



Lake Macquarie City Council

Development Contributions Plan

Community Facilities and Services Study

Belmont Contributions Catchment

2015 – 2030

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1. Introduction

The effective planning of community facilities is essential to provide a quality of life for the future populations of Lake Macquarie. It is integral to the liveability and successful growth of established and new communities.

To fund the delivery of public community infrastructure, local government is able to levy development contributions to fund new, or extend facilities that are required as a result of the new development. The NSW Department of Planning has prepared draft guidelines to recommend standards, the nexus, and contribution required from new development to meet the increased demand for infrastructure resultant from new development.

This report draws on the range of studies and reports already undertaken by Council and undertakes a needs assessment to determine standards/thresholds for service provision in the Belmont Contributions Catchment (CC) to meet existing and future needs to 2030.

Lake Macquarie City Council Local Government Area (LGA) with an estimated residential population of 204,166 (as at 30 June 2015) covers a very large area, with a central lake, making infrastructure provision difficult. For the purposes of planning and providing facilities to meet the needs of the incoming population, the City has been divided in five contribution catchments.

The Belmont CC covers 14 suburbs on the eastern side of the LGA, on the strip of land between the lake and the coast. It extends from the suburb of Belmont North in the north, down to Catherine Hill Bay and Nords Wharf in the south. Most of the suburbs in the CC are situated on the lake or the coast.

Vision

The vision for the future provision of community facilities within the Lake Macquarie LGA is:

- To provide a living environment that has a strong quality of life, safety, health and well-being focus;
- To provide facilities that are able to offer a diverse range of services and activities that keep pace with the changing needs of the community;
- To provide facilities that encourage people to come together and develop social capital and develop the skills and resilience essential to strong communities;
- Providing quality recreation facilities that encourage participation and physical activity to meet the needs of the community; and
- The integration of community facilities for multipurpose use.

Purpose

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) has prepared this Community Facilities Study for the Belmont Contributions Catchment (Belmont CC) to support and inform the preparation of a Development Contributions Plan for the Belmont CC. It has been prepared with an understanding of the NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure's guidelines for development contribution plans together with the issues raised by the Local Contributions Review Panel.

The purpose of this plan is to achieve a sustainable balance of community facilities in line with community needs and the future growth forecasts for the LGA.

2. Policy Context

To establish the parameters for the provision of community facilities and services in the Belmont CC, a review has been undertaken of existing government policies and plans. These policies and plans provide the framework for the delivery of public community infrastructure across the City with particular reference, where appropriate, to the Belmont CC.

2.1 NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One

NSW 2021 is a 10 year State Government plan based around five strategies: to rebuild the economy; to return quality services; to renovate infrastructure; to strengthen our local communities; and to restore accountability to government.

The plan identifies 32 goals, each with a number of targets and priority actions, under these five strategies. The provision of community facilities in Lake Macquarie, and the associated services and activities that will be provided from these, will help to achieve the following goals from NSW 2021:

- Goal 6: Strengthen the NSW skill base;
- Goal 11: Keep people healthy and out of hospital;
- Goal 13: Better protect the most vulnerable members of our community and break the cycle of disadvantage;
- Goal 14: Increase opportunities for people with a disability by providing supports that meet their individual needs and realise their potential;
- Goal 15: Improve education and learning outcomes for all students;
- Goal 16: Prevent and reduce the level of crime;
- Goal 19: Invest in critical infrastructure;
- Goal 20: Build liveable centres;
- Goal 23: Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments;
- Goal 24: Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities;
- Goal 25: Increase opportunities for seniors in NSW to fully participate in community life;
- Goal 26: Fostering opportunity and partnership with Aboriginal people;
- Goal 27: Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreation opportunities; and
- Goal 30: Restore trust in state and local government as a service provider.

2.2 Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Prepared by the Department of Planning, this strategic document provides an overarching framework to guide development and investment in the Hunter region to 2036. It guides the NSW Government's land use planning priorities and decisions over the next 20 years.

The Hunter Regional Plan identifies that by 2036, an additional 130,000 people are expected to be living in the region. The Plan aims to guide the delivery of homes, jobs, infrastructure and services to support the growing and changing needs of the Hunter.

Key elements of the strategy impacting on the social sustainability of the Belmont CC include:

- Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design;

- Action 17.1 – Develop best-practice guidelines for planning, designing and developing healthy built environments;
- Direction 20 – Revitalise existing communities;
 - Action 20.1 – Accelerate urban revitalisation by directing social infrastructure where there is growth;
- Direction 26 – Deliver infrastructure to support growth and communities:
 - Action 26.1 – Align land use and infrastructure planning to maximise the use and capacity of existing infrastructure and the efficiency of new infrastructure;
 - Action 26.4 – Coordinate the delivery of infrastructure to support the timely and efficient release of land for development, including working with councils and service providers on inter-regional infrastructure and serve delivery issues between growing areas; and
 - Action 26.5 – Ensure growth is serviced by enabling and supporting infrastructure.

2.3 Lifestyle 2030 Strategy

Prepared by Lake Macquarie City Council, the Strategy is an update on Council's Lifestyle 2020 Strategy. It provides the long-term strategic directions for the future land use pattern for the City based on achieving the principles of ecological sustainable development.

The strategic directions and outcomes relevant to the provision of community facilities within the Belmont CC include:

- **Strategic Direction 3 - A well designed adaptable and liveable city**

Outcome 3.6 – Local Area Plans with location specific development guidelines are developed and implemented for all town centres such as Belmont, Swansea and Toronto.

- **Strategic Direction 4 - A well serviced and equitable city**

Outcome 4.3 – Development on previously undeveloped land should not occur unless essential physical social infrastructure can be provided and funded.

Outcome 4.16 – Existing communities are well serviced with physical and social infrastructure.

- **Strategic Direction 5 - A city of progress and prosperity**

Outcome 5.18 – Infrastructure is adequate to support new and existing employment activity in the City, including movement systems, telecommunications, energy supply, water and solid waste management, and educational and health care facilities.

- **Strategic Direction 6 - A city responsive to the wellbeing of its residents**

Outcome 6.1 – The well-being of residents continues to improve.

Outcome 6.10 – The City has a rich and diverse cultural life.

Outcome 6.12 – Facilities and mechanisms that ensure education, health care, community development, income distribution, employment and social welfare (social infrastructure) are developed and recognised as an important component of place making.

Outcome 6.16 – There is an adequate supply of appropriately located educational facilities, with opportunities for co-sharing with community groups (to be provided with appropriate consultation with Department of Education and Communities)

The Strategy also identifies Belmont (suburb) and Swansea as a 'Town Centre' that provides a range of mixed use, retail and commercial activities, professional, social services, and community facilities.

2.4 Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027

Council's long term strategic community plan for the LGA addresses key community priorities and issues as determined through extensive community and stakeholder consultation. It provides a policy framework for the delivery of outcomes.

The plan identifies several key objectives and strategies for community facilities and services in the LGA. These are:

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Strategy</u>
New development and growth complements our unique character and sense of place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimise land use to meet the social, environmental and economic needs of the City
Our community has access to adaptable and inclusive community and health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support and continue to develop services to promote community health and wellbeing
Our public spaces help us feel healthy and happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure future development supports the growth of our community• Ensure public spaces and community buildings meet the needs of the community
People of all abilities use and enjoy our places and spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure community and transportation infrastructure are accessible for people with a wide range of abilities

2.5 Lake Macquarie City Council Community Facilities Strategy

Adopted in September 2011, the Strategy aims to ensure that Council's existing community facilities meet the expectations and needs of current and future residents. The Strategy seeks to ensure that Council funds, maintains, and improves its ongoing viable long-term assets, and investigates possible outcomes for unsustainable facilities. Only those facilities that are not leased, were considered in this Strategy.

The recommendations of the Community Facilities Strategy for those facilities within the Belmont CC have been considered as part of the development of this study.

2.6 Lake Macquarie City Council Community Services and Facilities Policy (2013)

Council has also adopted a *Community Services and Facilities Policy* (2013). This policy describes Council's commitment in providing community services and facilities, and forms a framework for Council's partnership with State and Federal government to provide services to meet the social needs of the community.

The Policy acknowledges Council's social obligation to contribute to services that support residents with high needs, supports community service organisations through the construction and maintenance of multipurpose community facilities to accommodate them, supports several management models for its community facilities, and identifies the parameters for setting charges for community services in its buildings.

2.7 Other Council Community Strategies / Plans

Social and community planning is an integral part of the development and delivery of Council's Community Strategic Plan. Council has therefore developed a number of other strategies / plans to assist in the preparation and delivery of the Community Strategic Plan to address issues that are important for specified social / community groups. These strategies / plans include:

- Ageing Population Strategy 2014-2017;
- Aboriginal Community Plan 2012-2015;
- Youth Strategy 2014-2019;
- Disability Action Plan 2013-2017;
- Seniors Housing Strategy;
- Children and Family Strategy 2015-2020; and
- Crime Prevention Strategy 2015-2018.

These strategies / plans provide the basis for the delivery of initiatives that have grassroots significance. They identify the projects, programs and initiatives planned in response to specific needs or for specific demographic groups.

3. Social Profile of the Belmont Contributions Catchment

The Belmont CC is located in the eastern side of Lake Macquarie LGA as shown in Figure 1. It includes the suburbs of Belmont, Belmont South, Blacksmiths, Cams Wharf, Catherine Hill Bay, Caves Beach, Marks Point, Murrays Beach, Nords Wharf, Pelican, Pinny Beach, Swansea, and Swansea Heads.

The Belmont CC also partly covers the suburb Belmont North, with the remainder of the suburb covered by the Charlestown Contributions Catchment. Therefore, only those parts of the suburb that lies within the Belmont CC are covered by this Study.

Figure 1: Belmont CC as defined by Lake Macquarie City Council 2015



In 2015, it was estimated that the Belmont Catchment had a population of 26,107 persons comprising approximately 13% of the total LGA population. This figure includes people living in non-private dwellings such as nursing homes (residential care facilities), tourist accommodation including hotels and motels, hospitals, and moveable dwellings.

As highlighted later in this report, the socio-economic characteristics of the Catchment vary considerably between different suburbs. This needs to be considered in determining the spatial distribution of Council community infrastructure throughout the Catchment and in particular, to ensure that those residents of greatest need have quality access to appropriate public facilities and services.

The Australian Bureau of Statistic's 2011 Census of Population and Housing identified the following population characteristics for the Belmont CC:

- The Catchment has an older population than the LGA with a median age of 44 compared to 41. It is the suburbs around the lake channel that are the older areas, such as Swansea (median age of 49), Blacksmiths (46), and Pelican (45). Those areas that have a lower median age are Murrays Beach (39) and Belmont South (39);
- The suburbs that have a high proportion of those aged under 10 years of age and those aged 25-40, indicating that they consist of predominately younger families, include Murrays Beach, and Belmont North;
- Swansea Heads, Nords Wharf, Caves Beach and Belmont South have a high proportion of those aged 10-19 years, and 40-54 years, indicating that these suburbs consist predominately of older families;
- The catchment has significantly more people aged 65 years and over, accounting for 21.4% of the population, compared to 18.4% for Lake Macquarie. Suburbs that have a high proportion of people aged over 65 years include Swansea and Blacksmiths;
- Unsurprisingly, suburbs such as Swansea and Pelican have a very high proportion of 'couple family without children', whilst Swansea Heads, Nords Wharf and Murrays Beach have a very high proportion of 'couple family with children'. Belmont South and Marks Point have a high proportion of 'one parent families';
- Areas that have a high proportion of single person households include Swansea, Marks Point and Blacksmiths, whilst Swansea Heads and Caves Beach have the highest numbers of average people per household;
- The Catchment has a similar proportion of people born overseas as the LGA as well as those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- The Catchment has a slightly lower rate than the LGA for those working full-time, but a similar rate to the LGA for those working part-time. Accordingly, the Catchment has a higher unemployment rate, which is felt most in the suburbs of Swansea, Swansea Heads and Belmont South;
- Rates of motor vehicle ownership for the Catchment are lower than that of the LGA, with an average of 1.6 vehicles per household (compared to 1.8 for Lake Macquarie), and 9.9% of households in the Catchment reporting not having a vehicle (compared to 7.1% for the Lake Macquarie). Swansea, Marks Point and Belmont were the suburbs that have the highest percentage of dwellings with no motor vehicles;
- The Catchment has a lower proportion of dwellings with an internet connection to that of the LGA (68.0% compared to 73.8%), with the suburbs of Swansea and Blacksmiths having the lowest proportion, and Nords Wharf, Swansea Heads and Caves Beach having the highest proportion of dwellings with an internet connection;
- Lake Macquarie has a higher proportion of dwellings than NSW that are a separate house (86.4% compared to 69.5%), however the Catchment (at 79.0%) has a lower proportion than the rest of the LGA. All dwellings in Nords Wharf are separate

houses, whilst, Pelican (94.4%) and Swansea Heads (94.0%) also have a very high proportion of separate houses;

- Swansea (21.5%) and Marks Point (17.5%) have a higher proportion of semi-detached houses than the Catchment (10.5%) and the LGA (7.3%), whilst Marks Point (25.0%) and Belmont (15.5%) have a higher proportion of apartments than the Catchment and LGA (8.8% and 5.3%, respectively);
- The Catchment has a lower rate than the LGA of households who own or are purchasing their home (68.8 compared to 73.6% for the LGA). Marks Point and Belmont South are suburbs that have a high proportion of people who are renting;
- The Catchment has a higher percentage of public housing than the LGA (5.6% compared to 4.9%), with it being highest in the suburbs of Belmont South (15.3%) and Marks Point (11.8%). However, there are significant numbers of public housing in the suburbs of Belmont and Swansea; and
- According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Belmont South, Swansea and Marks Point experience very high levels of social disadvantage. This is a result of a high proportion of residents being less educated, having lower incomes, less skilled occupations and higher unemployment levels than those living in other suburbs. The suburb of Blacksmiths also experiences high levels of disadvantage, whilst Catherine Hill Bay, Cams Wharf and Murrays Beach have low levels of disadvantage.

4. Belmont Contributions Catchment 2030

The Belmont CC is expected to reach 33,359 persons by 2030. As shown in Table 1, this is an increase of 7,252 persons from 2015. New residents are expected to be concentrated in the following four (4) suburbs, which account for almost 87% of the total growth in the Catchment;

- Catherine Hill Bay, with an additional 2,363 persons and a total population of 2,534 people. This is an increase of 1,382% and reflects significant growth compared to other suburbs in the CC;
- Pinny Beach, which is currently undeveloped, and is expected to house 1,882 people;
- Belmont, with an additional 1,049 persons (15.4% increase) and a total population of 7,868 people; and
- Murrays Beach, with an additional 997 persons (276% increase) and a total population of 1,359 people;

Table 1: Estimated Residential Population by Suburb

Suburb	Existing Dwellings (2015)	Existing Persons (2015)	Projected additional Dwellings (2030)	Projected additional Persons (2030)	Total Dwellings (2030)	Total Persons (2030)	Growth (%)
Belmont	3,236	6,820	698	1,049	3,934	7,868	15.4
Belmont North	1,082	2,631	30	63	1,112	2,695	2.4
Belmont South	533	1,210	7	13	540	1,223	1.0
Blacksmiths	901	1,847	7	13	908	1,860	0.7
Cams Wharf	80	109	18	32	98	141	28.9
Catherine Hill Bay	120	171	778	2,363	898	2,534	1382.0
Caves Beach	1,628	3,945	159	292	1,787	4,237	7.4
Marks Point	897	1,759	12	22	909	1,781	1.3
Murrays Beach	129	361	327	997	456	1,359	276.0
Nords Wharf	400	825	106	309	506	1,133	37.4
Pelican	378	843	12	22	390	865	2.6
Pinny Beach	0	0	763	1,882	763	1,882	N/A
Swansea	2,426	4,876	112	168	2,538	5,045	3.4
Swansea Heads	295	710	14	28	309	738	4.0
Total	12,105	26,107	3,043	7,252	15,148	33,359	27.8

The age profile of the Catchment is also expected to change significantly, as shown in Table 2. Over the period 2015 to 2030, for the Belmont CC:

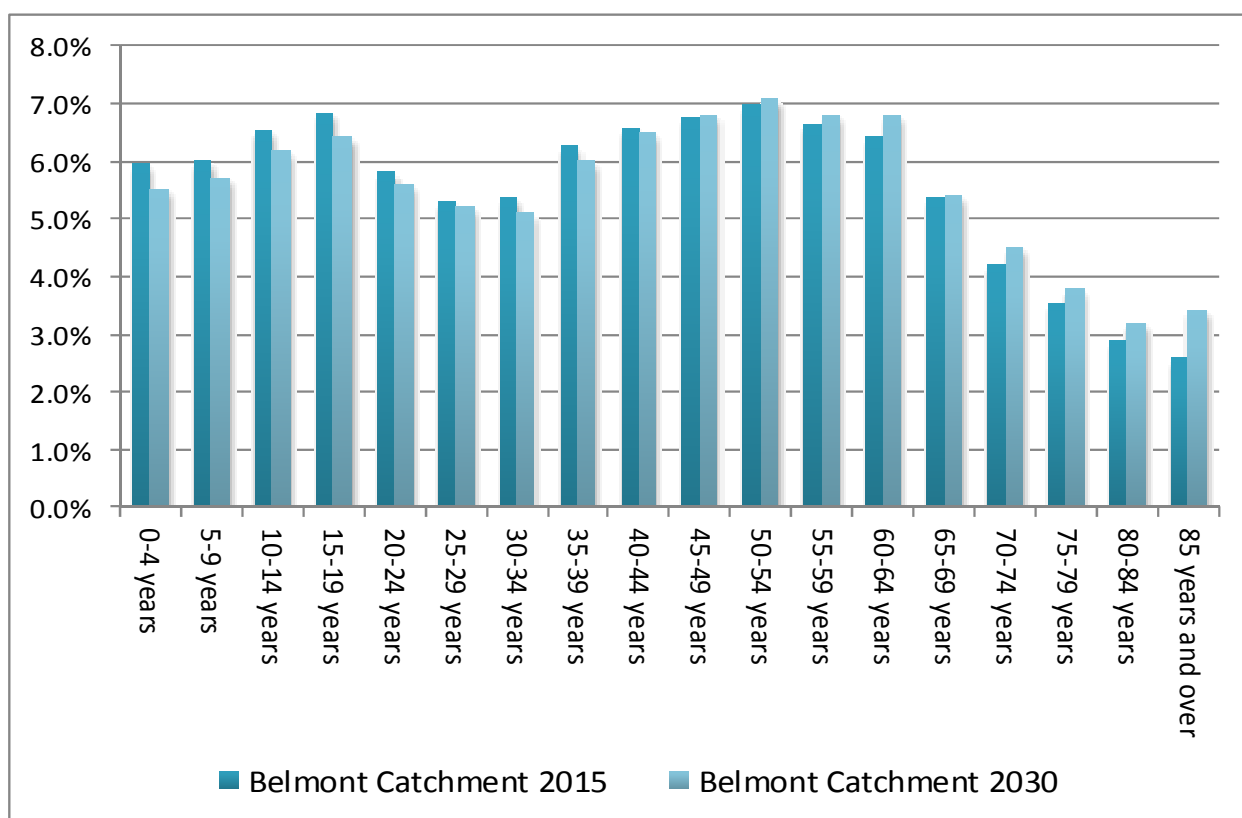
- The population will continue to age over the next 15 years, with those aged over 65 years old increasing by nearly 40%;
- The percentage of the population aged over the age of 65 years will increase from 18.6% to 20.3% whilst the percentage of the population under the age of 19 is anticipated to decline from 25.4% to 23.8%; and
- There will be a large increase in the number of adults aged 40-64 years old. This reflects the ageing of the existing and future families within the Catchment, as well as the arrival of 'sea changes' moving into the area.

Table 2: Forecast Demographic Profile of Belmont Contributions Catchment

Age Groups	2015		2030		Growth 2015-2030	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% Change
0-4 years	1,561	6.0%	1,835	5.5%	274	17.5
5-9 years	1,572	6.0%	1,901	5.7%	330	21.0
10-14 years	1,705	6.5%	2,068	6.2%	363	21.3
15-19 years	1,786	6.8%	2,135	6.4%	349	19.6
20-24 years	1,517	5.8%	1,868	5.6%	351	23.2
25-29 years	1,384	5.3%	1,735	5.2%	351	25.4
30-34 years	1,397	5.4%	1,701	5.1%	305	21.8
35-39 years	1,632	6.3%	2,002	6.0%	370	22.7
40-44 years	1,713	6.6%	2,168	6.5%	456	26.6
45-49 years	1,765	6.8%	2,268	6.8%	504	28.5
50-54 years	1,822	7.0%	2,368	7.1%	546	30.0
55-59 years	1,731	6.6%	2,268	6.8%	537	31.1
60-64 years	1,673	6.4%	2,268	6.8%	595	35.6
65-69 years	1,397	5.4%	1,801	5.4%	405	29.0
70-74 years	1,102	4.2%	1,501	4.5%	399	36.3
75-79 years	916	3.5%	1,268	3.8%	351	38.3
80-84 years	754	2.9%	1,067	3.2%	313	41.5
85 years and over	679	2.6%	1,134	3.4%	455	67.1

Whilst all age groupings in the catchment will experience an increase in number over the period 2015 -2030, there will be significant changes to the proportion of the age groupings. As indicated in Figure 2, there will be a decrease in the overall proportion of all 5-year age groups up to those aged 45 years, and an increase in the proportion of those aged over 50 years.

Figure 2: Changing Demographic Profile of Belmont Contributions Catchment



Each suburb is likely to reflect this changing age profile, however, suburbs with new release areas such as Catherine Hill Bay, Murrays Beach, Nords Wharf and Pinny Beach are more likely to attract families. The infill development area of Belmont's town centre, which will predominately be apartments, is likely to attract a range of different lifecycle groups including young couples, couples starting families, singles, and older couples.

5. Key Issues for Community Infrastructure Provision

Using the social planning principles identified for the Belmont CC (see Section 2) and the social profile of its existing and future population (see Sections 3 and 4), the following key issues are evident for community infrastructure provision in the Catchment. These issues have been considered in determining the need for additional/expanded community infrastructure as a result of new development (see Section 8).

Access – given the dispersed settlement pattern and existing poor public and private transport connections, many people find it difficult to access open space, recreation and community facilities in the Belmont CC. Groups who are particularly disadvantaged regarding access are those who may have limited mobility including older people, people with a disability, young people and children.

Equity – geographic distribution across the Belmont CC is important to ensure access for the majority of the population. However, for public community infrastructure it is also important to consider those populations with the greatest social needs. As outlined earlier, high levels of social disadvantage are evident for residents of Belmont, Swansea and Marks Point with this being an important consideration in terms of service provision. Populations with higher levels of social disadvantage require greater access to public community infrastructure than those who are well-resourced.

Quality – for infill development in existing areas of the Belmont CC, new residents may have access to existing open space, recreation and community facilities which are considered to have capacity for additional use. Often, however this existing infrastructure lacks the quality condition typically provided by new facilities and may require upgrading/redevelopment to meet contemporary standards evident in other suburbs across the LGA. The need to ensure that high quality community infrastructure is available to populations in both greenfield and infill areas is essential. Ensuring that community infrastructure is of a reasonable quality to support increased community use is an important component of best practice.

Integration – coordinated and efficient service delivery achieved through a network of community services is an important objective of service providers. The Belmont CC population requires access to health, education, legal, recreational, cultural, community development and other government and non-government services. At the local level, the opportunity exists for greater coordination and sharing of resources to provide high quality integrated and networked services as a focal point for villages, towns and major centres. This integrated and networked approach is consistent with Council's Community Plan direction to support community well-being and liveability.

Sustainability – to ensure sustainability, it is important for public community infrastructure to meet Council's social objectives; support community involvement and participation; be financially viable in the short and long term including construction, operation and ongoing maintenance; and be flexible to meet future population needs.

6. Methodology

Prior to assessing the infrastructure needs of the future population, a literature review of models of community infrastructure provision was undertaken. This was to identify the trends or best practice in facility provision for services, in order to assist with determining the future models of service/facility provision for Lake Macquarie. This information is reported in the following section (Section 7).

To determine the public community infrastructure needs of the existing and future populations, along with identifying the existing facilities within the Belmont CC, four indicators have been used:

Normative - based on benchmarks or standards, they are an indicator for assessing needs and are cited as a ratio of one facility per head of population. These standards should not be considered a minimum standards of provision, or lead to the expectation about a level of provision of such facilities. Three standards have been reported in this plan – NSW Growth Centres Commission, NSW Department of Planning draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines, and the Queensland Government Implementation Guideline No. 5 - Social Infrastructure Planning. In the Needs Assessment (Section 8), where no standard is available, this is identified as 'n/a';

Comparative - comparing against a similar area or across the LGA. The Needs Assessment compares the existing level of service provision for the Belmont CC with:

- the standards of service provision previously adopted for Lake Macquarie LGA (the 2004 Citywide Development Contributions Plan);
- the standard adopted (where available) for the Lake Macquarie City Council Development Contributions Plan for the Morisset Contributions Catchment, the Charlestown Contributions Catchment, the Glendale Contributions Catchment, and the Toronto Contributions Catchment; and
- with other comparable councils that have adopted standards for their developer contributions plans.

In NSW, Councils are categorised according to their socio-economic characteristics (including whether they are rural or urban) and their capacity to deliver a range of services to the community. Lake Macquarie City Council is in 'Group 5' along with Maitland, Coffs Harbour, Shoalhaven, Tweed, Wollongong, Newcastle and Port Macquarie councils. As not all of these councils have adopted standards for their developer contributions plans, only those who have adopted standards are identified. Whilst Wollongong have not adopted a standard, they have identified a set of standards for their West Dapto Release Area, upon which they have used to base their levels of service provision on. This is therefore used;

Identified - consultation with residents, service providers, stakeholders and professional experts. Whilst limited consultation has been undertaken to date regarding the development of this specific study, Council has undertaken extensive consultation with the community and service providers in the development of many of its previous Strategies and Plans eg Community Facilities Strategy, Ageing Population Strategy etc. This has also been used in the Needs Assessment. Residents and community organisations will have the opportunity to provide further comment/input into this Plan when it is exhibited alongside the Draft Developer Contributions Plan for the Belmont Catchment Area; and

Indicative - considers the socio-demographic profile of the area, and any relevant social issues.

The **recommendations** for the future provision of community facilities were then determined after an analysis of the above four indicators, and taking into account any trends or best practice regarding facility or service provision.

7. The future of Community Infrastructure

Community facilities are essential for the health, wellbeing, and economic prosperity of communities. They play an important role in bringing people together, developing social capital, maintaining quality of life, and developing the skills and resilience essential to strong communities.

7.1 Children and Family Facilities

Playgroups

Playgroups are normally held in halls and activity rooms in community centres. Whilst this service/facility model will continue in the future, some councils are choosing to provide additional rooms within their preschool venues for services such as playgroups, occasional care and other compatible programs.

Preschools

Preschools are a service for children aged from three to six years, prior to commencing school. Preschools are located in Council facilities, Department of Education facilities, church facilities, and privately owned facilities (that are operated by either community organisations or the private sector).

The trend has been to move away from stand-alone preschool centres and to locate them in multifunctional children's service centres or general community centres situated within community facility hubs.

The Federal Government has also sought to establish Early Learning and Care Centres, with a key consideration for the location of these Centres being on school grounds.

Long Day Care

Sometimes referred to as 'centre-based care', these services operate for more than ten hours per day, five days per week, and cater for children aged from six weeks to six years. Most long day care centres are approved child care services, which means that families using the service may be eligible for Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate.

Long day care is generally provided in a building or part of a building that has been created specifically for use as a child care centre. Private sector centres are normally stand-alone or located within a work or study facility (eg at a hospital, industrial estate, university), whilst community sector facilities are stand-alone or part of a hub of facilities.

The number of places that a centre has available for children to be placed in full-time care is a reflection of service size. The size of a centre may affect the number or variety of activities that are run at the centre. Larger centres (over 72 places) may be in a better position to offer a wider range of activities and resources than smaller centres (up to 46 places). Despite this, some parents prefer to place their children in smaller centres, since they consider them to be more 'home-like' and individualised. However, smaller centres are not in the same position as larger centres to implement cost-saving measures, and may have difficulty keeping fees at affordable levels.

Whilst many councils are not involved in the development and delivery of long day child care services, preferring to leave this to the private sector, councils can have a role in the planning of child care centres by setting aside land and constructing the buildings for use by the community sector, in new development areas.

Community-based centres are managed by the parents who use them, and any profit is returned to operate the service above minimum standards, and/or enable them to charge lower fees. In NSW, community-based centres are much more likely to have places for children aged less than 2 years, than privately operated centres. This is due in part to the history of private-for-profit centres, which were formerly private pre-schools (providing services for children aged 2-4 years) that extended their hours to qualify for funding as long

day care centres, as well as due to the additional costs of providing care for children aged less than 2 years, making this service less profitable.

Family Day Care

Sometimes known as home-based care, family day care is where a professional carer looks after children in the educator's home. Carers work mainly with children aged 0-6 who are not at school, but can also provide care for older school-aged children.

Councils, or a community organisation, predominately coordinates family day care. Although the child care takes place in the carer's home, the service requires office space for administration, as well as activity space for staff and carer programs and training. However, the operators of the family day care schemes receive administration fees, which are used to cover the costs of these functions.

Out-of-School Hours Care

Out-of-School Hours care is typically provided by the non-profit/government sectors, however, it is increasingly being provided by the private sector. This service caters for school-aged children (5-12 years), and includes before school care, after school care, and vacation care. Services usually use school facilities (school halls, or vacant classrooms), although council community facilities are also often used when no appropriate school facilities are available. The service requires access to both indoor space as well as outdoor space.

Integrated Child and Family Centres

These facilities provide for many of the services identified above, in order to provide a 'one-stop shop' for families. Whilst there are a number of core components that are usually common across Integrated Child and Family Centres, there is also genuine flexibility regarding the design and characteristics of each centre, in order that they respond to the specific needs and priorities of the community.

The usual core component of these centres include: early learning and child care, parent and family support services (supported playgroups, family workers or case management, family literacy initiatives, DV peer support, teen parenting groups, adult education) and health services.

Therefore, these centres require space for child care, interview/consulting rooms, activity/meeting/training rooms, office space, as well as rooms with the necessary clinic facilities to allow potential health services to be provided on site.

7.2 Youth Facilities

Young people access a range of youth services, which are provided by both government and non-government organisations. These include information and referral, individual casework advocacy services, holiday programs, structured and unstructured recreational and creative arts activities, education and training services, and counselling and support services. Many organisations also undertake community development activities for young people.

In order to cater for these services, facilities are therefore required to provide space for activity/meeting/training rooms interview/consulting/counselling rooms, as well as office space. This space can be provided in either a single-purpose youth facility, or incorporated into a multipurpose facility.

Many local governments provide services to young people from dedicated youth facilities. Young people feel more comfortable accessing these facilities and it is well founded that "youth dedicated" sites provide strong and systematic pathways for young people to connect with their community.

However, it is not always feasible or appropriate to provide stand-alone facilities for the exclusive use of a specific community or socio-demographic groups. In addition to being costly and limiting the 'life' of a facility, it can exclude access to certain funding mechanisms.

It also fails to facilitate social interaction between different groups in a community, which helps to nurture and develop networks, linkages, and cooperation.

Co-locating youth services in a multi-purpose facility helps to ensure that the facility is not labelled as a particular 'type' of facility or available only for a particular target group or cohort, and that it is perceived as a facility available for the whole community. It also enables the sharing of some spaces such as toilets, kitchen facilities, car parking, and training rooms

However, locating youth services in a multipurpose facility is not always a satisfactory arrangement, due to design issues, site restrictions, and conflicts of use. Sharing the space may not be possible due to the equipment required and its setup and storage (eg. pool tables), and youth areas should also have their own separate access, as well as office space and counselling rooms available for youth workers and counsellors. Where possible, youth activity spaces should also have direct access to outdoor activity space for active and passive recreational programs.

7.3 Facilities for Older People and People with a Disability

Councils have been, and continue to be active in the provision of facilities for older people and people with a disability. With Commonwealth and State Government policies encouraging older people to "age in place" and emphasising "active ageing", this will have implications for Council's provision of community infrastructure and the provision of urban design.

Facilities such as walking paths, heated swimming pools, passive recreation spaces, bowling greens, activity rooms, and cultural spaces are needed to encourage older people to participate in recreation and cultural activities. Facilities need to be designed and located so that they are accessible to the elderly, and greater participation and use by older people needs to be factored in when Councils are determining their service/facility models, provision levels, and design standards.

Facilities for older people and people with a disability accommodate a range of services including those for planned activities, meals on wheels, domestic assistance, personal care, respite care programs, and support services (including home support).

Senior Citizens Clubs, Probus Clubs and Pensioners Associations

Senior Citizens Clubs, Probus Clubs and Pensioners Associations provide a range of social activities, meals and educational opportunities for older people over 55. They promote wellbeing, a better lifestyle, and a positive approach to ageing.

These clubs or associations have traditionally operated from their own purpose built facilities, but now are increasingly undertaking their activities at general meeting spaces in community centres or church halls. Conversely, many of the facilities that were built as 'Senior Citizens Centres' or 'Pensioners Halls' are also being used for other community activities such as dance groups and playgroups.

Support Services and Activities

High support activities (eg respite care and support services) are typically provided in purpose built facilities that are part of larger multipurpose community centres, or in some cases, stand-alone facilities. Moderate or low support activities are provided from multipurpose rooms in community facilities or halls. These personal care and support services also require office space for their administration.

These settings and modes of delivery of services and facilities for older people and people with a disability will continue in the near future. However, with the growing aged population, and the rise in the number of people living longer with chronic illness or disability, it is likely that the service/facility landscape will change significantly over the next decades. Councils' role in aged services may expand and become more diverse through their involvement in support and activity programs, and multipurpose centres with a special focus on aged and disability services may become more prevalent.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on wheels is generally provided from single-use facilities, but in recent years the requirements of these services has gradually changed from on-site commercial kitchens to distribution centres. Services are moving to purchasing high quality prepared meals from commercial providers, rather than preparing the meals themselves. This change is due to increasing client demand, falling volunteer numbers, and the need to manage risk.

Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages

Residential aged care facilities provide both high care (nursing homes) and low care (hostels) services. Nursing home and hostel care will grow significantly over the coming decades, with these mainly being operated by non-profit organisations. Private organisations are only just starting to provide residential aged care facilities, with the Commonwealth Government providing subsidies for these facilities.

Self-care retirement villages will also continue to grow in popularity and numbers. The bulk of these are provided by private developers, but some larger non-profit organisations are also constructing self-care units in conjunction with their residential aged care facilities. These facilities will increase the demand for many Council and community services including HACC services, community transport, recreational activities for the elderly, community activities, recreation and passive open space, and medical services.

7.4 Community Men's sheds

Community Men's Sheds have long been recognised as meeting places where men can find social support and camaraderie. (Whilst Men's Shed cater predominately for men, women are also able to access these facilities.) They have sprung up across Australia to fill the void of men not having a place to call their own. They are an updated version of the shed in the backyard that has long been a part of Australian culture. The community shed is a place where men go to enjoy the company of other men, remain physically and mentally active and counter the negative effects that inactivity and boredom can have on physical and emotional wellbeing.

Men's sheds vary in shape and size, and have different governance, management, operational and finance structures, different aims and objectives, and numbers of participants.

Men's sheds are located in community settings and range from informal, casually evolved 'double' garages to large-scale community (or industry) sponsored semi-commercial operations. Most sheds provide a workshop-type space containing tools and machinery for the construction, repair, finishing or restoration of various products. Some conduct craft and hobby activities, repair old machinery, or refurbish old computers. Still others provide support for men with mental health or physical disabilities or support young people and the unemployed. A growing number of sheds also provide mentoring (in particular, youth mentoring) in order to provide support, assistance and training to others.

Community men's sheds have been established under a variety of auspices, including aged care organisations, health centres, hospitals, non-government organisations, welfare agencies, or church groups. They offer an environment conducive to men's learning, and also offer positive effects for partners, families and community, and are now recognised in Australian governments' male health policies and plans.

Due to their demonstrated success in reaching marginalised and isolated males, and contributing to improvements in male health and wellbeing, it is likely that the desire for community men's sheds will continue to grow.

7.5 General Purpose Community Facilities (Community Centres)

Community centres range from small community halls and meeting rooms available for use by the community to large multipurpose centres that incorporate a wide range of services and facilities. They support the development of socially sustainable communities by providing physical spaces to help address the social needs of a community. Community centres should facilitate social interaction between different groups in a community and help to nurture and develop networks, linkages and cooperation.

Community centres may provide:

- General community use space for meetings, activities or events;
- A base for the delivery of local community services and programs;
- Particular services, programs and activities for specific target groups, such as young people or older people;
- Space for hire for private functions;
- Specialist facilities providing a particular focus on recreation, arts, cultural activity, learning or social support; and
- A number of these functions within a single centre

An important theme to emerge from the literature is the integration of community services at a common venue. That is, combining a range of community and recreational services in a single community facility. A mix of uses helps to ensure that a centre is not labelled as a particular 'type' of facility or available only for a particular target group, and that it is perceived as a facility available for the whole community.

Centres that are designed to be multi-purpose are generally better able to accommodate diverse groups and uses. They carry extensive benefits for the stakeholders and the larger community as a result of the decreased cost of the building and services provided, as well as the decreased need for new and expensive buildings that may have a limited use. Cost savings result because spaces such as meeting rooms, lobby areas, restrooms, and parking areas can be shared. They also allow for improvement of services and activities offered to local communities by facilitating the development of social networks, encouraging greater service coordination, improving accessibility, are inclusive of all members of the community, and provide gathering places for people from different ages, backgrounds, interests and cultures.

As they achieve better economies of scale, and contribute towards the creation of vibrant community places as hubs of social interaction, the development of multipurpose community facilities is an important focus for the future delivery of social infrastructure.

7.6 Library Facilities

Libraries provide a community focal point as they bring people from a range of backgrounds together, to meet, network, and potentially develop relationships with other members of the community. They are a place where people come to sit, read the newspaper, listen to music, play computer games, search the Internet, and/or take part in the many activities and events held.

Different demographic groups may require different library services to meet their needs. Older residents are major users of libraries, and this trend is likely to grow as the number of older residents with significant leisure time increases. Older residents require access to specialist collections, adult education, activities targeting seniors, and increased computer usage. Young people require provision of meeting rooms, noisy areas, student research areas, new technologies and facilities. People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background require multilingual collections, meeting room space, enquiry/information desks, whilst Aboriginal people require specialist collections, art, and cultural activities.

Various models have been adopted in the past for the delivery of library services. 'Stand-alone Libraries' incorporate typical library services and community meeting spaces, whilst 'Global Learning Centres' include programs and space for learning activities and meetings. 'Community Learning Centres' are libraries integrated with dedicated learning rooms, early years' facilities, and general community meeting spaces.

The locations of libraries vary. They may be a stand-alone facility in a residential or commercial setting, or may be integrated with other community/civic facilities (as part of a commercial hub, or community hub in a residential setting). Libraries have also been co-located with schools.

Despite accelerating consumer preferences for materials in electronic formats, lending books and related physical objects will continue to be a core business of libraries for the near future. So too will be the provision of community spaces for meetings and activities, along with the provision of technology, especially connection to the Internet. However, libraries are likely to become much more welcoming and relaxing environments, and be an experience rather than simply a 'repository of books'. They may contain or be adjacent to cafes, and provide quiet as well as communal spaces. Part of the library could look like a lounge room, another part like a typical library, and many will offer a multimedia experience with facilities for creating music, video, and web content.

Lake Macquarie City Council has adopted a Library Service Deliver Model (November 2011) The report identifies different types of libraries offering different levels of service ranging from fully staffed to fully automated, and makes recommendations for each of Council's libraries through to 2020.

7.7 Cultural Facilities

Cultural facilities are premises that are used for the training, performance, exhibition and preservation of artistic expression or cultural activities, or the study, preservation and exhibition of culturally significant items. Councils provide and fund a range of cultural services – art galleries, museums, performance centres / convention centres and exhibition spaces – and are the main provider of these services in many regional areas.

Art Galleries

Art Galleries provide exhibition spaces, and may offer educational programs, as well as meeting and workshop space for artists. Public galleries are non-profit or publicly owned museums that display selected collections of art. Private galleries are commercial enterprises for the sale of art, however, both types of galleries may host travelling exhibits or temporary exhibitions including art borrowed from elsewhere.

Public galleries are often co-located with libraries, civic buildings and museums. Facilities may range from small volunteer-run exhibition spaces to large, professionally managed public galleries. Requirements are likely to include a large open gallery space, with flexible partitioning and room configuration, office/administration area, and visual arts workshop space. Some facilities have a café/restaurant/kiosk. Adequate storage is also needed for in-house and travelling collections.

New models of provision are being explored through the development of cultural hubs in council areas (to include arts, museum and performance facilities). Council will continue to be the main provider of public art galleries, with funding assistance from state and federal governments.

Exhibition / Convention Centres

These are large spaces that are available to host public and private business and social events. A convention centre includes an exhibition hall, or conference centre. Events held in convention centres can include corporate conferences, industry trade shows, formal dances, entertainment spectacles and concerts.

Whilst some councils may provide exhibition / convention centres, these are largely provided by the private sector. However, councils play an integral role in determining the need for, and supporting the development of these facilities.

Museums

Museums are a building, place or institution devoted to the acquisition, conversation, study, exhibition and educational interpretation of objects with scientific, historical or artistic value. Museums most often develop from existing, older buildings which are part of the community fabric and heritage.

New models of museums include interactive facilities in association with community centres, libraries and galleries. However, any new facility will need to be based on community demand and future need, with support across all levels of government (in terms of funding, provision of buildings, and legislative support).

Performing Arts Spaces

These are a space for arts rehearsal and performance, ranging from small playhouses, to large multi-purpose centres supporting a wide range of performing arts (from plays to operas and eisteddfods). The facilities include arts workshop spaces, and have tiered seating of varying capacity, flexible enough to cater to smaller audiences and designed for music, drama and dance. Stage, wings, dressing rooms and a pit to accommodate a range of performers (eg orchestras, choruses, and actors) are also required.

Local councils and the private sector typically provide funds for these types of facilities, although additional funding may be provided from the state or federal governments.

New models of provision are being explored through the development of cultural hubs in local council areas (including arts, museum and performance facilities).

7.8 Community Hubs

There has been an increasing trend over the past 20 years towards the aggregation of community infrastructure in activity hubs. A community hub may be a single multipurpose facility that accommodates a variety of services, programs and activities, and is well integrated with other people attracting uses in the local area. However, a community hub can also be a group of separate buildings that, although physically separate, cluster together to create an activity centre and access point for meeting a diverse range of community needs. A community hub should include some combination of economic / employment, open space, social infrastructure, transport, essential services and technology uses.

Community hubs can improve the economic viability of centres, improve access to services, reduce the length and number of private vehicle trips, facilitate better provision of public transport, and encourage a sense of community. The objectives of hubs are to:

- Meet the functional needs of communities (eg education, community services, recreation and open space etc);
- Provide a vibrant focal point for community life by offering a diverse range of community infrastructure and encouraging greater interaction and cohesion between residents and between service providers;
- Provide for the co-location of services and clubs to enable the sharing of resources, increase the level of service integration and encourage greater resident utilisation and participation;
- Enable residents to more easily and freely access services and participate in community activities; and
- Provide for the co-location and integration of facilities (including retail and commercial services, community facilities and other major trip generators) to optimize the use of

land and support infrastructure such as car parks, reduce car travel, encourage social interaction, reduce maintenance requirements and enhance sustainability.

7.9 Cemeteries / Crematorium

Both state and local government have had a long standing involvement in various aspects of burial and cemetery management. Burial space has been provided by the State Government through the provision of cemeteries for over 200 years. The NSW Department of Lands is the main land owner of cemeteries in NSW although the management of these cemeteries is undertaken by either a Trust or by local government.

State and local government undertake land use planning and designate broad land use zones. Competing interests for land can make cemeteries and crematoria development less competitive than other uses within a close proximity to urban areas.

Although recent trends have identified an increasing focus by local government in the planning, management and operation of cemeteries, and increased expansion in the provision of funeral services, over the past 20 years there has been an increased role of the private sector in the provision of cemeteries.

One of the major issues impacting on the management and operation of cemeteries throughout Australia is the potential shortage of burial space. Whilst this may be addressed through encouraging more intensive use of existing cemeteries, and through the provision of private cemeteries, council's land use planning processes need to consider the provision of land for future development of public cemeteries and crematoria. A number of councils already incorporate the capital development of their cemeteries within their s94 Contribution Plans and have included cemetery development and/or land provision through Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) negotiations.

8. Needs Assessment and Recommendations

As parts of the Belmont CC consists of long established urban areas, it has a range of community infrastructure provided by government, non-profit organisations and the private sector. This section identifies the type, location and capacity of existing community infrastructure which is widely used by the Belmont CC population and/or specific target groups within the community (i.e. older people, children, people with a disability etc).

It also identifies infrastructure located outside the CC, which may also cater for local needs.

It should be noted that this inventory may not include all community infrastructure in the CC but rather has focused on infrastructure which is primarily available for public use. This approach is consistent with Council’s role as identified in the Local Government Act 1993. Community use of private facilities is often limited by the following factors:

- Hire/rental costs may be prohibitive for many groups;
- Many facilities may not be fully accessible for people with a disability;
- Facilities such as school halls are only available outside school hours;
- Many venues may not have booking officers or staff and therefore making arrangements can be difficult;
- Licensed clubs may not be appropriate for all groups e.g. children and youth;
- Many facilities do not provide group storage space;
- Meeting spaces may be inappropriate sizes and may not cater for a range of activities e.g. children’s activities and creative arts; and
- Many do not organise activities and therefore are reliant on the community to make their own arrangements i.e. they are not staffed.

Non-Council facilities do however play an important role in the community, and Council should be seeking to work in partnership with these providers, to reduce duplication and ensure that the full range of community needs is met through a coordinated approach.

Where private facilities are considered to be more broadly available to the community and if closed, would result in a major gap in service provision in the CC, these facilities have been included in this Study. These facilities are specifically identified in this report with consideration given to affordability of use, daily availability, and cultural/age appropriateness for community use.

8.1 Children’s Services

Existing Provision:

A range of children’s services are available in the LGA including long day child care, preschool, out-of-school hours care [OOSH] (including vacation care), and playgroups for preschoolers.

There is only one Council-owned children’s service facility in the Belmont CC. Belmont (Eastlakes) Community Child Care Centre, with a gross floor area (GFA) of 748m² provides 71 places for children aged 0 to 6 years.

Council also provides Family Day Care services within the LGA, including in the Belmont CC. In addition, many of Council’s General Purpose Community Facilities are also used for playgroups.

There are also many other private and community-based long day care centres, preschools, and OOSH services within the Belmont CC.

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare facility – 1 place: 5 children 0-4 years
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Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After School Care Facility – 1 place: 25 children 5-12 years
NSW Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Day Care Centres – 1 facility: 320 children aged 0-5 years Pre-schools – 1 facility: 4,000-6,000 people Outside of school hours care – 1 facility: 4,000-6,000 people
Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:4,000-8,000 people

Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Council child care facilities, comprising 71 child care places, and a total gross floor area (GFA) of 748m² This equates to 1 facility per 26,107 people, or 1 place per 27 children aged 0-6 years (28.7m² GFA per 1,000 people or 10.5m² GFA per place)
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 place per 6.57 children aged 0-4 years in centre based care, comprising 10.22m² GFA per place, and 1 place per 20.75 children in family day care 1 place per 25 children aged 5-12 years for out of school hours care, with 3.25m² GFA per place
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's services space included in general purpose community space
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's services space included in general purpose community space
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's services space included in general purpose community space

Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 place per 11 children aged 0-4 years, comprising 5-7m² GFA per place
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 place per 10 children aged 0-4 years

Identified:

- Feedback received through regular surveys of child care centres indicates that:
 - The need for child care spaces is currently being met through both community child care centres (including the Council-owned centres) and private centres;
 - Additional child care centres (private) have been approved within the Catchment, however these have not been constructed as yet; and
- Belmont Community Child Care Centre recently undertook works to increase their service (to 71 places) to cater for increased demand.

Indicative:

- Large numbers of children aged 0-6 years live in Belmont (399 children), Swansea (277 children) and Caves Beach (247 children). However, Murrays Beach, Swansea Heads and Marks Point have the highest proportion of children aged 0-6 years;
- Similarly, large numbers of primary school aged children live in Belmont, Swansea and Caves Beach, while this age group is also concentrated in Murrays Beach, Nords Wharf and Marks Point;
- There are high level of social disadvantage amongst residents in Belmont South, Swansea and Marks Point, with children and parents requiring greater access to affordable child care and family support services; and
- Over the period of 2015 to 2030, the number of children aged 0-6 years is expected to increase by approximately 18.0%.

Discussion:

- The need for child care in the Catchment is currently being met through both the Council facility and the private sector;
- Additional (private) facilities that have been approved, or are proposed for the catchment. These are anticipated to cater for the future growth of the Catchment;
- Council should also continue to make space available for playgroups and OOSH services;
- No need to provide for preschools and family day care (which receives funds to cover the costs of its functions);
- Where possible, children's services should be provided in integrated child and family centres, in a multipurpose facility, or 'hubbed' with other facilities in order to maximise potential for families to access additional services (eg support services, health services, workshop spaces);

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for children's services space, however, ensure that general / multipurpose space can be used to provide for children's services (depending on the specific need at time of provision), or use the general / multipurpose space standard for the provision of children's services space.

8.2 Youth Services**Existing Provision:**

There are no specific stand-alone youth centres within the Belmont CC. Rather, youth services / programs run from Council's General Purpose Community Facilities. However, Eastlakes Youth Services utilise part of the Swansea Centre for an office and youth activity space.

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:20,000 people
NSW Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:10,000-30,000 people
Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local facility – 1:10,000-20,000 people • District centre – 1:20,000-50,000 people

Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific stand-alone youth centres in Belmont CC
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 facility per 13,000 people

Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services space included in general purpose community space
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services space included in general purpose community space
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services space included in general purpose community space
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Youth Centre per 20,000 persons, or 1 facility per 3,000 people aged 13-19 years, comprising 300-400m² GFA
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Youth Centre per 10,000-20,000 people

Identified:

- Consultation undertaken as part of the development of Council's Youth Strategy identified that there is a need to provide new and improved facilities that are attractive to, and meet the social needs of young people. This includes the provision of youth friendly / focussed facilities and / or opportunities for young people to increase their engagement in cultural activities.

Indicative:

- Proportion of young people aged 12-24 years old in the Toronto Catchment is slightly below that of the LGA;

- Whilst Belmont South, Caves Beach and Nords Wharf are the suburbs with the highest proportion of young people, the suburbs of Belmont, Caves Beach and Swansea have the highest numbers of young people (over 66% of all young people in the Catchment live in these three suburbs);
- High levels of disadvantage in Belmont South, Swansea and Marks Point is likely to be directly impacting on young people living in these suburbs; and

Discussion:

- Whilst there is no dedicated youth centre in the Belmont CC, youth services are currently operating within general purpose community centres. This includes the Eastlake Youth Services that operates out of The Swansea Centre; and
- With no facilities in the Belmont CC providing dedicated spaces for young people, facilities will require enhancement to better cater for the provision of youth services. This may include space for young people to increase their engagement in cultural activities.

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for youth service space, however, ensure that general / multipurpose space can be used to provide for youth services (depending on the specific need at time of provision). This may require providing dedicate space for youth services in multipurpose facilities; and
- Youth service space should include activity space, office space and counselling/interview rooms, and have its own separate entrance, and where possible, direct access to outdoor activity space.

8.3 Services for Older People

Existing Provision:

As with youth services, Council has adopted a multipurpose approach for the provision of services for older people, with many of the general purpose community facilities being used for activities and programs for older people.

However, for the Belmont CC, there are three facilities that are specifically for the provision of services for older people. These are:

- Belmont Meals on Wheels (200m²) who operate out of two buildings at Belmont, and delivers food for frail older people and people with disabilities who are unable to prepare meals themselves;
- Swansea Meals on Wheels (101m²) also delivers meals for people who are unable to prepare a meal themselves; and
- Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre (495m²) is leased by Lake Macquarie Support Services who provide a range of services for older people and people with a disability.

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	n/a
NSW Planning	n/a
Queensland Government	(Aged Care Service / Respite Centre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local – 1:7,000-10,000 people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District – 1:20,000-100,000 people
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Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 facilities – Belmont Meals on Wheels, Swansea Meals on Wheels and Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre – comprising a total of 796m². This equates to 1 facility per 8,702 people, or 30.5m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for facilities for older people
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for facilities for older people (included within general facility service provision)
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for facilities for older people
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for services for older people is included in general purpose community space
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 facility per 30,000 people, comprising 1,000-2,000m² GFA
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for facilities for older people

Identified:

- Consultation undertaken as part of the development of Council's Ageing Population Strategy 2014-2017, and with services as part of the National Aged Care Reforms identified that:
 - Access to a range of community, recreational, retail and commercial facilities is limited for people with a disability;
 - There is a need to maintain a range of community and recreation facilities that are accessible and suitable for activities for seniors; and
 - Lake Macquarie Support Services is at capacity, and requires additional space to meet the needs of older people and people with a disability, as part of the National Aged Care Reforms and National Disability Insurance Scheme. Council previously purchased the land adjacent to the Community Care Centre, to allow for expansion of this facility.

Indicative:

- The Catchment has a significantly older population than the LGA, with a median age of 44, compared to 41 for the LGA;
- Whilst the suburbs of Swansea, Blacksmiths and Pelican have the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, it is the suburbs of Belmont, Swansea and Caves Beach that have the highest numbers overall. In fact, these three (3) suburbs account for over 70% of all people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, and is expected to increase as the suburbs grow; and
- The proportion of residents aged over 65 years is expected to increase from 18.6% to 20.3% over the period 2015 to 2030.

Discussion:

- Multipurpose facilities can continue to accommodate Seniors Citizens Clubs, Probus Clubs, and Pensioners Associations;
- Although multipurpose centres can be used for the provision of support services for older people and people with a disability, need to ensure that high support activities have their own dedicated space, and office space is available for their administration;
- Need to ensure that facilities are designed and located so that they are accessible to older people and people with a disability
- As the population grows and ages, and with government policies encouraging people to ‘age in place’, there will be the demand for additional high support activities such as respite care. This can be met by the provision of additional facilities, or the expansion or conversion of an existing facility; and
- Expanding the Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre will help to meet the demand for additional high support activities, and cater for the growth of the ageing population.

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for space for services for older people, however, ensure that general / multipurpose space can be used to provide for these services (depending on the specific need at time of provision); and
- Provide an additional 514m² of community space at the Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre, to cater for the additional demands of support activities for older people and people with a disability. The site adjacent to the Centre, at 36 Josephson Street, was previously purchased by Council to enable the expansion of the facility.

8.4 Community Men’s Sheds

Existing Provision:

There is one (1) Men’s Shed located within the Belmont CC, with Swansea and District Men’s Shed Inc operating out of the former Visitors Information Centre at Blacksmiths (175m²). However, the Belmont Men’s Shed (119m²) operates out of premises adjacent to the Belmont Community Centre, which is located just outside the Belmont CC border (within the Charlestown Contributions Catchment).

Normative:

Not available

Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	• 1 facilities comprising a total of 175m ²
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This equates to 1 facility per 26,107 people, or 6.7m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for Men's Sheds is included in the general purpose community space

No other comparative standards are available

Identified:

- No specific consultation undertaken to date;
- The Swansea and District Men's Shed has some spare capacity as it currently is only open 3 days a week;
- The Belmont Men's Shed is close to capacity, with it requiring to limit the time that the members can access the shed each day; and
- There has not been any other interest for Men's Sheds within the Catchment.

Indicative:

- Although Men's Sheds are able to be accessed by people of all ages (including women), they are generally utilised by older men;
- Most of the growth in the CC will occur in the area south of Swansea (approximately 77%), however this growth will predominately consist of families who generally do not access Men's Sheds;
- Whilst the suburbs of Swansea, Blacksmiths and Pelican have the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, it is the suburbs of Belmont, Swansea and Caves Beach that have the highest numbers overall. In fact, these three (3) suburbs account for over 70% of all people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, and is expected to increase as the suburbs grow; and

Discussion:

- The geographical location of the two (2) Men's Sheds (Belmont and Swansea and District) ensures that there is adequate coverage throughout the Catchment (ie. all residents have easy access to a Men's Shed);
- Although most of the growth is expected to be in the southern area of the Catchment, Belmont (suburb) will experience significant growth (over 1,000 people). With the Belmont Men's Shed at capacity (as it also caters for the Charlestown CC population), an additional Men's Shed in this area may be required to cater for the additional growth (much of which is likely to be older people); and
- As it has some spare capacity, The Swansea and District Men's Shed will be able to cater for the additional growth in the southern area of the Catchment;

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for space for Men's Sheds, however, ensure that general / multipurpose space can be used to provide for these services (depending on the specific need at time of provision). This may require providing dedicate space for Men's Shed facilities due to the nature of their activities;

8.5 General Purpose Community Facilities.

Existing Provision:

In the Belmont CC in 2015, the following Council facilities are provided:

- Belmont Senior Citizens Centre (511m²) – built with a Commonwealth grant as a facility for seniors' activities, the centre is now used by the whole of the community including dance groups, martial arts groups and University of the Third Age;
- Marks Point Community Hall (225m²) – built in the 1960s to service the local community, the facility has had works to enable it to comply with non-discriminatory access and use standards. The facility is managed by a community operating committee;
- Nords Wharf Community Hall (100m²) – located in the isolated community of Nords Wharf, this small hall has very low levels of utilisation. The facility has no off-street parking, and an external toilet, but with no alternate facilities nearby, the facility provides a valuable asset for the local community;
- The Swansea Centre (803m² of community space) – opened in February 2006, the facility has a large function room, two smaller rooms, a meeting room, office space as well as space for youth activities. The Centre also provides space to accommodate Swansea Community Cottage, as well as Swansea Library and the Lake Macquarie Visitors Information Centre;
- Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club (396m²) – originally built and owned by the bowling club (on Council land), the facility was given to Council in 2011 and is now leased and available for use as a community facility. However, the condition of the facility is poor with use of some areas restricted, and it's future is uncertain;
- Swansea-Belmont Surf Life Saving Club – although the facility caters for the recreational activities of the surf club, the facility also provides space (490m²) for meetings, functions and community activities;
- Catherine Hill Bay Surf Life Saving Club – although the facility caters for the recreational activities of the surf club, the facility also provides space (200m²) for meetings, functions and community activities; and
- Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club – although the facility caters for the recreational activities of the surf club, the facility also provides space (350m²) for meetings, functions and community activities.

In addition, Belmont Community Centre (600m²) is located just outside the Belmont CC (in the Charlestown Contributions Catchment area), and is likely to be used by the residents of Belmont and Belmont North.

Eastlake Family Support Services (190m²) – this government-funded, non-profit organisation is located on crown land and provides services to strengthen and support families in the Eastlake area.

There are also Scouts and Girl Guides Halls located in the Belmont CC. These facilities are owned by the Scouts and Girl Guides Associations, who use the facilities for their purposes, and generally do not make their facilities available for wider community use. However, there may be the opportunity to seek shared use of the facilities for meetings and community activities.

A survey undertaken by Council of all public and private schools in the LGA identified that more than half of the schools have a hall available for community use. For the Belmont CC, there are just 3 school halls that are available, with these primarily used for dance classes/tuition, martial arts/fitness classes and meetings. It is important to note that school halls are typically only available outside school hours, and are usually only able to accommodate one group at a time. School halls in the Belmont CC are able to cater for between 60 to 600 people.

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community Centre – 1:6,000 people District Community Centre – 1:20,000 people
NSW Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multipurpose community / neighbourhood centres – 1:3,500-6,000 people (small) 1:15,000–20,000 people (large) Meeting Halls – 1:10,000 people (small) 1:20,000-30,000 people (large)
Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood (community meeting room) – 1:2,000-3,000 people Local (community centre / multipurpose hall) – 1:6,000–10,000 people District (multipurpose community centre) – 1: 20,000–50,000 people

Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 general purpose community facilities comprising a GFA of 3,265m². This equates to 1 facility per 2,900 people, or 125.1m² GFA per 1,000 people of general purpose community space This includes Eastlake Family Support Services which is located on crown land and provides community programs/activities/services
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General purpose/Family Activity area of 65m² GFA per 1,000 people; or Multipurpose Centre (that includes children's services space, youth space, and general purpose space) of 209.7m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 160m² GFA per 1,000 people of multipurpose space (includes children's services space, youth space,

Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment areas	and general purpose space)
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 community facility of 950m² (including youth and children's space) per 4,000 people
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m² GFA per 1,000 people
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per 7,000-10,000 people, comprising 600-800m² GFA
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Neighbourhood centre per 3,500-6,000 people • 1 Multipurpose Centre per 20,000 people

Identified:

- Consultation was undertaken during the development of Council's Community Facilities Strategy that was adopted by Council in September 2011;
- Multipurpose facilities are well utilised, whilst many of the existing community halls no longer meet the expectations of residents (particularly the older facilities);
- Most facilities have spare capacity, with some facilities having very little usage;
- The community facilities are spread throughout the whole Catchment area, ensuring that the community has access to a facility;
- The Swansea Centre is a relatively new facility and has some capacity to cater for the needs of the growing population in the south of the catchment; and
- The Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club is in poor condition, resulting in some areas being restricted for use. Extensive and expensive repairs would be required to bring this facility up to an acceptable standard for continued use, and to meet the needs of the growing community.

Indicative:

- There is a high level of social disadvantage in Belmont South, Swansea and Marks Point, which also have high proportions of public/community housing tenants. In terms of social equity, these residents require more access to affordable support services / programs;
- Poor public transport within the Catchment makes it difficult for key target groups such as older residents with a disability, families with young children and young people, to access services / programs. Therefore, the distribution and transport access to facilities needs to be considered;
- Catherine Hill Bay is forecast to experience the highest growth over the next 15 years with an additional 2,363 persons (an increase of 1,382%), with Pinny Beach, Belmont and Murrays Beach also experiencing a significant increase in population (an additional 1,882, 1,049 and 997 persons, respectively);
- Preschool children with parents, primary and secondary school students, young people and older people are typically major users of multipurpose centres. Suburbs that are expected to have large numbers/concentrations of these target groups are:
 - Catherine Hill Bay, Murrays Beach, and Pinny Beach which will experience significant growth, with much of this likely to be families;

- Swansea and Belmont which have high numbers and a high proportion of older people (65 years and over), Blacksmiths which also has a high proportion of older people; and
- Swansea Heads and Belmont South, which although they will not experience significant growth, are likely to experience significant changes to their age profile, as the existing population ages and/or new younger families move in.

Discussion:

- Council’s preference is to provide multipurpose community centres that offer a wide range of services and peer support for workers, rather than accommodating services in individual premises (eg space for general activities, children’s services, youth activities, seniors activities etc);
- Where possible and appropriate, facilities should be co-located to strengthen the development of community focal points or hubs;
- In terms of numbers of facilities, Belmont CC is well serviced with 1 facility per 2,900 people, which is above normative and comparative standards;
- The community facilities are spread throughout the catchment, ensuring that the community has access to a facility;
- With some capacity, the Swansea Centre is well-suited to cater for the growth of the suburbs of Pinny Beach and Murrays Beach;
- With a large population increase expected in Catherine Hill Bay, and being remote, additional community facilities are required to cater for this population, especially as the Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club is in poor condition and likely to be closed;
- In determining the total floor space of community facilities for the Catchment, the following factors have been considered:
 - As the Eastlake Family Support Services provide space for community activities, and will continue to operate as a community facility into the future (being located on land owned by the NSW Government), they are taken into account when calculating existing community facility provision;
 - Located just outside the border of the Catchment, Belmont Community Centre and Belmont Men’s Shed are also utilised by residents of the Belmont Contributions Catchment. Therefore, in the calculations below, the use of these facilities has been apportioned (ie. 50% of the floor space has been included);
 - Likewise, as Belmont Senior Citizens Centre and Belmont Community Child Care Centre are also utilised by residents of Charlestown CC (and have been apportioned in the calculations of the Charlestown CC), only 67% of their floorspace has been included in calculations below for the Belmont CC;
 - Although some schools have halls available for community use, due to the restricted hours of availability, these have not been included in calculations;
 - Due to the uncertainty of the future of Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club, this facility has also not been included in calculations below;
- Therefore, total community floor space for the Belmont CC is:

General purpose space	3,000m ²
Children’s services space	501m ²
Space for services for older people	687m ²
Men’s Shed space	235m ²
Total:	4,423m²

- This equates to 169.4m² per 1,000 people of community space, which is lower than the existing Lake Macquarie LGA standard of 209.7m² per 1,000 people for multipurpose space;

Recommendations:

- Adopt a standard of 160m² GFA per 1,000 people for future community facility provision, which is comparable with existing levels of provision. This takes into account that whilst there will be a need for additional facilities to cater for the future population, there is currently some spare capacity in some existing facilities (albeit that they are not suited for the existing needs, or in the location of the existing need). This standard is also consistent with the standard adopted for the Morisset, Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Catchments;
- This standard is to include space for:
 - General community use (eg meetings, activities);
 - Children's services (eg long day care, playgroups, OOSH);
 - Youth services activities;
 - Services for older people; and
 - Space for specific uses such as Men's Shed activities and office space for community organisations.
- To meet the needs of the 2030 population of 33,359 people, a total of 5,337m² of community floor space is required. This is an additional 914m² GFA;
- Detailed design of the facilities are to take into account the specific needs of the users of the facility at time of provision;
- The allocation of the additional 914m² GFA is as follows:
 - Provide an additional 514m² of space at the Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre; and
 - Provide 400m² of community space at Catherine Hill Bay. This will replace the anticipated loss of space currently being provided by the Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club. This space could be incorporated into the new recreation facility planned within the vicinity of the existing Bowling Club, or could be provided as part of a new Surf Club redevelopment.

8.6 Library Facilities

Existing Provision:

Focussed on meeting the needs of a dispersed and diverse population, Council's libraries are based on a central and branch service model. Three (3) central libraries are located at Charlestown, Toronto and Speers Point, with 7 branch libraries at Morisset, Edgeworth, Cardiff, Windale, Belmont, Wangi Wangi and Swansea. Council also provides a mobile library service and home library services throughout the LGA.

There are two libraries located within the Belmont CC: Swansea Library (725m²) and Belmont Library (800m²).

For Lake Macquarie, library stock is transferable between all libraries (eg. whilst an item is 'held' at Toronto Library, it is able to be borrowed through Swansea or Morisset Libraries). Therefore, it is more appropriate to consider library stock on a city-wide basis. At June 2015, there was a total of 248,798 physical library stock items across the City for a population of 204,166 people. The amount of physical stock has decreased significantly in recent years, as it reflects the library's practice of reducing its physical stock, but having a greater focus on its electronic stock. (Electronic stock items are not included in the count, as a single electronic subscription means that that a user can now have access to many thousands of electronic items, such as back issues of magazines.)

In addition to the stock items, in 2015 there was a total of 13 public computers, with 6 at Belmont Library, and 7 at Swansea Library

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch – 1:33,000 people • District – 1:40,000 people
NSW Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch – 1:10,000 people • Central – 1:20,000-35,000 people
Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch – 1:15,000-30,000 people • Central – 1:30,000-150,000 people
NSW State Library Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42m² GFA of library space per 1,000 persons for library servicing 10,000-20,000 persons, with rate decreasing as larger population serviced • 1 public internet computer per 3,000 persons • 2.4 stock items per person

Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 library facilities within the Catchment, comprising 1,525m² GFA • This equates to 1 facility (central or branch) per 13,053 people, or 58.4m² GFA per 1,000 people • A total of 248,798 stock items across the City, equating to 1.2 stock items per person (does not include electronic stock) • 13 computers, equating to 1 computer per 2,008 people
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset Contributions Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32.5m² per 1,000 people • 1 computer per 2,000 people • 2.0 stock items per person
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Charlestown Contributions Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20.3m² per 1,000 people (this does not take into account the community / meeting space that is / will be located with the libraries) • 1 computer per 3,000 people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.7 stock items per person
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32.5m² per 1,000 people • 1 computer per 2,000 people • 1.7 stock items per person
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards based on NSW State Library Standards
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library space is included in general purpose community space
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District – 1 per 30,000 people • Branch – 1 per 5,000 people • 39m² GFA per 1,000 people for a branch library
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per 20,000 people

Identified:

- Extensive consultation was undertaken during the development of Council's Library Service Delivery Model that was adopted in November 2011. The Library Service Delivery Model recommended:
 - Swansea Library – currently a lifestyle library; retain as a lifestyle library;
 - Belmont Library – retain Belmont as a lifestyle library and review service and programming strategies, including investigation of housing community agencies or a commercial venture at the site. Review performance against KPI's in three years. If annual 5% incremental targets are not being achieved other options including relocating to shopfront status in a retail area will be investigated.
- Built in 2006, Swansea Library is modern and spacious, and co-located with other community facilities;
- Whilst spacious, Belmont Library has poor access, variable lighting, and the internal fit-out is reaching the end of its useful life. Therefore, the library requires refurbishment to meet the needs of the current and future population; and
- With a greater amount of resources being more accessible via the internet and through other electronic means, this has resulted in a decreased reliance on the library's physical stock, however there is still a need to ensure high levels of electronic stock/items.

Indicative:

- Public libraries provide important resources for disadvantaged residents including affordable access to information, skills/training resources, and leisure activities. With high levels of social disadvantage in Belmont South, Swansea and Marks Point, there is a significant need for ensuring that residents in these areas have access to public library services;

- The suburbs of Belmont and Swansea account for almost half of the residents aged 65 years and over in the Catchment. Older people are major users of public library services;
- Primary and high school students are also significant users of public libraries for both education and leisure. There are 11 schools located in the catchment, with the majority of these located around Belmont and Swansea;
- The Catchment has a lower proportion of dwellings with internet connection to that of the LGA, with the suburbs of Swansea and Blacksmiths having the lowest proportion of dwellings with internet connection. For these areas, publicly accessible computers with internet connection is essential, particularly for low-income residents and those requiring assistance in developing computer skills (eg older people, people with a disability, and school students).

Discussion:

- Libraries should be integrated with other community/civic facilities, or located as part of a commercial hub;
- In terms of numbers of library facilities, with two (2) facilities, Belmont CC has adequate facilities to cater for the existing need, as well as the forecast population growth. Additionally, the GFA of the two facilities is above existing normative standards, and will also be above the standards for the anticipated future population;
- However, with poor access, variable lighting and the internal fit-out reaching the end of its useful life, the library requires refurbishment to meet the needs of the current and future population;
- The libraries are well-located to cater for the areas which have high levels of social disadvantage, older people, school students, and those with limited access to the internet;
- Although the total physical stock items across the LGA is well below the NSW State Library standard, this does not take into account electronic stock such as e-books, e-audio and e-music. In addition, with such a large amount of physical stock (248,798 items) that is able to be accessed across the entire LGA, residents are able to be offered a wide variety of choice. Also, with a greater amount of resources being available on the internet and through other electronic means, there is reduced need for physical stock;
- Need to ensure the continued provision of electronic stock / items, which are generally more expensive to purchase and supply to the community; and
- The provision of public internet computers at the libraries is of high importance, especially to cater for those areas that have a large percentage dwellings that do not have internet connection.

Recommendations:

- Adopt a standard of 32.5m² per 1,000 people for future library facility provision. This is below the NSW State Library Standard, however is above the standard adopted for the Charlestown CC, and is consistent with the standard adopted for the Morisset, Glendale and Toronto Catchments. The standard takes into consideration the changing nature of libraries, as well as the fact that like the Morisset, Glendale and Toronto Catchments, the Belmont CC consists of a relatively dispersed population (rather than a highly urbanised population like the Charlestown CC);
 - In adopting this standard, it is recognised that there is (and will continue to be) a significant over-supply of GFA for library service provision - to meet the needs of the 2030 population of 33,359 people, a total of 1,084m² GFA is required, whilst there is currently 1,525m²;
 - However, in recognising that the internal fit-out of Belmont Library is reaching the end of its useful life, and will not meet the needs of the future population,

then utilise this standard for the repurpose / remodel of the existing facility for community cultural benefit;

- Therefore, to meet the needs of the additional 7,252 people, 236m² of existing library floor space will need to be repurposed / remodelled. – this represents approximately 15% that is attributable to new development, with the upgrade of the remaining 1,289m² of library space attributable to existing development;
- The priority for the allocation of the upgraded space is at Belmont Library.
- Adopt a standard of 1.7 stock items per person, with funds used to either purchase physical or electronic stock. Whilst this is below the NSW State Library Standards, this is reasonable given the high number of total stock available across the LGA, and takes into account the greater availability of resources through the internet and other electronic means. It is also consistent with the standard adopted for Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Catchments:
 - The forecast population growth of 7,252 people will therefore require an additional 12,328 stock items; and
- Adopt a standard of one (1) public internet computer per 2,000 people. Whilst this is higher than the NSW State Library Standards and that adopted for the Charlestown CC, it is consistent with that adopted for the Morisset, Glendale and Toronto Catchments. The Belmont CC is similar to the Morisset, Glendale and Toronto Catchments, which consists of a relatively dispersed population, rather than a highly urbanised population like Charlestown:
 - The forecast population of 33,359 will therefore require a total provision of 17 computers. This will require an additional 4 public computers.

8.7 Cultural Facilities

Existing Provision:

There are a number of specific arts/cultural/history groups that are located in the Catchment, and residents may also be involved in organisations that have an LGA or an area focus (eg Historical Societies, Lake Macquarie Family History Group). Some 40 community groups in the LGA undertake cultural activities including musical and theatrical performance, arts and crafts, writing and dance.

In addition to general purpose community facilities, libraries and school halls, which are used for cultural events including dance, music, theatre and visual arts, Council provides two (2) cultural facilities in the LGA. These service the Belmont CC, and are the:

- Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery (977m²) at Booragul – has a purpose-built gallery, sculpture park, workshop space, and café; and
- Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre (797m²) at Warners Bay – provides a venue for local performing arts including music, theatre, dance, and cultural group performances. The centre has a maximum capacity of 300 people and comprises a stage (suitable for theatre and film), orchestra pit, rehearsal room, and change rooms.

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performing Arts / Cultural Centre – 1:30,000 people
NSW Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performing Arts / Cultural Centre – 1:50,000-120,000 people ● Exhibition space / Art Gallery – 1:20,000-30,000 people

Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Gallery – 1:30,000-150,000 people • Performing Arts Centre – 1:30,000-50,000 people
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Comparative:

Belmont CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 art gallery for the LGA (204,166 people). This equates to 4.8m² per 1,000 people • 1 performing arts centre for the LGA (204,166 people). This equates to 3.9m² GFA per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities for the Morisset Contributions Catchment • For the Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5.0m² per 1,000 people for Art Gallery Space ○ 4.1m² per 1,000 people for Performing Arts space
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural facilities space is included in general purpose community space
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities

Identified:

- Lake Macquarie's *Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027* identifies the community's desire for quality cultural facilities within the City;
- Art Gallery lacks storage space and space for displaying its permanent collection; and
- Performing Arts Centre has limited lighting, sound, orchestra pit, and foyer facilities (including reception / box office, toilet and catering facilities).

Indicative:

- People of all ages attend cultural events, programs and activities, although older people and children are particularly represented. Over one-third (35%) of Belmont CC residents are aged 55 years and over, while 17% are aged under 15 years. Over

the period of 2015 to 2030, the proportion of those aged 55 years and over is expected to increase, whilst those aged under 15 years will decrease slightly.

Discussion:

- The demand for exhibition / convention centre space can be met by private facilities (both within the Lake Macquarie LGA, as well as the neighbouring Newcastle LGA) if there is the community demand;
- Space for museums can be considered as part of general community space, if there is community demand and identified need;
- There is a need to continue improve Council's cultural facilities (as identified in the *Lake Macquarie Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027*);
- The current Art Gallery is sufficient to cater for the needs of the existing population, however will require expansion to cater for the future population needs;
- The current Performing Arts Centre is sufficient to cater for the needs of the existing population, however will require expansion to cater for the future population needs;
- Council's general purpose community facilities are also utilised to cater for cultural activities (eg drama and dance groups).

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a standard for exhibition / convention space as this need can be met by private facilities if there is the community demand;
- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for museums, as this can be included as part of general community space, if there is community demand and identified need;
- For Art Gallery space, adopt a standard of 5.0 m² GFA per 1,000 people. This is comparable with the current levels of service provision, and is consistent with the standard adopted for the Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchments.
 - For the forecast population of the Belmont CC, this will result in an additional 36m² GFA, in order to provide space for exhibition of the permanent collection, and storage; and
- For the Performing Arts Centre, adopt a standard of 4.1m² GFA per 1,000 people. This is comparable with the existing level of service provision, and is consistent with the standard adopted for the Charlestown, Glendale and Toronto Contributions Catchments.
 - For the forecast population of the Belmont CC, this will result in an additional 30m² GFA, in order to enhance seating, reception / box office, toilet, performance and catering facilities.

8.8 Cemeteries

The NSW Department of Lands is the main land owner of cemeteries in NSW, although the management of these cemeteries is undertaken by either a Trust or by local Government.

In 2012, the NSW Government commenced a reform process, including the development of a single piece of legislation to streamline the management and governance of NSW cemeteries and crematoria on Crown, Local Government, and privately-owned land. The reforms are a way forward in securing and solving short and long-term burial needs for the people of NSW.

In the Lake Macquarie LGA, Council is responsible for the care, control and management of nine (9) cemeteries. Two of these, Belmont Cemetery and Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery, are located within the Belmont CC. The provision of Council's cemeteries services are on a user-pays basis.

Lake Macquarie City Council currently provides cemetery space for up to two hundred (200) burials per annum and upwards of eighty (80) ash interments per annum. With approximately 1,600 deaths per annum, this equates to about 20% of the overall interments. The balance of interments are catered for at private cemeteries, church cemeteries, interments outside the LGA, and largely through personal ash scattering or holding of urns.

Council has developed a Cemetery Strategy to examine current service provisions and management procedures and consider options for the future provision of cemetery services. Provision of capital works (eg establishment of additional gardens or walls) are undertaken on a needs basis.

Recommendation:

- Not adopt a standard for the provision of public cemeteries due to:
 - The State Government being responsible for the provision of land for cemeteries; and
 - That the provision of Council's cemetery service is on a user-pays basis.
- Utilise funds received from the users of Council's cemetery service for the enhancement/provision of additional facilities at Council's cemeteries, in line with the recommendations of the Cemetery Strategy and on a needs basis.

9. Future Facility Provision

Infrastructure Type	Belmont CC Service Standards	Indicative Staging of Provision		
		2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030
Community Space	160m ² per 1,000 persons	Provide an additional 514m ² of community space at the Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre	Provide 400m ² of community space at Catherine Hill Bay. This could be incorporated into the new recreation facility planned within the vicinity of the existing Bowling Club, or as part of the new Surf Life Saving Club redevelopment	
Library Facilities	32.5m ² per 1,000 persons Standard applied to the upgrading of existing facilities to ensure that they cater to the needs of the future population 1.7 stock items per person		Repurpose / remodel 236m ² of space at Belmont Library to meet the needs of the future population. The refurbishment of the remaining area is attributable to existing development.	
	1 public internet computer per 2,000 people	Additional 4,109 stock items	Additional 4,109 stock items	Additional 4,110 stock items
			Additional 4 public computers	

Infrastructure Type	Belmont CC Service Standards	Indicative Staging of Provision		
		2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030
Cultural Facilities	<p>5.0m² per 1,000 persons for Art Gallery space</p> <p>4.1m² per 1,000 persons for Performing Arts Centre space</p>		Expansion of Art Gallery to provide 36m ² of space for exhibition of the permanent collection and storage	Expansion of the Performing Arts Centre by 30m ² to enhance seating, reception / box office, toilet, performance and catering facilities

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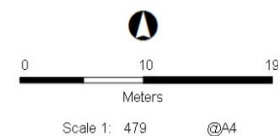
Appendix – Locations of Facilities identified for upgrade or expansion



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Location of the proposed expansion of the Swansea Combined Pensioners and Community Care Centre

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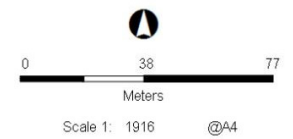




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Possible option for the location for community space at Catherine Hill Bay (to be incorporated into the new Surf Life Saving Club redevelopment)

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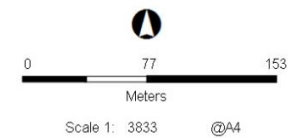




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**Possible option for the location for community space at
Catherine Hill Bay (to be incorporated into the new recreation
facility)**

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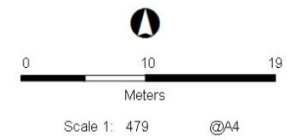


Location of Belmont Library - to be remodelled / refurbished



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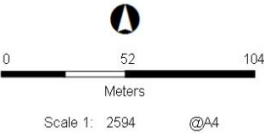


Location of expansion of the Art Gallery at Booragul



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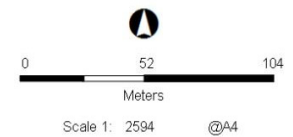


Location of expansion of the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre at Warners Bay



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Version History

Version No	Date	Details
1		Draft document for public exhibition
2	April 2018	Amended document identifying changes, as a result of public exhibition
3		Finalised document approved by Council

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