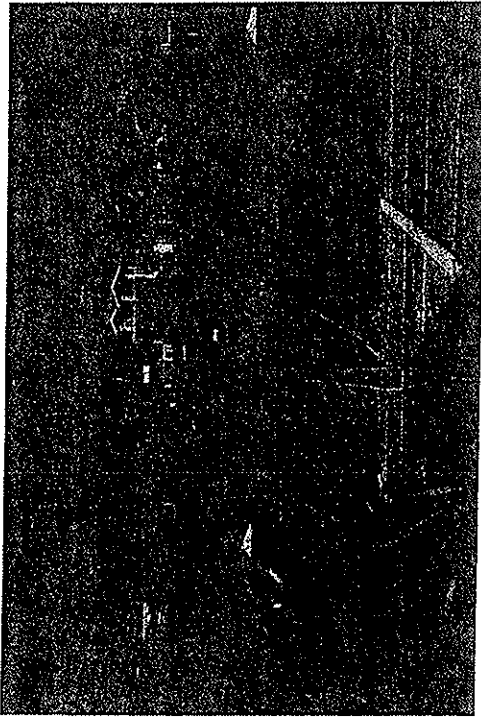


Attachment 4

Liverpool City Wide Recreation Strategy 2020 (adopted 2003)



Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020

Final Report

PREPARED FOR
LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

WITH CO-RECREATION SERVICES AND PARKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS
BY
HEATHER NESBITT PLANNING
PH 9654 0031 FX 9654 0032
E heathorn@ozemail.com.au

Adopted 8 December 2003

sporting groups with only a few resident representatives.

- **Targeted Consultation** – there are several groups in the Liverpool community who have specific recreational needs. These were identified as indigenous residents, residents from a non-English speaking background, residents with a disability, older residents and youth. The consultants met with 7 established representative group/networks to discuss recreational issues, needs and potential strategies.

- **Youth Survey** – a survey postcard was developed in consultation with Council's Youth Worker to gain feedback from local youth about their recreation needs. The survey was also distributed to local youth services and through the Liverpool Youth Council. A total of 82 surveys were received and analysed.

A summary of the outcomes of the consultation plan is outlined below.

- **There is demand for additional sporting facilities** to meet the needs of organised sports in the future.
- **Sporting activities for people with disabilities are limited** in the LGA.
- **Many recreation facilities** are inaccessible for older residents and residents with a disability.
- **Maintenance of existing Council open space and recreation facilities** is considered average to poor.

- **The community wants existing facilities to be maintained** to current accepted standards. They consider that limited works are undertaken to improve existing recreation facilities and replace existing substandard equipment/amenities etc.

- **Affordability of sporting and recreation facilities** is a key issue for many groups in the community particularly older residents, residents with a disability, youth, NESB residents, families and Aboriginal residents.

- **Improvement of the natural environment**, including the waterways and creeklines, is considered to be important by many groups in the community.

- **Vandalism and lack of personal safety** in existing parks and recreation facilities is a major concern.

- **Recreation facilities identified by the community for future provision** focus on indoor recreation centres; more playing fields; outdoor basketball/hardcourts courts; youth facilities; quality children's playgrounds; quality passive parks aimed at family recreation; water-based activities including swimming pools, waterparks etc; walking/cycling paths including BMX tracks and children's off-road facilities.

- **There is a lack of informal/unstructured recreation facilities for youth.**

- **The community consider that WSRP should be an informal, affordable, family oriented park** which provides picnic areas, walking/cycling trails etc while also protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Major development of other recreation-based activities was not considered appropriate due to issues of transport and affordability.

Existing Provision and Future Recreation Trends

Liverpool has 1034 hectares of non-regional open space in the LGA (as at April 2002). The distribution, size and facilities provided for this open space have been analysed with detailed information by neighbourhood and suburb provided in Section 6. This supply of open space is also likely to increase, with additional land being identified in the future development of the Release Neighbourhood and the proposed Western Sydney Regional Parkland.

The Strategy also has considered the significant impact that changing demographic profiles and lifestyle patterns will have on recreation in Liverpool both in terms of activities and participation. The

Recommended Key Directions

Five key directions have been identified as the main focus of the *Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020*. These are consistent with Council's vision and strategic objectives (outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this report) and address identified key recreation issues in Liverpool (see Section 10).

This Strategy recommends the following key directions for recreation in Liverpool:

- **Enhancing Existing Open Space and Recreation Facilities**

With over 1000 hectares of open space managed by Council, the need to ensure that existing open space and associated recreation facilities provide a range of quality leisure opportunities that meet the needs of all residents is essential. As with all communities, changing community needs and recreation trends result in the need to continually reassess the type of recreational opportunity provided and their distribution.

- **Addressing Future Needs**

Liverpool is and will continue to be one of the largest and fastest growing LGAs in Australia. Its population is expected to reach 173,000 by 2006 and 230,000 by 2020 with much of this growth taking place in new communities on the City's edge. Additional growth is also planned through urban revitalization programs in Liverpool's CBD, Central and Eastern Neighbourhoods.

Council's strategic objective is to ensure that Liverpool is the major centre for South Western Sydney and that it will provide high quality local, district and regional recreational opportunities for its residents. To this end, Council must focus on addressing these future needs through an proactive, innovative and best practice approach to the planning, provision and management of open space and recreation facilities.

- **Working with Sporting Bodies, Government Agencies, Community Groups and the Private Sector**

Working Towards Recreation Best Practice

In terms of best practice, a more holistic approach is being pursued by many professionals and practitioners seeking to develop more effective, efficient and appropriate recreation provision. Many are moving towards Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles or *triple bottom line* criteria that achieve social, environmental and economic benefits. ESD or sustainability is also an important component of Council's *Smart Growth Strategy*. Using this approach, it is recommended that the following key planning criteria for open space and recreation be used:

- Transport access
- Equity
- Security and safety
- Environmental sustainability
- Identity
- Integration

In addition, the Strategy provides specific functional and local/best practice criteria or a range of recreation settings and facilities. These provide guidelines for planning and designing quality recreation facilities which meet the social, environmental and economic needs of the community (see Section 11).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Liverpool City Council has identified the need to develop a recreation strategy for the LGA that provides clear direction on the development of public recreational infrastructure to meet the existing and future needs of the community. The Strategy seeks to provide Council with:

- Review and assessment of existing policies, strategies and programs;
- Review and mapping of existing recreation facilities, both public and private;
- Consultation with key stakeholders in Liverpool, including sporting clubs, citizens and users of recreation facilities and services; and
- Preparation of a Recreation Strategy and framework for the future provision and management of Liverpool's recreational facilities and services.

Study Process

The study process has involved extensive review of existing research and work already undertaken by Council; consultation with key community groups and target groups; extensive feedback from Council staff involved in recreation; and liaison with other government and non-government stakeholders. This process has been undertaken to ensure that the Strategy is grounded and owned by the stakeholders who will use and implement it.

Study Outcomes

The resultant Strategy provides the brief's deliverables outlined above and focuses on providing a Strategy which will, when adopted, achieve real change in the immediate future. It is not intended to be a long-term visionary Strategy but rather to provide specific directions, strategies and actions to address real issues that are evident in Liverpool today. This approach will ensure that some quality recreation benefits can be delivered to the community immediately within a long term framework for future improvements. The need for immediate actions to address immediate problems was a strong recommended outcome of the community and Council officer consultation process undertaken for this Strategy.

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consideration given to areas with high needs for improved recreation infrastructure. The Strategy will also provide direction for a consistent approach to ensuring recreation infrastructure of high quality, design and suitability for the Liverpool community.

Liverpool's Community

Council's vision is to establish Liverpool as the regional centre of South West Sydney. Council has identified the following key strategies and actions for ensuring that this regional role is achieved. These are outlined below and have significant implications for the Strategy:

- Promote the Liverpool CBD as the vibrant South West regional centre
- Plan services and facilities supporting Liverpool's role as a regional centre.
- Promote Liverpool as the preferred location to establish and consolidate government institutions and community facilities.
- Enhance open space linkages and entry points so as to promote the City as attractive, clean and green.

The population of the Liverpool LGA is estimated to be 154,858 persons. The community is growing rapidly with the LGA having the largest growth in NSW between 1995-2000 with an additional 31,128 new residents during that period. Much of this new growth can be attributed to new release development with 10,151 new dwellings produced between 1995/96 – 1999/00.

Key features of the LGA that are particularly important to the planning and provision of recreation are:

- One in four residents are aged under 15 years (24.6% in 1996 or 29,602 residents)
- 15% of residents are aged 15-24 years (19,147 residents)
- 7% of residents are aged over 65 years (8,449 residents)
- Almost 30% of residents were born in non-English speaking countries
- 38% of Liverpool residents aged over 5 years speak a language other than English

- Most common languages spoken other than English are Italian, Arabic and Spanish
- Liverpool's median personal weekly income is \$309 which is below both the Sydney and NSW average
- Liverpool has a high proportion of two parent families with dependent children (39%) although couples without children (26%) and single parent families (17%) are also significant.
- 68% of employed residents work outside the Liverpool LGA
- 27,000 people travel to work in Liverpool from other LGAs.
- The LGA has an estimated workforce of 64,000 people in 2000 with major concentrations in the CBD (11,000 workers) and Moorebank (20,000 workers).

Community Consultation

Consultation is an important component of the planning process ensuring that key stakeholders, residents and Council work collaboratively to achieve the successful implementation of strategies and plans. For the Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020, the consultation plan covered the following initiatives:

- **Survey of Sporting/Recreation Groups** – a detailed survey was sent to approximately 84 sporting/recreational groups known to Council. A total of 25 surveys were returned and analysed with a response rate of 28%.
- **Key Sporting Body Meetings** – individual meetings were held with 12 main sporting bodies in the LGA to gather more information about issues and needs of these organisations.
- **Neighbourhood Workshops** – workshops were held at 5 locations during October/November with a total of 20 participants. Although the workshops were advertised extensively through direct mailout to some 200 community groups and 80 sporting groups together with advertising in local newspapers, fliers to schools and community centres, direct invitation by phone etc, the attendance at these workshops was poor. The majority of participants were representatives of

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aim and Scope of this Strategy

Liverpool City Council has identified the need to develop a recreation strategy for the LGA that provides clear direction on the future development of public recreational infrastructure to meet existing and future needs of the community. As required by the brief, the Strategy seeks to provide Council with:

- Review and assessment of existing policies, strategies and programs
- Review and mapping of existing recreation facilities, both public and private
- Consultation with key stakeholders in Liverpool, including sporting clubs, citizens and users of recreation facilities and services
- Preparation of a Recreation Strategy and framework for the future provision and management of Liverpool's recreational facilities and services.

The study methodology, as shown in Figure 1.1, has involved extensive review of existing research and work already undertaken by Council; consultation with key community groups and target groups; extensive feedback from Council staff involved in recreation, and liaison with other government and non-government stakeholders. This process has been undertaken to ensure that the Strategy is grounded and owned by the stakeholders who will use and implement it.

The resultant Strategy provides the brief's deliverables outlined above and focuses on providing a Strategy which will, when adopted, achieve real change in the immediate future. It is not intended to be a long-term visionary Strategy but rather to provide specific directions, strategies and actions to address real issues that are evident in Liverpool today. This approach will ensure that some quality recreation benefits can be delivered to the community immediately within a long term framework for future improvements. The need for immediate actions to address immediate problems was a strong recommended outcome of the community and Council officer consultation process undertaken for this Strategy.

The findings and outcomes of the Strategy will be directly translated into preparation of Neighbourhood Recreation Plans for each of Liverpool's five neighbourhoods. These Plans will address specific neighbourhood open space and recreation issues, and make recommendations regarding the provision and use of all open space areas and recreation facilities on open space in each neighbourhood. These recommendations will form the basis of Council's capital works program for parks and reserves.

1.2 Definition of Recreation

In this Strategy, recreation is defined as:

‘as the social activities and experiences undertaken by people in their free time for enjoyment and a positive state of being.’

This definition has been used in Council's brief and is based on research undertaken by Daly (2000) and similar studies. It includes both active, sporting or formal activities and passive, unstructured or informal activities such as walking and informal play. This Strategy addresses recreational activities that are undertaken in public and private outdoor and indoor recreation settings and facilities. It includes recreation activities undertaken in formal recreation settings (eg parks and playing fields) and those undertaken in informal recreation settings (eg bushwalking and bird watching in bushland areas). It does not include recreational activities that people undertake at home.

Council's brief also highlights the overlap between this definition of recreation and other strategic work included as part of Council's Cultural Plan. It identifies other recreational activities such as arts and crafts; performing arts; events featuring arts and culture; and libraries and information are not to be included in this Strategy but are incorporated into Council's Cultural Plan.

1.3 Abbreviations

Several abbreviations are used in this report to ensure that it is more readable and easy to understand. These abbreviations relate primarily to the names of government departments and relevant legislation as outlined below:

CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines
DET – NSW Department of Education and Training
DSR – NSW Department of Sport and Recreation

DSNR – NSW Department of Sustainable Natural Resources (formerly the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation)
LCC – Liverpool City Council
LGA – Local Government Area
LEP – Local Environmental Plan
NPWS – NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
PoM – Plan of Management as required under the Local Government Act and/or the Crown Lands Act
S94 – Section 94 Contributions Plan
WSRP – Western Sydney Regional Park
DIPNR – Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (formerly Planning NSW)

It is important to recognise that Council is not the only stakeholder involved in recreation in the LGA. Liverpool has a strong network of existing sporting bodies and community groups which are actively involved in developing, managing and promoting recreation in the community. It also has a large school aged population (in 1996 there were 59 schools attended by more than 25,000 students) who actively use many Council sporting and recreation facilities as part of their weekly curriculum activities. Other government agencies and the private sector are also recreation providers with access to additional resources that could benefit the Liverpool community.

Liverpool residents value recreation and consider it an important component of Liverpool's lifestyle. The whole community, including youth, families, indigenous residents, older residents, residents with a disability and residents from non-English speaking backgrounds, need to have equal access to these recreation opportunities.

Council needs to develop an improved partnership approach to working with all these key groups to ensure that quality outcomes are achieved for the community.

• Improving Council Recreation Management

To achieve quality outcomes in recreation, Council's management needs to be effective and efficient. Without good systems, policies, communication and resources, the implementation of these strategies will not be achieved. In March 2000, Council implemented a new organisational structure that provides for complete separation between strategic/program, support and action streams.

The success of this structure is yet to be evaluated but it is essential for it to achieve effective and efficient communication; implementation of key systems and policies; improved access to information; improved maintenance and improved financial management. In

short, the structure must achieve quality outcomes in terms of the recreation planning, provision, management and maintenance.

• Managing the Natural Environment

Liverpool is rich in natural assets including the Georges River, Chipping Norton Lakes, Western Sydney Regional Parklands, Leacock Regional Park, Gulgur Nature Reserve, Bents Basin, State Recreation Area and Holsworthy Military Area. With extensive wetlands, woodlands and habitat/wildlife corridors the need to protect, manage and promote these areas in Liverpool is important. For the indigenous and broad communities of Liverpool, there are strong cultural ties with these natural assets. Council must ensure that the natural environment is well-managed for both existing and future generations.

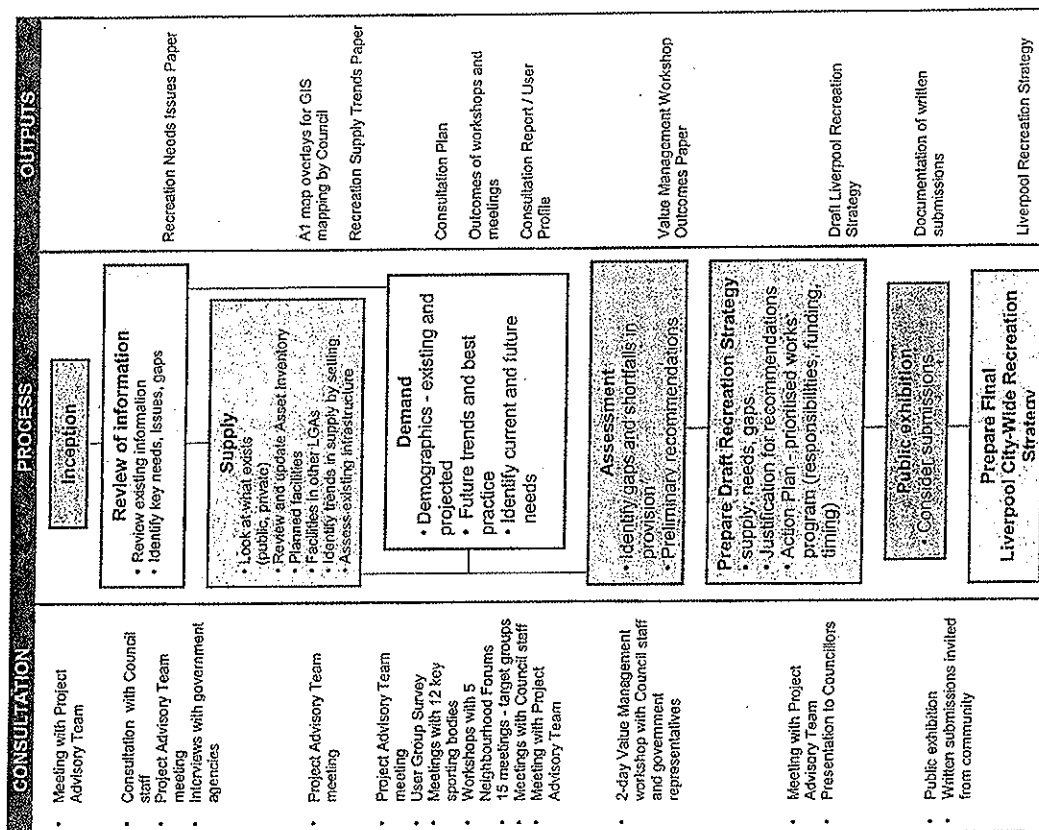
Recommended Strategies and Implementation Plan

Strategies for each Key Direction, and the rationale for the strategies, are outlined in Section 12. Table 12.2 presents the Implementation Program for the Strategy and includes the required actions, priority and potential funding sources.

Disclaimer

This report is indicative in its content, comprising data and interpretation. Those persons who are involved in planning and development of lands in the study area should rely on their own research.

Figure 1.1: Methodology for Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020



2 RECREATION VISION FOR LIVERPOOL

2.1 Council's Goals and Objectives

As outlined in Council's Corporate Plan 2001/02, Council's long term strategic vision is:

Liverpool – A place where people choose to Live, Learn, Work and Play

Recreation is a key component of this vision and is integral to Council's strategic objectives outlined below. These objectives identify the values of the Liverpool community and key issues to be addressed to achieve a sustainable future:

Objective 1

⇒ **Valuing the environment** – conserve, link and enhance the City's natural areas to create a functioning environmental system.

Objective 2

⇒ **Maximising social well-being** – support the development of a vital community that has access to opportunities and facilities that improve the quality of life.

Objective 3

⇒ **Building communities** – plan and promote sustainable growth, urban equity, urban renewal and choice.

Objective 4

⇒ **Growing the economy** – generate new investment and employment which is increasingly linked to the knowledge economy.

Objective 5

⇒ **Improving transportation** – develop transport services which improve the quality of life for our community.

Objective 6

⇒ **Developing our regional role** – establish Liverpool as the regional centre of South West Sydney.

Objective 7

⇒ **Providing quality services** – offer an excellent standard of service to our community and the Council.

Council's long term strategic vision and objectives have been used to guide the development of strategies, actions and works developed in this Strategy.

2.2 Recreation and Quality of Life

There are numerous benefits for Councils and their communities in the provision of recreation opportunities. For the Liverpool community, quality recreation opportunities will bring significant benefits and improved quality of life for residents. It is a key component for achieving Council's vision and strategic objectives outlined above.

As detailed in the extensive research undertaken by Active Australia and highlighted in their guidelines for local government (NSW Department of Local Government, 2000), quality recreation and physical activity in communities provide:

- Improved physical and psychological health of individual members of the community - People who are physically healthy and who have a high level of self esteem and positive self image are able to contribute to the social and economic well being of the local community. This may reduce the need for Councils to provide some services eg. recreation programs for 'youth at risk'.
- Stronger families and healthier communities - Sport and physical activity provides opportunities for families and members of communities to participate in activities together which helps to build and maintain relationships which are essential to the overall well-being of communities. This may also reduce the need for councils to provide some services eg. particular community development programs.
- Economic benefits - Participation in sport and physical activity can improve work performance and productivity, decrease absenteeism and staff turnover, and reduce work accidents. Sport and physical activity can create direct and indirect employment in the

area of sport provision, and the sale and manufacture of goods. Other economic benefits can be achieved through holding sporting events (eg. Regional and state championships, Masters Games), and attracting tourism and new residents through promoting sport and physical activity opportunities eg. aquatic centres, golf courses etc. The new Nevington residential development at Olympic Park is a good example of linking residential lifestyle with quality recreation facilities. Equally, several regional centres have also developed training facilities for major sports (eg. Caloundra and Coffs Harbour provide training facilities for the Wallabies).

• **Environmental Benefits** - Physical activity can protect habitat and biodiversity through the provision of parks, open spaces and natural environments. Walking and cycling rather than using cars can improve air quality. These contribute to improved quality of life within local communities.

• **Reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour** - To be out and about which can deter others from engaging in inappropriate activities eg. training, competitions, walking, running, cycling etc.

• **Improved injury prevention** - Adopting a risk management approach and providing safe opportunities for participating in sport and physical activity may reduce the number and costs of any personal injury claims against the council.

• **Enhanced profile for the Council in the local community** - Because of the range of benefits of sport and physical activity and the range of ways in which participation in sport and physical activity can be encouraged, Councils can enhance their profile in the community at relatively low cost.

3 NEED FOR A CITY-WIDE RECREATION STRATEGY

3.1 Existing Council Policies Relating to Recreation

With Liverpool undergoing rapid change and development, a recreation strategy which covers the whole of the LGA has long been needed. The restructuring of Council in 2000 resulted in resources being provided to develop plans and policies that provide strategic direction for the development of Liverpool. The Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Plan will provide a framework for integration into a number of Council plans, policies and programs. Currently many of these are disaggregated and conflicting in terms of how they address the recreation needs of the Liverpool community. These include:

- Leisure Beyond 2000
- Liverpool LEP 1997 (as amended 8 June 2001)
- Liverpool Social Plan 1999/2003
- Smart Growth for Sydney's South West
- Liverpool Urban Strategy 1998
- Liverpool Structure Plan 1999
- Liverpool State of the Environment Report
- Liverpool Youth Strategy 1999
- Implementation of Off-Leash Dog Areas Policy 2000
- Georges River Revival 1993

A City-Wide Recreation Strategy bring the directions and strategies of these and other documents together into one strategy for recreation in the Liverpool LGA. It will input into:

- Council's Capital Works Program
- Liverpool's Section 94 Contributions Plan
- Annual Operational Programs
- Grants funding process

It is also envisaged that a City-Wide Strategy will ensure that Council resources are distributed fairly and equitably, with consideration given to areas with high needs for improved recreation infrastructure. The Strategy will also provide direction for a consistent approach to ensuring recreation infrastructure of

high quality, design and suitability for the Liverpool community.

3.2 Regional Role of Liverpool in South West Sydney

Council's vision is to establish Liverpool as the regional centre of South West Sydney. Council has identified the following key strategies and actions for ensuring that this regional role is achieved. These are outlined below and have significant implications for the Strategy:

- Promote the Liverpool CBD as the vibrant South West regional centre
- Plan services and facilities supporting Liverpool's role as a regional centre.
- Promote Liverpool as the preferred location to establish and consolidate government institutions and community facilities.
- Enhance open space linkages and entry points so as to promote the City as attractive, clean and green.

The Liverpool LGA already has several existing and proposed regional recreational facilities that are owned by either Council and/or relevant departments of the NSW Government. They comprise some 1148 hectares of open space and include a wide range of recreation facilities. Regional open space and recreation facilities in the LGA are:

- Chipping Norton Lakes managed by the Chipping Norton Lakes Authority
- Hammondville Park owned by LCC
- Woodward Park/Hillier Oval owned by LCC and DSNR
- Western Sydney Regional Park managed by DIPNR
- Leacock Regional Park, Bents Basin State Recreation Area, Gulguer Nature Reserve, and Kemps Creek Nature Reserve all managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

The Western Sydney Regional Parkland (WSRP) is comprised of more than 5000 ha of publicly owned parklands in Western Sydney. It was acquired by the NSW

public transport. As outlined below, 7 of the 11 Smart Growth principles impact on recreation strongly:

- encourage community and stakeholders collaboration in development decisions
- take advantage of compact building design which is sensitive to the environment
- create workable neighbourhoods which have a civic focus
- foster distinctive vibrant communities which have a strong sense of place
- preserve and enhance open space, natural features and critical environmental areas
- strengthen existing communities and consider employment options and issues such as safety and recreational facilities for the wider community
- make development decisions which are predictable, fair and cost-effective

The City-Wide Recreation Strategy has recognised these principles and provide a framework for facilitating the achievement of Smart-Growth principles.

- **Woodward Park** – the proposed development of the Woodward Park site into a major regional entertainment and recreation venue.
- **Plans of Management for Parks and Reserves** - Council has prepared Plans of Management for most of Liverpool's parks and reserves according to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* (for community land) and the *Crown Lands Act 1989* for Crown land. Plans of Management (PoMs) outline a description of the park or reserve, the legislative framework, and proposed uses, developments and improvements. The process of preparing a PoM and community consultation varies according to the community interest in and significance of the reserve, and whether the reserve is community and / or Crown land.

Typically, preparation of a PoM takes at least six months, and involves

collection of background information, consultation with Council staff and other government departments and stakeholders. It also involves community consultation, preparation of a draft PoM that complies with relevant legislation, public exhibition for 4 weeks, receipt of submissions for 2 weeks (community land), consideration of submissions, holding a public hearing into categorisation (community land). Finally, there are changes to the draft PoM and Council adoption of the completed PoM.

- Realising Rural Potential**
Liverpool's Rural Strategy – Council is currently preparing a planning strategy to retain the remaining rural economy of the Liverpool LGA and prevent urban growth beyond the green belt and retain our natural features (Liverpool City Council, Corporate Plan 2000-2003). This area primarily covers the Western Neighbourhood, rural land between Nuwarra Road and Georges River (due to flood liability) and the Western Sydney Regional Park (WSRP). As part of this study, Council is also investigating the potential to extend the WSRP further south through Denham Court to suburbs in the Campbelltown LGA. Several significant areas of open space are located in the rural area including Rosmore Grange, Bents Basin State Recreation Area and Craik Park.

- Liverpool Bushland Biodiversity Study** – Council has recently adopted in principle a draft Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy seeks to provide a conservation framework within which Sustainable Biodiversity related decisions can be made particularly in areas of planning and management. The development of the Strategy has included the mapping of significant areas of bushland and waterways.

- Community 2168** – jointly funded by Liverpool City Council, Department of Housing and Liverpool Area Health Service, this project focuses on

addressing the social needs of residents living primarily in the Central Neighbourhood of the Liverpool LGA. Covering the 8 suburbs of Ashcroft, Busby, Carwright, Heckenberg, Hinchinbrook, Miller, Sadler and Green Valley, the project will also involve some proposals for improvements to the built environment through urban renewal. The project has just reached this stage and will involve stakeholders in developing a recreation strategy that addresses the needs of this community.

- Liverpool Cultural Plan** – this major Council initiative seeks to strategically support the cultural life of the Liverpool community and ensure that it is reflected as part of everyday life in Liverpool as well as in cultural activities. The plan is currently being prepared and will include a Public Art Policy and the Living Streets Project. Living Streets is focusing on developing a walking trail from Lighthouse Park in the Liverpool CBD along the Georges River to Casula Powerhouse. The walk will also diverge off this route past several historic buildings. Further planning and funding for this walk is currently being investigated by this project.
- Liverpool Social Plan** – Council's Social Plan 1999-2003 aims to ensure that through its activities, Council enhances the quality of life for all members of the community and provides a strategic response to community needs and aspirations. The Social Plan is based on extensive research and consultation with the community and key stakeholders. Issues identified in the plan and some of its recommendations impact on the development of this Strategy. These are identified more fully in Section 3.4.

and provision of infrastructure throughout Liverpool.

- Liverpool PCYC** – Council has identified a \$2.3m funding strategy to develop a Police Citizens Youth Club at McGirr Park, Miller. The draft design brief (August 2001) indicates that the PCYC will comprise a multi-purpose hall and rooms, a youth cafe / kiosk / internet cafe, kitchennette / hang-out area, games room, band practice room, craft workshop, garage workshop, weights room, sports hall, and outdoor facilities such as a barbecue area, skateboard ramp, and basketball court. The PCYC will also incorporate a health service, supervised school holiday and weekend recreation programs and music/drama programs. The integration of the facility with its surrounding open space environment will be an important component in the development of a successful facility.

- Liverpool CBD Revitalisation Plan** – Council is committed to increasing residential density in its inner city area and promoting urban renewal consistent with the DIPWP's Urban Consolidation Policy. Plans for redevelopment will be developed in the future but at this stage, broad housing targets have been set increasing the existing population from some 25,000 residents living within two kilometres of the CBD to 50,000 residents. Consistent with this are plans to develop the Liverpool CBD as a regional commercial and employment centre, increasing its workforce from 13,000 workers to 30,000 workers by 2021. This plan also includes recreational objectives of linking the Liverpool CBD to the Georges River.

- Liverpool City-Wide Section 94 Contributions Plan** – to ensure more efficient and effective implementation

Figure 3.1 Georges River is a Key Focus for Liverpool Residents



3.4 Recreation Issues Identified in Other Studies

As outlined earlier, Council has already undertaken a number of studies that impact on the development of this

of developer contributions through Section 94. Council has prepared a City-Wide Section 94 Contributions Plan which brings together all the contribution plans currently operating in the LGA into one plan. This enables a more holistic approach to planning

Strategy. This Strategy has considered the following important recreation issues and strategies already identified in current Council policies:

3.4.1 Liverpool Social Plan 1999-2003

ISSUES

- Lack of affordable, flexible and variety of recreation opportunities for all sections of the community
- Access to facilities after hours (such as basketball courts)
- Lack of parks in some areas of Liverpool
- Lack of adequate facilities in parks and poor maintenance of existing facilities
- Lack of family recreation opportunities
- Lack of access to public space because of safety fears and negative community perceptions of young people in public space
- Lack of safety for older people in the built environment particularly open space.
- Access barriers related to physical barriers, cost, customer service, and hours of operation, range of services prevent people with disabilities accessing services, businesses, facilities and community life.

STRATEGIES

- Provide improved range of flexible and affordable recreation options for all sections of the community
- Improve safety in the built environment and open space particularly for women
- Provide family focussed recreation activities at Council facilities and encourage other recreation providers to provide family recreation activities
- Implement Council's Youth Strategy incorporating strategies to improve access by young people to public and open space
- Work with Operation 2188 and Miller Recovery Group to develop improvements in use of public open space in the Miller/Green Valley area
- Use Section 94 Developer Contributions to create appropriate public space for young people in new release areas (Prestons, Greenway Park and Hoxton Park)
- Establish a Senior's Recreation Program at the Whitlam Centre

- Promote recreational activities for older people at the Wenden Centre
- In consultation with the Access Committee and the Disability Network develop a Disability Action Plan which meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and incorporates improved access to the built environment and open space and continue the audit and modification process for recreation facilities.

3.4.2 Liverpool Council Resident Survey 1999

Council undertook a Resident Survey in 1999 as part of the Social Plan. Based on interviews with 889 residents, the outcomes of the survey highlighted that in relation to leisure activities undertaken by residents in Liverpool:

- 69% of respondents had used parks/cycleways/walkways/picnic areas. This was the highest rating leisure activity.
- 65% had used indoor recreation centres/pools in the LGA in the past year with this rating the second highest leisure activity.
- Other highly rated leisure facilities which people had used were natural waterways (58%) and children's playgrounds (50%)
- Low rating leisure activities were natural areas/bushland (25%), indoor sporting groups/clubs (28%) and outdoor sporting groups/clubs (33%).
- 70% of respondents rated entertainment and recreation for youth as of high importance for the LGA followed by parks/cycleways (69%) and recreational activities for children (68%)
- Other issues such as clean roads/parks, crime reduction and community safety, and lighting in streets/parks were rated highly important by more respondents than those identified above.
- When asked what people like about living in Liverpool, the provision and quality of open space/recreation was not identified as a positive aspect. Only 55% of respondents nominated the trees and parks in Liverpool as a reason for liking the area.

3.4.4 Liverpool's Open Space of Established Areas Management

As part of preparing Plans of Management (POMs) for parks in the established areas of Liverpool, Manidis Roberts Consultants undertook a needs assessment for the suburbs of Ashcroft, Busby, Cartwright, Heckenberg, Lurnea, Miller, Sadler, Warwick Farm (Central Neighbourhood), Chipping Norton, Hammondville, Moorebank, Voyager Point, (Eastern Neighbourhood) and Liverpool (CBD Neighbourhood). This included review of previous consultations and telephone interviews with community groups and Council staff.

ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

- Existing social issues have major impact on recreational needs eg lack of public transport, crime and community safety, social and physical isolation etc
- Need for varied and appropriate play spaces
- Rehabilitation of Georges River
- Aboriginal heritage links
- Signage
- Shade
- More community involvement in design of recreation facilities and programs especially youth, women etc
- Nowhere for young people to "hang with friends"
- Need for public basketball courts; snooker room for young women; information kiosk for young people's activities; and clean public area.

3.4.3 Community Satisfaction Measurement Survey 2000

This survey is undertaken regularly by Council to determine how it is performing in terms of its key service areas. The survey enables comparison to other LGAs together with Council's performance in 1998. Overall, for recreation facilities, the survey highlighted:

- Moderate to high satisfaction of residents with sporting facilities in the LGA. This was consistent with 1998 except for a drop in satisfaction with indoor sports centres.
- Moderate satisfaction with public open space which was similar to the 1998 survey. Playgrounds recorded a poor result while residents in postcode 2173 had the highest levels of dissatisfaction for public open space ie Watlie Grove, Holsworthy
- Residents placed high importance on conservation and natural resources, but Council's performance was considered poor. Management of creeks and waterways had a high level of dissatisfaction while tree planting and protection of natural bushland had declined in ratings from moderate to low.
- Bicycle paths and walking tracks rated moderately for residents but overall resident satisfaction was low.
- Low satisfaction of residents with maintenance of parks/gardens although this was a high priority for residents.

4 LIVERPOOL – A GROWING COMMUNITY

The population of the Liverpool LGA is estimated to be 154,287 persons. The community is growing rapidly with the LGA having the largest growth in NSW between 1995-2000 with an additional 31,128 new residents during that period. Much of this new growth can be attributed to new release development with 10,151 new dwellings produced between 1995/96 – 1999/00.

Key features of the LGA that are particularly important to the planning and provision of recreation are:

- One in four residents are aged under 15 years (24.6% in 1996 or 29,602 residents)
- 15% of residents are aged 15-24 years (19,147 residents)
- 7% of residents are aged over 65 years (8,449 residents)
- Almost 30% of residents were born in non-English speaking countries
- 38% of Liverpool residents aged over 5 years speak a language other than English
- Most common languages spoken other than English are Italian, Arabic and Spanish
- Liverpool's median personal weekly income is \$309 which is below both the Sydney and NSW average
- Liverpool has a high proportion of two parent families with dependent

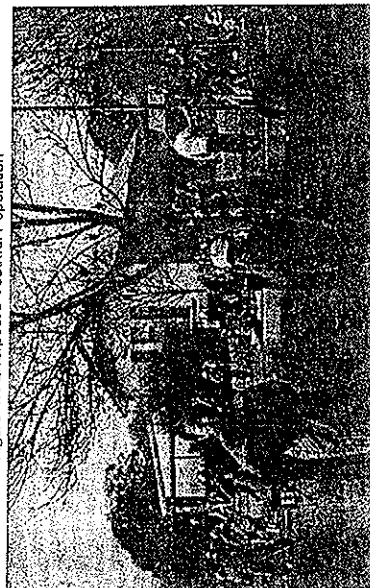
children (39%) although couples without children (25%) and single parent families (17%) are also significant.

- 68% of employed residents work outside the Liverpool LGA
- 27,000 people travel to work in Liverpool from other LGAs.
- The LGA has an estimated workforce of 64,000 people in 2000 with major concentrations in the CBD (13,000 workers) and Moorebank (20,000 workers).

4.1 Demography of Each Neighbourhood

The LGA is divided into five (5) Neighbourhood Service areas that are used as the basis for the planning, provision and maintenance of all Council services. This document maintains these neighbourhood boundaries to ensure the information collected and strategies recommended can be administered at this neighbourhood level. These neighbourhoods, together with the suburbs they incorporate and their key demographic features, are outlined below. This information has been taken from Council's Statistical Profile 1999 and Social Plan 1999-2003.

Figure 4.1 Liverpool's Youthful Population



WESTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

This neighbourhood comprises the rural lands of the Liverpool LGA. Suburbs located within this neighbourhood are:

- Greendale
- Luddenham
- Bringley
- Badgery's Creek
- Koms Creek
- Rossmore
- Austral
- Cecil Park (ie area west of the Western Sydney Regional Park).

In 2001 the population of the the Western neighbourhood was 9,622 residents. This represented an increase of 5% from 1996. The Western neighbourhood is the second most sparsely settled area in the LGA (6% of Liverpool's total population). Key features of the community are:

- High proportion of school aged children and youth
- A higher than LGA average of older residents aged over 65 years
- Population of the neighbourhood increased by 10% between 1991-96
- Low level of cultural diversity
- One in three households are two parent families with children

RELEASE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The main growth area for the Liverpool LGA, this neighbourhood is comprised both of suburbs which have been developed since the 1980's and new areas which are yet to be developed. Suburbs in this neighbourhood are:

- West Hoxton
- Cecil Hills
- Cecil Park (ie area east of the Western Sydney Regional Parklands)
- Hoxton Park/Homingsea Park
- Denham Court
- Edmondson Park
- Ingelburn
- Prestons (west of Bernera Road)
- Green Valley
- Hinchinbrook

In 2001 the Release neighbourhood housed 46,473 residents and was the second most populated area in the LGA

(30% of Liverpool's total population). Key features of the community are:

- Highest proportion and large number of 0 – 4 year olds.
- Highest proportion of school aged children and youth in the LGA.
- Small proportion and number of older residents
- Rapidly growing neighbourhood with the population more than doubling since 1996.
- High proportion and number of residents born in non-English speaking countries with half of all residents aged over 5 years speaking a language other than English
- One in three households are two parent families with children

CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

This older neighbourhood was one of the original greenfield developments in the Liverpool LGA. It has a high proportion of Department of Housing and rental accommodation (43%) and multiunit housing including walk-up flats/apartments. The neighbourhood includes the following suburbs:

- Busby
- Miller
- Sadler
- Heckenberg
- Ashcroft/Mount Pritchard
- Cartwright
- Prestons (east of Bernera Road)
- Lurnea
- Liverpool (part)
- Casula
- Warwick Farm

In 2001, Central neighbourhood housed 60,916 residents and was the most populated neighbourhood in the LGA (39% of Liverpool's total population). Key features of the community are:

- Large number of pre school children aged 0 – 4 years old.
- Large number of school aged children and youth.
- Largest number of older residents in the LGA.
- Less culturally diverse than the Release and CBD neighbourhoods.

- Growth still occurring with an additional 4,292 residents between 1996 and 2001.
- Large number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents
- Family types are more diverse in this neighbourhood

CBD NEIGHBOURHOOD

Bounded by Copeland Street, the Hume Highway, Terminus Street and the area east of the main Southern Railway line, this neighbourhood is the Central Business District of Liverpool. It comprises part of the suburb of Liverpool and encompasses 1.6km².

In 2001, the CBD neighbourhood housed 5,892 residents and had the smallest resident population in the LGA (3.8% of Liverpool's total population). However, it accommodates an estimated 13,000 workers and is the major retail, commercial and service centre for the LGA. Key features of the residents of the neighbourhood are:

- Average proportion of children aged under 5 years.
- Second highest proportion of older residents in the LGA.
- High proportion of residents are from non-English speaking backgrounds with the majority of residents speaking a language other than English.
- Population of the neighbourhood has increased between 1996 – 2001.
- Greater diversity of family types in this neighbourhood.
- Majority of residents live in rental accommodation.
- More than 75% of residents live in flats/apartments 3 storeys or over.

EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

A mix of both old and new suburbs, Eastern neighbourhood also houses large natural areas such as Georges River and the large bushland areas owned by the Commonwealth Department of Defence (ie Holsworthy Military Area). Holsworthy Military Base is the largest Army base in Australia. The Eastern neighbourhood includes the following suburbs:

- Chipping Norton
- Moorebank

- Watlie Grove
- Hammondville
- Voyager Point
- Pleasure Point
- Holsworthy

Eastern neighbourhood housed 31,955 residents in 2001 and was the third largest neighbourhood in the LGA (21% of Liverpool's total population). Key features of the community are:

- Large number of 0 – 4 year olds but as a proportion of the neighbourhood population, this has declined since 1996.
- Large number and above average proportion of school aged children.
- Increasing proportion and above average number of youth.
- Significant number of older residents with this increasing since 1996.
- Less culturally diverse than other neighbourhoods.
- Majority of households are two parent families with dependent children
- The Australian Army employs large numbers of residents with the Defence population highly mobile and transient.

4.2 Future Growth

Liverpool is and will continue to be one of the largest and fastest growing LGAs in the Sydney metropolitan area. The population is expected to reach 172,868 people by 2006, 197,524 people by 2011 and 222,548 people by 2016 (NSW Premier's Department). By 2021, the LGA population is expected to reach 230,000 people. From its current base of an estimated 154,287 people in 2000 this represents an increase of almost 50% in 20 years.

Much of the residential growth is expected to occur in the Stage II new release areas with recent development strategies prepared for Council (JBA + Berkhout, *Liverpool Urban Strategy 1998* and *Liverpool City Council, Smart Growth in Sydney's South West, 2000*) indicating that these areas should house greater population densities to achieve sustainable growth. This may result in the Stage II Release Area housing 65,000 – 85,000 people with greater population concentrations at Edmondson Park (mixed commercial/residential area with major

public transport interchange) and Yarrunga (mixed commercial/residential area on Parramatta Transitway and the Western Sydney Orbital) than originally anticipated.

The development of major employment zones is also being considered to ensure local employment opportunities for residents. Council is currently investigating new employment areas at Moorebank (Moorebank Technology Park), Hoxton Park Aerodrome and Badgery's Creek (subject to approval of the proposed second Sydney International Airport). The CBD is also expected to continue growing with some 30,000 workers by 2021.

Sustainable future development is also reliant on improvements to public transport infrastructure in the LGA. To service these proposed new communities, the Liverpool - Parramatta Transitway will be built to Hoxton Park Road along Banks/Rundle Roads with a potential extension along Bernera Road to Edmondson Park. The Western Sydney Orbital is also proposed to cross through the Stage II release area and provide exit/entry ramps for commuters linking the M5 at Casula with the M4 and M2 and ultimately the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway.

These major development plans will have important implications for recreation in the LGA and have been considered as part of the strategic framework for this Strategy. It provides the framework to deliver appropriate and effective recreational opportunities not only to the existing residents of Liverpool but also to the Liverpool community of 2020.

5 COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS FOR RECREATION

Consultation is an important component of the planning process ensuring that key stakeholders, residents and Council work collaboratively to achieve the successful implementation of strategies and plans. For the Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020, the consultation plan sought to:

- **Value add to Council's existing information** already collected through its various consultation programs ie Social Plan, Miller PCYC, Plans of Management, etc.
- Gain specific information about recreation priorities, specific locations for recreation activities and specific actions/improvements that should be undertaken to address the issues identified.
- Involve not only local residents but also representatives of specific target groups in the LGA, such as older residents, youth, children, NESB residents, residents with a disability and residents from specific geographic areas ie Council's 5 Neighbourhoods.
- Ensure that community expectations were not raised with participants being made aware of the limited funding/resources available for works/programs and implementation issues involved.

The consultation plan covered the following initiatives:

- **Survey of Sporting/Recreation Groups** – a detailed survey was sent to approximately 84 sporting/recreational groups known to Council. A total of 25 surveys were returned and analysed with a response rate of 28%.
- **Key Sporting Body Meetings** – individual meetings were held with 12 main sporting bodies in the LGA to gather more information about issues and needs of these organizations.

- **Neighbourhood Workshops** – workshops were held at 5 locations during October/November with a total of 20 participants. Although the workshops were advertised extensively through direct mailout to some 200 community groups and 80 sporting groups together with advertising in local newspapers, flyers to schools and community centres, direct invitation by phone etc, the attendance at these workshops was poor. The majority of participants were representatives of sporting groups with only a few resident representatives.

- **Targeted Consultation** – there are several groups in the Liverpool community who have specific recreational needs. These were identified as indigenous residents, residents from a non-English speaking background, residents with a disability, older residents and youth. The consultants met with 7 established representative groups/networks to discuss recreational issues, needs and potential strategies.

- **Youth Survey** – a survey postcard was developed in consultation with Council's Youth Worker to gain feedback from local youth about their recreation needs. The survey was also distributed to local youth services and through the Liverpool Youth Council. A total of 82 surveys were received and analysed.

It is recommended that all groups/networks be notified of the exhibition of the *Draft Liverpool City-Wide Recreation Strategy 2020*. The following section provides a summary of the outcomes of the consultation plan.

5.1 Summary of Broad Outcomes

Key issues and needs identified in the consultation program were:

- There is demand for additional sporting facilities to meet the needs of organised sports in the future.
- Sporting activities for people with disabilities are limited in the LGA.
- Many recreation facilities are inaccessible for older residents and residents with a disability.
- Maintenance of existing Council open space and recreation facilities is considered average to poor.
- The community wants existing facilities to be maintained to current accepted standards. They consider that limited works are undertaken to improve existing recreation facilities and replace existing substandard equipment/amenities etc.
- Affordability of sporting and recreation facilities is a key issue for many groups in the community particularly older residents, residents with a disability, youth, NESB residents, families and Aboriginal residents.
- Improvement of the natural environment, including the waterways and creeklines, is considered to be important by many groups in the community.
- Vandalism and lack of personal safety in existing parks and recreation facilities is a major concern.
- Recreation facilities identified by the community for future provision focus on indoor recreation centres; more playing fields; outdoor basketball/hardcourts courts; youth facilities; quality children's playgrounds; quality passive parks aimed at family recreation; water-based activities including swimming pools, waterparks etc; BMX tracks and children's off-road facilities.
- There is a lack of informal/unstructured recreation facilities for youth.

- The community consider that WSRP should be an informal, affordable, family oriented park which provides picnic areas, walking/cycling trails etc while also protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Major development of other recreation-based activities was not considered appropriate due to issues of transport and affordability.

5.2 Outcomes of Sporting/Recreational Group Survey

The following trends are evident from the survey results:

- Approximately two thirds of sporting groups expect their membership to increase in the next five years while one third expect it to remain stable. None expect their membership to decrease.
- Two thirds of groups cater for modified activities for children.
- The majority of groups do not cater for people with disabilities (75% of groups).
- Most of the organisations have members who come from a NESB background.
- Two thirds of groups consider that the facilities that they use in the Liverpool LGA are adequate for their organizations needs.
- Most of the organizations rate the maintenance of the facilities that they use in Liverpool as good or average.
- All but one of the groups consider that the facilities they use require improvement or replacement.
- Two thirds of groups highlighted that they need additional facilities, taking into account present and predicted membership.
- The majority of groups consider hire fees to be "about right". A lesser number consider them to be

high. No groups think that they are low.

- Slightly more groups would be willing to pay higher fees for higher quality playing and associated facilities.

- The majority of groups are interested in partnering with Council and/or other organizations to provide new or improved facilities (65%).

- Three out of four group include female participants with these being athletics, soccer (4 clubs), baseball, AFL, cricket (2 clubs), swimming, junior rugby league, netball, Oztag and Special Olympics.

- The vast majority indicated that they fund or maintain the facilities that they use. Maintenance undertaken includes line marking, paying electricity bills and general cleaning, caretaking and maintenance.

5.3 Outcomes of Key Sporting Body Meetings

Individual meetings have been held with 6 sporting bodies to gather more information about issues and needs of these organizations. Some of these organizations were also represented at the Neighbourhood workshops with their views incorporated into the workshop outcomes presented in Section 5.4. Individual meetings were held with:

- Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Club
- AFL (ISFM)
- NSW Futsal
- Banksdown District Junior Baseball Association
- Liverpool Rugby Union Club
- Liverpool Basketball Association

Key issues identified by these groups were:

- Roof leaks at the Whillam indoor sports stadium
- The potential to further develop Rosedale Oval as a regional facility for Australian Rules and cricket.
- Maintenance of facilities is little follow up etc.

Whillam Centre (more affordable/available for community).

- Improvement to waterways and environmental areas were also identified including Cabramatta Creek, Georges River, Brickmakers Creek and existing bushlands.

- New/additional facilities to be provided focussed on the need for more indoor recreation centres; more playing fields; outdoor basketball courts, major sports stadium, youth facilities, quality children's playgrounds, walking/cycling/bridle paths and BMX tracks.

- The key barriers to participation in recreation focussed on affordability of facilities (eg hall hire prohibitive for sporting club presentations; user costs at the Whillam Centre too high); poor Council maintenance and lack of follow up on improvements, and vandalism (eg not repaired, no alarm systems, central key system).

- Improvements required in local neighbourhoods included:

- Eastern – provide skate park in Watlie Grove for youth; provide more sports facilities suitable for people with a disability; provide recreation facilities at Voyager Point; improve environmental quality of lakes at Watlie Grove; improve Hells Reserve for radio-controlled cars and other users; and provide more shade particularly at Grand Flaneur Beach.

- Central – improve maintenance and modernise all existing facilities (eg vandalism at Whillam, Amalfi, lighting etc); more help and support from Council to local clubs; make Whillam 1 & 2 one field for soccer and 3 & 4 as an improved field; look at the use of Meer Park, Tennis Courts; improve Elouera Nature Reserve, Cabramatta Creek etc; provide more shade in all parks.

- CBD – provide more local playgrounds for CBD residents living in flats/units.

- Rural – improve Bringelly Oval and Craik Park

- Release – some facilities are considered to be of higher quality than in existing areas; need to provide more for children and youth; more activities for girls not interested in sport; and upgrade Hoxton Park Reserve (ie better lighting, safety issues).

- Improvements required at district level focussed on indoor recreation centres with groups considering that each neighbourhood should have an indoor recreation centre ie Hammondville, West Hoxton, Woodward Park, Wenden while the Central workshop considered that an additional one may be required due to the large resident population.

- Others identified included more youth facilities; additional pools at Prestons/Edmondson Park and Holsworthy; high quality large parks aimed at family recreation; water-based activities; improved creek lines and natural areas; and the development of an Academy of Sport.

- For the WSRP, the workshops considered again that the area would be best used for informal park activities such as cycle tracks, BMX tracks, playgrounds, seating, picnic areas etc. There was little interest in structured activities such as golf while an environmental focus was also favoured. Ideas included providing an environmental education centre catering for school/youth groups, local camping and an outdoor adventure sport/recreation camp for children/youth. Groups also were keen to incorporate water features in the park whether through lakes, dams and/or creeks which could provide some low-key water activities. Overall, the response highlighted the need to focus on a quality regional open space with facilities that will be affordable and accessible to all Liverpool residents.

5.5 Outcomes of Targeted Consultation

The following 7 existing groups/networks were consulted with a consultant attending their meeting to discuss key recreation needs, issues and priorities:

- Liverpool Seniors Network
- Liverpool Access Committee
- South West Koort Interagency
- Liverpool Aboriginal Consultative Committee
- Liverpool Youth Council
- Vietnamese Social Group
- Australian Multicultural Club of Friends

In summary, the groups highlighted the recreation needs and issues outlined below.

5.5.1 Older Residents

Older residents identified large parks such as Chipping Norton Lakes, Ida Kennedy Park, and Mingelovic Reserve together with the Michel Wenden Centre as the best recreation facilities in the LGA. Improved physical access, public safety/vandalism and the inability of Council to improve areas were key issues to be addressed in recreation facilities (eg Bigge Park, Leacock Regional Park) while issues of shade and lack of water features were also identified.

Important recreation facilities to be provided focussed on provision of more high quality major parks in the LGA with many travelling outside the area to other parks for family activities/outings eg Mount Annan Gardens, Fagan Park at Glenorie, Japanese Gardens at Auburn etc. Provision of good walking trails was also identified.

Factors which limit older residents undertaking recreation focussed primarily on physical access and shade.

For the WSRP, older residents considered that an informal, family-oriented park would be appropriate with features such as a bird sanctuary, walking trails, picnic areas etc.

5.5.2 Aboriginal Residents

Aboriginal groups identified Chipping Norton Lakes, Bents Basin State Recreation Area, Casula Powerhouse and Cabramatta Creek as the best recreational facilities in the LGA. The groups considered that there are many parks which should be improved and these reflected Aboriginal cultural links with the natural features of the LGA. Parks such as Lighthouse Park (linking with Georges River), Elouera Nature Reserve (linking with local bushland) and an Aboriginal cultural site near Collingwood House were identified for upgrading.

Specific recreational needs for the Aboriginal community are very similar to other groups. The strong preference for walking/cycling tracks; parks suitable for family recreation; improved maintenance/quality of facilities; parks which are suitable for older residents with seating, shade, fully accessible; and play equipment for older children were all key needs identified.

Barriers to participation in recreation focussed primarily on the need for affordable transport; activities which Aboriginal children like; lack of personal safety; and the need for an Aboriginal adult that children and young people respect to be involved in recreational activities to encourage them to participate.

The need to protect and enhance bushland, natural areas and Aboriginal cultural sites however related more highly with Aboriginal groups. This followed through to the greater recognition of Aboriginal culture in the community through interpretative signage, celebration of Aboriginal culture etc. Groups also considered more organised activities for Aboriginal groups would encourage greater recreation involvement.

Ideas for WSRP focussed on providing informal parklands suitable for walking the dog, family activities; sports such as archery and shooting; bush tucker areas; community nursery/indigenous species; interpretative information on important Aboriginal cultural sites etc. The groups were concerned that the facility would need to be promoted as available to everyone for whom transport/access is a problem.

language skills. Many were not aware of the facilities available in the LGA and had difficulties booking facilities due to their poor language skills.

There were concerns from these groups about the lack of personal safety in some parks.

Many would like to see Council provide more low cost recreational facilities and activities with access on a casual basis.

One group was so concerned about the lack of access to sporting/recreational activities that they have started their own club (about 100 people of all ages) and they meet regularly to play sport and recreate in an informal way. They identified the strong need for active space near the CBD (where many new arrivals live) and would like Council to develop a low cost multipurpose recreational facility for CBD residents with free outdoor volleyball and basketball courts; playground for children; barbecue area; and a 1 km jogging track with exercise stations. This facility would be available for free public use with little maintenance required.

5.5.5 Youth

The outcomes of a meeting with the Liverpool Youth Council have been incorporated with the Youth Survey results below (see Section 5.6).

5.6 Outcomes of Youth Survey

With 82 postcard surveys received from youth in the Liverpool LGA, this survey provides the following important information for the study. Its outcomes have been integrated with the feedback received from the Liverpool Youth Council.

- The profile of respondents was reasonably representative of youth in the LGA with the majority from Central (35% of respondents) and Release Neighbourhoods (17%). Eastern (16%), CBD (7%) and Rural Neighbourhoods (2%) were also represented.
- Ages of respondents ranged from 12-26 years with the 32% aged 15 years and 22% aged 16 years. These are key youth age groups where

6 EXISTING RECREATION SETTINGS IN LIVERPOOL AND IT'S REGION

This section provides a summary of the supply of open space, and recreation settings and facilities in the Liverpool LGA and in surrounding areas where relevant.

6.1 Open space in Liverpool

6.1.1 Total open space

The total supply of public open space in the Liverpool LGA and non-regional open space in Liverpool by neighbourhood is shown in Table 6.1. Regional open space in Liverpool includes Chipping Norton Lakes, Hammondville Park, Woodward Park / Hillier Oval, Leacock Regional Park (34 ha), Western Sydney Regional Park, Bents Basin State Recreation Area (43 ha), and Gulguer Nature Reserve (219ha).

When considering the total public open space available in Liverpool, it is evident that:

- Total provision of open space in the Liverpool LGA is high with 1926 hectares of public open space and 1034 hectares of non-regional open space.
- Based on the 1996 ABS Census population, there was over 17 hectares of total public open space per 1,000 residents of Liverpool. However, based on 2001 population figures of 154,858 residents, provision of total open space has fallen to 12.48 hectares per 1,000 residents.
- Excluding regional open space, based on the 1996 ABS Census population, provision was 7.57 hectares per 1,000 residents decreasing to 6.68 hectares per 1,000 residents in 2001.
- About 56% of Liverpool's total open space is located in the Western and Release neighbourhoods that houses about 36% of Liverpool's population in 2001. This is primarily as due to the location of the WSRP in these neighbourhoods.
- Provision of total open space in the urban neighbourhoods (Eastern, CBD

Table 6.1 Total Open Space and Total Non Regional Open Space in Liverpool

	Pop 2001	Total open space in ha	Ha of open space per 1000 pop	Total regional open space (Ha)	Ha of non-regional open space per 1000 pop
Eastern					
Chipping Norton	5027	232.50	25.75	103.18	11.43
Hammondville	2896	55.24	19.27	33.34	11.84
Holsworthy	4930	9.56	1.94	9.56	1.94
Moorbank	5987	53.24	8.89	53.24	8.89
Pleasure Point	159	1.52	9.55	1.52	9.55
Voyager Point	767	8.45	1.42	6.45	1.42
Wattle Grove	8223	42.45	5.16	42.45	5.16
Total Eastern	31065	401.28	12.58	220.34	7.83
CBD					
Liverpool (n)	5032 (15,892 + workers)	14.65	2.49 (0.76)	14.65	2.49 (0.76)
Central					
Ashcroft	3743	13.36	3.57	13.36	3.57
Busby	4602	13.47	2.93	13.47	2.93
Cantrivault	2264	40.71	17.98	40.71	17.98
Casula	11254	100.79	8.96	68.63	5.92
Heckenberg	2654	20.38	6.88	20.38	6.88
Liverpool (n)	14704	128.03	8.71	102.52	7.39
Lumen	8026	25.15	3.26	25.15	3.26
Miller	3161	14.42	4.56	14.42	4.56
Prestons (East of Bernera Rd)	2682	22.55	8.47	22.55	8.47
Siedler	2923	10.61	3.63	10.61	3.63
Wavick Farm	5909	12.31	59.09	12.31	12.81
Total Central	69916	449.56	7.38	396.99	6.50
Release					
Cecil Hills	5542	67.02	11.63	67.02	11.63
Cecil park (east of WSRP)	0	350.15	350.15	27.41	27.41
Dentam Court	1391	0	0	0	0
Edmondson Pk	532	0.83	1.55	0.83	1.55
Green Valley	17458	35.65	3.10	35.65	3.10
Minchinbrook	9593	40.30	4.03	40.30	4.03
Hoxton	3361	35.65	10.51	35.65	10.51
Homingsea Pk	155	0	0	0	0
Ingleburn	8207	23	2.7	23	2.7
Prestons (west of Bernera Rd)	5159	24.44	4.73	24.44	4.73
Total Release	48473	577.94	12.44	255.22	5.49
Western					
Austral	2317	13.98	6.03	13.98	6.03
Badgery's Creek	408	5.85	14.34	5.85	14.34
Brimgely	1741	6.28	3.61	6.28	3.61
Cecil Park (west of WSRP)	428	0	0	0	0
Grondale	865	210.4	242.96	0.83	0.96
Kemps Creek	1929	184.57	107.63	9.57	6.26
Luddenham	656	1.16	1.77	1.16	1.77
Ressmore	1677	81.09	48.35	81.09	48.35
Total Western	9922	493.33	30.23	119.71	12.44
Total Liverpool LGA	154858	1926.74	12.48	1034.84	6.68

Non regional open space does not include: Chipping Norton Lakes, Hammondville Park, Woodward Park/ Hillier Oval, Leacock Regional Park, Western Sydney Regional Park, Bents Basin State Recreation Area or Gulguer Reserve.

recreational needs are high prior to leaving school, working etc.

- The majority of respondents were male (63%) although a high proportion of respondents did not complete this question (30%). Female representation may in fact be higher than recorded.

- Respondents represented 18 different nationalities and reflect the diversity of Liverpool's population.

- Existing recreation/leisure facilities primarily used by youth include both passive and active facilities. Respondents identified parks and walking/cycle/rollerblade paths as the main facilities used on a daily basis. These again rated strongly for use on a weekly basis in addition to basketball/netball courts, gyms, organised sports and sportsgrounds. Youth were more likely to use facilities on a monthly basis with swimming pools, picnic areas, sportsgrounds and basketball/netball courts rating highly. Those facilities used more irregularly included skateparks, sportsgrounds, dancing/arts and bike track. It is important to note that this usage data relates not only to facilities youth like to use but also to the access youth have to these types of facilities in their community.

- The main reason given by youth as a barrier to using existing sport/recreation facilities in the LGA is affordability (40% of respondents) and transport (36% of respondents). Affordability and transport were also key issues identified by the Liverpool Youth Council. The Council suggested that access to Council facilities, such as the Whittam Centre, be free for those under 18 years. Importantly, the location of facilities also rated highly (30% of respondents) while a small but important group (7% of respondents) added to the survey that "gangs and security" were main reasons for not using existing facilities.

- The majority of youth appear willing to travel for 10-20 minutes or 6-10 kilometres to access sport/recreation facilities (40% of respondents) while 32% will only travel 5-10 minutes/1-5

kilometres. One in four respondents (25%) are interested in facilities which are more than 20 minutes/10 kilometres from their homes.

- The sport/recreation facilities youth want in the LGA vary widely, with 19 different facilities identified. However, the most popular were waterparks (23% of responses); extreme sports (16%); indoor recreation centres (10%); swimming pools (10%); BMX tracks (7%); gymnastics (7%); and outdoor basketball courts (6%). Equally the facilities identified by Liverpool Youth Council varied and included basketball courts, skateparks, drama/theatre performances, beach volleyball courts and an ice skating rink.

- The most popular location for these facilities were the CBD (18%), Central (13%) and Eastern (13%) Neighbourhoods. This is most likely to reflect the location of respondents homes but the popularity of the CBD possibly also reflects the accessibility of this location in terms of transport etc. It is important to note that the majority of respondents did not identify a particular location for facilities they would like to see provided in the LGA (36%).

- Importantly, the Youth Council also highlighted that Council provides parks/cycle tracks for children in new residential estates but nothing is provided for youth.

6.2 Outdoor recreation settings and facilities in Liverpool

The Liverpool LGA has a diverse range of outdoor recreation settings and facilities that are provided in open space. These settings and facilities are shown in Tables 6.3 and 6.4, which are summarised below.

Sportgrounds

As shown in Table 6.3, there are approximately 40 sportgrounds including more than 60 playing fields in the LGA, which provide for the following sports:

- Cricket – 21 wickets and 24 practice nets
- Soccer – 55 fields comprising junior and senior fields. 55% of soccer fields are in the Central neighbourhood.
- Rugby League/Union – 15 fields. There are no fields in the Western Neighbourhood and only 1 field in Release.
- Australian Rules – 2 fields at Rosedale Oval (Central) and Greenway Park (Release).
- Hockey – 2 synthetic fields in Moorebank and 7 other grass pitches in the LGA.
- Baseball - 9 diamonds, in the Eastern and Central neighbourhoods.
- Softball - 14 diamonds, concentrated in Warwick Farm (Central).
- Athletics – 4 track and field facilities, including 3 in the Central neighbourhood.
- Oztag – 8 fields used in Waitle Grove (Eastern) and Liverpool (Central).
- Gridiron – 1 field at Craik Park, Austral (Western).
- Archery – 1 field at Helles Park, Moorebank (Eastern).

Provision of sportgrounds is concentrated in Liverpool, Chipping Norton, Warwick Farm, Casula and Hammondville. Sportgrounds range from small single purpose grounds such as Green Valley Reserve to large, multi-purpose and high-profile grounds such as Hammondville Oval.

Section 7 provides comparative data on levels of provision of sporting facilities in Liverpool compared to other LGAs and standards. It is evident that sportgrounds in Liverpool cater for a broad range of

Table 6.3 - Provision of Outdoor Sporting Facilities in Liverpool

Suburb	Park Name	Cricket wickets	Cricket practice nets	Soccer fields	Rugby League/union fields	Australian Rules Fields	Hockey fields	Baseball diamonds	Softball diamonds	Athletics track/fields	Oztag fields	Gridiron fields	Acquatic facility	Toilets	Change rooms	Canteen	Club rooms	Grandstand	Flood lights	Training/ security lights
Chipping Norton	Chipp's Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Riverside Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hammondville Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CBD NEIGHBOURHOOD	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD	Blairfield Oval	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Stanwell Oval	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Whitlam Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Power Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Bank Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Grand Regent Reserve	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Jardine Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Whitlam Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Hillier Oval/Woodward Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Irland Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Liverpool (part)	Leahursts Oval	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Pacific Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Scotiell Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Amalfi Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Phillips Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Phillips Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Phillips Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Phillips Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Phillips Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Phillips Park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- Drainage reserves in Liverpool are generally not attractive or well maintained. There are some poor examples of dual use drainage and open space corridors in which their predominant function is drainage, with little recreational value. These include:
 - Barbara Long Reserve, Liverpool - concrete drain.
 - Gandangara Park, Casula - drainage swale.
 - Military Reserve, Liverpool - drainage reserve.

6.1.2 Size of open space

Table 6.2, which shows the distribution of Liverpool's open space by size and neighbourhood, indicates that:

- Liverpool's total open space is dominated by large parks (greater than 5 hectares), which comprise 87% of all open space in Liverpool. Medium parks (0.5 ha to 5 ha) comprise 12% of open space, with small parks less than 0.5 ha) comprising 2% of Liverpool's open space.

- The Eastern and Central neighbourhoods have an above-average proportion of their open space in small parks, while the CBD and Western neighbourhoods have a low proportion of open space in small parks.

- The Rural and Release neighbourhoods, not surprisingly, have the highest proportion of their open space in large parks, due to the location of large regional parks in those neighbourhoods.

In 1997, as part of Council's Plan of Management for Established Parks, consultants Mandis Roberts identified some areas of community land, comprising small areas of open space and pocket parks that were not considered to contribute to the open space and recreation network in Liverpool. These parks are as follows:

- Skilling Park (eastern half)
- Reservoir Park
- Road reserves 3H and 8I
- Pearce Park

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Table 6.2 - Size of Public Open Space by Neighbourhood

	Small parks			Medium parks			Large parks			
	<0.3ha	0.3-0.5ha	0.5ha-1ha	1-5ha	5-10ha	10ha +				TOTAL
EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD										
Chipping Norton	3.24	3.07	4.39	26.59	19.05	88.80				145.09
Hammondville	0.59	0.00	0.75	0.00	50.24	51.58				102.41
Holsworthy	0.41	1.24	2.91	0.00	0.00	4.57				4.57
Moorebank	2.35	0.65	0.00	3.35	13.72	47.60				67.99
Pleasure Point	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.93	0.00	0.00				1.93
Voyager Point	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09	0.00	0.00				1.09
Wattle Grove	0.54	0.99	2.83	13.30	17.43	0.00				35.08
TOTAL EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD	7.34	5.95	10.88	46.28	50.15	188.84				307.25
% of total open space	2%	2%	4%	15%	16%	61%				100%
% size of parks	4%	4%	13%	47%	47%	47%				47%
CBD NEIGHBOURHOOD										
Liverpool (part)	0.11	0.00	1.48	9.05	6.73	0.00				17.37
TOTAL CBD NEIGHBOURHOOD	0.11	0.00	1.48	9.05	6.73	0.00				17.37
% of total open space	1%	0%	9%	52%	35%	0%				100%
% size of parks	1%	0%	61%	39%	39%	0%				39%
CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD										
Ashcroft Mt Pritchard	0.79	0.00	0.56	6.57	5.45	0.00				13.36
Busby	0.59	0.48	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00				13.47
Canterbury	1.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.57				40.71
Casula	1.55	1.11	1.84	19.56	14.74	61.84				100.79
Heckenberg	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.40	10.85				20.38
Liverpool (part)	1.30	4.04	2.12	27.28	10.62	79.50				124.96
Lunera	1.29	0.61	0.00	13.29	0.00	10.76				26.16
Miller	0.65	0.40	0.00	0.00	6.17	7.20				14.42
Prestons (east of Berrima Road)	0.45	0.48	0.55	0.00	0.00	21.08				22.55
Sadiol	1.23	0.00	0.00	4.37	5.02	16.82				27.07
Warwick Farm	0.39	0.00	0.00	7.41	20.59	30.71				59.16
TOTAL CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD	9.85	7.32	7.45	84.60	77.83	259.37				446.53
% of total open space	2%	2%	2%	19%	17%	58%				100%
% size of parks	4%	2%	21%	21%	75%	75%				75%
RELEASE NEIGHBOURHOOD										
Coal Hills	0.05	0.00	3.02	22.72	5.83	63.18				94.18
Coal Park (east WSRP)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.15				350.15
Edmondson Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
Green Valley	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.32
Heckenberg	1.03	1.16	2.25	9.97	15.89	0.00				35.15
Heckenberg Park / Harrington Park	0.42	1.14	3.08	0.00	0.00	14.42				19.06
Induburn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.51				9.51
Prestons (west of Berrima Road)	0.35	1.22	1.27	4.73	9.37	0.00				17.54
West Hoxton	1.04	0.74	0.77	1.19	0.00	0.00				3.75
TOTAL RELEASE NEIGHBOURHOOD	3.62	4.27	10.32	57.55	43.70	438.29				594.84
% of total open space	1%	1%	2%	10%	7%	75%				100%
% size of parks	2%	1%	12%	12%	80%	80%				80%
WESTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD										
Austral	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.15	9.70	0.00				13.85
Badgerys Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.21	0.00	0.00				4.21
Bingelly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.34	0.00				5.34
Coal Park (west WSRP)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.15				350.15
Greendale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	262.16				262.16
Kemps Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.54	13.80	0.00				15.35
Luddenham	0.00	0.39	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00				1.16
Rossmore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.59				70.59
TOTAL WESTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD	0.00	0.39	0.77	9.91	25.84	691.90				732.82
% of total open space	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	95%				100%
% size of parks	0%	0%	1%	1%	98%	98%				98%
LIVERPOOL LGA										
TOTAL LIVERPOOL LGA	21.14	17.92	30.90	207.47	206.24	1576.20				2058.89
% of total open space	1%	1%	2%	10%	10%	77%				100%
% size of parks	2%	1%	12%	12%	87%	87%				87%

Sources: Liverpool City Council
Errors due to rounding. Accurate as at August 2002

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Suburb	Park Name	Cricket wickets	Cricket practice nets	Soccer fields	Rugby League/union fields	Australian Rules Fields	Hockey fields	Baseball diamonds	Softball diamonds	Athletics track/cross country fields	Oztag fields	Golf/tennis fields	Archery facility	Toilets	Change rooms	Canteen	Club rooms	Grandstand	Flood lights	Training/ security lights
Miller	Ron Darcy Oval			1										*	*	*				3
Mount Pritchard	None																			
Prestons	Edwin Wheeler Reserve	1 synthetic	2 synthetic		1									*	*	*			2	
Sedgely	Wheat Park				1									*	*	*			4	
	Durrant Oval				2									*	*	*			8	
	Dwyer Oval				1									*	*	*			7	
	Freeman Oval													*	*	*			6	
	Jacqui Osmond Reserve								12					*	*	*			2	
	Rosedale Oval	1 turf	4 turf											*	*	*			3	
TOTAL CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD		11	12	28	10	1	0	5	14	2	4	0	0	*	*	*			64	40
RELEASE NEIGHBOURHOOD:																				
Cecil Hills	None																			
Cecil Park	None																			
Darham Court	None																			
Edmondson Park	None																			
Green Valley	Winnal Reserve		2 synthetic		1									*	*	*			4	
Hoxton Park/ Horningssea Park	None																			
Hinchinbrook	Hoxton Park Reserve	1 synthetic		2 turf, 2 turf										*	*	*			4	
	Banks Road	1 synthetic		2																
Ingleburn	None																			
Prestons	None																			
West Hoxton	Greenway Park	1 turf																	8	0
TOTAL RELEASE NEIGHBOURHOOD		3	2	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
WESTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD:																				
Austral	Crail Park									1		1		*	*	*			4	1
	Scott Memorial Park	1 synthetic	2 synthetic	2 turf, 2 turf										*	*	*			4	
Badgers Creek	Badgers Creek Park	1 synthetic	2 synthetic, 1 synthetic	1										*	*	*			4	2
Bringingelly	Bringingelly Rec. Reserve			2			1 (turf)							*	*	*			4	
Cecil Park	None																			
Greenfield	Bill Anderson Reserve			2 turf, 2 turf			2 (turf)							*	*	*			6	3
Kemps Creek	None																			
Luddenham	None																			
Rossmore	None																			

Suburb	Park Name	Cricket wickets	Cricket practice nets	Soccer fields	Rugby League/union fields	Australian Rules Fields	Hockey fields	Baseball diamonds	Softball diamonds	Athletics track/cross country fields	Oztag fields	Golf/tennis fields	Archery facility	Toilets	Change rooms	Canteen	Club rooms	Grandstand	Flood lights	Training/ security lights
TOTAL WESTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD		2	6	7	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0						16	14
TOTAL LGA		21	24	55	15	2	9	9	14	3	8	1	1						130	61

Source: Liverpool City Council

Table 6.4 Provision of Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Liverpool

Suburb	Children's playgrounds	Tennis Courts	Hockey Courts	Basketball Courts	Multi-purpose courts	BMX tracks	Skate ramps	Removal-control tracks	Equestrian	Picnic and/or barbecue facilities	Beach	Lake/pond	Wharf	Jetty	Boat ramp	Dog exercise areas
Eastern Neighbourhood																
Chipping Norton	14		4 (1)							7	2	lake	1	4	2	2 (1 off-leash)
Hammondville	3		5 (1)							1						
Halsworth	8									1						
Kloofbank	10						1	1		1		pond			1	1
Pleasure Point		1 (1)											1			
Voyager Point		2 (1)	2 (1)	2						1		pond				
Wattle Grove	9															
TOTAL EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD	44	3 (2)	11 (3)	2	0	0	1	1	0	11	2		2	4	4	3 (1 off-leash)
No. per 1,000 residents	1/727	1/10652	1/2505	1/15994												
CBD Neighbourhood																
Liverpool (part)	3	2 (1)	0	0	1 (1)					3						
TOTAL CBD NEIGHBOURHOOD	3	2 (1)	0	0	1 (1)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. per 1,000 residents	1/1964	1/2546	0	0	1/5892											
Central Neighbourhood																
Ashcroft	3									1						
Mt Prichard	3															
Busby	3															
Carwington	4					1				1						1
Casula	8		2 (1)							2						1
Heckenberg	3		2 (1)							1						
Liverpool (part)	9	6 (1)	25 (2)							2						1
Lurnea	7	6 (2)								1						
Miller	4															
Prestons (east of Bernara Road)	2								1							
Sadler	3															
Manick Farm	2		2 (1)							2						2
TOTAL CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD	48	14 (3)	31 (5)	0	0	1	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	5
No. per 1,000 residents	1/1296	1/4352	1/1555													
Release Neighbourhood																
Cecil Hills	0															

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Suburb	Children's playgrounds	Tennis Courts	Hockey Courts	Basketball Courts	Multi-purpose courts	BMX tracks	Skate ramps	Removal-control tracks	Equestrian	Picnic and/or barbecue facilities	Beach	Lake/pond	Wharf	Jetty	Boat ramp	Dog exercise areas
Cecil Park (east WSRP)	0															
Dunham Court	0															
Edmondson Park	0															
Green Valley	5		2 (1)	½						3						
Hinchinbrook	3									1						
Horton Park/ Horningsen Park	1															
Ingleburn	0															
Prestons (west of Bernara Road)	1															
West Horton	1															
TOTAL RELEASE NEIGHBOURHOOD	11	0	2 (1)	½	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. per 1,000 residents	1/4255	0	1/2227													
Western Neighbourhood																
Austral	1	2 (1)	2 (1)													
Badgerys Creek	0															
Bringelly	1		2 (1)													
Cecil Park (west WSRP)	0															
Greendale	0									1						
Kemps Creek	1	1 (1)	1 (1)													
Luddenham	0								1							
Rossmore	1															
TOTAL WESTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD	4	3 (2)	5 (3)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. per 1,000 residents	1/2406	1/3208	1/1525													
TOTAL LGA	110	22 (8)	49 (12)	2 ¼ courts	1 (1)	1	1	1	2	29	2	lake, ponds	2	4	4	8 (1 off-leash)
No. per 1,000 residents	1/1407	1/7038	1/3159	1/61714			1/77143		1/77143							

Source: Liverpool City Council

Note: Numbers in brackets refer to the number of locations of the particular facility.

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Children's playgrounds

There are 110 children's playgrounds in the LGA provided at a rate of 1 playground per 1407 residents. A high concentration of playgrounds is in the Eastern neighbourhood, particularly in Watlie Grove, Chipping Norton and Moorebank. The Western Neighbourhood has the lowest rate of provision of children's playgrounds, but as residences are generally located on large blocks of land, this is considered reasonable.

There is no regional children's playground in Liverpool although there are playgrounds in regional parks such as along the Chipping Norton Lakes foreshore.

There are no accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities in the Liverpool LGA.

Courts (tennis, netball, basketball and multi-purpose)

22 tennis courts are provided at 8 locations in Liverpool, at the rate of 1 court per 7038 residents. There are no tennis courts in the Release neighbourhood. The courts in McGirr Park in Miller and Meere Park in Lurnea have recently closed, with the Kemps Creek courts no longer in use. The Woodward Park courts may close if redevelopment of the site. In general, the Council-provided tennis courts in Liverpool are in a poor condition and future management needs to be improved. New tennis courts are proposed at Prestons as part of the Landcom development.

49 netball courts are provided at 12 locations in Liverpool, at the rate of 1 court per 3160 residents. Almost half of Liverpool's netball courts are in the Collimore Park complex in Liverpool. In addition, the Liverpool Catholic Club in Hoxton Park has constructed some netball courts. The Central neighbourhood is comparatively best provided with netball courts of all neighbourhoods in Liverpool. There are gaps in the location of training courts throughout the LGA, particularly in the Release neighbourhood.

Outdoor basketball is poorly provided for in Liverpool. Only 2 ½ outdoor basketball

courts exist in Liverpool in Mihajlovic Reserve in Green Valley and Australis Park, Watlie Grove. One multi-purpose handball court is located in Bigge Park in Liverpool. Most high schools and larger primary schools have basketball courts within the school grounds. Given the requests for basketball facilities, particularly by young people, additional basketball multi-purpose courts are needed across the City.

BMX tracks

There is only 1 formal track in the LGA at Powell Park, Cartwright.

Skate facilities

Liverpool has one skate facility located at Kelso Park, Moorebank. There are limited opportunities for rollerblading on sealed walkways/cycleways.

Remote-controlled car track

A remote-controlled car track, which attracts users from all over Sydney and was recently used for the World Championships, is located in Helles Park at Moorebank.

Equestrian facilities

There are 2 facilities in the LGA accommodating both competitive and non-competitive equestrian activities. These are Warwick Farm Racecourse (a private racecourse managed by the Australian Jockey Club) and the equestrian park at Rossmore Grange, Rossmore.

The Sydney 2000 Olympics equestrian facility is located in Western Sydney Regional Park in Fairfield, which caters for Olympic-standard cross country, show jumping and dressage. On the border of Liverpool LGA is Rossmore Park at Rossmore in Camden LGA, which is also used for equestrian activities.

Picnic and barbecue areas

29 parks in Liverpool incorporate picnic and/or barbecue facilities. These are primarily located in regional and larger suburban parks, with a concentration in the parks adjoining the Chipping Norton Lakes, in the Liverpool CBD, and in Green Valley. Gaps in provision of picnic and

As required under the Companion Animals Act, 1998 Council has one designated unleashed dog exercise area at Lieutenant Cantello Reserve, Hammondville, which includes both leashed and unleashed areas. Informal dog exercise areas are in Moorebank, Cartwright, Casula, Liverpool, and Warwick Farm. Dog training takes place at Freeman Oval, Warwick Farm.

Gardens

Bigge Park and Apex Park in the CBD are the only formal gardens in the LGA although their quality compared to formal gardens in other LGAs is low eg Japanese Gardens at Auburn. Gardens are also in small local parks (such as Augusta Cullen Reserve in Liverpool), or part of formal open space in new release areas, such as Federation Square in Watlie Grove. Some other parks have small gardens and flower beds. One community garden is located at Dunbrier Park, Liverpool.

Lookouts

Parks with elevated views are Ida Kennedy Park, Hinchinbrook, Lions Lookout, Mount Pritchard, Pye Hill Reserve, Cecil Hills, and Leacock Regional Park, Casula.

Golf courses and driving ranges

There are 2 golf courses in Liverpool: Tree Valley (18 holes, private), and New Brighton (18 holes, private). The Casula and Orange Grove Golf Courses have recently closed.

One golf driving range in the LGA is located at Hoxton Park.

Walking and cycling tracks

An estimated 11 kilometres of local off-road shared walking/cycling paths are available in the LGA. These routes are located in the following open spaces:

- Chipping Norton Lakes foreshore including South Park, Angle Park, Homestead Park and Black Muscat Park and Heron Park
- Lake Moore foreshore including Haigh Park, McMillan Park, Chauvel Park, Thomas Moore Park and Quota Park
- Watlie Grove Park, Watliegrove
- Lakeside Park, Watliegrove

6.3 Indoor recreation facilities in Liverpool

- Kokoda Fields, Holsworthy
- Cecil Hills Lake, Cecil Hills
- Parks in Casula
- McGirr Park, Miller
- Ida Kennedy Park, Hinchinbrook
- Minallovic Reserve, Hinchinbrook

Approximately 18 kilometres of local on-road cycle facilities are also provided although the quality of these routes vary enormously. An audit of cycle facilities undertaken by Council in 1998 highlighted the poor quality of many cycling facilities including issues such as lack of signage, poor surfacing, lack of links etc. The current provision does not provide a network of walking/cycle facilities, with poor links to schools, shops, community facilities and workplaces. Personal security is a major issue for many of these facilities particularly long routes in isolated linear parks. In many cases, the routes have poor public surveillance and are located adjacent to industrial areas and/or at the back of housing.

Bowling greens

Three lawn bowling clubs operate in Liverpool: Liverpool City Bowling Club in Bigge Park, Austral Bowling Club, and Kemps Creek Sporting and Bowling Club. All bowling greens are managed by the individual clubs.

Shooting centre

The Sydney International Shooting Centre at Cecil Park was built for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and is managed by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.

The Department is looking to expand/adapt the Centre's facilities so that it can cater for more disciplines than just the UIT Olympic events (22 calibre and air rifle/pistol).

The NSW Sporting Venues Act 2002 will impact on the Shooting Centre as it presents options for the future management of major sporting venues. One option that may be considered is the establishment of a Trust with representation from local government.

There is a diverse range of indoor recreation facilities provided either by the Council, the private sector or community organisations, some of which are provided on open space. Appendix 2 provides further information on the type of facility, the distribution (across the neighbourhoods), the facility components, management and any available data in the areas of usage, capital and maintenance budgets and finance.

Swimming pools

There are three aquatic centres located in the Central and Eastern neighbourhoods of Liverpool, as follows:

- The Whillam Aquatic and Leisure Centre, located in Liverpool, includes heated leisure pools, a 50 metre outdoor heated pool, and a 25 metre indoor heated pool. 1.2 million visits were made to the Whillam Centre pools in 2000-01, representing an average of 8 visits per resident of Liverpool.
- The Michael Wendan Centre in Miller includes a 12 metre indoor heated pool, and a 50 metre outdoor heated pool. Users predominantly come from Western, Central and CBD neighbourhoods, and schools throughout the LGA. The pool received 389,000 visits in 2000-01, representing 2.5 visits per resident of Liverpool.
- The Sir John Northcott Pool at Holsworthy Pool is a 25 metre outdoor heated pool.

The closest aquatic facility outside the Liverpool LGA is at Macquarie Fields.

Indoor dry sports facilities

Indoor dry sports facilities, including courts, are located in Liverpool as follows:

- Two indoor sports courts, aerobics area, gymnasium and crotche at the Wendan Centre in Miller.

- 3 indoor sports courts (catering for basketball, netball, indoor soccer), 4 squash courts and a health club (gym and kindy-gym), and space for martial arts are located in the Whillam Leisure Centre in Liverpool.

- Private gyms in Liverpool (2) and Green Valley (1).
- 8 squash courts in a private facility in Liverpool.
- An indoor sports centre at Lurnea.
- A commercial gymnastics facility in Heckenberg.
- A private ten-pin bowling centre is located in the CBD.
- There is currently no ice rink in Liverpool.

Community centres

Community centres are distributed in most suburbs throughout Liverpool, some of which are used by individuals and community groups to pursue various recreational and leisure programs.

Registered clubs

Registered clubs, including the Liverpool Catholic Club in Hoxton Park and the John Edmondson Memorial Club in Liverpool, add to the range of recreational activities available to Liverpool residents.

6.4 Natural Environment

Liverpool has a very rich natural environment. Although not widely appreciated by both the community and government, it is important to note that although Liverpool covers a very large area physically (306 square kilometres), it incorporates some very important natural features:

- Approximately one quarter of the LGA is bushland (75 square kilometres), the majority of which is found in the Holsworthy Military Area (54 square kilometres). Major portions of this area have been identified as a wilderness area of national significance.

significance but the majority of the area is not publicly accessible.

- Liverpool is bordered by major rivers and waterways with the Nepean River to the west, Georges River to the east (also flowing through the centre of the city) as well as Chipping Norton Lakes to the north-east.

- As detailed later in this Strategy, the Western Sydney Regional Park provide a major corridor of rural area which is to be preserved and maintained to benefit the residents of Liverpool and Western Sydney.

6.4.1 Bushland

This section addresses open space comprising bushland as defined in Clause 6 of State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 – Urban Bushland, and bushland in State Recreation Areas, Nature Reserves and Regional Parks managed by the NPWS.

There is 7,459 hectares of bushland in Liverpool LGA (Liverpool City Council, 1998), of which 77% or 5,743 hectares, is in public ownership being owned by the State or Commonwealth Governments or by LOC.

There is a diversity of habitat across the landscape of Liverpool, with a range of ecological communities and a range of communities that offer considerable ecological value to the area (AJ Morrison and Associates Pty Ltd, 2001). Within Council owned and managed bushland reserves are a diverse range of communities, including:

- Shale Plains Woodland / Sydney Coastal River Flat Forests along creeks.
- Shale Hills Woodland / Cumberland Plain woodland in the DUAP corridor.
- Castlereagh Ironbark Forest.
- Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland.
- Ancient alluvial woodland along the Georges River.

A number of these vegetation communities in Liverpool are listed under Schedule 1 of the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 as Endangered Ecological Communities. Some bushland reserves incorporate recreational facilities

such as walking tracks, seats, picnic facilities, children's play areas and lookouts.

Habitat and wildlife corridors on the Cumberland Plain are situated between the Lower Hawkesbury to West Hoxton and from Prestons to Holsworth.

Cumberland Plain woodland is located within Council-managed open space including:

- Rossmore Grange, Rossmore.
- Elouera Bushland Reserve.
- Hoxton Park Reserve.
- Mannix Park, Heckenberg.
- Mihajlovic Reserve, Green Valley.

Bushland areas managed by the NPWS in the LGA are:

- Gulguer Nature Reserve (total 219 ha)
- Bents Basin State Recreation Area (total 43 ha). Recreation opportunities available at Bents Basin include camping, walking etc

- Leacock Regional Park (4 hectares of remnant bushland) which includes a walking track, lookout platform, barbecues and picnic facilities. The regional park provides a link along the Georges River to Casula Powerhouse Museum.

LCC has received grants from the Natural Heritage Trust, Southern Sydney Catchment Management Board, and the Georges River Foreshore Improvement Program for regeneration works along Cabramatta Creek. Council has a bush regeneration contractor working in Riverside Park while the community-based organisation Greening Australia is replanting in the WSRP. The Chipping Norton Lakes Authority is doing regeneration work in reserves adjacent to the lakes. Other bush regeneration areas are located at:

- Anzac Creek Park, Waitle Grove.
- Elouera Bushland Reserve (community-based committees).
- Bradshaw Park, Miller.
- Murrigan Park, Hinchinbrook.
- Pye Hill Reserve, Cecil Hills
- Fassifern Park, Carlwright.

already proposed while only the local facilities for the suburbs of Prestons, Carnes Hill and Hoxton Park (all of which are located in Stage 2) are included in the S94 plan. These three areas are already being developed and are expected to house an estimated 39,000 residents with a total of 104.5 hectares provided for recreation facilities.

Local facilities required to service other parts of Stage 2 will be determined when detailed masterplans are completed. The majority of works in Hoxton Park Stage 1 have already been implemented and are included as part of the recreation inventory detailed earlier in this Section.

Council's S94 Plan proposes that the following additional recreation facilities are provided with details of locations provided in the Plan:

- Indoor recreation and entertainment complex at Woodward Park providing for a range of indoor sports and entertainments.

- Open space links, walking and cycle paths along the Georges River foreshores from Chipping Norton to Casula

- Upgrading of Chipping Norton Lakes with rehabilitation of bushland together with additional shade, disability access and interpretative information

- Improved pedestrian access to Mill Park

- Park/bushland (20ha) along Cabramatta and Hinchinbrook Creeks in Prestons, Carnes Hill and Hoxton Park

- 26 kms of cycleways (21kms offroad) through Prestons, Carnes Hill and Hoxton Park

- 16 local playing fields in Prestons, Carnes Hill and Hoxton Park primarily on drainage basins

- 8 precinct parks (3.5ha) in Prestons, Carnes Hill and Hoxton Park

- 24 childrens playgrounds (10ha) in Prestons, Carnes Hill and Hoxton Park.

- District swimming pool/indoor leisure complex (8 ha) in Stage 2 area

- District sporting area with 4 quality fields (10 ha) in Stage 2 area

- District netball complex (4ha) in Stage 2 area

- District children's playground (2 ha) in Stage 2 area

- Improvements to existing District sporting facilities in the Central and Eastern Neighbourhoods including amenities buildings, seating, mounding and floodlighting

- Improvements to existing parks in Central and Eastern Neighbourhoods to develop district playgrounds

- Improvements to existing local sporting facilities in the Central and Eastern Neighbourhoods including amenities buildings, seating, mounding and floodlighting

- Improvements to existing parks in Central and Eastern Neighbourhoods including paths, cycleways, BBQs, playgrounds, seating, lighting, fencing, planting, earthworks etc

As outlined in earlier reports, Council has recently adopted a new and innovative development strategy for Liverpool. The strategy, *Smart-Growth in Sydney's South West*, focuses on achieving sustainable development through key principles of accessibility, social benefits, environmental benefits and economic benefits.

Smart Growth focuses strongly on transit oriented development and seeks to ensure that all new areas are highly accessible to public transport. This strategy will have a major impact on the provision of recreation facilities in areas to be developed under Stage 2 and will focus on improving the effectiveness and quality of recreation. Some of the outcomes may be improved

quality of open space embellishment; greater protection and enhancement of natural areas; provision of recreation facilities, which meet community needs; and new approaches to increasing personal safety, reducing vandalism and maintenance.

Council is also developing new approaches to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Council is working with local developers to realise the development potential of land by negotiating the retention of creekbank vegetation as a tradeoff. These are being considered as part of the potential development sites for Prolif Cables and Boral at Moorebank.

In areas that have not been released, significant bushland for preservation will be identified and retained with Council looking for a net gain in bushland across the site.

6.6 Potential For Western Sydney Regional Parkland

The NSW Government is conserving large tracts of regional open space land in Western Sydney for public recreation and biodiversity protection. The WSRP is a huge area of open space covering approximately 5400 hectares. The parklands stretch for more than 26kms and is 25 times the size of Centennial Park.

The Parkland is located within Blacktown, Fairfield and Liverpool LGAs. With more than 5000 ha of parklands in Western Sydney currently in public ownership, the WSRP encompasses land in Eastern Creek, Prospect, Horsley Park and Hoxton Park. They include Kemps Creek Nature Reserve (which is in Liverpool LGA). The parkland also contains the Sydney International Shooting Centre at Cecil Park. There are some areas of remnant bushland within the parkland that NPWS has mapped, some of which are proposed for wildlife corridors.

With 90% of the parkland now in government ownership, the majority of land yet to be acquired is in the Liverpool LGA. Some land has just been acquired near Bingelly Road with DIPNR advising that some land owners are long term and reluctant to sell.

In the parkland, the Cumberland Plain Woodland and other native vegetation, creeks, slopes subject to slippage, ridgelines, archaeological and cultural areas would be protected.

The Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 31 - Regional Parklands, together with an interim DCP, have been prepared which include principles and accompanying strategies. The importance of these regional parklands together with the opportunities they provide to Liverpool must be addressed as part of this Strategy.

The REP identifies the following suitable uses for the WSRP located within the Liverpool LGA:

- Elizabeth Drive and McIvor Avenue - unstructured recreation areas, picnic facilities and walking trails.
- McIvor Avenue and Fifteenth Avenue - small scale recreational and community uses requiring minimal built structures and earthworks, uses with a district catchment, pedestrian and cycle links to adjoining residential areas
- South of Fifteenth Avenue - small scale recreational and community uses requiring minimal built structures and earthworks, uses with a local catchment, unstructured recreation areas, picnic facilities and walking trails.

Current issues include the route of the Western Sydney Orbital and the subsequent impact on the parklands (including wetlands) and residential areas. There could be some land bridges to connect residential areas to the parklands. The Development and Infrastructure Assessments Branch of DIPNR is currently preparing a report to the Minister following the Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Sydney Orbital.

LCC is the consent authority under the REP and could assume long term management of the parklands in Liverpool LGA, particularly given the recent demise of the NPWS Regional Parks Unit. (Council recently took on the management of a heritage property in Cecil Hills from the State Government).

DIPNR is currently undertaking a review of the Sydney Regional Development Fund. Dependent on the recommendations, there could be a clearer role regarding the future land management in the corridor. There could be incentive funding provided to Councils for development and management of these types of areas. Also, DIPNR is in the process of recruiting a two person team to look at metropolitan open space issues across Sydney.

The opportunity to develop natural water features as part of the parklands eg lakes, dams, creeks. Key concerns of residents however were the need to make the parklands affordable and accessible by public transport.

DIPNR has received a number of proposals from developers regarding waterparks in the WSRP in Wet 'n' Wild. The Department is currently investigating these opportunities. The potential for equestrian trails could also be explored.

Based on the outcomes of the Value Management Workshop held as part of this study (see Appendix 3) DIPNR is keen to work with stakeholders such as LCC and other local and State Government agencies to plan for the future development of the WSRP. The park has the potential to provide a wide range of affordable and accessible recreation opportunities for residents of SouthWestern Sydney and to meet the needs of local Liverpool residents. The preparation of a Development Control Plan (DCP) which provides a more detailed direction for potential uses and conservation of the area is a key priority of DIPNR.

LCC should play a key role in establishing and promoting a stakeholder liaison committee to develop the DCP and Masterplan for the development of the parklands. This will ensure that Liverpool residents have access to high quality regional open space in their local area and add further to the liveability of the LGA.

As part of the consultation program for this Strategy, residents and community groups were asked about their ideas for the WSRP. The community strongly supports the development of the park for passive recreation and the provision of unstructured recreation facilities such as walking trails, cycle paths, BMX tracks, playgrounds, seating and picnic areas. There was also a strong preference towards conservation of the area and providing an environmental focus for the parklands with interpretive shelters, bush tucker gardens, botanic gardens.

7 COMPARISON WITH OTHER RECREATION INDICATORS

Changes in the demographic profile and lifestyle of residents in both Liverpool and throughout Australia will have a significant effect on recreation both in terms of activities and participation. The consultants have gathered information from a range of sources to provide an insight into what are considered to be emerging trends in recreation that should be considered as part of this Strategy. References are provided at the end of this report.

7.1 Recreation Trends

Many researchers suggest that Australian sport is entering into a new phase of sport development after the 2000 Olympics, termed the *third wave* (Slewa-Wailes, 1997). The *first wave* culminated in the 1972 Federal Government allocating the first major sports development budget of one million dollars. The *second wave* was the major increase in sports development via the major increase in sports funding. In 1997, sport and recreation accounted for about 2% of Australia's GDP (\$7M). The Australian Institute of Sport was a direct result of this increased spending.

Important characteristics of this expected *third wave* in recreation are:

Age

- An aging population has implications for the provision for *whole-of-life* sports that both young and elderly people (particularly females) prefer, such as tennis.
- Improved health and longevity of older people may result in a demand for conveniently located facilities to exercise. As older people will remain active for a longer period of their lives, the traditional *decline* in active recreation for the 40 to 60 years age group will be less significant.
- A decline in numbers in the 10 to 24 years age group may mean that participation in faster and more active field sports, such as rugby and hockey, could slightly fall.

whereas the Ozsports centres allow the players the freedom of just turning up, enjoying the sport, and then going home. This trend is recognised as the privatising of sport delivery. The effect of this trend could be a need for local clubs and organisations to shift their focus in order to catch the *new wave* of sports delivery.

Available time

- More flexible work patterns, unemployment, earlier retirement and an aging population may result in increased uncommitted leisure time for some people.

- Others with limited uncommitted time due to increasing hours worked and overtime may be attracted by time-intensive or *fast-food* sports eg. games that require limited organisation and commitment, and last for a short time. People with limited uncommitted time will also cut back on their recreational activities, and be more demanding about those activities they choose to maintain.

- People are more likely to participate in activities that are readily accessible and don't require substantial training or development of complex skills to undertake — the *instant gratification* syndrome (Carroll, 1995).

Communication and overseas trends

- Since the late 1980s, sports that have been introduced to Australia mainly from North America, including baseball and basketball, have and are continuing to enjoy increasing popularity among school children and youth in Australia. Increasingly, globalisation of sport is occurring through the media, and cable television will play a large role in broadcasting sport within Australia. Sports originating from North America may continue to be attractive to children and youth because they receive extensive media coverage, and some sports such as basketball have a popular Afro-American culture and image with young people. In addition, these sports are relatively informal, requiring less organisation, and smaller team sizes.

- For example, sporting activities such as street hockey and five-a-side soccer have very recently been introduced to Australia and are expected to be popular. Street hockey is essentially hockey played on rollerblades, utilising a flat surface and portable goalposts.
- Extreme sports, such as freestyle inline skating and motocross, street luge, and kite surfing have recently been receiving increasing media coverage and interest by young people in participating in or watching those activities.

Level of commitment

- There is a trend towards casual participation. People, especially adults, are increasingly unwilling to commit themselves to play competitive and traditional sports for an entire season due to other commitments. This is resulting in a decline in traditional competitive sports, and an increasing preference for activities that don't require organised structures, such as activities they can do alone and using informal sporting facilities. The implication of this *no strings attached* trend is the need for integration of formal sporting facilities with informal ones, for example tennis practice walks.

Social recreation

- A continuing increased interest in activities that involve the whole family and combine family, social and casual elements, such as tennis.

Preference for facilities

- Increased participation by adults in court sports, moving away from field sports.
- Move towards multiple use of sporting facilities to accommodate a range of sports. There will be less emphasis on the development of traditional single-purpose outdoor sports facilities.

Technology

- With the increased popularity of the computer and the internet, and the advent of pay television, technology

will have a major influence on lifestyles. With these changes gradually becoming the norm, such as phone banking, people are becoming geared towards accessing information and recreation via these new sources. This new wave is expected to increasingly influence the provision of recreation and sporting facilities and must be considered in any future strategies. The advent of combined entertainment complexes and shopping centres has resulted in people being attracted to the one site for a variety of reasons. It is expected that this trend will continue as competition for people's time increases.

- Changing technology has influenced the development of relatively new activities such as roller-blading and extreme sports.
- Consumerism is occurring with an increasing desire of sporting participants for higher quality, synthetic sporting facilities and surfaces. Synthetic materials result in more intensive use of outdoor areas, and have contributed to tennis and hockey becoming more popular.

Traditional to new

- Tradition and sentiment are becoming less important in Australians' choice of the sports they play. Increased popularity and high media profile of sports that capture the interest of teenagers will result in a decline in traditional sports.

- The desire for excitement, which means that traditional sporting activities and facilities will need to change to attract new markets and participation.

Safety

- Increasing parental disapproval of contact sports may lead to a decline in children participating in rugby union and rugby league.
- Concern about skin cancer may result in sports played outdoors for long

periods, such as cricket, becoming less popular.

Land Availability

- Decreasing amounts of land are being set aside for the provision of sport and recreation facilities. This will require Councils to place higher priority on the development of multi-purpose facilities from existing and future facilities, as well as placing greater emphasis on multi-purpose use in the forward planning process.

Overlapping Sporting Seasons

- It is becoming increasingly apparent that summer and winter sports are extending their seasons. One such example is with the football codes, which often have summer competitions and extended training seasons. This makes multi-purpose facilities difficult to develop in some cases, unless agreement can be reached between summer and winter sports regarding compatible seasons, or playing on days or nights other than Saturdays.

7.2 Participation Trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities* (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998) outlines estimates of the number of Australians aged 5 years and over who played or physically undertook an activity, (excluding coaches, instructors, umpires and committee members) during the 12 months ended June 1997. Spectator involvement in sport was excluded.

The main results of the survey were:

Adults 15 years and over

- 26% of adults aged 15 years or over in New South Wales participated in one or more organised sport and physical activity.
- The top ten popular organised sport and physical activities by adults in NSW were (in descending order): golf, aerobics, tennis, lawn bowls, netball, touch football, swimming, soccer

Soccer continues to make significant inroads with 4.1% or 3.1 million having some form of interest in the world game. The other sports included in the top ten were motor racing (35%), rugby league (38%), golf (37%), basketball (35%) and gymnastics (34%).

Gymnastics is the one sport that appears out of place in Australians' interests but it continues to attract significant interest via TV viewing and is always at the international forefront during the Olympics. However, the development of the sport has never matched its potential. Some sports are primarily participation based, others rely solely on TV viewing for interest levels, whereas the leading sports tend to be stronger across two or more of the interest categories.

The Sweeney report highlights the following participation trends:

- The vast majority of Australians continue to be actively involved in some form of sporting pastime. 90% of the 16-65 year olds interviewed participate in at least one of the 57 sports examined which was virtually the same result as recorded in December 1996.
 - Swimming is the main participation sport with 45% of adults aged 16-65 years participating (informal and formal) regularly.
 - Bushwalking was the second main sport with some 31%, equating to 2.3 million Australians, involved in this form of exercise.
 - Fishing was third main sport together with snooker/pool/billiards. It is estimated that over a quarter of Australians are involved in these diverse activities (27% - 2 million people).
 - Regular gym workout attracts 26% of just under 2 million capital city dwellers.
 - At least 26% of Australians play tennis yearly while 22% are actively involved in playing golf.
- (outdoor), cricket (outdoor), and basketball.
- Males have a slightly higher rate of involvement in sport and physical activity than females. Participation rates for adults in NSW were 29% for males and 22% for females.
 - The 15 to 24 year age group had the highest participation rate, with 42% of adults in this age group in NSW being involved in organised sport and physical activities. The participation rate declined with each subsequent age group, with 19% of persons aged 65 and over in NSW being involved in sport or physical activities as a player.
 - Australian-born persons were more likely to participate than people born overseas.
- Children aged 5 to 14 years
- 60% of children aged 5 to 14 years in NSW participate in organised sport or physical activities organised by a club or school. The participation rate is higher for boys (64%) than girls (55%).
 - The top ten activities participated in by Australian children are swimming (13%), basketball, netball and outdoor soccer (9%), tennis (9%), Australian Rules football and outdoor cricket (7%), dancing (6%), athletics (4%), and gymnastics, martial arts and rugby league (3%).
- Since 1988, Brian Sweeney and Associates/Sweeney Sports have been conducting an annual study, *Australians and Sport*, also widely known as The Sweeney Report. The report covers 57 sports and reveals levels of interest in each sport amongst adults aged 16 to 65 years, in terms of participation, attendance, TV viewing and radio listening.
- The 1997 survey showed that swimming has the highest level of interest (39% of Australians, 4.4 million adults residing in the state capitals) largely due to the relatively high participation and TV viewing that the sport attracts. Cricket (54%), Australian Rules and tennis (both 50%) attract the interest of over half of the population (those aged 16 to 65 years).

- Tennis, bowling (21%) draws involvement for just under 1.6 million people.
 - Jogging/running engages 20% as cycling.
 - Since 1993, a few sports have attracted more participants. The Sweeney Report identifies these as canoeing/kayaking (up 5%), roller blading/skating (up 4%), swimming (up 4%), aerobics (down 6%) and tennis (down 5%).
 - Interestingly, roller blading/skating is not only a growth sport in Australia but also throughout the western world.
- Sweeney also highlights particular issues related to the recreation participation of older people and people with disabilities. For older people, Sweeney identifies that:
- As people age, they generally confine their recreation activities to the home. Reading, art and craft, socialising and watching television are the most popular pastimes. However, there is a general trend towards the aged becoming more active in life. Many walk for leisure and fitness, whilst a minority play golf and lawn bowls. The level of participation depends mainly on the level of fitness and health of the person, and their desire to maintain that certain level.
 - Informal exercise is the dominant form of recreational activity for the older age groups living in the community. For those more active participants, such as the younger or fitter members of the community, a proper fitness course would be popular.
- Common barriers to participation in recreation that are perceived by older Australians are:
- Limited or inappropriate sporting opportunities (eg. too competitive, open age categories, emphasis on elite competition).
 - The belief that sport is no longer appropriate and that once a certain age is reached people should slow down.
- The perception of family and friends that sport is no longer appropriate.
 - A fear of injury, or exercise-induced death.
 - A lack of sporting background or experience (of particular concern to older women).
 - A lack of time due to other commitments (eg work, family commitments, child minding for working parents).
 - A lack of confidence in their own body to perform physically.
 - A lack of role models and limited or patronising media coverage.
 - Transportation issues faced by those without their own transport, dependent on public services or those who have lost confidence in their driving ability.
 - The constraint of cost if people are dependent on government benefits.
 - Physical inaccessibility such as steep steps, poor lighting, concerns over personal security and inappropriate surfaces.
 - The failure of many national sporting organisations to recognise masters sport in their development plans and therefore to make available suitable opportunities for older participants.
- Traditionally, the sport and recreation industry is aimed at the youth market. However, consumers in the mature age market often tend to feel 10 to 20 years younger than their actual age and frequently are found associating more readily with images of people in a younger age group.
- Sweeney suggests that people with disabilities require an equivalent standard of services as anybody else, and the desire to incorporate those services, as much as possible, into the mainstream of society. Adequate provision of parking spaces, ramp access to buildings, hoists or ramps into swimming pools, bike paths and board walks constructed at widths to accommodate wheelchairs, and at gradients of not more than the Australian

Standard of 1:14, and the provision of unisex toilets are good examples of appropriate planning.

It should be noted that the ABS National Centre for Cultural and Recreation Statistics (NCCRS) has conducted a detailed comparative analysis of its own sports participation data with those collected and published by Sweeney Research. Ken Marriott in his article *Open to Question, Australian Leisure Management*, October/November 2002 outlines why the ABS is questioning Sweeney Sports' research findings. According to Marriott the results highlight the consequences of questionable research methodologies, and loose question formats. In addition, he says it also raises serious questions about the validity of telephone surveys.

7.3 Recreation Trends by Age/Lifecycle Group

Based on the findings of the research outlined in Sections 6.1 and 6.2, Table 7.1 below provides the broad patterns of needs for open space and recreation facilities by various age groups. This needs to be considered together with the findings from other sections of this report to determine the specific needs of the Liverpool community.

Table 7.1: Recommended Provision of Recreation Facilities by Age/Lifecycle Group

Age	Recreational Activity	Open Space Needs
0-14 infants children adolescents	Informal Play - heavy use of parks especially those close to home with playground equipment. Informal active sports and organised sports associated with schools and clubs. Participation of family outings/picnics.	Provision of small parks with play equipment in walking distance of users. Formal playing fields and areas for informal sport. Fullest possible range of other sporting facilities, BBQs etc. Access to large natural and/or parkland areas for non-organised activities, e.g. off road bike riding.
15-19 adolescents	High rate of participation in informal and organised active sports. Medium participation in miscellaneous other recreational activities e.g. Internet and computers games, amusement parlours.	Provision of formal playing fields and areas for informal sport. Wide range of recreational opportunity. Fulllest possible range of other sporting facilities, including bike paths and BMX tracks.
20-24 young adults	Involvement in informal and organised sports continues, but much less than earlier ages.	Provision of formal playing fields and areas for informal sporting facilities. Access to large natural and/or parkland areas for passive pursuits.
25-29 adults	Participation in active sports continues but at slightly less than 20-24 age group. Higher fertility rates, so family activities are important. Medium use of all types of open space and recreational facilities.	Provision of formal playing fields and areas for informal sporting facilities. Versatile areas that provide for a wide range of recreational opportunity. Access to natural and parkland areas for picnics, etc.
30-39 adults	Participation in active team sports becoming less important but increased participation in social sports such as golf and tennis. Greatly increased participation in passive pursuits such as picnicking, barbecuing, visiting parks and gardens, and walking for pleasure.	Provision of demand facilities e.g. tennis, golf Access to sporting areas and playing fields and to large natural areas and parkland areas.
40-59 mature adults	Watching sport becoming equally or more important than participation (except golf tennis etc. and now bowls) Greater participation in passive pursuits	Provision of local parks and demand facilities - tennis, bowls, golf. Access to large natural and parkland areas and to sporting facilities.
60+ aged adults	Very little participation in active sports, except for bowls etc. Walking for pleasure and passive use of parks predominant outdoor recreation activities.	Provision for demand facilities especially bowls. Small parks in the vicinity of users. Access to large natural area and parkland areas.

7.4 Benchmarking and Recreation Standards

Benchmarking provides an important tool for comparing provision levels of facilities between different communities. In Table 7.2, existing provision of recreation facilities in Liverpool are compared with provision in other communities while also compared with recognized standards. The population of each LGA at the time of the research has been used as the benchmark (ie Fairfield's Open Space Strategy was completed in 1999 and uses 1996 ABS population estimates while for the number of facilities is as at February 2002 and the most recent population estimate is for 2001).

It is important to note however that there may be particular reasons why provision levels differ between LGAs and these need to be further researched rather than just assuming that there is an under-supply/over-supply of facilities. Social, physical and economic factors such as demography, transport, competition, cost and topography can have major influences on why facilities are provided in some LGAs and not in others. Equally these factors affect why facilities should be provided in some areas and not others.

However, Table 7.2 highlights the following broad trends:

- The total provision of parks per capita in Liverpool is high compared to other LGAs
- Liverpool has a low provision of cricket wickets, touch football and tennis courts compared to other LGAs.
- Liverpool has a high provision of outdoor aquatic pools, indoor sports courts and equestrian facilities compared to other LGAs.
- Provision of youth-specific facilities such as outdoor basketball courts, BMX tracks and skate facilities is low in Liverpool compared to some LGAs. However, some LGAs do not yet provide these facilities.

The former Department of Planning (1992) advocated a needs-based approach to open space and recreation facility

planning. The commonly accepted standard of 2.83 hectares of open space per 1,000 people is based on a British standard of 7 acres per 1,000 people dating from the early 1900s, and has no logical application to the Australian context in the 21st century. It is considered that numeric standards are inadequate as they emphasise quantity rather than quality of open space, do not take into account the quality and function of the open space or recreation facilities provided, nor the socio-economic characteristics and needs of user groups and the general community.

Further, decisions made on the type and size of recreational areas required should depend on a number of other relevant factors, not the least being the consideration of current rates and trends in sport participation, local area need etc.

In cases dealing with Section 94 contributions, the NSW Land and Environment Court has shown reluctance to question accepted standards. An analysis of relevant cases shows that the Court has recommended:

- provision of a similar quantity of open space as presently exists in developed or infill areas.
- upholding the standard of 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people in developing areas.

Standards are only a tool in recreation and open space planning in that they provide a benchmark for open space provision, and should not be the sole determinant of supply. There is a need to look at local conditions, community characteristics and types of development when providing open space. Open space is there because people need it, and so provision of open space should be driven by community needs and demands, not by supplying open space through the application of arbitrary standards, or necessarily by comparison with other local government areas.

As a reference, the standards adopted by various agencies throughout Australia for open space and recreation facilities are summarised below in Table 7.3.

Table 7.2 Comparative Analysis of Provision of Council Recreation Facilities for Liverpool LGA

Open space / recreation facility	Liverpool LGA	Fairfield LGA	Bankstown LGA	Bankham Hills LGA	Standard
Population (Year)	154,858 (2001)	196,920 (1998)	172,200 (2000)	115,000 (1996)	na
Non-regional open space	0.7 ha/1000 (1,034 ha)	2.76ha/1000 (527ha)	3.12ha/1000 (538ha)	10.5ha/1000 (1253 ha)	2.53ha/1000
Parks	1/442 (est. 350)	1/1170 (163)	1/720 (239)	1/384	1 park/1000 : district park/10,000
Bushland	1 ha/27 (5,743 public)	na	na	1 ha/158	na
Playing fields	1/1,888 (62) : 1/42,000 (9)	1/2,031 (94)	1/1,325 (130)	1/1,533 (75)	1/2000-3000
AFL	1/77429 (2)	na	na	1/115,000 (1)	na
Touch football/Oxag	1/19,357 (8)	1/95,460 (2)	1/7487 (23)	na	na
Soccer fields	1/2815 (55)	1/3672 (52)	1/2870 (60)	1/3285 (35)	1/1000
Hockey fields	1/17208 (9)	na	1/57400 (3)	1/28,750 (4)	1/5000
Rugby League / union fields	1/10523 (15)	1/11230 (17)	1/10762 (16)	1/14375 (8)	1/1000
Cricket wickets	1/7030 (22)	1/6364 (30)	1/3139 (64)	1/3,710 (31)	1/2650
Baseball/ softball diamonds	1/5164 (25)	1/17730 (4)	1/16623 (26)	1/8,214 (14)	na
Athletics tracks	1/51619 (3)	1/83,640 (3)	1/43,050 (4)	1/10,454 (11)	na
Tennis courts	1/7038 (22)	1/6618 (28)	1/5470 (30)	1/2,949 (39)	1/1000-3410
Netball courts	1/3180 (49)	1/4150 (46)	1/2450 (70)	1/3485 (33)	1/1000-2119
Basketball courts (outdoor)	1/51619 (3)	na	na	na	na
Children's Playgrounds	1/1407 (110)	1/1171 (163)	1/1221 (141)	na	1/2000-4000
BMX tracks	1/154858 (1)	na	na	1/28,750 (4)	na
Skate facilities	1/154858 (1)	na	na	1/28,750 (4)	na
Multi-purpose leisure centres	1/77,429 (2)	1/95,460 (2)	1/172,200 (1)	1/115,000 (1)	na
Aquatic facilities	1/51,619 (Outdoor: 3)	1/160,920 (Outdoor: 1)	1/88,100 (Outdoor: 2)	1/115,000 (Outdoor: 1)	na
Indoor sports courts	1/30,971 (Indoor: 2)	1/85,460 (Indoor: 2)	1/85,100 (Indoor: 2)	na	1/5000-19,000
Equestrian areas	1/77,429 (5)	1/31,820 (6)	1/85,100 (0)	1/28,750 (4)	na
Constructed off-road cycleways	1km/14,078 (11kms)	1km/13,183 (10.5kms)	na	na	na

Table 7.3: Standards of Provision of Open Space and Recreation Facilities in Australia

Open space / recreation facility	Standard	Source
Local park	1: 4,000 people 1: 2,000 people Small local parks consist of 0.2 ha minimum area provided to serve neighbourhood needs within 300m safe walking distance of 90% of all dwellings.	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Department of Sport and Recreation AMCORD (1995), Queensland Residential Design Guidelines.
Large parks	Large local parks consisting of 0.4 - 1.0 hectare minimum area provided within 500m safe walking distance of 90% of dwellings. Minimum size of 0.5 hectares for new release areas. Each household should be within 500 metres of open space of at least 0.5 ha.	AMCORD (1995), Queensland Residential Design Guidelines.
District park	District parks, consisting of 3 ha minimum area and containing a range of recreation settings, are provided within 2 km of all dwellings. 1: 55,000 people (regional) 1: 5000 residents (local)	NSW Department of Planning (1989) AMCORD (1995), Queensland Residential Design Guidelines.
Indoor basketball courts	1: 3,000 people 1: 2,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) Australian Basketball Stadium standard Australian standard
Sports fields	1: 2,000 people 1: 2,200 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Land Commission
Cricket pitches	1: 2,000 people 1: 3,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Land Commission
Hockey fields	1: 1,000 people 1: 1,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Land Commission
Leisure fields	1: 1,000 people 1: 1,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
Netball courts	1: 2,119 people 1: 1,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
Soccer fields	1: 1,000 people 1: 1,000 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Land Commission
Tennis courts	1: 3,410 people	NSW Department of Planning (1989) NSW Department of Sport and Recreation

Source: Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (1999)

As shown in Table 7.3, standards for provision of various recreation facilities and settings are often variable, and cannot be easily applied to suit the needs of a community in a given area.

Contrary to the standards approach, the Queensland Department of Community, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities has produced a set of Queensland Residential Design Guidelines for use by planners, designers, local government, builders and developers who are involved in housing and residential development in Queensland. The guidelines are derived from the provisions of the Australian Model Code

for Residential Development - A Natural Resource Document, 1995 with modifications to suit Queensland conditions.

The guidelines have adopted a more performance-based system for neighbourhood design. Rather than specifying prescriptive standards, the guidelines focus on addressing needs in order to achieve a desired outcome. Such a performance-based system offers an opportunity for diversity and choice, and provides flexibility to respond to market needs and preferences and changes in trends. It also provides Council with the opportunity to gauge community needs through an effective public consultation