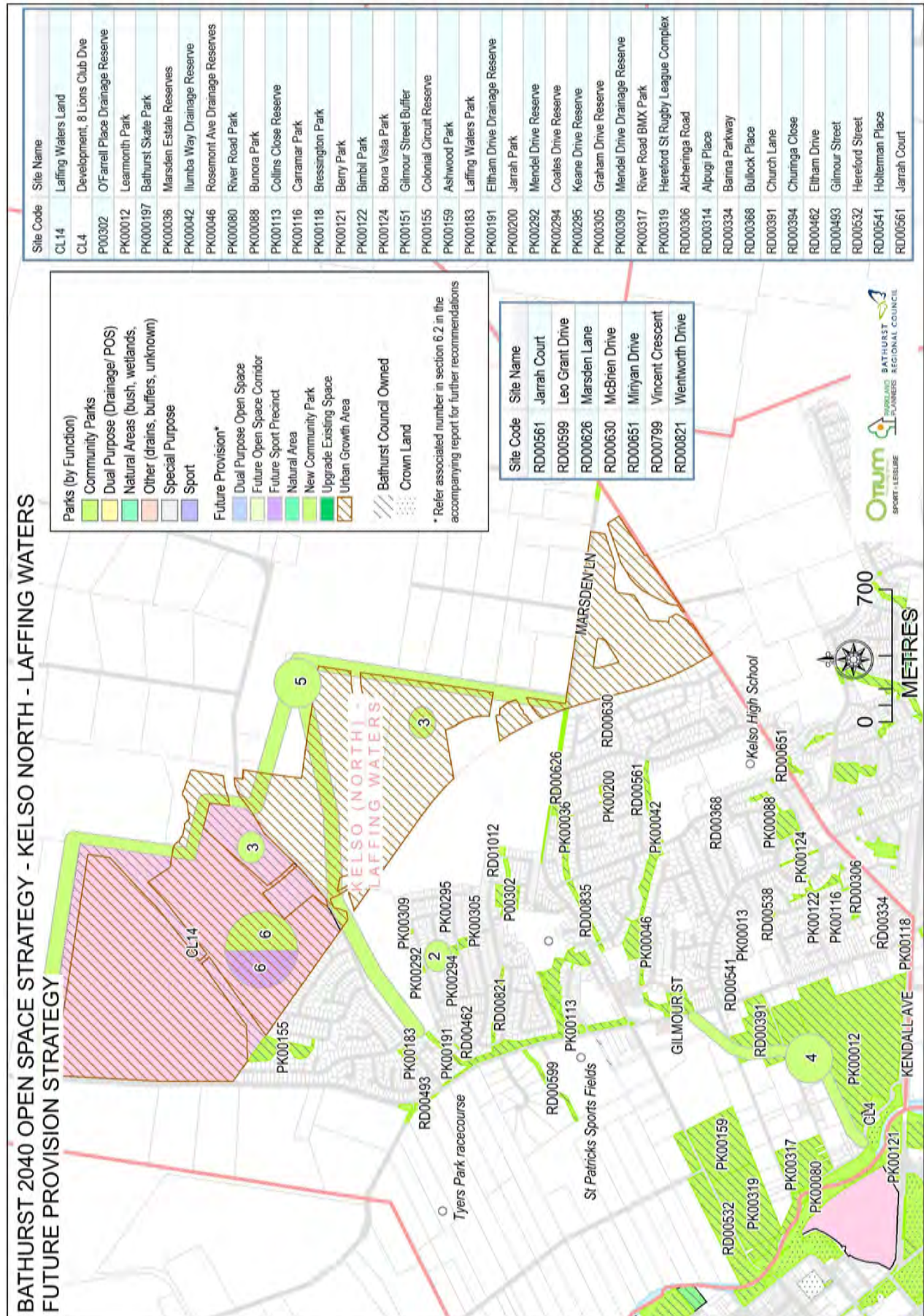
**LAFFING WATERS MASTER PLAN**

**PROJECION: NAD 83 UTM 18Q UTM 18Q UTM 18Q**


**REV 03 DATE 25.03.2019**

**Tract**

Figure 30 Recommendations for Kelso North-Laffing Waters



## 6.2.6 Kelso South

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Kelso South</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Population Growth:</b>	2,622 3,095 473 (18%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	0.89	0	0	<b>0.89</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		6.21	0	<b>6.21</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	49.56	<b>58.67</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	0.64	<b>Other</b>	8.47	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A large part of the planning area is industrial and commercial. Residential is north of Sydney Road which is a major barrier.</li> <li>- Main developed park is Kelso Community Hub in Bonnor Street (1.58 ha) which has a sports field, community building and play function.</li> <li>- Only other sport area is Alec Lamberton Field which is currently not used or leased.</li> <li>- Dual purpose includes a large (33.9 ha) site on Toronto Street which is adjacent to industrial uses.</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b> Median supply levels <b>Community parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 Ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>40</sup> 3.58 ha/1000	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 0.34. Local play provided at Kelso Community Hub and Kaberra Boulevard. Sport: 2.37 (including Alec Lamberton Field not in use. Without this park provision drops to 0.6 ha/1000)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to developed community park and local play very poor - less than 50%. Only two locations developed (Bonnor Street and Kaberra Boulevard).</li> </ul>			

<sup>40</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher density between Boyd, View and Sydney Road is not well serviced with developed community park, but has an internal reserve that could be developed.</li> <li>- Generally all residences have access to dual purpose open space within 400m but this is mostly undeveloped primary drainage land with poor road frontage and visibility.</li> <li>- Sydney Road and rail corridor is a major barrier to active transport links to open space and sport south of these.</li> </ul>
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal field and 1 court</li> <li>- 1 developed park area</li> <li>- Some short paths. No link to longer path/trail networks</li> </ul>
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Levels of embellishment are poor, with much of the dual purpose open space in the residential area unsuitable for recreation. Only one park is developed.
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	Limited provision of any open space suitable for recreation. Mostly dominated by narrow drainage corridors.
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further development/ enhancement of Bell Park to provide for nearby residents.</li> <li>2. Reopen Alec Lamberton Field for sport and recreation. Consider an active play park as a district park.</li> <li>3. Acquire additional land for district and local park.</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	Alec Lamberton Field: variety of suggestions including nature habitat/trail, plantings, seating, walk/exercise area, tourist rest area and existing demands for more sporting precincts.	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 0.29 ha/1,000 people <b>SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW MINIMUM SUPPLY</b> Sport: 0.77 ha/1,000 people <b>BELOW- APPROXIMATELY 50% OF MINIMUM SUPPLY</b>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	Demand from an additional 473 persons should combine with the existing deficits and drive acquisition and development of new parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New parks with minimum 50% street frontage and land that is fit for purpose.</li> <li>- A district park central to the main residential area with sufficient space for an informal field and other active opportunities (minimum 3 hectares)</li> <li>- A local park to serve Emerald Drive residents.</li> <li>- Additional active recreation opportunities and active transport linkage to the Learmonth Park and river corridor.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquire additional land for a district park (minimum 3 hectares) and a new local park (minimum 0.5 hectares). Ensure land is fit for purpose and has minimum 50% road frontage.</li> <li>2. Encourage Housing NSW to improve Bell Park to minimum standard for local community park.</li> <li>3. Explore opportunities for cycle paths and tree planting in the open space between the rural and residential land.</li> </ol>	

Figure 31 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in Kelso South

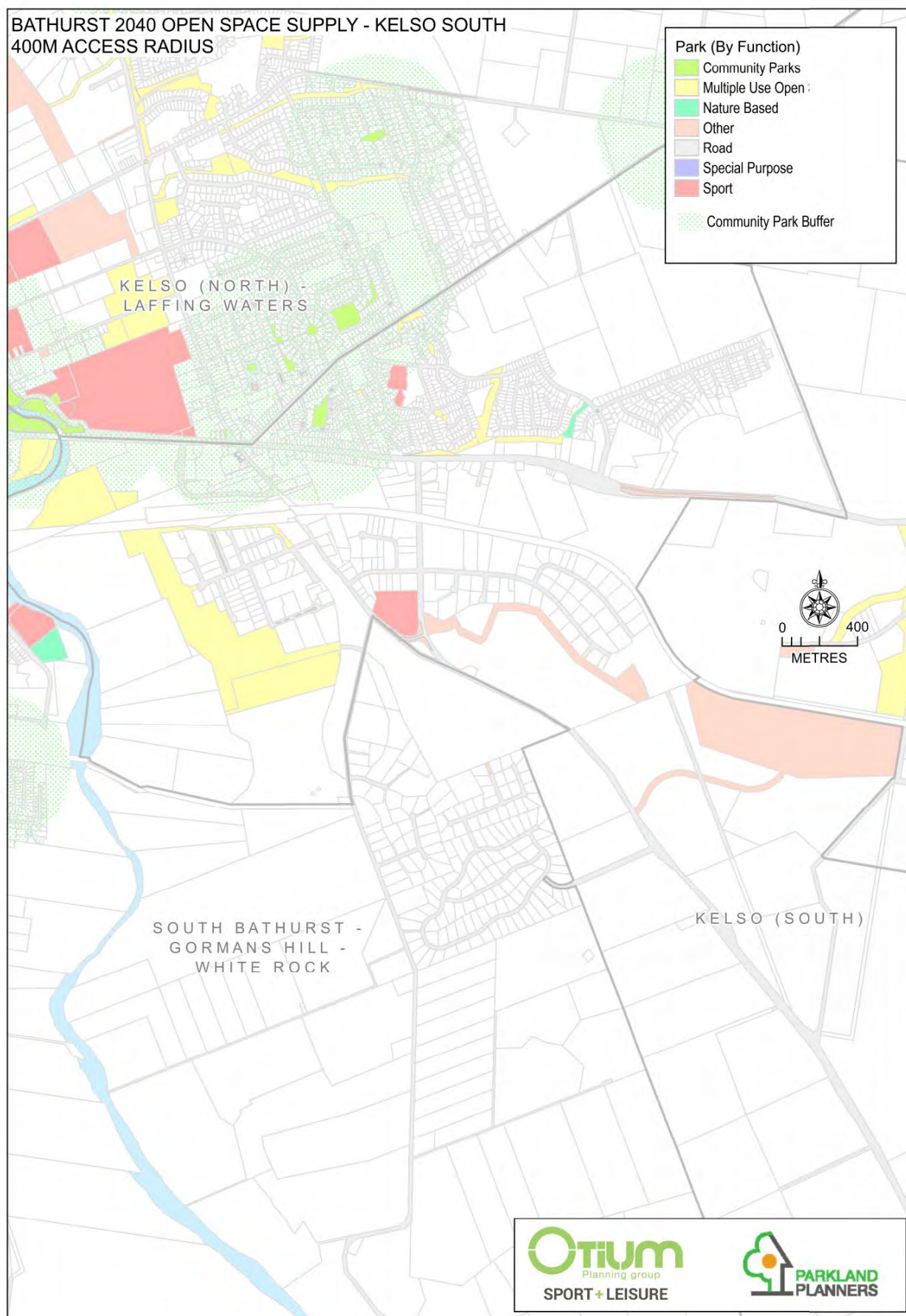


Figure 32 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in Kelso South

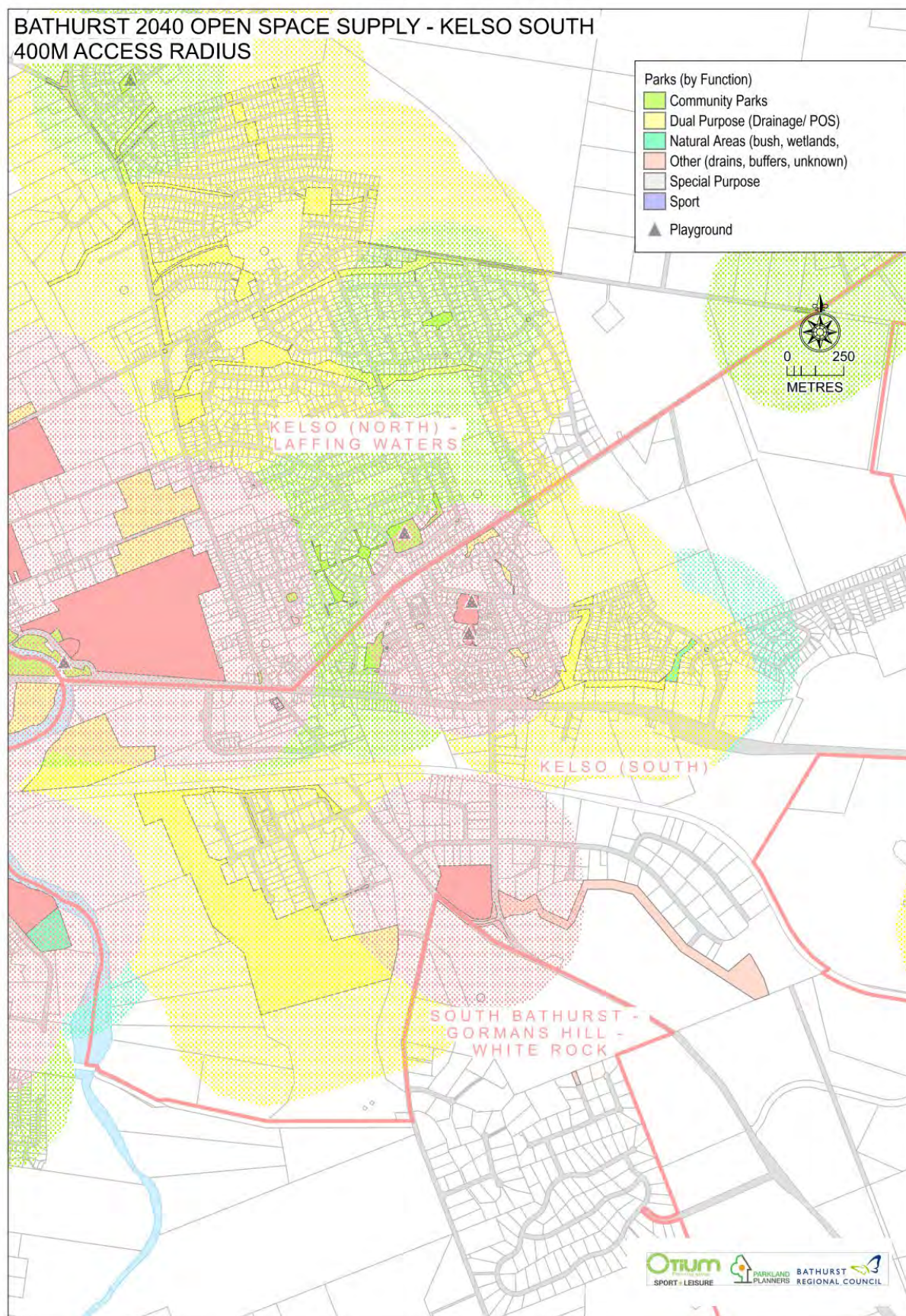
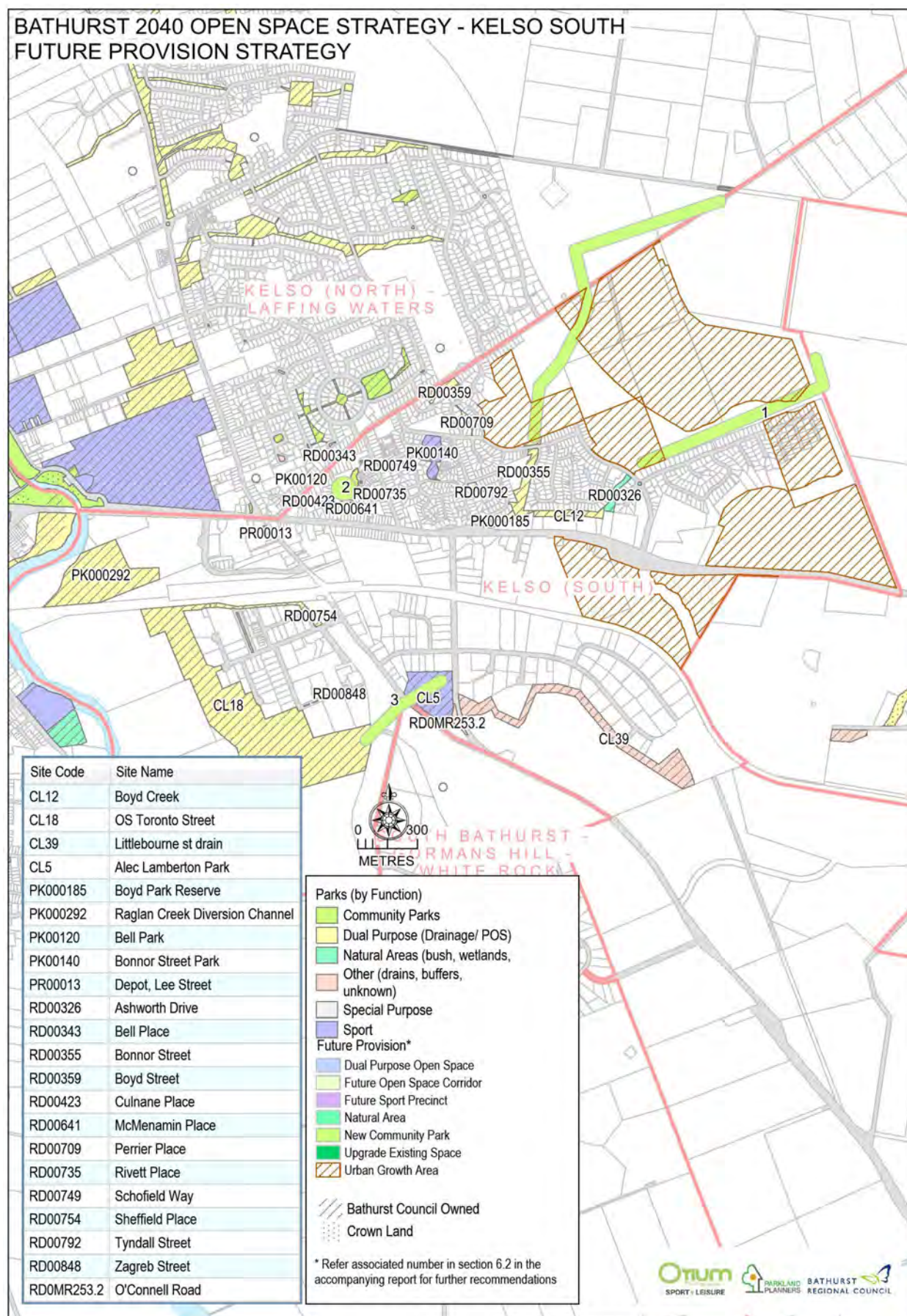
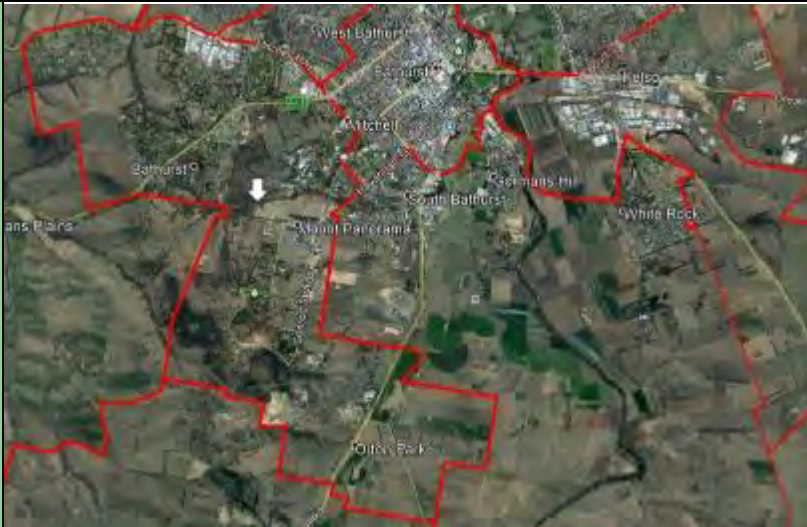


Figure 33 Recommendations for Kelso South



## 6.2.7 Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mt Panorama

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Mitchell – Robin Hill - Mount Panorama</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Population Growth:</b>	2,434 2,865 431 (18%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	0.38	13.96	13.47	<b>27.81 ha</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		9.20	69.46	<b>78.66 ha</b>
	<b>Special</b>	173.95	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	5.65	<b>259.24 ha</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	71.98	<b>Other</b>	7.66	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special purpose includes the Mount Panorama motor sport precinct, Vietnam Veterans Park and Bathurst Rifle Club</li> <li>- Sport includes Bathurst Bicycle Park (69.46 ha) and excludes Bathurst Golf Club as a private facility.</li> <li>- 0.38 ha of local park is really part of Mount Panorama parklands</li> <li>- Majority of residential is large lot/ rural residential.</li> <li>- Planning area includes Charles Sturt University and TAFE</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b>  Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 Ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>41</sup> 3.58 ha/1000 Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local & District Community Parks: 5.89 Sport: 3.8 (excluding Bicycle Park)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	Residential areas are mostly larger lots and access to local parkland not critical. Two areas of smaller lot residential (one along Boundary Road and a small area south of Browning Street). The Boundary Road area does not have 400 metre access to a developed local park or local play, and the highway acts a barrier to walkable access to nearby open space and sporting areas.  The main rural residential area west of Boundary Road has no community park, but is relatively close to the regional parklands of Mount Panorama or Hector Park.			

<sup>41</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional parklands and picnic</li> <li>- Regional play</li> <li>- Mountain bike tracks</li> <li>- Large nature based parks and walking tracks</li> <li>- Walking/running and riding around the Mount Panorama loop</li> </ul>
	<b>Embellishment</b>	As most of the parks are part of the Mount Panorama precinct and are regional or district level embellishment standards are good.  A new boardwalk across the top of Mount Panorama is proposed in the 2019-20 financial year.
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	n/a
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Potential for an open space and park corridor along Sawpit Creek, including the provision of a bushland link between Mount Panorama and Sawpit Creek.</li> <li>2. Dual use OS (PK00604) might be developed with some local park functions.</li> <li>3. Increased community use of or access to multiple school and university fields and courts.</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	Blayney Road Common: restore creek and bushland area, include walking tracks.  Mount Panorama: shade over playground in McPhillamy Park, larger playground, more picnic areas and more parking in places with a view	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 5.0 ha/1,000 people <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b>  Sport: 3.21 ha/1,000 people (excluding Bicycle Park) <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	Demand from an additional 431 persons will only require some provision of local walk-to community parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growth area near Sawpit Creek suggests a multi-use open space corridor with parkland nodes and sufficient road frontage to ensure good access and visibility.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a new dual use riparian open space corridor along Sawpit Creek (south of the Mitchell Highway) and include a local-district sized community park as part of this with road frontage access to new development to the east.</li> <li>2. Consider enhancing the local play area in George Park and increase local park opportunities here- possibly in the Rankin-Brilliant Street corner.</li> </ol>	

Figure 34 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mt Panorama

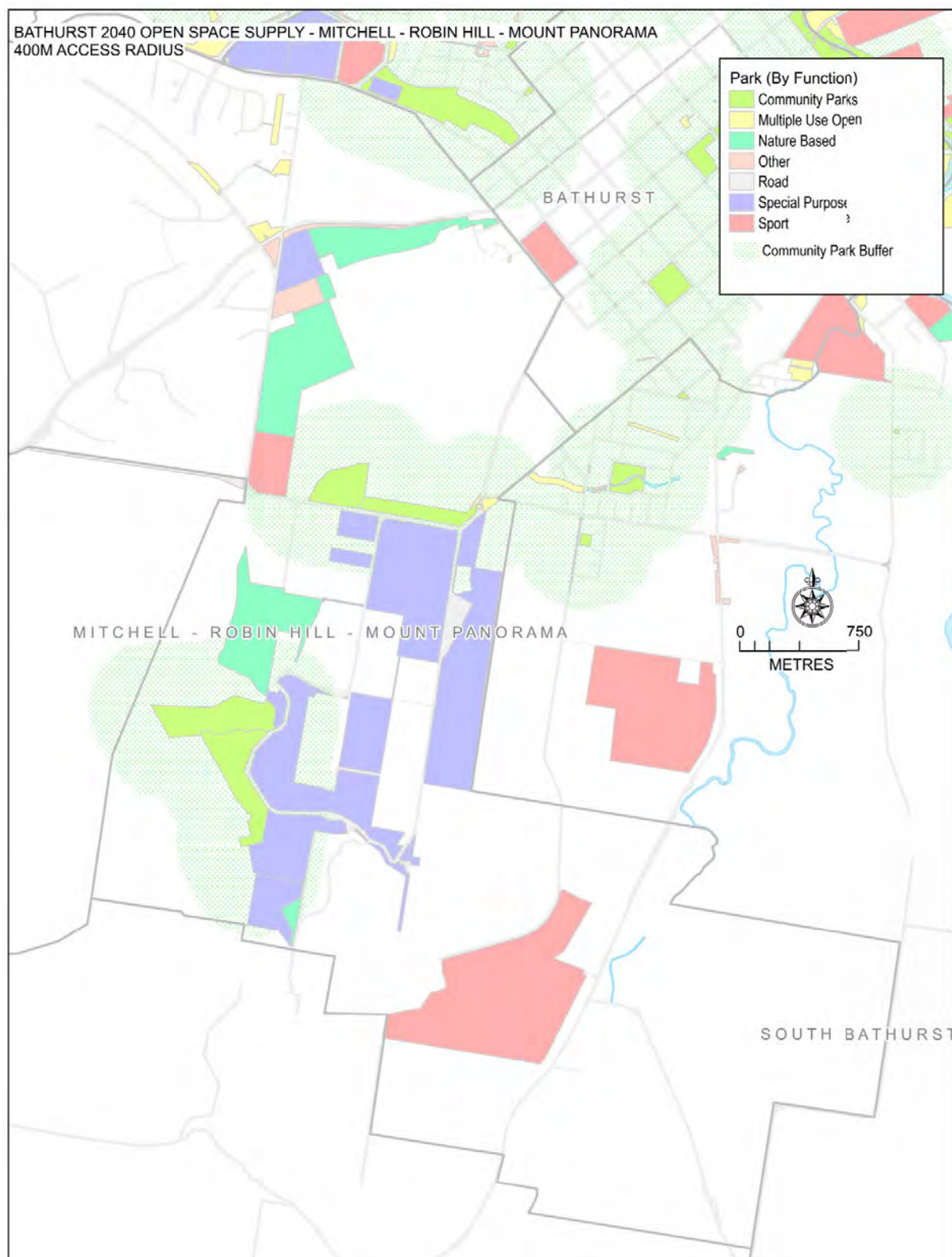


Figure 35 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mt Panorama

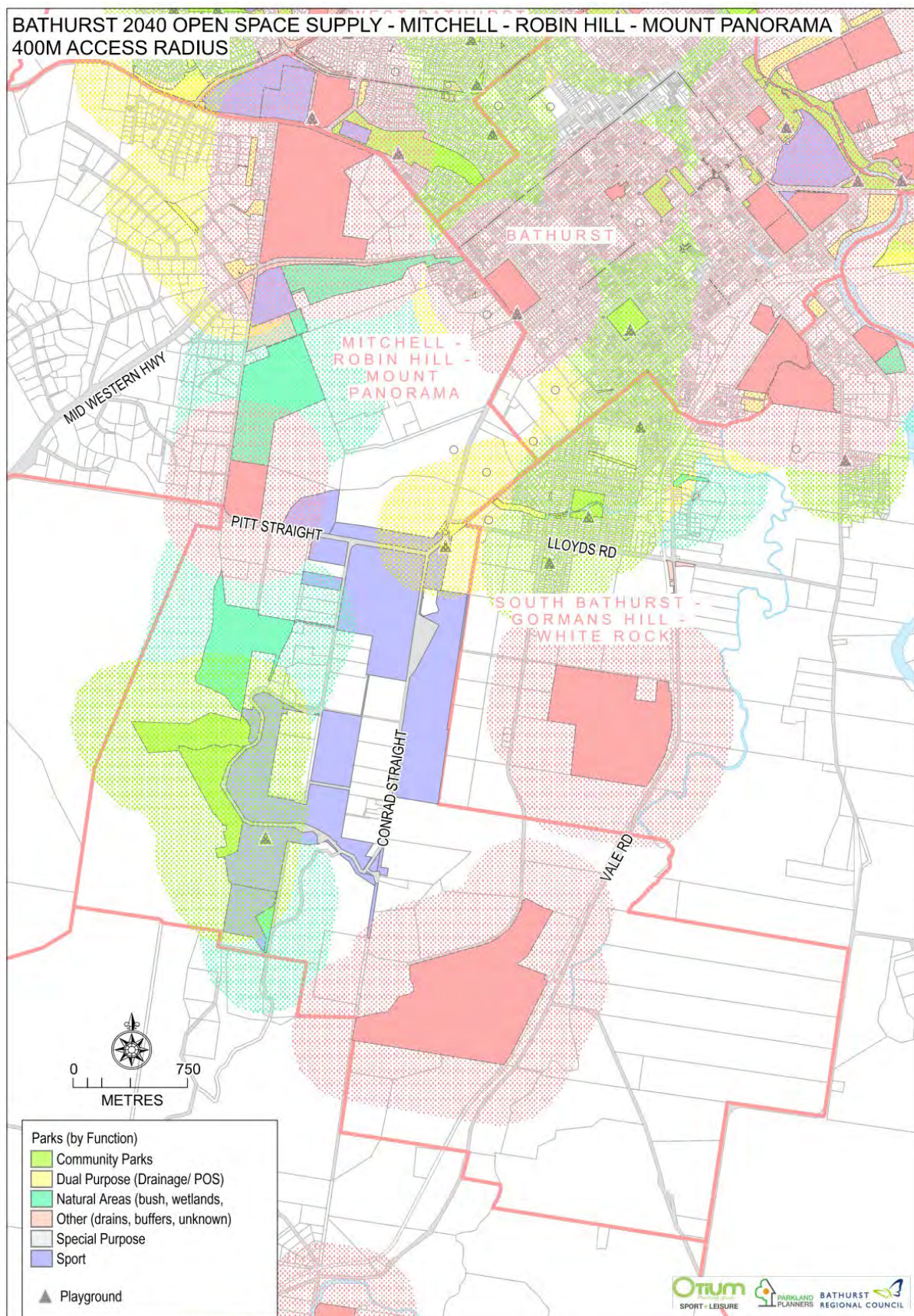
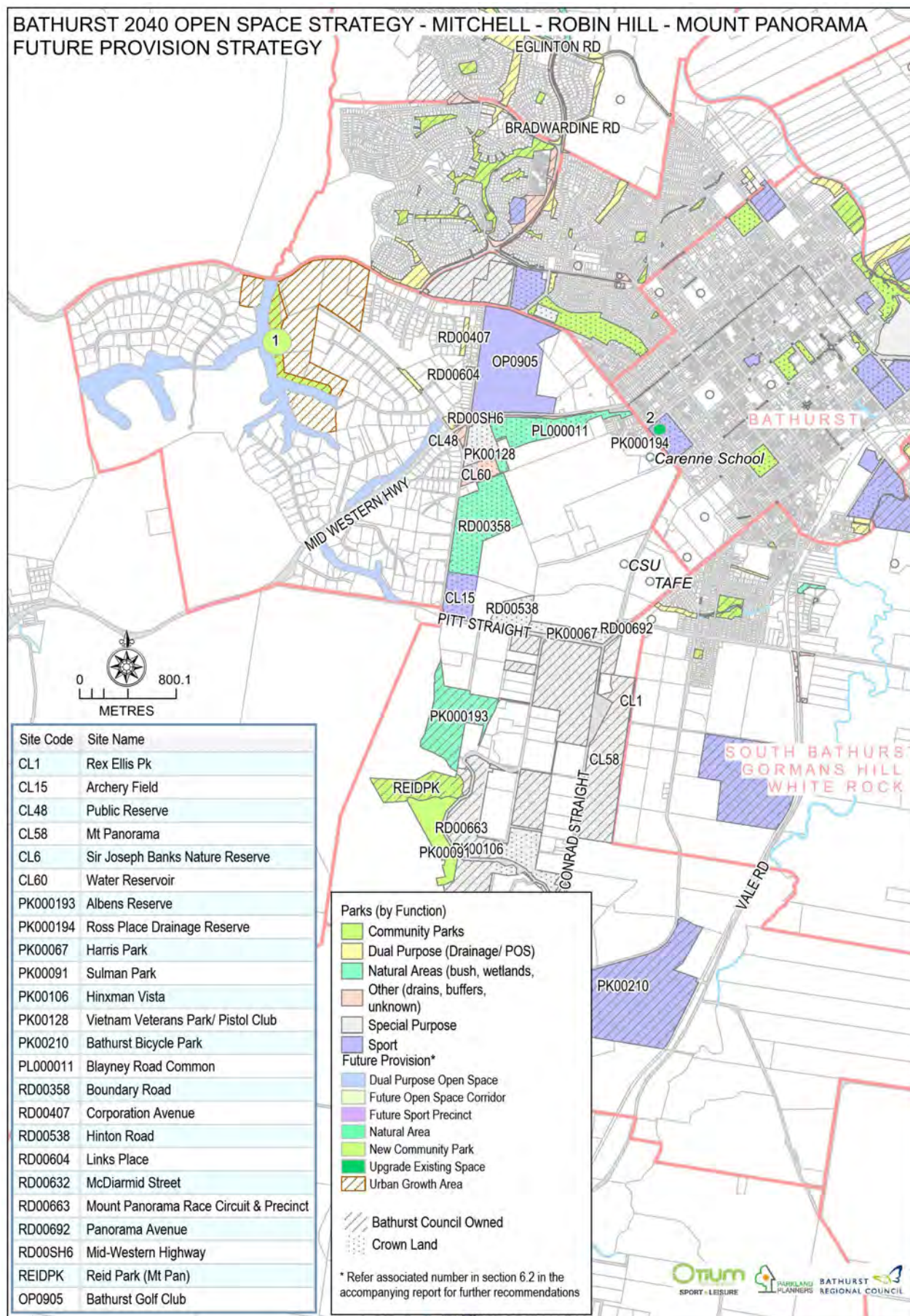
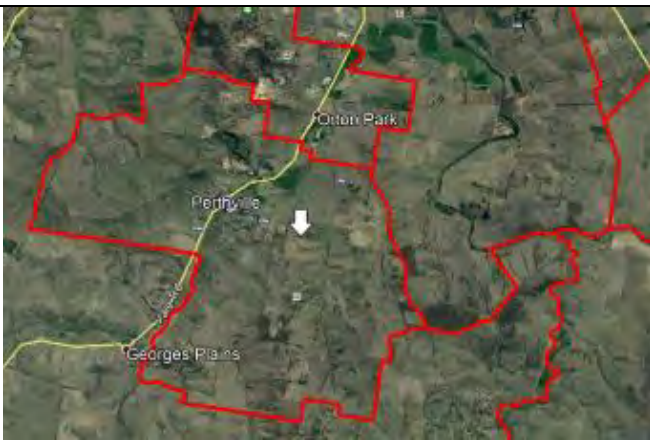


Figure 36 Recommendations for Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mt Panorama



## 6.2.8 Perthville

Planning Area: <b>Perthville</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Population Growth:</b> <i>(population projection from Profile ID combines Perthville with Raglan)</i>	934 (50% of combined Raglan and Perthville) 968 (50% of combined Raglan and Perthville) 34				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	0.49	0	0	<b>0.49</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		5.9	0	<b>5.96</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0.2	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	0	<b>0.2</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	0	<b>Other</b>	0	
	<b>Comments</b>	Sport includes Brian Booth Recreation Ground and the unused field and 2 tennis courts in town			
<b>Planning and Provision</b>  Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>42</sup> 3.58 ha/1000 <u>Proposed Provision Standard</u> 3 ha/1000 Local and District Community Park (preferred access within 400 m safe walking) 1.5 ha/1000 Sporting Parks	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 0.52 - this will increase when the Village Square development proceeds. Sport: 6.38 (including the unused outdoor courts area 1.32 ha which will become the Village Square)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Within the village residential area most homes have access to community park or sporting spaces within 400 metres.</li><li>- Local play is available at the community hall and Bridge Park.</li></ul>			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities limited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local community park</li><li>- Public courts and informal field space</li><li>- Creekside picnic area</li><li>- Sport field and pony club</li></ul>			
	<b>Embellishment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Central sport/park area on Bathurst Street is not developed as a community park but, a new master plan has been developed and will deliver “the Perthville Village Square”.</li><li>-</li></ul>			

<sup>42</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

	Other Quality Issues	
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop the old courts and small field on Bathurst Street (CL52) as a multi-use district park for the village with both play and picnic facilities, multi-use courts and small informal field currently being planned (Perthville Village Square).</li> <li>2. Potential for a creek side trail (Charlotte Creek) linking Bridge Park to Brian Booth Recreation Ground.</li> <li>3. Implementation of the Perthville Village Square Master Plan.</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	<p>New park in Perthville: community garden, skate park, nature walk, toilets, repair or replace existing courts.</p> <p>Community hall park: barbecues</p>	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: after the Village Square master plan is implemented then supply will be 1.9 ha/1,000 people</p> <p><b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: (will be reduced by conversion of Village Square to community recreation) 4.7 ha/1,000 people</p> <p><b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	No future planning needs as growth is projected to be minimal	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement the Perthville Village Square Master Plan (CL 52) to provide a multi-use district park for the village with both play and picnic facilities, multi-use courts and small informal field.</li> </ol>	

Figure 37 Perthville Village Square Concept Plan



Figure 38 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in Perthville



Figure 39 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in Perthville

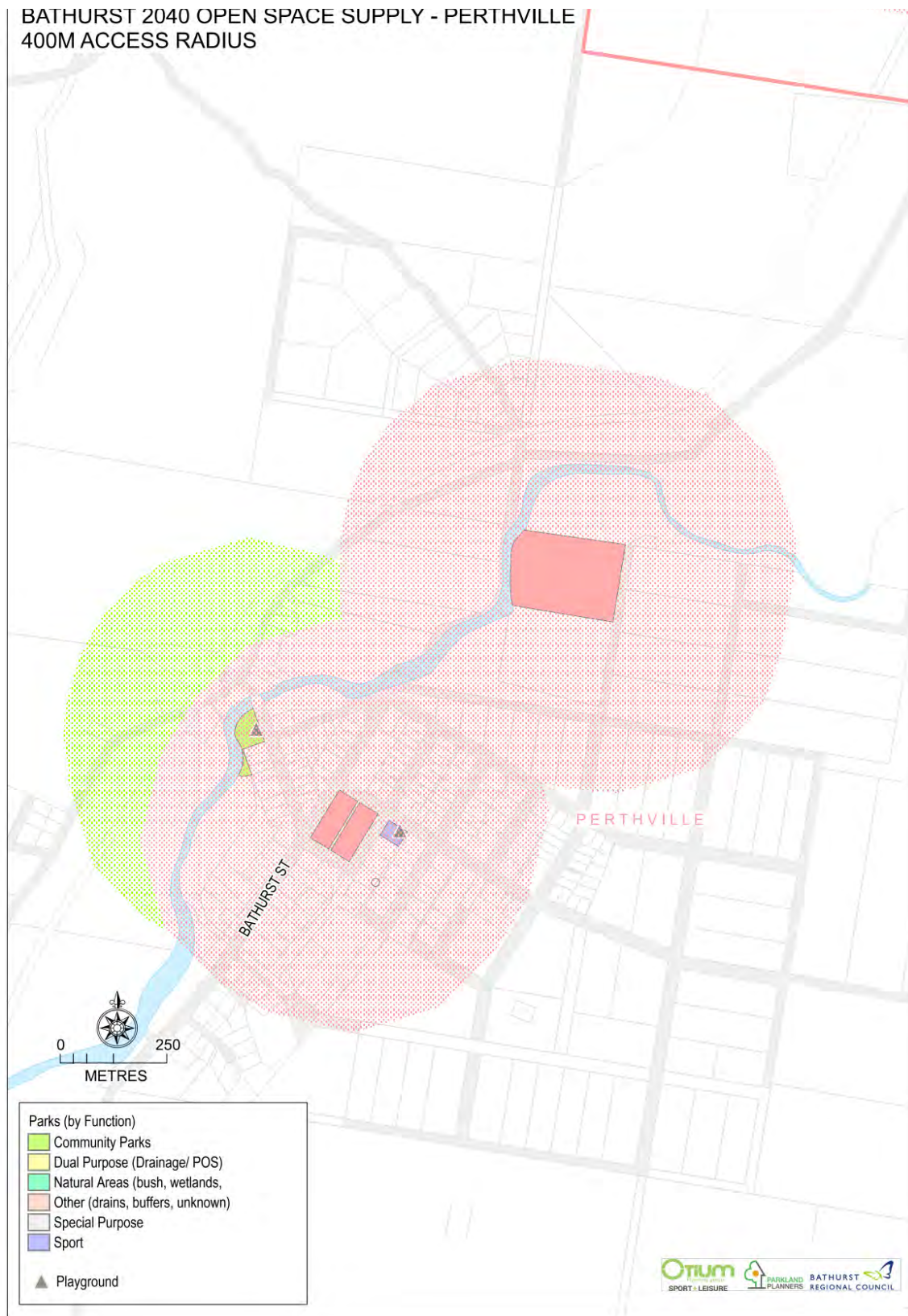
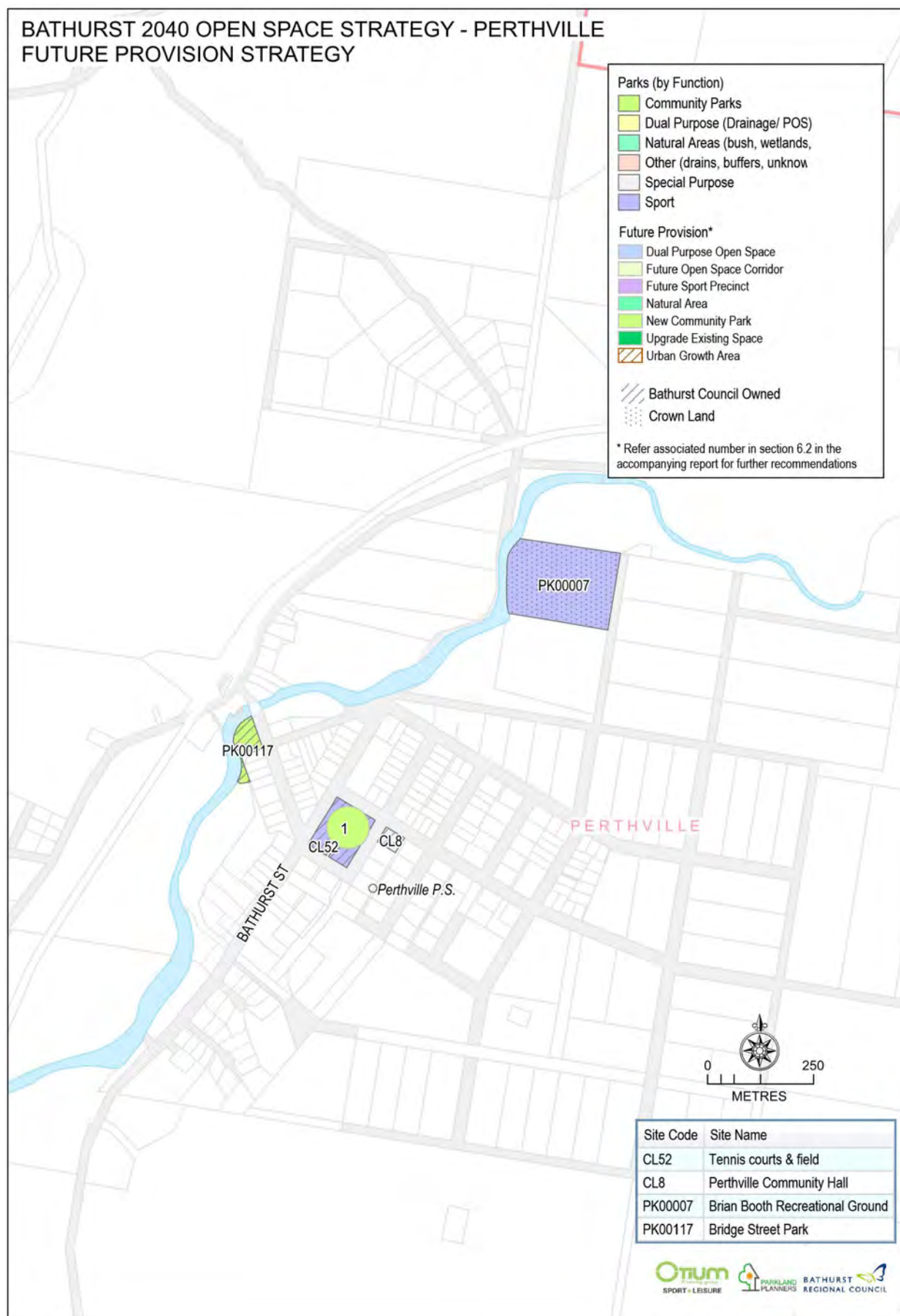
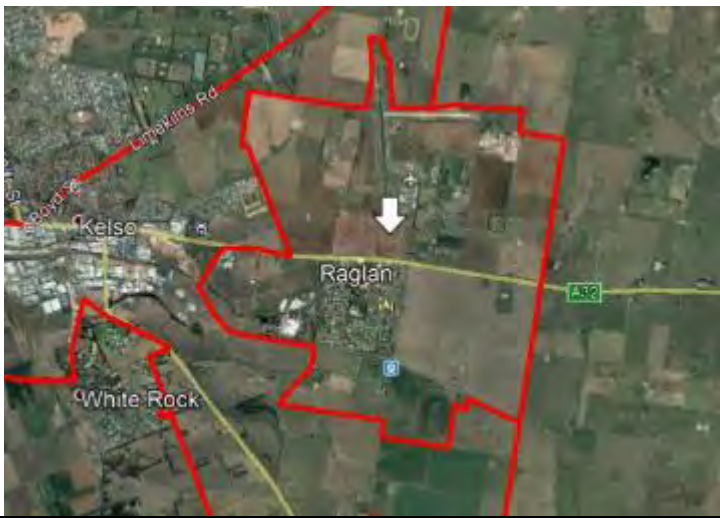


Figure 40 Recommendations for Perthville



## 6.2.9 Raglan

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Raglan</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036</b> <b>Growth</b> <i>(population projection from Profile ID combines Perthville with Raglan)</i>	933 (50% of combined Raglan and Perthville) 967 (50% of combined Raglan and Perthville) 34				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Community Parks	4.75	0	0	4.75
	Sport		5.39	0	5.39
	Special	1.47	Dual Purpose	12.87	15.38
	Nature	0	Other	1.04	
	Comments				
<b>Planning and Provision</b> Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 Ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>43</sup> 3.58 ha/1000  Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local & District Community Parks: 5.09 Sport: 5.78			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	About 80% of homes have a community park within 400m, increasing to 90% with a 500m radius. Local play only provided at Ralph Cameron Park-meaning less than 50% have access within 400m			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities limited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local community park</li> <li>- Public courts and sports fields</li> <li>- Limited short pathway links and one small circuit</li> <li>- Informal open space within dual use corridors.</li> </ul>			
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Low standard of embellishment for community parks with some shaded play and seats. No district level community park with picnic facilities.			
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	Most of the open space is dual purpose drainage corridor.			

<sup>43</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sufficient functional land exists. Could develop both Elmo Lavis Park, dual use open space on Christie Street and undeveloped areas of Ralph Cameron Park and land opposite to provide better access to play and a district park opportunity.</li> </ol>
<b>Requests from the community</b>	No specific requests
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 4.91 ha/1,000 people  <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: 5.57 ha/1,000 people  <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p>
<b>Future planning needs</b>	<p>No future planning needs as growth is projected to be minimal.</p> <p>Action should focus on enhancing provision by improved development of existing parks.</p> <p>Irrigation and lighting of Ralph Cameron Oval</p>
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a local play opportunity in the west of the planning area at either Christie Street dual use open space, Elmo Lavis Park, or Landseer Street Park.</li> <li>2. Develop a district park at Ralph Cameron Oval with larger play area, youth activity node and picnic and community gathering facilities.</li> </ol>

Figure 41 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in Raglan

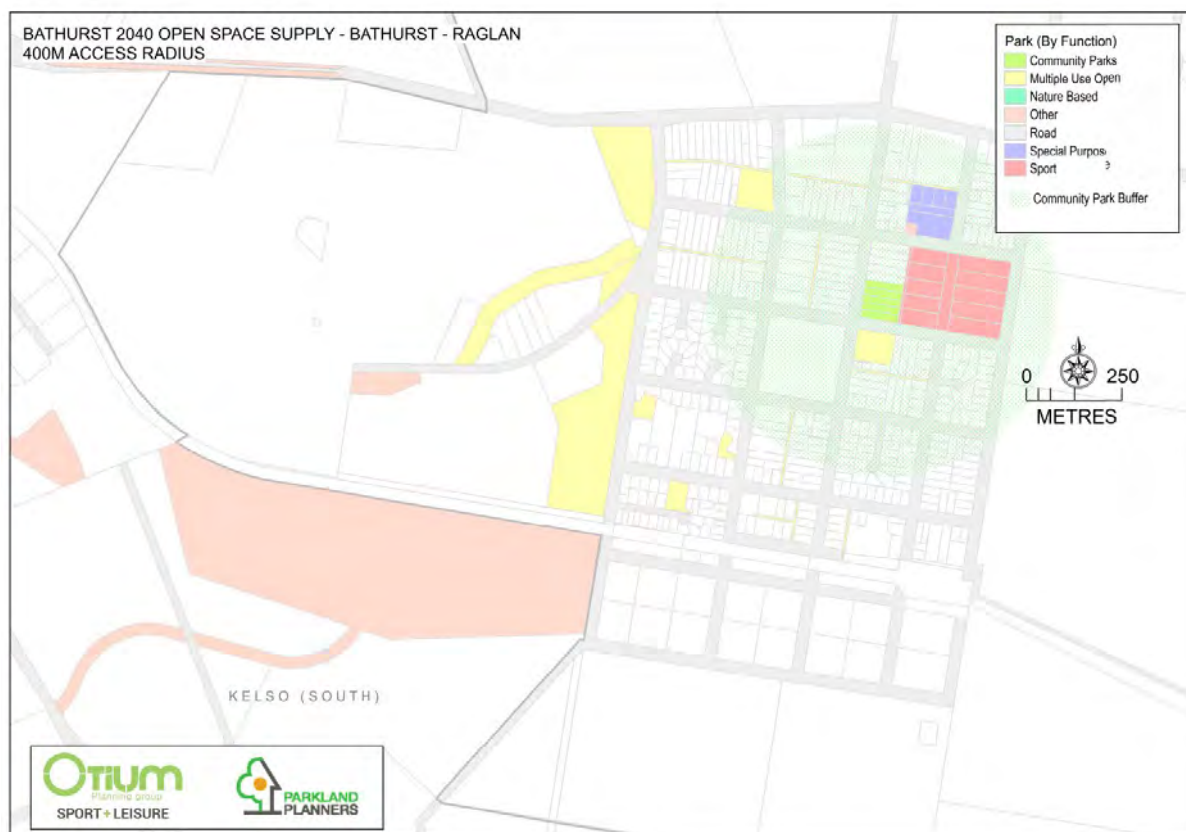


Figure 42 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in Raglan

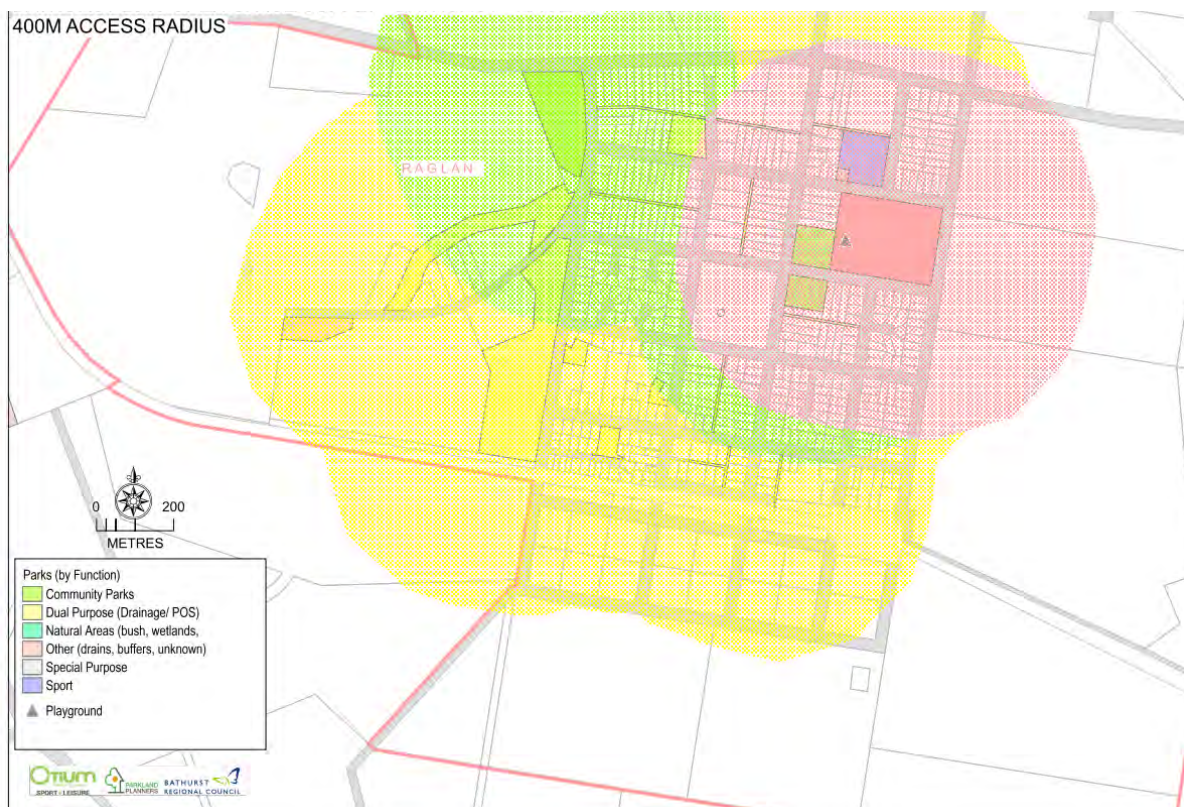
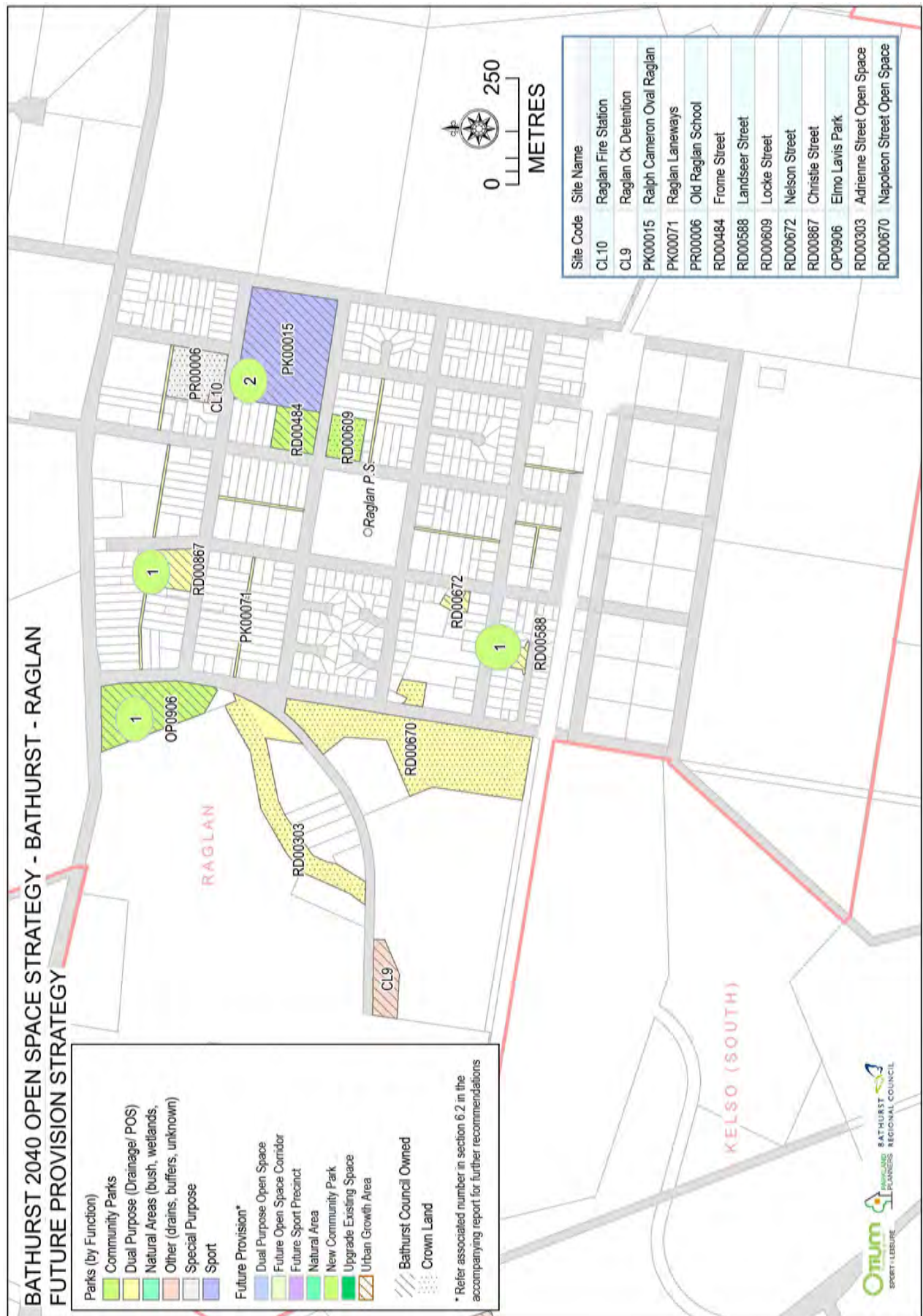
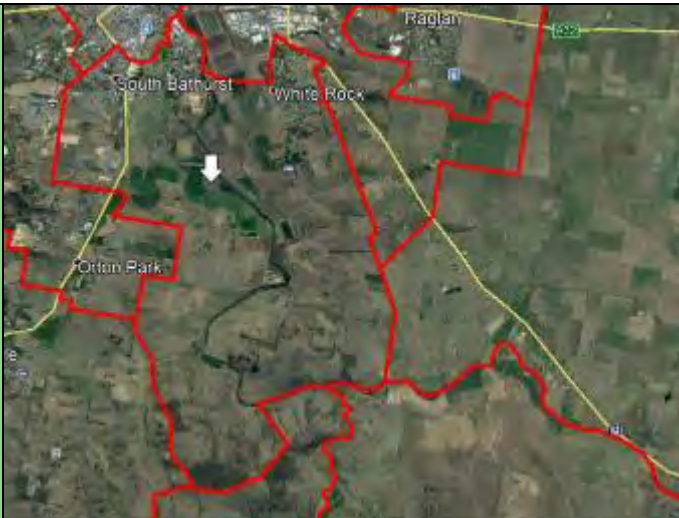


Figure 43 Recommendations for Raglan



## 6.2.10 South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>South Bathurst – Gormans Hill – White Rock</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Population Growth</b>	3,284 3,948 664 (20%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	0.76	3.25	0	<b>4.01 ha</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		3.7	56.75	<b>60.45 ha</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	3.25	<b>7.99 ha</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	3.06	<b>Other</b>	1.68	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sport includes Kennerson Park 3.7 ha and Harness Racing Club 46.31 ha</li> <li>- Mostly rural with residential areas at White Rock, Gorman's Hill and South Bathurst</li> <li>- Railway corridor forms an access barrier</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b>  Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>44</sup> 3.58 ha/1000  <b>Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.</b>	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 1.22 Sport: 3.18 (excluding Harness and Kennerson)			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	Nearly 100% of homes in the South Bathurst area and Gormans Hill have community parks with a small playground within 400 metres.  White Rock is large lot residential and does not have any community park provision or local play.			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local community parks</li> <li>- Local play</li> <li>- Proctor Park sports fields which are not open to the public. However Police Paddock fields are adjacent and while used for formal sport are unrestricted</li> <li>- Informal open space within dual use corridors.</li> </ul>			

<sup>44</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

	<b>Embellishment</b>	Community park embellishment is generally low- with Gorman's Hill Park only 700m <sup>2</sup> and containing a basic play event and seat.  Jacques Park has a larger play space but limited other embellishments.  College Road Park is larger but embellishment is basic.
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	Park provision in Gormans Hill is inadequate.
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	1. Longer term planning for a regional open space corridor along the Macquarie River.	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	Jacques Park: landscaping, plant native trees, clean up the creek  Alec Lamberton Park: variety of suggestions including nature habitat/trail, plantings, seating, walk/exercise area, tourist rest area and existing demands for more sporting precincts.	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 1.01 ha/1,000 people <b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b>  Sport: 2.64 ha/1,000 people (excluding Harness and Kennerson) <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	Existing community park provision is insufficient for current population.  If additional growth is to be centred near Gormans Hill then an additional community park will be required.  Master Plan for Alec Lamberton Park.	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	4. Upgrade and investigate opportunities to expand Gorman's Hill Park.  5. Consider further enhancement and embellishment of Jacques Park.  6. Prepare and implement a landscape master plan for multiple uses of Alec Lamberton Field: informal and formal sport, and informal community recreation use.	

Figure 44 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock

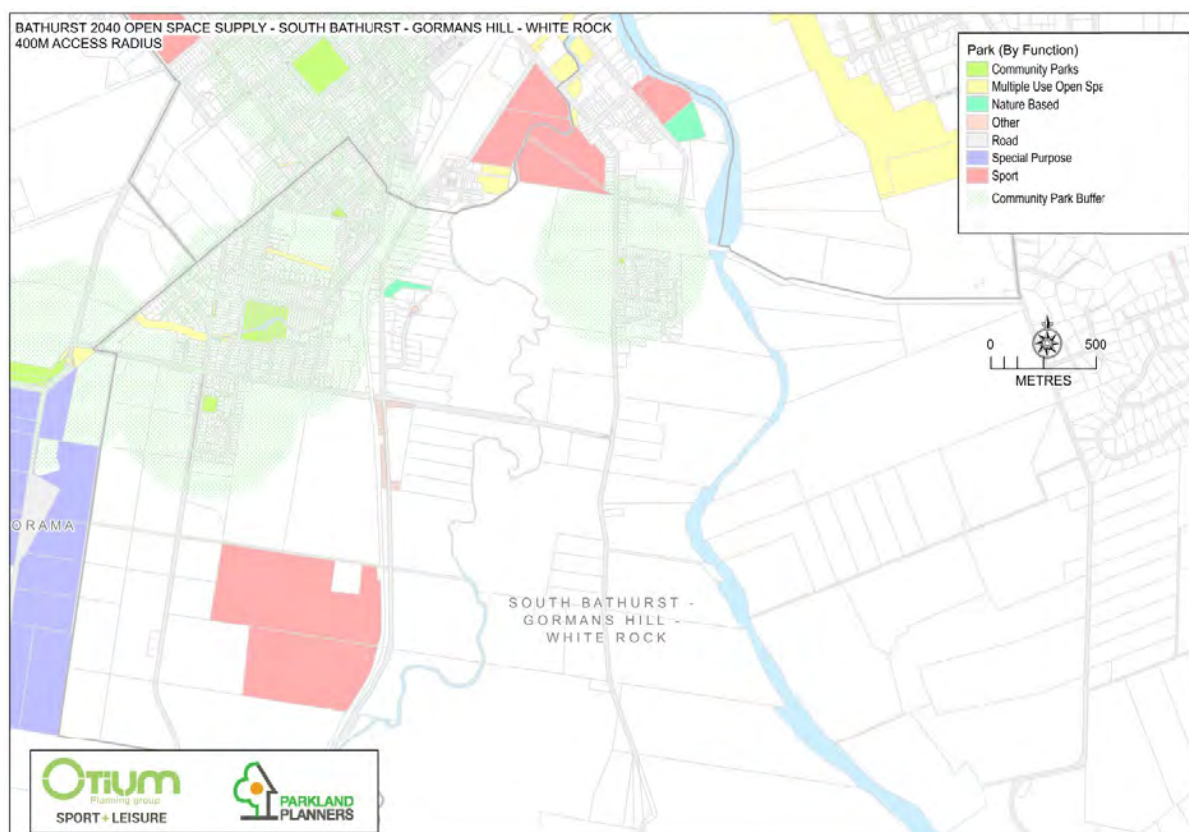


Figure 45 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock

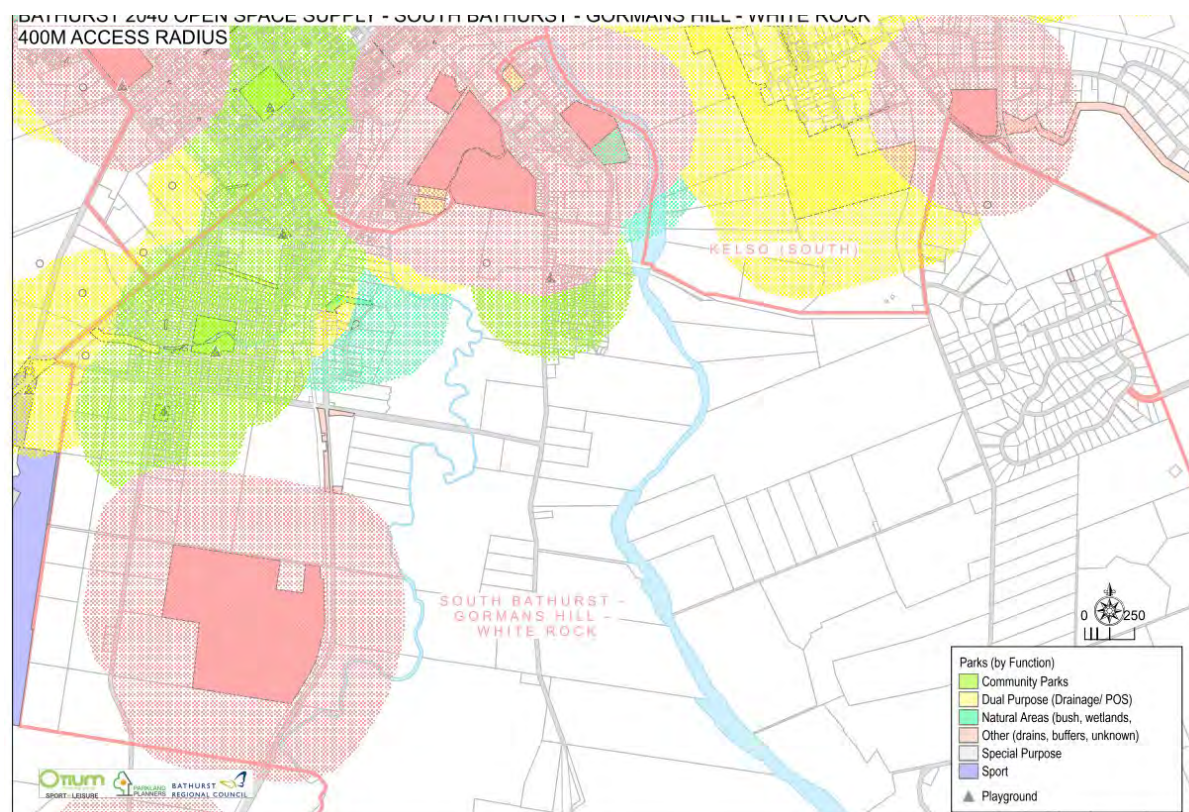
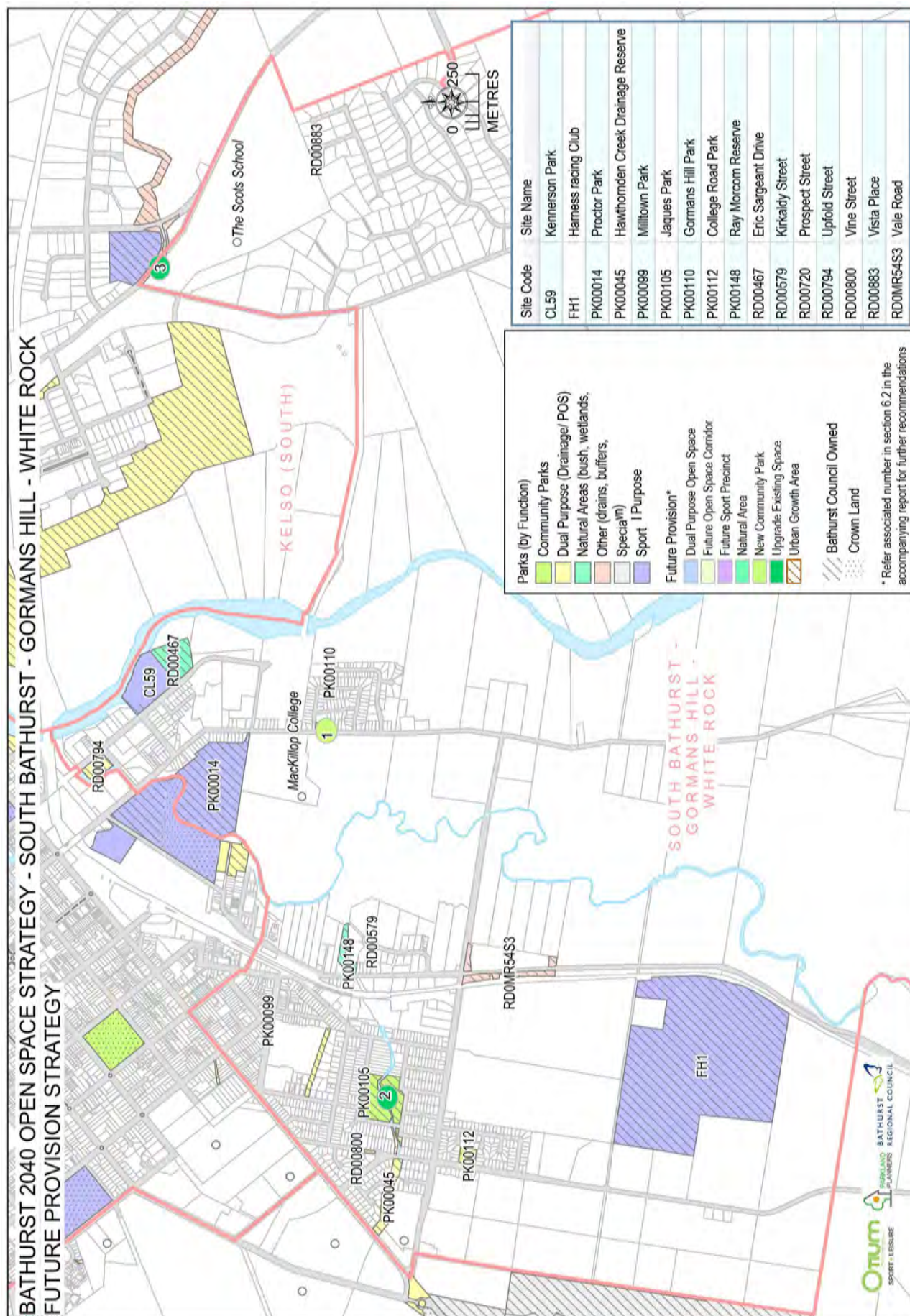
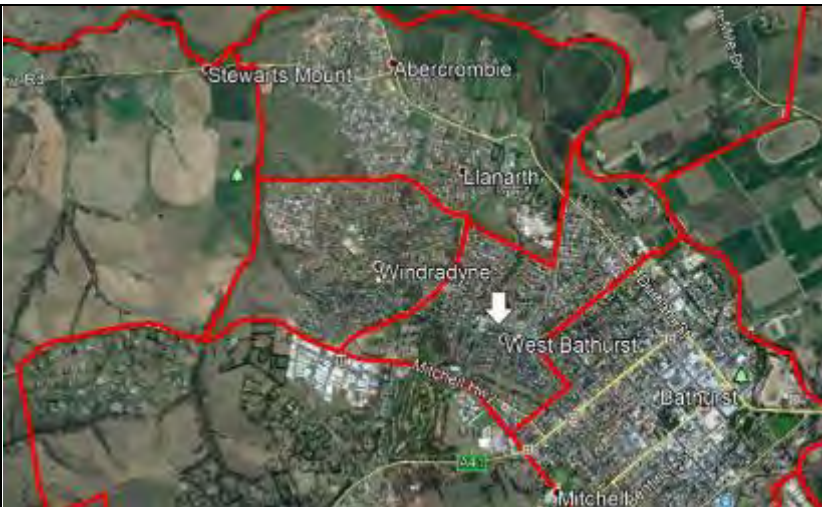


Figure 46 Recommendations for South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock



## 6.2.11 West Bathurst

Planning Area: <b>West Bathurst</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> Population 2036: Population Growth	3,793 4,276 483 (13%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	2.24	0	13.71	<b>15.95</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		0	7.39	<b>7.39</b>
	<b>Special</b>	23.78	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	5.91	<b>31.7</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	0	<b>Other</b>	2.01	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sport - Brooke Moore Oval</li><li>- Regional park- Hector Park</li><li>- Special includes cemetery</li><li>- Mostly residential.</li></ul> <p>Infill development or wholesale redevelopment of existing housing is likely.</p>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b>  Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 Ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>45</sup> 3.58 ha/1000  <b>Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.</b>	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 0.59 Sport: 1.95			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	Around 90% of have community parks within 400 metres. However in the north and west of the planning area provision is focused on dual use open space with limited embellishment and poor road frontage.  Access to local play is within 400 metres for around 80% except for the locales around Green Street and Osbourne Avenue in the north-west corner, and Rosehill Street in the north ie. the same areas with limited access to local or district community park.			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local community parks</li><li>- Local play</li><li>- Regional play in nearby Victoria Park</li><li>- Sports fields</li><li>- Outdoor courts</li></ul>			

<sup>45</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pathways/ trails in Hector Park</li> <li>- Internal reserve-drainage corridors with vegetation.</li> <li>- Indoor sports centre</li> <li>- Informal open space within dual use corridors.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Levels of embellishment appear adequate for key parks in the south and eastern areas, however the dual use open space in the north and north west are not embellished for recreation use (except for paths) and these are the only local open space opportunities.	
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	Road frontage lacking for dual use areas that could provide for local recreation.	
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional development of nature based recreation opportunities in the northern part of Brooke Moore Reserve.</li> <li>2. Consider a walking/running loop around the cemetery and memorial gardens.</li> <li>3. Potential to enhance Edgell Street drainage reserve with a strategic purchase to open up road frontage and provide a locally accessible recreation space.</li> </ol>		
<b>Requests from the community</b>	No specific requests		
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 0.52 ha/1,000 people  <b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: 1.72 ha/1,000 people  <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p>		
<b>Future planning needs</b>	Additional land for new parks not required but better access and development of existing open space is needed. Growth associated with increased density can be serviced through improving existing parks and strategic acquisition of land to enhance access. Land acquisition should focus on "opening up" access to some dual use open space with potential to provide community park.		
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide locally accessible community park and play in the two locations identified as underprovided ie. around Green Street and Osbourne Avenue in the north-west corner, and Rosehill Street in the north.</li> <li>2. In response to (1) consider strategies for enhancing access to and opportunities in Edgell Street Drainage Reserve.</li> <li>3. Purchase land when the opportunity arises to provide road frontage and access to PK00051. Investigate the possible expansion of PK00051 into private land to the north.</li> <li>4. Retain existing parks if urban renewal proceeds, and seek opportunities to expand local parks both in area and access/road frontage.</li> </ol>		

Figure 47 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in West Bathurst

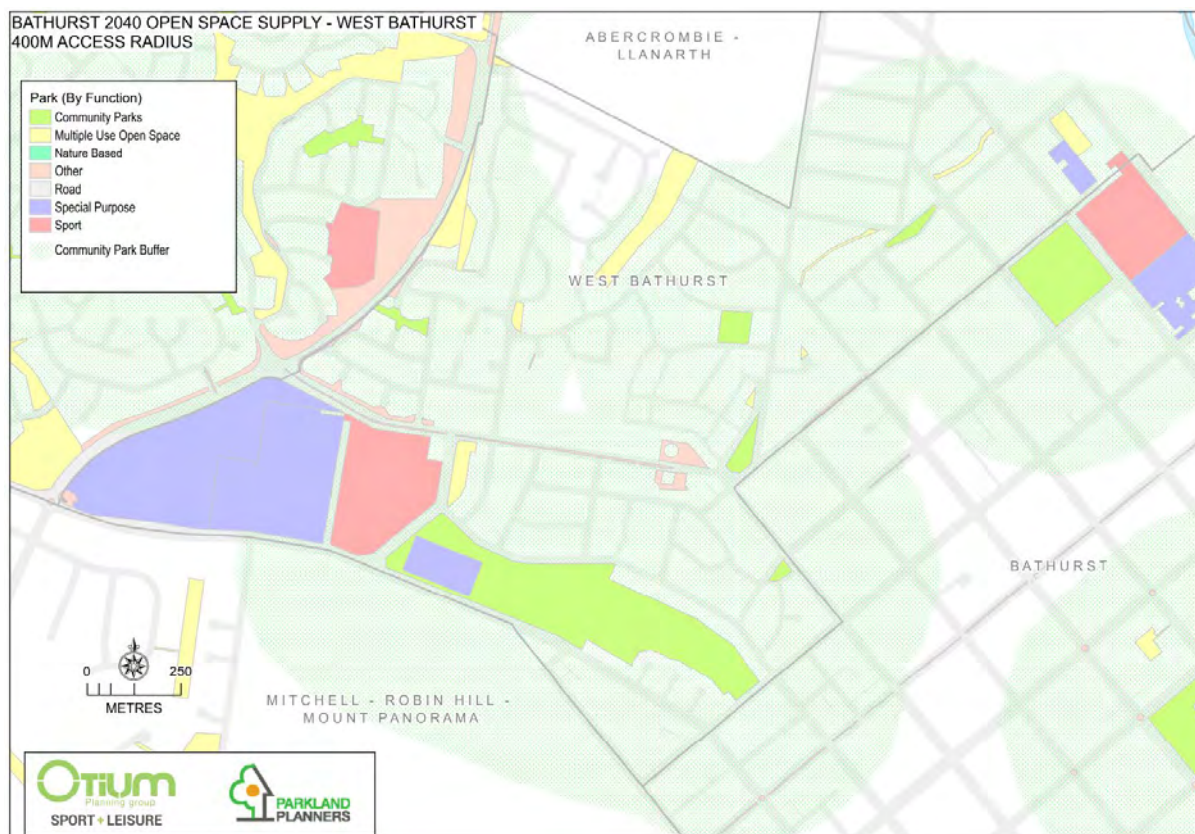


Figure 48 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in West Bathurst

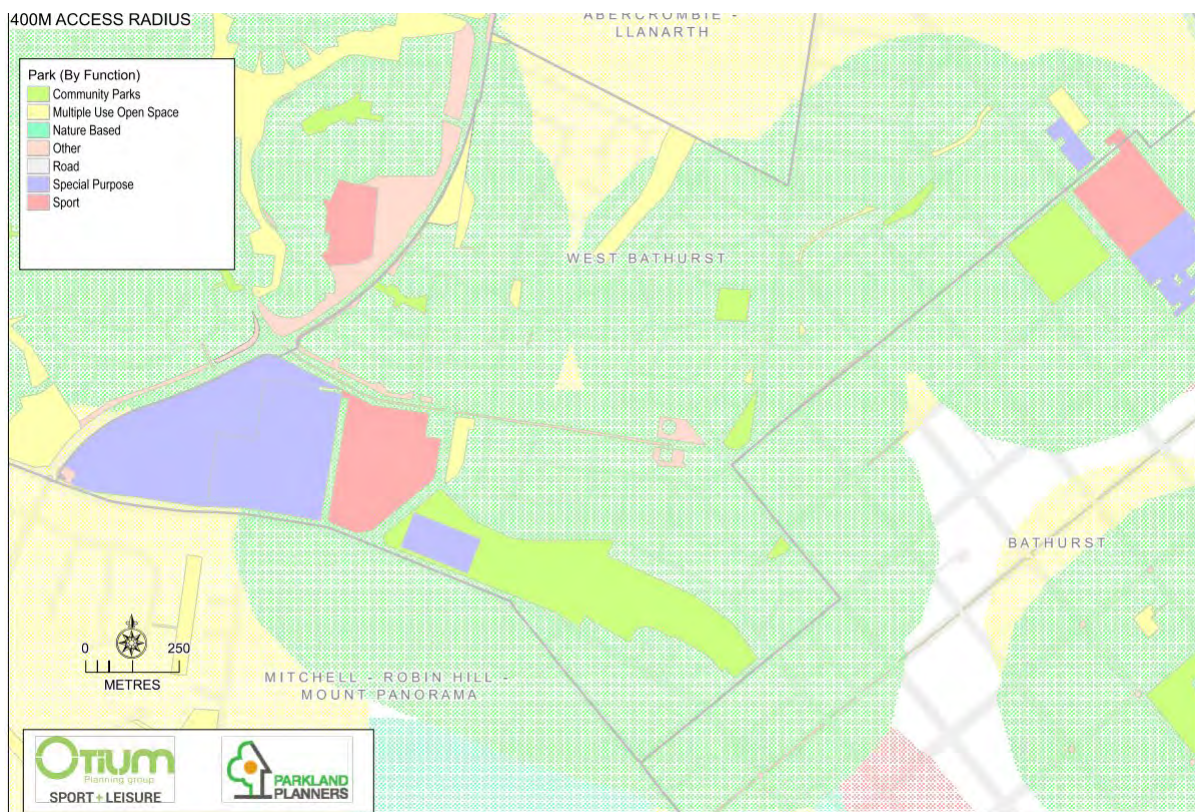
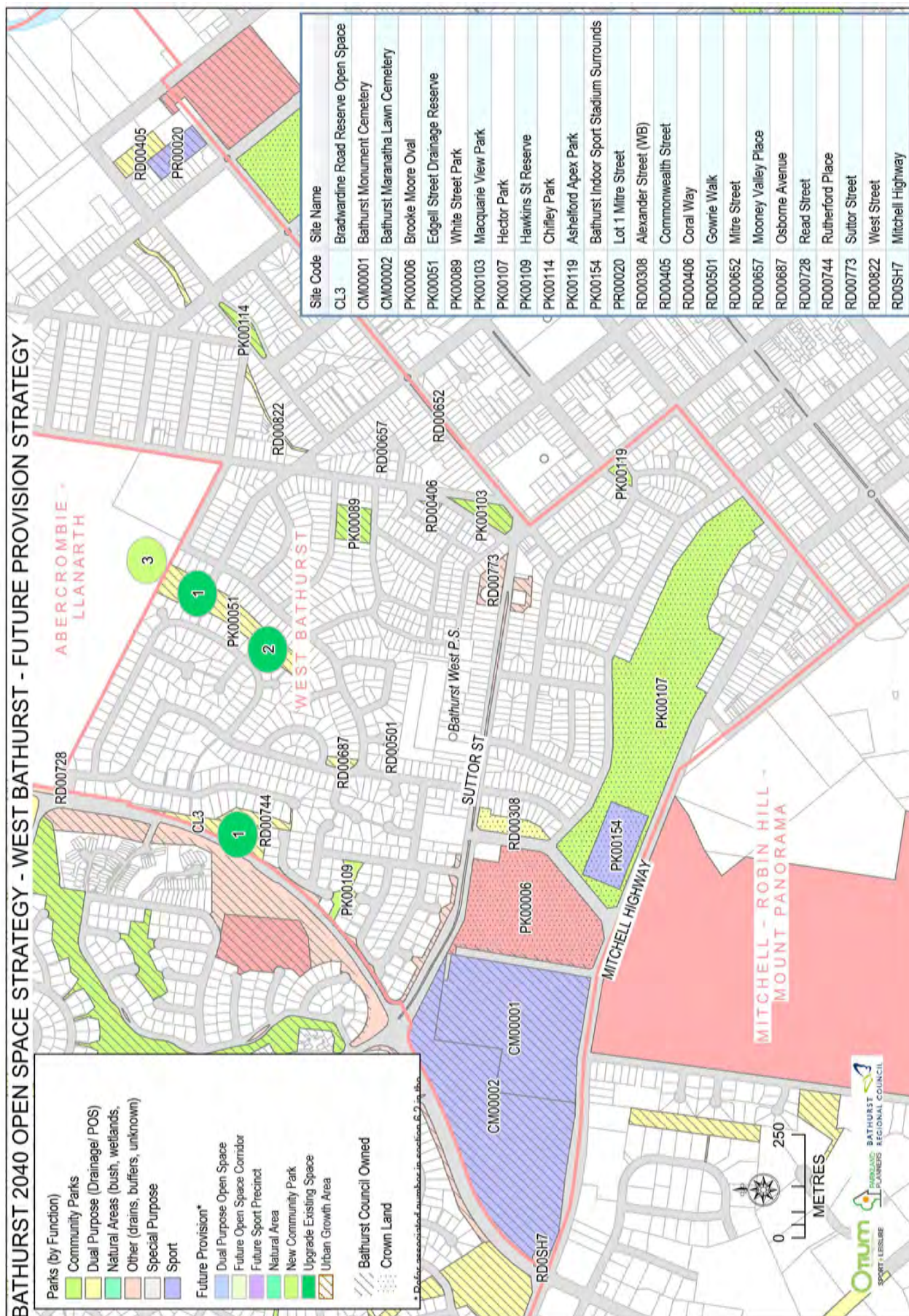
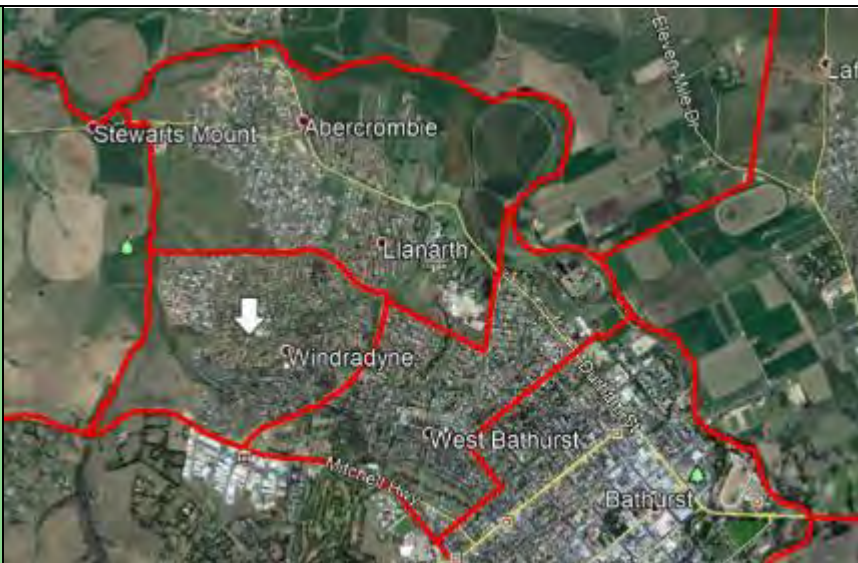


Figure 49 Recommendations for West Bathurst



## 6.2.12 Windradyne

Planning Area: <b>Windradyne</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> Population 2036: Population Growth:	3,017 3,952 935 (31%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	14.51	2.53	0	<b>17.04</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		2.68	0	<b>2.68</b>
	<b>Special</b>	0.88	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	6.56	<b>17.35</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	0	<b>Other</b>	9.91	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A large proportion of local parks are accessed via an internal reserve with limited road frontage and minimal development.</li><li>- Residential growth in the SW corner.</li><li>- Most open space focused on drainage or ridge.</li></ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b>  Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>46</sup> 3.58 ha/1000  <b>Preferred access of 400m to community parkland and play opportunities.</b>	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 5.65 Sport: 0.89			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	Around 90% of the area has access to a community park within 400 metres. However in the west of the planning area around Adams Street, access to park provision exceeds 700 metres.  Public open space is predominantly dual use open space with limited embellishment and poor road frontage.  Access to local play similar to above.			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Range of opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local community parks</li><li>- Local play</li><li>- Sports field</li></ul>			

<sup>46</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detention basin with informal field opportunity</li> <li>- Pathways/ trails links within dual purpose open space and community parks.</li> <li>- Informal open space within dual use corridors.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Levels of embellishment are modest for community park spaces with small play events, path ways and some seating.	
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	Lack of signage and wayfinding to identify access to parks that are based on internal reserves and dual purpose is a consistent issue compounded by lack of road frontage and visible access.	
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional development of Booth Street Reserve to provide a district park opportunity with active recreation facilities and picnic tables.</li> <li>2. Investigate use of the detention basin on Richardson Street as an informal field/ training field for junior sport.</li> <li>3. Potential to plan for a natural and vegetated open space corridor along the Sawpit Creek tributary could include local community park node for new development adjacent as well as path linkage along the corridor. Providing at least 50% road frontage to this open space corridor is a priority.</li> <li>4. Development of a local park node within Council's current Windradyne 1100 subdivision.</li> </ol>		
<b>Requests from the community</b>	No specific requests		
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 4.31 ha/1,000 people  <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: 0.68 ha/1,000 people  <b>BELOW RECOMMENDED</b></p>		
<b>Future planning needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional land for population growth is required.</li> <li>- New parkland and dual purpose/ riparian corridor could address poor supply in the northwest and future needs in the south west.</li> <li>- Development of a district park should be considered.</li> </ul>		
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Duplicate the Sawpit Creek Riparian Corridor on the western side of Sawpit Creek when the land is rezoned, but ensure that road frontage and some larger areas of land (minimum 0.5 hectares of usable space) are provided.</li> <li>2. Upgrade Booth Street reserves as a district park.</li> <li>3. Consider the potential for informal sport and training use of a field in the Richardson Street detention basin.</li> <li>4. Develop a central local park within Council's current Windradyne 1100 subdivision (minimum 0.5 hectares).</li> </ol>		

Figure 50 Access to Community Park within 400 metres in Windradyne

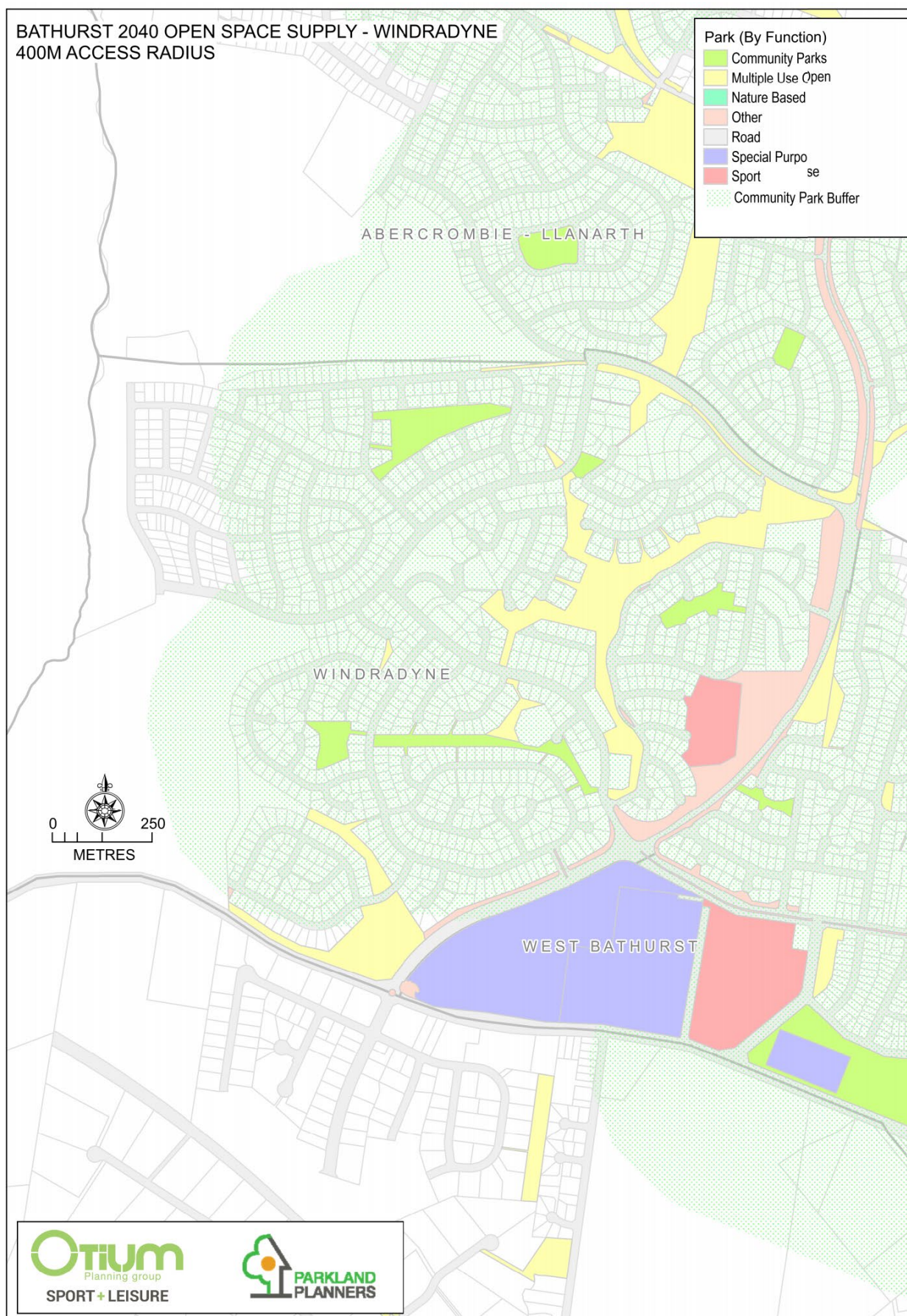


Figure 51 Access to Any Open Space within 400 metres in Windradyne

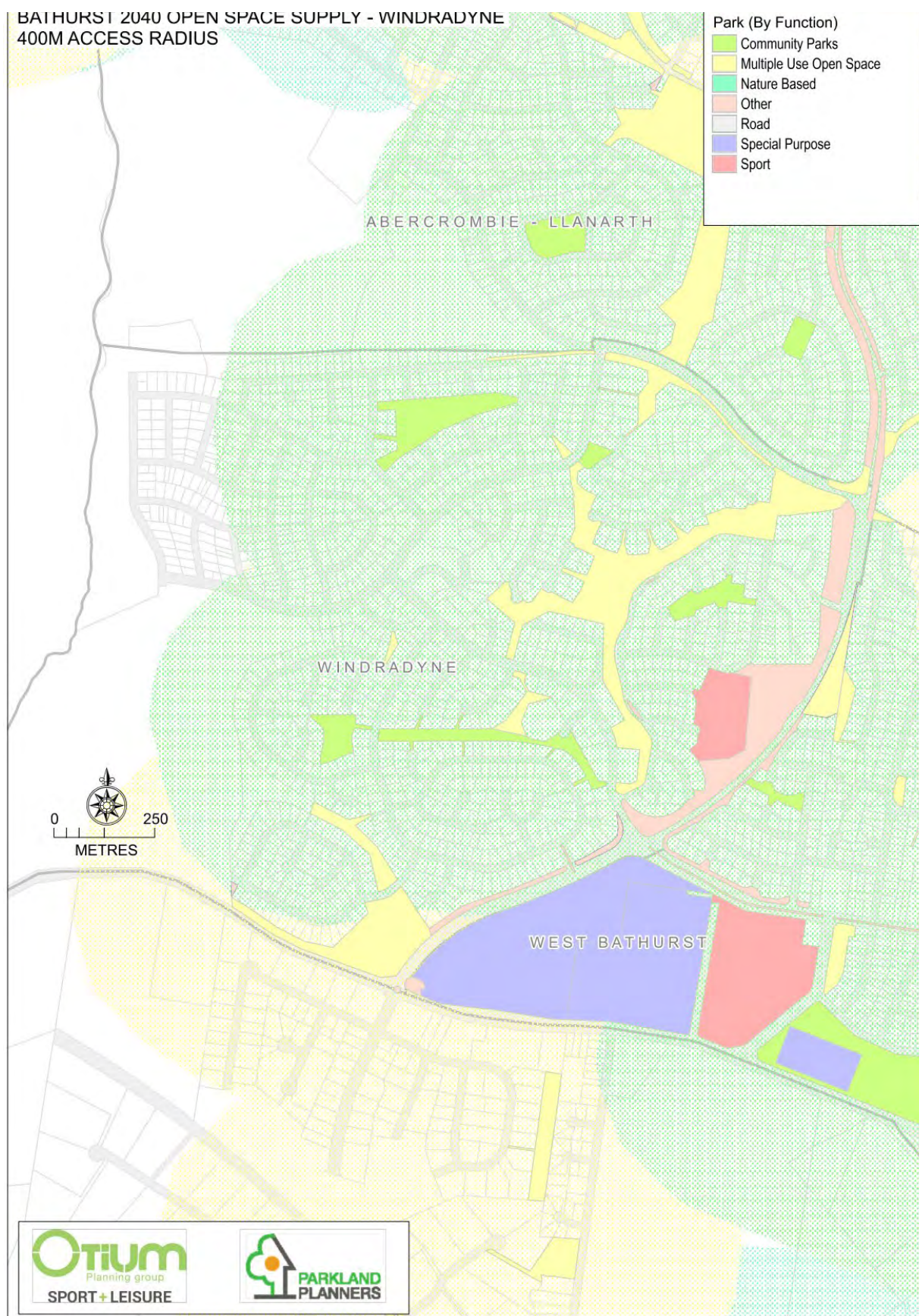
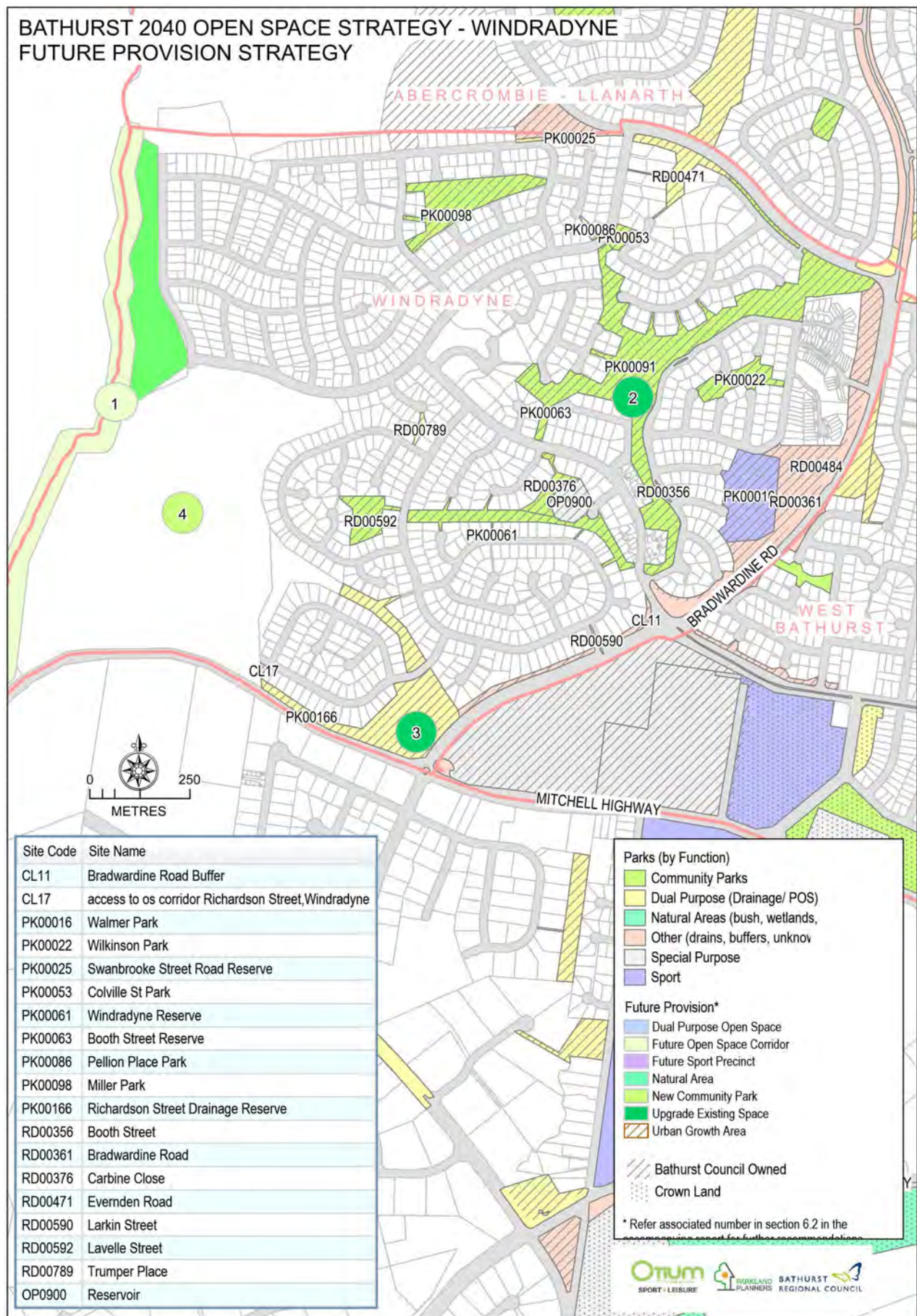



Figure 52 Recommendations for Windradyne



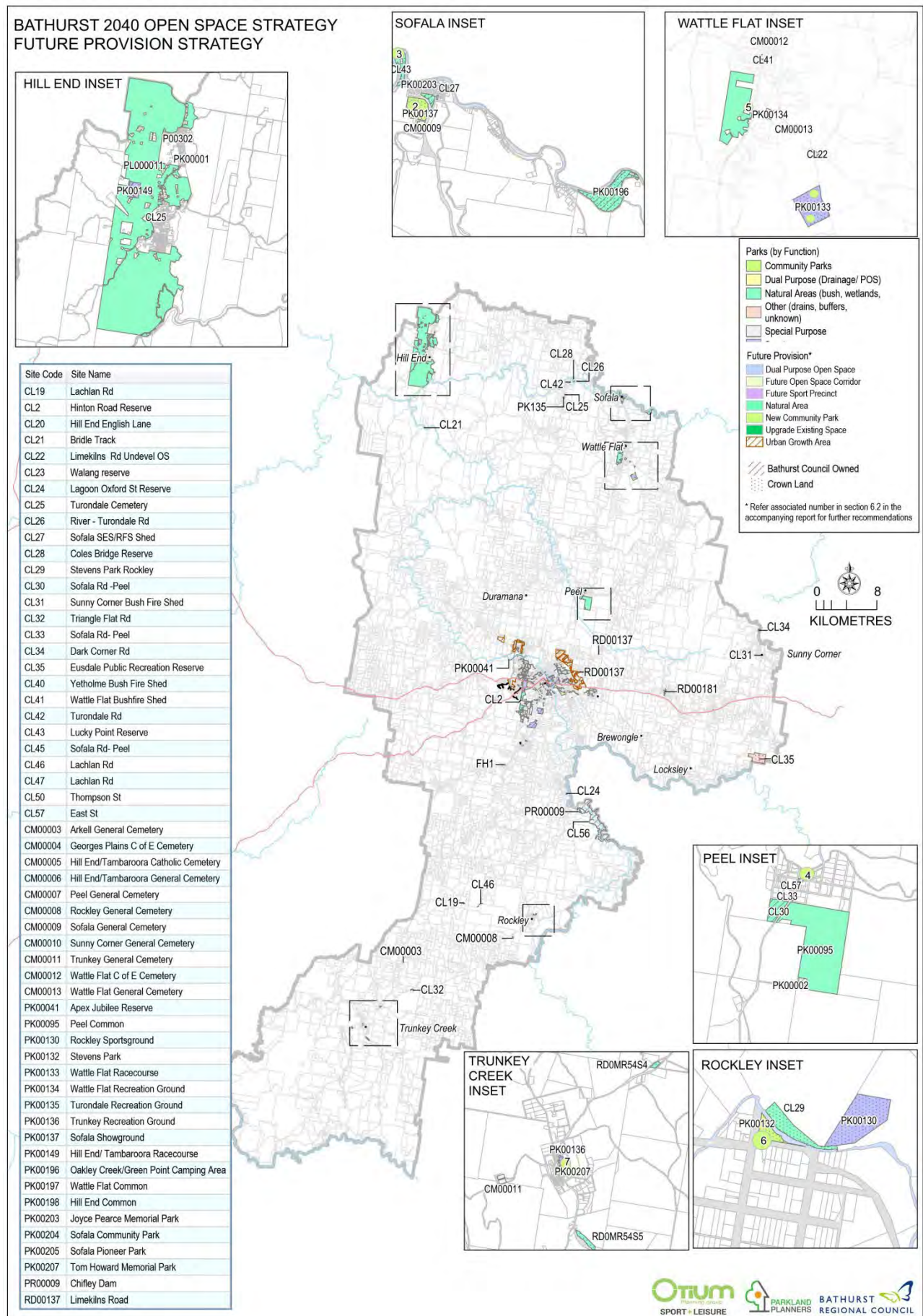
## 6.2.13 Rural Remainder

<b>Planning Area:</b> <b>Rural Remainder</b>					
<b>Population 2016:</b> <b>Population 2036:</b> <b>Population Growth:</b>	5,853 6,615 762 (13%)				
<b>Current supply of Open Space (ha)</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	4.38	20.55	0	<b>24.93</b>
	<b>Sport</b>		82.46	0	<b>82.46</b>
	<b>Special</b>	592.06	<b>Dual Purpose</b>	9.05	<b>3,238.83</b>
	<b>Nature</b>	2407.82	<b>Other</b>	229.9	
	<b>Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes the villages of Georges Plains, Hill End, Sofala, Wattle Flat, Peel, Trunkey Creek and Rockley.</li> <li>- Large conservation areas at Hill End, Wattle Flat, Peel.</li> <li>- Sport includes Wattle Flat and Hill End racecourses</li> <li>- Population growth dispersed.</li> </ul>			
<b>Planning and Provision</b> Median supply levels <b>Community Parks (Local and District)</b> 2.6 Ha/1000 <b>Sport</b> <sup>47</sup> 3.58 ha/1000 <u>Proposed Provision Standard</u> 3 ha/1000 Local and	<b>Broad provision ha/1000</b>	Local and District Community Parks: 4.26 Sport: 14.09 (including racecourses) 4.99 excluding racecourses			
	<b>Access Radius (400m)</b>	Not applicable to rural villages.			
	<b>Opportunity range</b>	Villages generally have access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local community park and local play</li> <li>- Sports field space, or outdoor courts or showgrounds/ racecourse</li> <li>- Peel has no local park or local play but does have a community hall and tennis courts</li> </ul>			

<sup>47</sup> Median supply for sport excludes private, racecourses and Bathurst Bicycle Park

District Community Park (preferred access within 400 m safe walking) 1.5 ha/1000 Sporting Parks		- Wattle Flat has no public playground
	<b>Embellishment</b>	Levels of embellishment are basic with no consistent standard for every village to have a community park and local play.
	<b>Other Quality Issues</b>	Mixed results between villages. Main issue is no minimum service level apparent.
<b>Key Open Space Opportunities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Potential to develop additional opportunities on the Turon River at Sofala.</li> <li>2. Enhance existing sport or park open spaces to provide missing opportunities such as play.</li> </ol>	
<b>Requests from the community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chifley Dam: more picnic tables and barbecues on the kiosk side of the dam</li> <li>- Stevens Park, Rockley: maintain the weir</li> <li>- Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds: close access to motor vehicles, eradicate weeds, implement the archaeological plan of management for Crown land</li> </ul>	
<b>Current open space supply and capacity to provide for projected 2036 pop'n</b>	<p>Local and District Community Parks: 3.77 ha/1,000 people <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p> <p>Sport: 12.46 (including racecourses) 4.41 excluding racecourses <b>ABOVE RECOMMENDED</b></p>	
<b>Future planning needs</b>	<p>Population growth will be dispersed across several villages.</p> <p>No specific new land needs required.</p>	
<b>Recommendations for OSP 2040</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider adopting a minimum service level for parkland opportunities for rural villages of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to a community parkland supporting play and picnic opportunities within the village.</li> <li>- Access to sport and active recreation via either outdoor courts or a sports field/ sports reserve (within or adjacent to village and can include shared use of school facilities).</li> <li>- Access to a community hall or covered space for indoor activities, meetings.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Sofala</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Provide a multi-use sport field for Sofala at the showgrounds, Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds, or in consultation with Wattle Flat and Sofala Public Schools.</li> <li>3. Investigate a new recreation area on the Turon River based on Crown land (as shown on Provision Plan).</li> </ol> <p><b>Peel</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Provide a playground and picnic setting at the Peel tennis court and community hall.</li> </ol> <p><b>Wattle Flat</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Investigate potential for a public park and play area at the Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds or the Crown conservation areas.</li> </ol> <p><b>Rockley</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Enhance play and other recreation opportunities at Stevens Park at Rockley.</li> </ol> <p><b>Trunkey Creek</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Investigate opportunities to improve the Trunkey Creek Recreation Ground for informal recreation.</li> </ol>	

Figure 53 Recommendations for Rural Remainder



## 6.3 Assessment for types of open space

### 6.3.1 Community parks

Provision of land for local and district community parks currently and/or will in 2036 fall below the recommended 3 hectares per 1,000 people in Abercrombie-Llanarth, Bathurst, Eglinton, Kelso North/Laffing Waters, Kelso South, Perthville, South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock, and West Bathurst.

Recommended actions for improving and embellishing open space for community parks are in Table 33.

Table 33 Actions for Community Parks

	Background	Strategies / Actions
Embellishment of existing open space	A scoping study outlining several options for embellishment of Centennial Park has been finalised after community engagement.	Improve Centennial Park to increase its use by the community for informal recreation.  Implement the preferred concept plan for embellishment of Centennial Park in Bathurst.
	Council acquired land for a central open space in Perthville in 2016. The outcomes of community engagement for that park are being finalised.	Implement plans for informal open space in the new central park Perthville Village Square.
	Council is considering the embellishment of existing open space areas in the new residential areas of Kelso.	Construct local recreation facilities. Develop a sporting precinct with multi-use fields
Play spaces for young and older children	The adventure playground in Victoria Park is a favourite destination for children and their carers.	Implement Stage 2 of the Adventure Playground in Victoria Park – water park
	Play equipment in Gormans Hill Park is old. The park is located opposite a school and in a Department of Housing area.	Replace play equipment in Gormans Hill Park. Acquire land to expand the existing Gormans Hill Park if residential development nearby occurs.
Youth spaces	The existing skate park in Bathurst is popular.	Extend the Bathurst skate park
		Consider a skate park in the west urban area
Children's bike track	A recommendation of the Bathurst Community Cycling and Access Plan (2011) was to investigate the construction of a free, year round bicycle education facility for children and cyclists in road behaviour, bicycle skills and pedestrian safety, including a road circuit simulating road conditions. An example is the Campbelltown Bicycle Education Centre. Suggested locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Centennial Park</li> <li>- George Park</li> <li>- Ralph Cameron Park, Raglan</li> <li>- Victoria Park adjoining the existing small track at Adventure Playground</li> </ul>	Undertake community engagement and feasibility planning for a preferred location for a bike education centre.

	Background	Strategies / Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cubis Park, Eglinton</li> <li>- O'Keefe Park adjacent to Eglinton cycleway</li> </ul>	
Fitness opportunities	Fitness equipment installed by Council is well used	Provide fitness equipment in suitable open space in each planning area
Social opportunities	<p>Cafes and kiosks in parks attract people to visit.</p> <p>There is strong community demand for sheltered picnic and barbecue opportunities in open space</p>	<p>Consider a café/kiosk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Victoria Park near the Adventure Playground, tennis complex and netball complex</li> <li>- near Bicentennial/ Peace Park</li> <li>- near the river</li> </ul> <p>Install shelters in Bicentennial Park</p>
Community spaces / gardens	Some community gardens currently operate in Bathurst Region.	Undertake community engagement about additional community spaces/gardens
Sensory garden	The Bathurst Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 identified the desire for a sensory garden / water play area for people with disabilities. Co-location at Victoria Park is proposed.	Investigate the development of sensory garden / water play areas to be developed in consultation with people with disabilities and services. Assist with planning, planting and maintenance.
Unleashed dog exercise areas	<p>There are 11 designated unleashed dog exercise areas in Bathurst Region. Gaps in unleashed dog exercise areas are in Abercrombie-Llanarth, Kelso North/ Laffing Waters, and Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mount Panorama.</p> <p>Dogs swim in the river because the water quality is reasonable.</p> <p>Dog agility infrastructure</p>	<p>Designate at least one unleashed dog exercise area in each local planning area and village without a UDEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abercrombie-Llanarth</li> <li>- Kelso North/Laffing Waters</li> <li>- Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mount Panorama.</li> </ul> <p>Designate suitable dog swimming area(s)</p> <p>Engage with dog owners and the community about preferred location(s) for dog agility infrastructure.</p> <p>Provide seating for owners in the unleashed dog exercise park for small dogs</p>
Amenities	The Bathurst Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 made recommendations about accessible toilets in parks.	<p>Review cleaning and maintenance procedures of accessible toilets including Bicentennial and Machattie Parks,</p> <p>Review access to toilets in playgrounds, and review width of pathways to accommodate wheelchairs and prams.</p>
Entry statements	Entry statements are situated on open space at vehicle entry points to Bathurst.	<p>Implement entry statements at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bathurst CBD south of Learmonth Park</li> <li>- Raglan</li> <li>- Oberon Road – possibly as part of the Alec Lamberton Master Plan</li> <li>- Ashworth Drive near Diamond roundabout.</li> </ul>

### 6.3.2 Active open space and land for sport

Across Bathurst Regional Council sporting land provision is currently around 3.58 hectares/1,000 people (excluding major outliers such as the bicycle park, racecourses and private facilities). This include whole parcels which while predominantly use for sport can have large areas of bushland or other open space within the boundary. Taking into account the forecast population in 2036 of 55,250 people the rate of provision then will reduce to 2.78 hectares per 1,000 people, but will still be above the recommended rate of 1.5 hectares per 1,000 people.

Provision of active open space and land for sport is uneven, with local planning areas such as Bathurst having high rates of provision of sporting land, but North Kelso/Laffing Waters having undesirably low provision of active open space and land for sport. By 2036 provision of sport land will be below the recommended 1.5 hectares per 1,000 people if no additional land is provided in Abercrombie-Llanarth, Kelso South, Perthville and Windradyne.

Recommendations to improve sporting opportunities in Bathurst Region are in Table 34.

Table 34 Actions for Sport

	Background	Actions
Home grounds for sports - Rugby league	Bathurst doesn't have a complying field to host an NRL game, despite Penrith Panthers holding one home game a year at Carrington Park which can hold 11,000 spectators.	Bring Carrington Park up to playing and broadcast standard for NRL competition matches with improved: - Lighting - Change rooms - Field size - Grandstand upgrade
- Cricket	Cricket doesn't have a regional base in Bathurst. There is no home ground with a clubhouse for cricket in Bathurst Region.	Designate a home ground for cricket
- AFL	The George Park 2 playing surface should be upgraded in order to make it attractive to AFL clubs for pre-season or practice match competitions.	Prepare a Masterplan for George Park (2018-19) including upgrades and provide lighting
- Athletics	Throwing facilities at Bathurst Sportsground need upgrading	New discus throwing facility at Bathurst Sportsground
Additional land for sport	Opportunities for land for sport are south of Proctor Park and in Hereford Street	Prepare a Masterplan for Proctor Park for 11 potential new fields to the south. Acquire land (approx. 15 hectares)
		Undertake planned capital works at Proctor Park football fields including a carpark and junior fields \$2,200,000 in 2018-19
		Construct two rugby league fields in sporting precinct on Hereford Street in 2018-19
Acquire land	Council is trying to acquire land around the racecourse for sports facilities	Assess the cost and feasibility of acquiring land around the racecourse for sports facilities
Use of school land for sport	Sporting facilities on school land contribute to the provision of sporting facilities in a community of the facilities are available for community use.	Investigate with Department of Education and selected non-government schools as to developing agreements with schools for public use of active open space on school grounds outside school hours

	Background	Actions
Embellish land for active recreation	Current concept/master plans for Centennial Park and the Perthville Village Square	Implement the preferred concept option for Centennial Park in Bathurst Implement plans for active open space in the new central park in Perthville
Access for people with disabilities	The Bathurst Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 made recommendations about access to sports parks.	Review and improve access to parks including Proctor Park and George Park.
Level land for sporting use	Sofala Public School does not have easy access to flat land for school sport.	Level and turf the flat land at Sofala Showground for school sport.
Re-purpose land formerly used for active recreation	If space is available around active sporting facilities or sporting parks are not currently being used, in areas with an under supply of community parkland opportunities then repurposing some or all of the site to provide play, picnic, active recreation etc should be considered	Refurbish Alex Lamberton Field for multiple uses to accommodate both sport field uses and community uses for general recreation.
	The former BMX track on River Road is in disrepair.	Undertake community engagement for desired future use of the River Road site, perhaps for a youth space with a pump track.
Allocation of grounds for multiple sports	Sportsgrounds should be shared between sports where possible to maximise their use.	Allocate rugby league, football and other compatible fields for touch football in summer.
		Review the sports field allocation system
	Touch football want to use additional grounds	Prepare a touch football masterplan.
Lighting	Lighting of active open space can extend the time available for use	Review lighting requirements for training and competition. Upgrade lighting where required.
Synthetic surfaces	Synthetic surfaces can improve the quality of playing surfaces and extend the time available for use	Consider synthetic surfaces
Amenities	Amenities are required to support sporting activities	Improve the clubhouse and amenities at Walmer Park



### 6.3.3 Drainage open space

Recommended actions for drainage open space in Bathurst Region are set out below.

Table 35 Actions for drainage open space

	Background	Actions
More effective use of drainage open space	Drainage open space is often highly suitable for sport or informal recreation use	<p>Consider a rest area at the drainage open space at corner of Richardson, Mitchell Highway and Bradwardine Road.</p> <p>Consider allowing use of detention basins at Wentworth Drive for school sport</p>
Reconstruction of wetlands	Opportunities to reconstruct wetlands are at Marsdens Lane and Gilmour Street	<p>Engage with the community south of Marsden Lane, reservoir, Limekilns Road about reconstructing the wetland with stepping stones, and multi-use open space.</p> <p>Engage with residents about a wetland at the Gilmour Street drainage basin.</p>
Road frontage to drainage reserves	Council has been trying to obtain road frontage to drainage reserves as part of new residential subdivisions.	Change planning standards to require open space to have at least 50% road frontage.

### 6.3.4 Natural open space

Recommended actions for natural open space in Bathurst Region are set out below.

Table 36 Actions for natural open space

	Background	Actions
Riparian areas	<p>Council intends to purchase land adjacent to the Macquarie River between Bathurst and Eglinton as regional open space.</p> <p>There are some pinch points and not quite continuous river access.</p> <p>Council is starting to purchase other land in the Raglan Creek channel: Brickpit (Edgells Lane) and 4 lots.</p> <p>Council has acquired land around the Brickpits (off Edgells Lane) for environmental reasons.</p>	<p>Continue to acquire land up to 40 metres each side of the Macquarie River as a regional recreation area.</p> <p>Prepare a Master Plan for the Macquarie River riparian open space, including long term objectives such as a walking track on the levee and rehabilitation of the old brick pits.</p> <p>Acquire land – Brickpit and 4 other lots.</p> <p>Reserve an open space corridor 40 metres wide (20 metres either side of Raglan Creek) along the section of Raglan Creek south of Sydney Road, linking Kelso to Raglan. Include a walking/cycle track.</p> <p>Implement the Urban Waterways Management Plan creek restoration works including rock structures in Urban Tributaries 1-6</p> <p>Revegetate throughout Jacques Park</p>
Bushland	The Vegetation Management Plan sets out actions for bushland	Implement the Vegetation Management Plan
Wetland	The Biodiversity Management Plan sets out actions for wetlands	<p>Implement the Biodiversity Management Plan</p> <p>Implement the proposal for a wetland at Kelso.</p>

### 6.3.5 Linkages and connections

Table 37 Actions for linkages and connections

	Background	Actions
Accessible footpaths and pathways	The Bathurst Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2020 made recommendations about accessible footpaths and pathways.	Continue to implement strategies in the Bathurst Regional Council Access and Cycling Plan 2001, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Width of pathways</li> <li>- Access in and around playgrounds and parks</li> <li>- Pothole maintenance on existing paths</li> <li>- Development of pathways around city</li> <li>- Continual monitoring and policing of standards</li> </ul>
	Foreshore open space should be connected via cycleway where public access to riverfront land is not possible. Council has an off-road bike link to Eglinton via the Sewage Treatment Plant.	Plan and construct a cycleway between Brickpit and Eglinton Road and Ophir Road

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# 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

## 7.1 Introduction

Spatial strategies and recommendations for all planning areas and for community parks, sport land, drainage open space, natural open space and linkages were set out in Section 6.

Recommendations for planning and management in general, and implementation of this Open Space Strategy, are set out below.

## 7.2 Planning and management recommendations

Recommendations for effective open space planning and management processes within Council include to:

- ☐ ensure Council's Workforce Plan identifies the needs of the Recreation team to have the relevant skills and experience in greenkeeping, horticulture, landscape architecture, recreation planning and project management, and arboriculture.
- ☐ Prepare, and update as necessary, Plans of Management for community and Crown land.
- ☐ ongoing development assessment.
- ☐ rezone identified open space land as RE1 Public Recreation or E2 Environmental Conservation as appropriate.
- ☐ zone drainage lines as SP2 Drainage to reflect their drainage use and function rather than as RE1 Public Recreation.
- ☐ develop and adopt guidelines on the minimum expected embellishment of local open space by developers at the time of dedication to Council.
- ☐ identify open space in the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan with its intended use (eg local open space, community parks, sport, drainage, natural, district, sport) to inform the community on the planned open space provision.
- ☐ include open space planning controls and design requirements in the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan.
- ☐ refer development applications and subdivision plans with open space land to be dedicated to Council or landscape plans to the Recreation team for their review and comment.
- ☐ review developer contributions plans to reflect the estimated cost of open space works.
- ☐ continue to levy and collect developer contributions (Section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
- ☐ prioritise operational and capital expenditure and Council resources on open space.
- ☐ adopt the recommended classification system for open space.
- ☐ community engagement in planning and design of open spaces, then get a professional to design in conjunction with community engagement with local residents (letterbox drops, surveys, interest groups).
- ☐ ongoing asset management.
- ☐ benchmark activity to determine the appropriate maintenance budget.

## 7.3 Implementation of open space provision guidelines

### 7.3.1 Masterplanning in new subdivisions

New residential estates often comprise more than one land owner/developer. If each developer contributed only the requirement of land, funds or works in kind for their development, the result would be poorly planned and piecemeal open space. Consideration of open space planning at the larger scale, such as for the LGA as a whole, by local planning area, or by new release area results in better planning outcomes by “pooling” open space requirements to enable a range of hierarchies and recreation opportunities in open space.

Developers should be encouraged through the Developer Contribution planning process to provide open space as soon as possible in the development process. Open space is a major attraction for people purchasing residential properties in new estates, and proximity to open space increases property values. If substantial and attractive open space is provided early in a new development, then property buyers are keen to buy into the development early and possibly for a higher price, resulting in financial benefits to the developers and lifestyle benefits to the people moving in.

### 7.3.2 Acquisition of land for open space

#### What is acquisition?

Acquisition means the transfer of ownership and/or effective control of land to Council for the purpose of providing public open space. Such control of land by Council may occur through freehold ownership; lease, licence or other estate; trust management of Crown land; or by acquisition or transfer of ownership of Crown land to Bathurst Regional Council. Acquisition may also mean converting existing Council-controlled public land or Crown land from another use to a public open space function.

#### Why acquire land for open space?

Public open space forms a critical part of urban environments. However, increasing development of land has resulted in loss of open space and often insufficient open space to meet the needs of the community.

Public parks, sports fields, natural corridors and other public open space all have a certain capacity to accommodate the needs and demands of the community. If the capacity of the open space available is insufficient for the current or forecast demand, then capacity of open space must be increased. Acquisition of land is one of the key strategies to increase the capacity of public open space to accommodate demand for sport, outdoor recreation and other uses of public open space.

The need for additional public open space in the Bathurst Region is demonstrated clearly in the assessment section of this Strategy. The expected levels of provision and the features of an adequate supply of open space are also clearly articulated in Section 5. In some cases, acquiring land will be the only option to effectively meet current or future demand.

The main triggers for acquiring land for open space are:

- ❑ **Insufficient current supply** - indicated by overcrowding of playgrounds and picnic areas, wear of sportsfield surfaces especially in winter, or unmet demand such as insufficient sports fields to accommodate the teams wanting to play. Insufficient supply of open space can also occur through population growth and increasing residential density, which place non-sustainable pressure on existing open spaces.

- ❑ **Ineffective or inappropriate current supply** - open space that, due to a series of physical constraints (such as steep slopes, flooding and poor drainage, hazards, narrow street frontage, inaccessibility), is unable to provide for the outdoor recreation needs of the surrounding community, even though the amount of open space in the particular area may appear sufficient.
- ❑ **Loss of existing open space** – occurs through redevelopment of land which had previously functioned as public open space, changing the purpose of public open space through permitting non-compatible uses, isolation of land due to development (such as road and rail corridors), or public safety issues.
- ❑ **Strategic planning opportunities** – strategic open space planning, master planning, and particularly the planning of major open space corridors can identify key parcels of land that will complete a network or linkage of open space or will complete a strategic vision for an existing open space. Acquisition of such parcels for open space will return many times their value by enabling a significant increase in capacity. These parcels could also link pedestrian/cycle routes and critical habitat corridors, or protect a highly valued landscape feature.

Acquisition of land for public open space should only be considered where it is proven to be more cost-effective than other alternatives, such as major development works on poorer quality open space, or where there is simply no other land or space available to meet demand and so additional land is required.

## Principles for acquisition

Land is suitable for acquisition for public open space if it meets most of the principles set out in Section 5.8 in terms of location, visibility and road frontage, accessibility, size, natural and cultural significance, capability for adaptive reuse, and physical linkages.

Some characteristics of land are undesirable for acquisition of open space, unless these constraints are overcome by measures such as rehabilitation. Such undesirable characteristics of land to be acquired for open space are:

- ❑ contamination with hazardous substances such as asbestos or residual contamination from past uses.
- ❑ unremediated landfill sites.
- ❑ flooding and drainage constraints. Drainage swales, channels and detention basins should only be accepted for acquisition or dedication for open space where Council is satisfied that the recreational value of the land will not be compromised by its function as part of a drainage or stormwater management system.
- ❑ land with potential hazards such as high voltage power lines and similar infrastructure.
- ❑ acid sulfate soils which would affect recreational structures.

Planning considerations which assist acquisition of land for public open space include land which is:

- ❑ zoned, or suitable to be zoned, in the Bathurst Region Local Environmental Plan for public recreation or environmental protection.
- ❑ identified as being suitable for open space purposes in a relevant study or plan.
- ❑ constrained (by infrequent flooding for example) for residential or other development, and as such is cheaper to acquire than less-burdened land.
- ❑ of low impact on the amenity of adjoining or adjacent development.
- ❑ separately subdivided and has a separate certificate of title.

## Strategies for acquisition

### Nexus with planned development in the Bathurst Region

Open space is a key factor considered by many people when they decide where to live. Substantial development is forecast to occur in the Bathurst Region. The present community and incoming residents and workers will require public open space in which to recreate.

Land will be required to be acquired or dedicated for additional open space to meet the existing and future recreation needs of residents and workers in urban development areas. In these circumstances the prospect of future development or redevelopment in a planning area offers an opportunity for a more suitable public open space outcome. The recommendations of the Section 94 Contributions Plan, this Open Space Strategy, and the localised planning for open space which arises from these strategic directions can be defined and used in negotiations with developers to achieve good open space outcomes for the community.

### Mechanisms for acquisition of land for open space

Acquisition of land for public open space can occur through several mechanisms, including:

- ☐ transferring ownership of open space to Council as a result of development approval.
- ☐ identifying land as a strategic acquisition in the Bathurst Region Local Environmental Plan, and Council then purchasing the land.
- ☐ negotiating as part of a voluntary planning agreement, land swap, or dedication in lieu of a development contribution for public open space.
- ☐ making a bequest or donation to Council.
- ☐ converting Council owned or controlled land from an alternative use to public open space.
- ☐ negotiating with Commonwealth/State government to transfer ownership or control of Crown land or Commonwealth/State government land to Council.
- ☐ transferring Council-owned land.
- ☐ establishing a lease, licence or other estate over land owned by other agencies or entities, enabling Council to develop and use it for public open space.
- ☐ reviewing land zoned but not yet acquired for open space.
- ☐ negotiating to acquire critical land links along existing or potential linked systems as part of new developments.
- ☐ purchasing land on the market for sale or reuse, such as in former industrial areas.

### Developer contributions

Developer contributions for open space and recreation facilities may be provided by a cash contribution from development of the land, or as negotiated with the developer on a case-by-case basis either in cash or land on-site or in the vicinity of the development.

In the past, dedication of land by developers for open space has sometimes resulted in small, steep, narrow, less visible and accessible open spaces which offer no or very limited recreation opportunity for the surrounding residents for which the park was intended. Ideally, land to be transferred to Council for open space by dedication, land swap or voluntary planning agreement should have most of the characteristics as set out above for land acquisition, and be located in or close to the development site wherever possible. This process is often difficult to achieve, but it is facilitated if clear principles for and desired features of land to be acquired for open space are understood. Council's design team should be involved at the start and throughout the process of land acquisition to advise developers about suitable land to avoid maintenance

and use issues. Suitable land acquired, transferred or dedicated for open space has benefits for the community, Council, and developers.

Early advice to developers or prospective developers about the desired open space outcomes and design guidelines for a particular locality can mean that a negotiated outcome could achieve:

- ☐ new open space which complements existing open space and which enhances the proposed development.
- ☐ developer funding of upgrades and embellishments of existing open space in lieu of providing land for open space.
- ☐ dedication of larger, well distributed and linked pieces of land, and ensuring that any land accepted for public open space is fit for purpose.
- ☐ lower maintenance and use issues.

Dedication of land in lieu of a monetary contribution for open space and recreation facilities should only be considered when the land proposed to be dedicated is consistent with the principles and desired features of such land.

In areas where land holdings are fragmented there may be a need to collect monetary contributions in the first instance, to facilitate purchasing a parcel(s) of land in accordance with this Strategy.

## Funding sources

Funding for acquisitions of land for open space may come from the following sources:

- ☐ acquisition through developer contribution processes such as dedication of land, Voluntary Planning Agreements, and monetary contributions.
- ☐ negotiations with State Government landholders.
- ☐ purchase through other financial sources within Council (e.g. general revenue, loans, etc).

### 7.3.3 Rationalisation and disposal of open space

Council wants the Strategy to identify any open space that may be suitable for disposal or repurposing, and to provide an open space rationalisation strategy.

## What is rationalisation and consolidation?

Rationalisation of open space may be defined as selling, transferring or otherwise disposing of public open space which is considered to no longer serve the needs of the community.

Consolidation means reconfiguring the open space network so that numerous individual parcels of limited value are replaced with fewer (but larger) parcels of greater value for open space.

Rationalisation and consolidation are considered together here because detailed open space planning may identify parcels of open space which have limited capacity but are well located to serve local needs. When such parcels are located in areas of undersupply or likely future undersupply of open space, then these parcels may be suitable for enhancement through strategically acquiring adjacent land to expand their capacity or to improve their functionality. Consolidation may be funded by rationalisation when other open spaces in the same planning area are disposed of, or by other means such as developer contributions. Linking rationalisation and consolidation strategies can ensure that there is a net benefit for the local

community in terms of enhanced quantity and quality of open space, even though some open space is disposed of.

## Why rationalise and consolidate land for open space?

Some areas in the Bathurst Region have numerous small parcels of open space which have limited functionality and value for outdoor recreation, yet represent a maintenance burden which is hard to justify.

A need to rationalise the existing open space network is triggered by the desire for a more efficient and effective open space network. Reasons that the open space network may not be efficient and/or effective include:

- ❑ the legacy of numerous ad-hoc urban planning decisions has resulted in an open space network that does not provide sufficient capacity to meet demands, yet “on paper” appears to have a sufficient quantum of supply. This has occurred in Kelso for example, which is characterised by numerous small open spaces.
- ❑ numerous small parcels in a certain area do not meet minimum size requirements and provide limited functional outdoor recreation opportunity.
- ❑ highly dispersed and very small parcels of open space are more expensive to maintain than a single, larger, and more functional parcel.
- ❑ a high proportion of small open spaces which are less suitable for recreation due to extreme steep slope, drainage and flooding constraints, inaccessibility, and hazards from other infrastructure (e.g. high voltage power lines, transport corridors).
- ❑ the occurrence of ‘stranded assets’, where parks have become alienated from the main area of demand.
- ❑ an over-supply of certain types or settings of public open space, particularly small parks and playgrounds, which drains maintenance resources.
- ❑ poor distribution of open space relative to demand, and subsequently a need to relocate supply of open space to areas of demand. Rationalisation is justified where urban development may not have occurred near existing open space resources, thus creating demand where there is limited open space supply, and conversely supply of open space where there is limited demand.

The key objective of rationalising the open space supply is to ensure that the resulting open space network more effectively meets current and future demand for open space, improves efficiency of maintenance, and increases the quality of public open space. This means:

- ❑ open space is located appropriately to serve needs of surrounding residents.
- ❑ resources are not expended maintaining open space which does not effectively contribute to meeting local demand.
- ❑ alternative uses of some under-used or surplus parcels may return a financial or other benefit that can be used to improve supply and/or embellish open space in areas of need.
- ❑ disposal or conversion of existing open space assets does not diminish the ability of the open space network to meet current and future needs.
- ❑ opportunities to consolidate disparate parcels or expand existing small parcels will create functional open spaces in areas of need.

## Principles for rationalisation and consolidation

Rationalisation of public open space assets is a significant decision by Council, and should not be undertaken lightly because it is difficult and expensive to ‘re-acquire’ land for open space. Rationalisation usually prompts concerns in the community about a perceived loss of open

space. The process of rationalisation and consolidation needs to be undertaken cautiously and with respect to the local community's sense of ownership of its open space, and their perception of its local character. The overarching principle that must apply is that:

*Rationalisation by sale or disposal of public open space should only occur where the benefit from that sale or disposal may be clearly demonstrated, delivering a greater benefit than that lost by disposing of the land. The desired outcome of rationalisation is to satisfy the open space and recreation needs of the community by consolidating and embellishing other open space to improve the quality, diversity, location and distribution of public open space in the same or nearby planning area.*

## Features of land suitable for rationalisation and consolidation

Land suitable for possible rationalisation should:

- ☐ be owned by Council.
- ☐ be reclassified from 'community' to 'operational' land under the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- ☐ be of minimal strategic importance in the open space network in terms of quantity, quality and distribution. Ideally the land would be located in an area of high provision or duplication of numerous small reserves.
- ☐ have minimal potential for improvement by acquiring adjoining parcels or by consolidation. Ideal land for rationalisation would be small in size, at a distance from other parcels, and/or isolated from easy access.

Other factors which should be considered in rationalising public open space include that it:

- ☐ is not required for the purpose for which it was purchased or dedicated.
- ☐ is not suitable for its existing use or other open space uses.
- ☐ cannot be easily modified for alternative suitable recreation/community purposes.
- ☐ is less than 0.5 hectares in size (or 0.2 hectares in dense urban areas).
- ☐ has a minimal level of embellishment, for example no play equipment, or old children's play equipment which would justify removal of the play equipment and not replacing it if the land is sold.
- ☐ does not form part of an open space linkage (such as a natural wildlife or drainage corridor, or pedestrian/cycle link).
- ☐ does not serve strategic access purposes, such as linking or extending open spaces, or complementing another land use such as community purpose, commercial or retail.
- ☐ does not have identified environmental, visual and cultural significance.
- ☐ is identified as surplus or inappropriate after more detailed strategic open space and other land use planning has been undertaken.
- ☐ is located within 400 metres of another public park or open space.
- ☐ has steep topography or is in a floodway which is frequently inundated.

Any open space in an area identified for rationalisation which meets one or more of these criteria should be assessed further to determine its recreational value, including:

- ☐ community values (the value the community places on the land for providing other benefits such as a noise buffer, visual amenity, etc.).
- ☐ potential for disposal/sale (does the land have a market value?).
- ☐ other uses of the land (ie may be used as a walkway, landscaped area, etc.).

These issues should be further explored and assessed by Council as part of the extensive process involved in the potential disposal of community land. Consultation with the community is essential when considering rationalisation of open space.

## Strategies for rationalisation and consolidation

### Risks and benefits of rationalisation and consolidation

#### Risks

An open space rationalisation and consolidation program is a sensitive project in urban areas because sections of the community often perceive that public open space that they may use or value for other reasons will be lost, and won't be replaced somewhere else. This negative perception arises because of possible mistrust of Council's reasons for rationalisation and consolidation, and doubts about their ability to implement such a rationalisation and consolidation program.

Broad support for a rationalisation and consolidation program may be evident across the community, but property owners adjoining the open space proposed for rationalisation may object because they fear the alternative use(s) to which the land may be put.

Another risk is that Councillors, for political reasons, may try to 'save' a certain parcel of open space from rationalisation.

To overcome such negative perceptions of rationalisation and consolidation by the community, Council needs to:

- ❑ **be clear and transparent** about the reasons for rationalisation and consolidation, and to communicate those reasons and the benefits to the community. The community affected must be convinced that Council's objective is to improve open space in their area if the rationalisation and consolidation initiative will have any chance of success.
- ❑ **have support of Councillors** from the outset and throughout the process.
- ❑ **carry out initial open space planning** in local areas. Open space and recreation strategy plans, such as the Bathurst 2040 Open Space Strategy are imperative to assess and then communicate the "big picture" of open space and recreation provision across a local government area.
- ❑ **prepare and implement a comprehensive Community Engagement Program** to communicate the reasons for and options for rationalisation and consolidation. Refer to 'Process of rationalisation and consolidation' below.
- ❑ **be publicly accountable for all income** derived from the disposal of open space, and that such income be redirected into improving open spaces in the vicinity of the sold open space.

#### Benefits

If the reasons behind rationalisation and consolidation are transparent, understood and supported by the community, it is easier for Council to:

- ❑ address any concerns about a perceived loss of equity of open space provision across the Region resulting from rationalisation and consolidation.
- ❑ justify rationalisation and consolidation of open space if it conflicts with the recommendations of another Council planning strategy such as the Section 94 Contributions Plan, and other plans prepared before this Open Space Strategy.
- ❑ resist political pressure to "save" certain open spaces from disposal.

- ❑ demonstrate that revenue from land disposal will be used to consolidate or embellish open space in the same area.

## Mechanisms of rationalisation and consolidation

### Means of rationalisation and consolidation

Rationalisation and consolidation of land for open space may be achieved in a number of ways, including:

- ❑ **selling surplus land.** Refer to 'Process of rationalisation and consolidation' below.
- ❑ **converting a maintained public park to naturally vegetated urban bushland** to reduce maintenance costs.
- ❑ **converting existing public open space to an alternative public use**, such as for community purposes.
- ❑ **considering interim use strategies** as alternatives to disposal of open space. If there is no current demand for a parcel of land, but there is some likelihood of it being required in the future, then an interim alternative use may be appropriate. For example, leasing a parcel of open space to an adjacent land owner or other party for a specified period of time, which may remove the maintenance burden from Council for that period, but retains the land for a future public need. The alternative use should be permissible under the zoning of the land and the use agreement should be authorised in any Plan of Management which applies to the land. The alternative use should also return a benefit in financial terms or at the least remove a maintenance burden on Council. However interim use strategies should only be considered where the land meets the performance criteria for public open space, ie. where it has obvious potential as public open space to serve a future need.
- ❑ **land swaps and transfers**, which effectively relocate the supply of open space to more essential locations.

### Process of rationalisation and consolidation

The process of rationalisation and consolidation is subject to legislative processes and community engagement. The broad process from initial planning to sale of land is outlined below.

#### 1. Initial planning

The future demand for open space and long term strategic outcomes must be considered. It is important that future development in the subject area is considered at both medium and long term planning horizons. If a parcel of open space meets performance criteria normally associated with a local park then there should be a very strong certainty that it will not be required as a result of future residential and/or commercial growth in order for it to be sold.

This initial open space planning would draw on this Open Space Strategy. Maps, statistics on existing and proposed provision of open space, options for land sales and acquisitions, and a preferred option will show Councillors and the community how funds raised through rationalisation may be used to consolidate and embellish open space elsewhere.

A plan for the land to be rationalised should show alternative land use(s) and proposed zoning for that land.

## 2. Councillor support

Support of Councillors for the rationalisation and consolidation program is essential. This may be achieved through preparation of a justified rationalisation and consolidation program communicated to Councillors through briefings and workshops.

## 3 Prepare and implement a detailed community engagement program

A detailed community engagement program should be built around comprehensive 'local area open space planning', not just the proposed sale and acquisition of specific sites. The key elements of the Community Engagement Program should be to:

- ❑ anchor the program around the overall objective of improving the level of service of public parks and recreation opportunities, and the protection and enhancement of natural systems such as waterways and local habitats.
- ❑ provide transparency regarding how the rationalisation and consolidation program will be implemented, particularly how Council will guarantee that all funds raised from rationalisation of open space in a particular area will be used to benefit provision of other open space serving that area.
- ❑ provide a range of opportunities for the local community to consider proposals for rationalisation and consolidation, and be involved in the refinement of those proposals, as well as opportunities to suggest alternatives.
- ❑ continually refer to the criteria used to assess open spaces for rationalisation and consolidation, and the clear linkage to the overriding principle of the rationalisation and consolidation program having a net benefit to the local community.

The Community Engagement Program should include opportunities for providing and sharing information and receiving feedback, through means such as a page on Council's website, social media, an online survey, workshops, displays, reference groups, and public exhibition of proposals. Options would be refined and further community engagement should occur before implementing a final rationalisation and consolidation program.

## 4 Agreement with program

Council agrees to proceed with the final rationalisation and consolidation program through a resolution of Council.

## 5 Incorporation in Council plans

The recommendations of the rationalisation and consolidation program would then be incorporated into the Local Environmental Plan, Section 94 Contributions Plan, acquisition strategies, and in works programs for embellishment.

## 6 Reclassification of land

### *Council-owned land*

Community land must be reclassified as operational land if it is intended to be sold. This process is set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Reclassification of Council-owned community land to operational land may occur two ways:

1. By public hearing and Council resolution
2. Making a Local Environmental Plan.

These two processes are outlined as follows.

## 1. Public hearing and Council resolution

The process of reclassifying community land to operational land by public hearing and Council resolution is set out in Table 38.

**Table 38** Reclassification of community land by public hearing and Council resolution

Process	Relevant legislation
Council decides to reclassify subject land	
Public notification of the public hearing issued on Council's website, in local newspaper(s), and by writing to adjoining owners, people who requested a public hearing, and relevant public authorities.	
Council holds public hearing into proposed reclassification. The person presiding at a public hearing must not be a councillor or employee of the council holding the public hearing, or a person who has been a councillor or employee of that council at any time during the 5 years before the date of his or her appointment.	Section 29 of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Department of Planning and Infrastructure Practice Note PN09-003 Section 47G of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Independent chairperson at public hearing prepares public hearing report and issues it to Council	
Council must make a copy of the public hearing report available for inspection by the public at a location within the area of the council no later than 4 days after it has received a report from the person presiding at the public hearing as to the result of the hearing	Section 47G of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Consideration of public hearing report and public submissions by Council	
<i>If decision by Council to proceed with reclassification:</i>	
Report to Council on public hearing and submissions	
Give public notice of the proposed resolution. Public notice must include the terms of the proposed resolution and a description of the public land concerned. Public notice must specify a period of not less than 28 days during which submissions may be made to the council.	Sections 34 (1), (2), (3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Council resolution	
Reclassification of the land to operational land	Section 30(1) of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>

## 2. Making a Local Environmental Plan

The process of reclassifying community land to operational land by making a Local Environmental Plan is set out in Table 39.

Table 39 Reclassification of community land by making a Local Environmental Plan

Process	Relevant legislation
Council decides to reclassify subject land	
Council prepares planning proposal to reclassify subject land	
Council forwards the Planning Proposal to amend the Local Environmental Plan to the Minister for Planning and Environment	Section 3.34 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
Minister determines the planning proposal should proceed, and issues Gateway Determination. Conditions of the Gateway Determination may be that community consultation is required.	
Council places the planning proposal on public exhibition for comment for 28 days.	Sections 3.34(2) <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
Public notification of the public hearing issued on Council's website, in local newspaper(s), and by writing to adjoining owners, people who requested a public hearing, and relevant public authorities.	
Council holds public hearing into proposed reclassification. The person presiding at a public hearing must not be a councillor or employee of the council holding the public hearing, or a person who has been a councillor or employee of that council at any time during the 5 years before the date of his or her appointment.	Section 29 of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> Department of Planning and Infrastructure Practice Note PN09-003 Section 47G of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Independent chairperson at public hearing prepares public hearing report and issues it to Council	
Council must make a copy of the public hearing report available for inspection by the public at a location within the area of the council no later than 4 days after it has received a report from the person presiding at the public hearing as to the result of the hearing	Section 47G of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Consideration of public hearing report and public submissions by Council	
<i>If decision by Council to proceed with reclassification:</i>	
Report to Council on public hearing and submissions	
Council requests the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to prepare the draft Local Environmental Plan to give effect to the Planning Proposal	
Amendment made to the Local Environmental Plan to reclassify the community land as operational land may make provision to the effect that, on commencement of the plan, the land ceases to be a public reserve, and that the land is by operation of the plan discharged from any trusts, estates, interests, dedications, conditions, restrictions and covenants affecting the land or any part of the land.	Section 27 of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Reclassification of the land to operational land	Section 30(1) of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>



#### Land owned by other organisations

For non-Council owned land, such as land dedicated under Section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, rationalisation would occur by:

- ☐ considering the suitability of the land for the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and public services in terms of the size, shape, topography, location of the land; and difficulty of providing public access to the land.
- ☐ concluding that the land is unsuitable for the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and public services in terms of any one or more of: the size, shape, topography, location of the land; and difficulty of providing public access to the land (Section 32(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*).
- ☐ obtaining consent from the landowner for the proposed reclassification from community land to operational land.
- ☐ forwarding a planning proposal for the proposed reclassification to the Minister for Planning, Industry and Environment (Section 56 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
- ☐ hold a public hearing (Section 57 of *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*).
- ☐ giving public notice of the proposed resolution, including a period of not less than 28 days during which submissions may be made to the Council, and the grounds on which Council is satisfied the land is unsuitable for the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and services (Sections 32(3) and (4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*)
- ☐ Council resolution
- ☐ reclassifying the land as operational land.

#### 7 Sale of land

The sale of land identified for rationalisation would be handled by Council's Property section.

#### 8 Expenditure of funds from sale of land

The funds raised from the sale of land would be used for acquisition, consolidation and/or embellishment as set out in the rationalisation and consolidation program.

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# APPENDIX A

## Community Feedback About Desired Open Space In Bathurst Region

## A.1 Demand by type of open space

The survey of sporting and recreation groups in Bathurst provided the following requests:

### Community parks

#### Water play

Water park – next to Adventure Playground

#### Unleashed dog exercise

Seating in the small dog off leash area.

### Sport

#### Sport – general

- ☐ General increase in membership numbers because of:
  - Modified sports for children
  - Participation by women
  - Increase in population
  - Faster sports with smaller teams
  - Social competitions for adultsbut decrease in participation by teenagers and older people/seniors
- ☐ some facilities are dedicated to particular sports, but general willingness to share facilities

Key issues affecting sporting organisations:

- ☐ security lighting and safety issues
- ☐ cost of registration/membership
- ☐ increased competition from other sports and activities
- ☐ difficulty attracting and retaining volunteers
- ☐ availability of equipment storage
- ☐ lack of available fields/space for sport/recreation activity

#### Field sport

Football:

- ☐ improve Police Paddock (field quality, purpose built stadium and training facility for Western NSW Mariners FC)
- ☐ Eglinton Oval: lights for training, better playing surface

Hockey:

- ☐ good surfaces and lighting for safety
- ☐ indoor multi-purpose courts

## Rugby league:

- ☐ Walmer Park – better lighting, playing surface, change rooms and facilities for women, undercover facilities, lighting for gatekeepers

## Rugby union:

- ☐ High quality surface for competition
- ☐ Enough space for training
- ☐ Covered seating in front of clubhouse
- ☐ Lighting

## Court sport

### Netball:

- ☐ Indoor stadium

## Equestrian sport

### Pony club:

- ☐ Flat clear ground with good fencing for safety
- ☐ Specialist riding areas (arena, round yards)
- ☐ Amenities (toilets, clubrooms, storage)

## Shooting sports

### Rifle shooting

- ☐ Security of tenure at current site
- ☐ Continued access to current facility

## Natural

### Natural areas, conservation spaces and bushland

- ☐ Nature reserves specially woodland areas for preservation closed to traffic
- ☐ Parks/woodlands with specialty trees/plants for attracting fauna/birdlife
- ☐ Aboriginal conservation areas are of high importance
- ☐ New wetlands proposal Kelso

### Lookout/arboretum

- ☐ A formal lookout on Mt Panorama/Wahluu with tourist information e.g. Black Mountain in Canberra and the National Arboretum
- ☐ Aboriginal conservation areas and learning spaces particularly at the open space on Mount Panorama

## Linkages

### Connections

- ☐ A cycle and bridle path along Eleven Mile Drive
- ☐ Along pathways it would be great to have some park benches. Especially along the Eglinton pathways. It would make taking the kids for a walk easier and also for the elderly in the area to have a break when needed
- ☐ Use fine gravel pathways/cycleways in place of concrete so that water can be absorbed into the ground.
- ☐ Further cycling and running paths around the area and ensure they are maintained. They are used regularly and would get more use.
- ☐ Regarding public open space and footpaths Bathurst is lacking footpaths, in both existing and new residential areas. It forces people to walk in the street which is dangerous.
- ☐ A walking track in the Kelso area would also be nice.
- ☐ More walking tracks
- ☐ more walkways, shaded areas
- ☐ There could be more walking tracks for people to be able to go for walks or walk their dogs.
- ☐ More access to walking tracks/foot paths
- ☐ Bike ways to link parks as well as walkways

### Walking/cycling/running paths

- ☐ Green corridors and footpaths in new areas. See Forde in ACT as an example.
- ☐ Safe walking paths
- ☐ You need to provide more parks in the new subdivisions BRC is creating and footpaths so people and children don't have to walk in the street
- ☐ Cycle ways along river Bathurst to Eglinton
- ☐ Networks of cycle ways that involve roads as well as paths
- ☐ Horse riding trails

## A.2 Suggestions for more open space

61% of online survey respondents thought there are not sufficient parks or open space areas in the Bathurst Region.

Comments included:

- ☐ There are [sufficient parks] now – but there is a danger that “informal” open space will be encroached upon in the future due to housing/industrial/other development.
- ☐ As backyards get smaller, more green space is needed for people to use.

Suggestions for new parks included:

## Along the Macquarie River

- ☐ Macquarie River in general
- ☐ Slash along the banks of Saltram Creek and Macquarie River to provide access thereto.

## CBD to Eglinton (2)

## Higher density housing areas

- ☐ Make sure everyone has ready access to parks, especially in poorer parts of town and areas with lots of units
- ☐ Large and small park areas can be mixed into the suburbs and the CBD.
- ☐ Anywhere the council is looking at higher density housing, they need to make sure there are more green spaces and playgrounds in walking distance.

## In new suburbs/subdivisions/estates

### General

- ☐ Parks in new subdivisions with playgrounds, walkways and cycleways
- ☐ Open spaces for families and locals to visit with children, dogs etc
- ☐ In town there are great parks for families, but would like to see more in estates that are walking distance.

### Ashworth Estate

- ☐ Ashworth estate needs a park with playground

### Marsden Heights

- ☐ Need more small playgrounds in the new suburb areas especially Marsden Heights
- ☐ Marsden estate play equipment for all ages

### Kelso

- ☐ Children's play park
- ☐ Kids park in Kelso (Cheviot Drive- McBrien Drive)
- ☐ A park of some sort would be good in the walking distance of Kelso/Trinity Heights
- ☐ Over in Kelso near the new development areas it would be nice to have a space, either like the adventure playground – with some decent play equipment, toilet facilities and BBQ options or a park like Machattie Park – with walkways and gardens to explore. Even better if a kiosk could be set up nearby.
- ☐ More available walking areas are needed in the Kelso/Laffing Waters area. Longer, extended pathways should be available for the public to be able to walk beside the river. Unfortunately this region does not have public walkways through farming land as is found in the United Kingdom.

### White Rock

- ☐ Where there are no recreational areas (eg White Rock/Blue Ridge)

- ☐ Need something at White Rock – important for community building
- ☐ White Rock Progress Association want botanic garden, passive park, toilet block.

#### Eglinton

- ☐ More needed in Eglinton. Current facilities are getting very crowded
- ☐ As Eglinton is getting larger maybe another play area and bbq facility would be good

#### Llanarth

- ☐ Freeman Park Llanarth
- ☐ Lacking in Llanarth

#### Windradyne

- ☐ Windradyne needs a better playground with facilities
- ☐ Windradyne, playground near creek

#### Peel

- ☐ Peel could do with a playground for the children of the community, to help make a safe place for children to play together locally to develop a sense of community.

#### Gorman's Hill

- ☐ Large scale parks for walking and enjoying nature located on outskirts such as back of tip

## A.3 Desired features of open space

### What type of park or features are needed?

Respondents were asked to talk about the key features they saw as important in different parks.

#### Community Recreation Parks

Themes in regard to recreation parks (i.e. not sporting parkland) are provided below.

##### Regional park

- ☐ Need a large regional park with a bike track through it, dog free or an enclosure where if people must bring their dogs the dogs can run without coming close to people who don't want to be annoyed by other people's dogs.
- ☐ BRC makes millions of dollars from land development they should make a 'Centennial Park' of the Central West with just a small portion of that profit

##### Botanic gardens

- ☐ Botanical gardens etc
- ☐ We are missing a botanical garden
- ☐ Need a botanic gardens

##### Gardens

- ☐ More gardens

- ❑ Machattie Park and the Carillion Park are gorgeous. When a tree has been chopped down (like in the corner of the park opposite Annies) it needs to be replaced for the future. Also, could the gardeners please consider the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> when planning their gardens – they always pull out plants and have the garden bare or only recently planted during that special date – it would be nice if the gardens around the carillion were designed to look good at that date ready for celebrations and remembrance.

## Sport

Comments in regard to sporting parks are detailed below:

- ❑ Parkland concept Alpha Street ( build value into Proctor Park , Loco Oval , Police Paddock and Gasworks site), multi use sports education academy site to leverage most popular sport building value across stakeholders , the work is recognised by CEO of Football Federation of Australia and is deserved of commendation.
- ❑ Improve the upkeep of the netball courts
- ❑ I suggest that an earnest and rigorous understanding of the content of a 18 year study into Bathurst sport and recreation called Gold Country Sport-21k be undertaken and a realistic innovation articulated. Dan Cove currently has this work and this is recognised of high value across society aware of the projects merit. Former mayor Gary Rush had shown a willingness to grow an understanding of grassroots sport and recreation. Council needs to be shown how the existing work can be brought together and a willingness to redefine Bathurst Sport and Recreation Council or take stock of what is deliverable for the region.
- ❑ Regional Football Learning Centre incorporating Craig Johnson Supa Skills at Proctor Park/ Police Paddock.

## Natural

### Nature reserves

- ❑ Wilderness parks with paths and toilets
- ❑ More public nature reserves like Boundary Road
- ❑ Wildlife corridors would be nice
- ❑ More natural environment spaces
- ❑ Our future generations need public land and a better connection to nature

### Bushland with walking trails

- ❑ Local bushland areas around the regional areas of Bathurst REGIONAL Council with signposted trails etc (eg Glow worm tunnel area at Lithgow).
- ❑ We should have more bushwalks around Bathurst – it would be great for tourism

### Macquarie River

- ❑ The Macquarie River banks and associated lands should be conserved and improved. As the world heats up, the river will become an important cool playground for the folks of Bathurst and could become a focus point for more community activities.
- ❑ Something needs to be done about the Macquarie River walking track behind the show ground immediately before someone is killed or seriously injured! It has been collapsed for far too long!
- ❑ I would like the river banks cleaned up as there are a lot of weeds and the access to the river is being overrun with reeds and weeds including morning glory.

- ☐ Love the tree planting along the Macquarie river at ?? and through the town and its reserves. It's a great start, knowing in years it will be a show piece well done to all involved.
- ☐ The River Walk needs to be repaired after the flooding last year ASAP I don't feel safe taking my kids for walks or rides there.

## Wetlands

- ☐ Wetlands in Kelso are important

## Important features and facilities on open space

What are the most important features or facilities that should be provided when considering:

### Parks or open spaces that you can walk to from home

- ☐ Shade (37)
- ☐ Children's playgrounds/equipment (28)
- ☐ Toilets (24)
- ☐ Walking/cycling paths/tracks – general (23)
- ☐ Seating (22)
- ☐ Greenery/vegetation/trees, shrubs, grass (18)
- ☐ Pedestrian/cycle access to parks (12)
- ☐ Water (10)
- ☐ Picnic / barbecue areas (6)
- ☐ Safety (6)
- ☐ Bins (6)
- ☐ Open areas (5)
- ☐ Accessibility (5)
- ☐ Areas for dogs (4)
- ☐ Weed control (4)
- ☐ Clean (3)
- ☐ Outdoor fitness equipment for adults (3)
- ☐ Maintenance (3)
- ☐ Grass mowing (3)
- ☐ Water features (2)
- ☐ Security (2) – lighting, cameras
- ☐ Environmental/wildlife corridors (2)
- ☐ Safe road crossings (2)
- ☐ Snake control (2)
- ☐ Open spaces provided in new estates (2)

### Destination parks, natural areas or open spaces visited for several hours or more?

- ☐ Toilets (41) – clean, well maintained
- ☐ Shade (34) – trees, covers
- ☐ Seats (22)
- ☐ Drinking water (21)
- ☐ Picnic areas (20)

- ☐ Walking tracks, trails, paths (14)
- ☐ Parking (12)
- ☐ Barbecues (12)
- ☐ Vegetation (11)
- ☐ Children's play equipment (7)
- ☐ Variety of activities (6)
- ☐ Protection/improvement of natural areas (5)
- ☐ Rubbish bins (5)
- ☐ Amenities (5)
- ☐ Children's play spaces (5)
- ☐ Visitor information (4)
- ☐ Safety (4)
- ☐ Shelter (3)
- ☐ Signs (3)
- ☐ Good maintenance (3)
- ☐ Nearby food outlets (2)
- ☐ Covered areas (2)
- ☐ Open areas (2)
- ☐ Cleanliness (2)
- ☐ Access roads (2)
- ☐ Places to relax (2)
- ☐ Informal environmental open space (2).

## Sporting areas for formal / organised sport

- ☐ Parking (22)
- ☐ Toilets (21)
- ☐ Shade (16)
- ☐ Seating (15)
- ☐ Maintenance (10)
- ☐ Drinking water (6)
- ☐ Quality playing surface (5)
- ☐ Rubbish disposal/bins (4)
- ☐ Drainage (4)
- ☐ Change rooms (3)
- ☐ Facilities (3)
- ☐ Safe access/egress (3)
- ☐ Amenities (2)
- ☐ Shelter (2)
- ☐ Covered spectator areas (2)
- ☐ Barbecue area (2)
- ☐ Clean toilets (2)
- ☐ Facilities (2)
- ☐ Clubhouse (2)

## A.4 Desired activities in open space

### Activities would like to do but can't

About one-third of online survey respondents stated there was an activity they would like to undertake in parks and open space but can't for any reason. The 38 responses are summarised below:

Table 40 Activities that respondents would like to undertake but can't

Activity	No. mentions	Comments
Barbecues	1	- barbecuing with family in Centennial Park with access to a Community Hub for family gatherings
Bushwalking	1	
Camping	1	- free- but need toilet dumping places
Canoeing	1	- Where and how
Chess	1	
Cycling	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More cycle paths and links between parks . Cycle tracks required around the city and criss crossing the city for access to schools, shops, workplaces.</li> <li>- Some type of bike track that I can ride with my children on that has a continual loop</li> <li>- Bicycle to destinations through a seamless cycle way network through parklands</li> <li>- bike riding, more tracks, loops, to be able to stay off the roads</li> <li>- need more off road cycle paths</li> <li>- would like to be able to get to work from White Rock to Bathurst. Need a bridge over the river somewhere near Gormans Hill. Just for pedestrians/ cyclists. Apparently one used to exist. Could this be rebuilt, maybe with a park around it.</li> </ul>
Equestrian three-day event	1	- A combined dressage, showjumping and cross country event in and around the showground with the Cross Country jump course along the Macquarie River. It's not available
Exercising the dog off leash	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking areas where dogs can be off leash</li> <li>- More open dog area</li> <li>- More off leash areas for dogs</li> </ul>
Fitness – outdoor	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pull up bars and work out equipment</li> <li>- gym equipment, as at Town Beach in Port Macquarie</li> <li>- Fitness circuits in parks, no suitable areas</li> </ul>
Football Supa Skills	1	- The community has not discovered the benefits of the Craig Johnston Supa skills concept see video <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FLCup/videos/1875526946016870/">https://www.facebook.com/FLCup/videos/1875526946016870/</a>
Frisbee	1	
Horse riding	1	
Gardening	1	
Golf	1	

Activity	No. mentions	Comments
Nature walks	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are no nature reserves within walking distance (I enjoy walking through boundary road and the river walks for the bird and other animal sights)</li> <li>- To be able to walk along the waterways</li> </ul>
Picnics	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More picnic seating covered areas</li> </ul>
Play football in summer	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We often take the kids to play football at the oval during winter but can't play in summer as the posts are removed during off season.</li> </ul>
Enjoy quiet	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quiet areas</li> <li>- Provide areas where you are safe from ball sports ie. not hit by football etc.</li> </ul>
Radio-controlled boats	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community has failed to develop a passive recreation water feature for radio controlled boats</li> </ul>
Roller skating	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roller skating (flat not ramps). Need smooth pathways or cycle paths</li> </ul>
Running	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Running round river – currently unsafe</li> </ul>
Small sided soccer	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Soccer, we need small fields for children's skill games</li> </ul>
Squash	1	
Star gazing	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Star gazing. No telescopes. Telling the time by the sun. No sundials. Observing resilient nature. Too much impact of humans. These are examples of imaginative and educational extras which could be part of open space experiences.</li> </ul>
Walk in dog-free parks	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like to be able to just go walking in parks and open spaces like everybody else can do without having to be in an extreme state of fear. I would walk anywhere in Bathurst if I could be assured I could do this without being approached or encountering anyone's off leash dog. At present I cannot walk freely anywhere in Bathurst and I have to be always on guard even walking along the street to shops and do shopping unless I am inside one of the centres where dogs are not allowed unless they are guide dogs which are always on leash anyway.</li> </ul>
Walking in new suburbs	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One thing I think is below expectations is that I can't go for a pleasant walk in any of our new suburbs as I have to walk along and sometimes on the road. Footpaths and green areas are almost completely absent in most new areas. Again: look at new suburb development in the north of Canberra. They are doing great things!</li> <li>- Being a long way from the City centre and its paths and walkways often makes it awkward to get there. It would be more advantageous to have a closer community walking and exercise facility as outlined earlier, viz., the former Alec Lamberton Field conversion.</li> </ul>
Water play	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water play with my children, something similar to the water park at Darling Harbour would be excellent</li> <li>- Splash park in the summer with kids</li> </ul>
Wildlife watching	1	

## A.5 Desired improvements to existing open spaces

Improvements to existing open spaces desired by the community, listed by small area, are outlined below. Most of the comments have been reported verbatim or summarised slightly.

### Abercrombie-Llanarth

No specific mentions

### Bathurst

#### Alan Morse Park

- ☐ Improvement to athletics facility to bring into line with Dubbo (i.e. hard surface, rubber athletics track)

#### Centennial Park

- ☐ Centennial Park needs to be landscaped and beautified in accordance with its original heritage
- ☐ Centennial Park needs TLC. Green grass, better playground
- ☐ Centennial Park needs to be upgraded to a true recreational area, trees, paths, walkways, covered areas and gardens
- ☐ Centennial Park in Bathurst should not be built on, but could be developed to make it a more useful space – more garden, benches, picnic tables, a water play area would be great.
- ☐ Centennial Park needs more planting
- ☐ Centennial Park is not good enough. It should be revamped for our use. Families, Children of all ages should be able to use this park.
- ☐ Centennial Park – small water park
- ☐ Centennial Park could have more equipment and more trees.
- ☐ Centennial Park needs maintenance and enhancement with better watering and more trees but must be preserved as a wide open space and not encroached with any built development.
- ☐ Make provision for adequate watering of public open spaces such Centennial Park which is often neglected.
- ☐ Overall the parks are quite good, but Centennial park really needs some attention. It's close to our house and I would use it a great deal more if there was a bigger/better playground, more benches/picnic shelters and barbecues
- ☐ Please keep Centennial Park an open space but beautify it.
- ☐ Grass cutting is generally too low at Centennial Park. This means the soil dries out more quickly and it becomes less useful for birds and insects.
- ☐ Further improve on Centennial Park to encourage increased use
- ☐ Beautifying existing parks such as Centennial Park and Jaques Park should be a priority. They are both in highly residential areas and their use for families and other residents should be encouraged, providing a pleasant place to picnic and spend extended time

- ☐ Centennial Park has been deliberately neglected in this area and needs to be a priority in our inner city heritage belt. It is used by so many residents for bus drop offs dog walking playground bus drop off...and needs to be further enhanced for the benefit and safety of all residents in this area.
- ☐ Centennial Park needs a management plan, and to be kept as open space/ a low cost park – planting some advanced specimen trees would help. It is a unique and historic reserve for public recreation in the middle of the most densely settled residential area.
- ☐ All are good except Centennial Park. It would have a water park with play equipment, picnic tables, a bike track gardens, more trees, irrigation for lawns. See Dubbo's water park.... located on the road from Wellington.
- ☐ Centennial Park needs more footpaths.

## Machattie Park

- ☐ Less money wasted on changing flowers in Machattie Park when there is nothing wrong with the ones there.
- ☐ Pigeon control Machattie Park.
- ☐ More tables at Machattie Park

## Macquarie River

- ☐ The walkway that was washed away needs to be fixed.
- ☐ Extend walkways to Eglinton
- ☐ Extend up river towards Perthville with link over original railway bridge to Raglan

## Peace Park

- ☐ I would like to see an update of facilities at Peace Park.
- ☐ Peace Park – fence the playground, more modern play equipment, Shade over swings, More picnic tables with covers, More toilets
- ☐ More tables at Peace Park
- ☐ Replace peace park with actual rubber soft fall not bark chip as they both cause irritation to children's eyes and have the ability to hide dangerous things such as glass and syringes.

## Proctor Park

- ☐ Improve field quality, seating, changerooms

## Victoria Park

- ☐ Add a kiosk, More seating, bbq areas, added equipment, a water park would be great there
- ☐ Variety swing at adventure playground there is one at cayenne but it can't be used by public, netted swings and a sensory garden as well
- ☐ Victoria Park: Fence it, Shade and more eating areas, fence off the boundary adjoining
- ☐ Adventure park was a great idea for a park. It has a great variety of things for kids to do. But Adventure park has too many shrubs making it hard to see your kids. I worry about snakes too so stopped going there. If you have to watch more than one child this park makes it difficult to supervise poor visibility.
- ☐ I understand council doesn't like to fence playground and thinks it makes parents lazy. As a mum who is frequently by herself with twins and a new baby it is difficult to keep them safe. I have not taken my kids to the adventure playground because it is simply too hard to keep track of them and the road is so close if you have a child who runs!!!

- ❑ More shade over swing and sandpit area at the adventure park.
- ❑ Replace adventure with actual rubber soft fall not bark chip as they both cause irritation to childrens' eyes and have the ability to hide dangerous things such as glass and syringes.

## Eglinton

### Eglinton Oval

- ❑ Overuse/crowded. Rugby league has been given too much space/priority which has impacted on soccer.
- ❑ More parking

### Rankins Bridge Reserve

- ❑ Some under cover/ shaded seating,
- ❑ Add a Toilet facility near the children's playground,
- ❑ More shade with trees,
- ❑ more exercise equipment that will work

## Kelso North-Laffing Waters

### Berry Park

- ❑ The creation of further innovative sports court spaces for football

### Jarrah Park

- ❑ Shade sail over equipment, shaded seating. More table and chairs

## Kelso South

### Alec Lamberton Park

- ❑ Develop long term strategy for its development
- ❑ Should be a nature trail and walk/ exercise area with facilities and a respite area for travellers from Jenolan Caves/ Sydney
- ❑ Development of Alec Lamberton Park with plantings and seating.
- ❑ The former Alec Lamberton Field should be made a nature habitat in line with vegetation management plan and the Corridor from Raglan to the River concept overlaid with aspects that the community may use.
- ❑ Develop a plan for Lamberton field
- ❑ Through a plan involving the Council and the Community would add to this overall excellence and provide another pleasant impact for the visitors to our city.

## Mitchell-Robin Hill-Mount Panorama

### Blayney Road Common

- ❑ Investment in the creek area behind the dog slip. Incorporation of walking tracks.

- ☐ Further investment to improve the quality of the natural environment – woodland and creek.

## Mount Panorama

- ☐ We often use Mount Panorama but 90% of the time the shade cloth isn't there.
- ☐ McPhillamy Park at the top of Mt Panorama/Wahluu should be developed, there is a lot of room up there and it could be made into a bigger playground with more facilities. Also, put Wahluu on the mountain to reflect its importance. And look at developing more picnic areas with parking and access on that side of Mt Panorama/ Wahluu, to take advantage of the beautiful views. It's great that no more houses are to be built there, but would be nice to be able to enjoy the view and have a picnic.
- ☐ I use McPhillamy Park at the top of Mt Pan a lot. I was dismayed to see a whole section fenced off for a Go Kart development. Let's not privatise or semi-privatise public open space. Provide toilets and other low-key facilities and leave it open to a range of possibilities.

## Perthville

- ☐ community garden
- ☐ skate park
- ☐ nature walk
- ☐ toilets
- ☐ fix up/replace courts
- ☐ Perthville community halls park: Add barbecue facilities

## Raglan

No specific mention

## South Bathurst-Gormans Hill-White Rock

### Jacques Park

- ☐ It's quite stark – beautifying it would make it nicer to use and spend time there for the pleasure of it
- ☐ More growth of native trees and clean up the creek

## West Bathurst

No specific mention

## Windradyne

No specific mention

## Rural Remainder

### Chifley Dam

- ☐ more BBQs/tables on the kiosk side of the dam

## Stevens Park, Rockley

- ☐ Keep weir maintained

## Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds

- ☐ Wattle Flat Heritage Grounds: Closed to motor cycles and speeding vehicles, anti social behaviour, Get rid of noxious weeds before the land is no longer usable
- ☐ Specific to Wattle Flat, implementation of some of the recommendations within the archaeological plan of management as it relates to crown land areas, relics and access enhancement in consultation with the local community

## Yetholme

- ☐ Mt Ovens Trig Station: A decent road/track to the location off the unsealed road.

## A.5 Other general comments about parks and public open space

Respondents were asked if they would you like to make any specific comments about Council's provision and management of parks and public open space. The comments have been summarised into key themes.

### Compliments to Council

- ☐ This survey is a good thing,
- ☐ Bathurst has beautiful, well maintained parks and gardens. Keep up the good work.
- ☐ Congratulations to Council's Parks & Gardens staff – they do an amazing job keeping our parks looking beautiful. Add Centennial Park to the list of beautiful parks and you will be a winner!
- ☐ Council staff do a great job of maintaining our parks and open spaces.
- ☐ Parks that are here are generally well kept.
- ☐ Keep up the good work.
- ☐ I congratulate Council on their ongoing efforts in providing the communities with parks etc., - it cannot be stressed enough how important places of relaxation are and will be more so, in the future
- ☐ We have lived in Bathurst since 2009 and one of the most things we noted was how well the open spaces are tended by Council staff.
- ☐ I think council does reasonably well with parks in town and definitely better than other places I've lived.
- ☐ Council maintain and preserve current parks. Some areas need more walkways and trees for shade but they do a good job.
- ☐ Bathurst Council does an amazing job, and hopefully will continue to improve these areas for community use
- ☐ Doing a good job so far ! Needs higher priority and budget
- ☐ Bathurst has some excellent parks and I hope the standard continues into the future.

- ☐ Generally the parks and facilities are kept up to date with clean facilities and well maintained grounds.
- ☐ The Council does a fine job in enhancing the City of Bathurst through its maintenance of the parks , river walks and the various approaches to Bathurst
- ☐ Overall Council does a great job in maintaining parks and open spaces.
- ☐ Council does a great job with our parks. They are always lovely green and well maintained.
- ☐ Sporting facilities are well catered for.
- ☐ The council is doing a good job.
- ☐ The Morse Park and Learmonth Hereford Street ones overall good. As is Carrington Park.
- ☐ The Eglinton park improving all the time.

## Retain open spaces

- ☐ Don't close any parks. Cities get larger, parks tend to get smaller and fewer.
- ☐ Council should not reduce the size of or build on any existing parks and green spaces
- ☐ Environmental protection and planning to protect our existing open spaces, and planning for new open spaces, given our increasing population and increasing density of housing.
- ☐ The parks we have now are good, none of them should be removed and ideally they should be expanded or improved, but definitely none should be removed

## Praise for CBD parks

- ☐ It's generally excellent for the CBD parks – Machattie Park and Kings Parade.
- ☐ The parks in the CBD especially Machattie are well maintained and I love the begonia house. Generally the provision and management is very good.....in the city.
- ☐ The gardening staff do such an amazing job in Kings Parade and Machattie Park.
- ☐ Established parks such as Machattie Park and Kings Parade in the CBD are well looked after.
- ☐ Thumbs up for providing cycle ways and walkways along main roadways connecting residential areas to neighbourhood centres and Bathurst CBD.
- ☐ Machattie Park is a gem.
- ☐ The Macquarie River Park well kept as are our CBD parks and gardens.

## Control sprawl

- ☐ Maintain the countryside around Bathurst. Stop building houses that destroy this countryside. That is, control the sprawl that we currently see.

## Timely provision of open space in new developments

- ☐ It takes too long for council to put the play equipment in after the houses are built
- ☐ Each new subdivision/new development should have at least one if not more parks or green spaces that should be constructed at the time of development. Unlike freeman circuit area, that area is a joke, most of the houses in that area were constructed over 5 years ago and yet still nothing has happened to the fantastic area that was allocated for a community park/green space.

## Centralise facilities

- ☐ Many of the very small parks in West Bathurst are dated, have little or no shade. Better to pool resources into better facilities in centralised places than to dot a swing here and a slide there.

## Provide open space in newer areas

- ☐ While we have some great playgrounds and excellent organised sporting facilities, I feel that regular green or open space is lacking, especially in newer areas. There are no footpaths or corridors for walking, and we find ourselves driving small distances because we don't want to have to walk on the road! Have a look at Forde in the ACT. I lived there for a couple of years and was astounded at the amount of open space and the number of walking/riding tracks. Blocks are a little small in that suburb, but the open space outside of residential blocks is plentiful, well utilised, and safe.
- ☐ Need to be provided in built up areas and also maintained
- ☐ More needed in new estates

## Embellish open space

- ☐ There appears to be a lot of open space that is undeveloped, i.e. not planted out, no pathways, or not provided with some play equipment for young families, especially in Kelso (Marsden Heights Estate).

## Improve quality of drainage reserves

- ☐ Council need to ensure that all housing developments have proper green space provided, not just use the drainage as the green space. Kids can't play in drainage pits.
- ☐ Better use of drainage reserves is a must. We have loads of connected open space through residential areas that should be better utilised. Rather than putting in low-flow pipes and having barren areas behind houses for drainage, these sites should be opened up as living waterways that people can access and value. Walking tracks through these areas makes sense as they typically link residential areas to other parks, creeks, river etc.

## Open space in rural areas

- ☐ Now that the council area also embraces a large rural area surrounding it, maybe focussing on that element might be good for both locals and visitors.

## Maintenance

### General

- ☐ Existing parks appear to be well maintained
- ☐ Some of the parks are immaculately kept and others are not
- ☐ Given council limited resources, an adopt a park scheme, corporate sponsorship or use of corrective services community service offenders to assist in maintenance of parks/green spaces

### Mowing

- ☐ Mow grass more often.
- ☐ Mow our parks more often instead of mowing the highways. Rate payers use parks. Not highways.
- ☐ Important to keep grass mown so that it's aesthetically pleasing as well as good surface to walk/run on.

## Weed control

- ☐ Council are dreadful at weed control. Weeds inspection is a joke. Enforcement of weed control is non existent and funding is deplorable
- ☐ The cat heads are really bad on Half Penny Drive. The park needs to be sprayed

## Watering

- ☐ Council should not water gardens during the hot part of the day when water evaporates quicker (bad example and a waste of water).

## Other

- ☐ Could Council find out why some spaces are not utilised. eg we go weekly to the Windradyne walk through the housing estates. There's a playground there and we've never seen it used. We rarely see other people on the paths and we've never seen anyone cycling there. Why?
- ☐ Are there any means of educating cyclists to give consideration to pedestrians? Ring a warning bell? Ride single file at and past walkers?
- ☐ Cost for organised sports and support from council to allow those sports to be conducted as cheap as possible for the community
- ☐ Would like to see more closed areas from vehicles and motor cycles
- ☐ Would like to see the laws regarding dogs being required to be kept on leashes being actively enforced as this is not happening at the moment anywhere in Bathurst and if you call Council to report people nothing gets done. There needs to be a TV and Radio campaign advising people what the laws are and where they can if they must walk their dog off leash where they are allowed to do this and remind them that anywhere else is not to be off leash.
- ☐ I would like to see more recycling opportunities in Bathurst's parks.
- ☐ Could a map showing open land and park lands with play equipment be made available.
- ☐ Volunteers assist with Boundary Road Reserve etc.

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