

Social Infrastructure Strategy

Planning Albury's network of community facilities and open spaces

August 2025





Image source: Vera Hong

Acknowledgment of Country

AlburyCity acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of the land in which we live and work and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, culture, tradition and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contribute to our community.

AlburyCity-dyu yindyamali Wiradjuri mayiny. Wiradjuri bala walumaldhaanygalang ngurambang-gu. Ngurambang-ga ngiyanhi murunwigi yindyamali-yanhi mudyigaanggalam-bu balumbambal-bu. Nganhaguliyalaa wirimbili giilanggalam-bu winhangangidyal-bu Wiradjuri-giyalang-bu ngurambangguwal-giyalang-bu

Translation in Wiradjui language: Elder Aunty Edna Stewart (2023)

All our social infrastructure exists on lands where First Nations peoples maintain strong cultural, spiritual and physical connections. Our community facilities and open spaces continue to serve as important meeting places that enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to sustain and strengthen their enduring connection with Country, culture and community.

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1. Introduction

The Albury Social Infrastructure Strategy (the Strategy) is a framework that will guide and influence effective planning and policy solutions for the provision of community facilities and open spaces within the Albury Local Government Area (LGA).

1.1 Defining social infrastructure

The term social infrastructure describes a broad range of facilities, spaces, services and networks that support our community's quality of life and wellbeing. While social infrastructure encompasses many asset type, the scope of this Strategy is limited to community facilities and open spaces, specifically those which are:

- **Physical or “hard” infrastructure assets:** The community facilities (buildings) and open spaces (land use) which then enable the delivery of social and recreational programs, services and experiences that benefit our community.
- **Assets owned or managed by Council:** Council's primary planning responsibility is public assets under our direct ownership, as well as those managed on behalf of the State Government (Crown land) which involves various lease and license arrangements. The Strategy also acknowledges the valuable contribution of State government and privately owned facilities to our social infrastructure network.
- **Assets located within the Albury LGA,** recognising that many of our community facilities and open spaces also serve the broader region including the Wodonga LGA.

1.2 Types of social infrastructure included in the Strategy

The specific types of social infrastructure assets included in this Strategy are:

Community facilities

- Multipurpose community spaces (Community centres, community halls, meeting rooms, youth centres, men's sheds and community gardens)
- Cultural facilities (Libraries, exhibition and performance spaces, participation, practice and education spaces)
- Education facilities (Childcare centres, preschools, primary schools, high schools and tertiary education)
- Health facilities (Aged care, cemeteries, hospitals and community health centres).

Open spaces

- Sporting spaces (Fields, courts and leisure centres including aquatics)
- Parks (Play spaces, informal recreation facilities including skate parks, outdoor fitness stations and dog 'off leash' areas)
- Natural areas (conservation zoned land, public reserves, waterways, riparian zones and recreational links including tracks and trails).

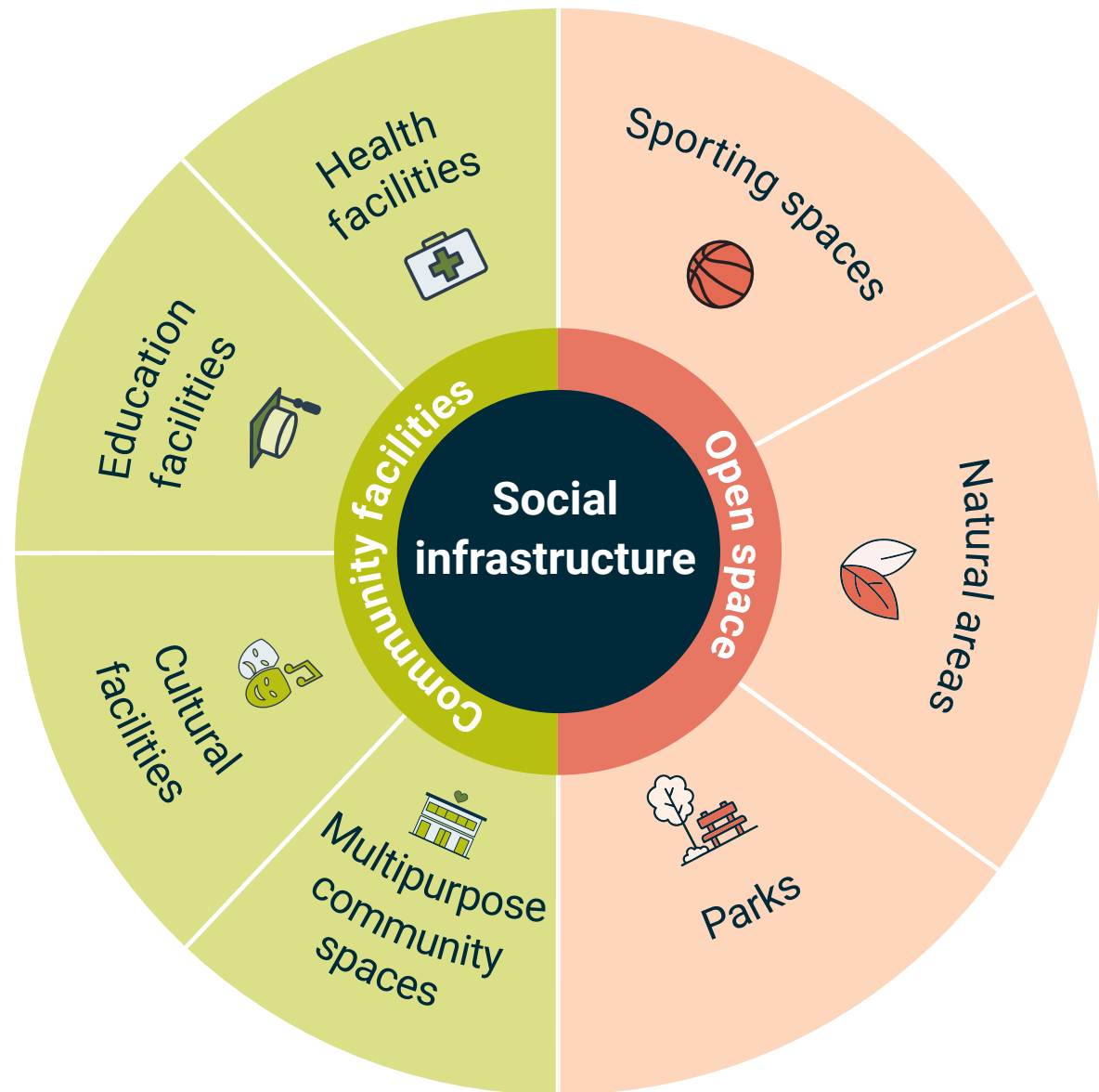


Figure 1 - Types of included social infrastructure

1.3 Why we need a social infrastructure strategy

Our growing population can place pressure on our existing network of social infrastructure assets, but also presents new opportunities to make sure we meet the needs of a changing community.

To help meet the liveability objectives of Towards Albury 2050, our Community Strategic Plan, we want to ensure that the right types of community facilities and open spaces are being provided in our neighbourhoods.

This Strategy will:

- Outline our priorities for new and improved social infrastructure assets in a holistic way
- Describe the approach Council will take to facilitate the planning, design and delivery of the right kinds of community facilities and open spaces, in the right places, at the right time
- Explain how we can ensure our decision-making and investment in social infrastructure is fair, equitable, and based on evidence of need and insights from our community.

1.4 How we developed this strategy

This Strategy was developed through:

- Evidence based research. We looked at our forecast population growth and demographic characteristics. We reviewed national, state and local strategies and plans that impact social infrastructure needs. We researched best practice and precedents to inform our approach.
- Assessment of current community facilities and open spaces. We created an audit and mapping of existing social infrastructure to evaluate how easy they are for our community to get to. We conducted benchmarking to identify gaps in assets provision.
- Community consultation. We engaged with stakeholders to identify community needs, values and aspirations. It is estimated that in total, over 100 stakeholders participated across six consultation activities. This included managers of our facilities and spaces, representatives from peak bodies, community organisations and members of the Albury community.

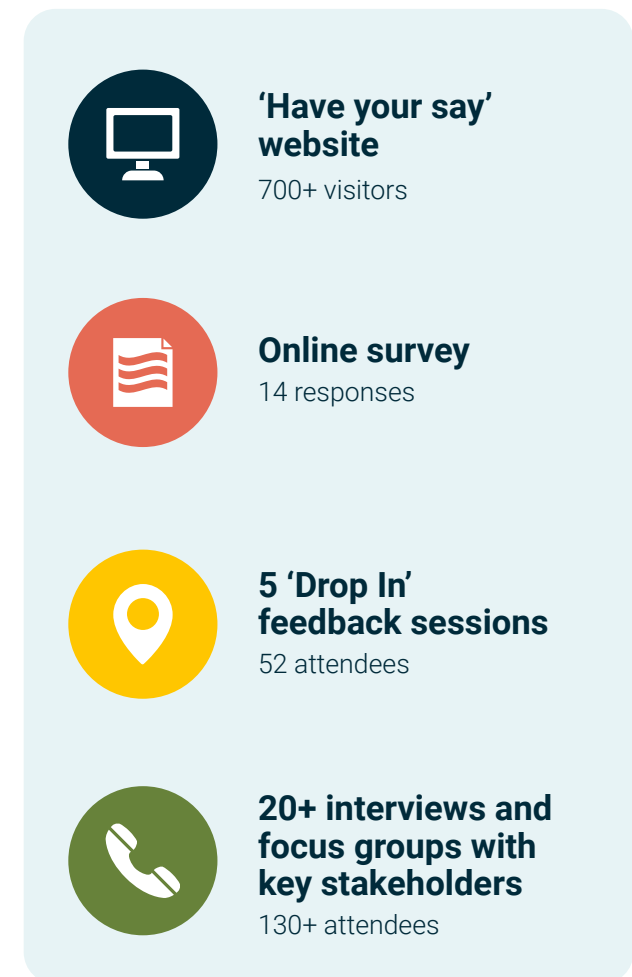


Figure 2 - Summary of community input

1.5 Where the Strategy fits

A strong, sustainable and equitable social infrastructure network doesn't happen by chance: it requires strategic, long-term planning. This Strategy will become part of Albury's broader local planning framework, helping to:

- Articulate the demand for community facilities and open spaces in our strategic, operational and delivery plans
- Guide funding for new community facilities and open spaces, including the local infrastructure contributions plan and grant applications, and;

- Inform Master Plans and planning proposals aimed at enhancing community facilities and open spaces.

The Strategy aligns with a range of existing strategies and plans developed for the Albury LGA. Table 1 highlights key documents below, but it is not an exhaustive list. Additional relevant strategies and plans are further referenced throughout the chapters of this Strategy document, including in the Implementation Plan (Appendix C).

Table 1 - Policy alignment

Important guiding documents	Why the Strategy matters
NSW Government	
Albury is a signatory to the <i>NSW Public Spaces Charter</i>	We are committed to aligning our open space strategies with the ten charter principles
Two Cities, One Community	
MOVE: <i>The Albury Wodonga Integrated Transport Strategy</i> looks at the future of transportation across our region, focusing on improved connectivity, accessibility, and sustainability	Walking and cycling are the most popular recreational activities, so we should make sure that our community facilities and open spaces become key destinations within our transport network
Our <i>Regional Natural Environment Strategy</i> provides a plan for addressing environmental challenges shared by the cross-border region	Allowing access to natural areas for activities like hiking and cycling needs to be balanced with necessary environmental protections that preserve biodiversity and ecosystem health
Our <i>Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy</i> helps create a unified approach to enhancing and streamlining sport and recreation facilities across the region	Infrastructure in our sports spaces can increase participation and make sports more accessible particularly for women and people with disabilities

Important guiding documents	Why the Strategy matters
AlburyCity	
Our Advocacy Strategy outlines opportunities for increased investment from the State and Federal Government in Health and Education facilities	Integrating community facilities and open space into a single social infrastructure network helps us avoid resource duplication across different levels of government. This will help us become 'grant ready' for future funding opportunities
Our Asset Management Strategy helps to reduce long-term running costs and to maximise environmentally sustainable design	Our community facilities and open space are long lived assets which require significant on-going investment. This Strategy provides information on the kinds of investment needed to make our facilities more economically efficient while still delivering the required levels of service expected by the community
Our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) aims to build a community that recognises having a disability is not a limiting factor if we facilitate an environment that offers equity of opportunity	We can modify and upgrade our community facilities and open spaces to make them more inclusive and accessible for everyone
Our Economic Development Strategy envisions Albury LGA as a regional centre for major sporting, entertainment, events and the arts which will require ongoing infrastructure investment	Social infrastructure activates our economy by supporting the workforce and creating jobs through the design, building, and management of community facilities, while our open spaces attract tourists and host special events and festivals
The Local Housing Strategy commits Council to supporting diverse, well-designed built environments and affordable housing opportunities	All housing development (especially affordable housing projects) need safe and affordable access to community facilities and open space
Our Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and the Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan (TWPS) help plan for our growing population	We need to provide quality social infrastructure to support new development in the Thurgoona Wirlinga Growth Area
Towards Albury 2050 , Our Community Strategic Plan, aspires for the Albury LGA to be a liveable city	Our community facilities and open spaces play a key role in creating a distinctive sense of place

2. Our plan for social infrastructure

2.1 Our places

Social infrastructure services smaller populations close to home (suburbs) as well as large populations across our region (our LGA and across the border).

This Strategy adopts a catchment approach that divides the Albury LGA into three distinct planning areas (figure 3). These planning catchments align with suburb boundaries, existing and future natural and built features (e.g. environmental corridors, transport corridors), population size, and staging of future development.

- Albury catchment covers Splitters Creek, West Albury, Albury, South Albury and East Albury.
- Lavington catchment covers Hamilton Valley, Glenroy, North Albury, Lavington, Springdale Heights, and Ettamogah.
- Thurgoona catchment covers Thurgoona, Wirlinga, Lake Hume Village and Table Top.

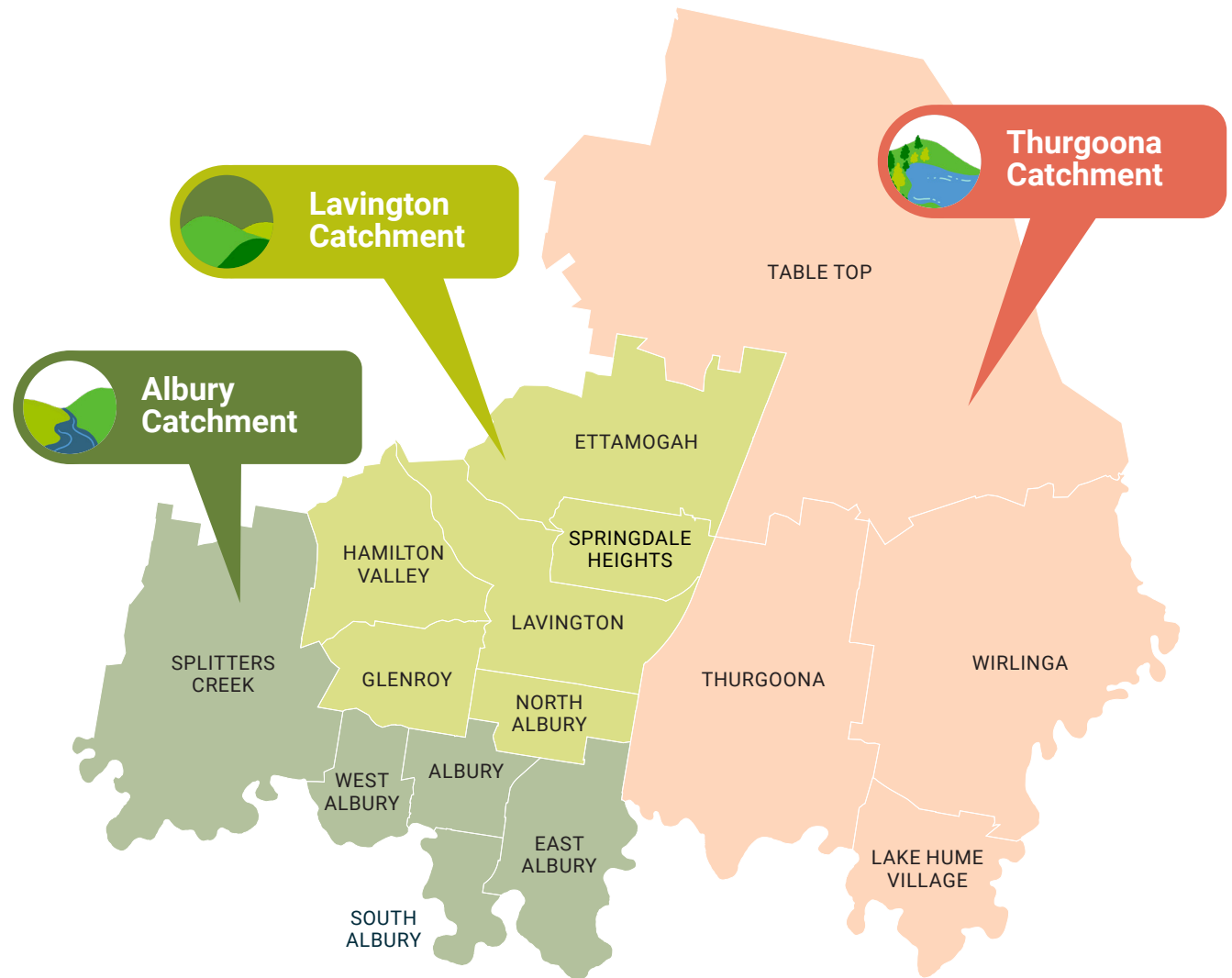


Figure 3 - Albury LGA planning catchments and suburbs

2.2 Our people

About 58,500 people live in the Albury LGA (as at 2024). By 2046, our population is expected to reach approximately 77,280 people. Much of this growth will occur in the Thurgoona catchment, which is projected to more than double its population from around 13,000 people in 2021 to nearly 30,000 people by 2046.

The demographic characteristics of our catchment populations has implications for the level of demand for different social infrastructure types, shown in Table 2

- Albury catchment residents are more likely to be older and more likely to be living alone
- Lavington catchment residents are more likely to be experiencing disadvantage and more likely to speak a language other than English
- Thurgoona catchment residents are more likely to be young families and are more reliant on cars to get around.

Graphic 1 - Projected population growth by catchment

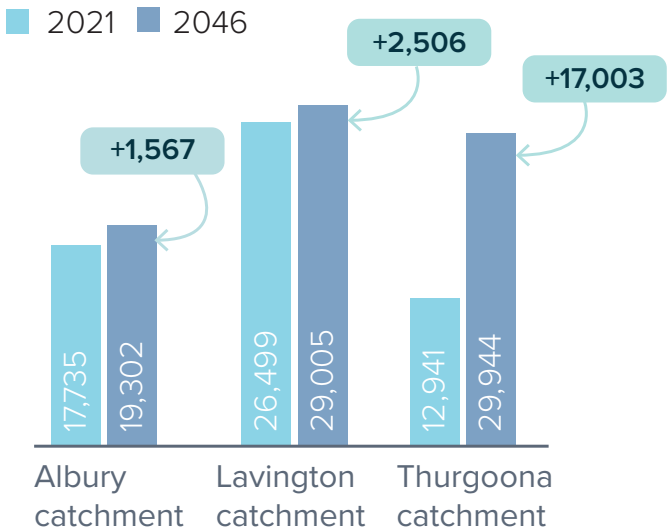


Table 2 - Population characteristics by catchment

	Albury LGA average	Albury catchment	Lavington catchment	Thurgoona catchment
Median Age	39	43	39	34
Under 18	22.5%	19%	22%	27.5%
Over 65 years	19.5%	22.5%	20.5%	14%
Average household size	2.32	2.06	2.33	2.88
Couples with children under 15 years	17.4%	11%	14.5%	29.5%
Lone person households	30%	36%	32%	16%
Speak a language other than English	8.6%	7.6%	10.1%	6.6%
Median household income	\$1,465	\$1,409	\$1,258	\$2,256
People in need of assistance (due to disability)	7%	7%	8%	5%
People with university qualifications (persons 15+ years)	19%	27%	13%	23%
Households without a car	7%	9%	8%	2%

Source: atlas.id.com.au/albury and forecast.id.com.au/albury (data correct as at June 2025).

Note: To avoid statistical bias, Table 2 figures exclude the 'Rural Balance'—specifically, Splitters Creek from the Albury catchment and Ettamogah from the Lavington catchment.

2.3 Our hierarchy

Social infrastructure assets need to be designed for the number of people expected to use them. We want each suburb to have access to local level facilities, each planning catchment to have access to district level facilities, and for our regional level facilities to be centrally and easily accessible to service the whole LGA and beyond.



Closest to home

Furthest from home

Local

I can...

- Get information on what's happening in my neighbourhood
- Have a picnic with my family
- Play or kick a ball with friends
- Create some art
- Attend a wellness class or community meeting
- Walk my child to preschool

District

I can...

- Chill out, borrow a book, or study at the library
- Perform in a local play
- Go to school
- Participate in organised team sports such as netball or football
- Compete in seasonal tournaments or sports carnivals
- Swim some laps or exercise at a leisure centre

Regional

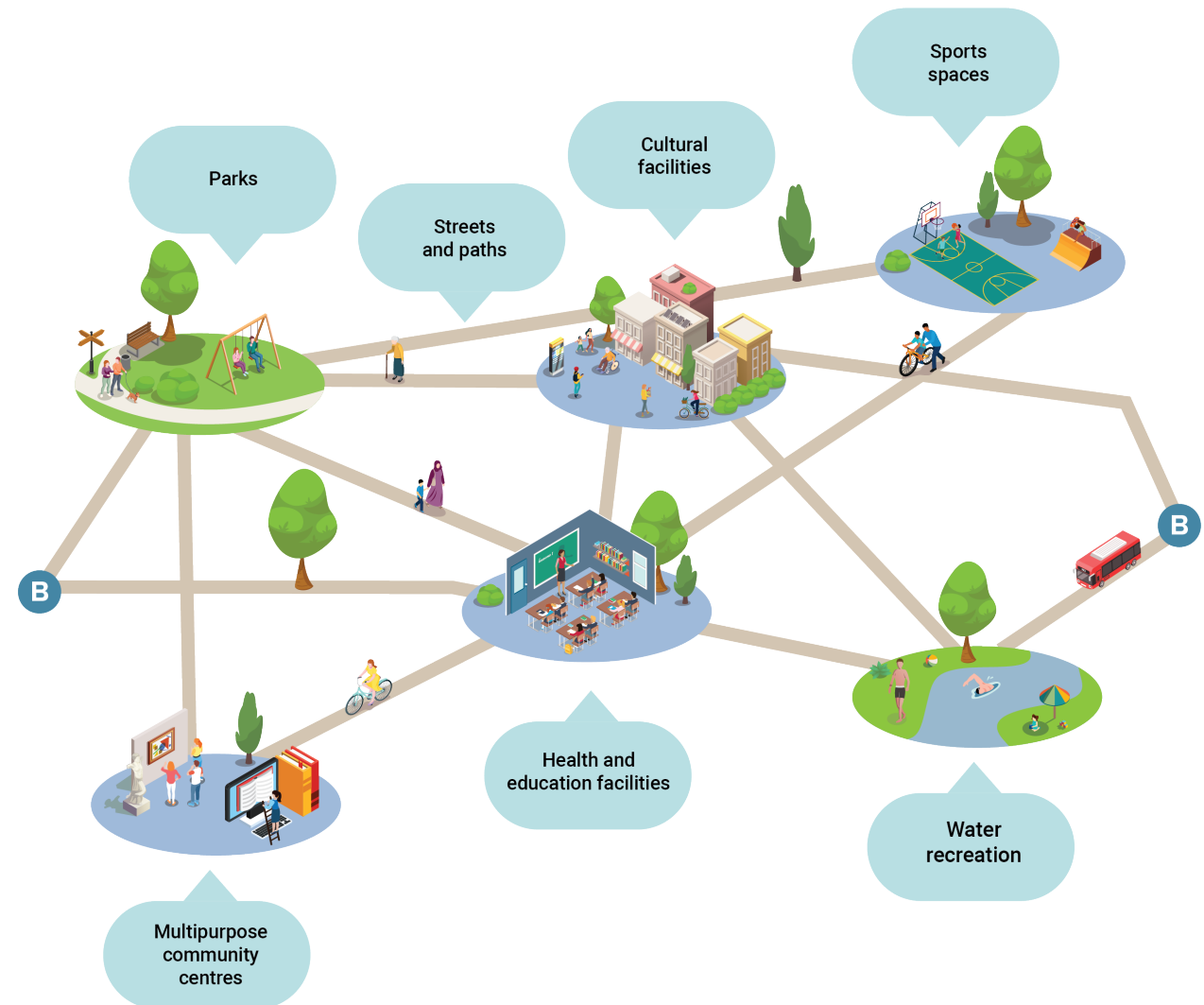
I can...

- Go to university/TAFE
- See a touring exhibition or watch a musical
- Attend elite sporting competitions
- See a specialist at the hospital
- Access appropriate burial options

2.4 Our vision

Our vision for social infrastructure in the Albury LGA is a well-connected network of modern, co-located community facilities and open spaces that are fairly distributed, fit for purpose and accessible to all, regardless of where you live or who you are.

Figure 4 - Network of social infrastructure
(source: Copyrighted by Cred Consulting)



2.5 Principles

To achieve our vision, we've developed four key principles that we want our social infrastructure network to meet (shown in Table 3).

Table 3 - Social infrastructure principles

Principle	We want our community facilities and open spaces...	This means we need to....
Co-located/integrated	Combined or placed adjacent to each other wherever feasible, in highly visible places that promote civic identity and reduce the need for residents to take multiple trips	Move away from providing lots of small, single-purpose social infrastructure towards larger facilities that bring together different types of facilities and spaces on the same site
Connected	Effortlessly accessible as part of people's day to day routines and movement around their neighbourhoods	Make it easy to travel between different types of social infrastructure using public transport and recreational links, especially walking and cycling routes, to create opportunities for spontaneous and informal social interaction
Multi-functional	Provide flexible, contemporary spaces that are fit for purpose and capable of delivering many services, activities and programs at the same time	Future-proof spaces to accommodate evolving community needs over time. Projects will embed universal design principles and incorporate accessibility and safety features, along with ecological sustainability and child-friendly elements
Equitable	Distributed equitably across neighbourhoods	Prioritise projects in areas where there is a higher need and/or an under provision currently

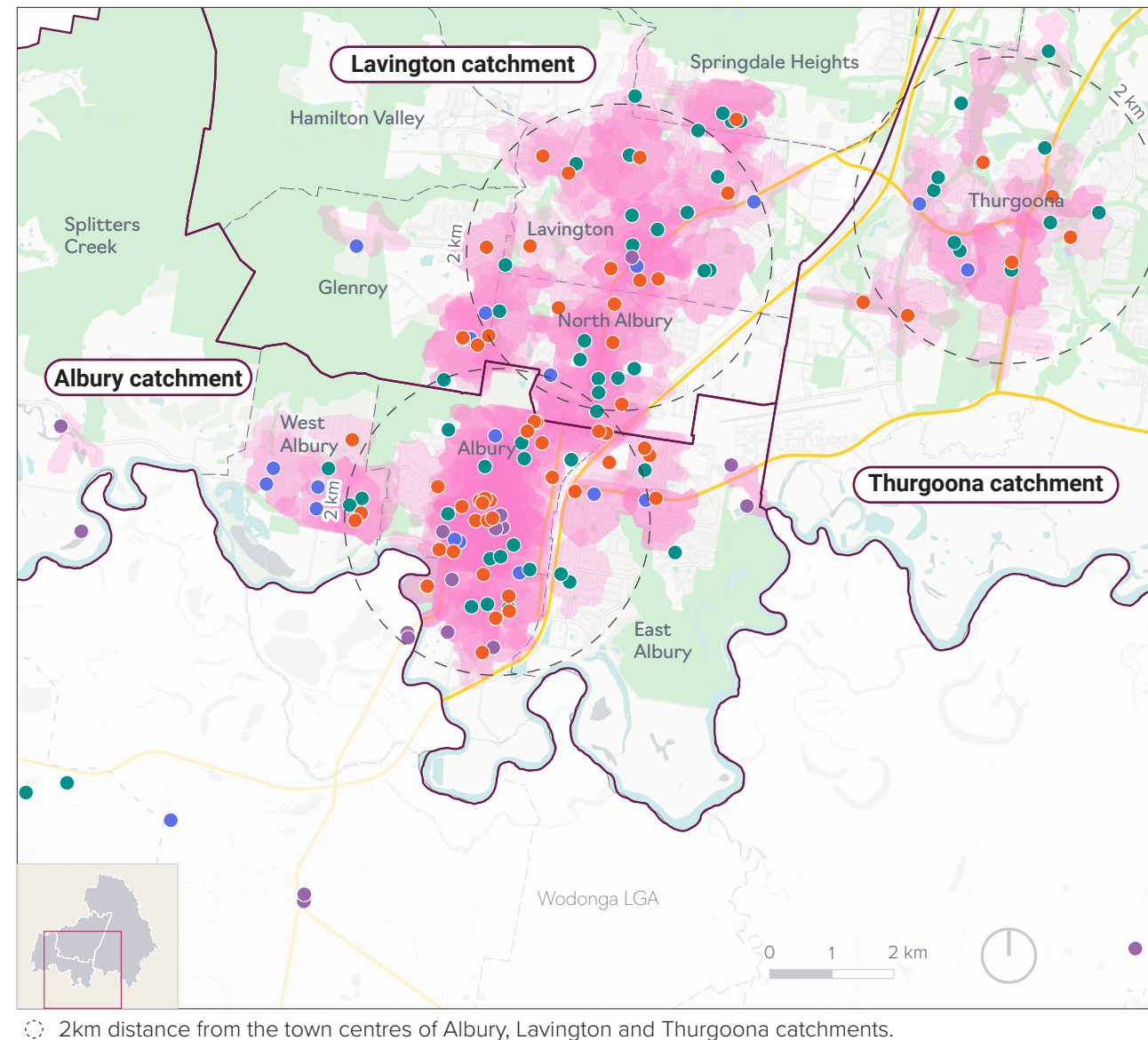
2.6 Existing provision

We have a large network of social infrastructure in the Albury LGA made up of over 160 community facilities and nearly 9,000 ha of open space. This Strategy recognises that beyond quantity, the quality of this infrastructure provision is key to meeting community needs.

This Strategy looks in detail at the significant variation in accessibility of our community facilities and open spaces, measured by distance from homes. A pedshed analysis, which assesses the walkable catchment around a destination based on the street network, helps to identify gaps in access. This Strategy aims to plan for more equitable distribution, types and quantities of community facilities and open spaces into the future.

- Multipurpose community spaces
- Cultural facilities
- Education facilities
- Health facilities
- 800 m pedshed from community facilities
- Natural Areas
- Catchment boundary
- Suburb boundary
- Main roads
- +○+ Train line and station

Figure 5 - Existing network of social infrastructure



2.7 What we heard throughout community consultation

In developing this Strategy, we listened to feedback and ideas provided by our community about the key strengths and challenges of our network of community facilities and open space.

There was general awareness that the Albury LGA enjoys high provision rates of social infrastructure, contributing to broad community access and usage. Community members expressed that most of our community facilities and open spaces are well-liked and highly valued, reflecting their importance in fostering local connections. The quality of most of our social infrastructure, particularly large regional facilities such as the Albury Library Museum, MAMA, and the Lavington Sportsground, were often praised for being of a high standard. Additionally, ongoing and planned Council improvement projects aimed at enhancing community centres and parks were highlighted, showcasing a commitment to continuous improvement and investment.

Significant issues were raised regarding the concentration of facilities within central Albury, compared to lower provision rates in the rapidly expanding Thurgoona growth area. Community members expressed concern about the aging condition of many local facilities in our suburban neighbourhoods which often lack modern features, signalling a need for upgrades. Furthermore, some community facilities and open spaces were reported to be operating at or near full capacity, indicating a desire for expansion to accommodate more social and recreational activities.

2.8 Role of Council

For the community facilities and open spaces that Council either owns, operates or leases to others, our role is to:

- Develop Master Plans with community involvement to guide infrastructure delivery, renewal, and long-term sustainability—embracing opportunities to reduce costs, maximise return, and collaborate across services for greater efficiency.
- Provide and maintain our community facilities and open space to a high standard, ensuring that land and building assets are held for a clear purpose and remain suitable for community use.

For the community facilities and open spaces that are owned and operated by others, our role is to:

- Help inform the community and raise awareness of available non-Council social infrastructure.
- Advocate to State Government, developers and others regarding the need for improved social infrastructure provision.

2.9 Future provision standards

To ensure our community facilities and open spaces meet community expectations, this Strategy establishes desired provision standards to guide the evolution of our social infrastructure network. While not all existing community facilities and open spaces currently meet these standards, we will gradually rationalise, upgrade and improve them to ensure our future network does. A detailed table of these standards is provided in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Community Facilities

Quick Reference Guide

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3.5 Men's sheds	27
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4. Cultural facilities	29
4.3 Libraries	33
4.4 Exhibition spaces	35
4.5 Performance space	37
4.6 Participation, practice and education spaces	39
5. Health facilities	41
5.3 Cemeteries and crematoria	45
5.4 Aged care facilities	47
5.5 Hospitals and community health centres	49
6. Education facilities	51
6.3 Early childhood centres	58
6.4 Schools	62
6.5 Tertiary institutions	65

3. Multipurpose community spaces

The primary purpose of our multipurpose community spaces is to enable people to gather, meet, and celebrate together. These spaces support people to access help, strengthen their social bonds, learn life skills and engage in personal growth.

3.1 What's included

The Strategy includes our:

- Community centres and halls
- Meeting rooms
- Men's sheds
- Youth centres
- Community gardens

The Strategy does not include any private meeting rooms that are available for community hire as an ancillary use to uses such as clubs, hotels, pubs, businesses and religious institutions (e.g. churches).

3.2 What we have

We have a total of 25 multipurpose community spaces in Albury LGA, made up of

- 14 Community centres and halls (10 Council, 4 non-Council)
- 8 Youth centres (4 Council, 4 non-Council)
- 3 Men's sheds (2 Council, 1 non-Council)

In addition, there are:

- 7 Community gardens (6 Council, 1 non-Council)
- 30 community meeting rooms (including club rooms)



Thurgoona Community Hall
(source: AlburyCity)

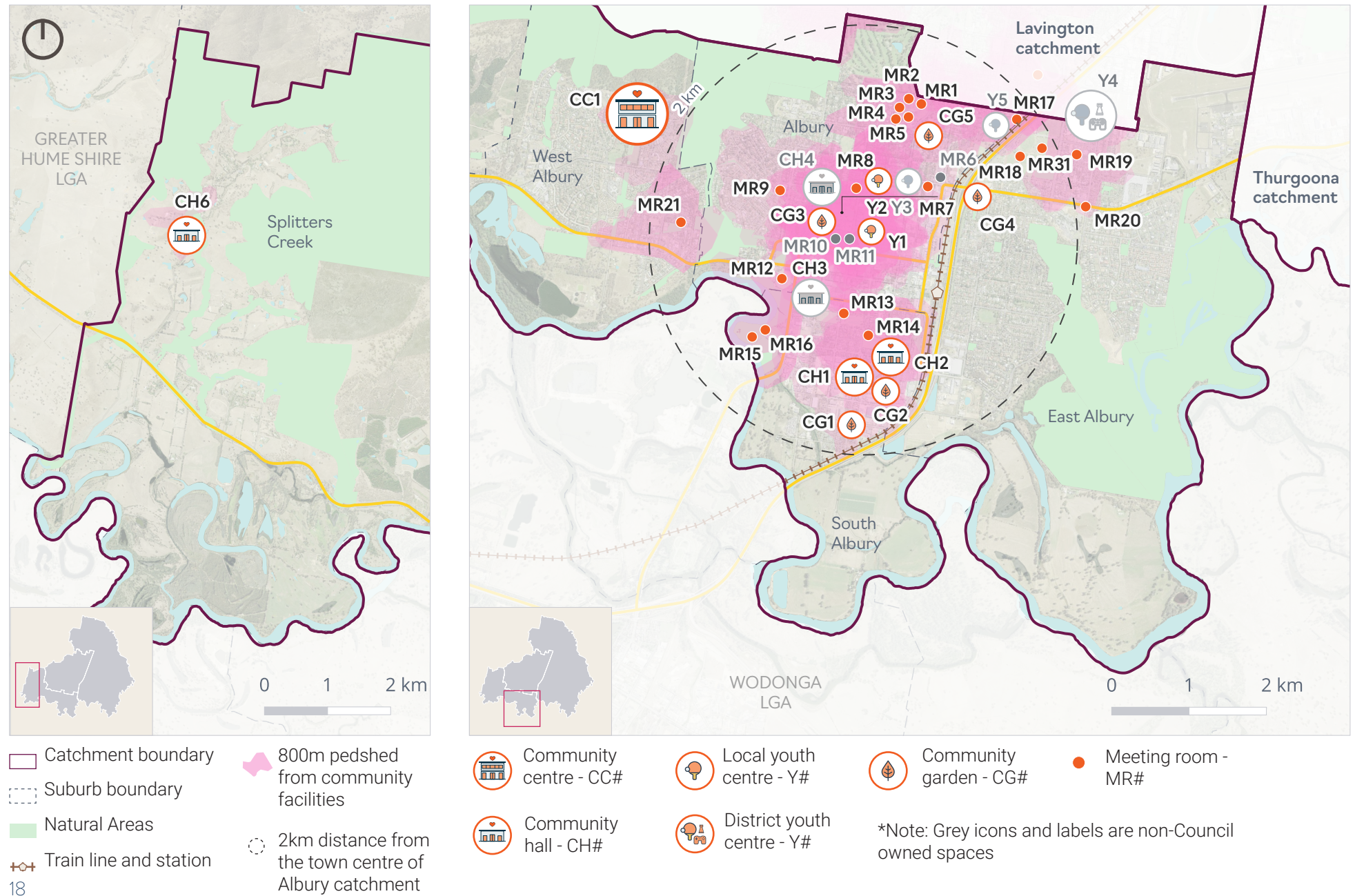
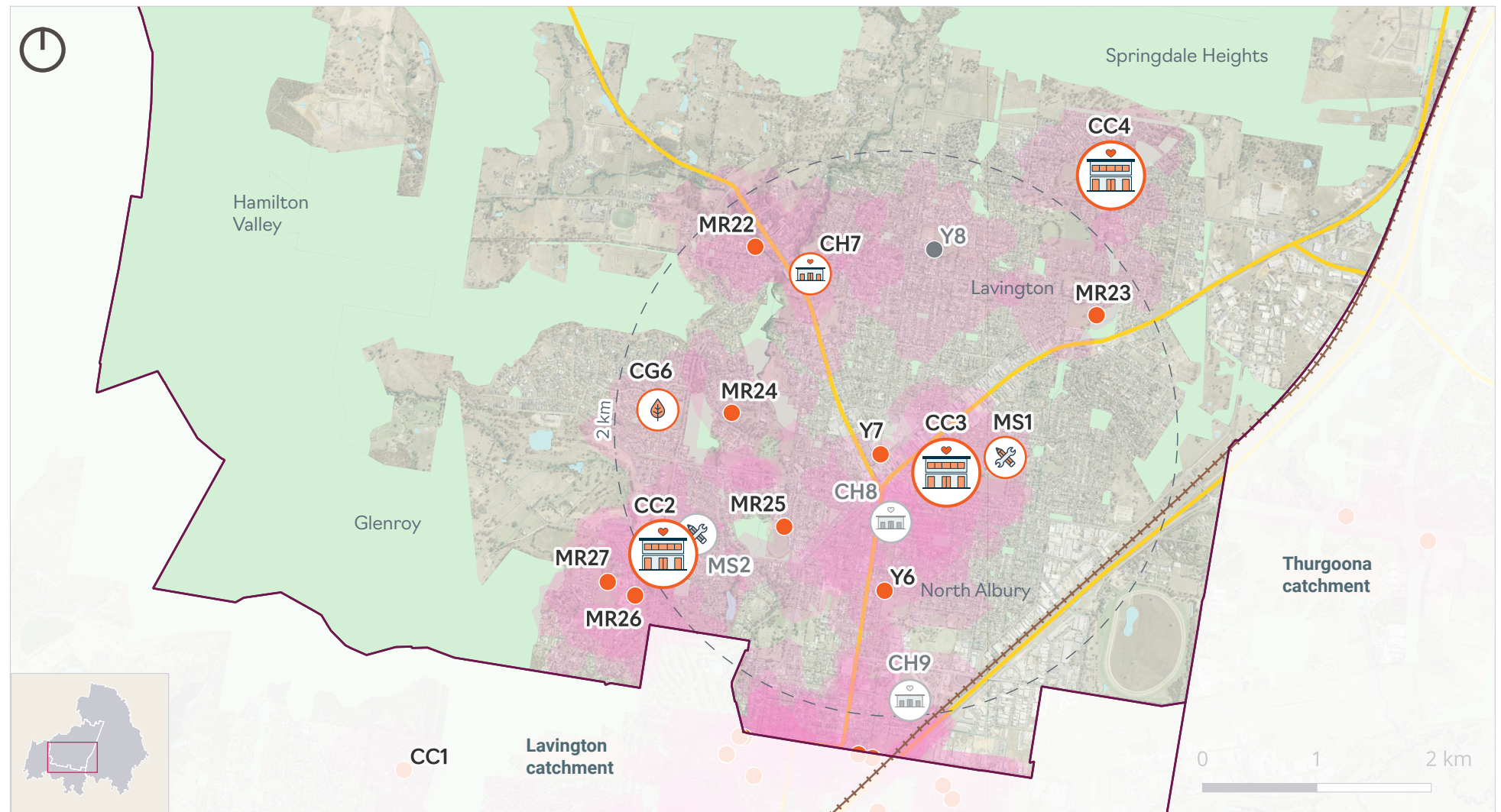
Figure 6 - Multipurpose community spaces in Albury catchment

Table 4 - Audit of multipurpose community spaces in Albury catchment

Community centre		Community garden		MR9	Forrest Hill Tennis Club
CC1	Westside Community Centre	CG1	Plummer Park Community Garden	MR10	Commercial Club Albury
Community hall		CG2	Browns Lagoon Community Garden	MR11	The Albury Club
CH1	Harry's Hut (Browns Lagoon)	CG3	Bungam Community Garden	MR12	Albury Sports Ground (Tigers Football Club)
CH2	South Albury (Youth Club) Hall	CG4	East Albury Teacup Community Garden	MR13	Albury & Border Rescue Squad
CH3	Albury City Band Hall	CG5	Billson Park Community Garden	MR14	South Albury Tennis Club
CH4	CWA Apex Hall	Meeting room		MR15	Albury Umpires Clubrooms (Noreuil Park Oval)
CH6	Splitters Creek Community Centre	MR1	Albury Smallbore Rifle Club	MR16	Mitta Mitta Canoe Club
Men's shed		MR2	Albury Wodonga Table Tennis Association	MR17	Lapidary Club
There are no men's shed in Albury Catchment.		MR3	Albury Racing Pigeon Club	MR18	East Albury Tennis Club
Youth Centre		MR4	Albury Thunder Club Rooms	MR19	St Patricks Tennis Club
Y1	Retro Lane Youth Cafe	MR5	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club	MR20	Albury Wodonga Sports Fishing Club
Y2	Albury Girl Guides Hall	MR6	SS&A Club Albury	MR21	Uiver Park Tennis Club
Y3	1st Albury Boy Scouts	MR7	Albury Croquet Club	MR31	Albury Hockey Centre
Y4	PCYC	MR8	Albury Tennis Club		
Y5	2nd Albury Scout Group				

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 7 - Multipurpose community spaces in Lavington catchment

□ Catchment boundary

□ Suburb boundary

■ Natural Areas

✈ Train line and station

■ 800m pedshed from community facilities

○ 2km distance from the town centre of Albury catchment

🏠 Community centre - CC#

🏠 Community hall - CH#

👤 Local youth centre - Y#

👤 District youth centre - Y#

🌿 Community garden - CG#

● Meeting room - MR#

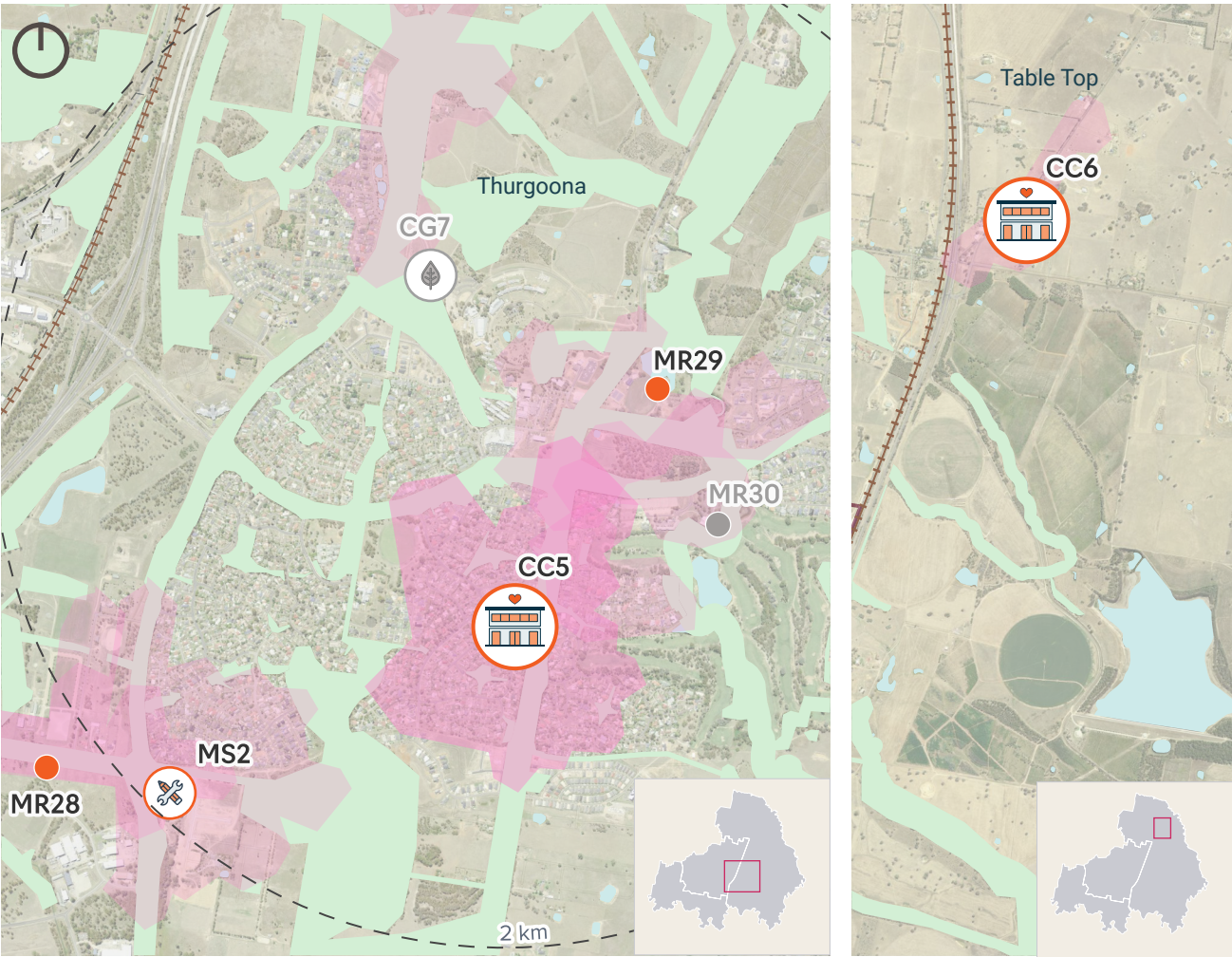
*Note: Grey icons and labels are non-Council owned spaces

Table 5 - Audit of multipurpose community spaces in Lavington catchment

Community centre		Y7	The Hive Youth Resource Centre (Old Lavington Library)
CC2	Glenecho Community Centre	Y8	Lavington Scouts Hall
CC3	Mirambeena Community Centre	Community garden	
CC4	Orana Community Centre (Springdale Heights)	CG6	Norris Park Community Garden
Community hall		Meeting room	
CH7	Lavington Hall	MR22	Lavington Sports Ground function room
CH8	Albury Masonic Centre	MR23	Lavington Anglers Club
CH9	KD Watson Hall - Albury Showgrounds	MR24	Woodstock Riding for Disabled
Men's Shed		MR25	North Albury Sports Ground (Bunton Park)
MS1	Albury Men's Shed (Manual Activities Centre)	MR26	Albury and District Aboriginal Land Council
MS2	Koori Men's Shed (AWAHS)	MR27	Woomera Aboriginal Corporation
Youth Centre			
Y6	Swan Street Girl Guides Hall		

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 8 - Multipurpose community spaces in Thurgoona catchment



- Catchment boundary
- Suburb boundary
- Natural Areas
- Train line and station
- *Note: Grey icons and labels are non-Council owned spaces
- 800m pedshed from community facilities
- 2km distance from the town centre of Thurgoona catchment
- Community centre - CC#
- Community hall - CH#
- Community garden - CG#
- Local youth centre - Y#
- District youth centre - Y#
- Meeting room - MR#

Table 6 - Audit of mutlipurpose community spaces in Thurgoona catchment

Community centres and halls	
CC5	Thurgoona Community Centre and Hall
CC6	Table Top Community Centre
Men's Shed	
MS2	Thurgoona Men's Shed
Community garden	
CG7	Kerr Sustainability Community Garden
Meeting room	
MR28	Albury Wodonga Equestrian Centre
MR29	Thurgoona Oval Clubrooms
MR30	Thurgoona Country Club

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

3.3 Community centres and halls

Our community centres and halls provide important access to meeting spaces where people can come together to participate in activities. In addition to our generalist community centres and halls, mapping for this Strategy also highlights our community also has access to many meeting rooms, including small club rooms located within our sporting spaces.

As shown in Table 7, we have 14 community centres and halls in the Albury LGA: 6 in the Albury catchment, 6 in the Lavington catchment and 2 in the Thurgoona catchment. Of the 14 community centres and halls, 10 are Council owned.

Table 7 - Community centres and halls in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment			820
Westside Community Centre	Local	Council	250
Harry's Hut (Browns Lagoon)	Local	Council	50
South Albury Hall – Decommissioned (no public access)	Local	Council	270
Splitters Creek Community Centre	Local	Council	250
Albury City Band Hall	Local	State Government	n/a
CWA Apex Hall	Local	State Government	n/a
Lavington catchment			2,220
Mirambeena Community Centre	District	Council	1,200
Lavington Hall	Local	Council	450
Glenecho Community Centre	Local	Council	350
Orana Community Centre (Springdale Heights)	Local	Council	220
KD Watson Hall - Albury Showgrounds	Local	State Government	n/a
Albury Masonic Centre	Local	Private	n/a
Thurgoona catchment			800
Thurgoona Community Centre and Hall	Local	Council	600
Table Top Community Centre	Local	Council	200

Note: West Albury Memorial Hall is listed at section 4.6 due to its primary use as a theatre practice centre

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified that while the portfolio of Council owned community centres and halls are greatly valued by residents, there is a need for additional meeting facilities that can accommodate larger group functions or events with more than 100 people. There is a desire for more of Council's community centres to have modern accessibility features such as automatic doors and sustainability improvements like solar panels. Our community centres are providing important spaces for local activities and services, but many are not easily seen from the street and this lack of clear visibility and signage can make it difficult for people to tell if they are in use. Additionally, many of our community centres do not offer direct access to quality outdoor space or children's play spaces.

As shown in Table 7, the current sizes of our community centres align with the consultation feedback indicating that while our community has access to a relatively high number of community centres, the majority of these facilities are considered relatively small (less than 500 sqm). Most of our community centres are ageing (more than 40 years old) and while the original designs of these facilities may have been considered best practice at the time of their development, the limitations of single purpose, smaller meeting spaces have become apparent. Our newest community centre, the Mirambeena Community Centre which opened in 2003, is the only community centre that currently meets the industry accepted definition of a district level facility (1,000 sqm+), meaning Albury is below the industry benchmark standard of 1 district community centre facility per 25,000 people.

Across the 10 existing Council owned community centres and halls, it is estimated that 3,840 sqm of floorspace is being provided. This equates to around 1 facility per 5,850 people, which is a higher level of provision than the industry benchmark of one per 7,500 people, or 65 sqm per 1,000 people across the Albury LGA. When adjusted to the population of each catchment, the Albury catchment has a community centre provision rate of 49 sqm per 1,000 people, the Lavington catchment has 84 sqm per 1,000 people and the Thurgoona catchment 62 sqm per 1,000 people. While these floorspace provision rates appear below the industry standard of 80 sqm per 1,000 people, the benchmark is designed to include a broader range of facilities beyond just community centres and halls, such as meeting rooms and clubrooms as well as youth centres and men's sheds. It is estimated that if the floorspace of all our other types of community spaces (+6,000 sqm) were to also be added into our community floorspace provision, we would have an overall rate of close to 170 sqm per 1,000 people across the Albury LGA.

To better serve current and future community needs, our multipurpose community centre network will need to evolve in line with community expectations to meet the increasing demand for more adaptable and multifunctional spaces. Into the future, we want to ensure each planning catchment optimises its community spaces by gradually transitioning from smaller, single-purpose facilities to consolidated, multipurpose district hubs.

	Priority finding	Focus on optimising our multipurpose community space assets by transitioning from smaller, single-purpose facilities to consolidated, multipurpose district hubs that align with contemporary standards and community expectations
	Key actions	• Provide a new district level community centre in the Thurgoona catchment that includes multipurpose community space, youth space and new cultural facilities • Upgrade our existing community centres and halls to improve their accessibility and enhance environmental sustainability performance

3.4 Youth Centres

Our youth centres provide community meeting space specifically designed to cater for the interests and wellbeing of young people.

As shown in Table 8, we have 8 youth centres in the Albury LGA: 5 in the Albury catchment, 3 in the Lavington catchment and none in the Thurgoona catchment. Of the 8 youth centres, 4 are Council owned.

Table 8 - Youth Centres in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment		600
Retro Lane Cafe	Council	400
Albury Girl Guides Hall (Victoria Street)	Council	200
PCYC	Private	n/a
1st Albury Boy Scouts	State Government	n/a
2nd Albury Scout Group	State Government	n/a
Lavington catchment		580
The Hive Youth Resource Centre (Old Lavington Library)	Council	350
Swan Street Girl Guides Hall	Council	230
Lavington Scouts Hall	Private	n/a
Thurgoona catchment		0
No facilities		

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified that both the Retro Lane Café and The Hive Youth Resource Centre are high-quality youth centres located in convenient areas and are highly used by our young people. Generally, scout and guide halls were reported to be small, have limited capabilities and be in comparatively poor condition. There is a strong community aspiration for more youth specific facilities to be provided in the Thurgoona catchment, particularly to address the social engagement needs of teenagers.

To better serve the needs of our young people, our network of youth centres will need to expand into the Thurgoona catchment. Achieving this vision will require dedicated youth spaces to be incorporated into new multipurpose community centre provision (described at section 3.3).

 Priority finding	More spaces are needed for young people in the Thurgoona catchment
 Key actions	• Provide a youth centre within a new district community centre in the Thurgoona catchment • Evaluate long-term options for the locations of youth centres in the Albury catchment and Lavington catchment

3.5 Men’s sheds

Men’s Sheds began in Australia as places where older men could work on practical projects together and look after their health and wellbeing. Today, these community spaces are opening their doors wider, welcoming people of all ages and genders to share skills, connect with others, and work on hands-on projects together.

As shown in Table 9, we have 3 Men’s Sheds in the Albury LGA: none in the Albury catchment, 2 in the Lavington catchment and 1 in the Thurgoona catchment. Of the 3 Men’s sheds, 2 are Council owned.

There are no industry benchmarks or standards for provision of Men’s Sheds. Each shed develops when local community members drive their creation and development, with Council providing support where needed.

No additional Council led provision of new Men’s Sheds is recommended at this time.

Table 9 - Men’s Sheds in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment		0
No facilities		0
Lavington catchment		350
Albury Men’s Shed (Manual Activities Centre)	Council	350
Koori’s Men’s Shed (Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service)	State Government (AWAHS)	n/a
Thurgoona catchment		450
Thurgoona Men’s Shed	Council	450

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Note: Table excludes Men’s Sheds that are provided as part of aged care facilities and retirement living complexes.



Priority finding

Maintain the approach of supporting our existing Men’s Sheds and respond to community led initiatives for new sheds as they arise

3.6 Community gardens

Our community gardens provide a range of environmental stewardship, social, educational and community benefits.

As shown in Table 10, we have 7 community garden facilities in the Albury LGA: 5 in the Albury catchment, 1 in the Lavington catchment and 1 in the Thurgoona catchment. Of the 7 community gardens, 6 are owned by Council and 1 is within the Charles Sturt University campus grounds.

There are no industry benchmarks or standards for the provision of community gardens. Each garden develops when local community members drive their creation and development. Council provides support where needed as per the Community Gardens Guidelines.

No additional Council led provision of new community gardens is recommended at this time.

Table 10 - Community gardens in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Owner
Albury catchment	
Billson Park Community Garden (David Street)	Council
Browns Lagoon Community Garden (Olive Street - currently inactive)	Council
Bungam Community Garden (corner of Engelhardt and Stanley Streets)	Council
East Albury Teacup Community Garden (Broad Street)	Council
Plummer Park Community Garden (Plummer Street)	Council
Lavington catchment	
Norris Park Community Garden (Sarson Road)	Council
Thurgoona catchment	
Kerr Sustainability Community Garden	CSU

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces



Priority finding

Maintain the approach of supporting our existing community gardens and respond to community led initiatives for new community gardens as they arise

4. Cultural facilities

The primary purpose of cultural facilities is to enable our community to explore and participate in creative activities to learn, connect and grow.

4.1 What's included

The Strategy includes our:

- Libraries
- Exhibition spaces (Galleries and Museums)
- Performance spaces
- Participation, practice and education spaces (maker spaces, rehearsal spaces, studios and artist residences)

The Strategy does not include privately-run facilities such as dance studios or hotels with entertainment venues.

Council has the primary responsibility for planning our network of cultural facilities including our libraries but acknowledges the State Government provides significant funding and support at a regional level.

4.2 What we have

We have a total of 14 cultural facilities in Albury LGA including:

- 2 libraries (both council, 1 owned and 1 leased)
- 2 exhibition spaces (both council)
- 1 performance space (Council)
- 9 participation, practice and education spaces (5 Council and 4 non-Council)



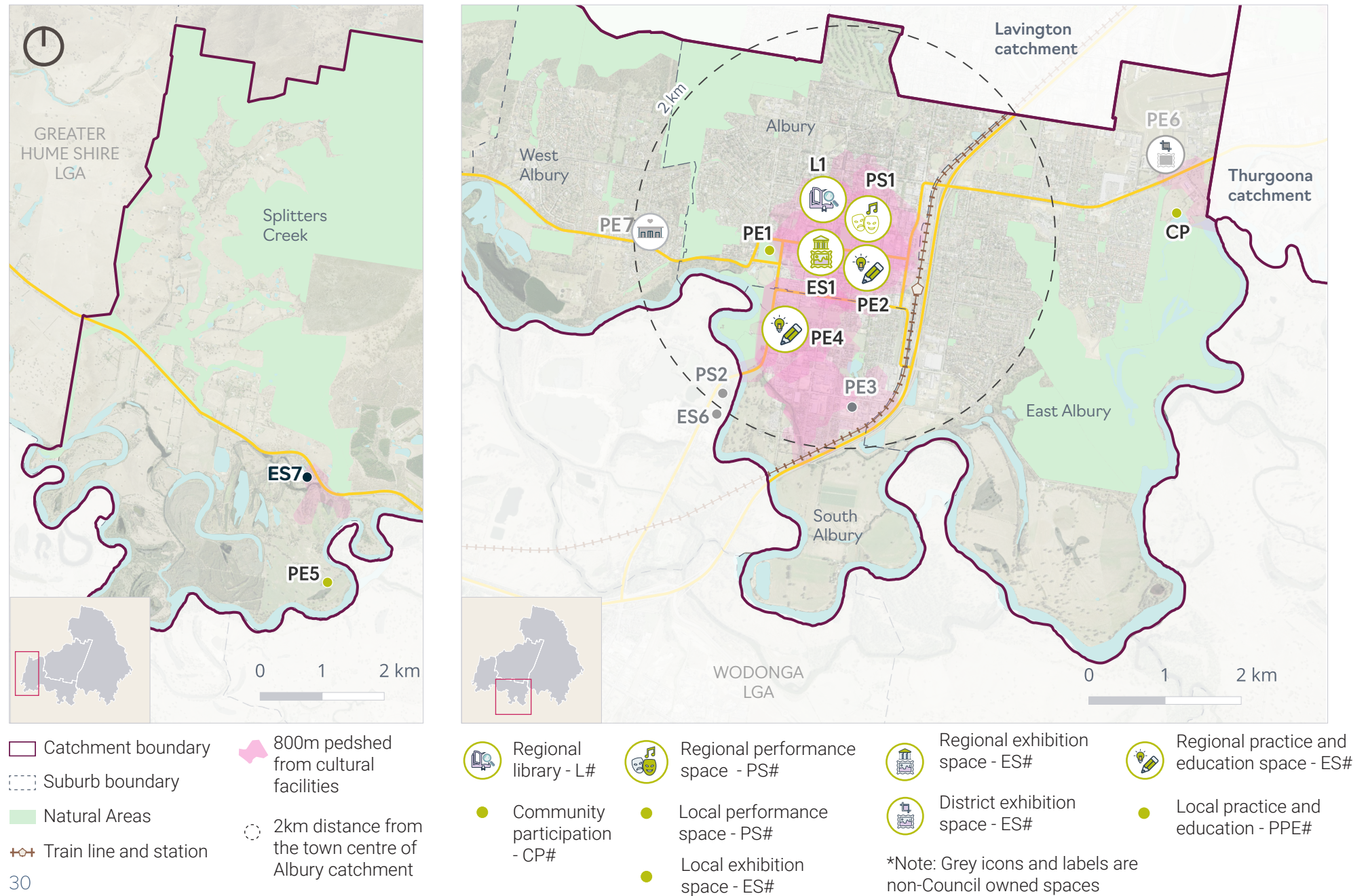
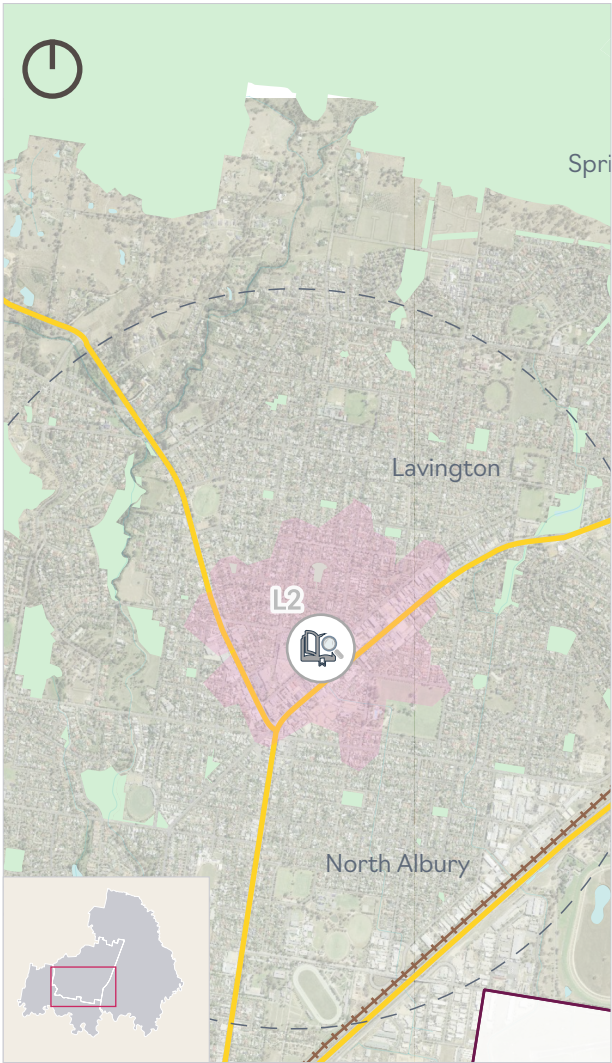
Figure 9 - Cultural facilities in Albury catchment

Table 11 - Audit of cultural facilities in Albury catchment

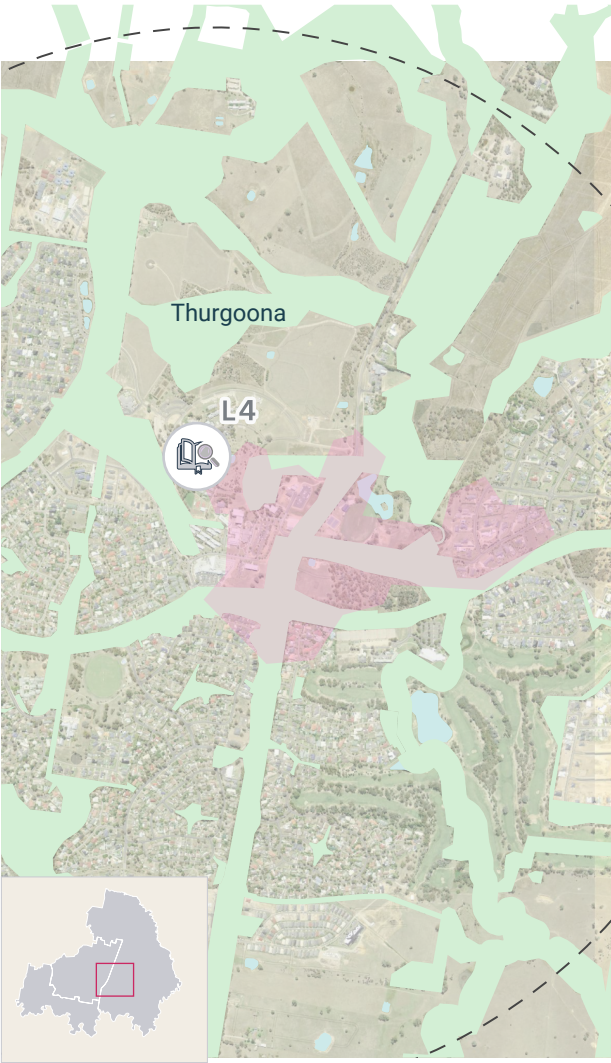
Exhibition spaces		Participation, practice and education spaces	
ES1	Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA)	CP	Pumphouse Maker Space and Artist Workshop (2024)
ES6	Gateway Gallery (Wodonga)	PE1	Curators Cottage residence
ES7	Wonga Wetlands Visitor Education Centre	PE2	Murry Conservatorium
L1	Albury LibraryMuseum	PE3	Albury Wodonga Theatre Company
Libraries		PE4	Flying Fruit Fly Circus Training Centre
L1	Albury LibraryMuseum	PE5	GreenHouse residence
Performance spaces		PE6	Uiver Memorial (Council land)
PS1	Albury Entertainment Centre (Convention Centre and Theatre)	PE7	Albury West Memorial Hall
PS2	HotHouse Theatre (The Butterfactory) (Wodonga)	Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces	

Figure 10 - Cultural facilities in Lavington catchment



- Catchment boundary
- Suburb boundary
- Natural Areas
- Train line and station
- 800m pedshed from cultural facilities
- 2km distance from the town centre of Lavington and Thurgoona catchment

Figure 11 - Cultural facilities in Thurgoona catchment



- Library - L#
- *Note: Grey icons and labels are non-Council owned spaces

Table 12 - Audit of cultural facilities in Lavington catchment

Library	
L2	Lavington Library (leased)

Table 13 - Audit of cultural facilities in Thurgoona catchment

Exhibition space	
Museum Collection Store Facility (no public access)	
Library	
L4	Charles Sturt Univeristy (Thurgoona Campus)

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

4.3 Libraries

Our libraries provide access to a wide range of information, resources, and technology, while fostering learning, creativity, and collaboration through both physical and digital services.

As shown in Table 14 we have 2 public libraries in the Albury LGA: 1 in the Albury catchment which is owned by Council, 1 in the Lavington catchment which is leased by Council, and none in the Thurgoona catchment.

Table 14 - Libraries in Albury LGA

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment			
Albury LibraryMuseum	Regional	Council	2,800*
Lavington catchment			
Lavington Library	Local	Private (leased by Council)	450
Thurgoona catchment			
No facilities			

Note: The table excludes the Charles Sturt University library at Thurgoona Campus as it is classified as a tertiary institution rather than a public library.

*Floorspace area excludes sqm allocated to exhibition space and youth space.

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified that both of our libraries are popular and well regarded. They provide spaces that feel welcoming and safe, and our community appreciate the ability to access the range of programs and technology available. Feedback on the Lavington Library suggests that while functional, many visitors find the space relatively small. Compared to the Albury LibraryMuseum, Lavington Library faces constraints in offering a larger open floor space area for community engagement and educational activities such as author talks, workshops and community programs.

Across the existing 2 libraries, it is estimated that 3,250 sqm of total floorspace is being provided. This equates to around 56 sqm per 1,000 people across the Albury LGA. While this existing provision rate aligns overall with the NSW State Library suggested benchmark of 55 sqm per 1,000 people, the distribution of this floorspace is not spread fairly amongst the catchments. When adjusted to the population of each catchment, the Albury catchment has a provision rate of 167 sqm per 1,000 people, while the Lavington catchment has 17 sqm per 1,000 people. The Thurgoona catchment does not have access to a public library, only some limited access to the privately owned tertiary education library at the Charles Sturt University campus.

As a regional facility, the Albury LibraryMuseum will continue to play a pivotal role as the central library for the whole LGA, anchoring the library network by providing comprehensive services, resources and programs that cater for all planning catchments. Into the future, to enhance access, regular use and engagement with library services, it is ideal to ensure all residents are within a 20 minute travel distance to their nearest library.

Achieving this objective requires strategic investment in the library network. Using the State Library of NSW People Places planning tool as a guide, expansion is needed at the Lavington Library (+1,000 sqm) to better meet current and future demands. Additionally, new library space (+1,500 sqm) is required in the Thurgoona catchment to better serve the growing population, address existing service gaps and reduce travel time.

By 2046, these additions would result in the Albury LGA having a library network of 1 library per 26,000 people, with an overall provision of around 5,750 sqm floorspace, equating to 73 sqm per 1,000 people. This approach balances the central role of the Albury LibraryMuseum with well-distributed community libraries serving each catchment.

 Priority finding	More library floor space is required in Lavington and Thurgoona to meet the current and future demand
 Key actions	• Deliver scalable public library services in Thurgoona catchment • Expand the Lavington Library • Ensure the Albury Library Museum continues to function effectively as the central library for the whole Albury LGA

4.4 Exhibition spaces

Our exhibition and gallery spaces provide places to showcase, engage with and appreciate local history, culture and art.

As shown in Table 15, we have 2 permanent exhibition spaces in the Albury LGA, both located in the Albury catchment. Additionally, there is a Museum Collection storage facility located in the Thurgoona catchment, however this is not open to the public.

Table 15 - Exhibition spaces in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment			2,150
Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA)	Regional	Council	1,150
Albury LibraryMuseum	Regional	Council	1,000*
Lavington catchment			0
No facilities			0
Thurgoona catchment			0
Museum Collection Store Facility (no public access)	Regional	Council	N/A

Note: Excludes floorspace allocated to library space (Table 14) and youth space (Table 8)

Of our public exhibition facilities, the Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA) has a focus on contemporary art, while the Albury LibraryMuseum has a focus on social history and culture. There are other significant public exhibition spaces located in the Wodonga LGA that also serve and support the Albury community such as the Bonegilla Migrant Experience, Hyphen and Gateway Gallery.

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified clear demand for more space dedicated to community based arts, with a desire for more amateur and grassroots artistic work to be showcased. There is a significant collection of local history items in museum storage that have potential for future display, even on a temporary basis, if more exhibition space was available. Consultation also identified a lack of suitable exhibition space that can accommodate the logistical needs of travelling museum exhibits or 'blockbuster' scale exhibitions from major museums or cultural institutions that attract large visitation.

Across the two existing exhibition spaces, it is estimated that 2,150 sqm floorspace is being provided. This equates to around 36 sqm of exhibition floorspace per 1,000 people across the Albury LGA. All our current exhibition floorspace is in the Albury catchment, with no facilities in the Lavington catchment or the Thurgoona catchment.

As regional facilities, both the Albury LibraryMuseum and MAMA will continue to serve as key exhibition spaces for the whole LGA. To meet growing demand and expand opportunities for public access to local history and art, it is recommended that at least 750 sqm of new exhibition space be added to the network in line with the expected population increase across the Albury LGA by 2046. One potential solution to address this need is to transition the existing Museum Collection Store facility into a purpose built facility that provides some level of public access, ensuring both preservation of collections and engagement with the community.

 Priority finding	More exhibition space is required to sustain and expand opportunities for cultural engagement and education
 Key actions	• Identify options for provision of purpose-built museum and art storage facilities • Integrate new exhibition and creative enterprise space (including retail opportunities) into existing and future community and cultural facilities • Explore opportunities for dedicated exhibition spaces that celebrate and recognise First Nations art and culture

4.5 Performance spaces

Performance spaces are venues designed to engage the public in live performances such as music, theatre and dance.

In the Albury LGA, there is currently one performance space - the Albury Entertainment Centre - which operates across two buildings: a Theatre and Convention Centre. There are two major performance spaces in Wodonga that also serve and support the Albury community (HotHouse Theatre and The Cube). As shown in Table 16 the one performance space (Albury Entertainment Centre) is located in the Albury catchment, with no facilities in the Lavington catchment or the Thurgoona catchment.

Table 16 - Performance space in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment			
Albury Entertainment Centre (Convention Centre and Theatre)	Regional	Council	3,500
HotHouse Theatre (The Butterfactory)	Regional	Wodonga LGA	n/a
Lavington catchment			
No facilities			
Thurgoona catchment			
No facilities			

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

The existing performance space (Albury Entertainment Centre) is estimated at 3,500 sqm. This equates to about 60 sqm of performance floorspace per 1,000 people across the Albury LGA.

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified clear demand for venues dedicated to music and concert performances, such as an acoustically designed recital hall. While the Murray Conservatorium is an important music practice and education space, it does not currently provide a performance facility (see section 4.6). Additionally, our network lacks access to large indoor entertainment spaces with seating capacity for more than 3,000 people. Consultation also indicated interest in the provision of additional flexible performance spaces, such as a ‘black box’ theatre with retractable seating that can be adapted for both theatre and dance performances.

As a regional facility, the Albury Entertainment Centre will continue to serve as a premier performance venue for the whole LGA. Its central location and planned upgrades will ensure it remains a purpose built facility capable of hosting a variety of theatre productions, live performances and conferences.

To meet growing demand and expand opportunities for public access to performance art, it is recommended that at least 800 sqm of new performance space be integrated into the network, aligned with the expected population increase across the Albury LGA by 2046. While the ideal solution involves the development of new, purpose built indoor facilities within Albury’s cultural precinct, achieving a more equitable distribution of performance space across our planning catchments is also important so all residents can access performance experiences closer to home. An alternate solution is to incorporate modular or amphitheatre - style spaces into new and existing parks in the Lavington catchment and the Thurgoona catchment. These would allow for a variety of performances to take place at different scales and styles as well as host community events such as screening of major sporting matches or open-air cinema nights.

 Priority finding	More performance space is required to ensure continued availability of venues that support cultural engagement
 Key actions	Incorporate new performance space into existing and future community and cultural facilities as well as open space

4.6 Participation, practice and education spaces

Rather than providing spaces for passive viewing, participation spaces are designed to actively involve the public in the creative process, such as art and craft workshops. Similarly, practice and education spaces support artists with dedicated spaces for learning and skill development.

As shown in Table 17, we have 9 participation, practice and education spaces in the Albury LGA, all located in the Albury catchment. Of the 9 participation, education and practice facilities, 5 are Council owned, made up of 1 artist maker space, 2 artist residences, 1 training centre and 1 education centre.

Table 17 - Participation, practice and education spaces in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchment

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size (sqm)
Albury catchment			
Flying Fruit Fly Circus	Regional	Council	2,300
Pumphouse Maker Space and Artist Workshop	District	Council	400
Wonga Wetlands Education Centre	Local	Council	200
Curators Cottage residence	Local	Council	N/A
GreenHouse residence	Local	Council	N/A
Albury Wodonga Theatre Company	Local	Private	N/A
Murray Conservatorium	Regional	State Government	N/A
Uiver Memorial	Local	Private (Council land)	N/A
West Albury Memorial Hall	Local	State Government	N/A
Lavington catchment			
No facilities			
Thurgoona catchment			
No facilities			

Note: The Albury Lapidary Club qualifies as a participation space; however, for the purpose of floorspace analysis, it is included within the multipurpose community meeting space chapter.

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified that while the community highly value the presence of regional facilities in central Albury, they would also like to have access to local facilities close to their home where they can directly engage in arts and creative activities themselves, particularly if they are at an amateur stage of artistic development.

All of our current publicly accessible participation, practice and education spaces are in the Albury catchment. Into the future, it is preferable that these spaces are also distributed across the Lavington catchment and Thurgoona catchment.

Achieving this requires a three pronged approach: better integrating participation, practice and education space within existing multipurpose community centres, repurposing underutilised areas within these centres to accommodate such activities (refer to section 3.3) and providing new cultural spaces through strategic planning processes.

 Priority finding	More community participation, practice and education space is required to ensure the continued availability of spaces that engage people in creative activities
 Key actions	• Repurpose surplus or vacant space within our multipurpose community spaces and other suitable buildings • Ensure new space (including urban and public art commissions) are provided for within new developments

5. Health facilities

The primary purpose of health facilities is to provide medical care, promote health, prevent disease and support the wellbeing of people in our community.

State and Federal Governments hold responsibility for funding and planning for future health facilities in the Albury LGA- not local government. Council does, however, play an important role in raising awareness of health and wellbeing issues within our community. This is primarily achieved through partnerships with organisations such as Health Infrastructure NSW, Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) and the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD).

5.1 What's included

The Strategy includes our:

- Hospitals and Community health centres
- Aged care centres
- Cemeteries and crematoria.

The Strategy does not include any allied health services, private general practitioners (GP's), retirement villages, emergency services (SES, police, fire and ambulance), courthouses or corrections facilities.

5.2 What we have

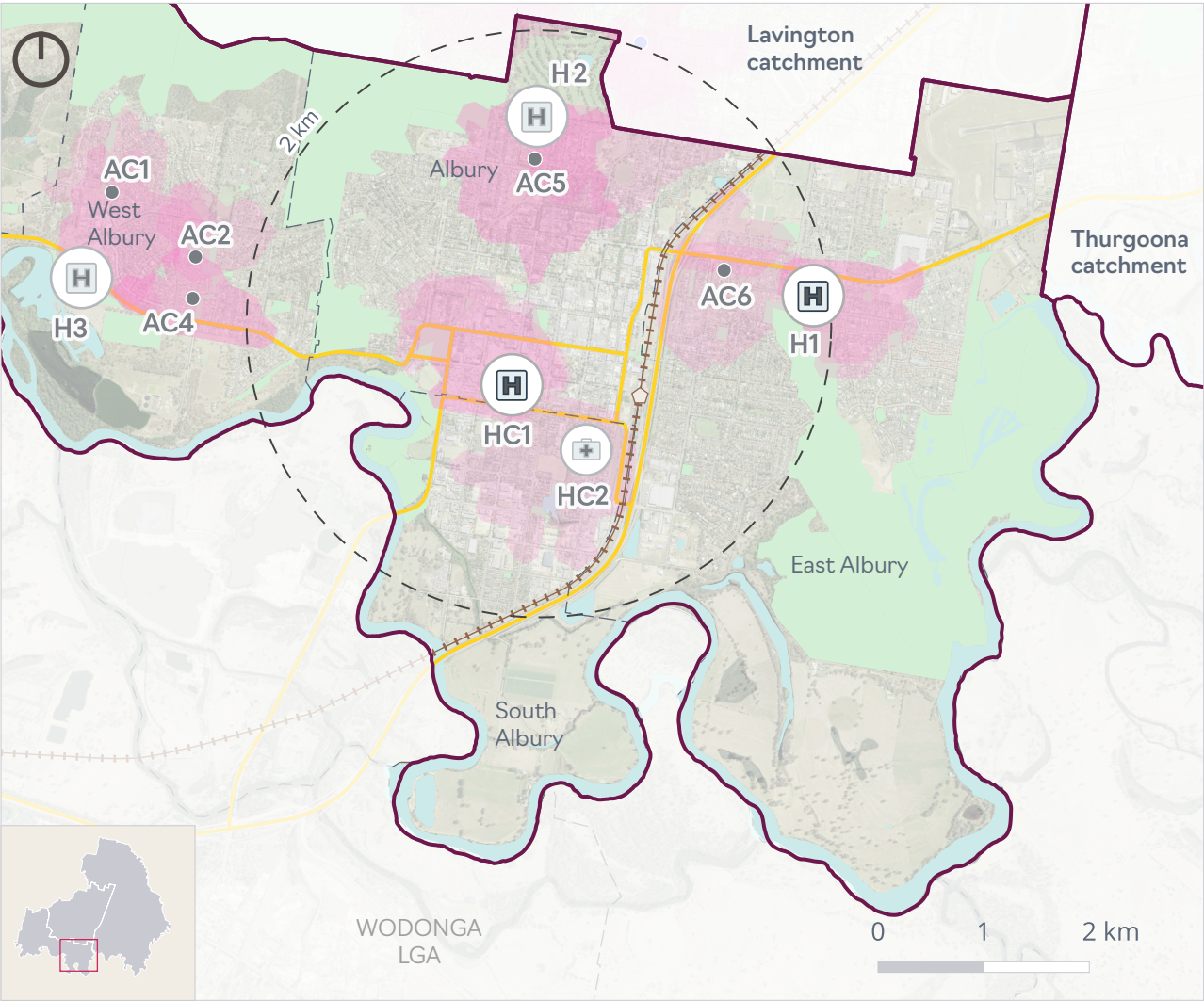
We have a total of 21 health facilities. Aside from Council owned cemeteries and crematoria, all of these health facilities are owned by either the private sector or the NSW Government.

- 3 cemeteries (2 Council and 1 non-Council) and 3 crematoria (1 Council and 2 private, locations not shown)
- 9 aged care facilities (all privately owned)
- 3 hospitals (1 public and 2 private) and 3 community health centres (2 public and 1 private)



Child family nurse
(source: Albury City)

Figure 12 - Health facilities in Albury catchment



- Catchment boundary
 - Suburb boundary
 - Natural Areas
 - Train line and station
 - 800m pedshed from health facilities
 - 2km distance from the town centre of Albury catchment
 - Aged care - AC#
 - Health centre - HC#
 - Hospital - H#
- *Note: Grey icons and labels are non-Council owned spaces

Table 18 - Audit of health facilities in Albury catchment

Aged care centres	
AC1	Yallaroo Lutheran Aged Care
AC2	Dellacourt Lutheran Aged Care
AC4	Riverwood Aged Care
AC5	Mercy Place Aged Care
AC6	Fresh Hope Borella House
Hospitals	
H1	Albury Wodonga Health - Albury Campus
H2	Mercy Health Albury
H3	Albury Wodonga Private Hospital
Health Centre	
HC1	Albury Community Health Centre
HC2	Border Urgent Care Centre

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 13 - Health facilities in Lavington catchment

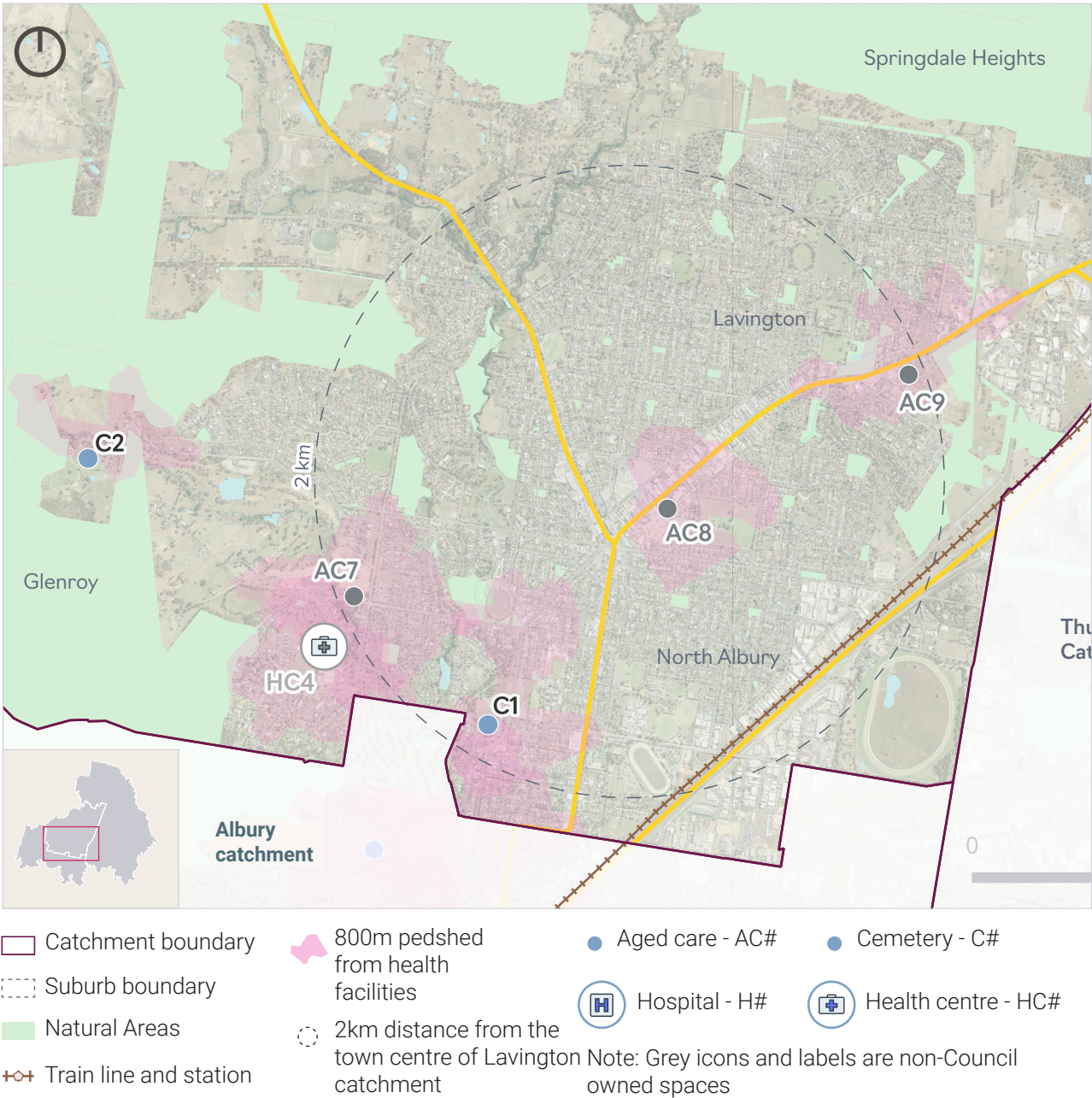


Table 19 - Audit of health facilities in Lavington catchment

Aged care centres	
AC7	Calvary Albury & District
AC8	Murray Vale Shalem Hostel
AC9	Murray Vale Shalem Hostel
Cemeteries and crematoria	
C1	Albury General Cemetery (contains the historic Pioneer Cemetery and Waugh Road Cemetery)
C2	Glenmorus Memorial Gardens and Crematorium
Community health centre	
HC4	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 14 - Health facilities in Thurgoona catchment

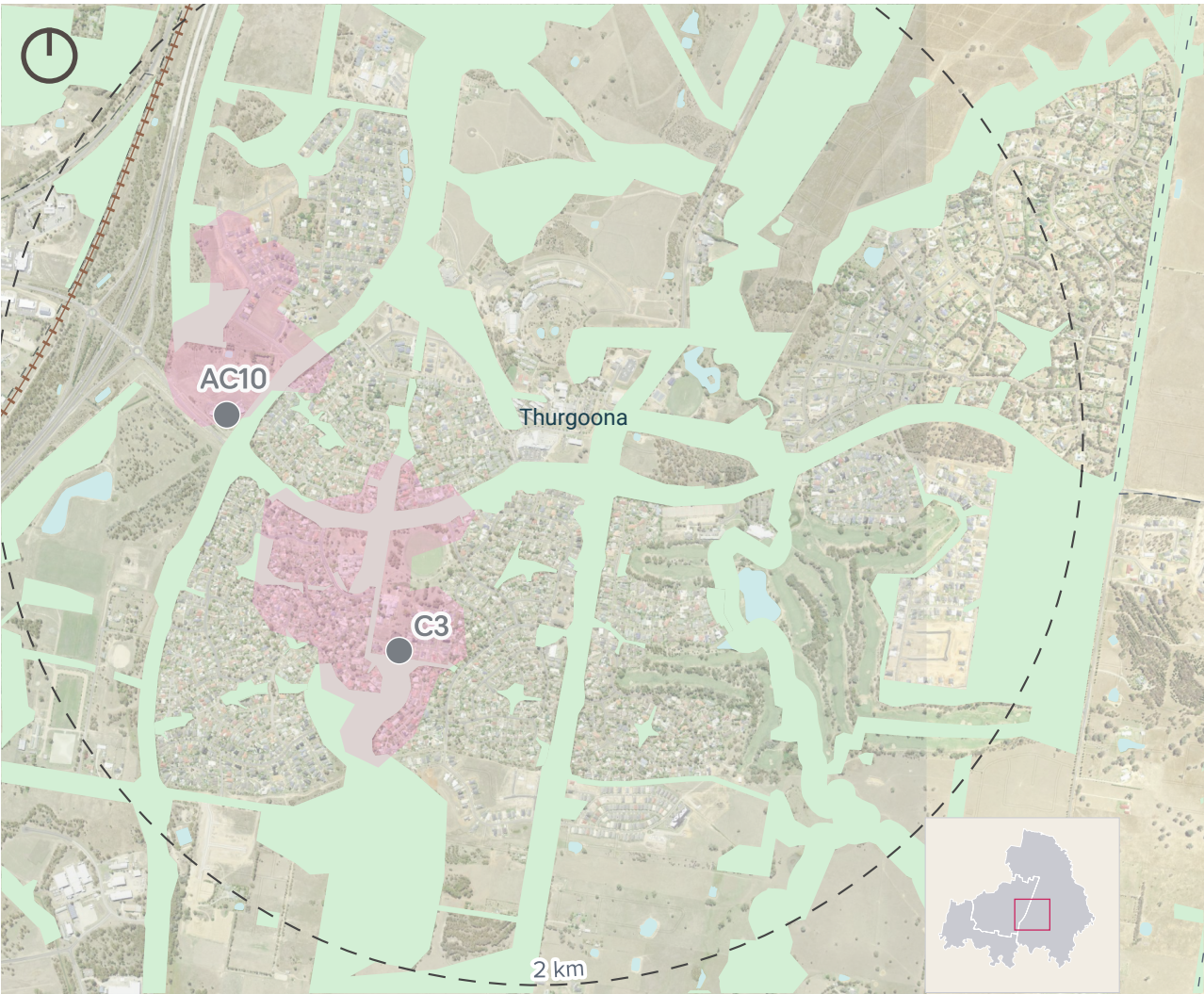


Table 20 - Audit of health facilities in Thurgoona catchment

Aged care centres	
AC10	Estia Health
Cemeteries and crematoria	
C3	St Johns Cemetery

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

5.3 Cemeteries and crematoria

Memorial sites are important places for remembrance and reflection. They provide comfort and support in serene natural environments.

Table 21 - Cemeteries and crematoria in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size (ha)
Albury catchment			
No facilities			
Lavington catchment			
Albury General Cemetery (contains the historic Pioneer Cemetery and Waugh Road Cemetery)	Local	Mix of Council & Crown and Church trustees	6.8
Glenmorus Memorial Gardens and Crematorium	Regional	Council	19.2
Thurgoona catchment			
St Johns Cemetery (historic, offers limited services only for Catholic Church clergy)	Local	Private	0.2

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Note: Table excludes historic Indian Cemetery (cremation site) at Jelbart Park, Lavington

Each year, Council owned and operated cemeteries and crematoria provide between 130 to 160 burials, between 80 to 140 cremations and between 100 to 130 ash placements.

In line with general trends across NSW, it is expected that the current Riverina Murray region cremation rate (79%) will continue to increase, with a corresponding decline in the burial rate. Even so, as Albury's population grows, there will be growing pressure on existing interment space.

Despite possible future uptake of 'shared' burials per gravesite and limited tenure of plots, Council must ensure there will be sufficient land to meet future interment demand. Interment spaces are highly regulated and restricted in land use, making it challenging to identify and acquire suitable new cemetery sites.

Based on the remaining usable space at Council owned cemeteries, it is estimated that there is a 12 to 20 year supply before additional land may be required for cemetery expansion.

Based on identified capacity to increase the number of cremations at Council owned crematoria, along with the additional capacity of private crematorium units in Albury, it is unlikely that any new or expanded crematorium facilities will need to be planned for in the Albury LGA, even in the longer term.

At the next review of this Strategy, factors to be evaluated which might affect this assessment include a review of cremation rate trends, and evaluation of remaining capacity at the Wodonga General Cemetery.

 Priority finding	Plan for future cemetery expansion to ensure long term capacity for sustainable interment options that cater to diverse religious, cultural, and non-denominational needs
 Key actions	• Investigate options for future expansion of Glenmorris Memorial Gardens and Crematorium • Enhance the open space values of our cemetery spaces

5.4 Aged care centres

Aged care centres provide residential accommodation and care services for older people who can no longer live independently at home. These facilities offer varying levels of support, including personal care, nursing care, and access to healthcare professionals.

Table 22 - Aged care centres in Albury LGA

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size
Albury catchment			
Yallaroo Lutheran Aged Care	Local	Private	Between 50 to 100 beds
Dellacourt Lutheran Aged Care	Local	Private	More than 100 beds
Riverwood Aged Care	Local	Private	Less than 50 beds
Mercy Place Aged Care	Local	Private	More than 100 beds
Fresh Hope Borella House	Local	Private	Between 50 to 100 beds
Lavington catchment			
Calvary Albury and District	Local	Private	Between 50 to 100 beds
Murray Vale Shalem Hostel	Local	Private	Between 50 to 100 beds
Southern Cross Care Lavington	Local	Private	Less than 50 beds
Thurgoona catchment			
Estia Health	Local	Private	Between 50 to 100 beds

Across the nine existing aged care centres in Albury LGA, it is estimated between 600 to 700 aged care beds are being provided. This equates to around 60 beds per 1,000 people over the age of 65. This existing provision rate broadly aligns with 2019 data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing approximately 7% of people aged over 65 years access residential aged care.

By 2046, it is estimated that the population of people aged over 65 years in the Albury LGA will increase by around 5,650 people. To maintain a similar level of aged care centres provision into the future as our older population grows, it is estimated that anywhere between 300 to 400 additional aged care beds will be needed.

Assuming that all new aged care centres will be able to accommodate an average of 100 beds, this equates to a need for the establishment of at least three new aged care centres.

In addition to supporting private sector provision of new aged care facilities, the Albury Local Housing Strategy encourages the development of medium and high-density housing, smaller dwellings and homes that adhere to universal design principles. Access to a broader range of housing options will provide older residents with more housing choices, supporting their ability to live independently and ‘age in place’ for as long as possible.

 Priority finding	More aged care centres are needed to meet demand driven by our aging population
 Key actions	Ensure good accessibility and fit for purpose spaces for older people are provided within our multipurpose community spaces

5.5 Hospitals and Community health centres

Public hospitals and community health centres are provided by Albury Wodonga Health, a unique cross border health care service that provides public health care to our community. These health services significantly reduce the need for our community to travel outside of our region to access care.

Most of the hospitals and community health centres are located within the Albury catchment. Their strategic locations enable them to effectively serve a regional function, providing care to residents of Albury, Wodonga and beyond.

Several Council owned multipurpose community centres also include small, designated office and clinical spaces for outreach health services delivered by Albury Wodonga Health. This includes Child and Family Health which supports families with young children through free health promotion and education, developmental screening, breastfeeding support, and early intervention for issues such as postnatal depression and domestic violence. Co-locating these services within multipurpose community centres helps ensure families can access trusted support close to home.

Table 23 - Hospitals and Community health centres in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Hierarchy	Owner	Size
Albury catchment			
Albury Wodonga Health- Albury Campus	Regional	NSW Health	General hospital, 100+ beds
Albury Community Health Centre	Regional	NSW Health	Primary health care
Mercy Health Albury	District	Private	Sub-acute hospital, 50-100 beds
Albury Wodonga Private Hospital	Regional	Private	General hospital, 50-100 beds
Border Urgent Care Centre	District	Private	After hours walk-in clinic
Lavington catchment			
Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service	Regional	NSW Health	Primary health care
Thurgoona catchment			
No facilities			

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Note: Insight private hospital at the Gardens Medical Centre is excluded on the basis the facility is primarily a General Practice

According to NSW Health, there is a clear need for enhanced hospital services in Albury. The planned major redevelopment of Albury Hospital campus aims to address the increasing health demands of the community by consolidating services and expanding facilities. This project is being funded by both NSW and Victorian governments, reflecting the regional cooperation to improve healthcare in the border communities.

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified that our community need improved transport access to our hospital and community health care facilities.

 Priority finding	More hospital and community health care services are needed to address the increasing demand for medical and health care support
 Key actions	• Ensure community centres provide fit-for-purpose clinical rooms to accommodate effective delivery of health outreach services and programs • Develop and implement the East Albury Precinct Plan to plan the precincts around the Albury hospital to better integrate with surrounding communities, enhance accessibility and promote mixed-use development

6. Education facilities

The primary purpose of education facilities is to provide high quality learning opportunities that equip our community with the knowledge, skills and personal growth needed to access employment opportunities, fostering economic sustainability and growth.

State and Federal Governments hold responsibility for funding and planning future primary, secondary and tertiary education facilities in the Albury LGA – not local government. Council does, however, provide early childhood education facilities.

Council can play an important role in raising awareness of educational access and quality issues within our community. This is primarily achieved through partnership with organisations such as School Infrastructure NSW.

6.1 What's included

The Strategy includes our:

- Early childhood centres (child care centres and preschools)
- Schools (primary, secondary and out of school hours care)
- Tertiary education institutions (University's and TAFE).

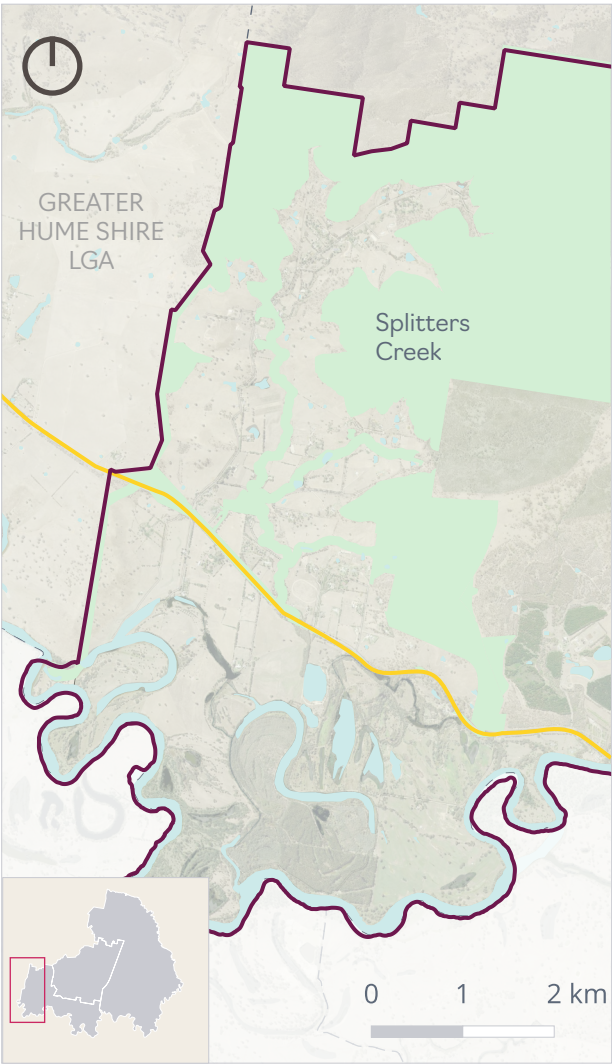
The Strategy does not include family day care centres or any non-Government run registered training organisations (RTOs).

6.2 What we have

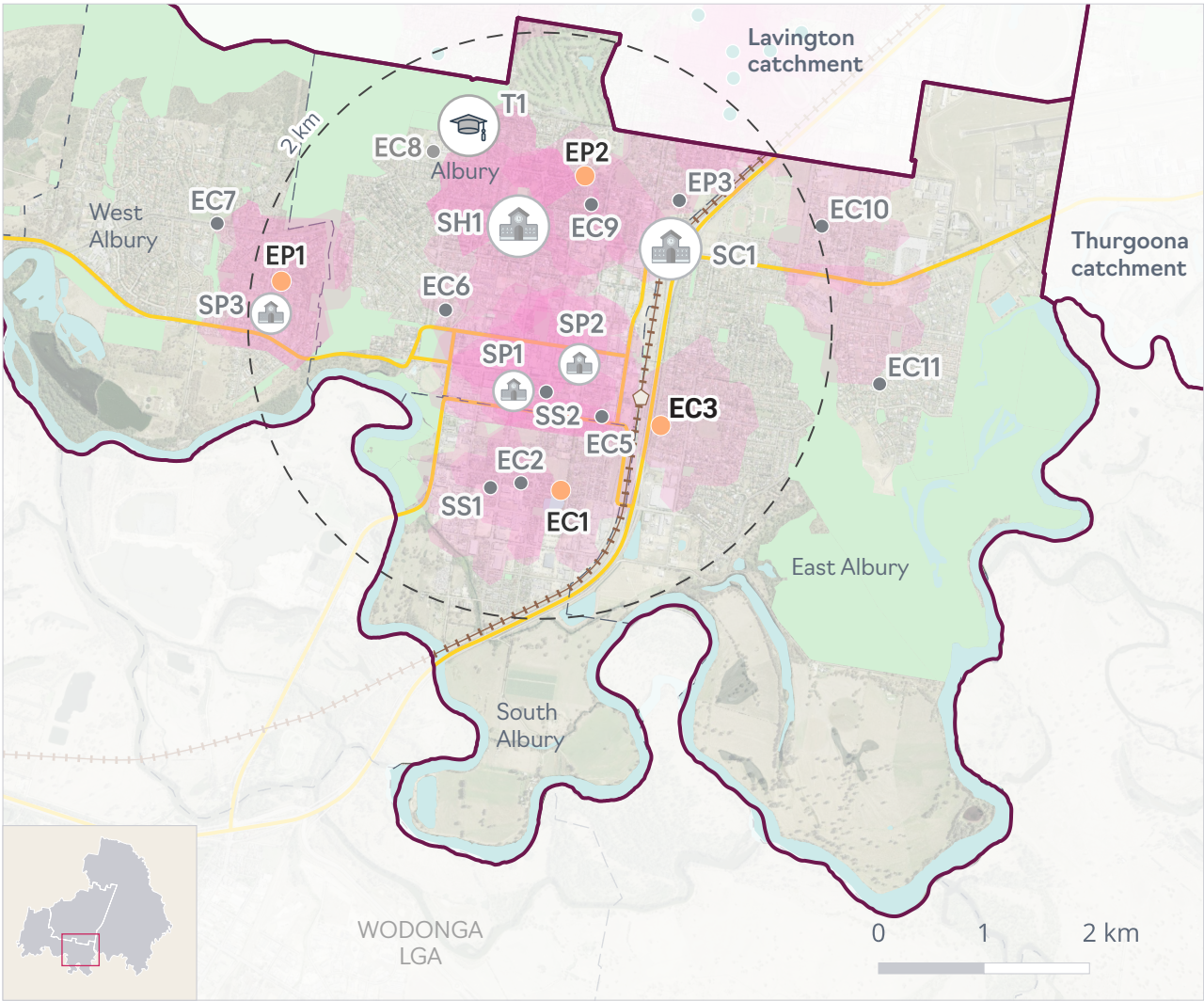
We have a total of 60 education facilities in Albury LGA including:

- 33 early childhood education facilities, consisting of 24 childcare centres (1 Council, 23 non-Council) and nine preschools (4 Council, 5 non-Council)
- 24 primary and secondary schools, all non-council owned, comprising of: 4 high schools (3 public, 1 private), 12 primary schools (10 public, 2 private), 3 combined primary and high schools (all private) and 5 special purpose schools (2 public, 3 private). This means that of all our schools, 15 (62%) are Government run and 9 (38%) are non-Government run. Council runs 4 Out Of School Hours services within primary schools, however these have been excluded from benchmarking.
- 3 tertiary facilities: Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Thurgoona and 2 TAFE campus'. Additionally, residents of the Albury LGA have access to the UNSW Rural Clinical Campus at the Albury Hospital campus, as well as the regional La Trobe University and additional TAFE campus in the Wodonga LGA.

Figure 15 - Education facilities in Albury catchment



- Catchment boundary
- Suburb boundary
- Natural Areas
- Train line and station
- 800m pedshed from education facilities
- 2km distance from the town centre of Albury catchment



- Tertiary education - T#
- High school - SH#
- Special school - SS#
- Childcare Centres - EC#
- Primary school - SP#
- Preschool - EP#

*Note: Grey icons and labels are non-Council owned spaces

Table 24 - Audit of education facilities in Albury catchment

Childcare Centre	
EC1	Central Albury Occasional Care and Early Learning Centre
EC2	Kiewa Kids
EC3	Yarrunga Early Learning Centre
EC5	Guardian Childcare & Education Kinfolk
EC6	Wilcox Street Early Learning Centre
EC7	Goodstart Early Learning Pemberton Street
EC8	Albury TAFE Child Care Centre
EC9	Goodstart Early Learning Albury
EC10	Woodlands Childcare Centre
EC11	Kidscape Early Learning Centre
Preschool	
EP1	West Albury Preschool
EP2	Albury Preschool
EP3	Scots Preschool

Primary school	
SP1	St Patrick's Primary School
SP2	Albury Public School
SP3	Albury West Public School
High school	
SH1	Albury High School
Combined school	
SC1	The Scots School Albury (preschool + primary school + high school)
Special purpose school	
SS1	Indie School
SS2	Aspect Riverina School
Tertiary education	
T1	TAFE NSW Riverina Institute Albury Campus

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 16 - Education facilities in Lavington catchment

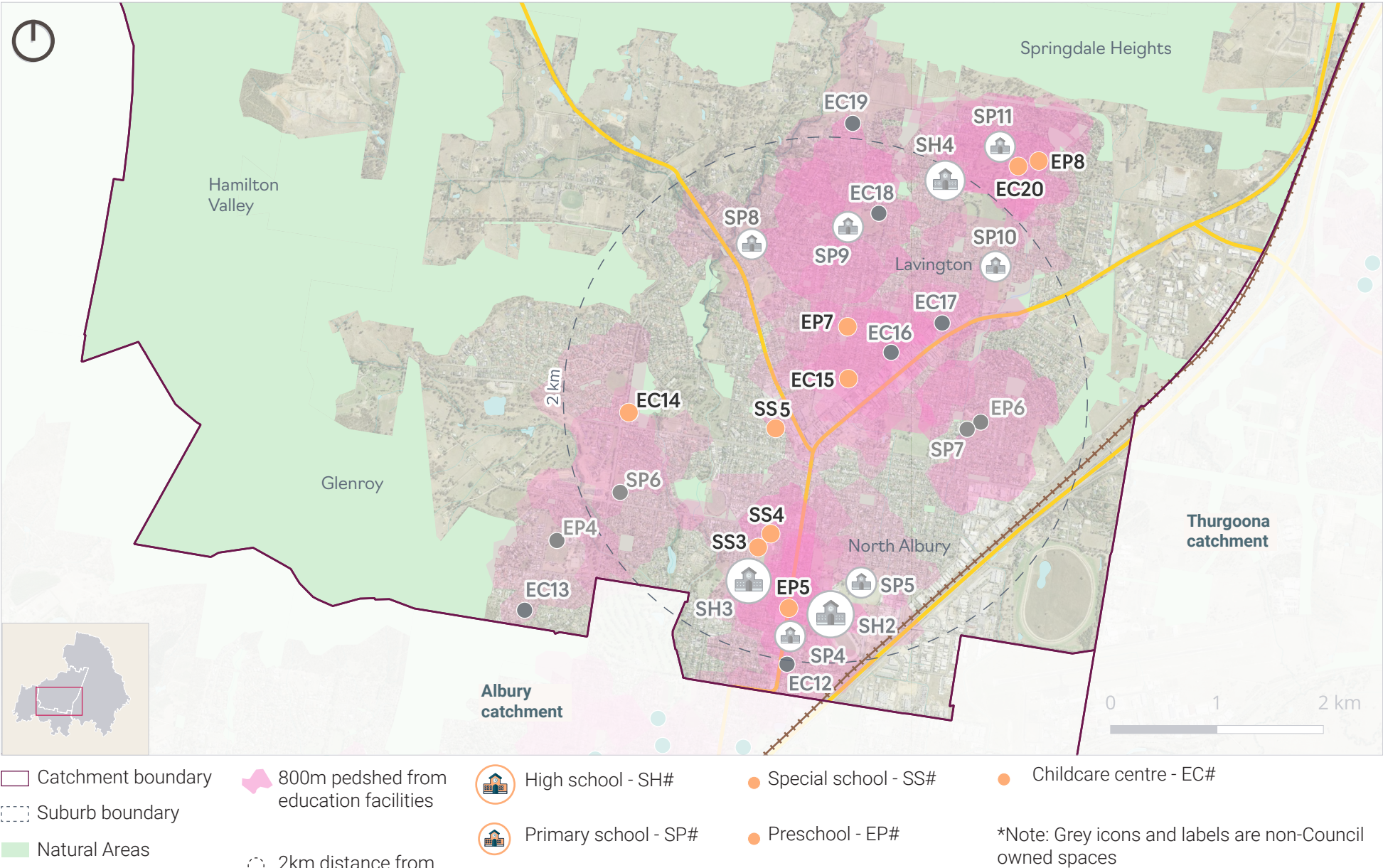


Table 25 - Audit of education facilities in Lavington catchment

Childcare centre		Primary school	
EC12	Green Leaves Early Learning Centre	SP4	Albury North Public School
EC13	Lots of Tots Early Learning Centre	SP5	St Anne's Primary School
EC14	Greater Hume Children Services	SP6	Glenroy Public School
EC15	Lavington Occasional Child Care Centre	SP7	Hume Primary School
EC16	Kiddiewinks Early Learning and Care Centre	SP8	Lavington Public School
EC17	Cubby House Early Learning and Care Centre	SP9	Holy Spirit Primary School
EC18	Goodstart Early Learning Lavington	SP10	Lavington East Public School
EC19	Community Kids Lavington Early Education Centre	SP11	Springdale Heights Primary School
EC20	Banjora Childrens Centre	High school	
Preschool		SH2	Xavier Catholic College
EP4	Koori Kindermanna Preschool	SH3	James Fallon High School
EP5	Moresby Park Preschool	SH4	Murray High School
EP6	Hume Public School Preschool	Special purpose school	
EP7	Ross Circuit Preschool Centre	SS3	Kandeer School (SSP)
EP8	Springdale Heights Preschool	SS4	Wewak Street Public School (SSP)
		SS5	OneSchool Global Albury (SSP)

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

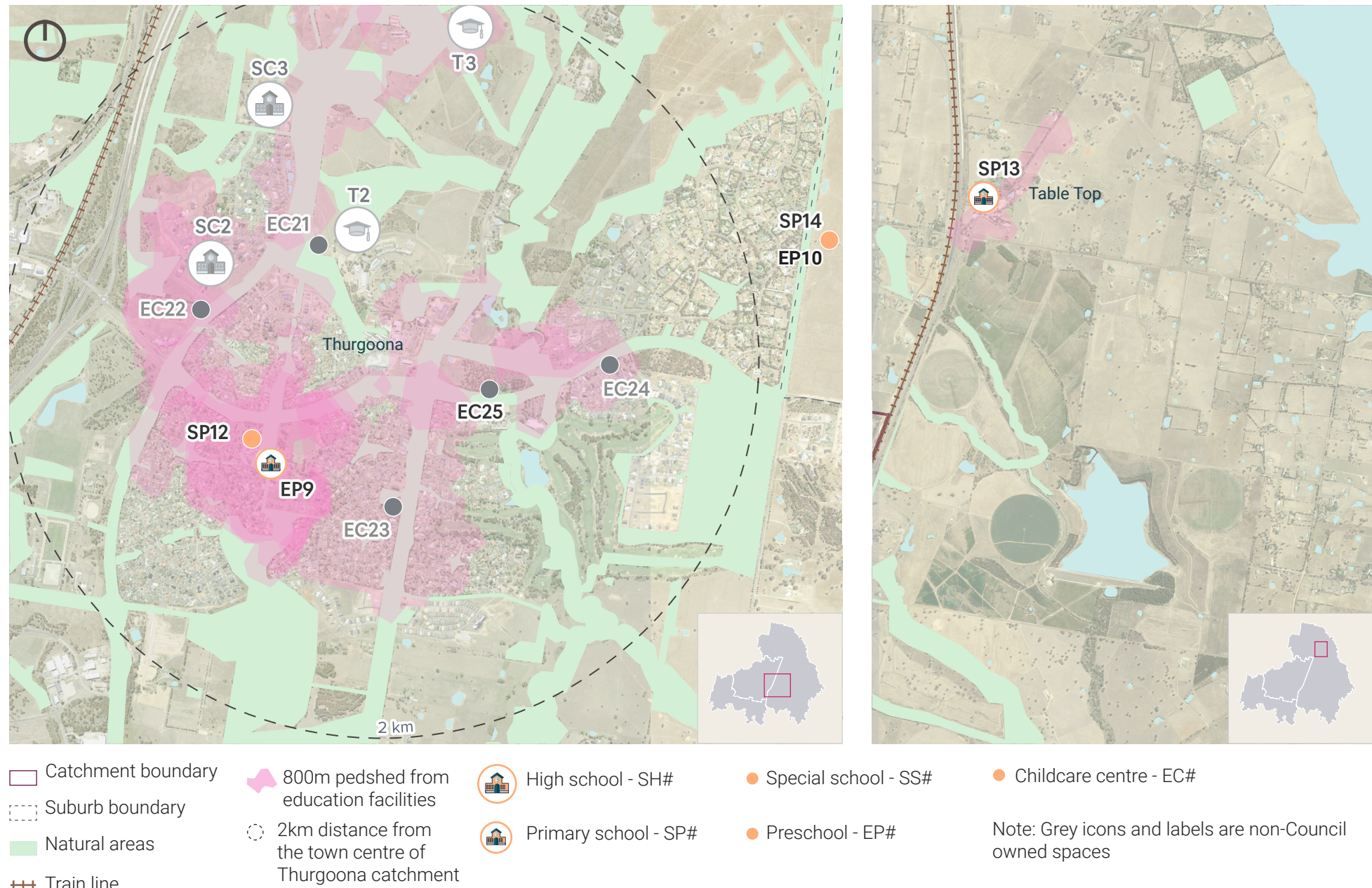
Figure 17 - Education facilities in Thurgoona catchment

Table 26 - Audit of social infrastructure, Education facilities in Thurgoona catchment

Childcare centre	
EC21	Murray Childrens Centre
EC22	Early Years Academy Thurgoona
EC23	Goodstart Early Learning Thurgoona (formerly Gumnut Childcare)
EC24	Thurgoona Early Learning
EC25	Eden Academy Thurgoona
Preschool	
EP9	Thurgoona Preschool
EP10	New Thurgoona Preschool
Primary school	
SP12	Thurgoona Public School
SP13	Table Top Primary School
SP14	New Thurgoona Primary School

Combined school	
SC2	Border Christian College (primary school + high school)
SC3	Trinity Anglican College (primary school + high school)
Tertiary education	
T2	Charles Sturt Univeristy (Thurgoona Campus)
T3	TAFE NSW Thurgoona Campus

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

6.3 Early childhood centres

Childcare centres and preschools provide foundational learning experiences and help prepare children for school while also enabling parents to engage in the workforce or further education. High-quality early childhood education is linked to improved outcomes for children, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

As shown in Table 27, we have 33 early childhood centres in the Albury LGA: 13 in the Albury catchment, 14 in the Lavington catchment and 6 in the Thurgoona catchment.

Table 27 - Early childhood centres in Albury LGA

Facility name	Description	Owner	Size (number of places)
Albury catchment			
Albury Preschool	Preschool/ kindergarten (within Greenfield Park Sports Space) 720 Alma Street	Council	Large (90+ places)
West Albury Preschool Centre	864 Lamport Cres	Council	Small (50 or less)
Scots Preschool	Within Primary School	Private	Small (50 or less)
Yarrunga Early Learning Centre	Long day care, 373 Woodstock Court	Council	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Albury Occasional Child Care and Early Learning Centre	Long day care, 469 Ebden Street	State Government	Small (50 or less)
Albury TAFE Child Care Centre	Long day care, Poole Street	State Government (TAFE)	Small (50 or less)
Guardian Childcare & Education Kinfolk	Long day care, 428 Macauley Street	Private	Large (90+ places)
Goodstart Early Learning Albury	Long day care, 670 Banff Ave	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)

Facility name	Description	Owner	Size (number of places)
Goodstart Early Learning Pemberton Street	Long day care, 960 Pemberton Street	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Kidscape Early Learning Centre	Long day care, 57 Mountford Cres	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Kiewa Kids	Long day care, 515 Ebdon Street	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Wilcox Street Early Education Centre	Long day care, 523 Wilcox Street	Private	Small (50 or less)
Woodlands Childcare Centre	Long day care, 219 Alexandra Street	Private	Small (50 or less)
Lavington catchment			
Ross Circuit Preschool Centre	442 Ross Circuit	Council	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Springdale Heights Preschool	8 Canara Place	Council	Small (50 or less)
Hume Public School Preschool	Within Primary School	State Government	Small (50 or less)
Koori Kindermanna	Preschool, 684 Daniel Street	State Government	Small (50 or less)
Moresby Park Preschool	405 Tarkan Ave	Council	Small (50 or less)
Banjora Children's Centre	Long day care, 30 Cardo Drive	Council	Small (50 or less)
Greater Hume Childrens Centre	Family day care, 1132 Burrows Road	Council	Small (50 or less)
Lavington Occasional Care Centre	466 Breen Street	Council	Small (50 or less)

Facility name	Description	Owner	Size (number of places)
Community Kids Lavington Early Education Centre	Long day care with OSHC/VC, 632 Prune Street	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Cubby House Early Learning and Care Centre	Long day care, 454 Griffith Road	Private	Small (50 or less)
Goodstart Early Learning Lavington	Long day care, 490A Mutsch Street	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Green Leaves Early Learning Centre	Long day care, 800 Mate Steet	Private	Large (90+ places)
Kiddiewinks Early Learning and Care Centre	Long day care, 413 Griffith Road	Private	Small (50 or less)
Lots of Tots Early Learning Centre	Long day care, 818 Gap Road	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Thurgoona catchment			
Thurgoona Preschool	29 Bottlebrush Street	Council	Small (50 or less)
Early Years Academy Thurgoona	Long day care, Preschool, OSHC, 1 Ava Avenue	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Eden Academy Thurgoona	Long day care, 66 Diamond Drive	Private	Large (90+ places)
Goodstart Early Learning Thurgoona	Long day care, OSHC, 17 Feathertop Circuit	Private	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Murray Childrens Centre	Long day care, 386 Elizabeth Mitchell Drive	Private (Charles Sturt University)	Medium (Between 50 to 90)
Thurgoona Early Learning	Long day care, 14 Fairway Gardens Road	Private	Large (90+ places)

Across the existing 33 child care centres, it is estimated that up to 1,540 approved places are being provided. This equates to around 1 place per 2.3 children aged between 0 to 4 years (43%). This existing provision rate aligns with 2021 data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) indicating approximately 62% of children aged 0 to 4 years attend some form of formal centre based child care (excluding preschools).

By 2046, it is estimated that the population of children aged 0 to 4 years in the Albury LGA will increase by around 927 children. To maintain a similar level of early childhood service provision into the future, it is estimated that at around 400 additional early childhood education places will be needed.

Assuming that all new childcare and preschool centres will be able to accommodate more than 90 places, this equates to a need for at least four new early childhood facilities to be constructed. At the time of writing, five development applications for new private childcare centres have been approved by Council but not yet built: 1 in Albury catchment, 3 in Lavington catchment and 1 in Thurgoona catchment.

Forecast population growth shows that nearly all the expected growth in early childhood demand, especially in the short to medium term, will be within the Thurgoona catchment. Over the long term, demand in the Albury catchment is expected to remain stable, while demand in the Lavington catchment may slightly decline. Noting that much of our employment is concentrated in the Albury and Lavington city centres, demand for childcare services in these catchments will likely persist, as many parents prefer childcare options close to their workplaces.

 Priority finding	More child care and preschool facilities are required to meet the growing demand for early childhood education
 Key actions	• Complete a Children’s Services Excellence Review to determine Council’s role in early childhood service delivery and infrastructure planning • Partner with pre-school service providers to conduct detailed site audits of Council-owned pre school facilities and develop strategies to optimise these sites

6.4 Schools

Education in our schools goes beyond the classroom- they support socialisation of young people as well promoting problem solving, creativity and adapting to change.

As shown inTable 28, we have 24 schools in the Albury LGA: 7 in the Albury catchment, 13 in the Lavington catchment and 4 in the Thurgoona catchment.

Table 28 - Schools in Albury LGA

Facility name	Type	Owner	Size (Student Enrolment)
Albury catchment			
Albury Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Large (500+)
Albury West Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Albury High School	High 7-12	Government	Large (500+)
St Patricks Parish School	Primary K-6	Non-Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
The Scots School Albury	Combined	Non-Government	Large (500+)
Indie School	Special Purpose	Non-Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Aspect Riverina School	Special Purpose	Non-Government	Small (<100)
Lavington catchment			
Albury North Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Glenroy Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Hume Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)

Facility name	Type	Owner	Size (Student Enrolment)
James Fallon High School	High 7-12	Government	Large (500+)
Kandeer School	Special Purpose	Government	Small (<100)
Lavington Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Lavington East Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Murray High School	High 7-12	Government	Large (500+)
Springdale Heights Primary School	Primary K-6	Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Wewak Street Public School	Special Purpose	Government	Small (<100)
St Annes Primary School	Primary K-6	Non-Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
OneSchool Global NSW	Special Purpose	Non Government	Small (<100)
Xavier Catholic College	High 7 - 12	Non-Government	Large (500+)
Thurgoona catchment			
Thurgoona Public School	Primary K-6	Government	Large (500+)
Table Top Primary School	Primary K-6	Government	Small (<100)
Border Christian College	Combined	Non-Government	Medium (Between 100 to 500)
Trinity Anglican College	Combined	Non-Government	Large (500+)

Disclaimer: Data in this table has been prepared and presented by Council and may not align with NSW Department of Education

Student enrolment across all the existing schools in Albury is around 57% attend Government schools and 43% attend non-Government schools (source: Albury Profile .id).

By 2046, the Albury LGA is forecast to have an additional 1,702 primary school aged children and 1,549 secondary school aged children, with more than 90% of this student enrolment growth in the Thurgoona catchment (source: Albury Forecast .id).

In developing this Strategy, community consultation highlighted several key findings. There was positive feedback about the proximity of our schools to the Albury city centre, contributing to the area’s vibrancy. There was widespread concern that government school provision in the Thurgoona catchment is not keeping pace with the rate of new housing development. Additionally, the community identified substantial unmet demand for out-of-school-hours care, including before school, after school, and vacation care services.

To meet current and future need for schools, the NSW Department of Education takes a strategic approach to school provision, monitoring population and housing development trends across NSW. Where sustained and stable enrolment increases occur, the Department responds by optimising existing school assets through a range of solutions. These include realigning school intake areas, monitoring enrolments to prioritise students living within the local school intake area, and utilising temporary classrooms to manage short-term fluctuations in enrolment levels. Where necessary, additional permanent facilities or new schools are provided.

In Thurgoona catchment, the NSW Government has committed to a new public primary school, which is now in the planning phase. While the Department of Education’s approach prioritises maximising existing school assets, there are currently no NSW Government plans for a public high school in the area. Given the scale of projected growth, ensuring equitable access to secondary education remains a priority for Council’s advocacy effort.

The Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga has indicated it is considering several projects to upgrade and expand existing Catholic schools in the Albury LGA, but they do not anticipate constructing or opening a new private school in Thurgoona until the longer term (2035+).

	Priority finding	New and upgraded schools are needed in the Thurgoona catchment to cater for a growing population
	Key actions	Council will continue advocacy and partnership efforts

6.5 Tertiary institutions

Tertiary education helps people gain the skills they need to enhance their social participation and improve their access to quality employment opportunities.

As shown in Table 29, we have 3 tertiary institutions in the Albury LGA: 1 in the Albury catchment, none in the Lavington catchment and 2 in the Thurgoona catchment. Additionally, residents have access to the UNSW Rural Clinical Campus, a specialist medical training facility at the Albury Hospital campus.

Table 29 - Tertiary institutions in Albury, Lavington and Thurgoona catchments

Facility name	Owner
Albury catchment	
TAFE NSW Riverina Institute Albury Campus	Government
UNSW Rural Clinical School (ancillary to Albury Hospital campus)	Private
Lavington catchment	
No facilities	
Thurgoona catchment	
TAFE NSW Thurgoona Campus	Government
Charles Sturt University Thurgoona	Private

There are no established benchmarks for the number of tertiary education institutions required for particular population sizes.

In developing this Strategy, community consultation found strong appreciation of the presence of Charles Sturt University (CSU) as a critical 'hub' of activity within Thurgoona. At the same time, there was concern that the current locations of tertiary institutions pose transport accessibility challenges for many students.

Despite the strong presence of tertiary education facilities in Albury LGA, there are ongoing opportunities to enhance their community presence and improve educational outcomes for regional students including collaborating with CSU to improve community access to a broader mix of facilities at their Thurgoona campus.

Furthermore, there should be stronger alignment and connection between vocational and higher education. Increasing opportunities for the physical co-location of education and training facilities would be beneficial, fostering a more integrated and accessible educational environment.

 Priority finding	Strengthen the presence of our tertiary education facilities and improve access for regional students
 Key actions	Council will continue advocacy and partnership efforts

Open Spaces

Quick Reference Guide

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7. Overview of our open space network

A broad definition of open space is “land that provides opportunities for recreation (passive or active), biodiversity or visual relief from the built environment”.

Access to high-quality open space is a defining feature of life in Albury, contributing to the wellbeing of our community. As we plan for future urban growth and land supply remains limited, addressing the pressure on our open space network will become increasingly important.

We categorise our open space as:

- Parks (parks, play space and informal recreation)
- Sporting space (playing fields, courts and leisure centres)
- Natural areas (conservation zoned land, public reserves, waterways and riparian zones and recreational links).

This Strategy provides a consistent approach and innovative ways to provide and enhance our open space, ensuring it remains accessible and sustainable for future generations.

By proactively planning, designing, managing and maintaining our open space network, we can safeguard it as a lasting asset, ensuring future generations continue to enjoy high-quality parks, sporting spaces and natural areas.



Outdoor Fitness
(source: AlburyCity)

7.1 Desired open space standards

To ensure our open spaces meet community expectations, it is important to ensure that clear provision standards are set to guide the quantity, quality, distribution and functions.. While not all our open spaces currently meet these standards, they will guide the evolution of a future network that does.

There are various provision standards used to determine how much open space is needed, commonly expressed as a percentage of land area or a set rate of hectares per 1,000 people. While relying only on these standards may not be enough without strong quality control, they still provide a useful starting point for understanding open space needs and especially guiding delivery of open space in new developments.

Table 30 summarises the envisioned standards for open space within the Albury LGA. A full table of open space standards is at Appendix B.

7.2 What we have

In the Albury LGA there is currently approximately 9,000 hectares of open space. Table 31 below summarises the open space provision by type across the three catchments. Using a percentage of land area approach indicates open space currently covers 29% of the total land area within the Albury LGA, of which only about 1% is specifically for parks or sporting space. Using a people per hectares approach, there is currently around 156ha open space per 1,000 people, of which about 6ha per 1,000 people is specifically parks or sporting space.

Table 30 - Summary of the envisioned standards for open space within the Albury LGA.

	Rate of provision	% of land area
Parks	1 ha/ 1,000 people	1-2%
Sporting spaces	1 ha/ 1,000 people	1-2%
Natural areas	1 ha/1,000 people	Site specific
Total open space	3 ha/ 1,000 people	10% - 30%

Table 31 - Total open space provision in the Albury LGA

	Parks	Sporting spaces	Natural areas	Total open space
Albury catchment (60 sq km)	76 ha	50 ha	n/a	n/a
Lavington catchment (67 sq km)	62 ha	45 ha	n/a	n/a
Thurgoona catchment (178 sq km)	38 ha	70 ha	n/a	n/a
Total LGA (305 sq km)	176 ha 0.6%	165 ha 0.5%	8,561 ha 28%	8,902 ha 29%

7.3 Valuing our open space

Open space is a cornerstone of identity and quality of life in the Albury LGA, contributing significantly to our appeal as a regional hub. Our open spaces enrich our daily life and are a compelling factor for those seeking a 'tree change' lifestyle, positioning our city as an attractive place to live. The extensive network and high provision rate of open space across the Albury LGA is a byproduct of our generally lower-density housing and the community's strong expectation for accessible green spaces in regional bushland settings. As Albury continues to grow, preserving and enhancing our open space infrastructure will be crucial not just for recreation, but for its other environmental, economic and social benefits.

Well-planned open space supports biodiversity, helps manage storm water, improves air quality, and reduces urban heat. It also attracts investment, enhances property values, and provides opportunities for health, wellbeing, and community connection.

In 2022, Council became a signatory to the NSW Public Spaces Charter and its associated 10 principles (see Figure 18). This means that we commit to maintain our reputation for exceptional open space provision, ensuring our future planning will ensure equitable distribution, diverse amenities, and multi functional spaces that support growth while enhancing environmental and social resilience.

Figure 18 - The 10 NSW Public Spaces Charter Principles



	Priority finding	Recognise open space as essential community infrastructure that delivers environmental, economic and social benefits
	Key actions	• Embed desired open space standards into project management systems for land use planning, budgeting, and asset management processes • Apply the 10 principles of the NSW Public Spaces Charter for quality public space to all our decisions, plans, designs and management of our open spaces. • Plan for, and respond to, climate change in our open spaces • Where site suitability permits, integrate stormwater management infrastructure, such as detention basins, into open spaces to provide dual functionality

7.4 Designing multipurpose open space

While this Strategy categorises open space into parks, sporting spaces, and natural areas, the most effective use of land for recreation focuses on desired outcomes rather than merely the quantity of each space type. The overriding objective of open space planning is to consider the functionality of our open spaces, achieved through a versatile, mixed-use approach. This provides greater flexibility, prioritising the overall amenity of our green network as the central goal. In the Albury LGA, many of our existing open spaces are already designed to serve multiple functions, allowing for adaptable use that can respond to evolving participation trends and community needs. This multipurpose approach not only maximises space efficiency but also attracts a more diverse range of users, fostering a strong sense of community and encouraging social cohesion.

In addition to multipurpose recreational uses, open spaces can serve important dual functions, such as flood and storm water management. A key challenge in performance-based open space planning is ensuring that land designated for open space is fit for purpose. For example, constructed drains and overland flow paths are typically unsuitable for parks, and detention or retention basins should not be used for sporting space unless specifically designed to accommodate both drainage and recreational use. In some cases, sporting spaces can be integrated into other infrastructure, such as storm water management systems, including retention basins. While this approach offers potential benefits, it presents challenges with subsurface drainage, silt management, and debris following inundation. Despite these challenges, it is considered an acceptable dual use for some sporting spaces.

Some tracts of land within the Albury LGA, while defined as parks, are sometimes flood affected but may have future potential for informal sporting uses, such as training fields or other recreational activities. Investigating these opportunities further could provide additional space for community activities, especially in areas where conventional sporting facilities are limited or overused.

Land for sporting space may be located on periodically inundated land, but it must be well-drained, with sandy soil preferred over clay soil.

Figure 19 - Example of open space dual use (Lambert Park, South Albury)



Built infrastructure, such as clubhouses, should be positioned on higher ground, ideally above the 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) flood level, while smaller structures, like public toilets or kiosks, may be situated in areas with higher flood frequency. Despite challenges, a dual-purpose approach to open space maximises land use efficiency, providing environmental benefits like enhanced storm water management, while also offering infrastructure and recreational spaces. By integrating these functions, we optimise the use of public land, ensuring it serves multiple purposes, supporting community needs, and reducing the need for separate land allocations for essential infrastructure.

As the use of open space becomes more varied, it will be increasingly important to engage the community in managing competing interests and to set clear guidance to avoid conflicts of use.

 Priority finding	Prioritise the effective management of community land
 Key actions	Ensure uses within our open space are consistent with Plan of Management for Community Land

8. Parks

The primary purpose of our parks is to provide inviting spaces where people of all ages can relax, socialise and engage in casual outdoor activities, with a special focus on children’s play and informal, unstructured recreation or areas to sit and enjoy the area. These park spaces play a vital role in promoting good physical health and mental well-being for everyone in our community.

They include our:

- Parks
- Play spaces
- Informal recreation facilities (e.g. skate parks, outdoor fitness stations, dog ‘off leash’ areas).

The Strategy does not include our streetscapes (e.g. road reserves and medians) or privately operated tourism and entertainment play spaces, such as indoor play centres.

8.1 Desired park standards

Table 32 summarises the envisioned standards for parks within the Albury LGA. These desired standards serve as a benchmark for evaluating existing parks, identifying parks requiring prioritised enhancements or upgrades and guiding delivery of quality new parks. A full table of park standards is at Appendix B.

Table 32 - Summary of desired park standards

	Local	District	Regional
Brief description and purpose	A small park with limited or basic infrastructure that primarily services the needs of the immediate resident population.	A medium-large park with robust and diverse infrastructure that services multiple suburbs or an entire planning catchment.	A large park with robust, diverse and significant infrastructure that services multiple planning catchments, the whole LGA and/or beyond.
Size	>0.5 ha - 2.0 ha.	>2 ha -5 ha.	5+ ha.
Location, shape and boundaries	Shape is flexible. In a quiet, highly accessible, central location.	Shape is flexible to take advantage of local landscape features but regular shape preferred.	Shape is flexible to take advantage of local landscape features but regular shape preferred.
Geographic proximity/ access	5 minutes walk /within 400 m walking distance from most (>80%) houses.	20 minutes walk / within 2 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses.	Up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle/ 10 km from all (100%) houses.



Playground
(source: AlburyCity)

8.2 What we have

By number, we have a total of 149 parks across the Albury LGA: 54 located in the Albury catchment, 62 in the Lavington catchment and 33 in the Thurgoona catchment.

By area, we have a total of 176 ha of park space across the Albury LGA. 43% of our park space is located in the Albury catchment (76 ha), 35% in the Lavington catchment (62 ha) and 22% in the Thurgoona catchment (38 ha).

A full breakdown of our park provision is provided at section 8.4. In addition, we have:

- 87 play spaces
- 40+ informal recreation facilities

The majority of our parks are owned and managed by Council, while some are located on State Government (Crown) land with Council as the land manager. The only private park spaces that are publicly accessible are located at Hume Country Estate in Glenroy and at the CSU campus in Thurgoona where some informal recreation facilities are available. In addition, there are some park areas in Victoria (e.g. Island Road Reserve land near Water Works) which are accessible to the public from the Albury catchment.

8.3 Valuing our parks

Parks are places designed to bring people together, fostering a sense of belonging and wellbeing. They provide essential spaces for relaxation, play, and social connection, offering opportunities for people of all ages to interact.

In developing this Strategy, consultation highlighted that our community love being able to walk from home to their local parks and play spaces. These spaces are not just recreational assets; they are integral to the fabric of daily life, shaping how people experience and engage with their neighbourhoods.

Our community takes pride in well-maintained, inviting parks, recognising their role in supporting mental and physical health. The presence of green, accessible spaces contributes to a positive urban environment, fostering appreciation of the outdoor environment. By ensuring our parks remain high-quality, inclusive, and well-distributed, we strengthen their role as vital community assets that enhance the liveability and character of our region.

Figure 20 - Parks in Albury catchment

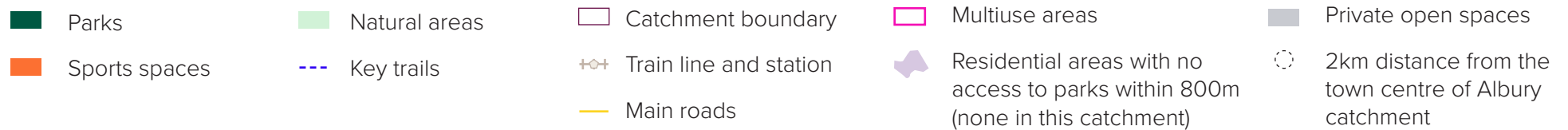
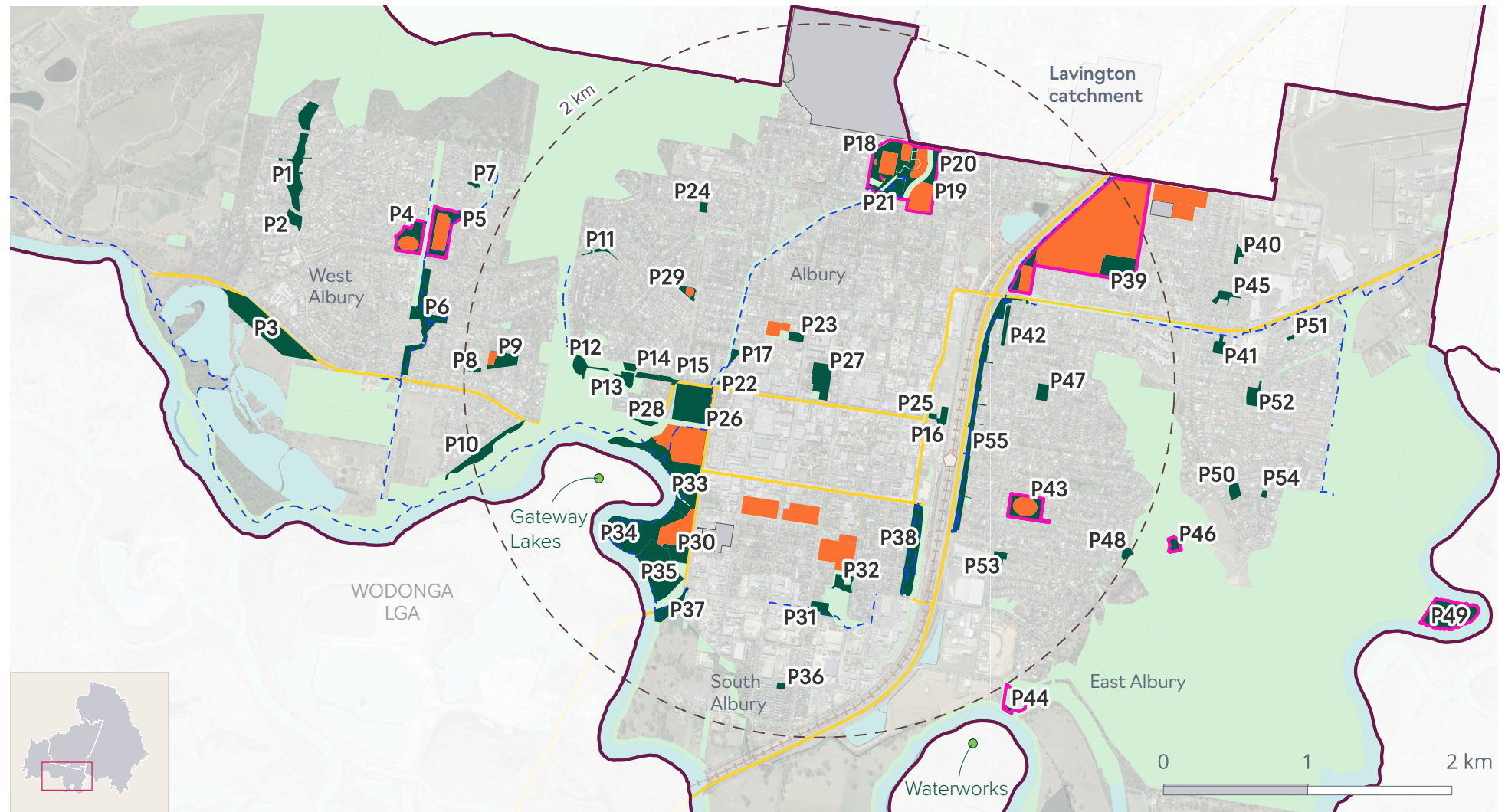


Table 33 - Audit of parks in Albury catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P1	Spring Rise Park	3.36	Local
P2	Doulton Drive Playground	0.61	Local
P3	Padman Drive Parkland	5.68	Local
P4	Bonnie Doon Park	1.38	Local
P5	Haydon Park	1.81	Local
P6	Patricia Gould Reserve	3.45	District
P7	Mulga Place Playground	0.13	Local
P8	Mott Street Reserve	0.1	Local
P9	Uiver Park	1.03	Local
P10	Day Street Park	1.72	Local
P11	Pemberton Street Playground	0.22	Local
P12	Monument Hill Lookout	0.92	Regional
P13	World War II Memorial Bowl	0.93	Local
P14	Monument Hill Terraces	0.39	Local
P15	Monument Hill Annexe	0.32	Local
P16	Dean Street Landscaping	0.46	Local
P17	Gertrude Colquhuon Park	0.24	Local
P18	Greenfield Park	2.52	District
P19	JC King/Skate - Park	1.01	Local
P20	Billson Park - Park	0.79	District

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P21	Albury Skate Park	0.99	Regional
P22	Cnr Dean/Creek St	0.02	Local
P23	Council Office - Kiewa Street - Grounds	0.41	Local
P24	Morningside Place Playground	0.23	Local
P25	Nasho Gardens	0.14	Local
P26	Albury Botanic Gardens	4.06	Regional
P27	Queen Elizabeth II Square	1.83	Regional
P28	Riverview Terrace	0.27	Local
P29	Forest Hill Park	0.26	Local
P30	Australia Park	1.25	Regional
P31	Browns Lagoon Community Gardens	0.66	Local
P32	Fromholtz Park	0.68	Local
P33	Hovell Tree Park	5.92	Regional
P34	Noreuill Park Foreshore	5.48	Regional
P35	Oddies Creek Park	4.74	Regional
P36	Plummer Street Playground	0.15	Local
P37	Wodonga Place - Nurigong Street to River	1.14	Local
P38	South Albury Parkland	3.23	Local
P39	Alexandra Park - Off Leash area & Park	3.21	Local

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P40	Alexandra Street Reserve	0.32	Local
P41	Bilba Street Reserve	0.51	Local
P42	Broad Street Median - TEACUP Garden	0.52	Local
P43	Collings Park	1.27	District
P44	Doctors Point Picnic Area	0.13	Local
P45	Eastern Circuit Playground	0.51	Local
P46	Eastern Hill Lookout	0.46	District
P47	Fellowes Park	0.59	Local
P48	Health Street Playground	0.31	Local
P49	Mungabareena Reserve	3.76	District
P50	Red Gum Park	0.50	Local
P51	Rivergum Drive Reserve	0.09	Local
P52	Roy Benyon Park	0.77	Local
P53	Schubach Street Reserve	0.44	Local
P54	Tabitha Court Reserve	0.11	Local
P55	East Albury Parklands	4.57	Local

Figure 21 - Parks in Lavington catchment (Source: Data provided by Albury City Council, interpreted by Cred Consulting)

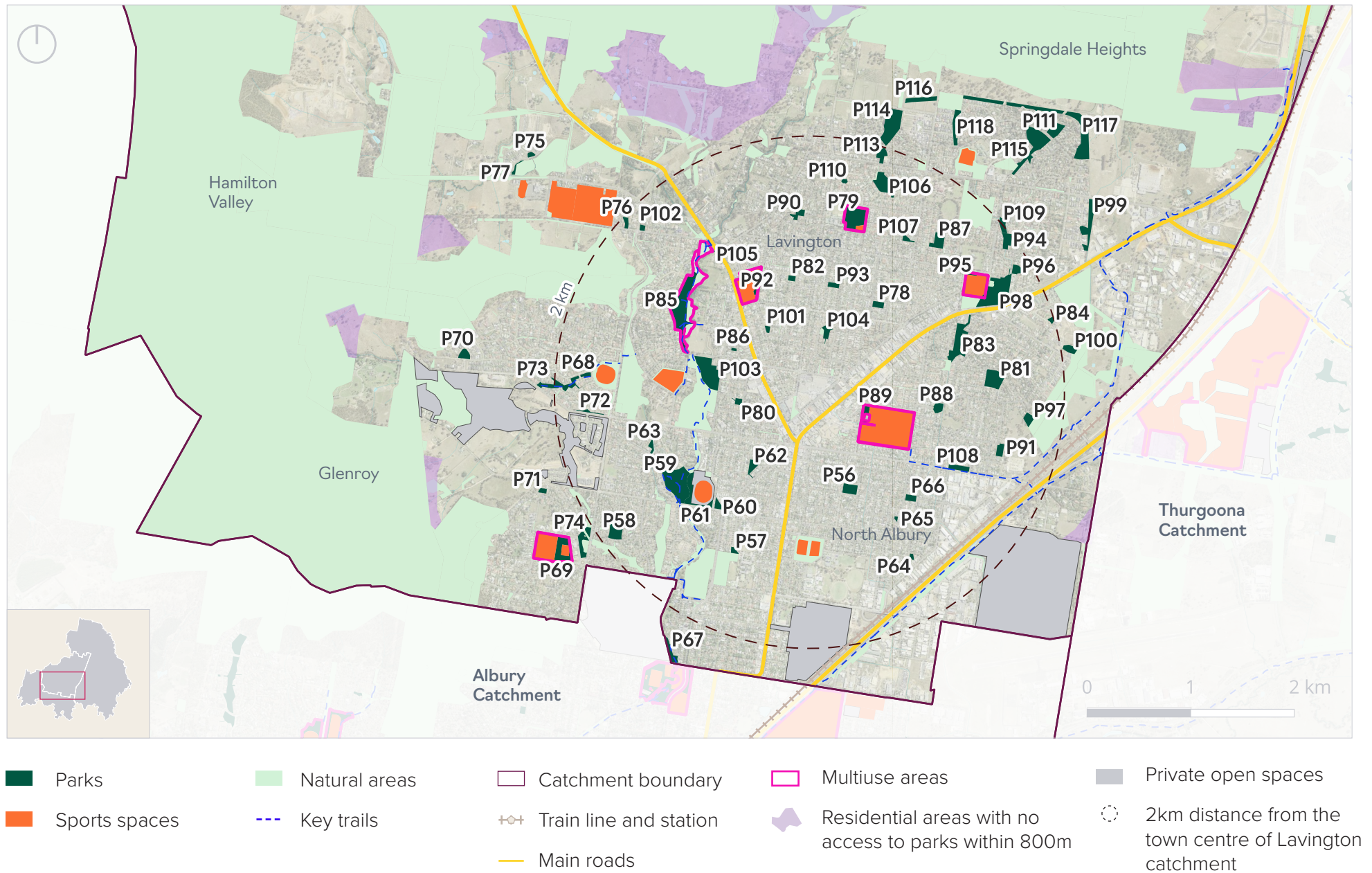


Table 34 - Audit of parks in Lavington catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P56	Avis Park	0.81	Local
P57	Duffy Crescent Reserve	0.20	Local
P58	Endeavour Park	1.19	Local
P59	Fredericks Park	4.06	District
P60	Kokoda Street Reserve	0.33	Local
P61	Logan Road Leash Free Area	1.18	Local
P62	Moresby Park Playground	0.48	Local
P63	Regina Avenue Reserve	0.25	Local
P64	Turana Street Playground	0.11	Local
P65	Wantigong Street Park	0.07	Local
P66	Wingara Street Playground	0.38	Local
P67	St James Crescent Reserve	0.70	Local
P68	Anne Hogan Playground	0.42	Local
P69	Glen Park	1.69	Local
P70	Hume Gardens Park	0.52	Local
P71	Majella Park	0.20	Local
P72	Norris Park	0.18	Local
P73	Norris Park Easement	1.12	Local
P74	Burrows Road Reserve	1.05	Local
P75	Centaur Park Trees	0.18	Local
P76	Munro Place Reserve	0.27	Local
P77	Centaur Park - Parkland	0.17	Local
P78	Ashford Street Playground	0.40	Local

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P79	Black Range Park - Park	2.69	District
P80	Buchhorn Park	0.26	Local
P81	Colley Street Reserve	1.77	Local
P82	Comans Avenue Playground	0.22	Local
P83	Dale Crescent Park	2.01	Local
P84	Donnolley Court Park	0.17	Local
P85	Heathwood Park	4.90	District
P86	Hedley Crescent Reserve	0.08	Local
P87	Iluka Crescent Reserve	1	Local
P88	Indiana Court Playground	0.50	Local
P89	Jelbart Park	0.54	Local
P90	June Court Playground	0.45	Local
P91	Kentucky Avenue - Reserve	0.49	Local
P92	Lavington Memorial Oval - Urana Road Oval - Park	0.29	Local
P93	McKenzie Street Playground	0.32	Local
P94	McMaster Avenue Playground	0.74	Local
P95	Melrose Park	0.23	Local
P96	Mitta Grove Playground	0.49	Local
P97	Mountain View Drive Reserve	0.53	Local
P98	National Foresters Grove	3.98	District

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P99	Nicola Place/Gabrielle Court Reserve	1.66	Local
P100	Oxley Way Park	0.52	Local
P101	Parnall Street Playground	0.16	Local
P102	Pearsall Street Reserve	0.17	Local
P103	Riding for the Disabled - Paddocks	3.12	Local
P104	Ross Circuit Playground	0.54	Local
P105	Rotoract Park - 1	0.30	Local
P106	Saville Avenue Reserve	1.57	Local
P107	Tumgarra Place Park	0.24	Local
P108	Union Road Reserve	0.61	Local
P109	Webb Street Reserve	0.52	Local
P110	Worsley Place Park	0.13	Local
P111	Buronga Drive - Reserve	0.93	Local
P112	Ettamogah Rise Park	0.40	Local
P113	Garoogong Road Reserve	0.60	Local
P114	Gorden Street Reserve	2.95	Local
P115	Merced Park	2.88	District
P116	Shaw Street Electricity Easement	0.82	Local
P117	Springdale Heights Easement	4.76	Local
P118	Darri Drive Reserve	0.72	Local

Figure 22 - Parks in Thurgoona catchment

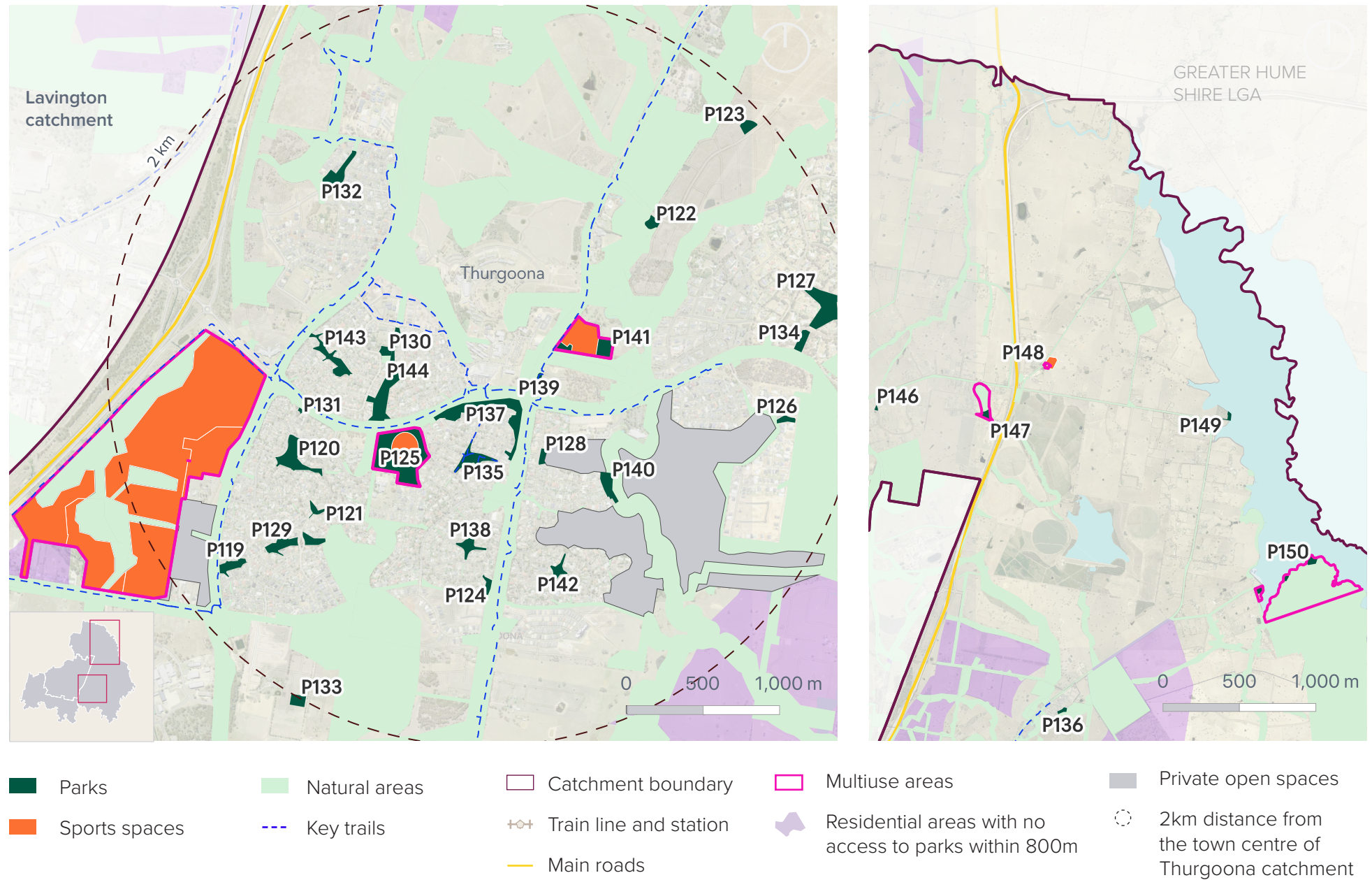


Table 35 - Audit of parks in Thurgoona catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P119	Belah Street Reserve	0.63	Local
P120	Bishops Walk Reserve	1.69	Local
P121	Blackbutt Court Reserve	0.25	Local
P122	Brooklyn Fields Community Space (Playground)	0.36	Local
P123	Brooklyn Fields Reserve 5 (Shellbrook Park)	0.42	Local
P124	Buffalo Crescent Park	0.29	Local
P125	Ernest Grant Park	4.33	District
P126	Fairway Gardens Park	0.26	Local
P127	Hoffman Reserve	2.46	Local
P128	Huntingdale Estate Park	0.25	Local
P129	Kennedia Street Park	1.29	Local
P130	Maryville Way Reserve	0.28	Local
P131	Mimosa Court Reserve	0.05	Local
P132	Mitchell Park Playground	1.12	District
P133	Murray Park	0.45	Local
P134	Reiss Park	0.49	Local
P135	Ronald Richardson Park	1.04	Local
P136	Spring Park Playground	0.98	Local
P137	St Johns Close Parkland	2.68	Local
P138	Talgarno Court Playground	0.59	Local
P139	Thurgoona Community Space	0.47	Local

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
P140	Thurgoona Golf Club Reserve	0.79	Local
P141	Thurgoona Oval Park	1.13	District
P142	Troon Court Playground	0.45	Local
P143	Valverde Court Park	1.16	Local
P144	University Close Parkland	2.47	Local
P145	Springview Park	0.08	Local
P146	Alexandra Way Community Space	0.33	Local
P147	Lara Lakes Reserve Park	2.37	Local
P148	Table Top Community Hall Park	0.35	Local
P149	Table Top Reserve	1.11	Local
P150	Bowna Waters Reserve - Park	4.38	Local
P151	Apex Park - Parkland	2.30	District
P152	Lake Hume Tourist Park Area	0.96	Local

8.4 Size of our parks

As shown in Table 36, we have a total of 149 Council managed parks, encompassing 176 ha across Albury LGA. This equates to approximately 3 ha of parks per 1,000 people or 1 park per 400 people, which is substantially above the typical minimum industry (metropolitan) standard of 1 ha per 1,000 people or 1 park per 3,000 - 4,000 people.

Our parks range vastly in size from large, signature regional parks like our Central Riverside Parks (Noreuil Park, Hovell Tree Park, Oddies Creek Park etc) and the Albury Botanic Gardens, which attract visitors from across the region, to small local parks and play spaces throughout our neighbourhoods that provide green, leafy recreation relief from the built environment. Albury catchment has the highest provision of park area, followed by Lavington catchment and then Thurgoona catchment.

In line with industry standards, the optimal recommended size for a local park is typically at least 0.5 ha. While more than half of all our parks meet this minimum size standard, if we look only at local parks, 60 out of 127 (47%) are smaller than

this recommended 0.5 ha minimum. The Lavington catchment (49%) and the Thurgoona catchment (41%) contain the highest concentrations of small parks. While still providing essential green space, especially in higher-density areas, smaller than desirable parks face greater challenges in effectively supporting their intended recreational and social uses.

Given that local parks make up the majority of our overall park network, and considering the limitations of smaller parks, it may no longer be the most efficient use of Council resources to retain and maintain all of them. There is an opportunity to reassess these smaller-than-desirable parks and consider alternatives, such as repurposing them for biodiversity or green space buffers. In cases where small parks are located very near to each other, some could be considered for disposal if surrounding parks meet the community's needs. This approach would help reduce maintenance costs and allow resources to be better allocated towards enhancing and expanding other parks that can better serve the community's needs.

 Priority finding	Repurpose or dispose of smaller-than-desirable local parks where community needs are being met to optimise our parks network
 Key actions	Conduct a strategic review to identify sites that do not align with provision standards or contemporary best practice.

Table 36 - Size hierarchy of our parks

Catchment	Local		District		Regional		Total	
	Number	Size	Number	Size	Number	Size	Number	Size
Albury	31	39 ha	6	12 ha	7	25 ha	54	76 ha
Lavington	57	43 ha	5	19 ha	0	0 ha	62	62 ha
Thurgoona	29	29 ha	4	9 ha	0	0 ha	33	38 ha
Total LGA	127	111 ha	15	40 ha	7	25 ha	149	176 ha
Percentage of total number of parks	85%	-	10%	-	5%	-	100%	-
Percentage of total area of parks	-	63%	-	22%	-	15%	-	100%

8.5 Quality of our parks

Many of our parks are renowned for their high quality, featuring destination picnic facilities and play spaces such as Oddies Creek Play Space in the Central Riverside Parks, and the Children’s Garden at the Botanical Gardens. This level of investment in amenity within our parks significantly enhances their attractiveness, drawing visitors who are willing to travel and stay extended lengths of time to enjoy them. Community expectations for all our parks to contain this level of infrastructure however this cannot realistically be met. Council must appropriately scale the level of investment in infrastructure and amenity to park size and function to ensure sustainable management and ongoing community satisfaction. This means clearly and fairly identifying which parks will be prioritised as ‘flagship’ parks for high investment while maintaining local level park spaces with appropriate, lower-scale amenities.

While many parks in the Albury catchment, especially those near the city centre and river, meet best practice standards, many parks in the Lavington catchment and Thurgoona catchment lack comparable levels of built infrastructure. These parks tend to be less frequently used and are more likely to receive maintenance requests related to factors like limited visibility and a lack of lighting, seating, and shade. These challenges are particularly significant in parks that also serve dual purposes, such as flood mitigation or easement spaces.

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified our community desire “bigger and better” district level parks, with upgrades that focus on inclusive play equipment, toilets, and better maintenance that makes parks feel clean and safe. This rising

expectation places increasing pressure on Council to allocate resources more strategically across the park network. Achieving equity in park quality means not only looking at the number of parks we have (refer section 10.3) but making sure each planning catchments has a fair share of high profile, destination park areas equipped with quality infrastructure that supports a wide range of recreation activities.

	Priority finding	Focus on enhancing the quality of our district and regional level parks to ensure equitable access to high-quality spaces across all catchments
	Key actions	Undertake targeted upgrades to district and regional parks, investing in essential amenities such as seating, shade, lighting, and accessibility features, to improve the recreational value and inclusivity of parks in areas currently lacking infrastructure

8.6 Access to our parks

Despite the large number of parks across the Albury LGA, there are many barriers that face people when they are trying to access our park areas from their home. Not having a car, crossing busy roads, walking around creek lines are all things that mean that a park that looks close on a map may still be hard to get to.

In line with industry standards, the optimal recommended distance people should have to walk to access a local park is typically a short, easy 5 minute walk of less than 400 m. Realistically, especially in regional areas, this acceptable distance is usually more like a 10 to 15 minutes walk of 800 m to 1 km.

While most areas have good access to our parks, there are gaps in existing residential areas in the Lavington and Thurgoona catchments. The maps throughout section 9.2 highlight in purple shading the residential areas that currently have no access to parks within 800 m of their home. Future residential release areas within these catchments, where housing growth is expected, also suggest potential future access gaps.

Albury’s network of recreational links (refer to section 10.2) plays a vital role in connecting our parks. Notably, the Bungambrawatha Creek corridor serves as a natural active transport route between the Lavington catchment and Albury catchment, while the Albury-Thurgoona Trail links the Thurgoona catchment into the Albury catchment. Expanding and enhancing these tracks and trail routes, which integrate recreational space with our natural areas, will improve equitable access to parks across our planning catchments.

 Priority finding	Address access barriers to parks by enhancing walkability, aiming for all homes to be within 400 m of a park, and no more than 800 m
 Key actions	Undertake a Walking and Bike Riding Plan outlining targeted improvements to active transport infrastructure to better connect parks and address gaps in access

8.7 Designing multipurpose parks

Creating parks that serve multiple purposes is essential for addressing the diverse needs of our built environments. This approach acknowledges that parks should not be limited to singular functions, but incorporate a range of social, recreational, environmental and cultural uses.

In highly urban areas, particularly our city centres, parks provide spaces for people to gather, hold events and rest during visits to shops and services. The Albury catchment benefits from having the Cultural Precinct (including QEII square) within its main shopping precinct. In contrast, Lavington catchment and Thurgoona catchment lack urban parks or plazas in their shopping precincts. To address this, Council is trialling projects such as the temporary conversion of the Griffith Road Carpark into a green space. Such spaces are essential for fostering social connection and providing a central venue for community events. Our future urban parks and plazas should incorporate event-ready infrastructure- such as power, water and outdoor stages- to support this variety of uses.

In low-density or non-urban areas, park infrastructure is often located within environmental conservation zones, where development is limited to protect ecological values. Features like ‘nature play’ or rock seating can enhance community access while maintaining environmental integrity (refer to Chapter 10). Relying too heavily on conservation land to meet park needs however can create conflicts between public access and environmental protection, limiting opportunities for informal recreation and placing additional pressure on sensitive ecosystems. Across the LGA, 13% of parks (or 17% of total park area) are in conservation zones, but this varies significantly by catchment. In Thurgoona catchment, around 60% (over 23 ha)

of total park provision is currently located within conservation zones, restricting opportunities for provision of informal recreation infrastructure.

To ensure balanced provision, our open space standards (Appendix B) recommend a fairer distribution between parks in non urban, natural settings and parks in urban, built environments. These open space standards make it clear that what really matters is the availability of space that is genuinely usable by the community, usually referred to as “unencumbered” areas, or “net developable area” (refer also to section 10.1). These are the spaces that can support provision of facilities such as play spaces, amphitheatres, skate parks, dog off-leash areas, and serviced picnic amenities. Prioritising both these types of parks ensures a network that meets diverse community needs while still carefully protecting our natural areas.

	Priority finding	Address gaps in park provision by creating new parks in built or urban environments where none currently exist, and by reducing reliance on environmental land settings for park provision
	Key actions	• Ensure adopted open space standards are adhered to during negotiations with responsible parties, particularly developers, to ensure the creation of new parks contribute to the delivery of accessible, high quality and usable parks • Develop central urban plazas in Lavington catchment and Thurgoona catchment to serve as focal points for community gatherings and social interactions • Ensure all urban plazas are event-ready, equipped with the necessary infrastructure to support a variety of community events and activities

8.8 Our play spaces

We have a total of 87 parks that contain play spaces across the Albury LGA, equating to 3 play spaces per 2,000 people. This is triple the industry (metropolitan) standard of 1 play space per 2,000 people. If no new play spaces are built, by 2046 this ratio would remain at 2 play spaces per 2,000 people, still double the industry norm.

Most (90%) of our play spaces are located in local parks, many built in the 1980s and 1990s. As the community's use of play spaces evolves- from traditional play equipment to more landscape-oriented play areas- many of the older playgrounds no longer meet modern standards, including the Everyone Can Play principles and current Australian guidelines. Proximity analysis shows that most residents have access to two or more play spaces within a 10 minute walk. While this offers variety, it also stretches Council resources in maintaining these spaces to a high standard. As outlined at section 2.5, the focus needs to be on upgrading play spaces in larger district parks and establishing new parks in growth areas, rather than upgrading older local parks. There is an opportunity to optimise the play space network by continuing to embellish larger play spaces and reducing the number of outdated or low-quality play spaces (mainly in local parks). This will address areas of duplication and ensure a sustainable network that meets community needs.

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As outlined at section 8.5, the focus needs to be on upgrading play spaces in larger district parks and establishing new parks in growth areas, rather than upgrading older local parks. There is an opportunity to optimise the play space network by continuing to embellish larger play spaces and reducing the number of outdated or low-quality play spaces (mainly in local parks). This will address areas of duplication and ensure a sustainable network that meets community needs.

Table 38 - Hierarchy of play spaces across our planning catchments

Catchment	Local play spaces	District play spaces	Regional play spaces	Total
Albury	25	3	2	30
Lavington	34	2	-	36
Thurgoona	19	2	-	18
Total LGA	78	7	2	87
Percentage of total	90%	8%	2%	100%

	Priority finding	Optimise the play space network to ensure quality and accessibility by reducing outdated or redundant play spaces, upgrading those that no longer meet modern standards, and addressing areas of duplication
	Key actions	Develop a play space strategy that guides future provision, incorporating the principles outlined in NSW Everyone Can Play to enhance inclusivity, accessibility and contemporary play experiences

8.9 Our informal recreation facilities

Our informal recreation facilities offer accessible, no-cost spaces for our community to exercise and recreate. As shown in Figure 23, we have a total of more than 40 informal recreation facilities across the Albury LGA including:

- 3 designated skates parks (with skatable elements included in play spaces)
- 11 outdoor fitness stations
- 5 dog off-leash areas
- 4 pump tracks
- 14 outdoor basketball facilities and;
- Mountain Bike trails (primarily on Nail Can Hill) and off road tracks and trails
- 5 designated boat ramps and several canoe launch facilities for water craft accessing the Murray River and Lake Hume.

While our informal recreation facilities are diverse, their distribution is not uniform across the LGA. The Lavington catchment and Thurgoona catchment currently have limited access to certain types of informal recreation facilities, resulting in inequitable service provision across our LGA.

There are no consistent industry-wide standards for informal recreation facilities, but it is generally recommended that a diversity of facility types be provided at a minimum rate of one facility per 5,000 people for each type. To ensure fair access to recreational opportunities, additional facilities may be required.

	Priority finding	Address disparities in access to informal recreational opportunities
	Key actions	Review the distribution of informal recreation facilities to improve equity of provision across the three catchments, ensuring a balanced spread of facility types that meet diverse community needs

Figure 23 - Informal recreation facilities in Albury LGA, zoomed in

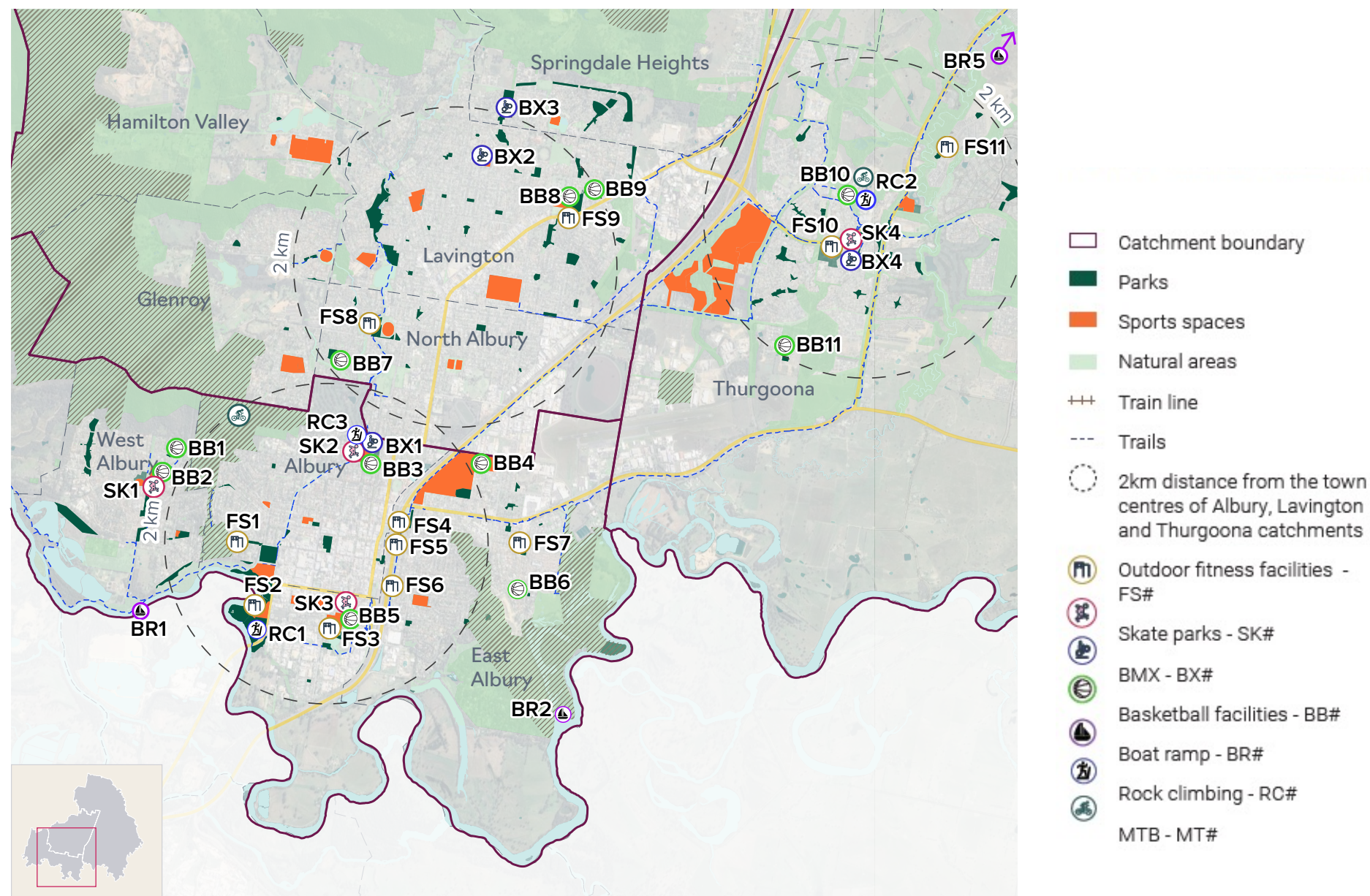


Table 39 - Audit of informal recreation facilities in Albury LGA

Outdoor fitness facilities			
FS1	Memorial Bowl (scheduled for construction 2025)	BB6	Redgum Park
FS2	Noreuil Precinct	BB7	Endeavour Park
FS3	South Albury Active Space	BB8	National Foresters Grove
FS4	East Albury Parkland	BB9	Mitta Grove Park
FS5	East Albury Parkland	BB10	Charles Sturt University
FS6	East Albury Parkland	BB11	Murray Park
FS7	Roy Benyon Park	BB12	Spring Park
FS8	Fredericks Park	Boat Ramp	
FS9	National Foresters Grove	BR1	Kremur Street
FS10	Ernest Grant Park	BR2	Mungabareena
FS11	Brooklyn Fields Playground	BR3	Lake Hume Village
Skate parks		BR4	Apex Park
SK1	West Albury Skate Park	BR5	Bowna Reserve
SK2	Albury Skate Park	Rock climbing	
SK3	South Albury Active Space	RC1	Oddies Creek Park
SK4	Ernest Grant Park	RC2	Charles Sturt University
BMX/Pump tracks		RC3	Albury Skate Park
BX1	Albury Skate Park	Mountain Bike Trails	
BX2	Black Range (BMX Track)	MT1	NailCan Hill
BX3	Springdale Heights Pump Track	MN2	Charles Sturt University
BX4	Ernest Grant Park (Pump Track)		
Basketball facilities			
BB1	Mulga Place Reserve		
BB2	Haydon Park		
BB3	Albury Skate Park		
BB4	PCYC		
BB5	South Albury Active Space		

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

9. Sporting spaces

The primary purpose of our sporting spaces is to support group-based active recreation, providing intensively maintained open space areas tailored to the specific needs of structured sports and skill development. These sporting spaces play a vital role in fostering community participation in organised sport and supporting our local economy through sporting events and competitions.

They include our:

- Playing fields
- Courts
- Leisure centres (offering aquatics, indoor courts or other fitness space like gymnastics and climbing)

The Strategy excludes privately owned sporting facilities such as gyms but does reference the availability of some larger privately owned sporting facilities, including golf courses, equestrian facilities and swim centres, acknowledging their role in supporting the broader sporting landscape. These facilities are noted but are not included in any benchmarking analysis figures.

9.1 Desired sporting space standards

Table 40 summarises the envisioned standards for sporting spaces within the Albury LGA. These desired standards serve as a benchmark for evaluating existing sporting spaces, identifying facilities requiring prioritised enhancements or upgrades and guiding delivery of quality new playing fields. A full table of sporting space standards is at Appendix B.

Table 40 - Summary of desired sporting space standards

	Local	District	Regional
Brief Description and purpose	A dedicated sports space that services the needs of multiple neighbourhoods. Supports active enjoyment of outdoors for organised sport of casual 'kickabout' space.	A medium-large sports space that services multiple suburbs or an entire planning catchment. These cater to a mix of casual and organised sports, including club competition.	A large sports space that services multiple planning catchments, the whole LGA and/or beyond. They serve as destination sporting venues facilitating regular organised competition for multiple clubs and/or teams as well as elite sports.
Size	>5 ha	>8+ ha -15 ha.	>15+ ha.
(Functional area)	Minimum configuration of 4x multi-purpose fields (4ha of playing surface)	Minimum configuration of 6x multi-purpose fields (6ha playing surface)	Elite sporting surfaces with professional level lighting
Location, shape and boundaries	Regular shape preferred (square or rectangular)	Regular shape (square or rectangular)	Regular shape (square or rectangular)
Geographic proximity/ access	25 minutes walk / 2 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses	25 minutes walk / 2 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses	Up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle/ 5–10 km from most houses

9.2 What we have

The majority of sporting spaces are owned and managed by Council, with some located on State Government (Crown) land but also managed by Council. Analysis figures in this chapter focus solely on Council managed sporting spaces, however some privately owned facilities are acknowledged as they form an important part of the broader open space network. These include:

- 9 leisure centres (3 Council, 6 non-Council)
- 2 golf clubs (both non-Council)
- 3 venues with equestrian facilities (1 Council owned, 2 non-Council)

Council manages a total of 43 sports spaces across the Albury LGA: 24 in the Albury catchment, 13 in the Lavington catchment and 6 in the Thurgoona catchment.

By area, Council managed sporting spaces cover approximately 165 ha: 30% in the Albury catchment (50 ha), 27% in the Lavington Catchment (45 ha) and 42% in the Thurgoona catchment (70 ha). Of the total sporting space, 53 hectares (32%) consists of intensively managed turf playing fields, maintained for regular sporting use. The remaining area includes other types of sporting surfaces such as courts, and amenities like spectator areas, pathways, and club facilities.

Further detail on sports spaces are available in the Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy. A full breakdown of Council managed sporting space provision is provided at section 9.4. Council manages a total of 43 sports spaces across the Albury LGA: 24 in the Albury catchment, 13 in the Lavington catchment and 6 in the Thurgoona catchment.

Figure 24 - Sports spaces and private open spaces in Albury catchment

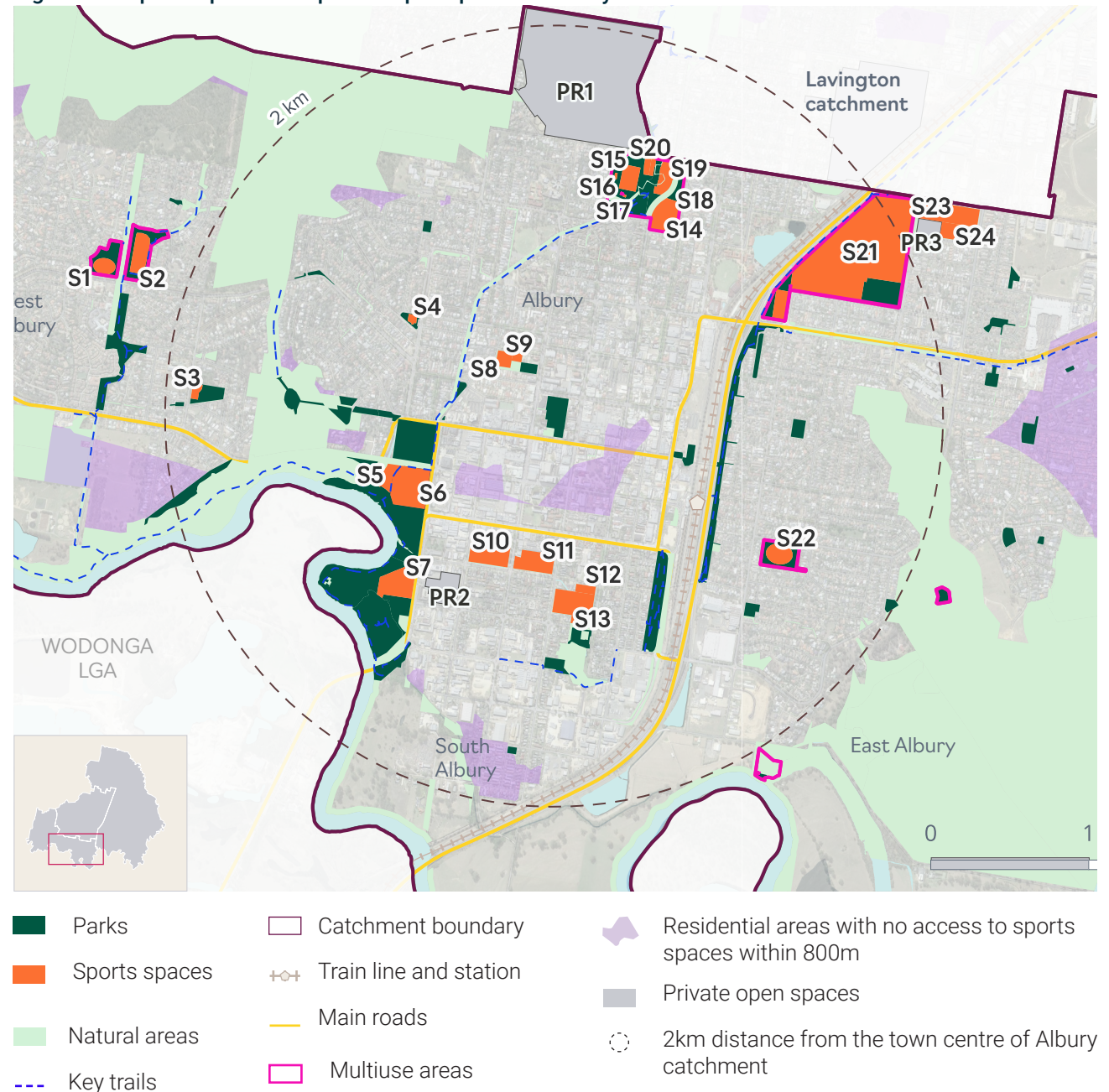


Table 41 - Audit of sporting spaces in Albury catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
S1	Bonnie Doon Park - Sport	0.8	Local
S2	Haydon Park - Sport	1.5	Local
S3	Uiver Park Tennis Club	0.3	Local
S4	Forest Hill Tennis Club	0.2	Local
S5	Albury Swim Centre	1.0	Regional
S6	Albury Sports Ground	3.6	District
S7	Noreuil Park Oval	2.6	Local
S8	Albury Tennis Club	0.6	Local
S9	Albury Croquet Club	0.2	Local
S10	Lambert Park	2.0	Local
S11	Aloysius Park	1.9	Local
S12	South Albury Active Space	0.4	District
S13	Waites Park	2.8	Local
S14	Billson Park	2.1	Local
S15	Greenfield Park Sports ground	1.2	Regional
S16	Pigeon Club	0.0	Local
S17	Fly Fishing Club	0.0	Local
S18	JC King Park Netball Facility	1.1	Regional
S19	Small Bore Rifle Club	0.2	Local
S20	Albury Wodonga Table Tennis	0.3	Regional
S21	Alexandra Park	21.9	Regional

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
S22	Collings Park	1.1	Local
S23	Marks Park and Lauren Jackson Sports Centre	2.8	Regional
S24	St Pats Tennis Club	1.0	Local

Table 42 - Audit of private open spaces in Albury catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
PR1	Albury Commercial Golf Club	38.9	N/A
PR2	Border Tennis Club	1.9	N/A
PR3	PCYC Albury	1.0	N/A

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 25 - Sports spaces and private open spaces in Lavington catchment

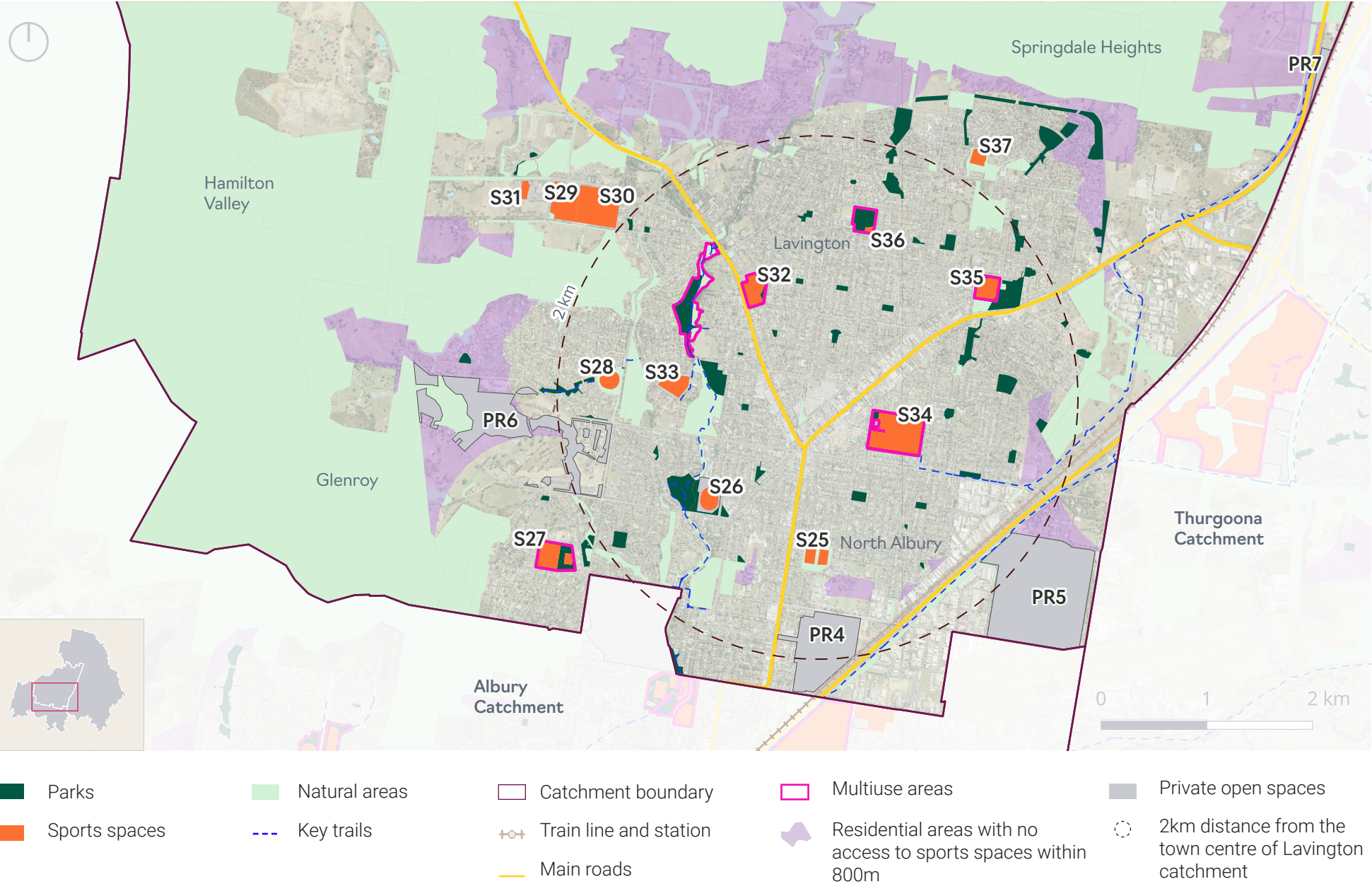


Table 43 - Audit of Sports Spaces in Lavington catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
S25	Sarvaas Park	1.7	Local
S26	Bunton Park	1.9	District
S27	Glen Park	3.8	Local
S28	Norris Park Oval	1.8	Local
S29	Lavington Sports Ground	4.9	Regional
S30	Lavington Sports Ground 2.	8.8	Regional
S31	Lavington Bowling Club	0.8	District
S32	Lavington Memorial Oval - Urana Road Oval	3.5	Local
S33	Riding For The Disabled	2.7	Local
S34	Jelbart Park	10.9	District
S35	Melrose Park	2.8	Local
S36	Black Range Park	0.3	Local
S37	Springdale Heights Baseball Field.	1.3	Local

Table 44 - Audit of private open spaces in Lavington catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
PR4	Albury Showground	22.9	N/A
PR5	Albury Racing Club	58.7	N/A
PR6	Private open space near Black Springs Creek	33.6	N/A
PR7	Private open space near Ettamogah Rise	2.2	N/A

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 26 - Sports spaces in Thurgoona catchment

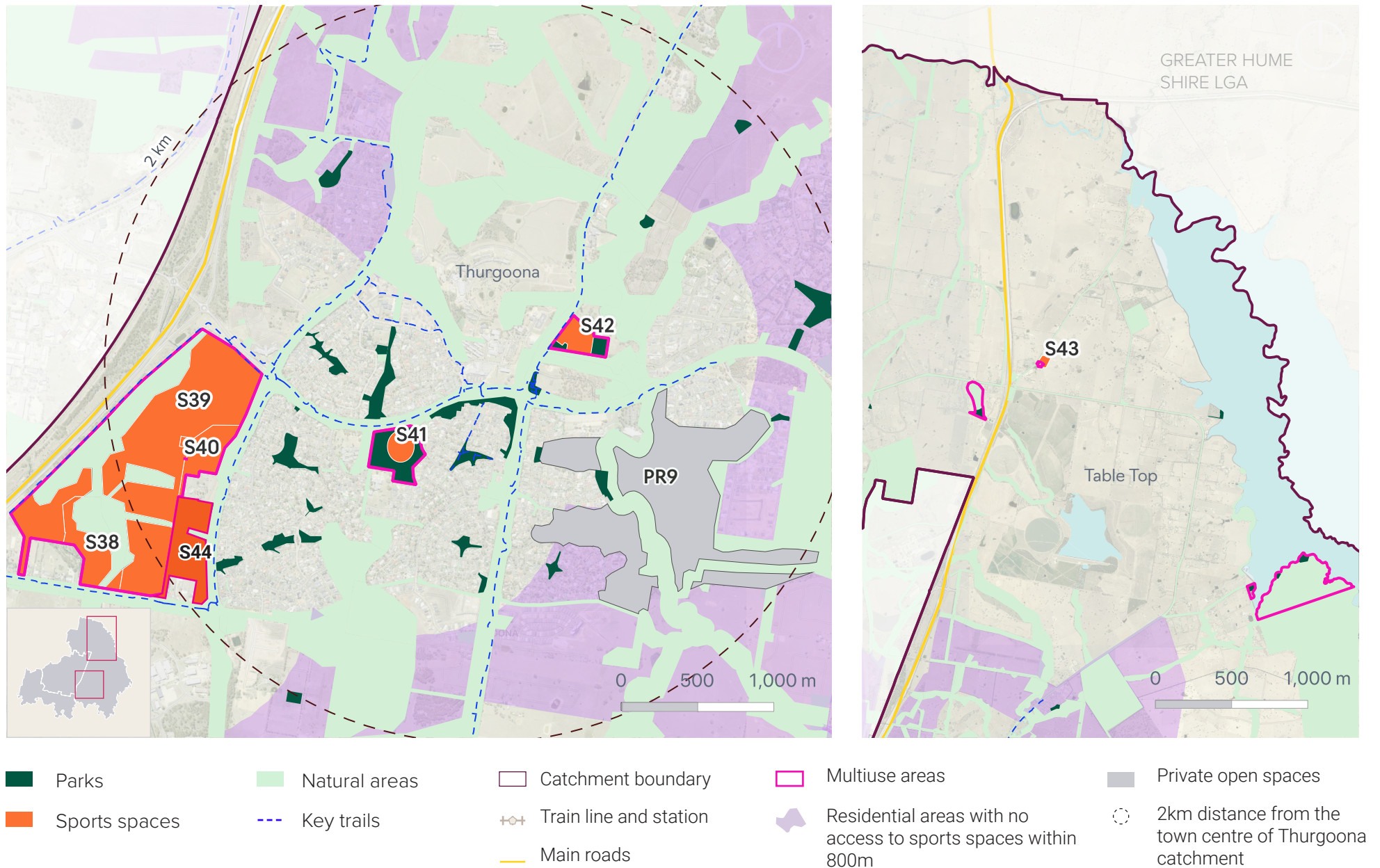


Table 45 - Audit of sports spaces in Thurgoona catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
S38	Wirlinga Pony Club	6.0	Local
S39	Albury Equestrian Centre - open space	50.8	Regional
S40	Black Range Pony Club	5.5	Local
S41	Ernest Grant Park	1.9	Local
S42	Thurgoona Oval	2.7	Local
S43	Table Top Community Hall Sports	3.0	Local
S44	Albury Equestrian Centre	6.7	N/A

Table 46 - Audit of private open spaces in Thurgoona catchment

Map ref.	Name	Area (ha.)	Hierarchy
PR9	Thurgoona Country Club	61.9	N/A

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

9.3 Valuing our sporting spaces

Our community embraces a strong sporting culture. Consultation during the development of this Strategy reinforced the findings of the Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy, revealing that our community place great importance on the presence of sporting spaces across the Albury LGA, recognising their role in fostering social cohesion, providing opportunities for active lifestyles, and hosting events that bring people together.

Sport and recreation activities playing a fundamental role in enhancing our community's sense of wellbeing, which is also highlighted in the Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy. Our network of sporting spaces extends beyond the boundaries of our LGA and state, serving as a vital resource for the broader region. These spaces are more than just facilities; they are deeply valued as hubs of community connection, identity, and pride.

Our sporting spaces are intrinsic to the character of our community. They support not only individual and collective wellbeing but also broader cultural and economic outcomes, enhancing our reputation as a regional hub for sport and recreation. By valuing these spaces as essential community assets, we ensure their continued role in shaping a healthy and physically active future for all.

9.4 Size of our sporting spaces

As shown in Table 47, there are a total of 45 Council managed sporting spaces encompassing around 165 ha across the Albury LGA which accommodate a wide variety of sports. This equates to approximately 2.8 ha per 1,000 people or around one sporting space per 1,500 people, which is significantly higher than the typical minimum industry (metropolitan) standard of 1 ha per 1,000 people or 1 sporting space per 10,000 people.

It is important to note that this sporting space provision rate is heavily influenced by the presence of several large regional sporting spaces such as Alexandra Park (22 ha, Albury catchment), Lavington Sports Ground (13 ha, Lavington catchment) and the Albury Wodonga Equestrian Centre (50 ha, Thurgoona catchment). While these signature facilities are essential for elite and specialised sports, they are designed primarily for high performances use rather than general recreation and social sporting activities. If the combined sizes of all our regional level sporting facilities are excluded from calculations, our sporting space provision rate is 1 ha per 1,000 people, which is aligned with our desired standard (see section 9.1).

The optimal recommended size for a sporting space with playing fields and courts is typically at least 5 ha. Albury caters for a wide range of sports that utilise maintained turf surfaces. Only a few of our sporting spaces fall below this industry minimum size standard and these are generally designed for one sport. In alignment with the Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy, sporting space size analysis does not identify any need to reduce the overall quantum of sporting space provision across the Albury LGA. Exceptions may apply in cases where an oversupply of a specific recreation type, such as tennis courts, has been identified.

The Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan outlines preferred locations and sizes for new sporting spaces for the growing community. Wherever possible, these will be multi-use sports spaces, offering flexibility to cater for a range of sports.

The size of our leisure centres is discussed separately at section 9.8.

Table 47 - Size hierarchy of our sporting spaces

Catchment	Local		District		Regional		Total	
	Number	Size	Number	Size	Number	Size	Number	Size
Albury	13	10 ha	6	12 ha	6	28 ha	25	50 ha
Lavington	5	8 ha	6	24 ha	2	14 ha	13	45 ha
Thurgoona	2	3 ha	2	5 ha	3	62 ha	7	70 ha
Total LGA	20	21 ha	14	41 ha	11	104 ha	45	165 ha
Percentage of total	44%	-	31%	-	25%	-	100%	-
	-	13%	-	25%	-	62%	-	100%

Note: Figures in the table exclude privately owned sporting space such as golf courses

 Priority finding	Maintain the overall provision of sports space
 Key actions	- Review and monitor the over or under supply of specific recreation types and adjust the size of sporting spaces as required to meet demand - Progress planning, development and provision of new sports spaces and facilities in the Thurgoona catchment

9.5 Quality of our sporting spaces

Many sporting spaces in the Albury LGA are recognised as the highest-quality facilities in the region. The Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy underscores the commitment to maintaining excellent sporting experiences for both residents and visitors, reflected in the ongoing preparation of Master Plans for facility upgrades. Key examples at the time of writing this Strategy include planned and proposed upgrades to the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre and Lavington Swim Centre.

In developing this Strategy, consultation identified our community have increasing expectations of our sports facilities, such as promoting universal access through provision of gender neutral amenities buildings and development of options for provision of “all season” swim opportunities, including hydrotherapy pools. To ensure the quality of our sporting spaces is sustained and enhanced over time, general improvements will also be required in response to evolving recreation trends. Effective signage, scheduling, and accessible amenities are also critical to creating spaces that truly cater to all members of the community.

Additionally, the need to reduce operational costs through improved energy efficiency is driving upgrades to lighting and irrigation systems. New guidelines from peak sporting bodies, such as Cricket Australia and Tennis Australia, may necessitate upgrades to playing surfaces, training facilities and associated amenities.

 Priority finding	Ensure the continued quality and relevance of our sporting spaces to support diverse sporting activities
 Key actions	Maintain and enhance the quality of sporting spaces to adapt to changing recreation needs by implementing targeted upgrades and improvements in line with adopted recreation infrastructure strategies and Master Plans

9.6 Access to our sporting spaces

The maps shown in section 9.2 highlight, in purple shading, the residential areas within the Albury LGA that currently have no access to sporting space with playing fields or courts within 800 m of their home (this does not apply to Leisure Centres). While this distance is a useful metric to assess access, it is generally accepted that people may need to travel further to access a sporting space compared to their local park. In line with industry standards, the optimal recommended distance that people should have to travel to access a sporting space is typically a 25 minute walk, or less than 2 km. Based on this standard, Albury catchment and Lavington catchment have good access to multiple types of sporting spaces, but there are some gaps in access throughout the new housing growth areas of Thurgoona catchment. Timely implementation of planning new sporting spaces and facilities in Thurgoona catchment is required to address this current under provision.

In addition to ensuring equitable distribution of our sporting spaces, access to facilities can be enhanced by addressing barriers that affect walkability. This includes fencing treatments, which are designed for public safety and to facilitate ticketing for sports games, but can unintentionally create visual and physical obstacles, restricting easy pedestrian movement. Further consideration of these barriers in future planning can improve access to our sporting spaces.

 Priority finding	Address barriers to accessing sports spaces by aiming for all homes to be within 800 m of a sports facility, and no more than 2 km
 Key actions	• Progress planning, development and provision of new sports spaces and facilities in the Thurgoona catchment • Ensure sports spaces remain accessible for community use by auditing fencing treatments across all sports spaces

9.7 Designing multipurpose sporting spaces

Creating sporting spaces that are designed and managed to cater to two or more recreation activities not only maximises land use efficiency but also fosters inclusivity. This approach ensures facilities are perceived as shared community assets rather than being associated with a single user group or activity. By doing so, it helps avoid a sense of exclusivity or ownership that might otherwise limit broad community use.

Multipurpose sporting spaces are particularly valued by community members who may not have the time, financial means or inclination to participate in formal, organised sport such as hiring a tennis court or joining a soccer club. Incorporating free, casual “turn up and play” opportunities such as kick about space and half courts can encourage physical activity and skill development without the barriers of cost or commitment. Integrating a variety of different uses into our sporting spaces, including play spaces (see section 9.7) and informal recreation opportunities (refer section 8.9) significantly enhances their appeal and functionality. Implementing this approach requires thoughtful planning and consultation to fairly balance the needs of various user groups.

Given the challenges associated with attracting and retaining volunteers, it is anticipated that existing sports clubs will focus on expanding their membership and programs rather than new clubs being established. This growth may increase demand for additional training facilities and, potentially, game-day fields. This presents challenges, particularly for local level sporting spaces with single field configurations.

To address future needs, greater consideration will be given to opportunities for the development of larger, district level, multi-use sports spaces to better accommodate growing demand and provide flexibility for a range of sports activities. In alignment with the principle of co-location, wherever possible these district level spaces will be co-located with parks, informal recreation facilities, leisure centres and community facilities to maximise shared use, improve accessibility, and enhance overall community benefit. This approach moves away from providing numerous small, single-purpose sporting spaces, focusing instead on larger, integrated spaces that bring together various types of community and recreational infrastructure on the same site.



Outdoor Court Space
(source: AlburyCity)

9.8 Our leisure centres

Leisure centres play an important role in meeting recreation needs, typically providing indoor sports courts, gyms and aquatic facilities such as swimming pools. Leisure centres are regional level facilities designed to attract visitors from across the city, with the expectation that they are accessible to all residents of the Albury LGA.

As shown in Figure 27, we have a total of 9 leisure centres in Albury, including:

- 2 indoor recreation centres (1 Council, 1 non-Council)
- 4 aquatic facilities (2 Council, 2 non-Council)

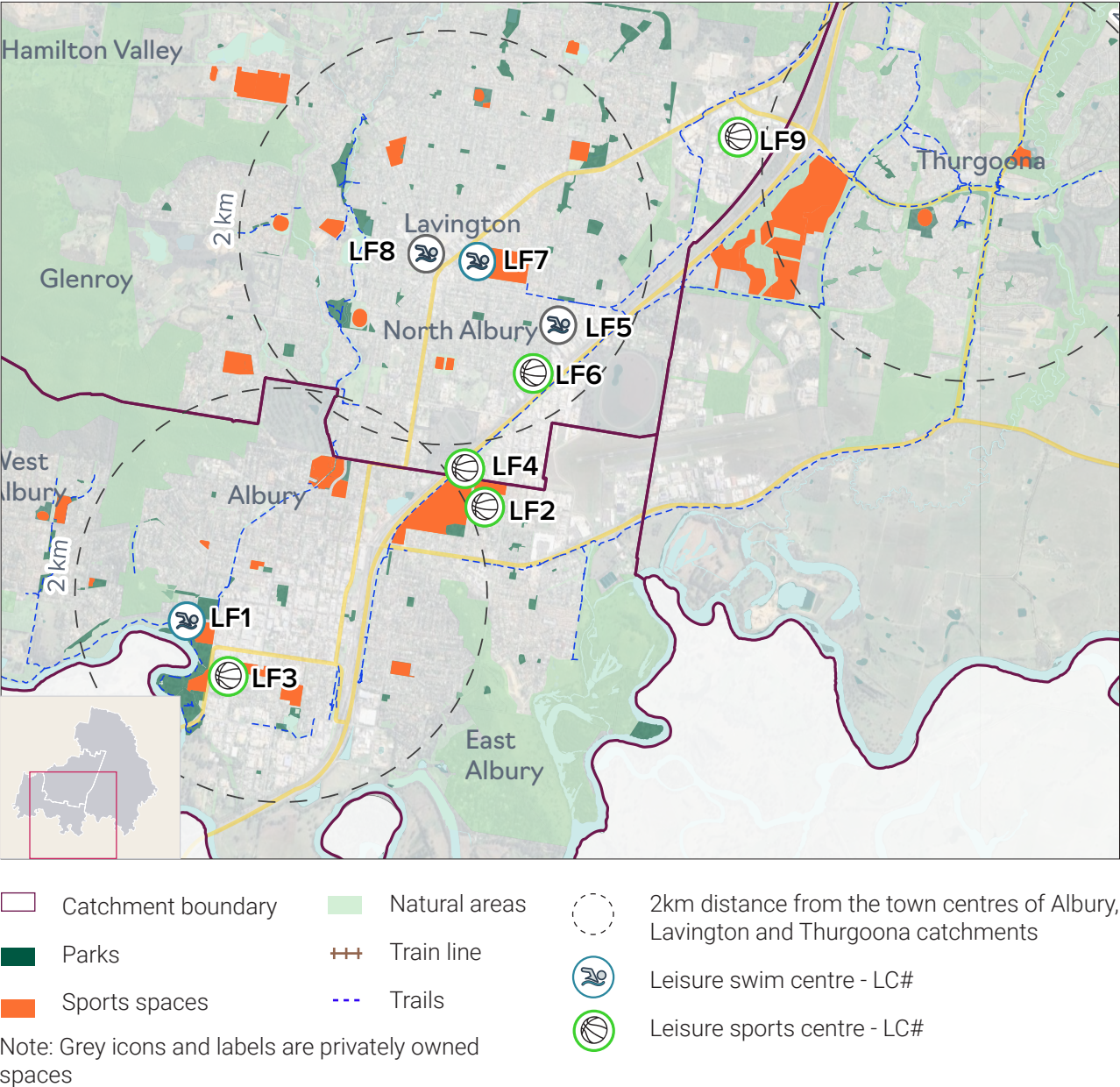
This equates to 1 Council owned leisure centre per 20,000 people, which is substantially above the typical minimum industry (metropolitan) standard of 1 facility per 45,000 people.

Table 48 - Audit of leisure centres in Albury LGA

Leisure centre	
LF1	Albury Swim Centre
LF2	PCYC
LF3	Flying Fruit Flies
LF4	Lauren Jackson Sports Centre
LF5	Gould Swim Academy (Private)
LF6	Flyaway Gymnastics Albury
LF7	Lavington Swim Centre
LF8	SwimTech Albury (Private)
LF9	Snowy Mountains Climbing School

Note: Grey boxes are non-Council owned spaces

Figure 27 - Leisure centres in Albury LGA, zoomed in



The Lauren Jackson Sports Centre (LJSC) serves as Albury’s primary indoor recreation facility, adjacent to the non-Council owned Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC). Council has endorsed a two stage Master Plan to expand and enhance the LJSC to meet evolving sporting needs. Stage 1 has commenced, focusing on upgraded courts and expanded seating capacity

The Albury Swim Centre and Lavington Swim Centre serve as Albury’s primary aquatic facilities, providing access to fitness, water safety skills and social cohesion benefits, as well as urban cooling opportunities during heat waves. Compared with privately owned aquatic facilities which tend to focus on income-generating activities like learn-to-swim programs and broader gym infrastructure, Council’s aquatic facilities offer a broader array of water based recreation services, especially competitive sports needs (such as squad swimming and water polo) and water enjoyment opportunities (such as toddler pools, water slide, picnic facilities). Key unmet aquatic experiences across Council’s two existing aquatic facilities are all season, indoor competitive swim, gym facilities, hydrotherapy/ spa or sauna, and water play (‘splash’ parks or inflatable equipment). Through separate studies to this Strategy, Council is pursuing a phased approach to meeting Albury’s aquatic centre needs into the future.

Consultation for this Strategy highlighted the community’s desire for indoor recreation and aquatic facilities in the Thurgoona catchment, with longstanding feedback supporting a local ‘splash park’ for young people. While the provision of future aquatic facilities would depend on the findings of Council’s broader aquatics strategy, ensuring all catchments have access to water facilities where people can cool off during hot weather makes sense from both a climate

resilience and community wellbeing perspective. Albury experiences particularly high summer temperatures, which are expected to rise in line with global climate trends. If developed, new leisure centre facilities in the Thurgoona catchment could potentially be integrated into a future district park and multipurpose community centre as part of the Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan.

 Priority finding	Ensure our community have continued access to quality leisure centres
 Key actions	• Monitor implementation of the Lauren Jackson Sport Centre Master Plan and update as required • Review and update the Albury City Aquatic Strategy to ensure all catchments have access to fit for purpose aquatic facilities

10. Natural areas

The primary purpose of our natural areas is to protect and enhance environments with ecological and biodiversity values while promoting environmental resilience. In addition, these areas safeguard key environmental, social, heritage, and cultural elements of public open space from the impacts of development. They also offer our community opportunities for stewardship of our natural environment and provide spaces for low-impact recreational activities, such as birdwatching, trail running, walking and exploring.

This includes:

- Natural areas (conservation zoned land, public reserves)
- Waterways and riparian zones (e.g. rivers, creek corridors and wetlands)
- Strategic recreational links (e.g. tracks and trails)

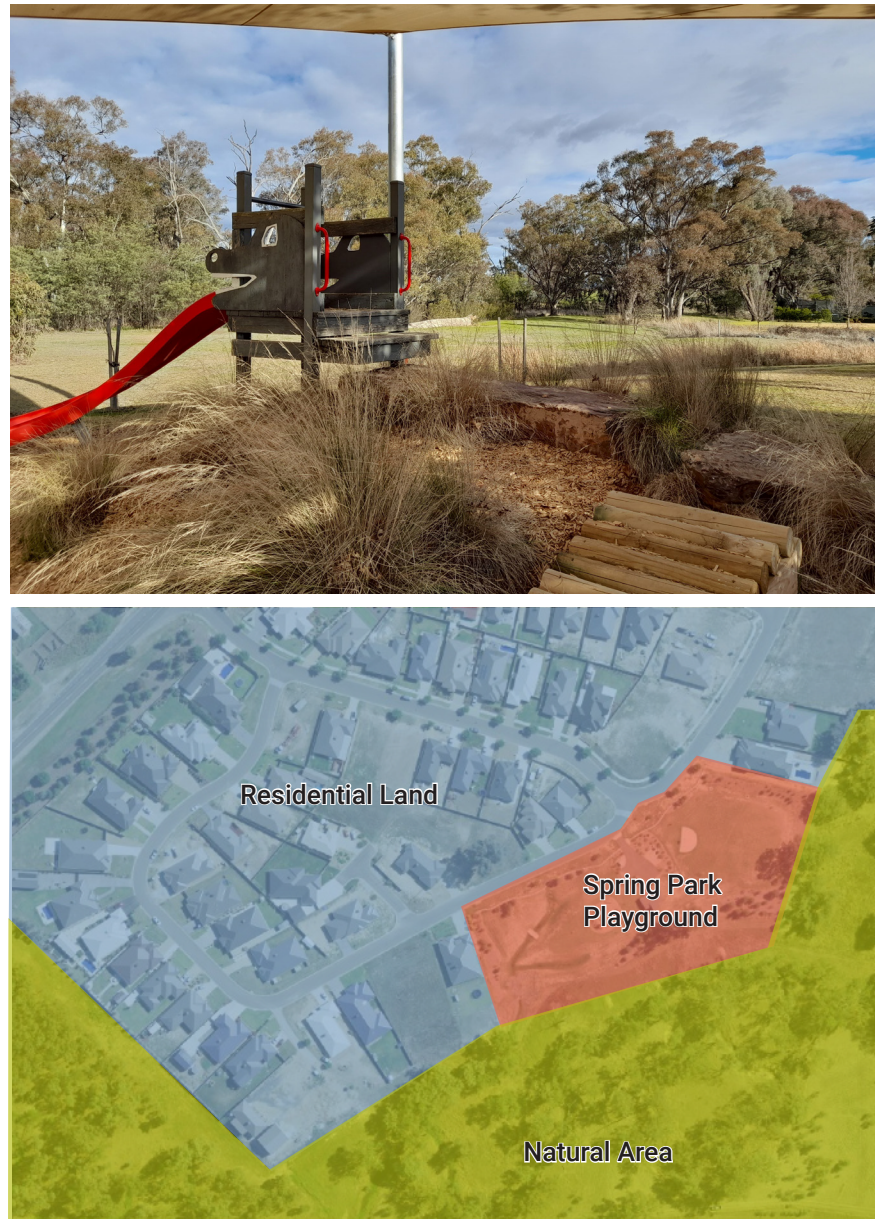
There is substantial growing evidence that providing people with access to natural area features, heritage and landscape has significant positive impacts on our physical and mental wellbeing. We need to ensure that our natural areas continue to provide essential functions such as conservation, water retention and water treatment in developed areas.

10.1 Desired natural area standards

Natural areas are characterised by irregular parcel boundaries and range from small suburban reserves to expansive landscapes like hillsides. These areas significantly enhance the open space network by offering residents walkable access to the stunning natural landscapes unique to the Albury LGA. While they provide valuable opportunities for recreational activities especially walking and cycling, natural areas cannot be credited towards public open space developer contributions in new developments. Instead, they should be viewed as complementary to the open space network, without replacing the essential need for sufficient parks and sports spaces. It is important to recognise that most of our natural areas serve critical environmental functions, such as biodiversity protection and fauna conservation. In these cases, access may need to be restricted, with carefully designed interfaces between natural and built environments to limit public entry while preserving ecological integrity.

While natural areas cannot substitute for the provision standards of parks and sporting space, their proximity can, in some instances, reduce or negate the required sizes of these open space types. This is contingent on portions of the natural area being considered "unencumbered". The term 'unencumbered' means the portion of land must be unconstrained, meeting criteria such as being free from limitations such as easements, cultural heritage protections, steep slopes, embankments, or frequent flooding. The portion of land must also be situated in a logical location for community use, enabling it to be safe and maintainable. For example, an unencumbered portion of a reserve adjacent to a residential development might serve as a park that meets recreational needs while preserving the broader natural area, as shown in the example at Figure 28. A full table of natural area standards is at Appendix B.

Figure 28 - Example of park provision adjoining natural area (Spring Park, Thurgoona)



10.2 What we have

We have abundant bushland, hills and reserves across the Albury LGA, including more than 8,500ha of land designated for conservation purposes under the C2 Environmental Conservation Zone and C3 Environmental Management Zone.

This includes:

- 56 km of waterways
- More than 100 km of recreational track and trail links including over 35 km of mountain bike trail network.

The Albury-Wodonga region is home to 510 native plants species and 338 native animal species. Unfortunately, many are threatened, including:

- 8 forb species and 4 orchid species
- 3 tree, 2 grass and 1 shrub species
- 34 bird species and 7 mammal species
- 2 reptile species and 3 frog species
- 4 fish species and 1 crustacean species

National and state legislation requires the protection of our remaining native species and ensure the prevention of local extinction of threatened species.

While significant portions of our natural areas designated for public purposes are owned and managed by either State Government (Crown) or Council, it is estimated that more than half of our natural areas are not accessible by the public, including land owned by the Australian Government Department of Defence and privately owned land.

Some of our most significant publicly accessible natural areas and reserves include Eastern Hill, Mungabareena Reserve (Declared Aboriginal Place), Nail Can Hill, Monument Hill Reserve, Norris Ridge, Red Light Hill, Bowna Reserve and Bells Travelling Stock Reserve. Our key waterways, including the Murray River, Lake Hume, Bungambrawatha Creek, Hamilton Valley Creek and Eight Mile Creek, are strategically linked by recreational trails throughout the Albury LGA. Notable trails include the Wagirra Trail, Bungambrawatha Creek trail, Wonga Wetlands trails, Albury to Thurgoona Trail, Hume and Hovell Track, Eastern Hill Trails, and Nail Can Hill Trails.

Figure 29 - Significant natural areas in Albury LGA

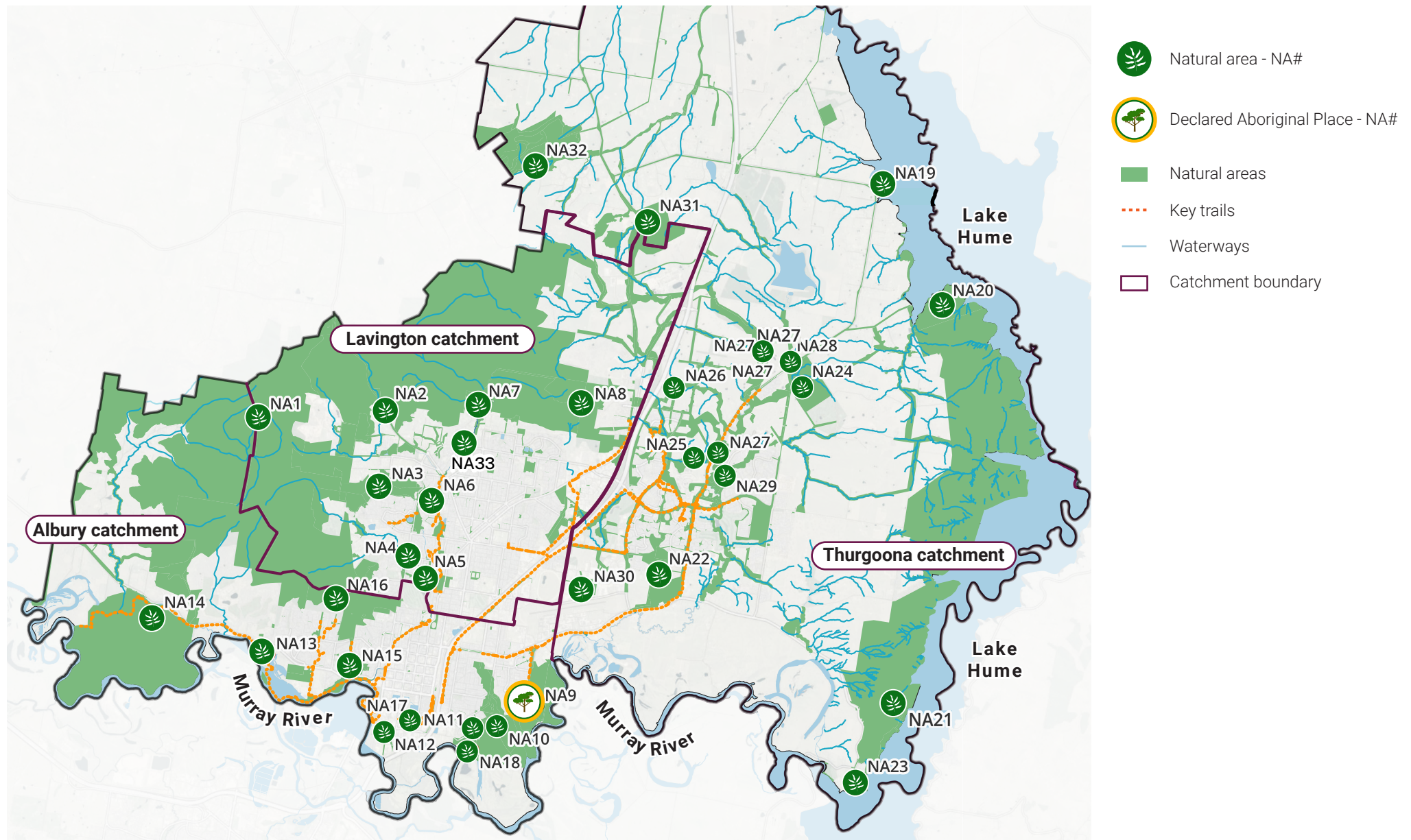


Table 49 - Significant Natural Areas

Label	Name
NA1	Nail Can Hill Reserve
NA2	Urana Road Bushlands
NA3	Norris Ridge Bushland
NA4	Black Springs
NA5	Little Black Springs
NA6	Heathwood Park Bushland
NA7	Prune Street Bushland
NA8	One Tree Hill Bushland
NA9	Mungabareena Reserve (Declared Aboriginal Place)
NA10	Eastern Hill
NA11	Devils Glen
NA12	Oddies Creek
NA13	Horseshoe Lagoon
NA14	Wonga Wetlands
NA15	Monument Hill Reserve
NA16	Nail Can Hill Reserve

Label	Name
NA17	Browns lagoon
NA18	Normans Lagoon
NA19	Table Top Reserve
NA20	Bowna Reserve
NA21	Apex Park (The Pines)
NA22	Corry's Wood Bushland
NA23	Lake Hume Foreshore
NA24	Bells Travelling Stock Reserve
NA25	Six Mile Creek
NA26	Seven Mile Creek
NA27	Eight Mile Creek
NA28	Nine Mile Creek
NA29	Woolshed Creek
NA30	Ceres Drive Gilgi
NA31	Nine Mile Hill
NA32	Tynan's Travelling Stock Reserve
NA33	Bungambrawatha Creek

10.3 Valuing our natural areas

Our natural areas are highly cherished by our community, who see them as a defining attractive feature of the Albury LGA. These spaces provide the relaxed, spacious and regional lifestyle opportunities that are valued by residents and visitors alike, serving as key attractors for people considering a move to the area. Our natural areas are used for a wide range of recreation activities including walking, cycling, bushwalking, birdwatching, trail running, mountain biking, picnicking, and nature-based education. Waterways are also popular for activities such as fishing, kayaking, swimming and water sports.

There is a strong collective commitment to preserving these spaces for future generations, particularly hillside views and ecosystem connections. Our community have expressed a desire to mitigate risks to accessing our natural areas arising from environmental hazards linked to our changing climate such as storms, bushfires, floods and urban heat.

Our community is also interested in highlighting the cultural significance of our natural areas to First Nations people. The creek corridors, tracks and trails throughout the Albury LGA are deeply connected to Aboriginal cultural heritage- especially those along hill ridgelines, reflecting ancient pathways used for thousands of years. Significant sites, such as Mungabareena Reserve (Declared Aboriginal Place), hold significant archaeological, cultural and spiritual value. Managing these spaces requires balancing cultural access for First Nations practices, recreational use, and water management needs.

Additionally, the Cross-Border location of some of our natural areas requires cooperative strategies between Albury and Wodonga to ensure cohesive management and protection of these shared natural assets.

	Priority finding	Protect cultural heritage and promote sustainable use
	Key actions	Ensure Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is embedded in all natural area projects by engaging with First Nations communities to balance cultural access, recreational use, and environmental management, ensuring these areas are respected and maintained



10.4 Size and quality of our natural areas

A benchmark of 1 ha per 1,000 people has been adopted by this strategy as a baseline measure for natural area provision. This metric serves as a technical indicator to support the overarching objective of ensuring that all residents have access to the bushland and waterways that enrich all our planning catchments. With a current provision of 175 ha per 1,000 people, the Albury LGA exceeds this benchmark by a significant margin. The distribution of natural areas is uneven however, due to localised ecological characteristics. Most of our natural areas are concentrated in the hillsides on the urban fringe, reflecting the region's natural topography.

Although no formal industry standards exist for the provision of new natural areas, this strategy highlights the importance of increasing public access to these spaces where appropriate. Opportunities for active recreation can be enhanced through the concept of linear parks or trails—corridors that are significantly longer than they are wide and designed to facilitate movement and access. Linear parks often run parallel to natural area corridors such as creeks or alongside built corridors such as roads, offering spaces for activities like walking, running, and cycling. In alignment with industry standards, it is crucial to ensure that parks and sporting spaces are not planned within environmentally protected areas in future urban development, except in cases where they meet the strict definition of "unencumbered"

Even though the natural areas across the Albury LGA are rich in biodiversity and natural beauty, they face significant challenges such as the proliferation

of invasive species, loss of mature trees, and fragmentation caused by urban development and infrastructure. Human recreational activities can also accelerate ecosystem deterioration, leading to habitat loss and reduced biodiversity. To preserve the ecological integrity of our natural areas, it is vital to maintain a careful balance between ecological health and the recreational opportunities they provide.

Active land management efforts will ensure that our natural areas remain as intact and functional as possible for both environmental and community benefit. While Council manages many natural areas, privately owned land also plays a key role in the broader ecological network. Various conservation mechanisms and legal frameworks, such as the Biodiversity Conservation Act, help guide its protection and sustainable use. Council supports private landholders in enhancing biodiversity and preserving significant landscapes through a range of programs and planning mechanisms. This includes initiatives such as the Land Management Incentive Program, which provides direct support for on-ground environmental works, and the Conservation Zoned Lands Review, which helps protect environmental values by applying appropriate land use controls to limit incompatible development.

In some cases, Council may also consider acquiring privately owned natural areas, whether through developer contributions, voluntary land transfers, bequests, land swaps, or direct purchase, ensuring long-term protection and integration into the public open space network.

10.5 Designing multipurpose natural areas

The design of multipurpose natural areas in the Albury LGA seeks to strike a balance between providing recreational opportunities and protecting the unique environmental features that define our region. These areas need to be carefully planned to accommodate appropriate community use while safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring the long-term sustainability of natural landscapes.

Community expectations regarding access to natural areas varies widely. While some residents prioritise walking and peaceful enjoyment of nature, others may advocate for higher intensity activities like mountain biking and boat ramp access. As we plan for the future of natural areas, the community will need to be actively engaged to understand diverse perspectives and manage potential conflicts. Planning should carefully consider the interface between publicly owned natural areas, where managed public access is encouraged, and adjoining privately owned natural areas, where access is generally restricted. Designs should discourage unauthorised access and minimise impacts on neighbouring properties. Poorly planned infrastructure or overuse risks cumulative environmental damage, including habitat loss, erosion, and biodiversity decline. By setting clear guidelines for permissible uses and facilities within natural areas we can better preserve the integrity of these areas

In the context of urban development, it is crucial to address the misconception that natural areas alone can meet the community's recreational needs. Particularly in the Thurgoona catchment, riparian and conservation zones are being increasingly relied upon for recreation, underscoring the importance of providing additional parks and sporting spaces.

While natural areas already being used as informal parks can continue to meet community needs, future open space planning should prioritise protecting the environmental and biodiversity values of undeveloped natural areas. Linear parks are a key component of this strategy, designed to create buffer zones that protect natural areas from human impact while also linking neighbourhoods with parks, sporting spaces, and natural areas. These elongated corridors emphasise movement and access, promoting active recreation such as walking, running, and cycling.

Effectively managing the interfaces and boundaries between natural areas and residential developments is also crucial. This includes implementing appropriately sized conservation buffers or transition zones between natural areas and residential developments, designing subdivisions to preserve contiguous natural habitats, and fostering community stewardship through education and community engagement. Where necessary, these interface areas can also accommodate Asset Protection Zones on private developable land as a bushfire management measure. By integrating these principles, urban growth can be balanced with the long-term protection of the natural environment.

 Priority finding	Support public access to natural areas for recreation while protecting and maintaining ecological integrity
 Key actions	• Develop a Recreation in Natural Areas policy to support appropriate recreational use within natural areas while safeguarding environmental values • Identify and establish new linear park corridors to bridge existing gaps and ensure continuous habitats for wildlife. • Ensure any conservation zoned land proposed for transition back to council as a part of residential development has appropriate management plans and budget

10.6 Access to our natural areas

Waterways, riparian corridors, and recreational links form a significant part of Albury’s open space network, supporting a wide range of nature-based experiences. Although their detailed planning and management are addressed through other targeted environmental and biodiversity strategies, this section recognises their importance in connecting people with nature and considers their role in enhancing access to natural areas through features such as lookouts, water access points, and well-designed tracks and trails.

Waterways and riparian corridors

Waterways play a significant role in Albury’s open space network, offering both recreational and ecological value. Lake Hume and the Murray River, along with its tributaries and creeks, provides scenic corridors for walking, cycling, and water-based activities such as kayaking, fishing and boating. These natural features contribute to the city’s identity and provide a vital link between urban spaces and natural environments, serving as important open spaces for relaxation and community engagement.

For the Albury catchment and Thurgoona catchment, public access to water is guided by the Murray River Experience Master Plan. This plan focuses on improving access, developing recreational infrastructure, and preserving the river’s natural beauty, while ensuring that the surrounding environment is sustainably managed for both residents and visitors. Expanding the network of tracks and trails is key to improving connectivity to the region’s waterways, scenic routes that support both active transport and recreation while also protecting the ecological values of riparian areas.

In the Lavington catchment, the Bungambrawatha Creek Line Assessment aims to improve the connection between the community and the creek corridor. The strategy focuses on enhancing accessibility, promoting environmental stewardship, and integrating the creek into the wider open space network, providing opportunities for passive recreation and ecological conservation.

Recreational links

Walking and cycling are most enjoyable when recreational links (tracks and trails) provide seamless, uninterrupted journeys. Despite Albury LGA’s well-established recreational links, there are some notable gaps that disrupt connectivity, for example along Bungambrawatha Creek where the privately owned Albury Golf Course interrupts the active transport link between Lavington catchment and Albury catchment. Closing this and other identified road crossings or linkage gaps is critical to ensuring a fully integrated tracks and trail network that connects neighbourhoods, parks, sporting spaces, and natural areas. Strategies to achieve this may include compulsory land acquisition or shared use agreements with private landholders.

The use of our tracks, trails and lookouts can be enhanced by adding high quality embellishments and improved safety measures. Incorporating elements like shade trees, seating, water bubblers and bike charging stations can encourage active transportation and make tracks and trails more appealing for everyday use. Installing lighting, clear signage and ensuring regular maintenance improves safety and helps ensure users feel secure. Additionally, the inclusion of public art or interpretive displays can enrich the user experience by providing insights into local history, ecology, and cultural significance.

	Priority finding	Strengthen recreational links
	Key actions	• Create seamless connections between neighbourhoods, parks, sports spaces and natural areas. • Enhance safety features along recreational links to create a secure environment for users

11. Appendix A: Desired community and cultural facility standards

Table 50 outlines the envisioned standards for community and cultural facilities within the Albury LGA. These desired standards serve as a benchmark for evaluating existing facilities, identifying facilities requiring prioritised enhancements or upgrades and guiding delivery of quality new facilities.

Table 50 - Desired Community and Cultural facility provision standards

	Local	District	Regional
Brief description	Small facilities that primarily service the needs of the immediate resident population	Large, multipurpose facilities that service the needs of multiple neighbourhoods or a planning catchment	Large, dedicated or destination facilities that serve multiple planning catchments, the whole LGA and/or beyond
Size (Functional area)	Min. 500 sqm	Min. 1,000 sqm	Min. 1,500 sqm
Location	A main street, ground floor location with clear and inviting presentation to the street	In a highly accessible, central location	In a highly accessible, central location
Geographic proximity/ access	Near shopping centres or located alongside other community facilities like schools, child care centres, senior services, or arts and cultural spaces.	20 minutes walk / within 1.5 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses	Up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle/ 5–10 km from most houses

Local		District	Regional
Facilities and amenities:   - Required,  - Preferred,  – Optional			
Easy to find	 Easily identified as a community facility that is active and in use	  Integrated, user friendly wayfinding systems	 
Public transport	 Within 400 m of a flat, easy walk to a bus stop	  Less than 250 m	  Less than 250 m
Pedestrian and bicycle access	 Accessible – flat area, clear pathways and safe connections	  Safe crossings, provision of storage areas and user-friendly amenities	 
Parking	 Limited parking on site and some in surrounding areas	  Adequate parking on site and surrounds	  Adequate parking on site and surrounds
Accessibility	 Facilities must comply with the National Construction Code, relevant Australian Standards (including AS 1428) and the Disability Discrimination Act	  Fully accessible, exceeding minimum standards, e.g. automatic doors, accessible toilets, hearing loops, parents’ room	  Fully accessible, meeting best practice e.g. ‘Changing Places’ facilities, lift access, smart technology, dedicated sensory spaces
Outdoor access	 Contained, accessible multipurpose outdoor space provided	  Sustainable landscaping, integration of universal design principles	 
Safe and Secure	 Building design follows Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles	  Enhanced implementation of CPTED principles including features such as smart lighting, safety technology	 
Environmentally friendly	 Features that minimise energy and water consumption e.g. solar panels, rainwater tanks, recycled water, and energy-efficient systems	  Full integration of renewable energy and sustainable design	 

Table 51 - Summary of general provision rates for Council owned community and cultural facilities

	Number of existing facilities – Council Owned to Total	Rate of existing facility provision – Council Owned only	Industry standard	Desired standard Albury LGA	Additional recommended facilities (by 2046)
Multipurpose community space	16 of 25	1: 4,000 people	80 sqm/1,000 people	65 sqm/1,000 people	
Community centres and halls	10 of 14	1:6,000 people 65 sqm per 1,000 people	1:7,500 people	1 district community centre per catchment	1 (Thurgoona catchment)
Youth centres	4 of 8	1:3,000 people aged under 18 years	1:7,500 people aged under 18 years	1 youth centre per catchment	1 (Thurgoona catchment)
Men's sheds	2 of 3	N/A	N/A	As needed	Meets demand
Cultural facilities	10 of 14	1: 6,000	Included in multipurpose community space	75 sqm/1,000 people	
Libraries	2 of 2	1: 30,000 people	55 sqm per 1,000 people	1 library space per catchment	1 (Thurgoona catchment)
Exhibition space	2 of 2	56 sqm per 1,000 people		As needed	+750 sqm
Performance space	1 of 1	1: 60,000 people	20 sqm per 1,000 people	As needed	+800 sqm
Participation, practice & Education space	5 of 9	1: 12,000 people		As needed	As needed
Early Childhood centres					
Early Childhood centres	10 of 33	N/A	1 place per 3 children aged 0 – 4 years	1 place per 2.3 children aged 0 - 4 years	4 (Thurgoona catchment)

12. Appendix B: Desired open space standards

	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Brief Description and purpose	A small park with limited or basic infrastructure that primarily services the needs of the immediate resident population. Supports passive enjoyment of outdoors, individual and group-based recreation.	A medium-large park with robust and diverse infrastructure that services multiple suburbs or an entire planning catchment. Supports diverse uses and provides a range of recreation activities for individuals, small and large groups.	A large park with robust, diverse and significant infrastructure that services multiple planning catchments, the whole LGA and/or beyond. Supports diverse uses and provides a range of unique recreation activities for individuals, small and large groups, and encourages long stays.	A linear park or trail that is significantly longer than it is wide. Linear parks are designed to emphasise movement and access, extending opportunities for active recreation (walking, running, cycling). Follow alongside/ next to Natural Area corridors such as creeks or built corridors such as roads.	A dedicated sports space that services the needs of multiple neighborhoods. Supports active enjoyment of outdoors for organised sport of casual 'kickabout' space Minimum configuration of 4 fields with a playing surface area of at least 4 ha (240 m N/S by 168 m E/W) allows 4 rectangular fields, AFL oval or multi-use training area. The areas would also include sports pavilion with some on-site car parking preferred, May incorporate local park space.	A medium-large sports space that services multiple suburbs or an entire planning catchment. These cater to a mix of casual and organised sports, including club competition. Minimum configuration of 6 fields. They can be co-located with a local, district or regional park.	A large sports space that services multiple planning catchments, the whole LGA and/or beyond. They serve as destination sporting venues facilitating regular organised competition for multiple clubs and/or teams. They cater to elite/ association competition, as well as district level formal and informal sporting activities. They can be co-located with a district or regional park.	Bushland reserves with formal conservation status (e.g. C2 or C3) OR The unencumbered (usable) portion of riparian or vegetated corridors that may not have formal conservation status but still contribute valuable ecological or asset protection function. Includes areas for storm water management, waterways, drainage corridors, basins and wetlands. Natural Areas can add value to Park and Sports Space provision by providing additional opportunities for passive enjoyment of the natural landscape.

	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Required minimum standards								
Size (Functional area)	>0.5 ha - 2.0 ha.	>2 ha - 5ha.	5+ ha.	>0.4 ha	>5 ha	>8+ ha - 15 ha.	>15+ ha.	>0.4 ha unencumbered portion
	>0.3 ha considered if located adjacent to >0.4 ha of Linear Park or unencumbered Natural Area.	>1 ha considered if located adjacent to	>4 ha considered if located adjacent to >1 ha of Linear Park or Natural Area	Minimum 20 m wide	Minimum 4 ha of multi-field playing surface	Minimum 6 ha of multi-field playing surface	Elite level playing surfaces	It is not acceptable to include encumbered areas that function to protect biodiversity outcomes and fauna conservation.
	It is not acceptable to have all parks in a residential development at the minimum size.	>1 ha of Linear Park or Natural Area OR >5 ha Sports Space		Excludes the width of : any creeks, basin or waterway measured from the top of bank. OR Any APZ	It is not acceptable to have all sports spaces in a residential development at the minimum size.		Some elite facilities, such as stadiums, athletics tracks or leisure centres (including aquatics) may require <5 ha.	

	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Location, shape and boundaries	Shape is flexible	Shape is flexible to take advantage of local landscape features but regular shape preferred	Shape is flexible to take advantage of local landscape features but regular shape preferred	Significantly longer than it is wide (elongated)	Regular shape preferred (square or rectangular)	Regular shape (square or rectangular)	Regular shape (square or rectangular)	Irregular shapes as per land parcel boundaries
	In a quiet, highly accessible, central location	In a highly accessible, central location	Provided opportunistically around significant landscape features (such as a River) or specific built environments.	Must be free of hazards and constraints to community use including contamination, land under high voltage power lines or easements.	In a highly accessible, central location	Playing area slopes no greater than 1:100	Allow for north-south field and court orientation	Interface designed to restrict public access where protection of environment is required or allow public access to facilitate connection with environmental features
	Not adjacent to highways or main roads		Includes large destination parklands or botanic gardens.		At least 20% of the land flood-free	At least 20% of the land flood-free		
					Allow for north-south field and court orientation	Allow for north-south field and court orientation	Adequate buffering to adjacent residential uses to minimise noise and lighting impacts	
Geographic proximity/ access	5 minutes walk /within 400 m walking distance from most (>80%) houses	20 minutes walk / within 2 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses.	Up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle/ 10 km from all (100%) houses	Must be provided adjacent to a Park, Sports space or Natural Area (not stand alone)	25 minutes walk / 2 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses	25 minutes walk / 2 km walking distance from most (>80%) houses	Up to 30 minutes travel time on public transport or by vehicle/ 5–10 km from most houses	20 minutes walk/ within 1.5 km walking distance from all (100%) houses
	Connected to active transport net-work (shared path)							
	No boundary to be less than 20 m							

	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Minimum width at any point	No boundary to be less than 20 m	No boundary to be less than 30 m	No boundary to be less than 30 m	Average 20 m Minimum 6 m unencumbered width at any point	No boundary to be less than 150 m	No boundary to be less than 150 m	No boundary to be less than 150 m	Irregular width as per land parcel boundaries
Minimum road frontage	50%	50%	30%	>12 m at entry points	40%	50%	50%	>3 m at entry points
General provision standards								
Distribution	Minimum of 1 per neighbourhood e.g. a residential estate (notionally 2 sq km)	Minimum of 2 per planning catchment Within 400 m walk of public transport	Minimum of 3 per LGA Within 400 m walk of public transport	Contributes to the total open space network by linking neighborhoods with other Parks, Sports Spaces or Natural Areas.	Minimum of 1 per neighbourhood e.g. a suburb (notionally 10 sq km)	Minimum of 1 per planning catchment	Minimum of 3 per LGA	Contributes to the total open space network by providing residents with walkable access to natural landscapes.
Rates of provision	1 ha / 1000 people			As required to connect or link Parks, Sports spaces and Natural areas with existing or proposed path networks. Multiple public entry points	1 ha / 1,000 people			1 ha/1,000 people
	1 per 2,500 people	1 per 5,000 people	1 per 20,000 people		1 per 5,000 people	1 per 12,500 people	1 per 20,000 people	1 ha/1,000 people Must be additional to minimum Park and Sports space provision
% land area	For precinct or development-scale developments, sites should provide between 10%- 30% total public open space (including parks, sporting space, natural areas, drainage corridors). Between 2% – 5% of net developable area should be provided as unencumbered parks and/or sporting space (subject to site conditions and demand analysis).							

	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Facilities and amenities: - Required, - Preferred, – Optional, – Not preferred								
Play space - small	Greater than 100 sqm							Natural materials equipment only
Play space - large								
Kick about spaces								
Picnic areas	Seating only required	Min 500 sqm developed area	Multiple developed areas of Min 500 sqm					Minimal developed area
Skate/BMX/ scoot park/ pump track								Trail based cycling only
Fitness stations								
Dog off-leash areas								
Formal sports fields					min 4 ha competition grade playing fields (2 x rectangular fields with an oval overlaid)	min. 6 ha competition grade playing fields		
Informal sports fields (not bookable spaces)					up to 2 casual or practice fields	up to 2 casual or practice fields		

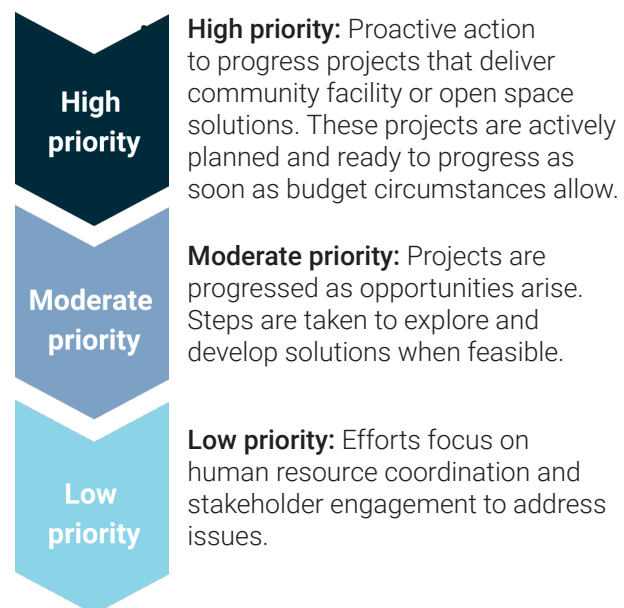
	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Formal sports courts and nets	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓✓ Protection from dominant winds where possible	✓✓	✗
Informal sports courts and nets (not bookable spaces, such as halfcourts)	○	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓✓	✗
Shared walking and cycling paths/ circuits	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	○ If environmental conditions allow Trail based only, may be narrow and unsealed
Carparking on site	○ Fenced or landscaped barriers if area is adjacent to busy road or hazards	✓	✓✓	○	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	○ If environmental conditions allow May be unsurfaced
Performance/ event space	✗	○	✓	✗	✗	○	○	✗
Kiosks or other commercial opportunities (café & restaurants)	✗	○	✓	○	✗	✓	✓	✗
Seating	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Natural shelter/ shade	✓✓	✓✓ 50% natural shade	✓✓ 50% natural shade	✓✓	✓✓	✓ 40% of "off playing field" perimeter areas	✓	✓✓

	Parks			Linear parks & links	Sports spaces			Natural Areas
	Local	District	Regional		Local	District	Regional	
Built shade structure	✓✓ Play equipment to be predominately shaded	✓✓ Play equipment to be minimum 80% shaded	✓✓ Play equipment to be minimum 80% shaded	○	✓	✓	✓	✗
Bins	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	○
Bike parking	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	○
BBQs	✗	✓✓	✓✓	○	✗	✓	✓	✗
Drinking water	○	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	○ If environmental conditions allow
Change facilities (sports)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗
Public toilets	✗	✓✓	✓✓	○	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	○ If environmental conditions allow
Accessible change facilities (including adults)	✗	✓	✓✓	✗	✗	✓	✓✓	✗
Lighting for safety and night time use	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗
Public art	○	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	○
Bus parking / drop off	○	✓	✓✓ Within 400 m of public transport stop	○	✓	✓✓ Within 400 m of public transport stop	✓✓ Within 400 m of public transport stop	○

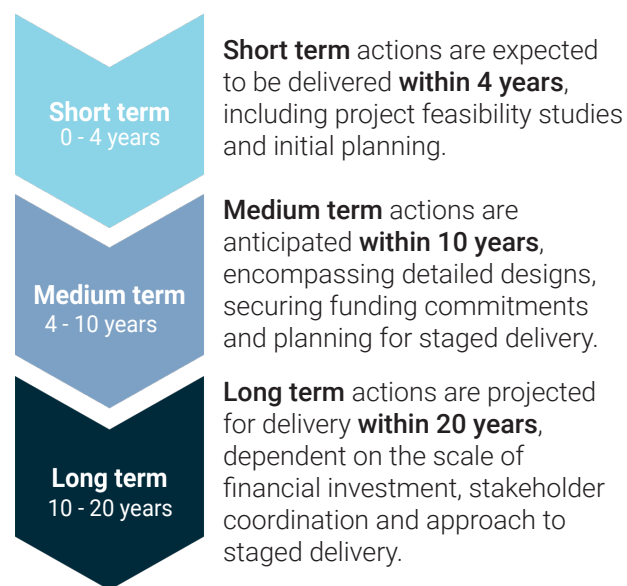
13. Appendix C: Implementation table

The implementation tables outline how Council will deliver the planning directions of the Social Infrastructure Strategy. The actions listed are intended as a framework which may be adjusted to respond to dynamic influences, including unforeseen community needs, State or Federal policy changes, shifts in Council resourcing or emerging funding opportunities.

High priority actions will be planned and prioritised for progression through Council's delivery program and Advocacy Strategy, while moderate and low priority actions will be addressed as Council resources become available.



Timeframes provided are estimates of when a project is expected to be substantially planned, delivered and/or operational. These indicative timeframes will be reviewed as part of the Annual budget and reporting processes to ensure alignment with community needs and available resources. Due to the complexity of delivering new community facilities and open spaces, timeframes must sufficiently allow for the necessary stages of planning, approvals, funding and construction.



Review of Social Infrastructure Strategy

To ensure the actions remain relevant, progress will be monitored annually, and the Social Infrastructure Strategy will be reviewed every 5 years.

Reviews will exclude work which would duplicate Council policies (adopted or in progress).

The next review will consider incorporating:

- cross-border integration and collaborative planning opportunities with Wodonga LGA
- broader categories of social infrastructure, including alternative terminology and naming conventions.
- governance arrangements including roles, responsibilities and approaches to managing co located or shared use spaces
- analysis of 'soft' infrastructure usage patterns (services, programming and activities) that foster social connection and wellbeing
- Council's role in influencing the planning of, access to and uses in assets not owned or managed by Council

Table 52 - Community facilities implementation plan

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
1. Community facilities			
1.1	Integrate the objectives and recommendations of this Social Infrastructure Strategy into asset management plans, ensuring alignment with long term planning goals and community needs. This includes: a. Prioritising facility upgrades that align with desired provision standards and avoiding investment in facilities that are unsustainable for ongoing community use. b. Addressing accessibility gaps through accessibility audits, particularly in relation to spaces for older people or people with a disability. This includes upgrading toilets, installing ramps, automatic entrance doors, contemporary furniture and fit out, improving building visibility and wayfinding. c. Integrating sustainability features that lower operational running costs over time d. Enhancing facilities that support health outreach services.	High	Ongoing
1.2	Explore options for rationalisation of community facilities that do not meet minimum standards, including potential for expansion, repurposing or disposal.	High	Short term
1.3	Review the AlburyCity Community Infrastructure Fund Guidelines to include a requirement for applicants to reference the Social Infrastructure Strategy vision, four principles and (if applicable) desired provision standards	Moderate	Short term
1.4	Promote the utilisation of non-Council community facilities by developing a comprehensive online directory that highlights available community centres and meeting spaces for hire, including both Council and non-Council facilities	Moderate	Short term
	Assets Management Strategy, Community Infrastructure Fund Guidelines, Environmental Sustainability Framework and Action Plan		
	Investigate partnerships and collaborations with facility owners and/ or operators to facilitate shared use agreements, allowing community programs to access non-Council facilities (including schools) during off-peak or outside business hours.		
	In collaboration with relevant NSW Government Agencies, ensure each planning catchment has access to a community facility equipped to function as an emergency evacuation centre for community refuge during natural disasters including heatwaves, floods and fires. This may involve incorporating temporary or permanent facilities, such as showers, semi-commercial and commercial kitchens, to support emergency response efforts.		

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
2. Multipurpose community space			
2.1	Community centres and halls Focus on optimising our multipurpose community space assets by transitioning from smaller, single-purpose facilities to consolidated, multipurpose district hubs that align with contemporary standards and community expectations		
2.1.1	Provide a new district level community centre in the Thurgoona catchment that includes multipurpose community space and youth space. In line with the principle of co-location, this community centre should be integrated with new cultural facilities. Indicatively, the centre should be located on a minimum 0.5 - 1ha site with a floorspace of around 3,000sqm made up of: a. Multipurpose community spaces (1,000sqm) e.g. large hall, commercial kitchen, meeting rooms and office space b. Youth centre space (500sqm) c. Cultural facilities, inclusive of a public library space (1,500sqm) d. Health outreach spaces (15sqm)	High	Medium term
2.1.2	Prioritise upgrades to our existing community centres and halls that improve their accessibility and enhance environmental sustainability performance. The following priorities can be used as a guide: a. Thurgoona Community Centre – Upgrade to outdoor space within children’s play area b. Orana Community Centre – Development of Master Plan for outdoor areas c. Mirambeena Community Centre – Upgrades to outdoor space adjacent to main hall d. Westside Community Centre – Implementation of Master Plan for building expansion / Provision of new footpath along Mulga Place and upgrades to Mulga Pace playground e. Health service outreach rooms – Upgrades to clinical spaces f. Glenecho Community Centre- Provision of pedestrian walkway/ bridge links to surrounding social infrastructure g. Table Top Community Centre – Development of site Master Plan h. Mirambeena Community Centre – Options for colocation with Youth Centres including Hive Youth Resource Centre and Cultural Facilities including Lavington Library i. All Meeting rooms (including club rooms) - Explore options to consolidate sporting memorabilia displays, including potential for digitisation, freeing up more floorspace as functional area for meetings	High Moderate Moderate Moderate Low Low Moderate Low Low	Short term Medium term Medium term Medium term Medium term Long term Medium term Long term Long term
 A Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan			

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
2.2	Youth Centres More spaces are needed for young people in the Thurgoona catchment		
2.2.1	Provide a youth centre within a new district community centre in the Thurgoona catchment (refer action 2.1.1)	High	Medium term
2.2.2	Evaluate long-term options for the locations of youth centres in the Albury catchment and Lavington catchment, considering both the potential to retain existing sites or advantages of relocating for improved co-location with other types of community facilities or open spaces	Low	Long term
	Albury and Lavington CBD Master Plan, Early Years and Young People's Plan (EYYP)		
	Collaborate with Girl Guides and Scouts NSW to enhance the functionality and accessibility of their facilities through joint funding opportunities		
2.3	Community gardens Maintain the approach of supporting our existing community gardens and respond to community led initiatives for new community gardens as they arise		
N/A	Development of any future community gardens will be considered in line with community garden guidelines		
	Community Garden Guidelines		
	Collaborate with Charles Sturt University to increase awareness of and community access to the Kerr Sustainability Community Garden		
2.4	Men's Sheds Maintain the approach of supporting our existing men's sheds and respond to community led initiatives for new sheds as they arise		
N/A	Development of any future men's sheds will be considered in the context of existing capacity and potential expansion of current facilities		
	Jelbart Park Master Plan		
	Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA)		

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
3. Cultural facilities			
3.1	As part of long term economic development and investment attraction planning, explore potential pathways or feasibility opportunities for the future establishment of new cultural facilities. These could include multi-use spaces that support creative industries, such as venues for large-scale events (e.g. festivals, 'blockbuster' exhibitions, expos and fairs) or acoustic performances (e.g. music recitals and concerts)	Low	Long term
	Advocacy Strategy (2025-2028), Creative Albury Strategy (in development), Cultural Precinct Master Plan		
	Collaborate with relevant landholders (including NSW Government) to investigate opportunities to renovate, re-purpose, reuse or redevelop existing buildings located within or adjoining the Cultural Precinct for new or expanded cultural uses		
	NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+		
3.2	Libraries More library floor space is required in Lavington and Thurgoona to meet the current and future demand		
3.2.1	Deliver scalable public library services in Thurgoona catchment		
	a. Meet current population needs by providing access to flexible public library services (e.g. pod, shopfront or automated kiosk),	High	Medium term
	b. As the population grows, develop or co-locate a new public library building (min 1,500sqm). In line with the principle of co-location, integrate this future library space within a district level multipurpose community centre (refer action 2.1.1)	Moderate	Long term
3.2.2	Expand the Lavington Library, ideally on a less constrained site, with stronger connection to other community facilities within the Lavington CBD (refer action 2.1.2 and Open space action 2.5.2a)	Moderate	Medium term
3.2.3	Ensure the Albury Library Museum continues to function effectively as the central library for the whole Albury LGA. This may include addressing storage capacity, enhancing digitisation facilities and improving programming areas	Moderate	Ongoing
3.3	Exhibition space More exhibition space is required to sustain and expand opportunities for cultural engagement and education		
3.3.1	Identify options for provision of purpose-built museum and art storage facilities that improves the preservation of collections as well as supporting some public access. This may include relocating existing facilities, retrofitting existing spaces, or integrating storage within the design of new community and cultural facilities, including the planned district community centre in Thurgoona (refer action 2.1.1)	Moderate	Medium term

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
3.3.2	Integrate new exhibition and creative enterprise space (including retail opportunities) into existing and future community and cultural facilities as opportunities arise, with a focus on art gallery studio and display space for student and amateur (community) artists, particularly in the Thurgoona and Lavington catchments	High	Ongoing
3.3.3	Explore opportunities for dedicated exhibition spaces that celebrate and recognise First Nations art and culture, such as an Aboriginal Keeping Place or Cultural and Heritage Centre	Moderate	Long term
 MAMA Collection Storage and Preservation Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, Wonga Wetlands Master Plan			
3.4	Performance space More performance space is required to ensure continued availability of venues that support cultural engagement		
3.4.1	As opportunities arise, incorporate new performance space into existing and future community and cultural facilities as well as open space, especially in the Thurgoona and Lavington catchments, using the following for initial prioritisation: a. Implement the Albury Entertainment Centre Master Plan to enhance its appearance, functionality, and accessibility b. Establish an outdoor amphitheatre in Thurgoona suitable for events such as outdoor movies and theatre	High Moderate	Short term Long term
3.5	Community participation, practice and education space More community participation, practice and education spaces are required to ensure the continued availability of spaces that engage people in creative activities		
3.5.1	Repurpose surplus or vacant space within our multipurpose community spaces and other suitable buildings for participation, practice and education activities. This may include digital technologies, training and teaching spaces, or a recording studio	Moderate	Long term
3.5.2	Ensure new participation, practice and education space (including urban and public art commissions) are provided for within new developments through strategic planning processes (such as Landscape Master Plans), especially in the Thurgoona catchment and Lavington catchment	High	Ongoing
3.5.3	Ensure the continued promotion and availability of suitable dedicated artist-in-residence accommodation, providing artists with the space and resources to develop their practice, enhance career development and foster community engagement while also making sure these spaces remain accessible and meet the evolving needs of the artistic community	Moderate	Ongoing
3.5.4	Prior to any future redevelopment of the Council Depot Site (Wodonga Place), collaborate with the NSW Government to identify a suitable alternative facility for the Albury City Band hall	Moderate	Medium term

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
4. Health facilities			
4.1	Cemeteries and crematoria Plan for future cemetery expansion to ensure long term capacity for sustainable interment options that cater to diverse religious, cultural, and non-denominational needs		
4.1.1	Investigate options for future expansion of Glenmorus Memorial Gardens and Crematorium including identifying potential new sites, while noting that existing interment capacity is expected to meet growing demand for cemeteries and crematoria over the next 20 years	Moderate	Medium term
4.1.2	Enhance the open space values of our cemetery spaces. This can include more landscaping, tree planting and water features. It may also include celebration of our historical assets and storytelling, public art, events and exhibitions	Low	Medium term
	Work with NSW Crown Lands to ensure adjacent NSW Government owned land is considered as a potential option for cemetery expansion		
	Work with Transport for NSW to identify and implement public transport solutions that make it easier for relatives and friends to visit our cemeteries		
	Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW		
4.2	Aged care centres More aged care facilities are needed to meet demand driven by our aging population		
4.2.1	Ensure good accessibility and fit for purpose spaces for older people are provided within our multipurpose community spaces	High	Ongoing
	Albury Local Housing Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan		
	Work with the NSW Government and the aged care sector to explore potential pathways for culturally appropriate care that meets the unique cultural, social and health needs of Aboriginal elders, including the opportunity to establish an Aboriginal-specific aged care facility as a model for addressing this need		
	Support the provision of new aged care facilities and retirement villages by offering clear planning guidance and maintaining a regulatory environment that enables a range of sector providers (private, government, and non-profit) to respond to the needs of our ageing population		
	Australian Government My Aged Care website		

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
4.3	Hospitals and community health centres More hospital and community health care services are needed to address the increasing demand for medical and health care support		
4.3.1	Ensure community centres provide fit-for-purpose clinical rooms or spaces (12-15 sqm) to accommodate effective delivery of health outreach services and programs, ideally with two rooms available for simultaneous use. These spaces should incorporate design for privacy considerations, appropriate hygiene facilities and accessibility features including a waiting area and parent room with change facilities and a quiet feeding space	Moderate	Ongoing
4.3.2	Develop and implement the East Albury Precinct Plan (in development) to plan the precincts around the Albury hospital to better integrate with surrounding communities, enhance accessibility and promote mixed-use development	Moderate	Short term
 Advocacy Strategy (2025-2028), Borella Road and Riverina Highway Corridor Strategy, East Albury Precinct Plan (in development)			
 Work with Health Infrastructure NSW to ensure the timely development of additional hospital and community healthcare services in the Albury-Wodonga region, including both immediate improvements to infrastructure and systems at the Albury Hospital and the long term establishment of a new single-site hospital			
 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) MyHospitals website, NSW Government (Government Architect NSW) Design Guide for Health			
5.	Education facilities		
5.1	Early childhood centres More child care and preschool facilities are required to meet the growing demand for early childhood education		
5.1.1	Complete a Children's Services Excellence Review to determine Council's role in early childhood service delivery and infrastructure planning	High	Short term
5.1.2	Partner with pre-school service providers to conduct detailed site audits of Council-owned pre school facilities and develop strategies to optimise these sites, including: - Shared approaches to managing maintenance expenses - Strategies for facility retention and renewal - Facility handover or disposal when appropriate	Moderate	Medium term
 Early Years and Young People's Plan (EYPP)			

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
	Support the provision of new early childhood education and care centres by offering clear planning guidance and maintaining a regulatory environment that enables a range of sector providers (private, government, and non-profit) to respond to growing demand		
	The Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACEQUA) National Registers		
5.2	Schools		
	New and upgraded schools are needed in the Thurgoona catchment to cater for a growing population		
N/A	Council will continue advocacy and partnership efforts, with no specific actions identified		
	Advocacy Strategy (2025-2028), Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan		
	Work with School Infrastructure NSW to support the planning and delivery of new primary and high schools in the Thurgoona catchment to meet the rising demand driven by population growth		
	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) My School website		
5.3	Tertiary institutions		
	Strengthen the presence of our tertiary education facilities and improve access for regional students		
N/A	Council will continue advocacy and partnership efforts, with no specific actions identified		
	Advocacy Strategy (2025-2028), Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan		
	Work with Charles Sturt University, TAFE NSW and other education providers to support the development of an integrated education precinct in Thurgoona catchment. This includes opportunities for co-located community, creative, and learning facilities, fostering collaboration between vocational and higher education institutions, and improving accessibility for students, the community, and the local workforce		

Table 53 - Open space implementation plan

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
1. All open space			
1.1	Recognise open space as essential community infrastructure that delivers environmental, economic and social benefits		
1.1.1	Ensure our open space provision achieves improved alignment with desired standards (Appendix B) by embedding them into project management systems for land use planning, budgeting, and asset management processes including: - Updated Engineering Guideline (landscape section) - Updated Plans of Management for Community land	High High	Short term Ongoing
1.1.2	Apply the 10 principles of the NSW Public Spaces Charter for quality public space to all our decisions, plans, designs and management of our open spaces. This includes the development of site specific Master Plans for all open space infrastructure projects (e.g. upgrade, major embellishment)	High	Ongoing
1.1.3	Plan for, and respond to, climate change in our open spaces by incorporating water sensitive urban design and expanding tree canopy to help retain water, provide cooling, and offer respite from urban heat	Moderate	Ongoing
1.1.4	Where site suitability permits, integrate stormwater management infrastructure, such as detention basins, into open spaces to provide dual functionality for stormwater control, while preserving recreational usability and values	Moderate	Ongoing
1.2 Prioritise the effective management of community land			
1.2.1	Ensure uses within our open space are consistent with the Plan of Management for Community Land (under review)	High	Ongoing
 Asset Management Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy (in development)			
 NSW Public Spaces Charter, NSW Greener Places Design Guide			
2. Parks			
2.1	Repurpose or dispose of smaller-than-desirable local parks where community needs are being met elsewhere to optimise our parks network		
2.1.1	To maintain a well-distributed network of park hierarchies across catchments, conduct a strategic review to identify sites that do not align with provision standards or contemporary best practice. Develop an evaluation framework to assess potential options for rationalisation, repurposing or targeted upgrades to better meet community priorities	Moderate	Medium term

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
2.2	Focus on enhancing the quality of our district and regional level parks to ensure equitable access to high-quality spaces across all catchments		
2.2.1	Undertake targeted upgrades to district and regional parks, investing in essential amenities such as seating, shade, lighting, and accessibility features, to improve the recreational value and inclusivity of parks in areas currently lacking infrastructure	Moderate	Medium term
2.3	Address access barriers to parks by enhancing walkability, aiming for all homes to be within 400m of a park, and no more than 800m		
2.3.1	Undertake a Walking and Bike Riding Plan (in development) for the Albury LGA outlining targeted improvements to active transport infrastructure (including footpaths, shared paths, crossings and wayfinding) to better connect parks and address gaps in access	High	Short term
	AlburyCity Property Strategy (in development), MOVE: Albury Wodonga Integrated Transport Strategy		
	NSW Movement and Place		
2.4	Address gaps in park provision by creating new parks in built or urban environments where none currently exist, and by reducing reliance on environmental land settings for park provision		
2.4.1	Ensure adopted open space standards are adhered to during negotiations with responsible parties, particularly developers, to ensure the creation of new parks contribute to the delivery of accessible, high quality and usable parks	High	Ongoing
2.4.2	Develop central urban plazas in Lavington catchment and Thurgoona catchment to serve as focal points for community gatherings and social interactions: a. Undertake a feasibility study to established a preferred location for a permanent urban plaza within the Lavington CBD incorporating evaluation findings of the temporary conversion of the Griffith Road carpark into a green space, and ensuring the preferred location is integrated into the Lavington CBD Master Plan (due for review) b. As part of the implementation of the Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan, identify and secure a suitable site for the creation of a central urban plaza in Thurgoona	Moderate	Short term
		Moderate	Long term
2.4.3	Ensure all urban plazas are event-ready, equipped with the necessary infrastructure to support a variety of community events and activities (e.g. power and water infrastructure, amenities, stage area)	Moderate	Medium term
2.5	Optimise the play space network to ensure quality and accessibility by reducing outdated or redundant play spaces, upgrading those that no longer meet modern standards, and addressing areas of duplication		
2.5.1	Develop a Play Space strategy to guide future upgrades or new provision, with reference to desired provision standards (Appendix B) and incorporating the principles outlined in NSW Everyone Can Play to enhance inclusivity, accessibility and contemporary play experiences	High	Short term

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
 Albury Play Space Strategy (In development)			
 NSW Everyone Can Play guidelines			
2.6	Address disparities in access to informal recreational opportunities		
2.6.1	Review the distribution of informal recreation facilities to improve equity of provision across the three catchments, ensuring a balanced spread of facility types that meet diverse community needs		
	a. Review the Albury Dog Friendly Strategy to assess existing provision of off leash areas and identify potential locations in the Thurgoona growth area	High	Short term
	b. Monitor implementation of the Outdoor Basketball Courts Strategy and update as required	Moderate	Medium term
	c. Monitor implementation of the Albury Skate and BMX Strategy and update as required	Low	Medium term
	d. Monitor implementation of the Murray River Experience Master Plan	Moderate	Long term
 Albury Skate and BMX Strategy, Dog Friendly City Strategy, Mountain Bike Strategy, Outdoor Basketball Courts Strategy			
 NSW Adventurous Spaces guideline			
3.	Sports spaces		
3.1	Maintain the overall provision of sports space		
3.1.1	Review and monitor the over or under supply of specific recreation types and adjust the size of sporting spaces as required to meet demand in alignment with the Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy	Moderate	Ongoing
3.1.2	Progress planning, development and provision of new sports spaces and facilities in the Thurgoona catchment as outlined in the Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan	High	Medium term
 Albury Wodonga Sport and Recreation Strategy, Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan			
3.2	Ensure the continued quality and relevance of our sporting spaces to support diverse sporting activities		
3.2.1	Maintain and enhance the quality of sporting spaces to adapt to changing recreation needs by implementing targeted upgrades and improvements in line with adopted recreation infrastructure strategies and Master Plans. Improvements to infrastructure should be gender neutral and meet facility guidelines for the designated sports	Moderate	Ongoing

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
3.3	Address barriers to accessing sports spaces by aiming for all homes to be within 800m of a sports facility, and no more than 2km.		
3.3.1	As per Action 3.1.2: Progress planning, development and provision of new sports spaces and facilities in the Thurgoona catchment in line with the Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan	High	Ongoing
3.3.2	Ensure sports spaces remain accessible for community use by auditing fencing treatments across all sports spaces to assess their necessity and impact on walkability, safety, and integration with the broader open space network. Prioritise open, accessible designs that explore alternative solutions (e.g. natural barriers, low walls) with pilot projects in select sporting spaces to inform future approaches	Low	Long term
3.4	Ensure our community have continued access to quality leisure centres		
3.4.1	Monitor implementation of the Lauren Jackson Sport Centre Master Plan and update as required	Moderate	Short term
3.4.2	Review and update the Albury City Aquatic Strategy to ensure all catchments have access to fit for purpose aquatic facilities, including: a. Plan for a future aquatic facility within the Thurgoona catchment as outlined in the Thurgoona Wirlinga Precinct Structure Plan b. Maintain access to high-standard aquatic facilities in the Albury and Lavington catchments	Moderate	Short term
	Albury City Aquatic Strategy, Lauren Jackson Sports Centre Master Plan		
	NSW Places to Swim		
4.	Natural areas		
4.1	Protect cultural heritage and promote sustainable use		
4.1.1	Ensure Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is embedded in all natural area projects by engaging with First Nations communities to balance cultural access, recreational use, and environmental management, ensuring these areas are respected and maintained.	High	Ongoing
4.2	Support public access to natural areas for recreation while protecting and maintaining ecological integrity		
4.2.1	Develop a Recreation in Natural Areas policy, in consultation with environmental experts and the local community, to support appropriate recreational use within natural areas while safeguarding environmental values and protecting sensitive ecosystems	High	Short term

Strategies and actions		Priority	Timeframe
 AlburyCity Document link  Advocacy or Partnership link  Further guidance			
4.2.2	Identify and establish new linear park corridors, especially in developing urban areas like the Thurgoona catchment, to bridge existing gaps and ensure continuous habitats for wildlife	Moderate	Ongoing
4.2.3	Ensure any conservation zoned land proposed for transition back to council as a part of residential development has appropriate management plans and budget	High	Ongoing
 Natural Areas Management Strategy (in development)			
 Work with Wodonga Council to monitor implementation of the Albury Wodonga Regional Natural Environment Strategy and update as required			
4.3	Strengthen recreational links		
4.3.1	Create seamless connections between neighbourhoods, parks, sports spaces and natural areas. Where there are existing gaps, consider compulsory acquisition of land or shared used arrangements with landholders to close gaps in recreational links	Moderate	Ongoing
4.3.2	Enhance safety features along recreational links, such as lighting and signage, to create a secure environment for users	Moderate	Ongoing
 Bungambrawatha Creek Line Assessment Report, MOVE: Albury Wodonga Integrated Transport Strategy, Murray River Experience Masterplan			

