



MOORE POINT OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Response to Gateway conditions

16/05/24



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Executive Summary

The primary focus of this Open Space and Community Needs Assessment is to address the requirements of the 3 April 2023 Gateway Determination issued by the Department of Planning and Environment (now Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, DPHI) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

This report primarily addresses the following points from Condition 6 of the Gateway determination. This report is supplementary to the *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* prepared by Turf Design.

Gateway Determination	Open Space and Community Needs Assessment Response
6a. The quantum, size, locations and type of open space required to support the new population. Consideration should be given to the location of a significant portion of the open space above the 1% AEP, clarifying how much open space is proposed to be located on flood prone land	<p>This Open Space and Community Needs Assessment provides the needs analysis to identify the appropriate types and sizes of public open space required at Moore Point.</p> <p>It includes a comprehensive analysis of the likely population profile to ensure that planning is responding as much as possible to likely future needs of the new population - (see Section 6).</p> <p>The <i>Public Domain and Landscape Strategy</i> addresses the flood prone land issue.</p>
6b. Demonstrate that the active recreation needs of the future population can be accommodated	<p>Active recreation needs are considered in the Open Space and Community Needs Assessment. How active recreation needs are defined is based on NSW Government policy as shown in Section 4 with specific reference to the NSW Public Space Charter and the Greener Places open space typologies in Section 4.5.3.</p>
6e. Provide options to accommodate the additional 1.5ha open area adjacent Haigh Park and provide at least one district level sports field within this area	<p>The <i>Public Domain and Landscape Strategy</i> will show how the additional 1.5ha has been accommodated adjacent to Haigh Park. This Open Space and Community Needs Assessment includes an analysis of sporting field requirements in Section 10. The Assessment recommends the provision of sporting fields off-site with Haigh Park being a possible location for off-site contribution to sporting fields.</p>

The opportunity

It is important that public open space planning at Moore Point is both site and context-specific. This means responding to the precinct's central city location and the likely profile and recreational needs of its future population. A formulaic approach or application of the same approach to open space that is used for standard greenfield development will fail to capture the potential of the site and its ability to transform this part of the city.

From a public open space perspective, the creation of an urban precinct at Moore Point has the potential to:

- Provide critical links from CBD and Innovation Precinct to river, trails and open space
- Completing the missing link between Chipping Norton and Casula
- Activate and enhances existing open space including Haigh Park

- Provide an integrated approach to open space infrastructure due to the largely consolidated nature of the land ownership
- Create a unique and world class riverside precinct with high levels of amenity and accessibility, contributing to the city's goal of 'celebrating the river'
- Provide a wide variety of new and enhanced recreational opportunities.

Open space planning in urban precincts

The NSW DPHI's recent work recognises that a more context-specific and practical approach to the use of default numerical standards is required to support higher density development in appropriate locations throughout our major cities. Some measure of minimum provision is important, but any approach must also account for, and encourage, quality of provision.

It is recognised that different urban contexts require different approaches to open space and other forms of community infrastructure. The different opportunities, models of provision, community demands and economic implications, of a highly urban development area compared to a greenfield site must form part of any viable solution.

Policy implications

From an extensive review of NSW and Local Government open space planning policy, the key policy directions include:

- The fundamental principle of viewing the site in its context and developing an approach to open space that capitalises on the key features and unique qualities of the site
- The importance of a focus on activation of open space and how open space at Moore Point should provide for a diverse range of people and activities
- Use of the principles of 'great places' and of Liverpool's *Recreation and Open Space Strategy* to guide planning at Moore Point including the importance of addressing community needs, understanding what spaces and activities attract people, encouraging people to spend time in public space, and offering opportunities for people to connect to each other and their environment
- A focus on the quality and diversity of open space provision rather than formulaic, mathematical approaches. This includes the balance between quantity, type and quality of open space
- The role of performance criteria to guide the planning and provision of quality public open space
- The vital role of different forms and types of public open space to ensure a diverse offering that provides for a wide range of spaces and activities and caters for the needs of diverse population groups
- The importance of creating special places for people through the thoughtful application of principles about sense of place, multipurpose space, connections, social capital, equity, access and safety.

Future population needs

Understanding the future age profile is important as it is apparent that age and recreational preferences can be correlated. Sports participation data suggests that participation in formal sports is relatively high among children and teenagers but significantly declines from the early 20s onwards.

From an analysis of the age profile of recent higher density development precincts in Sydney, it can be seen that:

- 61.5% of the population of higher density areas is aged between 25-49 years
- Both 5-11 year olds (3.5%) and 12-17 year olds (1.6%) are relatively small age groups within higher density areas with both age groups significantly below the Greater Sydney average at 8.8% and 7.1% respectively and well below newer suburbs in Liverpool where these age groups make up between 20-25% of the total population.

These comparisons, and the differences they identify, are significant as they indicate that a different approach to planning for community needs is required for Moore Point than may be the standard procedure for the LGA as a whole.

Recreational activities

The most recent AusPlay data shows that:

- The high levels of participation in walking and fitness and gym with 44.2 and 35.9% of people aged 15 and over participating in these activities regularly
- Swimming, running and cycling are the three next most popular activities.

It is important to keep in mind in analysis of this activity data that the previous section on likely population profile indicated that 25-49 year olds may compose over 60% of the future Moore Point population. The table shows that this age group has very high participation rates in the following activities:

- Walking
- Fitness / gym
- Swimming
- Running.

Participation in walking, fitness/gym, swimming and running are reasonably consistent across all age groups. This can be contrasted to organised sport such as football/soccer, basketball, netball and rugby league that have 'peak' participation at 15-17 years and then significantly decrease with age.

Urban renewal precedents

An examination of recent higher density urban renewal precincts in Sydney shows:

- An overall provision of public open space in the range of 15-20% of site area

- Provision of active recreation on site is **generally** quite low (2-5%) but there is a reliance on active recreation (sports fields and recreation centres) located nearby and ideally in sports precincts
- An emphasis on the importance of district or city-wide provision for active recreation particularly sports fields
- An emphasis on quality of provision and providing a diverse range of public open space opportunities
- A place-based approach that recognises the unique characteristics of each site to provide an open space network that reinforces the place's qualities and identity.

Moore Point approach to public open space

The approach to open space planning at Moore Point directly addresses, and in many cases exceeds, the key policy directions established by NSW Government for public open space. The general approach to planning and provision for Moore Point is based on the following key elements.

Site specific	Recognise that Moore Point will be a highly urban precinct that will effectively form part of, and be linked to, the Liverpool CBD
	Activate and revitalise the Georges River providing a unique riverfront experience for residents, workers and visitors
	Link key destinations that are currently inaccessible. These include Lake Moore, Haigh Park, Bill Morrison Park, Lighthorse Park, Bigge Park, Liverpool Railway Station, the CBD, the Innovation Precinct
Respond to community needs	Respond to the likely population profile of future residents and cater specifically for the range of recreational activities they are most likely to participate in
	Reflect well-established trends in recreation and leisure activities to ensure the spaces provided will generate maximum community benefit
	Act as a catalyst for the transformation of Haigh Park into a high quality public open space
Take both a qualitative and quantitative approach	Provide a quantum of public open space that are equal to, or in excess, of the site area proportions provided in other comparable urban renewal areas
	Address performance criteria to ensure that not only the appropriate quantity is provided but that space is high quality, diverse and flexible
Provide for diverse open space types	Incorporate a wide variety of public open spaces to cater for a diverse population whose needs may change and evolve over time
	Create spaces that can be used flexibly to ensure that spaces can adapt to suit a variety of needs and requirements
	Include both active, vibrant spaces and quiet, contemplative spaces to provide people with options for how they interact with open space and with each other

Active recreation	Provide a range of active recreation opportunities on site including an indoor recreation centre, outdoor courts, and quality outdoor gym equipment
	Provide an opportunity to additional active recreation facilities within Haigh Park including multipurpose outdoor courts, embellished areas for outdoor sports including children's football/soccer subject to further discussions with Council
	Contribute to the off-site provision of sporting fields in an appropriate location given both the size and traffic requirements of district sporting fields

Performance criteria

A key part of the Moore Point approach is the following performance criteria, which are based on the NSW Government and Liverpool City Council policy directions and help to establish what constitutes quality open space provision at Moore Point.

MOORE POINT OPEN SPACE

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

PLACE BASED AND CONTEXTUAL

Understand role of place/precinct in city
Respond to likely community needs – demographic composition, participation trends
Reflect and respond to the place – integrate natural features, respond to character/form.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL, FLEXIBLE, ADAPTABLE

Used by different groups for different purposes
Every space can cater for multiple activities
Open space designed to be used flexibly and adapt over time.

QUANTITY

Purely quantitative or mathematical approaches should not be used exclusively
An appropriate amount of open space should be provided in line with qualitative performance criteria

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Every resident and worker within walking distance of quality open space
Every resident within 200m, every worker within 400m
District space (including larger parks and sports precincts) within 2km.

QUALITY

Quality of materials and design
Landscape setting, vegetation and sun/shade
Ownership and maintenance
Topography, water movement, flooding
Facilities and programming
Ecology and biodiversity
Sustainability

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Open space planned to address natural surveillance, sight lines, lighting and other safety by design considerations
Planning responds to needs for activation and surveillance during day and night time

CONNECTIVITY

Open spaces connect to broader networks – pedestrian and cycle routes.
Connect to key destinations – employment areas, shopping, district community infrastructure
Connect people to nature, connect people to each other

DIVERSITY

Open space provides diverse leisure and recreational opportunities – passive/active/natural, destinational/linear, informal/formal, organised/self-organised, indoor/outdoor
A wide variety of open space typologies are provided

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Open space planning responds to the impacts of climate change including heat and more extreme weather events
Access to shade may become as important as access to sun
The range of spaces provided should include all weather and indoor spaces where possible

Proposed provision

The proposed public open space at Moore Point is comprehensive, evidence based and directly responds to key Government directions. There is the potential at Moore Point to create a unique riverfront city amenity in Liverpool as part of a broad and diverse public open space network.

The key public open space features at Moore Point include:

- A strong emphasis on early provision and a 'front loading' of the public open space at Moore Point
- Approximately a third of the site (34.5%) provided as public open space which is significantly higher than other comparative urban renewal areas (with standard provision being approximately 15-17%)

- A diversity of public open spaces types to ensure a wide range of population needs are addressed. This includes children's play, water play, bike paths, half courts, outdoor multipurpose courts, outdoor gym equipment, linear parks, running paths, the formal central park, pocket and local parks, trail-based recreation, promenade-style walking paths, places for picnics, spaces for civic and cultural events, water access areas for kayaks, etc.
- A range of active recreation opportunities including:
 - Continuous riverfront walking and cycling paths linking to the CBD, train stations and other key open space destinations
 - Multipurpose outdoor courts
 - Fitness trails and fitness nodes
 - A two-court indoor recreation centre that will provide for a wide range of active recreation activities in a climate controlled and resilient environment
 - Facilities for kayaks, paddleboards and other small watercraft to create unique water-based recreation opportunities.
- A 7 hectare riverfront park that:
 - Provides active transport and recreational walking and cycling connections between Lake Moore and the CBD and beyond
 - Brings city workers, hospital staff and visitors, Liverpool residents and visitors to Haigh Park and Lake Moore
 - Creates a network of key open space destinations linking Lake Moore, Haigh Park, McMillan Park, Bigge Park, Lighthouse Park providing the people of Liverpool with a unique recreational amenity
 - Addresses key recreational needs for walking and cycling and emphasises a focus on community health and wellbeing
 - Includes a number of activity nodes that will include a balance of quieter, more contemplative spaces and more vibrant and active spaces
 - Provides access and interaction with the Georges River creating a unique water-based leisure and recreation opportunity in Western Sydney
- Kayak and other small watercraft facilities
- Off-site contribution to sporting fields in a location considered desirable by Council
- The option to embellish Haigh Park to bring it up to a standard that is consistent with best practice and include a wide variety of recreational amenities.

The key community and cultural facilities features include:

- A public primary school to accommodate 1,000 primary school students
- 2,400 square metres of community and cultural space proposed as one larger district Community and Cultural Hub and one neighbourhood based facility

- Contribution to library space at a location to be determined through discussions with Council
- Shared community meeting and activity space proposed as part of the Central Park public primary school
- Flexible community use of the proposed 3,000 square metre indoor recreation centre.

A key component of the Planning Proposal is the consideration of a wide variety of open space areas and typologies based on government policy and benchmarking. The *Open Space Plan* prepared by SJB establishes identifies open space areas within the *Structure Plan* capable of being used for public use. The *Moore Point Structure Plan* delivers 34.5% of the site as publicly accessible open space.

When considering the nuances of numerical criteria and open space function set out in policy (*NSW Public Spaces Charter*, *Draft NSW Greener Places Design Guide* and *NSW Movement and Place Framework*), the *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* prepared by Turf rationalises the 34.5% open space area and shows 32.1% of the site are as open space (parks) in accordance with policy frameworks. The 2.4% difference is attributed to the breakdown and characterisation of these spaces more accurately defined as urban places, plazas and squares (as per the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*), which still function as a form of open space. Based on the analysis from Turf, streets, urban places, plazas and squares account for 19.84% of the site area. These urban places, plazas and squares have a civic character, with a relationship to key retail and commercial frontages. These public spaces are place focused and can adapt to facilitate various pedestrian movement and activity. With consideration to built form, street interfaces and spatial constraints, these urban places, plazas and squares have potential to transform into high quality, fine grain open spaces, despite not meeting policy guidelines.

This results in 51.64% of the site area as public space (32.1% as parks and 19.84% as streets and urban places, plazas and squares). Based on the application of either a planning or policy lens, there is no net gain or loss of total public space. It is evident the total public space provision of Moore Point is a significant offering well above the benchmarks for urban renewal precincts.

The proposed public open space provision at Moore Point is based on long established trends and sound data that clearly show the types of spaces that people need and what their recreation interests are likely to be over time. Walking and cycling have long been among the most favoured forms of recreation and they are also key forms of active transport, especially when connections are provided to key employment centres, train stations and city centres. It is prudent to be cautious about projections regarding people's behaviour 30 years into the future. Because of this, the provision of public open space at Moore Point is intentionally diverse and has the capacity to adapt and change as community needs evolve over time.

The approach to open space needs to be site and context-specific. This means responding to the precinct's central city location and the likely profile and recreational needs of its future population. A formulaic approach or application of the same approach to open space that is used for standard greenfield development will fail to capture the potential of the site and its ability to transform this part of the city. The proposed *Public Domain and*

Landscape Strategy (prepared by Turf Design) illustrates the opportunity for public open space to not only address the needs of future residents and workers but to also provide high quality spaces for CBD residents, Innovation Precinct workers and the broader Liverpool community.

1 Introduction

The primary focus of this Open Space and Community Needs Assessment is to address the requirements of the 3 April 2023 Gateway Determination issued by the Department of Planning and Environment (now Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, DPHI) under delegation from the Minister of Planning.

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6b. Demonstrate that the active recreation needs of the future population can be accommodated	Active recreation needs are considered in the Open Space and Community Needs Assessment. How active recreation needs are defined is based on NSW Government policy as shown in Section 4 with specific reference to the NSW Public Space Charter and the Greener Places open space typologies in Section 4.5.3.
6e. Provide options to accommodate the additional 1.5ha open area adjacent Haigh Park and provide at least one district level sports field within this area	The <i>Public Domain and Landscape Strategy</i> will show how the additional 1.5ha has been accommodated adjacent to Haigh Park. This Open Space Needs Assessment includes an analysis of sporting field requirements in Section 10. The Assessment recommends the provision of sporting fields off-site with Haigh Park being a possible location for off-site contribution to sporting fields.

As an urban precinct, Moore Point is an opportunity to develop a best practice approach to open space provision in higher density locations. In addressing the Gateway requirements this Open Space and Community Needs Assessment will include:

- A brief overview of the policy context
- An analysis of community needs, examining both the demographic profile of the future Moore Point population as well as their most likely recreational interests
- An overview of key sport, recreational and leisure trends to help understand the types of open spaces that are likely to be most beneficial in addressing community needs

- An open space approach for Moore Point reflecting community needs and key trends
- An open space or landscape plan that illustrates the spatial distribution and types of open spaces planned for Moore Point in response to the community needs analysis and incorporation of best practice approaches
- Identification of community and cultural facilities.

This report has been prepared alongside and interactively with Turf Design's *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy*. These two documents have both informed each other and should be read in conjunction. This Open Space and Community Needs Assessment identifies the needs for public open space: it identifies what the policy documents and case study examples recognise as best practice and it provides an evidence base for the amount and types of open space that are likely to be required at Moore Point to support the future population. The Turf Design *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* then takes that needs assessment and illustrates the best approach to providing open space at Moore Point in response to projected needs, best practice and the unique qualities and opportunities of the Moore Point site.

Further, while the primary focus of this report is on public open space, it also includes commentary on public facilities. This is consistent with definitions of public space adopted by the NSW Government in the *Public Spaces Charter* (2021) which includes public facilities (defined as public libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities) as one of the three major forms of public space along with public open space and streets.

2 Moore Point Planning Proposal

Moore Point is the largest privately led urban renewal project in Australia, led by a Joint Landowner Group (JLG) comprised of Coronation Property Co and Leamac Property Group.

The 31.4 hectare site, set within the Liverpool Collaboration Area (LCA), is a unique opportunity to deliver a model for urban renewal at a metropolitan scale consistent with the strategic priorities of Government, it will be a catalyst for Liverpool City Council (Council) to realise its objectives for the LGA and the Western Parkland City.

When delivered, Moore Point will consolidate Liverpool's role as Australia's great river city, providing a high-quality living and working environment for future generations. It will deliver homes, jobs and open space up to 2060, in a highly accessible location with unparalleled recreational amenity along the Georges River and Lake Moore.

At a glance, Moore Point will deliver:

- Approximately 10,742 dwellings within walking distance of Liverpool CBD
- Approximately 23,500 jobs to complement the expansion of Liverpool CBD
- Approximately 10.8 hectares of publicly accessible open space supported by bridge crossings from Liverpool CBD to a fully accessible Georges River foreshore and Haigh Park.

The site plays a critical role in fulfilling the connectivity, liveability, productivity and sustainability priorities of the LCA and support the vision to make Liverpool Australia's next great river city. These include:

- New housing and jobs within a highly accessible location (five minutes' walk to Liverpool CBD and transport interchange) via new bridge crossings over the Georges River. This will support active and sustainable modes of travel within the LCA.
- Critical links from the CBD and LCA to the Georges River, Haigh Park and Lake Moore. This will support the creation of a new interconnected high-performance green and blue infrastructure network, which will support healthy urban growth.
- A genuine riverside precinct with high levels of activation, amenity and accessibility, facilitating Council's vision of celebrating the river and prioritising great places for people.
- A diverse range of new and enhanced social and civic infrastructure outcomes to benefit both current and future generations.

2.1 Moore Point Vision

Moore Point is envisioned as an urban precinct that will form an integral part of the Liverpool CBD as it connects the city centre across the Georges River. The approach to open space must recognise this context and be suitable to a highly urban setting.

A critical factor in determining a best practice approach to open space planning and provision at Moore Point is understanding Moore Point as a place including the physical and social context in which it will develop and evolve. Open space planning must both respond to, and shape, the character of the Moore Point precinct.

In preparing the planning proposal, the Joint Landowner Group have developed the following vision for Moore Point:

Liverpool has the ambition to be the next Great River City of the world. A city where the Georges River is its beating heart unifying both sides of the river into a pulsating riverfront experience.

The Moore Point vision will shape Liverpool's eastern bank into an internationally renowned destination loved by locals and visitors alike. Connected by bridges and green streets, the riverfront parklands, creative heritage marketplace, cultural and educational opportunities will inspire our people and residents to be the most productive, most happy, and most healthy people on the planet.

The proposal will create the first truly integrated riverfront development at scale. At the heart of this attraction will be a revitalised riverbank which will undergo an ecological transformation and create a natural, healthy and vibrant river ecosystem.

The river will also offer a diverse range of recreational opportunities, providing activities that meet the needs of a diverse community, and which encourages an active outdoor lifestyle.

Figure 1: Moore Point future image – north riverbank



The alignment of the northern pedestrian bridge over the Georges River is subject to further discussions with affected landowners. The alignment of the pedestrian bridge is subject to change

Image: SJB Urban Design and Architecture

2.2 The role of urban open spaces

This *Open Space Needs Assessment* is based on a wide evidence base including academic study and recent policy research on the unique role that public open space plays in higher density environments.

We need to consider that high-density residents stay in the space for longer. The space should not only be comfortable, with amenities to service these stays, but well connected to encourage active transport options. Consider public open space as an extension to the home and a place to connect socially with others. It should be easy to access, with comfortable seating, shade, shelter, well maintained and clean, with access to water and amenities. **Bostock, L. 2020, Providing public open space in high density areas, *The Australasian Parks and Leisure Journal*, 23(1), 22-23**

Public space is not just a network of streets and spaces among buildings. It is the building block of our communities. From squares and streets to parks, markets and playgrounds, public spaces hold meaning. They define the culture of a city by shaping how people live and experience urban life. Public space helps determine the relationship between people and their surroundings. It has the potential to create a sense of belonging, cultural vibrancy and in turn to promote happiness and wellbeing. It is the role of metropolitan spaces to pave the way in creating better public spaces for all. **Valdez, L. (2022), Getting public space right: Transforming society from the ground up, www.metropolis.org**

Leveraging existing infrastructure and amenity is important to achieving good density. ... Our Productivity White Paper highlighted how increased density can retain or even improve local character through good infrastructure and precinct planning, well-designed and well-built buildings, and consideration of public amenity. **NSW Productivity Commission (2023), *Building homes where infrastructure costs less***

Urban open spaces not only play a vital role as public amenities contributing to emotional and physical well-being of residents, they are also important in maintaining ecological continuity, creating breathing spaces within the high-density fabric and creating desirable microclimates. Despite the size and nature of open spaces 'between' buildings still provides a frame-work for several activities, planned or spontaneous. **Thilakaratane, R. (2019), Designing liveable urban open spaces in high density cities, *Earth and Environmental Science*, 297**

Moreover, quality of life does not need to be sacrificed for more density. Several cities with similar populations to Sydney, but higher densities—such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Vienna—outrank Sydney on quality-of-life measures. While some aspects of density can detract from quality-of-life (such as air quality and noise levels), others may actually increase ... through improved access to services, and social and cultural amenities that increase with population). **NSW Productivity Commission (2023), *Building more homes where people want to live*.**

This study identified the biggest deterrent from accessing public open space for high-density residents was poor maintenance, followed closely by poor security and access; in contrast the biggest attraction to use public open space was improved infrastructure, such as play elements, fitness equipment and toilets. These elements should be of importance to planners, to encourage higher usage of our POS and gain the flow on benefits to population health. **Bostock, L. (2020), Providing public open space in high density areas, *The Australasian Parks and Leisure Journal*, 23(1), 22-23**

In general, proximity to a variety of high-quality public spaces is more important than requiring a certain amount of open space per dwelling ... we focus on the cost of ensuring access to a minimum area of open space within walking distance of homes. **NSW Productivity Commission (2023), *Building more homes where people want to live*.**

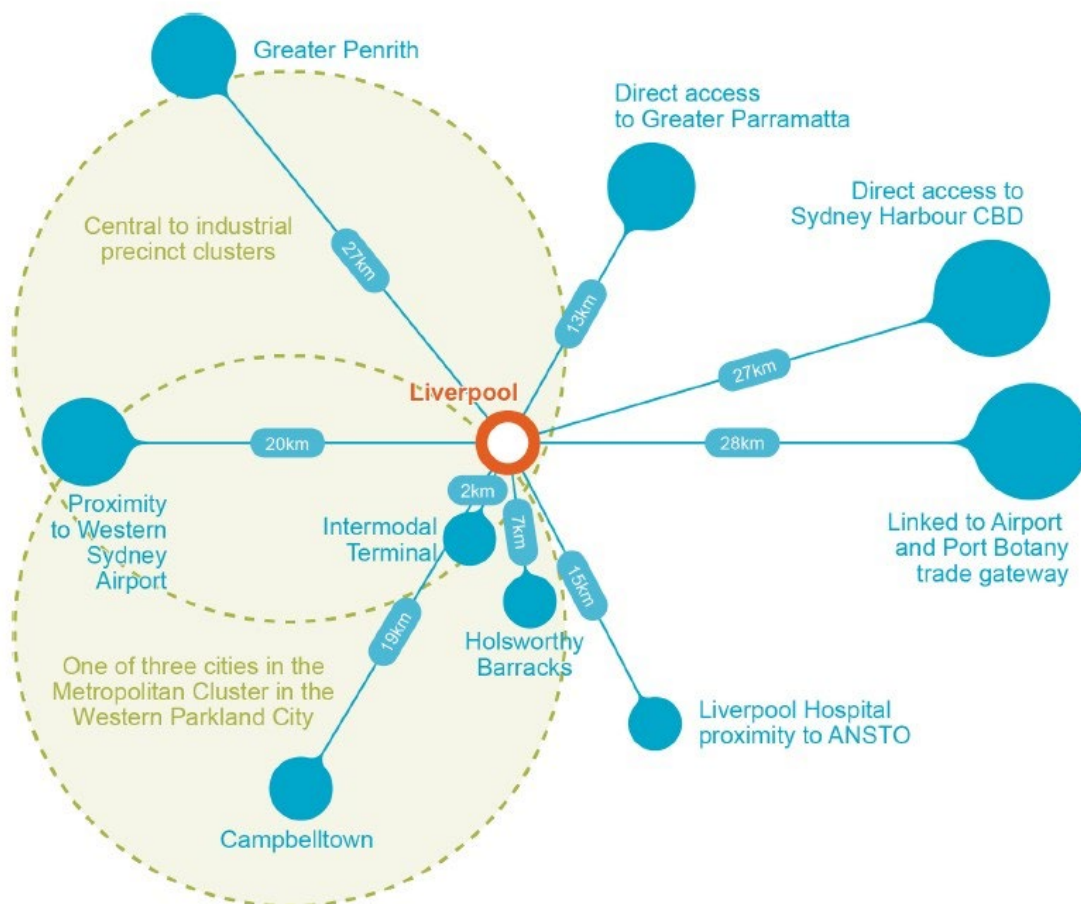
3 Strategic context

With the development of the Western Sydney International Airport and an increased focus on the future of Western Sydney, Liverpool is a strategic location and an important centre in the future of Sydney as a global city. The Western Sydney International Airport and the surrounding Aerotropolis are expected to generate significant growth and a diverse range of opportunities for the city of Liverpool.

Liverpool is strategically located at the heart of the transformation of Western Sydney and there is an opportunity to capitalise and further build on existing assets and capacity in health and medical research, logistics, education and a wide range of professional services.

The Aerotropolis and other major investments such as the Moorebank Intermodal will strengthen Liverpool as a gateway city for freight, business and personal travel. These changes will promote population and employment growth and increase demands upgraded infrastructure. Ensuring growth is managed and population growth is directed to areas close to jobs and public transport will be key to the future sustainability and continued prosperity of Liverpool as a city.

Figure 2: Regional Connections



Source: Greater Sydney Commission, Liverpool Collaboration Area Place Strategy (2028)

The *Moore Point Precinct Community Benefit Analysis* (2020)¹ examined the strategic context for Moore Point based on a review of the Greater Sydney Commission's *Liverpool Place Strategy* and Council's *Local Strategic Planning Statement* (LSPS). The *Community Benefit Analysis* report provided the following summary of the strategic context for the Moore Point precinct:

- Increase the visual and physical connections between the Georges River and the Liverpool City Centre
- Reinstatement of the Lighthorse Bridge and connect the rail concourse to the river
- Create improved public places for people to engage and connect including increased local parks, green grids and multipurpose spaces
- Foster social inclusion and improve outcomes for disadvantaged residents including through networked and multipurpose community facilities, programs and services; accessible design for people with a disability and older people; spaces that are welcoming to young people, spaces that are welcoming to people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Create a more integrated open space network. Opportunities to enhance existing open space should be considered, particularly waterfront space and including accessible play spaces, accessible pathways and separate cycleways, and spaces for young people
- The proposed development should include place making and community activities to support the activation of public spaces, and the design of public spaces and dwellings should follow Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines including lighting and natural surveillance.

3.1 Liverpool vision

Major development and renewal projects such as Moore Point can be significant contributors to the overall vision of a city. Liverpool's *Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032* identifies the vision for the city as '*A vibrant global city of lifestyle and opportunity*'. This vision is supported by the following four strategic objectives:

- Healthy, inclusive and engaging
- Liveable, sustainable and resilient
- Evolving, prosperous, innovative
- Visionary, leading, responsible.

The following table shows some of the strategies under these objectives that are relevant to the Moore Point Precinct.

¹ Prepared by Cred Consulting April 2020

Table 1: Community Strategic Plan Strategies

Strategic objectives	Strategies
Healthy, inclusive and engaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve liveability and quality of life for the community by delivering vibrant parks, places and facilities ▪ Embrace the city's heritage and history ▪ Support an inclusive community by fostering access and equity for all ▪ Deliver great and exciting events and programs for our people and visitors ▪ Support active and healthy lifestyles by improving footpaths, cycleways and walkways and other infrastructure that promotes and supports active transport
Liveable, sustainable and resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver a beautiful, clean and inviting city for the community to enjoy ▪ Deliver and advocate for a sustainable, cool and green city ▪ Deliver effective and efficient planning and high-quality design to provide best outcomes for a growing city
Evolving, prosperous and innovative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote and deliver an innovative, thriving and internationally recognised city ▪ Implement planning controls and best practice urban design to create high-quality inclusive environments ▪ Maintain strong relationships with agencies, stakeholders and businesses to achieve beneficial outcomes for the city
Visionary, leading and responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place customer satisfaction, innovation and best practice at the centre of all operations ▪ Demonstrate a high standard of transparency and accountability through a comprehensive governance framework ▪ Embrace smart city initiatives by improving digital connectivity and smart technology

3.2 What an urban precinct at Moore Point achieves?

An urban precinct at Moore Point can contribute to achieving many of the objectives and outcomes identified in the City vision. In response to the key elements of the vision and the supporting policy context (to be summarised in the next section), the Moore Point project represents an opportunity to collaboratively explore and develop a robust, shared approach and set a new standard for planning open space in urban precincts.

As an urban renewal project Moore Point has transformative potential for the site and the surrounding areas including the Liverpool CBD. In its existing form, the Moore Point precinct is not occupied by any residents and contains a range of light industrial uses. Given this, there is virtually no activation of the site and the precinct is relatively deserted after hours and for parts of the weekend. The site includes extensive Georges River riverfront land that is inaccessible to the public and in its current form contributes little to the city's aspirations to be a vibrant river city.

The site is close to Liverpool railway station, the CBD and the Innovation Precinct but is currently disconnected from all of these areas due to a lack of crossings of the Georges River. The existing bridge crossing presents poor pedestrian amenity. Newbridge Road is a major roadway that also acts to separate the site from residential areas in Moorebank.

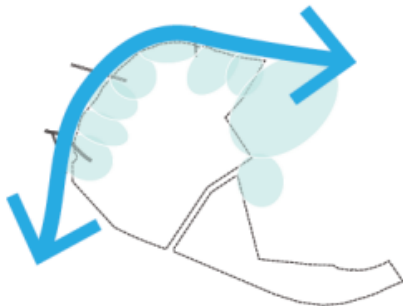
While Haigh Park is a large existing open space it is in an isolated location with very little natural surveillance creating significant issues including a lack of safety, accessibility and amenity for users.

Given these existing conditions the creation of an urban precinct at Moore Point has the potential to:

- Provide critical links from CBD and Innovation Precinct to river, trails and open space
- Completing the missing link between Chipping Norton and Casula
- Activate and enhances existing open space including Haigh Park
- Help Council to achieve housing targets in a way that minimises density change in existing suburbs and does not further contribute to the spreading out or sprawl of the city
- Provide new housing opportunities in walking distance to employment areas and public transport
- Provide a coordinated master plan and integrated approach to infrastructure and housing delivery due to the largely consolidated nature of the land ownership
- Provide a riverside precinct with high levels of amenity and accessibility, contributing to the city's goal of 'celebrating the river'
- Provide a wide variety of new and enhanced recreational opportunities
- Provide water-based recreation opportunities in the CBD and close to where large numbers of people live and work.

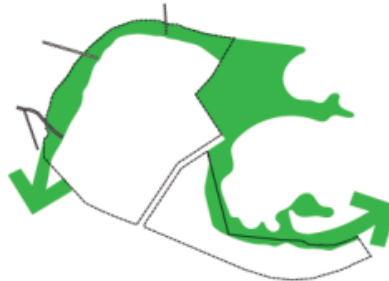
Figure 3: Open Space role in the Structure Plan

COMPLETE LIVERPOOL CITY RIVERFRONT



Moore Point will reimagine the Georges River riverfront providing a continuous experience with great destinations engaging and connecting people with the water.

REIMAGINE LAKE MOORE + HAIGH PARK



Lake Moore and Haigh Park will be reinvigorated strategically, creating new uses with destinations at the river's edge and community and future success of Liverpool and Western Sydney.

PLACE EDUCATION AT THE HEART



Education is located at the heart of the Moore Point Precinct, creating an anchor and catalyst for community use and activation.

CONNECT THE HEART TO THE RIVER, LAKE + CITY ITSELF



The heart of the Moore Point precinct will be the heart of community. Through pedestrian links, a permeable, vibrant public domain and cross river connections, the heart will be connected to the Georges River, Lake Moore and the Liverpool CBD.

COMPLETE THE GRAND + GREEN SUPERBLOCKS



Moore Point will be defined by its grand green streets framing superblocks and providing an environment that is vibrant, pedestrian focused and seamless. Street trees and understorey will shape the public domain, creating spaces that are safe and comfortable, reaching out to the River and bringing the character of the river into the heart of the precinct.

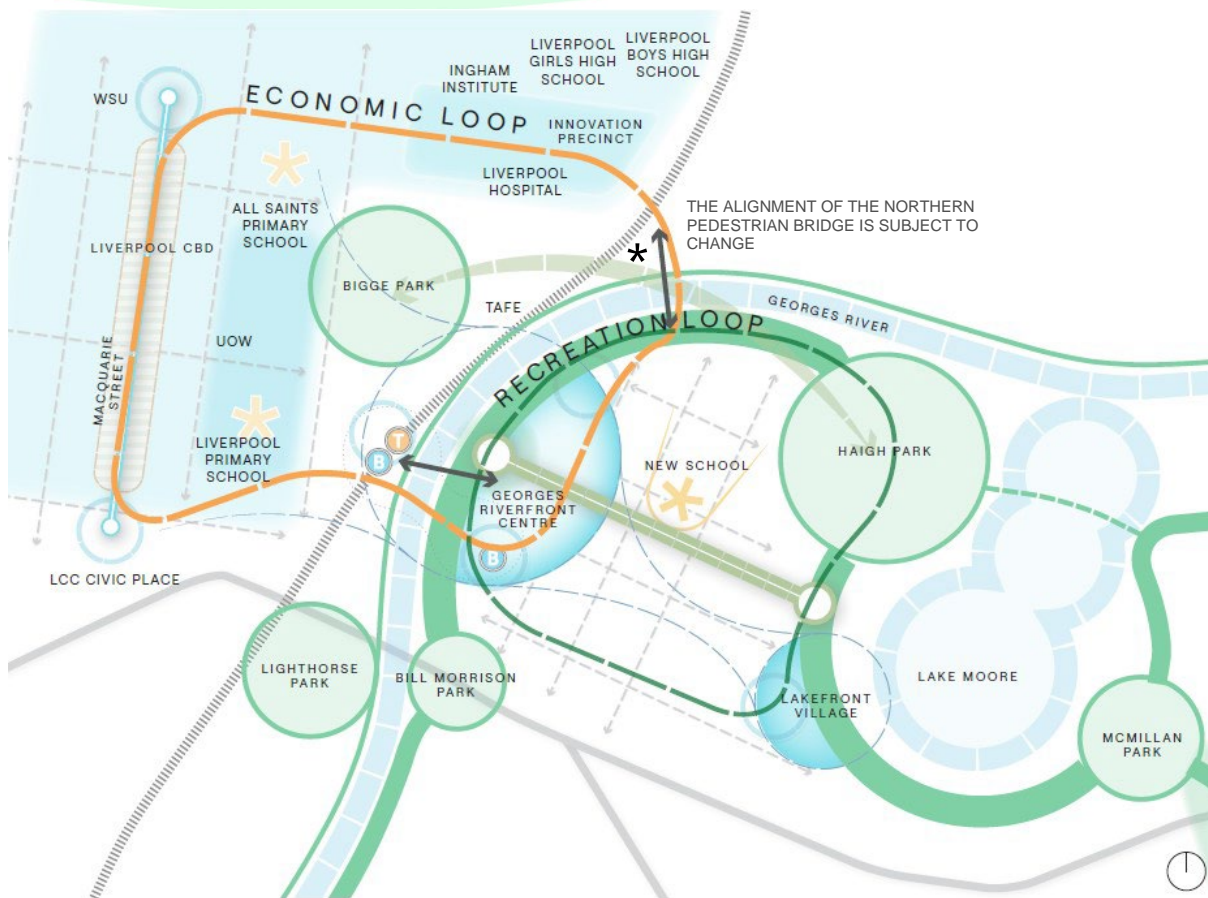
SHAPE AN INTIMATE + GREEN INNER WORLD



Moore Point will be shaped by the public domain to create an intimate green world where the ground floor of buildings open out to activated interior courtyards and laneways creating outdoor rooms and breakout spaces, open spaces and car-free streets.

Source: Hatch Roberts Day

Figure 4: Moore Point economic and recreation loop with key open spaces



* The alignment of the northern pedestrian bridge over the Georges River is subject to further discussions with affected landowners.

Source: SJB

Figure 4 shows the potential for the creation of a comprehensive open space network at Moore Point that connects the site to the rest of the CBD and also connects the CBD and Innovation Precinct to the river, Haigh Park and Lake Moore. The riverfront location on what has been an, up until now, inaccessible and neglected edge to the CBD, provides an important connection to the river and multiple key destinations.

The recreation loop shown above in Figure 4 has the potential to become one of Sydney's great trail and path connections similar to the Bay Run or the trail network along the Cooks River. The difference here is that this loop helps to form part of the Liverpool CBD and sits within what could be a high quality urban precinct which helps to transform the CBD and the riverfront.

As can be seen from the figure, the recreation loop has the potential to connect CBD and Innovation Precinct workers, residents and visitors with Haigh Park, Lake Moore and McMillan Park. The loop will connect Moore Point to Bigge Park and the CBD as well as to Bill Morrison and Lighthorse Park. Connectivity between key public open spaces that allows for safe, active travel is fundamental to a strong and robust open space network and ultimately to the wellbeing and liveability of the city.

3.3 Open space planning in urban precincts

Local and state governments have struggled to develop meaningful and practical approaches to planning open space in higher density areas. This lack of direction has resulted in defaulting to measures that are not appropriate or deliverable in more urban environments.

DPHI is currently working on developing an approach to planning open space in higher density areas to provide more clarity and certainty to government, developers and community members. At the time of preparing this report that guidance is yet to be published.

DPHI's recent work recognises that a more context-specific and practical approach to the use of default numerical standards is required to support higher density development in appropriate locations throughout our major cities. Some measure of minimum provision is important, but any approach must also account for, and encourage, quality of provision. Methods to ensure open space quality and the provision of diverse typologies linked to likely community needs, coupled with ensuring the appropriate quantity of open space is provided, is likely to be key to a solution.

There is also recognition that different urban contexts require different approaches to open space and other forms of social infrastructure. The different opportunities, models of provision, community demands and economic implications, of a highly urban development area compared to a greenfield site must form part of any viable solution. Moore Point is an opportunity to explore how public open space can be provided in a higher density urban context. The approach to planning open space at Moore Point has involved collaboration between the landowners and state and local government as all of these parties have a direct and important interest.

Planning that relies on a spatial standard such as 2.8 ha / 1000 people is only effective with high levels of quality control and often works against opportunities for multiple use and innovative solutions. Equally, past approaches such as specifying a percentage of land did not have any direct link to the demand arising from a development, as densities can vary greatly yet the percentage stayed fixed.

Moving towards a performance-based approach encourages planners to look beyond spatial standards or percentages of land area. It encourages consideration of the range of recreation opportunities required and what strategies are available to achieve them. The aim of the performance-based approach is to allow more innovation in planning, more efficient use of land for recreation, and a focus on the quality of the outcome rather than just the quantity. (NSW Government (2020), Draft Greener Places)

4 Open space policy context

The planning studies supporting the planning proposal will provide an in-depth analysis of the relevant broader planning context for Moore Point. This Open Space Needs Assessment will focus on the policies and plans that have most direct relevance to open space and will not reiterate the context of broader planning policy.

4.1 Places to Swim: A best practice guide to get in, on and around water in NSW 2023

The draft *Places to Swim* best practice guide was released as a draft for comment by DPHI in November 2023. The *Guide* states that access to places where the community can safely get in, on, and around water was a key finding of the 2018 *Greater Sydney Outdoor Survey* and the draft 2022 *Regional Outdoor Survey*. The *Guide* notes that:

- Half of Sydneysiders enjoy outdoor recreation involving water at least once a week
- Swimming in natural areas is increasingly popular
- Participation in aquatic recreation, such as kayaking and paddle boarding, is in the top ten most popular activities to enjoy
- There is an increased demand for more clean, safe, natural swimming holes, improved access to and amenities at swimming locations
- There is an increased demand for access points to water for activities, for example kayaking and paddle boarding, as well as storage for these activities
- Existing swimming areas and access to waterways are sometimes under-utilised or prohibited for recreational use
- Access to waterways for recreation varies significantly across Greater Sydney. The biggest barriers to access include travel distance and financial feasibility to deliver new access to waterways
- When visiting places to swim, people stay for an average of 2 hours
- Aboriginal community is deeply connected to waterways, being able to access water freely and securely is highly demanded.

The *Guide* identifies the following benefits of places to swim:

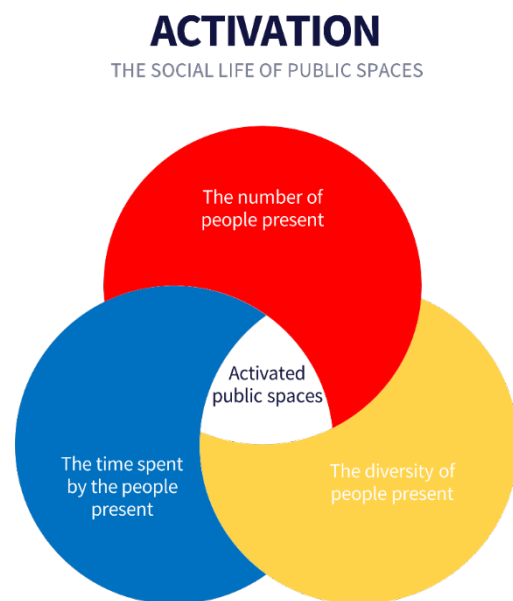
Community	Group activities, intergenerational interaction, promote inclusivity, civic awareness, pride of place, space for community events, connecting with country
Environmental	Healthier waterways, more interaction and raised environmental awareness, awareness of connection to country and how people think about landscape
Economic	Local tourism, improve liveability, attract families and business, new business opportunities
Health and wellbeing	Encourage physical activity, reduce stress, enhance wellbeing

4.2 NSW Guide to Activation 2022

While there is inevitably a focus on the amount and type of open space provided in any form of precinct planning, increasingly there is a growing appreciation of the importance of understanding the role that open space will play in activating a space and a city.

The concept of activation is key to the development of Moore Point. The transformation of the site from a light industrial, employment-focussed area to a higher density mixed use precinct, presents an opportunity to activate existing spaces such as Haigh Park and the Georges River foreshore as well as to create a variety of new spaces where people can gather, recreate and participate in community life.

Figure 5: Contributors to place activation



NSW Government *Guide to Activation – Public Spaces* (2022)

The NSW Government *Guide to Activation* (2022) writes that a public space is activated when a diverse range of people feel welcome and participate in a variety of activities there. A sense of ownership develops over activated public space and this encourages people to not only spend more time there but to also become stewards and look after the space. Activity can help to regulate human activity and demonstrate norms of behaviour that send strong messages to public space users as to what constitutes appropriate behaviour.

The approach to open space will need to explicitly address how various public spaces will be activated and how the different experiences or activities undertaken within the open space network will contribute to the overall vibrancy of the Moore Point precinct.

4.3 NSW Public Space Charter 2021

The *NSW Public Space Charter* ([NSW Public Spaces Charter | Transport for NSW](#)) begins by stating that public space “is where public life happens”. The *Charter* emphasises that people are at the centre of public space and it is how people interact with, and are shaped by, public space that gives it meaning. The *Charter* emphasises the role of public space as the link between home, work and leisure and between our private and public lives.

Public space is defined in the *NSW Public Space Charter* as:

All places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit or motive.

This definition is taken directly from the *United Nations Charter of Public Space* (May 2013). The *NSW Public Space Charter* continues by identifying three major forms of public space:

Public open space	Parks, gardens, playgrounds, public beaches, riverbanks and waterfronts, outdoor playing fields and courts, and bushland that is open for public access
Public facilities	Public libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities
Streets	Streets, avenues and boulevards; squares and plazas; pavements; passages and lanes, and bicycle paths

Figure 6: Ten Principles for Quality Open Space



The principles above are expanded on throughout the Charter and the accompanying *Draft Practitioner's Guide*. It should be noted that the principles in the Charter and the guiding principles from a range of other policy documents highlighted throughout this report show a high level of consistency. This consistency indicates a reasonable level of agreement (at the principles level) of what constitutes good open space planning in New South Wales.

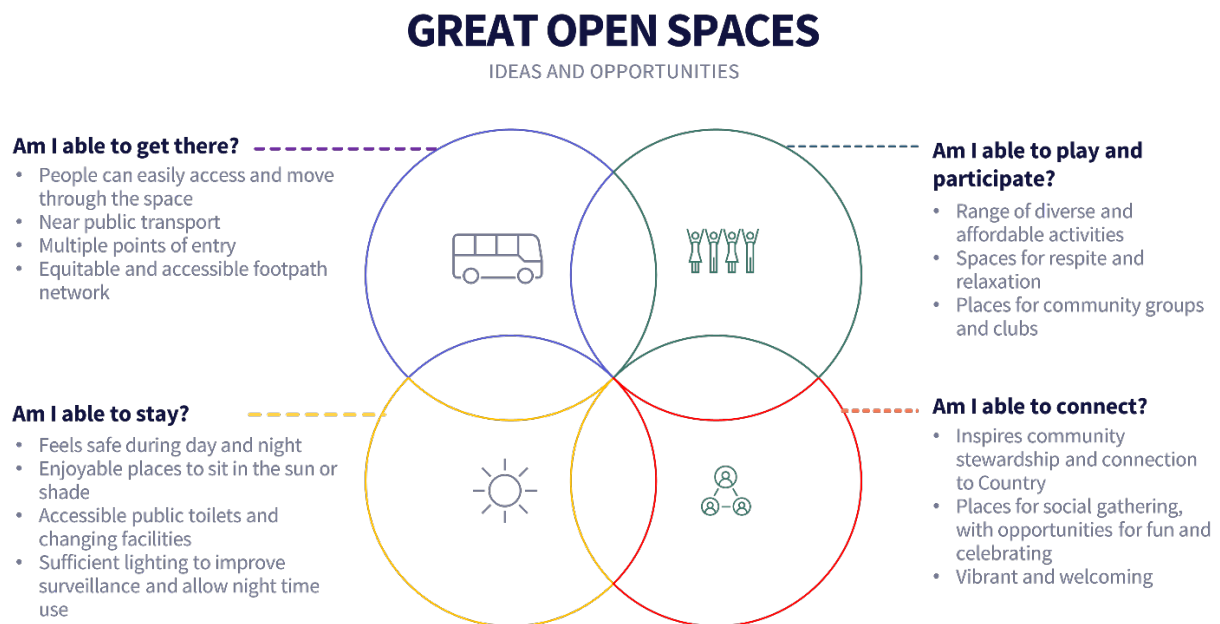
4.4 NSW Great Public Spaces Guide 2021

This 2021 guide prepared by the NSW Government provides guidance on creating great open spaces. The guidance for open spaces reflect the three key planning principles adopted by government in the *Everyone Can Play* guideline updated in 2023. These principles are:

- Can I get there?
- Can I play?
- Can I stay?

The following figure shows how these principles have been adapted to provide guidance for open spaces in general.

Figure 7: Great Open Spaces



NSW Government (2021), Great Public Spaces: Ideas and Opportunities

These principles will help to inform the planning principles and performance criteria for the open space approach for Moore Point.

4.5 Draft Greener Places Discussion Guide, 2020

It is recognised that the draft *Greener Places* guide has not been adopted by NSW Government. This means it should be considered with some caution and in consultation with DPHI's Public Open Space Unit. However, *Greener Places* is significant as it does acknowledge the need to consider alternatives to a purely mathematical approach to open space provision (largely defined through the application of numerical standards). This approach, based on recent discussions with DPHI, is still considered to be critical to open space planning in New South Wales. While *Greener Places* is an important toolkit it is not intended to be rigid framework.

4.5.1 Strategies

The *Greener Places* strategies provide clear direction for the provision of open space at Moore Point.

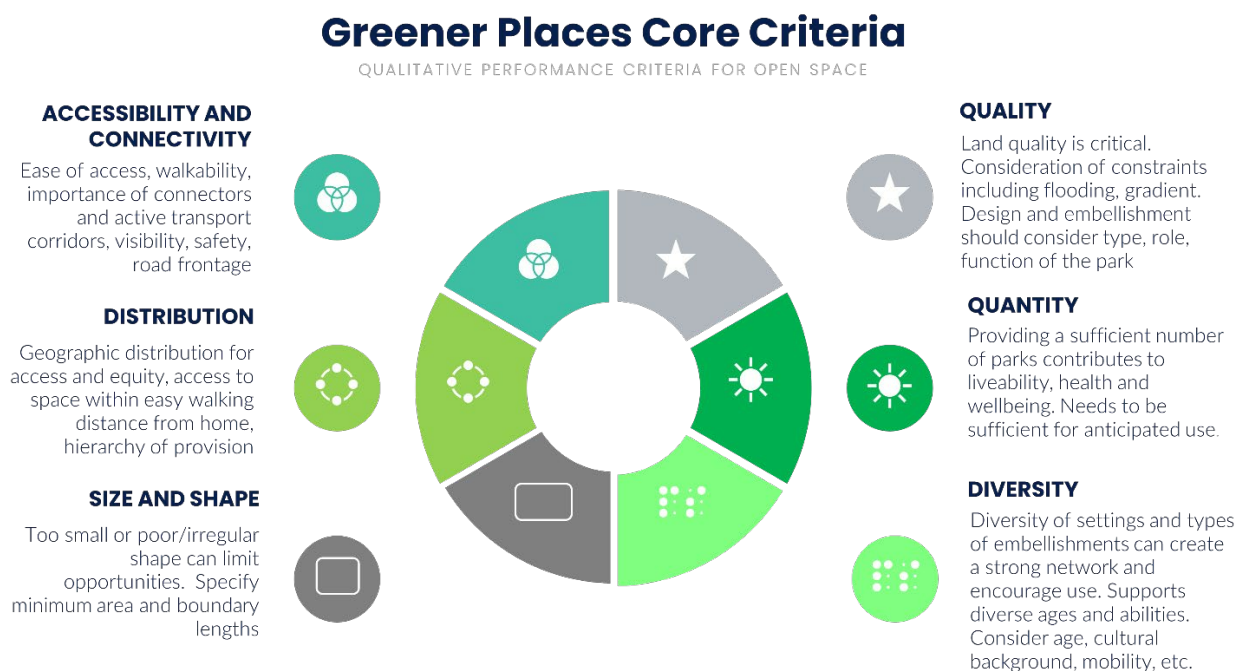
Figure 8: Greener Places Strategies



4.5.2 Performance criteria

The criteria in *Greener Places* form the basis of a performance-based approach to open space planning and provision.

Figure 9: Core Criteria



The strategies and core criteria from *Greener Places* are used to inform the approach to open space planning for Moore Point and the development of performance criteria specifically.

Another important component of *Greener Places* is its emphasis on the diversity of open space types and the importance of providing a range of different open space typologies to address a broad range of community needs. How these core criteria have been addressed in physical terms is shown in the *Turf Design Public Domain and Landscape Strategy*.

4.5.3 Open space typologies

Following from the criteria of diversity and the importance of providing a variety of open space. *Greener Places* provides an extensive overview of different open space typologies.

Figure 10: Open space typologies and examples

Local Play for the very young		
Locally accessible walk to space for very young children (0-5 years) to play outdoors Beyond playgrounds, provision could also involve integration of play into the landscape to create interesting and engaging environments for children's play		High quality play space within a park Play events in small spaces that are part of sports park or multi-use areas Small play areas as part of children's garden or similar Local recreation node in a linear open space corridor
Local children's play		
Locally accessible, walk to or ride to play opportunities for primary school aged children (5-12 years) Can include nature play in bushland parks and riverfront foreshore areas. Can also include various forms of water play		One large multi-features play area per neighbourhood Nature play area provided in bushland park or as part of a waterway corridor Splash play or zero depth water play Community access to school play area or other public facilities with space
Older children's activity space		
Locally accessible, ride to or walk to play and active recreation space for older children (10-15 years) Can include park areas, foreshores, sports parks, bushland reserves, linear open space corridors		Large multi-age play space within larger park Natural bush exploration space Adventure play Water play and creek play Outdoor courts, bike tracks, skate plazas Active play trail along linear corridor Kickabout space (40x60m)

Youth recreation space

Neighbourhood level, larger youth-focused area (13-20 years). Providing both active recreation and space to gather and interact. Includes parks larger than 1 hectare, larger foreshore areas, sports parks, large linear open space corridors. Should be visible and preferably located near shops



'Youth plaza' with wifi and flexible group spaces
Sports courts, half courts, exercise areas
Parkour elements, fitness equipment
Small jump park or BMX track
Youth friendly space with informal field (40x60m)

Local recreation space

Locally accessible walk to outdoor recreation facilities providing for passive enjoyment of outdoors and nature. Includes parks, foreshore areas, sports parks, bushland reserves, natural areas, large linear open space corridors



Parks
Foreshore areas
Bushland
Sports park
Large linear open space corridors

Active recreation space

Neighbourhood level accessible open space with elements to encourage individual and group based active recreation such as a social sporting activity



Large parks exceeding 1 hectare
Sports parks
Riverside or foreshore areas wider than 40 metres
Community access to outdoor courts and fields provided at other public facilities

Large community outdoor recreation areas

District level open space area that provides a range of activities for individuals and small and large groups. Should support community gatherings and extended stays for picnics, play and events



Large parks exceeding 2 hectares
Riverside or foreshore areas wider than 40 metres
Mixed use recreation and sports parks
Bushland and heritage parks with developed visitor facilities

Fitness and exercise space

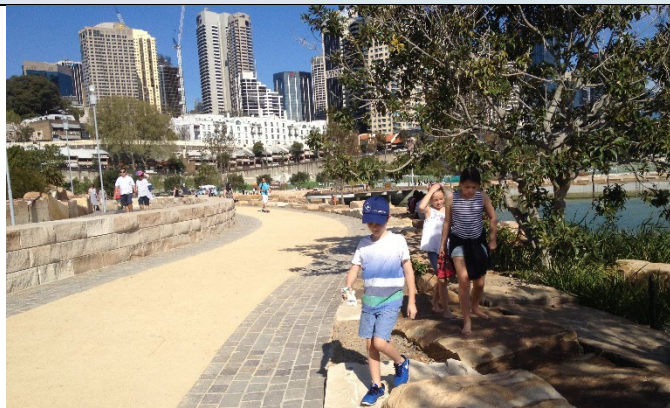
Local exercise and fitness opportunities for individuals and small groups that are free of charge and located in public open space



Access to a car-free running loop of more than 2km
Linear, multi-use open space corridor with pathway and exercise stations
Exercise equipment in sports parks
Perimeter walking and running paths around public facilities

Trail and path based recreation

Local access to car-free walking, cycling and running trails allowing for extended activity times, linking to longer networks in public open space, natural areas and community destinations



Recreation trails and paths as part of planned development and where bushland and other non-developed areas allow.
Shared pathways
Promenade style paths around water bodies and waterfronts.

Organised sport and recreation

District level sporting and organised recreation activities that typically require large flat areas of public open space. Dedicated sporting parks and precincts such as a regional sports precinct of 20ha plus.



Mix of sporting park and built sports facilities (such as indoor centres). Combination of public sports parks and community access to school fields. Could include synthetic fields or courts including as part of other infrastructure (e.g. car park roof).

Dog exercise area

Neighbourhood level access to an off leash exercise opportunity for dogs



Fenced area in a larger park
Multiple use spaces such as a detention basin or overland flow path
Section of linear space or waterfront area designated as off-leash
Fenced area in buffer zones between residential and transport corridors or bushland

The typologies are critical to the planning approach for open space in higher density areas such as Moore Point. Although not all types may be required to be provided on every site, a diversity of provision with numerous typologies adds to the flexibility and robustness of the public open space network. The typologies and the principles identified in the policy review have been used to guide this work and the work of Turf Design in the development of the *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* for Moore Point. Both reports have adapted the key lessons and applied the identified best practice to create a robust and comprehensive approach to open space.

4.6 Liverpool Collaboration Area Place Strategy

The *Liverpool Collaboration Area Place Strategy* prepared by the then Greater Sydney Commission in 2018 included a priority to:

Develop a network of high quality open space linked by the Greater Sydney Green Grid and invest in improvements to the Georges River and its foreshores.

The Strategy described the intended outcome as:

Liverpool is a true river city. The Georges River's riverbank quality is vastly improved, and the water quality is high enough to support on-water activities such as kayaking. Better walking trails, connections to the Greater Sydney Green Grid and links between the City Centre and the open space and parklands around the Sydney Water facility and Warwick Farm equine precinct allow more people to enjoy the river's amenity, movement and recreation opportunities.

Actions include to:

- Improve the quality, environmental amenity and useability of the riverbank to respond to uses associated with precinct renewal and increases walking trails and open space
- Develop a linear parkland and a continuous network of public open spaces aligned with the Green Grid priorities along the Georges River

The Strategy includes a further priority to:

Create and renew great places for people.

The Strategy described the intended outcome of this priority as:

Quality mixed use development, activation strategies and public domain and open space investments combine to create great places. Liverpool is a desirable place to live and work, and a healthy and walkable city focused on the river with a strong daytime and night time economy and a valued arts and cultural sector. Housing options suit a range of lifestyle needs, household type or income, within walking distance of major employment precincts and rail stations.

Actions included under this priority included:

- Deliver great places by prioritising a people-friendly public realm and open spaces; providing fine grain and diverse urban form; a diverse land use and housing mix, high amenity and walkability; and recognising and celebrating the character of the place and its people.

The Moore Point precinct is a key opportunity to directly address the priorities and actions from the *Place Strategy*.

4.7 Liverpool Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy (2018-2028)

Liverpool City Council's *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018-2028* includes the vision to:

Create best practice recreation, open space and sports facilities for the community that connect residents and foster a healthy community.

The Introduction states that central to the strategy is:

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

This desire is important to note as it demonstrates Council's understanding and valuing of public open space as much more than a functional asset but as space that has the potential to transform the Liverpool community and build the connections that are the essence of a strong and resilient community.

4.7.1 Guiding principles

Council's approach to open space planning is illustrated through the following principles from the *Strategy*.

Figure 11: Open space guiding principles

Planning for the future Population growth will necessitate the delivery of an efficient and flexible network of open space. This will include adopting a strategic approach where needs, issues and opportunities will be assessed	Multipurpose Open spaces allow for a multiplicity of uses, enabling a wide range of activities and ensuring maximum use and optimisation of space. Wherever possible open space should be designed for multiple users and for shared use
Creating a sense of place Open space contributes strongly to the vitality of our urban centres and local identity Local stories and culture will be ingrained to assist in fostering community identity and ownership	Green infrastructure Open spaces will be the lungs of the city, will mitigate the impacts of climate change, and continue to provide a broad range of environmental and ecological benefits
Equity and access Every household in urban and suburban areas should be within close walking distance (400m) to at least one parcel of high quality open space	Safety and security Open spaces and recreational facilities will provide a high degree of personal safety, minimise vandalism and anti-social behaviours by attracting people, improving passive surveillance and applying CPTED principles
Connections Connecting our green spaces will help drive utilisation and help people get to and from parks without using cars. Shared paths in our green spaces will allow people to use active transport along green 'connector' streets and shared path networks	Commercial development Appropriately located and planned commercial and tourism development will be supported where there is a clear social or cultural benefit and where it adds to sense of place
Promoting social capital Open spaces and facilities shall respond to identified community needs and interests facilitating both organised and chance meetings. District and regional facilities will become key focal points	Building partnerships Developing partnerships with state government agencies, non-government organisations, businesses and community groups will support success in delivering the strategy. Innovative partnerships and creative delivery mechanisms in collaborative approaches to planning need to be nurtured

4.7.2 Special places

Section 4.2 of Council's *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy* identifies a number of 'special places' throughout the Liverpool LGA. The list of 'special places' is extensive and identifies 16 different spaces across the LGA including:

- Bigge Park
- Casula Parklands
- Chipping Norton Lakes
- Lighthorse Park
- Georges River
- Pioneers' Memorial Park
- Rosedale Oval
- Western Sydney Parklands
- Woodward Park.

Notably, Haigh Park is not included in the list of 'special places'. This is likely to be because, in its current form, Haigh Park addresses few of the criteria or possesses few of the characteristics that determine a high quality public open space. In referring back to Council's Guiding Principles from the *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy* shown in Figure 10, Haigh Park:

- Does not demonstrate a strong sense of place
- Is limited in its multipurpose nature being primarily composed of largely unembellished grassed areas with a small number of tables and shelters
- Is poorly connected to both other open spaces and to key residential areas
- Does little to promote social capital
- Is poor in relation to safety and security due primarily to its isolated location and complete lack of nearby activation and surveillance
- Has no real relationship to any form of residential or commercial development
- Does not encourage partnership building with any other entities.

The development of the Moore Point precinct is an opportunity to not only provide a comprehensive network of new public open space that directly addresses the strategic direction for public open space identified in Council's *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy*, but to also provide a catalyst for the enhancement and greater utilisation of Haigh Park, Bill Morrison Park and others so that they do become 'special places' for the wider Liverpool community. It is important to note that the development of the Moore Point Precinct and the provision of the riverfront walk and proposed bridge connections provide links between many of the 'special places' identified above as well as to the CBD, public transport and the Health and Innovation Precinct.

The *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* prepared by Turf Design and referenced later in this report show the potential for some of these embellishments at Haigh Park.

4.8 Implications of Policy Context

The fundamental principle of viewing the site in its context and developing an approach to open space that capitalises on the key features and unique qualities of the site

The importance of a focus on activation of open space and how open space at Moore Point should provide for a diverse range of people and activities

Use of the principles of 'great places' and of Liverpool's *Recreation and Open Space Strategy* to guide planning at Moore Point including the importance of addressing community needs, understanding what spaces and activities attract people, encouraging people to spend time in public space, and offering opportunities for people to connect with each other and their environment

The focus on the quality and diversity of open space provision rather than formulaic, mathematical approaches. This includes the balance between quantity, type and quality of open space

The role of performance criteria to guide the planning and provision of quality public open space

The vital role of different forms and types of public open space to ensure a diverse offering that provides for a wide range of spaces and activities and caters for the needs of diverse population groups

The importance of creating special places for people through the thoughtful application of principles about sense of place, multipurpose space, connections, social capital, equity, access and safety

5 Stakeholder engagement

Throughout the planning process, the Moore Point Joint Landowner Group (JLG) has engaged extensively with both Liverpool City Council and DPHI. Since the Gateway requirements have been released, the JLG and its consultant team have presented to, and participated in workshops with, Council and DPHI representatives from various sections and departments.

Fortnightly Project Coordination Group meetings and several workshops were held with DPHI, Council and stakeholders to provide updates to the planning proposal, including strategies for addressing the Gateway conditions. These have included, but are not limited to:

- Meeting with DPHI, DPHI Water and DPI Fisheries – 26 July 2023
- Meeting with DPHI, TfNSW and Council – 13 August 2023
- Meeting with DPHI and Council on urban design and open space – 21 September 2023
- Meeting with DPHI and Council on urban design and open space – 10 October 2023
- Meeting with DPHI on State infrastructure – 11 October 2023
- Meeting with Council on local infrastructure – 30 October 2023
- Meeting with DPHI and Council on planning mechanisms – 30 October 2023
- Presentation to Design Excellence Panel – 30 January 2024
- Meeting with DPHI and Council on local infrastructure – 5 March 2024.

The approach to open space planning documented here is a product of those conversations. It also strongly responds to policies, plans and case study examples, either produced or recommended by Council and/or DPHI.

6 Community needs

Liverpool Council's guiding principles (from the *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018-2028*) indicate that 'open space and facilities shall respond to identified community needs and interests'. Being able to answer the question 'who are we planning open space for?' is fundamental to develop a robust and responsive approach to planning any form of community infrastructure including open space.

6.1 Projected population

At this stage of planning an average occupancy rate of 2.0 persons per dwelling has been used to estimate future population numbers. The SJB *Moore Point Urban Design Report* (2024) includes the following breakdown of unit sizes:

- Studio - 20%
- One bedroom - 30%
- Two bedroom - 40%
- Three bedroom and larger - 10%.

It is understood that this dwelling mix and therefore occupancy rate may change over time. However, an average occupancy rate of 2.0 person per dwelling is assumed to be reasonable at this point.

Table 2: Population by stage

Stage	Timing	Dwellings	Occupancy rate	Population
A	2026-2036	4,237	2.0	8,474
B	2037-2046	3,311	2.0	6,622
C	2047-2056	3,194	2.0	6,388
TOTAL		10,742	2.0	21,484

The table above shows that at an occupancy rate of 2.0 persons per dwelling, it is anticipated that the Moore Point development will generate a population of approximately 21,484 people. It is important to note that this total population will occur incrementally over a period of approximately 30-40 years. It is expected that approximately half the total population (10-11,000 people) will not be present on the site until after 2040.

Given this lengthy development timeline, it is important that the plans for Moore Point provide the capacity to adapt and evolve to accommodate the potential for change over such a long development period.

NSW PUBLIC SPACES CHARTER

Every public space is unique and has its own specific context, community and environment. It should be fit-for-purpose, designed with an understanding of how it will be used and who will use it. It should be capable of adapting to changing uses and demands.

([NSW Public Spaces Charter](#))

6.2 Demographics

Along with total forecast population, a key determinant of social infrastructure demand is the demographic composition of that population and the demands they create for different forms of social infrastructure. Although precise population forecasting is difficult, it is possible to project a likely population composition based on similar higher density areas in Sydney.

6.2.1 Who lives in higher density urban precincts

Understanding the future age profile is important as it is apparent that in some cases age and recreational preferences are correlated. As an example, sports participation data (to be shown later in this section) suggests that participation in formal sports is relatively high among teenagers and young adults but significantly declines from the early 20s onwards.

The comparative areas have been chosen as they are generally newer higher density urban developments with most of the development occurring over the last 10-15 years and include a high (above 90%) percentage of apartments.

Table 3: Age profiles of comparative higher density areas in Sydney 2021

Area	Pre-school (0-4 years)	Primary school (5-11 years)	Secondary school (12-17 years)	Tertiary (18-24 years)	Young work-force (25-34 years)	Parents and home-builders (35-49 years)	Older workers and pre-retirees (50-59 years)	Empty nesters and retirees (60-69 years)	Seniors (70-84 years)	Elderly aged (85 years and over)
Rhodes West	7.2	4.1	1.5	9.2	38.9	24.9	5.7	5.9	2.4	0.2
Wolli Creek	5.1	2.3	1.1	13.8	46.7	21.5	4.4	3.4	1.7	0.1
Wentworth Point	8	5.2	1.8	6.8	36.5	27	6.4	5.8	2.3	0.2
Sydney Olympic Park	8.1	4	2.2	8.1	43	23.9	5.9	3.6	1.1	0.1
Green Square	5.1	2.8	1.2	13.7	42.5	23.9	5.6	3.4	1.6	0.2
Waterloo - Zetland	4.3	2.8	1.5	13.2	38.6	22.3	6.9	5.3	4.2	0.8
Average	6.3	3.5	1.6	10.8	41.0	23.9	5.8	4.6	2.2	0.3

ABS Census, 2021

The table above shows the age profile of higher density suburbs in Sydney according to the 2021 Census. Key features of the age profiles are:

- 64.9% of the population of higher density areas (on average) is aged between 25-49 years, with 25-34 years olds being the highest at 41% of total population
- 0-4 year olds average 6.3% of the population in higher density areas which is slightly higher than the Greater Sydney average of 6.0%

- Both 5-11 year olds (3.5%) and 12-17 year olds (1.6%) are relatively small age groups within higher density areas with both age groups significantly below the Greater Sydney average at 8.8% and 7.1% respectively
- Older age groups (50 years and above) also appear to be less represented in higher density areas.

A comparison between the age profile of the higher density areas and Liverpool LGA further highlights the uniqueness of the Moore Point development and how community needs may be quite distinct from established areas of the LGA.

Table 4: Age profile comparison of higher density areas and Liverpool LGA 2021

Area	Pre-school (0-4 years)	Primary school (5-11 years)	Secondary school (12-17 years)	Tertiary (18-24 years)	Young work-force (25-34 years)	Parents and home-builders (35-49 years)	Older workers and pre-retirees (50-59 years)	Empty nesters and retirees (60-69 years)	Seniors (70-84 years)	Elderly aged (85 years and over)
Higher density areas	6.3	3.5	1.6	10.8	41.0	23.9	5.8	4.6	2.2	0.3
Liverpool LGA	7.1	10.6	8.5	9.8	14.3	21.1	11.9	8.8	6.5	1.3

ABS Census, 2021

The table above shows the age profile of higher density suburbs in Sydney compared to Liverpool LGA based on the 2021 Census. Key features of the age profiles are:

- Slightly lower proportions of 0-4 year olds in the higher density areas than in Liverpool LGA
- Significantly smaller proportions of 5-11 year olds (3.5%) and 12-17 year olds (1.6%) in the higher density areas, compared to the LGA (10.6% and 8.5% respectively)
- Similar proportions of 18-24 year olds and 35-49 year olds
- Significantly higher proportions of 25-34 year olds in higher density areas than Liverpool LGA (38.6 compared to 14.3%)
- Lower proportions of all older age groups (50 years and above) in higher density areas, compared to the Liverpool LGA.

Based on 2021 figures for all people living in flats or apartments in the Greater Sydney area the Census figures show that:

- 5.9% were aged 0-4 years
- 5.7% were primary school aged (5-11 years)
- 3.6% were secondary school aged (12-18 years).

While these Greater Sydney figures are higher than those for the higher density precincts identified earlier in this section, they do show significantly less 5-11 and 12-18 year olds living in apartments than other forms of dwellings. These age groups are important as they

are key in terms of demand for various forms of community infrastructure including open space particularly sports fields as well as other key infrastructure like schools.

These comparisons, and the differences they identify, are significant as they indicate that a different approach to planning for community needs is required for Moore Point than may be the standard procedure for the LGA as a whole.

This difference is further highlighted if the future Moore Point projected population profile is compared to recent Liverpool greenfield development suburbs. While the age group most active in organised sport (5-17 year olds) make up 5.1% of the population in higher density areas, in greenfield areas it is much higher:

- 20.5% in Edmondson Park
- 21.3% in Horningsea Park
- 25.5% in Carnes Hill*.

Figures are based on Liverpool Council Profile id 2021.

6.2.2 Trends in the age profile of apartment dwellers over time

A key question here is how stable will these age profiles be into the future and to what extent are they an accurate reflection of the likely age profile of Moore Point. Over the last decade, it has been suggested that families with children are becoming more common in apartment buildings. This is thought to be a combination of affordability pressures, an increase in supply of apartments and requirements for apartment buildings to be better designed with more space and better amenity.

While forecasting these trends into the future is difficult, a comparison of higher density areas over the last ten years provides some indication of trends. Affordability has been a significant issue in Sydney for some time so trends over the last ten years, while not absolute, do provide some guidance. The following table focusses on 0-19 year olds as they have a significant impact on planning for open space and recreation. 0-4 year olds needs for open space and recreation are primarily focussed on local parks and playgrounds, while 5-19 year olds have a greater focus on larger spaces including space for organised sports.

Due to smaller population sizes in some of the older time series data and changes in Census boundaries over the years only three areas have been used for this analysis.

A key observation here is that 5-17 year olds (the key age group that participate most in organised sports such as soccer) make up only 5.1% of the proposed population. This is compared to 19.1% of the Liverpool LGA population. It is clear that urban renewal areas have different needs for open space and recreation than more typical, greenfield development and that a different approach is required.

Table 5: 0-19 years age composition in select higher density area 2011-2021

Rhodes	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
2011	6.7	2.5	1.7	3.5
2016	7.4	2.2	1.3	3.4
2021	7.0	3.5	1.7	1.7
Wentworth Point				
2011	6.2	3.0	2.4	2.1
2016	7.7	3.1	1.7	1.7
2021	8.0	4.0	2.2	1.4
Wolli Creek				
2011	6.0	2.2	1.2	2.6
2016	5.0	1.7	1.0	3.1
2021	5.1	1.9	0.9	1.6

ABS Census 2011-2021

The table above shows that over the last ten years in the three higher density areas there has been:

- An increase in the proportion of 0-4 year olds and 5-9 year olds in Rhodes and Wentworth Point but a decrease in Wolli Creek
- A slight decrease in the proportion of 10-14 year olds in Wentworth Point and Wolli Creek with Rhodes showing some fluctuation but the proportions remaining the same over the ten year period
- A decrease in the proportion of 15-19 year olds in all three higher density areas over the ten year period.

The ten year time series data does not suggest any definitive patterns with the possible exception of a decrease in the proportion of 15-19 year olds across all three areas.

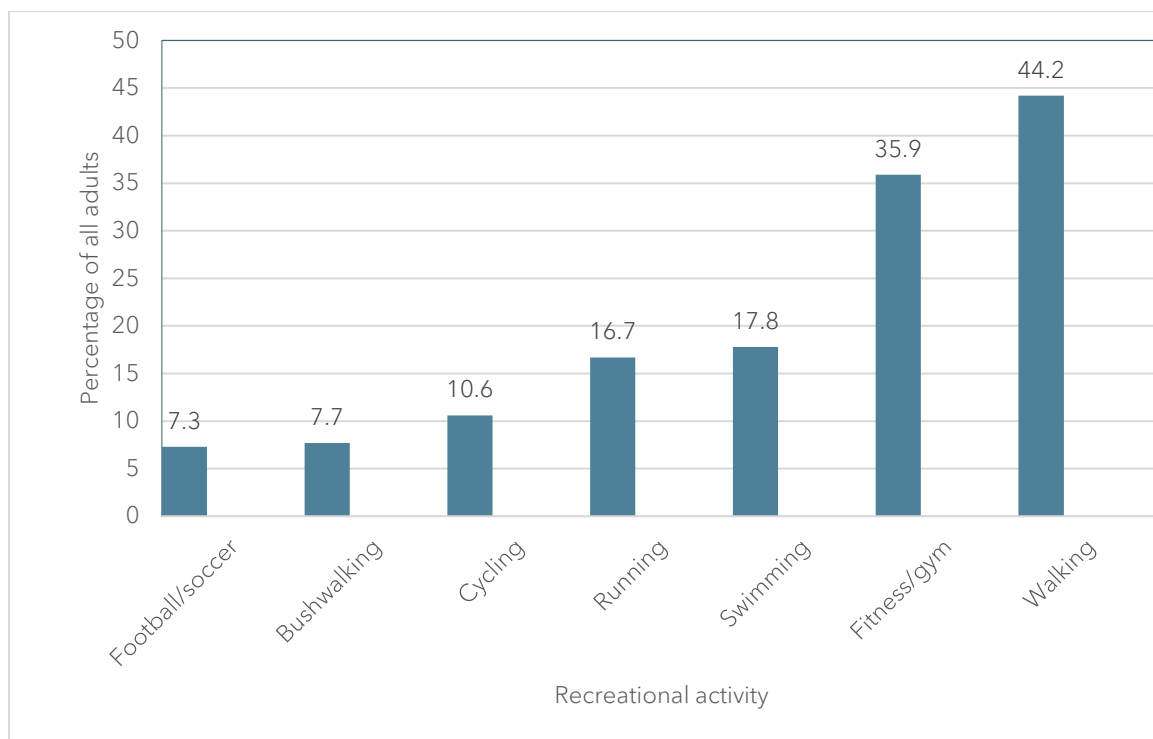
6.3 Recreational activities

As land efficiency is a real and practical consideration in higher density urban developments, consideration needs to be given to open spaces that deliver maximum community benefit. This assessment examines a range of evidence from recognised sources (such as AusPlay and the Australian Sports Commission) to help identify the recreational needs of the likely Moore Point population and what forms of open space are most likely to best address future community needs.

6.3.1 Most popular recreational activities

The following graph shows the most popular recreational activities undertaken by people 15 years and over in New South Wales.

Figure 12: Most popular recreational activities in NSW – 15 years and older 2022



The figure above shows:

- The high levels of participation in walking and fitness and gym with 44.2 and 35.9% of people aged 15 and over participating in these activities regularly
- Swimming, running and cycling are the three next most popular activities.

It is noted that the top six most popular activities are what are considered to be non-organised or unstructured activities. The most popular form of organised sport is shown on the graph as soccer with 7.3% of the population over 15 participating regularly.

These participation figures and the popularity of walking, fitness and the other unstructured activities have been stable and consistent for several years.

6.3.2 Participation by age

Age can play an important role in understanding recreation demand and community needs for public open space. The AusPlay survey provides comprehensive and up to date information on the most popular recreational activities for people of different age groups in New South Wales.

Table 6: Top Ten Activities in New South Wales by Age 2022

Activity	Overall/ average participation %	15-17 years	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
Walking (recreational)	44	15.3	21.2	31.7	40.5	51.7	61.6	60.8
Fitness/gym	38	34.5	46.9	45.2	38.7	37.3	31.4	31.5
Swimming	19	16.4	14.5	18.6	20.9	22.3	24.5	13.9
Running (athletics)	17	23.5	22.0	23.6	23.0	21.6	10.6	3.1
Football/ soccer	8	25.8	16.0	11.4	10.0	7.6	2.9	0.4
Yoga	7	1.0	2.7	7.9	7.3	11.2	9.3	3.3
Virtual- physical activity	6	16.6	9.0	7.8	8.4	4.7	1.5	0.7
Basketball	5	25.8	12.1	6.5	5.1	1.8	0.9	0.2
Netball	3	12.1	7.2	4.7	2.8	1.9	0.3	-
Rugby League	1.5	11.6	3.2	2.0	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.1

AusPlay, Australian Sports Commission, 2022

It is important to keep in mind in analysis of this activity data that the previous section on likely population profile indicated that 25-49 year olds may compose over 60% of the future Moore Point population. The table shows that this age group has very high participation rates in the following activities:

- Walking
- Fitness / gym
- Swimming
- Running.

The table above shows the contrast in participation over age groups of the informal or unstructured activities. Participation in walking, fitness/gym, swimming and running are reasonably consistent across all age groups. This can be contrasted to organised sport such as football/soccer, basketball, netball and rugby league that have 'peak' participation at 15-17 years and then significantly decrease with age.

Organised sports are generally popular with younger age groups. The following data examines participation of 0-14 years across New South Wales.

Table 7: Top Five Activities in New South Wales (0-14 year olds) 2022

Activity	Overall/ average participation (0- 14 years) %	0-4 years	5-8 years	9-11 years	12-14 years
Swimming	37.5	36.6	52.8	37.0	17.0
Football/ soccer	21.0	5.9	28.4	29.3	27.0
Gymnastics	10.0	7.1	14.5	11.7	6.4
Dance	10.0	6.7	14.0	11.0	8.8
Netball	6.0	0.1	5.1	11.3	12.0

AusPlay, Australian Sports Commission, 2022

The table shows that swimming is the most popular activity for 0-14 years across New South Wales in 2022.

Soccer, the only field sport on the list, is second most popular with an average participation of 21% for 0-14 year olds. Participation in soccer is high for age groups 5-14 years with the 'peak' at 9-11 years.

It is noted that soccer for 5-11 years olds is generally in the form of small-sided football with teams of up to six players playing a modified game on small fields. This form of the sport can be accommodated in a variety of open spaces and may not always need designated fields to be played.

Figure 13: Small sided football in park



Photo: ATX Consulting

7 Trends

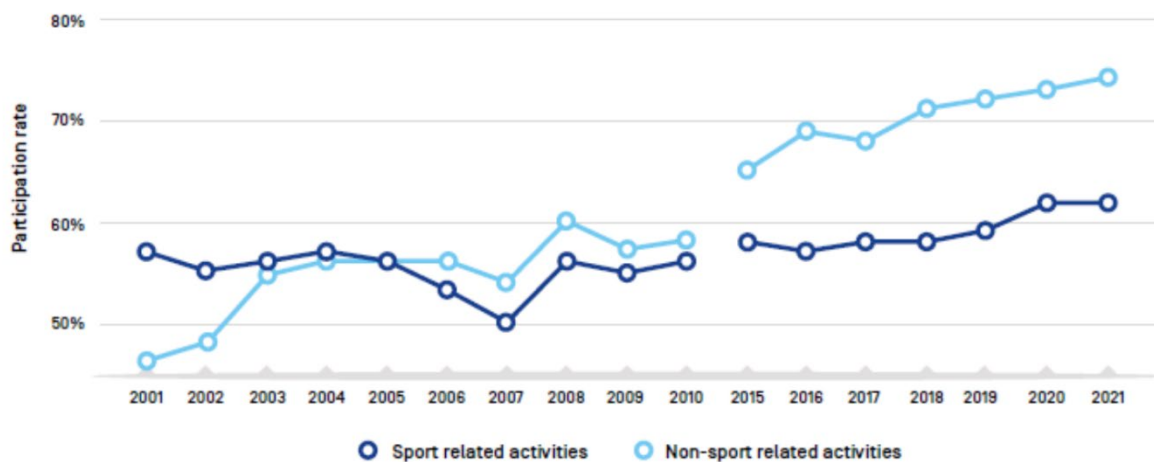
The trends in the most popular recreational activities shown in the last section have been evident for the last 15 or more years. Walking continues to be the most popular recreational pursuit and the trend towards unorganised recreational over organised sports is consistent and longstanding.

7.1 Sport and non-sport activity

The Australian Sports Commission notes that Australians describe 'organised sport' as having an organiser or organisational structure, venue or location, program of events, record of the performances of teams and individuals, and an expectation of participants to turn up more than once at particular times. Organised sport involves commitment in money, effort and time and requires the organisational capacity of a club.

Non-sport related activity (exercise) is more casual and flexible. This includes walking, running, cycling, individual exercise or any physical activity that occurs spontaneously. There are several grey areas of loosely organised, semi-regular physical activities between sport and just exercise. These may include, for instance, fun runs, online communities on fitness apps or gym and yoga classes.

Figure 14: Participation in sport and non-sport related activity – 15 years and over



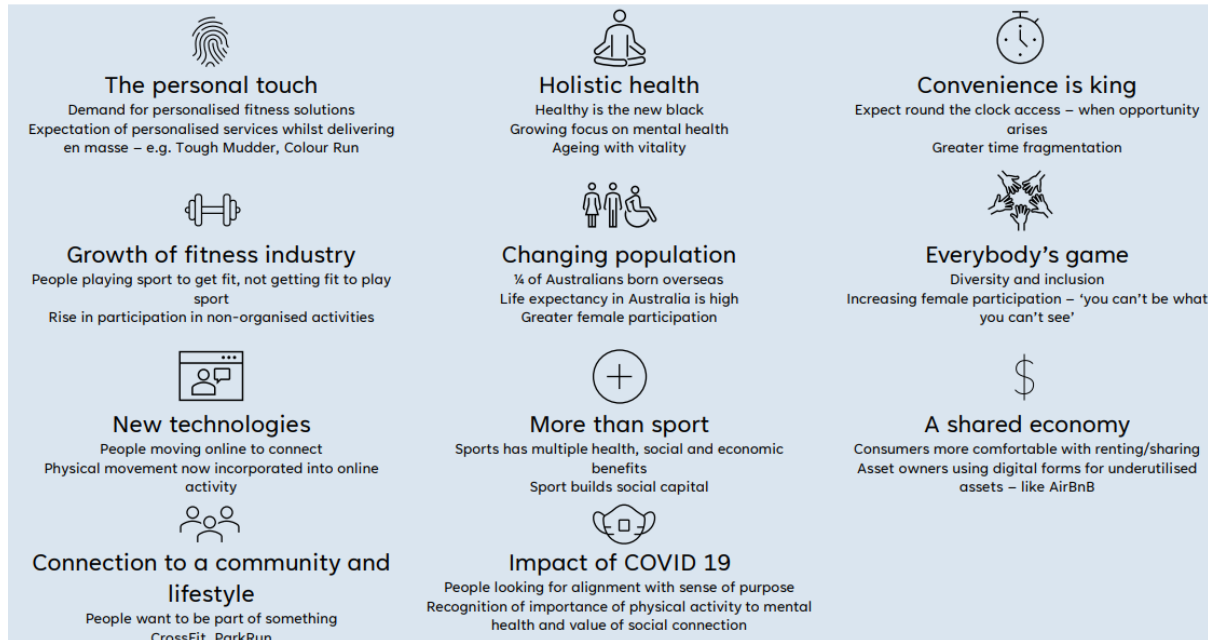
Exercise, Recreation and Sports Survey (ERASS) 2001-2010, AusPlay 2015-2021, Australian Sports Commission

The figure above shows that all physical activity is increasing, but exercise-related activities are growing faster than sport-related activity. This trend is significant and an important consideration in planning for community needs for a project that has a 30-40 year timeline.

7.2 Megatrends

The Australian Sports Commission regularly analyses and reports on the key trends in sport and recreation that influence how Australians participate in recreational activities. The figure below summarises what the Commission refers to as 'megatrends' for 2022.

Figure 15: Megatrends – Australian Sports Commission 2022



Some of the megatrends and their implications for Moore Point are:

Growth of fitness industry	The rise in general fitness and non-organised activities has implications for the type of open spaces likely to be required in Moore Point. These will include not only outdoor and free fitness equipment but spaces that enable a range of informal activities to occur.
Connection to a community and lifestyle	Spaces that enable people to connect socially and feel part of the community. Trails and paths that allow for activities like Park Run.
Holistic health	Spaces that provide some respite from a busy urban lifestyle and provide space for quiet time and contemplation.
Changing population	Greater cultural and social diversity requires a diversity of spaces that can accommodate a wide range of community and cultural activities.
Impact of COVID	Recognition of the importance of physical activity to mental health requires the provision of spaces for walking, social gathering and connecting with others
Convenience is king	Spaces such as indoor recreation that enable more round the clock and more flexible use.
Everybody's game	The growing importance of truly inclusive spaces which relates to both who spaces are designed to be accessible, safe and inclusive as well as how they are eventually managed and programmed.

A shared economy

Particularly in higher density environments where apartments dominate and storage becomes an issue, the idea of spaces, amenities and equipment that can be shared among community members is likely to be important

7.3 Impact of COVID

While participation in most forms of recreational activities appear to have 'bounced back' after COVID, there may be some longstanding impacts of the global pandemic on recreational behaviour and the use of public open space.

One of the key consequences of the COVID pandemic was the increased value that people placed on, and gained from, local open spaces within their communities. An important component of this was the recognition that local open space plays an important role in both community connection and mental health.

Even with increased measures of containment and physical distancing, COVID appears to have enhanced our recognition of the importance of public space. Open space became more valued as both a gathering place and a space to meet basic, intrinsic needs for some form of human contact (even if indirect and distanced). Residents of higher density precincts have long viewed public open space as an extension of their living space and an amenity that is essential to both physical and psychological well-being.

COVID also created an increased awareness of the significance of contact with nature and how natural spaces, even those in urban environments, are critical for individual and community wellbeing. There is a unique opportunity at Moore Point to enable Liverpool residents to interact with the Georges River and Lake Moore in ways that have not been possible in the past.

As the participation figures clearly show, there has also been a continued rise in popularity of walking, especially walking in your local neighbourhood. During COVID walking became an almost essential form of leisure and recreation. It continues to be highly valued for its accessibility, social benefits and its contribution to physical and mental wellbeing. Walking in COVID became most people's primary means to escape the confines of their place of isolation and get access to fresh air and sun in an environment where distanced contact with other members of the community was also possible.

If there are lessons from COVID for the planning of public open space for higher density urban environments like Moore Point, they are likely to be around the importance of locally accessible open space that provide an extension of the living environment for residents, the value of walking and the critical role of the open space infrastructure that promotes walking, and access to natural areas where people can escape their homes and connect with the natural features that define their environment.

8 Categories of open space

Open spaces are places where people can access formal and informal recreation opportunities, relax, exercise, play and enjoy the natural and/or urban environment. Open space provides habitat for wildlife, helps to improve air quality, reduce heat island effects and help to mitigate some of the impacts of a changing climate.

Different types of open spaces play different roles in providing a range of opportunities for people to make connections, build the networks that become the essence of community, celebrate culture or to just enjoy being outside. They can be active and busy, highly programmed and curated or flexible and more spontaneously used. Open spaces can also provide respite from a busy world and an opportunity for people to contemplate and relax and escape from the pressures of everyday life.

To identify an approach to open space at Moore Point it is necessary to understand the different forms that open space can come in and which of these forms can effectively contribute to public open space provision.

8.1 Public open space

Public open space is open space which is publicly owned and managed by local, state or federal government and is accessible to the public. This includes parks, sportsfields, trails, paths and streets.

8.1.1 Public open space types

For the Moore Point project, four main types of public open space are considered:

- Passive recreation that includes all forms of parks including pocket parks, local and district parks. Passive also includes linear parks and trails and pathways contained within them
- Activity nodes that are areas for special activities. This includes civic spaces like squares and plazas, outdoor gyms, playgrounds and water play areas

WHAT IS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE?

All places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit or motive. This includes public open space, public facilities, and streets. *NSW Public Space Charter*

Public open space is infrastructure that is essential for communities and creating great places to live. It encompasses parks, natural areas and linkages, waterways and foreshores, informal parklands, sports grounds and courts, playspaces, historical sites, and recreation trails for walking and cycling. *Public Open Space Strategy for NSW*

Open space can be used for purposes such as personal and social recreation, sport and physical activity, active transport corridors, waterway and riparian corridors, biodiversity and fauna conservation, and visual and landscape amenity. *Draft Greener Places Design Guide*

Land that has been reserved for the purpose of recreation and sport, preservation of natural environments, and provision of green space. *Draft Greener Places: an urban green infrastructure design framework*

- Active recreation that are generally sports spaces including sports fields, courts and both indoor and outdoor recreation spaces
- Environmental areas that include natural spaces that have some environmental value and include river revetment, habitat and bank restoration areas.

8.1.2 Passive recreation

Spaces for passive recreation enhance physical and mental health by providing space that enables informal exercise, relaxation, entertainment and social interaction. Park spaces should be accessible to all to play, socialise, exercise, celebrate or participate in other individual or group activities. These spaces can be used for both informal or spontaneous activities as well as organised or more formal events and activities.

Parks include pocket, local and regional scale spaces. They host a wide range of generally informal recreation and leisure activities including walking, exercise, social gatherings like picnics and celebrations, informal games and play. These spaces support a wide range of informal and spontaneous activities for individuals and groups.

8.1.2.1 Linear spaces

From participation data, we know that walking and cycling are the two most popular forms of recreational activities for most people. Given this, linear spaces for walking and cycling that connect together open spaces and other key destinations are key and high demand forms of public open space. When these forms of open space can be combined with river frontage, as is the case at Moore Point, the benefits can be multiplied.

8.1.2.2 Pocket parks

Particularly, in more urban environments, local parks can also include pocket parks which are smaller, more intimate spaces and are designed to meet the needs of adjacent or close by residents. Pocket parks are often viewed as 'outdoor living rooms' where residents of apartments can have access to very local outdoor space. They usually include seating and shade but very little else in terms of structures. They function as an extension of a residence where local people can work

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Open space is the foundation of liveable communities.

Public open space is infrastructure that is essential for communities and creating great places to live. It encompasses parks, natural areas and linkages, waterways and foreshores, informal parklands, sports grounds and courts, playspaces, historical sites, and recreation trails for walking and cycling.

[Open space | Planning
\(nsw.gov.au\)](https://open-space-planning.nsw.gov.au)

with a laptop, read a book, meet a friend or neighbour, or just sit outside.

8.1.3 Activity nodes

Activity nodes are distributed throughout an area to provide community focal points within a broader open space network. They are prominent public spaces and can be popular event or gathering spaces. They can be spaces that experience high levels of visitation by resident, worker and visitor populations. These spaces can include a variety of attractors including water play, half courts, outdoor dining facilities, play equipment, and fitness stations.

8.1.4 Active recreation

Greener Places (2018) defines active recreation space as “neighbourhood-level accessible open space area with elements or facilities to encourage individual or group-based active recreation such as a social sporting activity”.

Examples included in *Greener Places* include:

- District parklands with community tennis courts, bocce courts or outdoor sport courts
- Park with informal field a minimum 60 m x 40 m
- Wide linear open space (such as along a waterway) with beach volleyball courts or multi-courts
- Exercise site and stations along an open space corridor
- Synthetic playing field or court on top of built structures supported by adjacent open space.

Active recreation also includes indoor and outdoor multipurpose courts that can be used for a variety of formal and informal sports activity.

8.1.5 Sports space

Greener Places (2018) defines organised sport and recreation space as “district level access to sporting and organised recreation activities”. Sports spaces are defined by Parks and Leisure Australia as “settings for formal structured sport activities such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. Designed to accommodate the playing surface and infrastructure requirements of specific sports”. (Parks and Leisure Western Australia (2022), *Community Infrastructure Guidelines*).

Examples of sport and recreation space identified in *Greener Places* include:

- Mixed-use areas with open space and built areas that can support built sport and recreation facilities
- Some linear open space wider than 40 metres from the top of the bank able to support outdoor courts
- Linear open space wider than 100 metres running generally north-south to ensure suitable field orientation
- Mixed multiple-use areas with land suitable for built elements (such as an amenities block) and large detention areas able to accommodate sports fields

- Courts – provided there is no rapid inundation and the average AEP is .095 [JM1] [JM2] or 1:10 ARI.

8.1.6 Natural

Natural spaces are primarily ecological or conservation areas that may also provide the opportunity for low-impact recreational activities, such as walking, cycling, picnicking, playing, watching or exploring natural features. They include bushland, wetlands, riparian corridors and other natural areas. Natural areas are managed to enable recreational access while protecting local ecological and biodiversity values.

Natural areas are also key to connection with country and can be important places for cultural recognition and connection.

8.2 Multipurpose spaces

In keeping with leading practice in open space planning, particularly in relation to urban environments, it is also important to consider and actively plan for spaces that may serve multiple purposes and can be used by different groups of people for different purposes at various times of the day.

A common form of this multipurpose space is space that is designed to be used as both sporting space (organised, competition) and general active (informal, social) recreational space. As an example, at Haigh Park there may be areas that are designated as playing fields and are designed to accommodate formal sporting activities (e.g. children's Saturday morning soccer games) but at other times can be used as general passive open space for informal games, kick around areas, picnics, dog walking, general exercise etc. Another example is multipurpose courts that can accommodate a range of activities both formal and informal including basketball, netball, tennis, futsal, volleyball and others.

8.3 Semi-private or communal

Particularly in higher density environments there may be some forms of open space that are privately owned but publicly accessible. This can include forecourts to buildings, buildings plazas, and courtyards. These spaces may provide passive recreational opportunities (places to sit, eat, meet, etc.) for members of the general public but are owned and maintained by the property owner or manager.

8.4 Private open space

Private open space in higher density environments may include individual or privately owned spaces such as private courtyards or balconies. Private open space may also include communal private space such as rooftop gardens that may be shared spaces among building occupants. Although not counted towards public open space provision, the availability of this space is important for residents living in apartments as it does provide access to private open space and can provide a space for social gatherings, celebrations and also quiet outdoor space for reading, contemplation, etc.

9 Comparative studies

Reference to recently completed Place Strategies for similar urban renewal areas in Sydney provides some insight into contemporary approaches to public open space planning in higher density areas.

9.1 Pyrmont Place Strategy

The *Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy* was prepared in 2020 by DPHI and was guided by the NSW Government's *Economic Development Strategy*. It identifies directions, planning responses and infrastructure requirements that will guide investment and development in Pyrmont over the next 20 years.

The *Place Strategy* responds to the City of Sydney *Local Strategic Planning Statement* requirement that 15% of urban renewal areas be public open space. Key features of the *Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy* that are relevant to Moore Point include:

- The provision of 17% of the study area as public open space with 3% of that being sports space
- The emphasis on connections (public transport, walking and cycling) to 'anchor' spaces in, and adjacent to, Pyrmont including Pirrama Park, Wentworth Park and Tumbalong Park
- The requirement that all residents be able to walk to a park of at least 0.1 hectares within 200 metres of where they live
- Recognition of trends in sports field provision that includes:
 - Use of half and non-standard sized fields
 - Planning for sports based on a network of fields and at a city-wide level
 - Increasing capacity of existing fields
 - Ensuring the right configurations including at least double field formats to enable competitive and club-based sport.

Images following of Pirrama Park, Pyrmont by ATX Consulting



9.2 Camellia-Rosehill Place Strategy

The NSW Government *Camellia-Rosehill Place Strategy* 2022 identifies a 20 year vision for this riverside industrial area to guide its transformation into a vibrant entertainment, residential, retail and urban services precinct. The Camellia-Rosehill Precinct will be home to 24,000 people in approximately 10,000 dwellings and will host up to 15,400 jobs. Key features of the Place Strategy of relevance to Moore Point include:

- Of the 320 hectare site (which includes Rosehill Racecourse), 54.5 hectares will be public open space. This equates to 17% of the total site area
- Of the 54.5 hectares of public open space, 24.9 hectares (45.6% of public open space) is parks and 29.6 hectares are natural areas (54.3% of total public open space)
- The Park space includes linear foreshore parks (19.7 hectares in total) and district and local park spaces
- The natural areas include a 9.9 hectare area of wetland
- The plans do include a double sports field on the other side of the racecourse to the town centre but the Place Strategy notes this is on land that may be required by Sydney Metro.

9.3 Victoria Park

While not recently the subject of a State Government Place Strategy process, Victoria Park is a further example of a higher density urban renewal project in Sydney. Like Moore Point, Victoria Park is located on former industrial land. Key features of Victoria Park include:

- Victoria Park has a population of around 8,000 people in approximately 3,000 dwellings
- It also includes 35,000 square metres of commercial / retail space
- Of the 25.2 hectare site 3.7 hectares or 14.7% are public open space
- The site includes outdoor courts but no other formal active recreation
- Victoria Park is adjacent to the recently constructed Gunyama Recreation Centre that includes aquatic facilities, gymnasium/fitness centre and a recently constructed synthetic outdoor playing field.

"Decades after people first moved into Sydney's Victoria Park neighbourhood, it's clear their parklands - while just 15% of the site - have nurtured a community that's going strong".

"the parks - just 15% of the total plan area - were the vital 'glue' for this medium to high density residential development on former industrial land in Zetland".

"There's a park on every second corner and they all are part of the ecosystem here. Each park has a function and they're all available to us" (resident comment).

Hassell Studio, www.hassellstudio.com/conversation/the-15

Common features of comparative study areas

An overall provision of public open space in the range of 15-20% of site area

Provision of active recreation on site is generally quite low (2-5%) but there is a reliance on active recreation (sports fields and recreation centres) located nearby

An emphasis on the importance of district or city-wide provision for active recreation particularly sports fields

An emphasis on quality of provision and providing a diverse range of public open space opportunities

A place-based approach that recognises the unique characteristics of each site to provide an open space network that reinforces the place's qualities and identity

10 Moore Point open space approach

A key lesson from the most successful urban renewal precincts around the world is the fundamental importance of planning that responds to and enhances the unique qualities of the site. The *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* developed by Turf Design for Moore Point has heavily drawn on the site's setting and its key natural and constructed features. The *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* has been based on an understanding of:

- Connecting with Country and the work completed for this project by Yerrabingin including the development of a bio-cultural matrix that marries cultural significance, landscape features and meaning
- European history and the transformation of the site from agricultural to sand mining and then to industrial use
- The site's heritage including the existing industrial buildings, the Lennox Weir and the rail pylons in the river
- Flooding and river bank stability including a number of bank restoration typologies
- Biodiversity including supporting habitat and marine life
- The future of the site including its development form, relationship to the CBD and other destinations, the likely population profile of future residents and the implication of this on open space provision.

As has been documented, the vision of the site's future is for Moore Point to be a high density, mixed use urban renewal area that will transform former industrial land into a quality residential, commercial and entertainment riverfront precinct. The site has the potential to have a transformative impact on the Liverpool CBD and provide unique housing, retail, food, cultural and recreational opportunities for not only its residents but for CBD workers and visitors and the wider Liverpool community. It will be a unique location in Western Sydney and has the potential to become a key attractor and hub of activity in this highly strategic, riverfront location.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

When we asked people what open space experiences they would like to see, they requested more opportunities for swimming, more large open spaces, better connected networks of open space, more high quality and multipurpose open spaces, and certainty that public open spaces will be protected into the future. To deliver on these identified community needs and preferences, a coordinated approach to planning for public open space is needed across government.

[Public Open Space Strategy for NSW](#)

As the comparison of demographic profiles of urban precincts with Liverpool LGA shows, the Moore Point community is likely to be different and have its own unique requirements for open space. Planning for open space needs to respond to both site and community-needs as much as possible. Forecasting the precise composition of a community decades in advance is challenging; there is a need to gather the strongest possible evidence base but to also ensure that public space has the capacity to be flexible and adaptable. A different approach is necessary as it is clear that planning for Moore Point in the same way as we would plan for new estate or greenfield development is clearly inadequate.

The policy context, both State and Local Government, provides us with a strong framework to plan within. There is a clear focus in the policy documents on the critical role of open space in urban environments and the need to plan for public open space that is flexible, multipurpose, diverse, and enables safe use by multiple groups at different times of the day. Like planning any form of infrastructure, open space planning in urban environments needs to consider how to get the maximum possible community benefit in a way that is space-efficient, affordable and practical.

It is clear that every urban precinct, particularly high density urban renewal areas, can not necessarily provide every form of open space on site. This is reinforced by the experience of the City of Sydney in their urban renewal areas and is shown in recent NSW Government planning initiatives like Pyrmont and Camellia-Rosehill. It is also the case that some forms of public open space, with sports fields being a good example, are best planned on a city and district wide basis rather than on a site by site or precinct basis. This is because they require larger land areas and come with specific requirements such as the amount and configuration of playing spaces that are required to support sporting club operations and the capacity to accommodate large influxes of traffic at peak times.

Figure 16: Active riverfront (artist impression)



SJB Architects, Urban Design Study, 2022

10.1 General approach

The general approach to the planning and provision of public open space for Moore Point is based on the following key elements.

Site specific	Recognise that Moore Point will be a highly urban precinct that will effectively form part of, and be linked to, the Liverpool CBD
	Activate and revitalise the Georges River providing a unique riverfront experience to residents, workers and visitors
	Link key destinations that are currently inaccessible. These include Lake Moore, Haigh Park, Bill Morrison Park, Lighthorse Park, Bigge Park, Liverpool Railway Station, the CBD, the Innovation Precinct
Respond to community needs	Respond to the likely population profile of future residents and cater specifically for the range of recreational activities they are most likely to participate in
	Reflect well-established trends in recreation and leisure activities to ensure the spaces provided will generate maximum community benefit
	Act as a catalyst for the transformation of Haigh Park into a high quality public open space
Take both a qualitative and quantitative approach	Provide a quantum of public open space that are equal to, or in excess, of the site area proportions provided in other comparable urban renewal areas
	Address performance criteria to ensure that not only the appropriate quantity is provided but that space is of high quality, diverse and flexible
Provide for diverse open space types	Incorporate a wide variety of public open spaces to cater for a diverse population whose needs may change and evolve over time
	Create spaces that can be used flexibly to ensure that spaces can adapt to suit a variety of needs and requirements
	Include both active, vibrant spaces and quiet, contemplative spaces to provide people with options for how they interact with open space and with each other
Active recreation	Provide a range of active recreation opportunities on site including an indoor recreation centre, outdoor courts, and quality outdoor gym equipment
	Provide additional active recreation facilities within Haigh Park including multipurpose outdoor courts, embellished areas for outdoor sports including children's football/soccer
	Contribute to the off-site provision of sporting fields in an appropriate location given both the size and traffic requirements of district sporting fields

What this approach translates to in a physical form is shown in the next chapter on the Turf Design *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy*.

10.1.1 Staging approach

It is also important to note that the development of Moore Point will occur in a staged way over a 30-40 year timeframe. The *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* will also show how public open space is provided in each of these stages. Importantly there is a strong emphasis on early provision and a 'front loading' of the public open space at Moore Point.

The first stage of Moore Point includes provision of approximately 73% of the total public open space for the site. This equates to approximately 12% of the total site area.

10.1.2 Requirements for sports fields

The demographic profile of the projected community at Moore Point has shown that the future community is likely to have lower proportions of those age groups most likely to participate in organised sports. The current participation rates, which have been consistent for some time, suggest that participation in organised sports peaks between 5-17 years old and declines significantly from 18 years and older.

Although these age groups are projected to be less prominent in Moore Point, compared to greenfield growth areas, the proposed scale of the Moore Point development does mean that there will still be demand for active recreation including for organised sports.

10.1.2.1 Sports field provision

Planning for sports fields is best done at a city-wide or district level. This enables larger catchments to be considered to support sporting precincts where multiple fields and other uses such as courts can be co-located. This district level planning enables some degree of concentration of fields which is required by sporting clubs to be viable. The provision of multiple smaller fields distributed throughout a Local Government Area is not desirable as this is difficult for sports clubs to service with equipment, volunteers and requires families to potentially make multiple trips to accommodate games at various grounds.

In terms of sports field configuration, *Greener Places* (both the 2018 *draft Guide* and the 2020 *draft Discussion Guide*) both state that the:

Minimum recommended format for any field sport site is 4 hectares which allows for a multi-field unit (two rectangular fields with an oval overlaid) or fields and outdoor courts plus ancillary space.

This is consistent with the Parks and Leisure Australia ([PLAWA Guidelines for Community Infrastructure 2020](#)) recommendations which also suggest double field provision and a minimum space of 3.5 hectares. *Greener Places* also states that "sporting facilities tend to mostly operate at district level". This means that they are planned to accommodate the demand from catchments of several neighbourhoods and people are prepared to drive or travel a reasonable distance to access them. Unlike other more informal forms of recreation, it is a reasonable expectation that people travel for organised sports activities. The nature of home and away competitions necessitates some element of travel beyond the local neighbourhood to participate in formal competition sports. *Greener Places* describes "district access" as 20 to 30 minutes travel.

District level sporting facilities also allow impacts like traffic and parking to be more appropriately designed for and managed. Sports fields can be significant traffic generators at peak times. Even smaller sports spaces (one or two fields) can create significant traffic

demand especially when smaller sided football or the equivalent is being played. These games for younger children enable four or more games to be played simultaneously on single standard playing field and create significant traffic demand with often multiple family members in attendance as spectators.

As an urban precinct, and what will essentially form a part of the Liverpool CBD, Moore Point is not an appropriate location for sportsfields as:

- To be viable as a sports space an area of at least 3.5 – 4 hectares would be required. The preferred sports hub or precinct model requires the co-location of multiple fields, change rooms, toilets, club rooms, storage etc. These facilities support the viability of local sports clubs and make maintenance by Council easier, compared to multiple separate fields
- A large land area allocated as a sportsfield would dilute the urban intensity of Moore Point and detract from its function as an urban CBD precinct
- As Moore Point is effectively a peninsula the traffic generated at busy times from a sporting field complex would be problematic at peak playing times and during popular training periods
- Active recreation needs can be addressed through a combination of indoor recreation provision (a more appropriate form for an urban precinct) and off-site contribution for appropriately located and co-located playing fields
- Off-site contribution, including in some form possibly at Haigh Park, should be considered as a better option for the provision of playing fields. This has the additional potential benefit of assisting with reinvigorating Haigh Park as a wider community asset and a versatile, multipurpose passive and active recreation space (it is noted that traffic access issues for major sporting fields at Haigh Park would likely be problematic).

10.1.2.2 Enhancements to Haigh Park

Because of both its proximity and its current lack of amenity and utilisation, a possible solution to off-site active recreation space for Moore Point would be enhancements to Haigh Park. It is important to note that open space planning for Moore Point does not rely on Haigh Park to meet its open space and recreational needs but where off-site contribution is required, Haigh Park may be a sensible location. Analysis by Turf Design shows that there is the physical space at Haigh Park for the provision of a multipurpose recreation space that could accommodate a wide range of formal and informal recreation activities.

The following images illustrate the possible potential uses at an enhanced Haigh Park and demonstrate a wide range of possible recreational uses including a variety of both active and passive recreational activities.

Figure 17: Haigh Park possible recreational uses







Due to the limitations of the Haigh Park site with access, traffic etc., the park would continue to be viewed as a district primarily passive recreation destination. With proposed embellishments, however, it could include a large central open field that could accommodate low level sporting activities such as children's small sided soccer with temporary field markings and goals. As has been stated, the Moore Point population is likely to have larger proportions of younger children than teenagers. Younger children's formal sports can be accommodated in small-sided fields with pack up goals and without formal field markings.

Haigh Park could also be enhanced to include additional active recreation opportunities. These include multipurpose outdoor courts (for informal pick up and play games), an outdoor fitness circuit, a centralised outdoor gym node and launching facilities for small watercraft including kayaks and stand-up paddle boards. All of these amenities would add to the vibrancy and use of Haigh Park adding to the natural surveillance and safety of the park. To support these embellishments, a further addition would be a pavilion type amenity building that could incorporate a café and community meeting space to support community usage and create more of an active gathering place.

Consistent with the performance criteria and best practice open space planning, it would be desirable for any enhancements at Haigh Park that enable field sports and other forms of active recreation to also enable multiple uses including passive recreation and informal play. A configuration and embellishment of Haigh Park that enables both formal sports but also allows the space to be used for informal games, picnics, community events, outdoor concerts and festivals would create a space that could be used by a variety of community members for a wide variety of purposes.

Council may determine that off-site contributions for active recreation may be best utilised elsewhere but there is currently no strategic, LGA-wide assessment of active recreation needs. Existing sports precincts include:

- Woodward Park
- Carnes Hill
- Kelso Park.

Woodward Park has at least one field (Bulldog Park) that is currently not fit for sport but could be embellished to increase sporting space supply.

Council also has extensive plans for the enhancement of the Hammondville Recreation Precinct.

Figure 18: Public space network – showing dedicated sports fields



Figure 18, prepared by Turf Design, shows the public space network within 200m, 400m and 2km of the Moore Point site. The figure shows the existing distribution of sports fields and hubs in the area including within two kilometres of the site.

Turf Design, Public Domain and Landscape Strategy

10.1.2.3 Indoor recreation

Particularly in urban areas, and with consideration of climate change impacts and lifestyle changes including more flexible and non-standard work hours, indoor recreation is an important form of provision to cater for both formal and informal active recreation. These spaces provide climate-controlled and potentially around the clock accessible, recreation space that can cater for a diverse range of formal and informal sporting and other recreational activities.

Moore Point will include a two-court indoor recreation facility of approximately 3,000 square metres. This sizing is consistent with *Greener Places*, the Parks and Leisure guidelines ([PLAWA Guidelines for Community Infrastructure 2020 \(parksleisure.com.au\)](https://parksleisure.com.au)) and a well-recognised industry requirement that single court provision is generally inadequate to support most forms of competition sports (a two court minimum is required).

Figure 19: Flexible indoor recreation space (Palo Verde Library and Community Recreation Centre) top and Denison Centre, Mawson Lakes (bottom)



Photo: ATX Consulting



Photo: Steve Rendoulis and Russell and Yelland

10.1.2.4 Water-based recreation opportunities

A key principle in the planning of open space and recreation for Moore Point is recognition of and response to the unique qualities of the Moore Point site. The key defining feature of Moore Point is the river and the myriad of benefits it provides. The riverfront park is a defining feature of the planned open space network for Moore Point, providing a mix of active and passive, organised and unstructured recreation opportunities.

One element of this is the opportunity to enhance water-based recreation activities along this section of the Georges River. While basic opportunities exist at Haigh Park there is an opportunity to incorporate a more contemporary facility for water-based recreation along the Moore Point riverfront park. Providing additional opportunities for water-based recreation aligns with the *Greener Places* emphasis on the provision of diverse open space and recreation opportunities.

The 2019 *Greater Sydney Outdoors Study*

(<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/greater-sydney-outdoors-study.pdf>) conducted by DPHI that found:

- Sydneysiders consider access to the water as very important. Water is viewed as core part of the Greater Sydney lifestyle
- About half of the Sydneysiders enjoyed outdoor recreation involving water at least once a week with feasibility and travel being the biggest barriers
- Access to water based recreation is limited in Western Sydney with the average travel time to water based recreation being 50 minutes
- Residents in Western Sydney identified the need for more water-based recreation activities in the local area
- Sydneysiders would like to see more opportunities for water-based activity less than 30 minutes from their home
- There is increasing demand for access points to water for activities such as kayaking and paddleboarding.

To utilise the riverfront location, the plans for Moore Point include docking and launch facilities for non-motorised watercraft including kayaks and paddleboards. A number of these facilities have been created by councils along the Cooks River, Parramatta River and parts of Sydney Harbour. It is recognised that, particularly in higher density areas, kayak and paddleboard storage, are also required to support docking and launch facilities.

10.2 Performance criteria

Greener Places (2020 draft) states that planning for public open space is moving towards a more performance-based approach. This approach seeks to encourage a more innovative, rather than formulaic or mathematical approach to planning for public open space. It is an approach that balances both the quantity of provision with the performance of the space, focusses more on addressing community needs, emphasises the quality of provision and seeks outcomes that create strong community benefits as well as the efficient use of land.

Moore Point is providing a large proportion of the site area as public open space. This is far in exceedance of the accepted levels of 15-17% of total site area for urban renewal areas. In addition to this quantity, the public open space proposed will address the performance criteria shown in the following figure. These criteria are based on work undertaken by both Liverpool Council and NSW Government including:

- Liverpool City Council, *Recreation, Open Space and Sports Strategy 2018-2028*
- NSW Government *Guide to Activation 2022*
- NSW *Public Space Charter 2021*
- NSW *Great Open Spaces Guide 2021*
- Draft *Greener Places Discussion Guide 2020*.

Critical to the performance criteria and a best practice approach to open space at Moore Point is how public open space is planned to respond to and complement the unique characteristics and potential of the site. If there is a primary issue to guide the planning of the open space network it is to be context-specific and responsive. This means that open space at Moore Point should be based around and complement the site's unique riverfront location and its proximity to the CBD. Public open space at Moore Point should create a special experience and a precinct with a strong sense of place for both residents and visitors.

The Georges River is such a foundational element of the history of Liverpool. In its current form it is neglected and as such is under-valued by the community. Currently, in this area of Liverpool the river is largely inaccessible and its banks are eroded and of poor quality. The approach to public open space at Moore Point is an opportunity to bring life back to the river and to reacquaint the community with this formative element of their landscape and of their city.

To do this successfully, the following performance criteria are critical guiding points and evaluation markers for the future public open space network at Moore Point, and the capacity of this network to link and connect with key sites and destinations beyond Moore Point.

Figure 20: Moore Point Open Space Performance Criteria

MOORE POINT OPEN SPACE

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

PLACE BASED AND CONTEXTUAL

Understand role of place/precinct in city
Respond to likely community needs – demographic composition, participation trends
Reflect and respond to the place – integrate natural features, respond to character/form.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL, FLEXIBLE, ADAPTABLE

Used by different groups for different purposes
Every space can cater for multiple activities
Open space designed to be used flexibly and adapt over time.

QUANTITY

Purely quantitative or mathematical approaches should not be used exclusively
An appropriate amount of open space should be provided in line with qualitative performance criteria

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Every resident and worker within walking distance of quality open space
Every resident within 200m, every worker within 400m
District space (including larger parks and sports precincts) within 2km.

QUALITY

Quality of materials and design
Landscape setting, vegetation and sun/shade
Ownership and maintenance
Topography, water movement, flooding
Facilities and programming
Ecology and biodiversity
Sustainability

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Open space planned to address natural surveillance, sight lines, lighting and other safety by design considerations
Planning responds to needs for activation and surveillance during day and night time

CONNECTIVITY

Open spaces connect to broader networks – pedestrian and cycle routes.
Connect to key destinations – employment areas, shopping, district community infrastructure
Connect people to nature, connect people to each other

DIVERSITY

Open space provides diverse leisure and recreational opportunities – passive/active/natural, destinational/linear, informal/formal, organised/self-organised, indoor/outdoor
A wide variety of open space typologies are provided

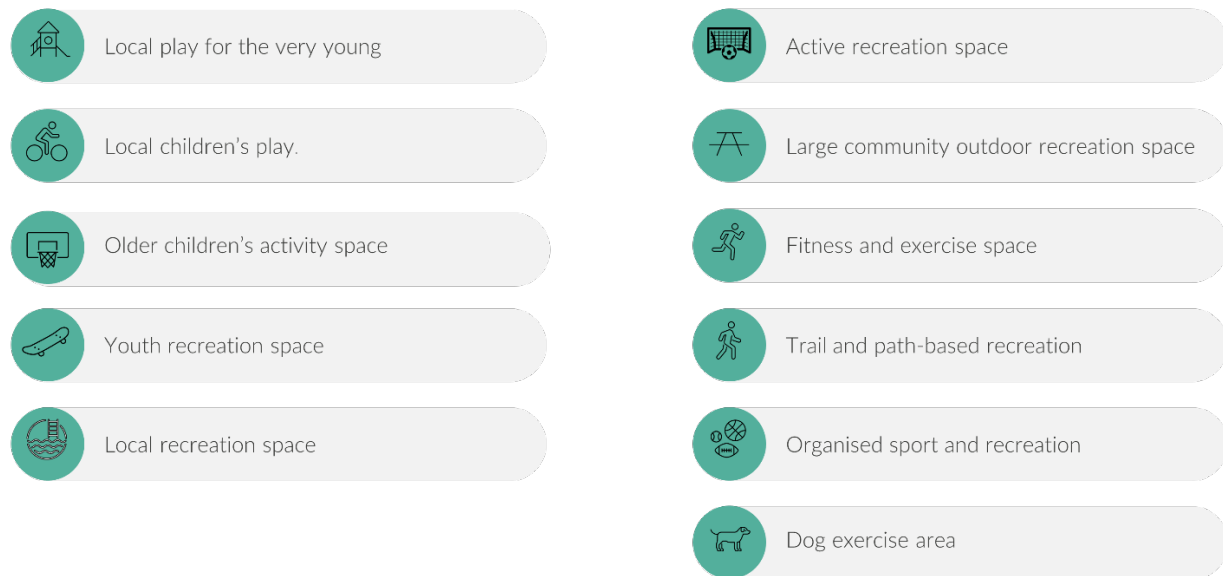
CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Open space planning responds to the impacts of climate change including heat and more extreme weather events
Access to shade may become as important as access to sun
The range of spaces provided should include all weather and indoor spaces where possible

10.3 Open space typologies

Diversity is a key element of the performance criteria. As was shown in Section 4.4 in this report there is an important emphasis in the planning of open space in Moore Point on the provision of a wide range of open space types.

Figure 21: Recreational typologies – Greener Places (2018)



The *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* prepared by Turf Design, and summarised in the next section, demonstrates how a variety of open spaces will be provided at Moore Point ensuring both flexibility and adaptability of the open space network over time.

A key objective for the Structure Plan has been to provide a walkable precinct. This is obviously represented through the riverfront park but is also enabled by a highly connected pedestrian network throughout the precinct where the streets themselves form a critical element of the public space network.

The *NSW Guide to Walkable Public Space* (2022) writes of the social benefits of walking

The Department's Greater Sydney Recreation Report found that people use recreation for physical and mental health benefits and to also connect with other members of their community. Walkable public spaces enhance a sense of community and belonging. They encourage and facilitate social connections through opportunities to meet, interact, and engage with our neighbourhoods and local centres. They allow for a range of experiences that connect us to our family, friends and neighbours, as well as diverse communities and other cultures. Walking allows us to participate in daily life through access to social infrastructure, services, shops, transport and employment.

11 Moore Point Public Domain and Landscape Strategy

This Open Space Needs Assessment report is an input into the *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy*. This needs assessment report has examined the likely demand for public open space and has examined what is considered to be best practice provision. The *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy*, prepared by Turf Design, has taken the findings of this needs assessment, and with consideration of the physical site context, has translated these needs into a landscape plan to create a coherent, needs-based and site-specific approach to public open space provision at Moore Point.

A key component of the Planning Proposal is the consideration of a wide variety of open space areas and typologies based on government policy and benchmarking. The *Open Space Plan* prepared by SJB establishes identifies open space areas within the *Structure Plan* capable of being used for public use. The *Moore Point Structure Plan* delivers 34.5% of the site as publicly accessible open space.

When considering the nuances of numerical criteria and open space function set out in policy (*NSW Public Spaces Charter, Draft NSW Greener Places Design Guide and NSW Movement and Place Framework*), the *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* prepared by Turf rationalises the 34.5% open space area and shows 32.1% of the site are as open space (parks) in accordance with policy frameworks. The 2.4% difference is attributed to the breakdown and characterisation of these spaces more accurately defined as urban places, plazas and squares (as per the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*), which still function as a form of open space. Based on the analysis from Turf, streets, urban places, plazas and squares account for 19.84% of the site area. These urban places, plazas and squares have a civic character, with a relationship to key retail and commercial frontages. These public spaces are place focused and can adapt to facilitate various pedestrian movement and activity. With consideration to built form, street interfaces and spatial constraints, these urban places, plazas and squares have potential to transform into high quality, fine grain open spaces, despite not meeting policy guidelines.

This results in 51.64% of the site area as public space (32.1% as parks and 19.84% as streets and urban places, plazas and squares). Based on the application of either a planning or policy lens, there is no net gain or loss of total public space. It is evident the total public space provision of Moore Point is a significant offering well above the benchmarks for urban renewal precincts.

11.1 Public Domain and Landscape Strategy key images

The plans on the following pages from the *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* show:

- Figure 22 – the amount of public open space (parks) provided which is equivalent to 32.1% of the total site area
- Figure 23 – the Public Domain and Landscape Strategy for the Structure Plan showing integrated approach to public open space and the distribution of that space throughout the site
- Figure 24 – the diverse network of public space that includes a wide variety of typologies. This diversity of provision is consistent with leading practice and directly responds to the performance criteria and the typologies recommended in *Greener Places*.

The plans also highlight the extensive riverfront park and how it is interspersed with a range of activity nodes that are based around local play, active recreation, water play, fitness and exercise, ampitheatre and event space all linked by a dedicated cycleway and continuous and accessible pedestrian path.

Figure 22: Open space (parks)

This figure from the Turf Design *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* shows that the total public open space provision in the form of parks is 10.1 hectares or 32.1% of the total site area. It is noted that the previous analysis of similar higher density urban renewal precincts showed a total public open space provision of between 15-17% of total site area.

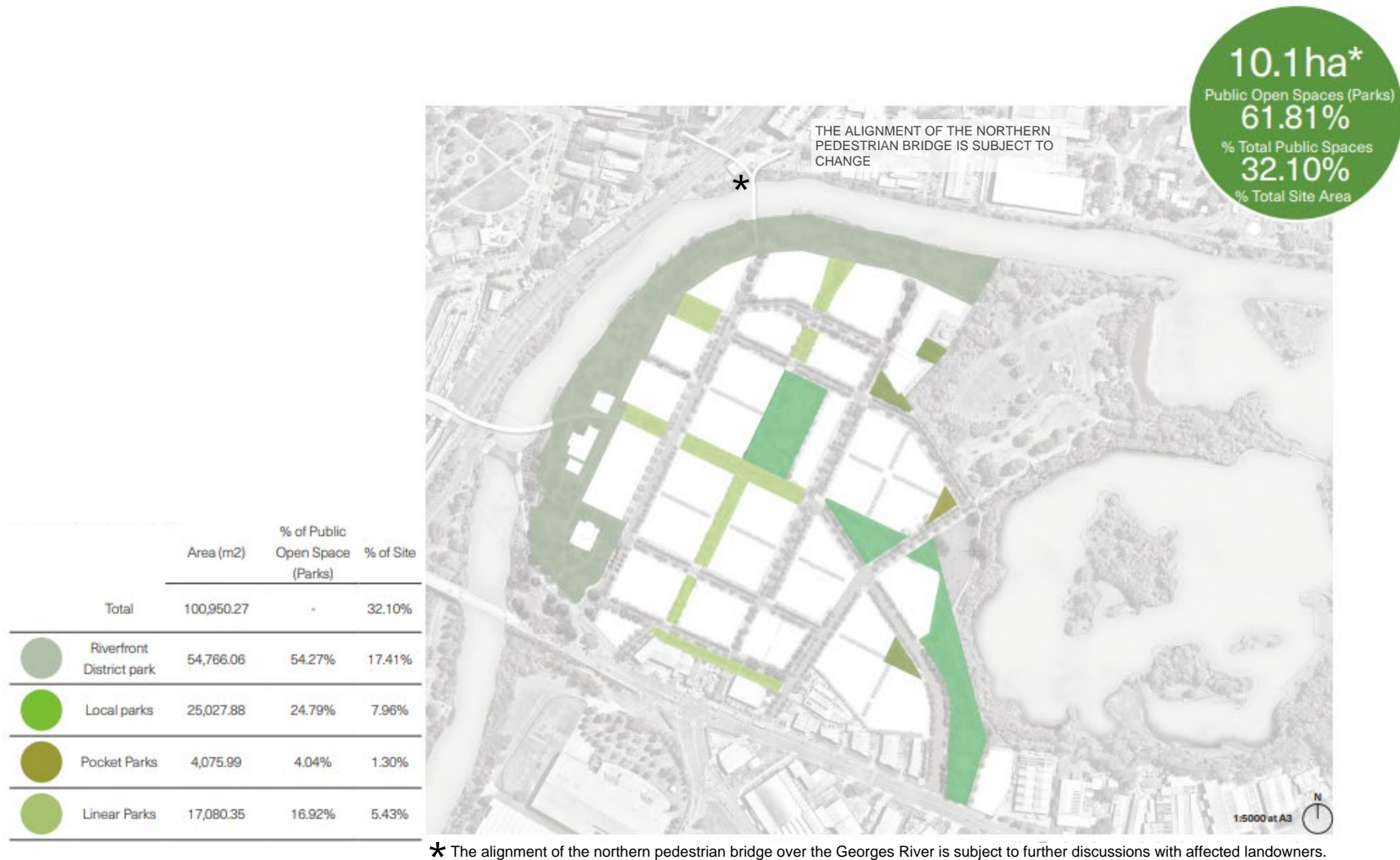
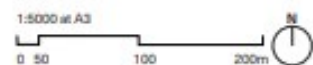


Figure 23: Public Domain and Landscape Strategy for Structure Plan (Turf Design)











- Key:
1. Passive Recreation
 2. Pocket Park
 3. Market Hall
 4. Outdoor Amphitheatre and Gathering Space
 5. Linear Park
 6. School
 7. Local Park
 8. Active Recreation
 9. Dedicated Cycleway
 10. Water Play
 11. Fitness and Exercise
 12. Public Plaza
 13. Local Play
- Heritage Curtilage
 - Coastal Wetland Protection Zone
 - Inner VRZ Line
 - Outer VRZ Line
 - Site Boundary



★ The alignment of the northern pedestrian bridge over the Georges River is subject to further discussions with affected landowners.

Figure 24: Recreation types (Turf Design)

Within the open space network, a diverse range of small to large scale recreation is provided. These have been aligned with the recommended typologies within the Draft Greener Places Design Guide

	Area (m2)	% of Public Open Space (Parks)	% of Site
Total	35,005.465	34.68%	11.13%
 Local Play (LPY, LPC, OCA)	3,436.65	3.40%	1.09%
 Water Play (LPY, LPC, OCA)	2,064.35	2.04%	0.66%
 Active Recreation (ASR, YRS)	655.88	0.65%	0.21%
 Gathering Ground, Public plaza	7,432.81	7.36%	2.36%
 Outdoor Amphitheatre	8,415.48	8.34%	2.68%
 Fitness and Exercise Space (FES)	12,57.91	1.25%	0.40%
 City Walk (TPR)	1,392.59	1.38%	0.44%
 Foreshore Promenade (TPR)	6,820.03	6.76%	2.17%
 Cultural Walk (TPR)	3,529.75	3.50%	1.12%
 Opportunity for community facilities such as indoor sport and recreation, aligning with recommendations for 'Organised sport and recreation (OSR)' within Draft Greener Places Design Guide.			



* The alignment of the northern pedestrian bridge over the Georges River is subject to further discussions with affected landowners.

12 Public facilities

While not strictly in response to the Gateway requirements, this assessment also considers public facilities in the form of community and cultural spaces and, particularly, how these spaces form part of, interact with and potentially enhance public open space.

The NSW *Public Spaces Charter* 2021 includes public facilities as one of the three elements of public space. The Charter describes public facilities as “public libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities”.

The *Community Benefits Analysis* prepared for the Joint Landowner Group in 2020 identified the following community infrastructure requirements:

- A new district level multipurpose community hub (including cultural/performance space) of approximately 2,000 square metres
- A new local level community facility (connected to a park and used for birthday parties, gatherings, etc.) of approximately 400 square metres
- Library space of 1,365 square metres (required by 2051) that could be in the form of contributions to either Moorebank Library and Community Centre or the Liverpool CBD Library
- A public primary school on site which would include an Out of School Hours Care facility and the potential to share courts, play space, library and other community space.

The more recent planning for Moore Point, that has occurred since 2020, has been exploring the opportunity of providing the district level community and cultural space in the heritage precinct through the adaptive reuse of one of the heritage buildings.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

There was stronger evidence for the provision of public facilities in high-density areas, playing a role in the social health of residents. Francis, Giles-Corti, Wood and Knuiman (2012) found public open space, shops, community centres and schools, were cited as the most common places for social interaction. High quality public facilities were important for enhancing sense of community, regardless of whether they were frequently used or not. The quality of public facilities also had a more important association with sense of community, than public space number and size (Francis et al., 2012).

Hall, C. and Andrews, F., 2019. Designing high-density neighbourhoods to promote social health in Australia. *Journal of Social Inclusion*, 10(2), pp.18-40. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.36251/josi.147>

12.1 Creative vision for Moore Point

In April 2023, Leamac Property Group organised a Creative Vision Workshop for Moore Point. The purpose of the workshop was to begin to craft a creative vision for Moore Point and to understand opportunities for how Liverpool's unique creative character could bring vibrancy to Moore Point. The workshop was attended by a range of stakeholders including Liverpool City Council, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney Dance Company, NIDA, the National Arts School, 107 Projects, Committee for Sydney, Schools Infrastructure, a number of universities, artists and advisors.

The conversation at the workshop was comprehensive and wide-ranging. Some of the discussion that has direct implications for the possible creation of community and cultural space at Moore Point is summarised as:

- Creative and cultural spaces for learning and making are likely to be just as important as spaces for exhibition and presentation
- Both the preparation and presentation of creative work in Liverpool is different in that it is likely artists want to engage with the community and 'make art with the community' rather than 'for the community'
- Any form of cultural infrastructure may well need to look and be quite different in Liverpool than it is in other parts of the city. Spaces in Liverpool are likely to need to cater for different modes of engagement between audience and presenters/performers/artists and support large groups for cultural and creative events
- There is currently a lack of creative space for individuals and groups to "make, rehearse, learn and present in Liverpool"
- There are interesting opportunities with Schools Infrastructure to explore shared spaces and resources for education and culture
- Focussing on the creation of a creative and cultural ecosystem rather than just an isolated and potentially competing venue
- Providing flexible and multi-use space that enable a diversity of practices and audiences to use creative infrastructure
- Creating spaces that have the capacity to evolve that may include some testing and prototyping that encourages innovation and maturation as the Moore Point project progresses and the Liverpool community continues to grow and change
- The capacity to evolve may mean creating flexible and adaptable space that can host a variety of temporary or meanwhile uses as well as forms of creative incubation space.

12.2 Community and cultural space

Community centres are multipurpose, accessible and inclusive community meeting and activity spaces that support and host a wide range of community events, activities and program. They can be used for regular hired events or one-off special events and celebrations. Community centres provide space for a variety of social, cultural, creative, educational and recreational activities as well as for the delivery of health or social services.

Community centres help to build strong and resilient communities through the provision of space for activities that enhance social connectedness, reduce loneliness, increase physical activity and participation in community life. These activities that occur in community centres are wide and varied and are based on the needs and interests of the local community. These activities include cultural events, performances, group activities, education and training, social support, community meetings, health and wellbeing activities and private functions.

Community centres can be of added value in higher density areas where people have less space in their homes for group activities and celebrations.

12.2.1 Community and cultural centre

While there is no standard rate of provision for community facility space, a provision rate of 80 square metres per 1,000 people is commonly used. This standard is used by a number of councils in Greater Sydney including Wollongong, Parramatta, and Northern Beaches. This standard has also been used in urban renewal precincts including the Pyrmont Place Strategy, Blackwattle Bay and Green Square.

Based on an ultimate projected population of 21,484 people and application of the 80 square metre per 1,000 people standard, it is estimated that the Moore Point development would create demand for approximately 1,720 square metres.

The Structure Plan for Moore Point allows for 2,400 square metres of community and cultural space, exceeding the required amount recommended by the standards. It is proposed that this space be provided in two facilities.

The primary facility is proposed as a 2,000 square metre community and cultural space that would be a multipurpose space accommodating a range of creative and cultural uses as well as general community meeting and activity space. The current plans are for this space to be incorporated into the heritage precinct. The precise configuration, function and location of this space will be the subject of ongoing discussion with Council and other local stakeholders. The creative vision described in the previous section will form a starting point for preparing a more detailed functional brief for this facility.

The Structure Plan also includes an additional 400 square metre local community facility that will be a more local community meeting and activity space. Ideally this would be co-located with, or connected to, a public open space like a park. This facility would provide multipurpose space for a variety of community activities like yoga classes, playgroup, community meetings, small cultural events, community education classes and other community activities.

12.2.2 Activation or meanwhile spaces

There is also the potential to temporarily utilise some of the ground floor retail spaces as community and cultural spaces. This has been done in a number of higher density precincts like Honeysuckle at Newcastle and the Carlton United Brewery site in Sydney.

Gattupalli, A. (2023, (<https://www.archdaily.com/997447/meanwhile-spaces-temporary-interventions-for-lasting-urban-development>) notes that 'meanwhile space' refers to unused sites and spaces that are leased or loaned for a certain period of time by developers or landowners to local community groups, art organisations, start-ups, and charities. These sites may be vacant or under-used shops, buildings, open spaces, or land. Temporary contracts allow community groups, small businesses, or individuals to pursue community or economic activity at below-market rates to generate social value for the neighbourhood, its residents, workers and visitors.

The intent behind meanwhile spaces is to activate space, encourage innovation and creativity and contribute to the local sense of place and community. Spaces can be used for a variety of community, cultural, creative or commercial purposes and can include exhibition spaces, meeting space, training spaces and pop up shops for start up businesses and local entrepreneurs.

Dodd (2022, <https://assemblepapers.com.au/2022/05/25/making-cities-better-with-vacant-spaces-and-meanwhile-use/>) writes:

Meanwhile uses do have the potential to accommodate more agile master-planning and be more flexible in delivering amenities which benefit communities along the way, rather than blighting urban blocks with hoardings for years on end.

While not relying on these spaces for the ultimate delivery of community or cultural space, the meanwhile use of under-utilised space for short term community projects may be an additional tool in a suite of initiatives to help build a strong and vibrant community and culture at Moore Point.

12.2.3 Shared school space

As will be noted in the following section school planning, the inclusion of a public primary school in the Moore Point Master Plan will provide additional opportunities for the shared community use of various school spaces. While this shared provision is not relied upon to meet community facility demand, it may provide an additional source of provision of community space for the future Moore Point community.

12.2.4 Indoor recreation centre

The plans for Moore Point do include a 3,000 square metre indoor recreation facility. While primarily a recreation facility, there is also potential for that space to be used for a wide range of other forms of community and cultural events.

There is also an opportunity to expand our understanding of what recreation is and how this may evolve over the next 20-30 years. As an example, the Lights Community and Recreation Centre in Adelaide has begun to regularly host video games competitions where skilled gamers are invited to participate in contests over a weekend.

12.2.5 Library

Using the Public Library Standards of New South Wales it is estimated that the Moore Point ultimate population of 21,484 people would generate demand for approximately 1,000 square metres of public library space. How this space is provided will be discussed with Council. Council has recently invested in the new Central Library in the Liverpool CBD and it is thought unlikely that another library at Moore Point would be required.

The following section on schools also identifies the shared community use of a school library being a possibility.

12.3 Schools planning

Schools are well recognised as community focal points and can become key community activity generators in new communities. Demand for social infrastructure is heavily influenced by both overall population numbers and, for some forms of social infrastructure, the age profile and characteristics of that population. Demand for schools is obviously strongly influenced by age profile.

There are two key variables that factor into future school demand. Firstly, the numbers of school aged children likely to be generated from a development. Secondly, the relative split of those children between public and non-government schools.

12.4 Age profile of higher density urban renewal areas

Moore Point will be a high density urban renewal area and can be assumed to share some of the characteristics of other recently developed higher density precincts. It is possible to make assumptions about the likely age profile of Moore Point by examining the composition of similar comparative areas in Sydney. Age profile is influenced by both dwelling type and size. The *SJB Moore Point Urban Design Report (2024)* includes the following breakdown of unit sizes:

- Studio - 20%
- One bedroom - 30%
- Two bedroom - 40%
- Three bedroom and larger - 10%.

The demographic information presented in this report in Section 6.2. showed that both primary school aged children (5-11 year olds) at 3.5% of total population and secondary school aged children (12-17 year olds) at 1.6% of total population, are relatively small age groups within higher density areas. Both of these age groups are significantly below the Greater Sydney average at 8.8% and 7.1% respectively.

The analysis also showed that looking back at higher density areas over the last three Census periods to 2011, there was no clear indication of an increasing trend of school aged residents living in higher density areas over the 2011 to 2021 period. It is possible that this trend may change so assumptions have been built into the following scenarios to allow for increasing numbers of school aged children living in Moore Point.

12.4.1 Proportion of Primary School Students who attend Government schools

A key focus for Moore Point is the provision of sites for public schools. It is important to consider the proportion of all primary school aged children who attend Government schools (as opposed to non-Government schools including the Catholic Education system). In planning for school sites, the total number of potential primary school students is one component of the demand; another is the number of those students who are likely to attend Government schools and therefore will create direct public school demand.

The Census provides figures on Government, Catholic and other non-Government school attendance. The Census also enables us to look at trends over time using the time series

profiles over the last three Census periods (2011, 2016 and 2021). The table below shows these figures for the Liverpool LGA.

Table 8: Liverpool LGA Government, Catholic and Non-Government Primary School Attendance 2011-2021

Year	Government School Students	Catholic School Students	Other Non-Government School Students	Total Primary School Students	% Attending Government Primary School
2011	10877	3740	2421	17038	63.8
2016	12386	4116	2812	19314	64.1
2021	13613	5211	3529	22353	60.9

The table shows that for the Liverpool LGA Government primary school participation has ranged from 64.1% to 60.9% over the ten years from 2011 to 2021. The figure rose slightly from 2011 to 2016 but dropped again from 2016 to 2021.

In comparing these trends to figures for the Greater Sydney area, the Census time series data shows a lower proportion of participation in Government schools in Liverpool LGA compared to Greater Sydney where figures over the period range from 66.4% to 68.2%.

12.4.2 Application to Moore Point Projected Population – testing scenarios

It is acknowledged that forecasting future student numbers requires consideration of a number of assumptions. Given this, the following scenarios are presented which vary these assumptions to provide a range of scenarios (all with explicit assumptions) that can be considered in future planning.

Two key sets of data are used in the following scenarios to assist in estimating the potential number of public primary school students generated from the Moore Point development:

- The proportion of the projected population that will be primary school aged. This is based on consideration of age profiles of the similar high density precincts shown in Section 6.2. The scenarios adjust these primary school aged children percentages in various ways to explore a number of higher demand scenarios.
- The proportion of all primary school students who attend Government schools. The time series figures for Liverpool LGA are used as a basis. These figures are again adjusted in various ways in the scenarios to explore higher demand scenarios.

12.4.2.1 Scenario 1 - Continuation of Existing Trends

Scenario 1 assumes that Moore Point will have a similar age profile to other high density areas (Rhodes West, Wolli Creek, Wentworth Point, Sydney Olympic Park, Green Square, Waterloo/Zetland). This includes that approximately 3.5% of the population are primary aged children. Scenario 1 assumes that this proportion will remain stable over all stages of the Moore Point project. Scenario 1 also uses the existing Government School participation rate for Liverpool LGA based on the 2021 Census and this is held constant over the three stages of the Moore Point project.

Table 9: Scenario 1 - Continuation of existing trends

	Total population	Primary school aged children %	Number of primary school aged children	Attend Government Primary School %	Number of Government Primary School students
Stage A	8474	3.5%	297	61%	181
Stage B	6622	3.5%	232	61%	141
Stage C	6388	3.5%	224	61%	136
Total	21484	3.5%	752	61%	459

Based on the assumptions above, Scenario 1 estimates that Moore Point will generate 752 primary school aged students with 459 (61%) of those attending Government primary school.

12.4.2.2 Scenario 2 - Increasing proportions of Primary School Aged Children

Scenario 2 assumes that the proportion of primary school aged children will be the same as comparative high density areas for the first stage of the Moore Point development and then will increase by 1% for each following stage. Government school participation rates remain constant for Scenario 2 at 61% (the 2021 Liverpool LGA participation rate).

Table 10: Scenario 2 - Increasing Proportions of Primary School Aged Children

	Total population	Primary school aged children %	Number of primary school aged children	Attend Government Primary School %	Number of Government Primary School students
Stage A	8474	3.5%	297	61%	181
Stage B	6622	4.5%	298	61%	182
Stage C	6388	5.5%	351	61%	214
Total	21484		946	61%	577

Based on the assumptions above, Scenario 2 estimates that Moore Point will generate 946 primary school aged children with 577 (61%) of those attending Government primary school.

12.4.2.3 Scenario 3 - Increasing Proportions of both Primary School Aged Children and Government School Attendance

Scenario 3 assumes the same increase in the proportion of primary school aged children as Scenario 2 (1% increase for each stage) and then also assumes that Government school participation will commence at the same rate as the current Liverpool LGA rate but that this will increase by 2% each stage.

Table 11: Scenario 3 - Increasing Proportions of both Primary School Aged Children and Government School Attendance

	Total population	Primary school aged children %	Number of primary school aged children	Attend Government Primary School %	Number of Government Primary School students
Stage A	8474	3.5%	297	61%	181
Stage B	6622	4.5%	298	63%	188
Stage C	6388	5.5%	351	65%	228
Total	21484		946		597

Based on the assumptions above, Scenario 3 estimates that Moore Point will generate 946 primary school aged students with 597 of those attending Government primary school.

12.4.2.4 Scenario 4 - Double the Current Proportion of Primary School Aged Children and Increasing Government School Attendance

Scenario 4 is presented as a highest demand scenario. Scenario 4 assumes that Moore Point will have double the proportion of primary school aged children than other similar high density areas for each stage of the development (A-C). This equates to a 7% proportion of primary school aged children compared to a 3.5% proportion in the similar areas. Scenario 4 also assumes that Government school participation will commence at the same rate as the current Liverpool LGA rate but that this will increase by 2% in each stage.

It is noted that the assumptions about school aged children and Government school participation do not reflect any current or foreseeable trends. The assumptions are presented here for comparative purposes and to identify potential demand based on an unlikely highest possible demand scenario.

Table 12: Scenario 4 - Double the Proportion of Primary School Aged Children and Increasing Government School Attendance

	Total population	Primary school aged children %	Number of primary school aged children	Attend Government Primary School %	Number of Government Primary School students
Stage A	8474	7.0%	593	61%	362
Stage B	6622	7.0%	464	63%	292
Stage C	6388	7.0%	447	65%	291
Total	21484		1504		945

Based on these assumptions Scenario 4 estimates that Moore Point will generate 1504 primary school aged students with 945 of those attending Government primary school.

12.4.2.5 Future school needs

This analysis shows that in the highest demand scenario (double the proportion of primary school aged children coupled with increasing Government school participation) the projected number of public primary school students is 945.

The plans for Moore Point (based on original Schools Infrastructure NSW advice) have included a centrally located public primary school of 10,000 square metres GFA. School Infrastructure NSW schools planning guides and Schedules of Accommodation from the *Education Facilities Standards and Guidelines* indicate that a 10,000 square metres GFA primary school has capacity for 1,000 students. This would suggest that the highest scenario the Moore Point development will generate demand for one public primary school. The Moore Point Structure Plan does also allow for a second school site if one is required.

The scenarios above also suggest that there may be approximately 550 non-Government school students resident in Moore Point at the completion of Stage C. Future planning for Moore Point may want to enable the inclusion of a site for a non-Government school in a later stage of planning.

12.4.2.6 Shared use of school space

A 10,000 square metre public school would usually include a variety of spaces that have the potential to act as shared community spaces. The *Schedule of Accommodation* identifies the following:

- A communal hall (266 square metres including stage)
- A library (405 square metres in total which includes 276 square metres of library main area)
- A covered outdoor learning area (COLA) (236 square metres)
- A games court (576 square metres)
- An assembly court (630 square metres).

It is understood that current practice requires individual agreement with the School Principal to confirm shared use arrangements. It is also understood that Schools Infrastructure NSW is exploring alternative approaches to current practice to improve shared use outcomes of school assets in line with the *Sharing of School Facilities* policy². With the timeline of the Moore Point project extending over many years, it is hoped that a more efficient approach to sharing public infrastructure will be able to be achieved.

² <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2009-0400>

12.5 Third places

While it is critical to provide spaces for formal or organised community and cultural activities, such as a community choir, a playgroup, or fundraising committee, there are also large numbers of people who value connecting with their community in more informal or less structured ways. Just like open spaces, community and cultural spaces should also be planned and designed to cater for informal interactions and activities. These spaces for these casual and informal encounters can be referred to as 'third places'.

12.5.1 What is a third place?

Third places are spaces outside the home or workplace, in which informal, voluntary and unorganised social interaction can occur. Third places can be either public (like a park) or privately owned (like a café or bookshop). It was a phrase originally coined by US sociologist Ray Oldenburg who recognised that people needed places other than the home (first place) or work (second place) to connect with each other and feel part of a community. Oldenburg's premise was the social wellbeing and psychological health depend upon community.

Although not confined to just public spaces, the concept of third places aligns strongly with the NSW Government's definition of public space and Government's understanding of the role that public space plays in our communities. The NSW Government *Great Public Spaces Guide* (2021) includes 'open spaces, public facilities and streets' as part of its definition of public space. The *Guide* also includes the ability to connect with others as one of the four key elements of great public spaces. The *Guide* talks about the importance of public life and the role of public space in providing opportunities for people to connect with each other in these third places:

Public life is the social activity that occurs in public space – the connections between neighbours, family, friends and the broader community that create delight and make life more meaningful. It is in our public spaces that we can connect 365 days a year. Public spaces support our happiness, health and wellbeing, environmental resilience, and prosperous local economies.

Our understanding of the role and benefits of third places has evolved. They are the places that enable and foster the creation of the connections that are the foundation of building strong communities and contributing to both individual and community wellbeing.

12.5.2 Third places at Moore Point

Third places is not just an abstract sociological construct. It is a helpful way to think about how people use space, how informal social interaction works and the benefit it provides to people. These insights are important in planning new places like Moore Point. There is a tendency to focus on the structured formal types of spaces. However, there is great opportunity in understanding the significance of informal interaction, which is likely to be the most common way that people engage with others in their community, in ensuring new precincts like Moore Point evolve into great places with a strong sense of place and of community.

Although you can't force social interaction and engagement in community life, you can hinder it by not providing the range and type of spaces that enable and encourage those chance encounters to occur.

At Moore Point the planning for both public and semi-private open space, and of community and cultural facility spaces, is being informed by an awareness of the important of third places and informal social interaction as a key foundation of community building. At Moore Point this approach includes:

- Community and cultural facility space which will include space for both formal and informal activities and will include space that functions as a 'community living room'
- Creative and maker spaces where people can participate in both formal and informal creative activities
- Local open spaces including pocket parks that function as outdoor living rooms and provide apartment building residents with open spaces that function as an extension of their homes
- Semi-private spaces which include courtyards and plazas that provide space for informal and formal gatherings, activities and events
- Central Park which will act as a central local meeting space, co-located near the school that provides a communal gathering place
- An extensive riverfront walk which provides for a wide range of incidental meeting opportunities and wide variety of informal recreation and gathering opportunities
- Activity nodes which will be located at key locations along the riverfront walk to provide points of interest and spaces for a wide range of social gathering activities
- Streets that will have a focus on streets as meeting places and places of social activity.

12.5.3 The value of third places - what does the research say?

In their work on designing high density neighbourhoods to promote social health, Hall and Andrews (2019)³, cite the following research regarding the benefits of third places:

- Cattell, Dines, Gesler and Curtis (2008) found that third places that encouraged people to get together, were crucial to a general sense of well being, and had a positive influence on sense of community
- Mouratidis' (2018) found that third places were positively associated with social life, as they offered locations for local residents to meet and participate in leisure activities. Participants stated third places could positively influence their social life because they were spaces in which friendships could be maintained, and spontaneous meetings of new acquaintances could occur

³ Hall, C. and Andrews, F., 2019. Designing high-density neighbourhoods to promote social health in Australia. *Journal of Social Inclusion*, 10(2), pp.18-40. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.36251/josi.147>

- Francis et al. (2012) study reported chance encounters between neighbours at third places increased a sense of community. There were several types of third places cited by participants for social interactions that were mentioned consistently in this review. Coffee shops and restaurants were the most popular third places. Jeffres, Bracken, Jian and Casey's (2009) found that markets were also frequently cited third places where respondents went and met with people
- A positive association between the presence of shops and markets and sense of community was noted, as frequent use of these third places helped strengthen social relationships, which improved local sense of community (Cattell et al., 2008; Francis et al., 2012). It was also concluded that third places need to be lively, and perceived as an enjoyable place to be, with some participants claiming the 'atmosphere' to be more important than the food available (Francis et al., 2012).
- Places where people felt comfortable to go alone was a major prerequisite for settings in which meeting people could take place (Cattell et al., 2008).
- Interestingly, social interactions did not always have to take place for people to gain social health benefits, for many people, just knowing they had access to third places improved their quality of life and sense of community (Jeffres et al, 2009; Cattell et al, 2008)
- The location of third places was also important in supporting social health. Raman (2010), Dempsey (2009) and Williams and Pocock (2010) all found third places that were visible, centrally located, and easy to access increased the number of social interactions. Social spaces that connected pedestrian routes had a constant presence of people, and therefore the highest number of social interactions (Raman, 2010). Centralised third places also increased feelings of belonging and sense of community (Raman, 2010; Williams & Pocock, 2010).

Figure 25: Central Park – third space (artist impression – SJB Architects)



12.5.4 Summary of community and cultural spaces

The table below shows the types and sizes of the community and cultural spaces proposed for Moore Point.

Table 13: Summary of community and cultural spaces

Location	Item	GFA (sqm)
15	Public primary school (1,000 students)	10,100
5	Community Indoor Recreation Centre (two court)	3,000
16	Community and Cultural Hub	2,000
9	Local community centre	400
TBD	Flexible, community and cultural activity spaces	750 (3x250 each)
Off-site	Contribution to public library space	1,000

13 Conclusion

The proposed public open space at Moore Point is comprehensive, evidence based and directly responds to key Government directions. There is the potential at Moore Point to create a unique riverfront city amenity in Liverpool as part of a broad and diverse public open space network.

The key public open space features at Moore Point include:

- Approximately a third of the site (34.5%) provided as public open space which is significantly higher than other comparative urban renewal areas (with standard provision being approximately 15-17%)
- A diversity of public open spaces types to ensure a wide range of population needs are addressed. This includes children's play, water play, bike paths, half courts, outdoor multipurpose courts, outdoor gym equipment, linear parks, running paths, the formal central park, pocket and local parks, trail-based recreation, promenade-style walking paths, places for picnics, spaces for civic and cultural events, water access areas for kayaks, etc.
- A range of active recreation opportunities including:
 - Continuous riverfront walking and cycling paths linking to the CBD, train stations and other key open space destinations
 - Multipurpose outdoor courts
 - Fitness trails and fitness nodes
 - A two-court indoor recreation centre that will provide for a wide range of active recreation activities in a climate controlled and resilient environment
 - Facilities for kayaks, paddleboards and other small watercraft to create unique water-based recreation opportunities.
- A 7 hectare riverfront park that:
 - Provides active transport and recreational walking and cycling connections between Lake Moore and the CBD and beyond
 - Brings city workers, hospital staff and visitors, Liverpool residents and visitors to Haigh Park and Lake Moore
 - Creates a network of key open space destinations linking Lake Moore, Haigh Park, McMillan Park, Bigge Park, Lighthorse Park providing the people of Liverpool with a unique recreational amenity
 - Addresses key recreational needs for walking and cycling and emphasises a focus on community health and wellbeing
 - Includes a number of activity nodes that will include a balance of quieter, more contemplative spaces and more vibrant and active spaces
 - Provides access and interaction with the Georges River creating a unique water-based leisure and recreation opportunity in Western Sydney

- Kayak and other small watercraft facilities
- A network of local and pocket parks including a 0.8 hectare central park
- Off-site contribution to sporting fields in a location considered desirable to Council
- The option to embellish Haigh Park to bring it up to a standard that is consistent with best practice and include a wide variety of recreational amenities.

Importantly, almost three quarters of the total public open space is provided in the first stage of development.

As this open space assessment has proposed, although important, a focus purely on the metrics would miss the real potential of Moore Point. Moore Point is an opportunity to create a special place. It has the potential to create a great place for its residents and workers but to also contribute significantly to the city of Liverpool and its growing and evolving community. The approach to open space planning at Moore Point directly addresses, and in many cases exceeds, the key policy directions established by NSW Government for public open space.

The Georges River forms an important defining element of the city of Liverpool. However, over time it has not been valued, nor properly understood regarding how to best integrate the river with the city and vice versa. Moore Point is a catalyst to unlock the potential of the river for the city and the wider Liverpool community.

Moore Point can act as a catalyst for the rejuvenation of this section of the river. The proposed riverfront park brings the community back to the river and enables Liverpool residents, workers and visitors to interact with and engage with the river in ways that have not previously been possible. The riverfront park is a destination and provides this unique access to the water. It is also as an important connector. The park links the CBD, train station and the Innovation Precinct to Haigh Park and Lake Moore and provides a continuous recreation loop that connects a number of important city destinations.

While not relying on Haigh Park to be able meet Moore Point's public open space requirements, planning cannot ignore its existence. It is also not helpful to ignore that, in its current form, Haigh Park is an underutilised form of community infrastructure that fails to meet community expectations and the standards of a 'special place' as defined by Council and by best practice in open space planning. The development of Moore Point can be a catalyst to transform Haigh Park into a high quality public open space that better serves the needs of the Liverpool community. Without the development of Moore Point it is likely that Haigh Park will continue to be an under-utilised, unsafe and a poorly performing community asset. With the development of Moore Point, Haigh Park could become a highly accessible, safe, and well utilised district park that capitalises on a unique location and forms a key destination along the Georges River riverfront park.

The potential of Moore Point and its contribution to the open space network is not just an elaborate vision. It is directly related to long established trends and sound data that clearly show the types of spaces that people need and what their recreation interests are likely to be over time. Walking and cycling have long been among the most favoured forms of recreation and they are also key forms of active transport, especially when connections are provided to key employment centres, train stations and city centres. It is prudent to be cautious about projections regarding people's behaviour 30-40 years into the future.

Because of this the provision of public open space at Moore Point is intentionally diverse and has the capacity to adapt and change as community needs evolve over time.

The development of Moore Point will occur in a staged way over a 30-40 year timeframe. There is a strong emphasis on early provision and a 'front loading' of the public open space at Moore Point. The first stage of Moore Point includes provision of approximately 73% of the total public open space for the site. This front loading is critical to the creation of place at Moore Point and directly addresses best practice approaches to early provision of social infrastructure.

With the NSW *Public Spaces Charter 2021* including public facilities as one of the three elements of public space, this assessment has also considered a variety of social infrastructure types including community and cultural spaces, libraries and schools. The assessment cites research which shows that the provision of community facilities in high-density areas, playing a role in the social health of residents and that high quality community facilities were important for enhancing overall health and wellbeing, social connection and sense of community. The assessment identifies the need for a Community Indoor Recreation Centre, a Community and Cultural Hub, a local community centre, flexible community and creative spaces and a public primary school. The inclusion of a public primary school in the Moore Point Master Plan will also provide opportunities for the shared community use of various school spaces.

Moore Point is a unique opportunity. The approach to open space and social infrastructure provision needs to be site and context-specific. This means responding to the precinct's central city location and the likely profile and recreational needs of its future population. A formulaic approach or application of the same approach to open space that is used for standard greenfield development will fail to capture the potential of the site and its ability to transform this part of the city. The proposed *Public Domain and Landscape Strategy* (prepared by Turf Design) illustrates the opportunity for public open space to not only address the needs of future residents and workers but to also provide high quality spaces for CBD residents, Innovation Precinct workers and the broader Liverpool community.