



Lake Macquarie City Council

Development Contributions Plan

Recreation and Land Plan

Belmont Contributions Catchment
2015 – 2030

Version History

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Recreation and Land Plan has been prepared to identify and analyse the existing and future needs of recreation facilities for the Belmont Catchment to 2030. The plan will inform the preparation of the Belmont Catchment Development Contributions Plan. It is forecasted that the Belmont Catchment will experience almost 28% population growth, through an additional 7,252 people, taking the total population to 33,359 by 2030.

A large proportion of this growth will come from expanding and new communities in the southern end of the catchment, particularly in the suburbs of Catherine Hill Bay, Pinny Beach, Murrays Beach, and Nords Wharf. In the northern end of the catchment, the suburb of Belmont will grow by an additional 1,049 people.

The plan identifies and quantifies the existing recreation facility provision, considers influencing factors including type, spatial distribution, recreation trends, standards of provision and recommends future facilities required for the projected growth. A local standard of provision is recommended and is formulated through the consideration of other local and citywide standards, recommended government standards, planning policies and guidelines, and spatial distribution.

Where additional facilities were identified for future growth, analysis of existing facilities and land, and the ability for expansion or reconfiguration of these, was considered first. In the instance this was not appropriate, then alternate locations were identified, and where required, land has been identified for either acquisition or provision of easements.

This recreation and land plan considers a wide range of recreation needs, and attempts to provide an appropriate balance of sport and recreation facilities to cater for the entire population including the increasing proportion of older adults. These new facilities will assist in providing a quality lifestyle for the future and existing communities of Lake Macquarie.

PART A - CONTEXT

1. Introduction

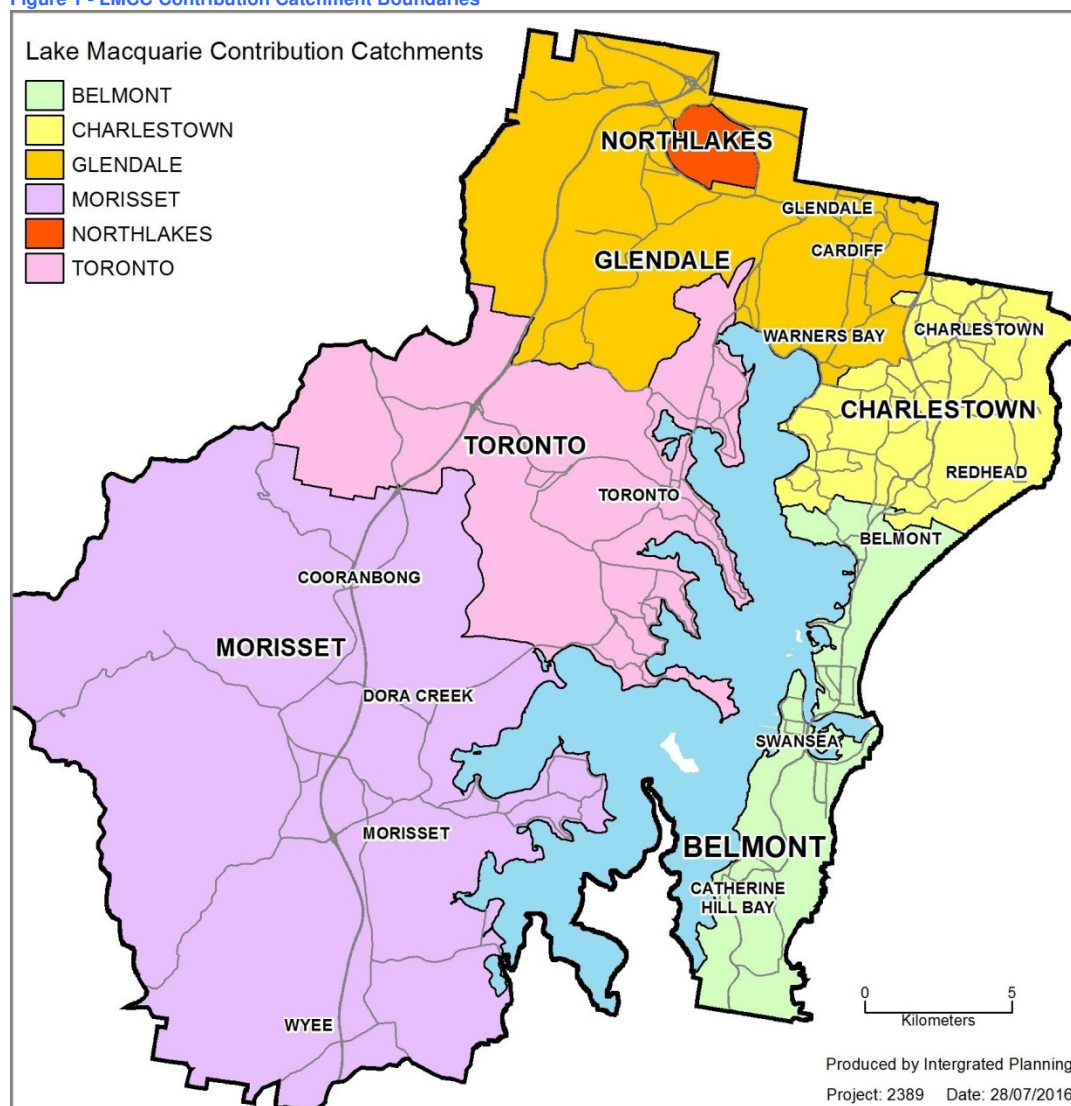
Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) has a large local government area (LM LGA) comprising 787.4 km². It is one of the largest cities in New South Wales and one of the fastest growing cities in the Hunter. The centrepiece of the city is Lake Macquarie, comprising 110 km². The lake is approximately twice the size of Sydney Harbour and recognised as one of the largest coastal saltwater lakes in Australia.

Effective planning of public recreation areas is essential to provide a quality lifestyle for the future populations of Lake Macquarie (LM). Quality parks and recreation facilities are integral to the liveability and successful growth of established and new communities. LMCC requires developer contributions to partially or fully fund new, and/or expand existing facilities resulting from new development. The NSW Department of Planning (DoP) has prepared draft guidelines recommending indicative standards, the nexus, and the contribution required from new development to meet the increased demand for infrastructure.

This plan draws on a range of studies and reports prepared for Council and the plan undertakes a needs assessment to determine standards for service provision in the Belmont Contributions Catchment (Belmont CC) to meet the future needs to 2030.

The Belmont CC is located on the south-eastern side of the LM LGA covering an area from Belmont to Nords Wharf and Catherine Hill Bay, the green shaded area in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1 - LMCC Contribution Catchment Boundaries



1.1 Vision

Our vision is '**applied imagination**'. *Lake Macquarie is a City with a lake at its heart encircled by distinctive towns and villages. We balance our cherished environments with our need for great spaces to live and visit, smart transport options and a thriving economy; which adapt and strive to be fair for all.*¹

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the plan are:

- To provide a living environment that has a strong quality of life, health and well-being focus
- To provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities that keep pace with the changing needs of the community
- To provide quality recreation facilities that encourages community participation into physical activity
- To consider a sustainable approach by expanding existing facilities, where possible, and co-locating facilities to maximise use
- To utilise the City's natural attributes to increase the provision of informal recreation facilities

1.3 Purpose

LMCC has prepared this Recreation and Land Plan to support and inform the preparation of a Development Contributions Plan (CP) for the Belmont CC. The plan has been prepared with an understanding of the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) guidelines.²

The purpose of this plan is to predict the recreation needs for the growth forecast in the Belmont CC and determine if the existing recreation land is able to meet those needs for the future. The plan identifies the facilities required and identifies the land to provide the proposed new or augmented facilities.

1.4 Scope of the Plan

The Belmont CC has a vertical band of urban development that follows the eastern boundary of the lake to Blacksmiths then it extends along the coast to Pinny Beach. Further south there are pockets of development in the suburbs of Murrays Beach, Nords Wharf and Catherine Hill Bay. The catchment has a range of community infrastructure provided by government, non-profit organisations and the private sector. This plan identifies the type, location and range of existing recreation infrastructure used by the population and specific target groups.

The plan also identifies a range of recreation infrastructure provided by non-profit organizations and the private sector, which may also cater for local needs. Non-Council facilities play an important role in the community, and Council has considered these facilities to reduce duplication and ensure the provision of a range of recreation facilities. Where private facilities are broadly available to the community, and if closed, would result in a major gap in service provision, these facilities have been included in the existing provision.

The existing provision may not include all the available recreation facilities but has focused on those recreation facilities primarily available for public use. This approach is consistent with Council's role as identified in the Local Government Act 1993.

1.5 Policy Context

LMCC has reviewed existing strategies, policies, plans and guidelines, which provide the framework for the development of future recreation facilities across the City and in the Belmont CC.

¹ LMCC (2017) *Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027: Our Future in Focus*, p. 7.

² NSW DoP (2009) *Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, and relevant directions/circulars released by the Department of Planning.

State and Federal Government Strategies

• NSW Making It Happen

The NSW Government is working to achieve 12 Premier's priorities and 18 state priorities to grow the economy, deliver infrastructure, protect the vulnerable, and improve health, education and public services across NSW. It is the NSW Government's strategic business plan, and sets priorities for action and guiding resource allocation. The relevant Premier priority for this plan is:

- Reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five per cent over 10 years.
 - The built environment where children live, learn and play is vital to their physical and mental health. Our cities and towns need to make it easy for people to be active and to easily access fresh, affordable, nutritious food – from local shops or nearby community gardens. This can only happen if health and urban design professionals work together on strategies to make walking easy, promote recreation, and provide open and green space.³

• Hunter Regional Plan 2036

The *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* will guide the NSW Government's land use planning priorities and decisions over the next 20 years. It provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions. The Hunter Regional Development Corporation (HDC) will deliver, coordinate and be accountable for the plan and will develop a Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan. Funding will be provided to growth areas for regional infrastructure for the transport, health, education and justice sectors and for open space.

There are four goals identified in the Hunter Regional Plan, with a total of 27 directions and 126 actions. Goal 3 – Thriving Communities, is the most relevant goal for this recreation and land plan. This goal identifies four directions and 13 subsequent actions including:

- Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design⁴
- Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreation facilities and connect open spaces⁵
- Direction 19 – Identify and protect the regions heritage⁶
- Direction 20 – Revitalise existing communities⁷

³ NSW Government (2017) *NSW Making It Happen*, Premier Priority 12.

⁴ NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2016), *Hunter Regional Plan 2036*, p.46

⁵ *Ibid.*, p.46

⁶ *Ibid.*, p.47

⁷ *Ibid.*, p.47

Local Government Strategies and Plans

• Lake Macquarie City Lifestyle 2030 Strategy

This strategy provides the long-term strategic directions for the future land use pattern for the City, based on achieving the principles of sustainability. The strategic directions relevant to recreation include:

- Strategic Direction 3 – A well designed adaptable and liveable city
- Strategic Direction 4 - A well serviced and equitable city
- Strategic Direction 6 - A city responsive to the wellbeing of its residents

The outcomes and intent statements relevant for the catchment include:

- Good quality neighbourhood (destination) parks are provided in close proximity to high density urban development⁸
- The pedestrian and cycle network is well maintained, more extensive and better utilised, including the completion of both commuter and recreational cycle ways such as the cycleway around the Lake⁹
- Urban development, including new release development, has a high degree of vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, such as by using a modified grid layout, pedestrian/cyclists friendly intersections, off road paths and linked open space¹⁰
- Augment pedestrian systems with improved cycle systems to extend the catchment of urban centres and key public transport systems. Measures will include:
 - Provision of cycleways and/or on-road cycle routes/lanes to all new developments, linking residential areas to: shops, schools, urban centres and public transport systems, such as public transport interchanges and train stations
- Centres are the fundamental building block of the urban structure of the LGA, and intended to be the focus for:
 - Safe, convenient, and accessible pedestrian, cycling and public transport
 - Places for social and community interaction and recreation
 - Higher density housing, and mixed-use development incorporating housing¹¹
- Cycle and Pedestrian Network:
 - LS2030 recognises the importance of the cycle and pedestrian network to the movement system
 - Cycle facilities should be provided so that cycling is an attractive, practical, and safe form of movement
 - Where possible cycle paths should be off road rather than on road, to increase safety and ensure the widest possible range of users¹²

• Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan

The *Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027* is a ten-year plan that sets out the long-term strategic direction of the city, and the community values include:

- Unique Landscape: a place where the natural environment (bushland, coast, lake and mountains) is protected and enhanced; where our existing urban centres are the focus of our growth, maintaining their unique characteristics.
- Lifestyle and Wellbeing: a place that encourages safe, active and social opportunities¹³

• Lake Macquarie Delivery Program and Operational Plan

The *Lake Macquarie City Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2017-2018* defines the strategic direction for our City. They state: 'The Lake, bushland, coast and mountains are important features of our City. Protecting and enhancing these features will remain a key focus and significant contributor to our lifestyle and wellbeing.'

The plan identifies our values and objectives, which include:

- Unique Landscape – our natural landscape is an integral part of our City's identity
- Lifestyle and Wellbeing – Our public spaces help us feel healthy and happy

⁸ LMCC (2013) *Lake Macquarie City Lifestyle 2030 Strategy*, Outcome 3.27, p. 16

⁹ *Ibid.*, Outcome 4.10, p. 18.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Outcome 4.11, p. 18.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 6.1, p. 25

¹² *Ibid.*, 6.2, p. 36 and 37.

¹³ LMCC (2017) *Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027* p. 16 and 17.

- Mobility and Accessibility – It is safe and easy to connect with others and get around our City
- Diverse Economy – Our City is a popular destination with a wide variety of experiences
- Connected Communities – Public spaces help connect us with each other and the world
- Creativity – Creative thinking drives our City¹⁴

• LMCC Ageing Population Strategy

LMCC has prepared an Ageing Population Strategy that identifies the impacts of an ageing population on the local area and provides a framework for response by Council and other key stakeholders. The strategy highlights the high level of people aged 65 and over within Lake Macquarie (18.3%) compared to the NSW average (14.7%), and the projections of this age group to grow to 25.3% by 2026.¹⁵ Research highlighted in the strategy found that 73.3% of people aged 60-69 years were overweight or obese in the Hunter Region and that LMCC residents had a higher than NSW average of not meeting the physical activity recommendation of 20 minutes exercise five days per week.

The strategy identified that parks and foreshore areas are popular with seniors particularly those with picnic facilities, toilets and pathways. Additionally the strategy outlines a work program that aims to ensure the continuous improvement in the provision of services and facilities for older residents. From this program two specific actions relating to recreation facility provision include the need to maintain a range of community and recreation facilities that are accessible and suitable for seniors; and the provision of outdoor exercise equipment in areas with high populations of seniors.

• Lake Macquarie Youth Strategy

The Youth Strategy provides a framework for the delivery of initiatives to address the needs of young people aged 12-24 years from 2014-2019. Through a literature review of internal and external relevant plans and policies, and consultation with youth, youth service providers and the general community, four key objectives were identified. *Objective 2 – Ensure that spaces, places and facilities are designed for and encourage use by young people* - is the most relevant objective for this Recreation Contribution Plan. This objective includes actions relating to the improvement of the youth friendliness of spaces and places, the access to these and increased opportunities for consultation in delivery.¹⁶

• LMCC Recreation Plan

In 1998, LMCC engaged H M Leisure Planning Pty Ltd to prepare a Recreation Plan for the City. The plan analysed existing trends, facility provision, population projections, and it included extensive community consultation. The plan recommends certain strategies and actions, which are included in the relevant sections of this plan. General trends identified include:

- A demand for a greater diversity of leisure opportunities and for sites which permit a greater diversity of socially-oriented, healthy activities
- A greater demand for active, non-competitive and participatory recreation experiences
- Participation in a far broader array of activities¹⁷

• Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy

In 2001, Council engaged URS to prepare an Open Space Strategy. A component of that strategy included a Recreation Participation Survey, which involved 1,400 households (200 in each of the seven planning districts¹⁸), and 3,519 residents of the City. Refer to **Appendix 1** for a map of the planning districts. Thirty-two different recreation activities in eight different settings were included in the survey.

Key findings of the survey¹⁹ included:

- The total participation time for soccer, tennis, football (AFL, RL, RU) and cricket combined, is less than half the total participation time spent 'walking for exercise'
- The dominance of 'walking for exercise' and 'swimming/surfing at a beach' as the two primary recreation activities throughout the LM LGA

¹⁴ LMCC (2016) *Lake Macquarie City Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2017-2018*.

¹⁵ LMCC (2008) *Ageing Population Strategy 2014-2017*, p. 14.

¹⁶ LMCC (2014) *Lake Macquarie Youth Strategy 2014-2019*, p.16-17

¹⁷ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 2*, prepared by H M Leisure Planning Pty Ltd, p. 27.

¹⁸ The study area of this plan combines the Cardiff and West Wallsend Planning Districts (refer to Appendix 1).

¹⁹ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, p. 4-7.

• Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan

In 1996, LMCC engaged Clouston to prepare an Open Space Plan. The recreation demand survey revealed that outdoor recreation is a significant activity in the City. Non-organised recreation activities are the most popular with walking and associated family based activities dominating. The recreation survey revealed that the Lake Foreshore is the most popular setting, with beaches second most favoured.²⁰ Two thirds of the population take part in organised sport, with sporting activity popular with the younger age groups. The plan identified that whilst there are many sports venues in the City, these facilities are often not well developed. Improved co-operation and sharing of facilities were identified as important initiatives to pursue as were multiple use.²¹

The plan recommends the following principles be considered as the foundation for all future strategies that address recreation in the City:

- Recreation planning should be aimed at capitalising on and conserving the City's natural attributes provided by the beach, lake, bushland and mountains
- A balance of structured and non-structured recreation facilities should be provided²²

• LMCC Sports Facility Strategy

In 2016, Council adopted the Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2020.²³ This strategy focuses on the provision of facilities to meet the demands for outdoor organised active sports participation up to 2020. The strategy was informed by an audit of sports facilities, quantitative and qualitative surveys of sporting clubs and associations, requests for improved facilities, and an analysis of trends for organised sports participation.

The strategy identifies a Strategic Action Plan focusing on four key areas of facility provision; quality and suitability; facility management; and sport development and promotion. A 15 year works schedule is included for the provision and prioritisation of future sports facilities. This works schedule has been considered in developing this contribution plan for the Belmont Catchment.

• LMCC Community Satisfaction Research

LMCC engaged Micromex Research to undertake a community survey to examine community attitudes and perceptions towards current and future services and facilities provided by Council. The survey was conducted during the period 23 February – 12 March 2016 and 1,002 residents aged over 18 years were interviewed.

In relation to recreation, Council's core strengths include the 'appearance of City parks' and 'picnic and BBQ areas' and these were identified as areas that should be maintained or improved as they are clear community needs. In regards to the provision of new community facilities, parks and playgrounds were identified by 24% of residents.²⁴

• Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan

The LMLEP 2014 provides the statutory framework for planning in the local government area by identifying land use zones and planning provisions including permitted and prohibited uses within each zone.²⁵ One of the aims of LMLEP 2014 is to promote the efficient and equitable provision of public services, infrastructure and amenities.

The RE1 Public Recreation zone identifies land to enable the use of public open space or recreational purposes and the RE2 Private Recreation zone identifies land to enable the use of private open space and recreational purposes. This Plan will assist in informing the LMLEP 2014 on the future needs for public and private recreation zoned land.'

²⁰ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, prepared by Clouston, p. 20

²¹ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 2*, prepared by Clouston, p. vi

²² *Ibid.*, p. 26.

²³ LMCC (2016) *LMCC Sports Facility Strategy*

²⁴ LMCC (2016) *LMCC Community Satisfaction Research: April 2016, Ibid.*, p. 34.

²⁵ LMCC (2014) *Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan*

- **Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan**

The LMDCP 2014 was adopted by Council in February 2014 and was prepared to implement the Lifestyle 2030 Strategy and LMLEP 2014 by facilitating ecologically sustainable development.²⁶ The LMDCP incorporates Town Centre, Heritage, Precinct Area Plans and Town Centre Area Plans, which are relevant for this catchment.

The Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area is identified in Part 11 of the Heritage Area Plans. Catherine Hill Bay is identified as one of only two state heritage listed towns in NSW as the Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct. The original town in Clarke St through to Middle Camp and the adjoining coastline forms part of the curtilage of this state listed site. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage states 'The Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct comprises picturesque and distinctive historic townscapes forming the oldest group of buildings in Lake Macquarie, set in land/seascapes of exceptional aesthetic and technical significance, both visually and as an archaeological resource for industrial heritage'.²⁷ The DCP Heritage Area Plan for Catherine Hill Bay identifies the land area, the history and existing character, specific issues relating to the precinct, context and setting and site coverage. Any proposed development within this heritage curtilage will be required to consider the DCP Heritage Area Plan for this important state heritage listed area.

- **Lake Macquarie Heritage Guidelines**

The Lake Macquarie Heritage guidelines are designed to assist Council in meeting its responsibilities in regards to heritage and in performing in a fair and just manner.²⁸ Within the Belmont Catchment, the guidelines identify the significance of the Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Area. Specifically for Catherine Hill Bay, the guidelines consider aims and objectives, heritage, respect for fabric, the streetscape and the bulk of new development. Any proposed development within this heritage curtilage will be required to consider the Heritage Guidelines for this important state heritage listed area.

- **Lake Macquarie S94 Contributions Plan – North Wallarah**

The LMNW 2004 was adopted by Council on 13 December 2004 and came into force on 20 December 2004, superseding the original plan from August 2000.²⁹ The plan was prepared in response to the proposed development of North Wallarah urban release area (NW URA). This plan identified a number of recreation facilities (both new and upgrades of existing) that would need to be developed to service this new community.

As part of the development of the new Belmont Catchment Developer Contributions Plan, the existing North Wallarah contributions catchment has been included within the Belmont catchment and thus form part of this plan. The previous North Wallarah Contributions Plan will be superseded, with the recreation needs for the NW URA being considered in the context of the entire Belmont catchment.

²⁶ LMCC (2014) *Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan*

²⁷ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (2010) *State Heritage Listing - Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct*

²⁸ LMCC (2004) *Heritage Guidelines*

²⁹ LMCC (2004) *Lake Macquarie Section 94 Contributions Plan – North Wallarah*

PART B – DEMOGRAPHICS

The Belmont CC is located on the eastern side of the Lake Macquarie LGA as shown in Figure 2. The catchment covers an area of 49.95 km² and includes the suburbs of Belmont, Belmont South, Blacksmiths, Cams Wharf, Catherine Hill Bay, Caves Beach, Little Pelican, Marks Point, Murrays Beach, Nords Wharf, Pelican, 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.

Figure 2 - Belmont CC - Catchment Boundary



In 2015, the Belmont Catchment had an estimated population of 26,107 persons comprising approximately 13% of the total population of the LGA. 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.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics'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 in the LGA. Higher median ages are located in the suburbs around the lake channel including Swansea (49), Blacksmiths (46), and Pelican (45). Lower median ages are located in Murrays Beach (39) and Belmont South (39);
- The catchment has significantly more people aged 65 years and over (21.4%), compared to the LGA (18.4%), with a high proportion located in Swansea and Blacksmiths;
- More younger families reside in Murrays Beach and Belmont North (indicated by a higher proportion of children aged under 10 and adults aged 25-40);
- More older families reside in Swansea Heads, Nords Wharf, Caves Beach and Belmont South (indicated by a higher proportion of children aged 10-19 years and adults aged 40-54 years);
- Analysis of family structures indicates that couples without children are higher in Swansea and Pelican; Couples with children are higher in Swansea Heads, Nords Wharf and Murrays Beach; One parent families are higher in Belmont South and Marks Point;
- Areas that have a high proportion of single person households include Swansea, Marks Point and Blacksmiths, indicative of the large number of seniors living housing, 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. The catchment has a higher unemployment rate, with the highest rates found in 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;
- 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, with high rates found in Pelican (94.4%) and Swansea Heads (94.0%);
- 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%), while a high proportion of apartments are located in Marks Point (25.0%) and Belmont (15.5%) compared to 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 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% in the LGA), with the highest in the suburbs of Belmont South (15.3%) and Marks Point (11.8%). There are also significant numbers of public housing in the suburbs of Belmont and Swansea;
- According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Belmont South, Swansea and Marks Point experience very high levels and Blacksmiths high levels of social disadvantage. This could be attributed to residents having lower levels of education, incomes, and skilled occupations and higher unemployment levels than those living in other suburbs. Low levels of disadvantage are experienced in Catherine Hill Bay,

Cams Wharf and Murrays Beach.

1.6 Future Population

The Belmont CC is expected to reach 33,359 persons by 2030. This population projection is an increase of 7,252 persons from 2015, as illustrated in the following plan. New residents are expected to be concentrated in the following five (5) suburbs, which account for 91% of the total growth in the Catchment;

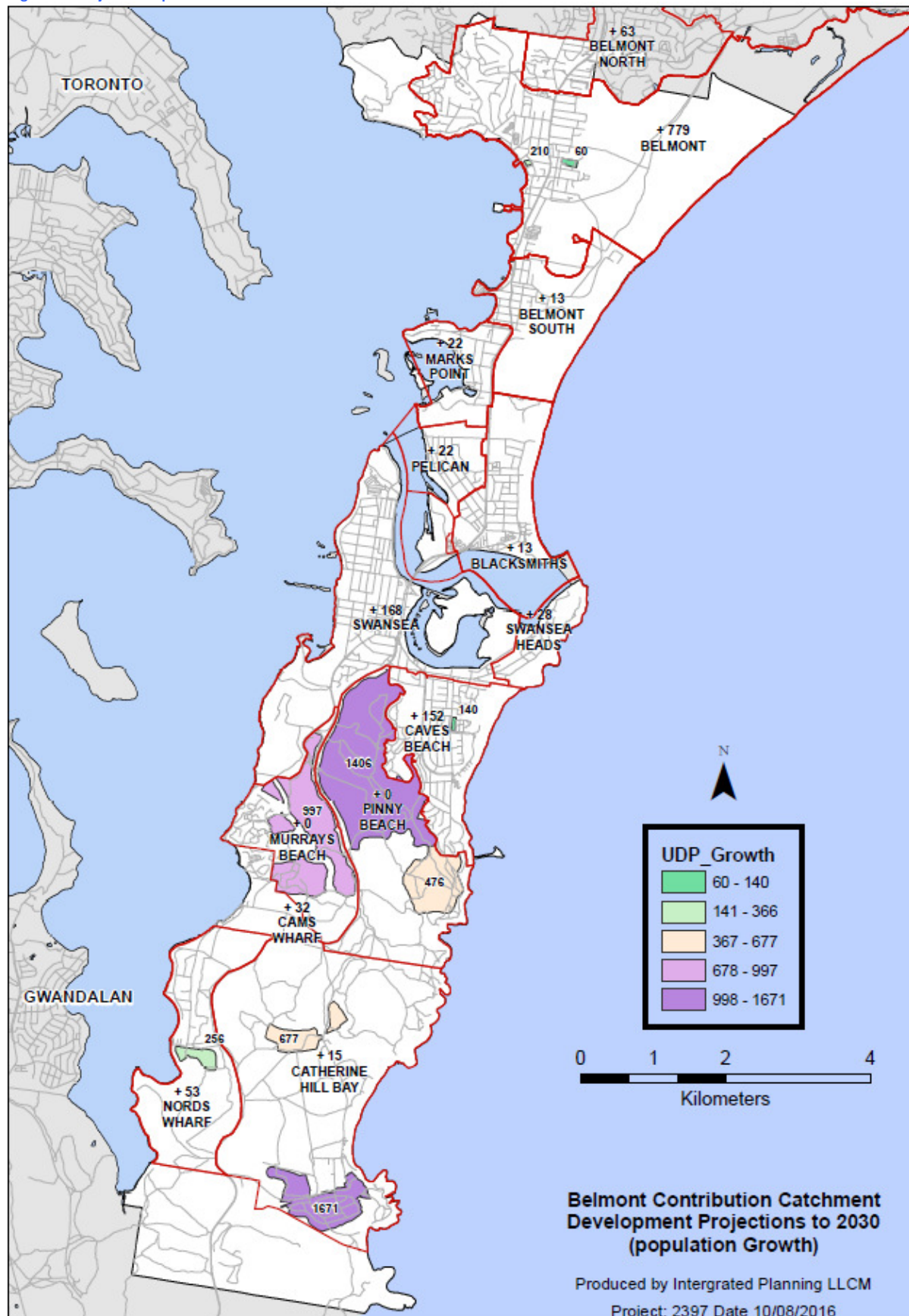
- Catherine Hill Bay, with an additional 2,363 persons (1,382% increase) will reach a total population of 2,534 people;
- Pinny Beach, currently undeveloped, is expected to house 1,882 people;
- Belmont, with an additional 1,049 persons (15.4% increase) will reach a total population of 7,868; and
- Murrays Beach, with an additional 997 persons (276% increase) will reach a total population of 1,359 people.
- Nords Wharf, with an additional 309 persons (37.4% increase) will reach a total population of 1,133 people.

Table 1. Forecast Demographic Profile of Belmont Contributions Catchment

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	1882
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

Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Belmont Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

Figure 3 - Projected Population Growth to 2030



Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Belmont Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

The age profile of the Catchment is expected to change significantly from 2015 to 2030, as shown in **Table 2**.

- 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%;
- 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.

Most suburbs are 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.

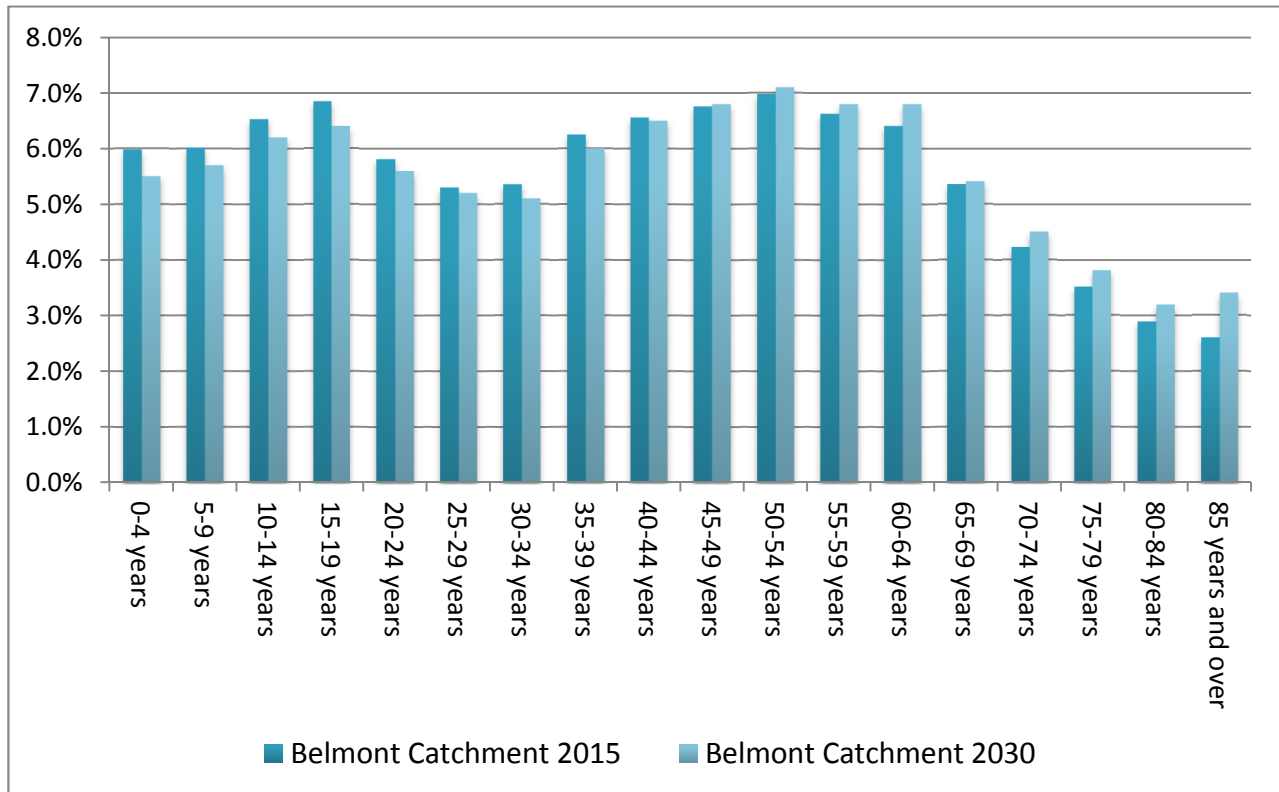
Table 2. Forecast Age Profile of Belmont Contributions Catchment

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

Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Belmont Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

While 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 groups. As indicated in **Figure 4**, 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 4 - Changing Demographic Profile of Belmont CC



Source: LMCC (2016) Residential and Employment Generating Development Projections – Belmont Contributions Catchment 2015-2030

PART C – RECREATION

2. Background

Lake Macquarie is a council positioned around a vast saltwater lake and bordered on the east by the coastline. It has an older population profile compared to federal or state levels, and this trend of an ageing population is likely to continue into the future. The Recreation Participation Survey of Lake Macquarie residents undertaken in 2001, highlights a strong preference for informal recreation activities such as walking for exercise, swim/surf at beach, golf, spectator at sports, swim public pool, picnic/BBQ, lawn bowls, exercise the dog, cycling, children to playground.³⁰

National Research from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) identified that there is an increasing trend towards non-organised sport. The total participation rate for non-organised physical activity was 70.8% in 2010. Most participants engaged partially or fully in non-organised activity (86.1%).³¹ In 2010, the total participation rate for organised physical activity was 40.0%. About half of all participation in physical activity was partially or fully organised (48.6%) with the total participation rate in club-based physical activity was 25.7%.³²

This plan provides an increase in the provision of informal recreation opportunities, and upgraded and expanded facilities for organised sport.

2.1 Future of Recreation Infrastructure

In developing this plan, several factors were considered including the range of recreation opportunities, current standards, hierarchy, quality, and asset maintenance.

- **Recreation Opportunities**

Historically, Council has primarily focused on the provision of sports fields, tennis and netball courts, parks, and playgrounds, in the recreation realm. In an evolving landscape, the community's expectation is for a diverse range of recreation opportunities with flexibility in participation. Informal recreation facilities that allow for unorganised activities, in addition to traditional recreation provision meet this expectation. With an increasing ageing population, the need for large parks that provide a range of activities, shared pathways (off-road cycleways), tracks and trails, community gardens and men's sheds is increasing.

- **Standards of Provision**

This plan considers the existing local provision, the existing citywide provision, and compares these with the guidelines prepared by NSW DoP. The *Draft Development Contributions Guidelines* provides indicative population thresholds³³ and the *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government* (R&OSG) provides standards for open space planning in NSW based on radius or maximum distance from most dwellings. The R&OSG recommends the development of locally specific provision standards that take into account likely or expressed community needs and local circumstances.³⁴ LMCC has taken this approach of identifying locally appropriate provision standards for various facility types.

- **Hierarchy**

The plan aims to provide a hierarchy of provision, which may mean some facilities are more fully developed, providing greater recreation opportunities and a higher capacity. The Lake Macquarie Variety Playground at Speers Point Park and its high level of use demonstrates that people are prepared to travel to a quality facility. Rather than Council providing numerous small facilities with limited recreation value, this plan recommends the provision of some larger facilities that have more supporting infrastructure and provide greater recreation opportunities.

³⁰ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, summary of participation by activity - graph 4.2.

³¹ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport: Annual Report 2010 State and Territories Tables for NSW*, p. 2.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 3.

³³ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*.

³⁴ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, Table 4, p. 28.

- **Quality**

The new residential development within the Belmont catchment includes both infill development within existing areas and greenfield sites. Many new residents will have access to existing open space and recreation facilities, which may need to be upgraded to cater for the additional use. New facilities may also be provided where required to serve this expanding population, however, it is preferable to upgrade existing infrastructure where possible. Providing higher quality infrastructure that better serves the community, is preferable than providing higher quantities of a lesser quality and size. Therefore improvements and upgrades to existing infrastructure may be a better solution to meet community needs and has added benefit of a more efficient use of resources. The aim is to provide quality recreation infrastructure to serve the new populations in both greenfield and infill areas. Ensuring that recreation infrastructure is of a reasonable quality to support increased community use is an important component of best practice.

- **Asset Maintenance**

Council is responsible for the continued maintenance of new and existing assets. Asset maintenance is a considerable burden on many Councils and LMCC with its extensive LGA is no exception. Where appropriate this plan recommends the enhancement of existing recreation infrastructure, particularly sporting facilities, playgrounds and parks, which may be expanded to cater for the additional population.

- **Climate Change**

Climate change impacts, such as the increase in the frequency and severity of storms, and sea level rise may require climate change-related risk management, which results in higher maintenance costs associated with heat stress, storms and bushfires. Sea level rise is particularly important for this catchment due to the extensive lake foreshores and Swansea Channel. It is projected that sea level rise could increase by 0.4m from 2011-2050 and by 0.9m from 2011-2100³⁵. This sea level rise is an important consideration on the provision of new recreation infrastructure on low lying lake foreshores.

2.2 Methodology

The following key indicators were considered in determining the level of provision, the range, and location of recreation facilities.

- **Existing Provision** – details on the current facilities provided to the community. Both public and private facilities were considered, as these are the total existing facilities that service the need.³⁶
- **Population Growth** – the location of any development areas, moderate infill development and higher density development
- **Identified Need** – the combination of various surveys, plans, guidelines, strategies and Council reports, identify future needs
- **Comparative** – considers service equity by comparing the provision within the catchment, the provision within the LGA, and the relevant planning standards
- **Best practice** – considers industry standards, best practice guidelines and new service models
- **Analysis** – provides the basis on the locally appropriate standards and the analysis of the above
- **Recommendations** identifies the locations of the proposed new work which is prioritised according to:
 - High priority works – short-term up to 2023
 - Medium priority works – mid-term up to 2028
 - Low priority works – long-term 2028 and beyond

This plan considers all of the above key indicators and provides a broad spectrum of recreation facilities, aimed at encouraging increased recreation participation. This is consistent with Council's Community Plan goal 'a city responsive to the well-being of its residents'.³⁷

³⁵ LMCC (2012) *Lake Macquarie Waterway Flooding and Tidal Inundation Policy*

³⁶ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines*, Matters for Consideration, p. 92.

³⁷ LMCC (2008) *Lake Macquarie Community Plan 2008 – 2018*, section 2.1.

3. Sports Grounds

A sports ground is an area that has been developed and improved with associated infrastructure for use by organised or competition sport. The ground may comprise one or a number of sports fields, ovals or courts.

The actual area of a sports ground differs from the area of land categorised as sportsground, as detailed in the *LMCC Community Land Plan of Management (PoM)*, and included in **Part D** of this plan. The land categorised sportsground often includes the entire parcel of land which may not be used entirely for sport and it includes land identified for the possible future development of a sports ground.

The actual area of a sports ground refers to the total area including sporting fields, amenities, access road, car park, and spectator facilities. It includes the surrounding grassed area but does not include natural areas within the parcel retained for environmental purposes.

3.1 Existing Provision

Eleven sports grounds are located within the Belmont catchment. However, the City has two significant sporting facilities, the LM Regional Football Facility, and the Hunter Sports Centre. Since people travel to use these facilities, a proportion is attributed to each catchment in the City.

Table 3. Belmont CC - Sports Ground – Existing

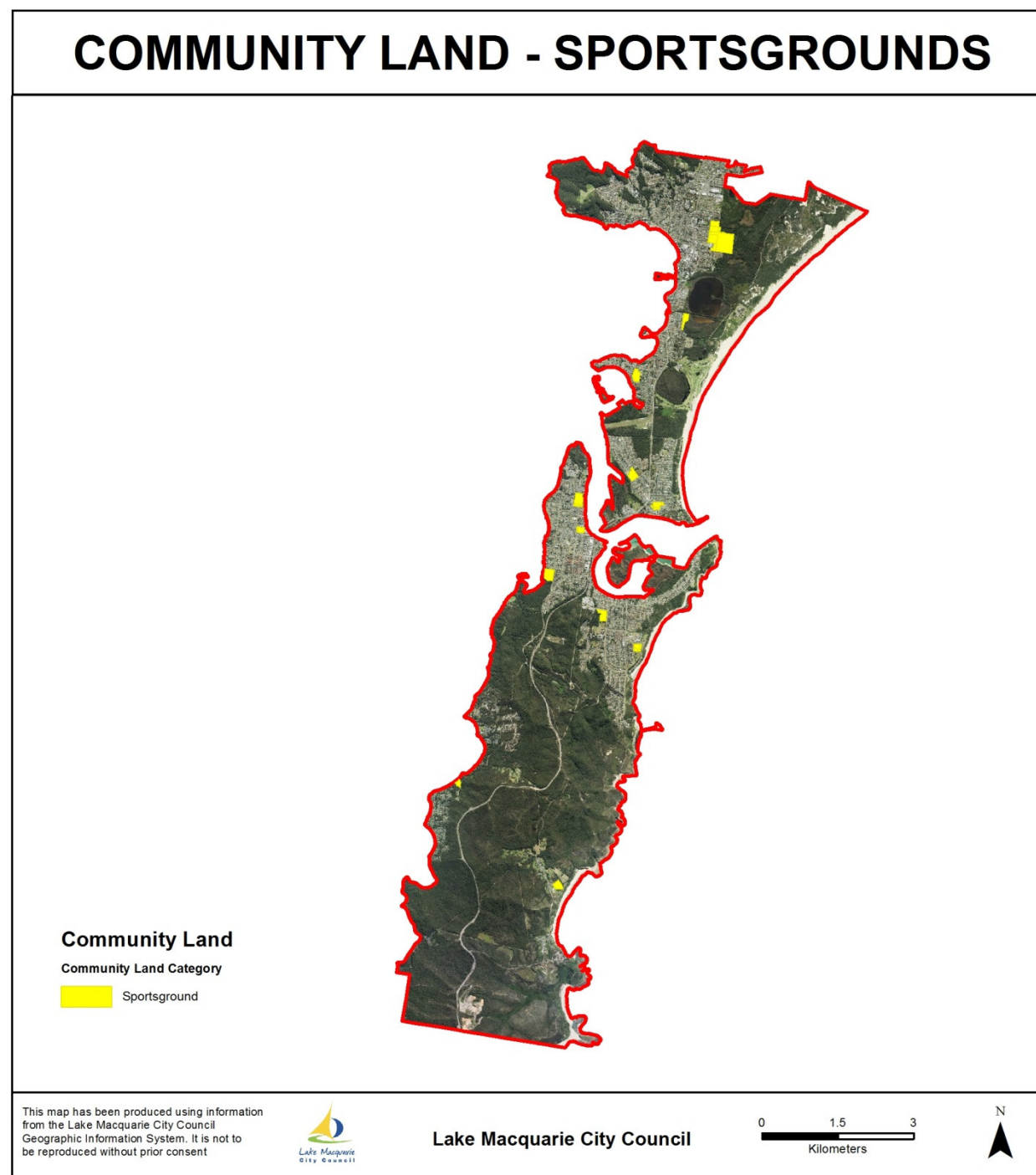
SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	ACTUAL HA	NO. OF SPORTS GROUNDS
SMALL SPORTS GROUND			
BELMONT SOUTH	McEwan Reserve	1.9	1
BLACKSMITHS	Blacksmiths No 1 Oval Blacksmiths Tennis	2.2	1
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Oval	2	1
CAVES BEACH	Park Avenue Reserve Caves Beach Tennis Caves Beach Netball	3	1
MARKS POINT	Baxter Field	3.2	1
NORDS WHARF	Nords Wharf Oval	1.1	1
PELICAN	Aitcheson Reserve	2.8	1
SWANSEA	Parbury Park Swansea Tennis	3.4	1
SWANSEA	Quinn Park	1.5	1
MEDIUM SPORTS GROUND			
SWANSEA	Burrallana Reserve / Chapman Oval	5.3	1
MAJOR SPORTS GROUND			
BELMONT	Cahill Oval (exclusive use) Barton Fields Lumsdon Fields Miller Field Belmont Macquarie Tennis Molly Smith Netball	19.4 0 0 0 0 0	1
CITY SPORTS GROUND			
GLENDALE	Hunter Sports Centre & Warm up field	0	1
SPEERS POINT	Norm Johnson Field Old Tredinnick North Lakes	0	1
TOTAL SPORTSGROUNDS		45.8	13

The sports grounds are shaded yellow in the following plan. The existing provision includes sportsgrounds with only one field/oval, however, the recommended minimum for future provision is two sports fields with a cricket wicket between.

Table 4. Belmont CC – Sports Ground - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	FIELD/OVALS
Small Sports Ground	up to 5 ha	1 km	1 to 2
Medium Sports Ground	5 to 10 ha	2 kms	3 to 5
Major Sports Ground	over 10 ha	3 to 5 kms	5 plus
City Sports Ground	Any size	City catchment	Any amount

Figure 5 - Belmont CC - Sports Grounds - Existing



4. Sports Fields

A sports field is a flat area of land used to play sport. It is usually a rectangular or oval area, grassed or synthetic surface, developed for a sporting use in accordance with current standards. Sports fields are located in sports grounds and used for the following sports: AFL, archery, athletics, baseball, cricket, equestrian, rugby league, rugby union, soccer, and softball.

4.1 Existing Provision

There are 22.5 fields attributed to the Belmont CC. This includes 21.5 fields located within the Belmont catchment, a proportion of the city facilities attributed to this catchment.

LM has two city facilities, the Hunter Sports (Athletics) Centre, and the Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility and both are located in the Glendale catchment. These city fields are apportioned to the six contributions catchments recognising users travel from all parts of the city to use these facilities.

Table 5. Belmont CC – Sports Fields – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	EXISTING USE	NO. OF FIELDS/OVALS	SUMMER & WINTER USE
SPORTS FIELDS IN BELMONT CATCHMENT (ACTUAL)				
BELMONT	Cahill Oval (exclusive use)	cricket, soccer, league	1	●
	Barton Fields	cricket, league	3	●
	Lumsdon Fields	cricket	2	
	Miller Field	cricket, baseball	1	
BELMONT SOUTH	McEwan Reserve	cricket	1	
BLACKSMITHS	Blacksmiths No. 1 Oval	soccer	1	
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Oval	cricket	1	
CAVES BEACH	Park Avenue Reserve	equestrian	1	●
MARKS POINT	Baxter Field	athletics, soccer	1	●
NORDS WHARF	Nords Wharf Oval	soccer	0.5	
PELICAN	Aitcheson Reserve	cricket, soccer	2	●
SWANSEA	Chapman Oval	cricket, soccer	3	●
SWANSEA	Parbury Park	cricket, rugby league	2	●
SWANSEA	Quinn Park	cricket, soccer	2	●
SUB-TOTAL SPORTS FIELDS/OVALS			21.5	
CITY SPORTS FIELDS				
GLENDAL/SPEERS PT	Apportionment 6.5 fields* / 6 catchments		1	
TOTAL CITY FIELDS/OVALS (attributed to this catchment)			22.5	

*CITY SPORTS FIELDS include:				
GLENDAL	Hunter Sports Centre	athletics, soccer	1	●
	Warm up field		0.5	●
SPEERS POINT	LM Regional Football Facility			
	Norm Johnson Fields	soccer	2	
	Old Tredinnick	10 football	2	
	North Lakes	soccer	1	
TOTAL CITY REGIONAL FIELDS/OVALS			6.5	

The Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility is a modern state of the art soccer complex completed in 2014 at a cost of \$11.3 M. The facility includes:

- 10 x 5 a side synthetic football courts
- 2 international standard full size synthetic football pitches
- A multi-purpose administration building of approx. 1,500 m²
- A sealed car park catering for at least 120 cars

Within the catchment, there are also junior fields in schools, which may be available for public use.

The number of sports fields were calculated using a generic sports field model, rather than assessing each individual sporting code. This approach is based on the highest number of fields/ovals used at any period in time, either summer or winter. A junior field is half a field and can include a junior cricket oval, junior soccer field or a mini-rugby league field. **Appendix 2** provides examples of what constitutes a generic sports field and the method of calculating sports fields in LM.

The development of multipurpose sports fields, catering for a range of sporting codes, provides a more efficient use of recreation land (often referred to as open space). Council can reallocate fields to different sporting codes depending on demand/participation rates, which provides greater flexibility as community needs can change over time.

4.2 Identified Need

The following survey, strategies and plans demonstrate the identified needs for sports fields:

• ERASS

The Exercise, Recreation, and Sport Survey (ERASS) was a joint initiative of the Australian Sports Commission and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation, which were conducted on an annual basis between 2001 and 2010.

ERASS collected information on the frequency, duration, nature and type of activities participated in by persons aged 15 years and over for exercise, recreation or sport during the 12 months prior to interview. This survey included active 'playing' participation, and does not include coaching, refereeing, being a spectator or activities related to work, household chores or gardening duties. The survey was conducted quarterly in 2010, with an annual 21,603 respondents across Australia.

According to the ERASS 2010 annual report, the participation rates for NSW for Australian rules football is 1.7%, athletics/track & field is 0.7%, baseball is 0.3%, cricket (outdoor) is 3.4%, football (outdoor) is 6.5%, horse riding/equestrian is 0.8%, rugby league 2.1%, rugby union is 1.2%, softball is 0.4%, and touch football is 4.4%. These participation rates would be higher if the survey included children less than 15 years of age.

• Sports Facility Strategy

Council updated its *Lake Macquarie City Council Sports Facility Strategy 2015 - 2020* (Sports Strategy). The strategy provides direction on the future development of most sports facilities in LM. It identifies the sporting clubs in the LGA including AFL, athletics, BMX, cricket, football/soccer, netball, rugby league and rugby union but not tennis. A separate tennis strategy is to be prepared.

As part of the development of the Sports Strategy, Council engaged with the sporting clubs and associations in the LGA. Issues raised include the need to improve amenities buildings, seating, shade, storage, car parking and improved playing surfaces. Part 2 of the Sports Strategy identifies the projects to be funded by Council's Capital Works Program and by developer contributions. The Sports Strategy has identified the following projects within the Belmont catchment.

Table 6. Belmont CC – Sports Facility Strategy – Projects Schedule

Years 1 - 5	Years 5 - 10	Years 10 - 15
BELMONT – Belmont Ovals – floodlights – 2 fields	BELMONT – Belmont Ovals – Amenities, car park, access road, lighting, field upgrade	BELMONT – Miller Field – Amenities building, supporting infrastructure, car park, fencing
SWANSEA – Parbury Park – Amenities and car park – <i>complete</i>	BELMONT – Molly Smith Netball – Car parking	CAVES BEACH – Caves Beach Netball Courts – Amenities building, supporting infrastructure
	CATHERINE HILL BAY – CHB Oval upgrade	NORDS WHARF – Nords Wharf Oval – Upgrade amenities, car park
	MARKS POINT – Baxter Field, Floodlighting	
	PELICAN – Aitcheson Reserve - Floodlighting	
	SWANSEA – Parbury Park- Floodlighting	

Source: LMCC (2016) *Sports Facility Strategy 2015 – 2020*

• Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy recommends the upgrading of existing sports fields and recreation facilities to increase their capacity to provide for more intensive and multiple uses.³⁸

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan recommends and identifies certain actions including:

- Plan a hierarchy of sports facilities
- Except in population growth areas, do not create any additional sports grounds
- Improve multi-use capacity of sports grounds³⁹

4.3 Comparative

The DoP in the Draft LDCG has not specified an indicative population threshold for generic sports fields, but rather, it specifies an indicative population threshold for each individual sport. Based on the assumption that each field has a summer and a winter sporting use, the indicative population threshold for a generic field, not including hockey, is one field for every 1,400 population. Refer to **Appendix 3** for the analysis upon which this population threshold has been derived.

The Belmont catchment has a higher level of provision of sports fields than the citywide (LM LGA) provision and higher level than the assumed indicative standard (guidelines). However, many of these are single use and cater to only summer or winter season. The existing fields will be upgraded and reconfigured rather than new facilities constructed as planned previously in the *LM Section 94 Contributions Plan North Wallarah (2004)*.

Table 7. Belmont CC – Sports Fields – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF SPORTS FIELDS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC (attributed to catchment)	26,107	22.5	1,160
Belmont CC (actual)	26,107	21.5	1,214
LM LGA	200,849	141.5	1,419
Guidelines *			1,400
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			1,500

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

LMCC uses a recommended standard of provision of one field for every 1,500 persons, which is reasonable and achievable for the future provision.

4.4 Best Practice

The Draft LDCG recommends the following best practice guidelines:

- Ovals, sports grounds – consideration should be given to co-location of facilities to maximise usage e.g. cricket and AFL
- Recreation amenities buildings – should service more than one field and different sports⁴⁰

Wherever possible, sports fields should accommodate year round use (summer and winter sport). Dual use arrangements include cricket and football; athletics and AFL; rugby union and rugby league; rugby league and touch football. The most common arrangement is two full sized soccer fields with sufficient area for a cricket wicket in between, and sufficient surrounding area for the cricket oval.

4.5 Analysis

There is a higher provision of sports fields in this catchment, however, a number of the existing fields/ovals are single use/single season facilities, and many are in poor condition. The best practice approach provides a facility able to be used in summer and in winter, which maximises the use of the facility and the recreation land required. This approach is preferable rather than providing single use fields, which are idle for half the year.

As population densities increase, the demand for sports fields will also increase. Since land in or near the urban growth areas is steeply sloping and unsuitable, there will be an increased pressure on existing facilities to provide the increased capacity required.

³⁸ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, p. 6-1.

³⁹ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, 4.3.1, p. 78.

⁴⁰ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 93.

The need for good soil profiles, irrigation, drainage, and pest and weed management will increase the carrying capacity. Looking further into the future, where turf fields fail to provide for the demand, synthetic playing surfaces, or a hybrid system or natural grass and synthetic turf, may be required to cater for a more intensive use. Amenities buildings have an estimated 50-year life span and new buildings can be designed to accommodate multiple users.

4.6 Recommendations

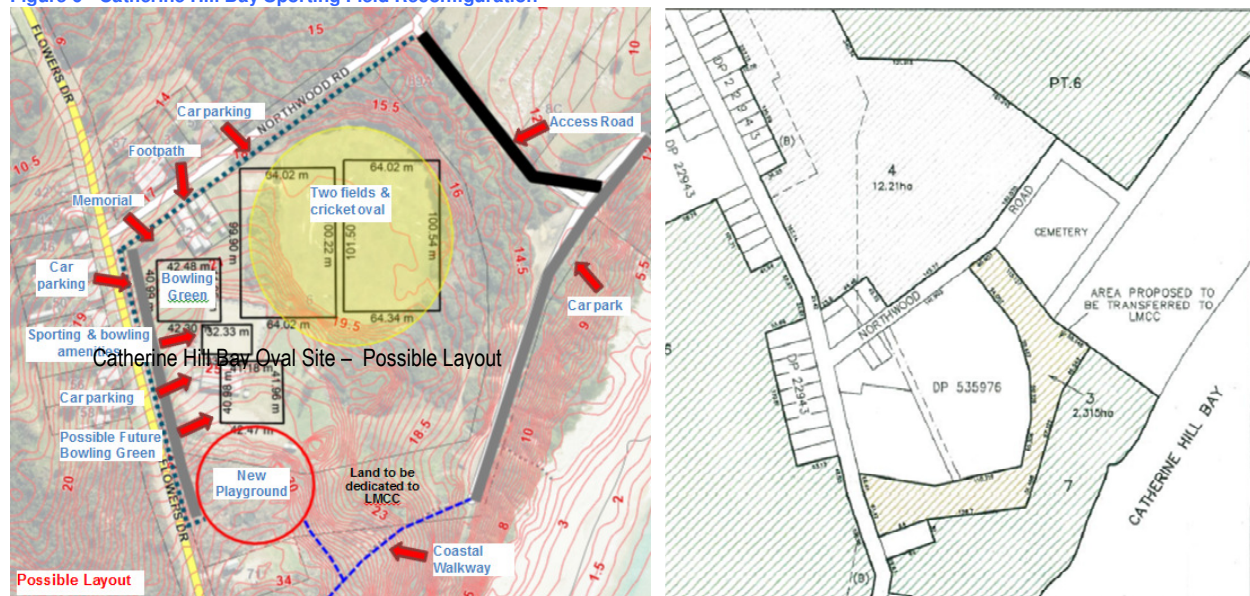
This catchment will experience increased population growth particularly in the south. The recommended approach taken is to reconfigure and upgrade the existing facilities, where possible, to cater for this growth. The following fields within the Belmont CC will require infrastructure improvement and in some cases reconfiguration to maximise the capacity to meet the needs of the growing community.

Table 8. Belmont CC – Sports Fields – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF FIELDS/ UPGRADES	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Belmont Sporting Complex	Sports fields – upgrade amenities	1	Medium
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Oval	Sports fields – upgrade & additional field	1	Medium
TOTAL SPORTING FIELDS			2	

One of the key recommendations for sports fields is the reconfiguration of the Catherine Hill Bay Oval. The proposal involves the dedication of the adjoining land, which will allow the expansion of the existing oval to accommodate two senior football equivalent fields enabling summer and winter use. The bowling green may need to be relocated on-site and a new joint amenities building providing for the multiple users. A new playground, car parking, pathways and linkages to the coastal walk, is also proposed. The following plan indicates a possible layout; however, a master planning process, with community engagement will be undertaken to explore the best layout considering the existing and future needs.

Figure 6 - Catherine Hill Bay Sporting Field Reconfiguration



5. Sports Courts

Sports courts are typically tennis or netball courts, but can also include croquet or petanque pistes. The catchment has a high provision of tennis and netball courts. To increase the variety of recreation opportunities in the City, the combination of tennis and netball into sports courts allows a more flexible approach for court provision.

5.1 Existing Provision

The sports courts within the Belmont catchment are listed in the following table. In addition, there are a number of sports courts within the schools grounds, which are not included in the existing provision.

➤ Tennis

The catchment has 19 tennis courts, which includes a major tennis facility of eight courts. In addition, there are four private tennis courts at Raffertys Resort and one court at the Swansea Gardens Holiday Park available for use by paying guests. These private courts have not been included in the existing provision, as they are not available for general public use.

Table 9. Belmont CC – Tennis Courts – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	NO. OF TENNIS COURTS
SMALL		
BLACKSMITHS	Blacksmiths No. 1 Oval	3
MEDIUM		
CAVES BEACH	Park Avenue Reserve	4
SWANSEA	Parbury Park	4
MAJOR		
BELMONT	Belmont Macquarie Tennis	8
TOTAL TENNIS COURTS		19

The existing provision has been collated according to the following hierarchy, which includes tennis centres with one or two tennis courts. However, a **four-court** centre is the preferred minimum requirement for future provision, as larger tennis facilities tend to have higher levels of use.

Table 10. Belmont CC – Tennis Courts - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	NO. OF COURTS
Small Tennis Centre	0.5 ha	1 km	1 - 3 courts
Medium Tennis Centre	1.2 ha	2 km	4 - 7 courts
Major Tennis Centre	1.5 + ha	5 + km	8 courts +

➤ Netball

The catchment has 32 netball courts with one major venue at Belmont containing 28 of the 32 courts in the catchment. This is a competition facility, which draws players from the neighbouring catchment to play in competition events. However, this competition venue is also used for local training and the number of courts used for training is estimated in the following table.

Table 11. Belmont CC – Netball Courts – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME / LOCATION	NO. OF COURTS FOR TRAINING	NO. OF COURTS FOR COMPETITION	TOTAL NETBALL COURTS
TRAINING				
CAVES BEACH	Park Avenue	4		4
COMPETITION				
BELMONT	Molly Smith Netball	14	24	28
TOTAL NETBALL COURTS				32

The hierarchy for netball, which is considered appropriate for LM LGA is outlined in the following table. The recommended requirement for a new netball facility is a minimum of **two-courts** with land available for future expansion to a four-court facility.

Table 12. Belmont CC – Netball Courts - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	NO. OF COURTS
Netball Training Centre	1.5 ha	2 km	1 - 6 courts
Netball Competition Centre	4 + ha	10 + kms	12 + courts

➤ Croquet

Croquet is a term used for mallet sports played on grass courts. Croquet games include association croquet, golf croquet, gateball and ricochet. Croquet is one of the few games that can be played by people into their 80's and with the population ageing, the popularity of croquet is likely to increase in the future. The Macquarie City Croquet Club currently play on the ex-bowling greens at Pelican, however, this site has been on-sold and the croquet club at this time do not have an alternate venue for relocation.

➤ Petanque

There are no petanque pistes in the catchment.

5.2 Identified Need

The following survey, strategy and plans demonstrate the need for sports courts.

• ERASS

The ERASS survey is an Australian participation survey and it includes persons aged 15 years and over who participated in physical activity for exercise, recreation, and sport over a 12-month period prior to interview in 2010.⁴¹ According to the ERASS 2010 annual report:

Tennis has a 6.8% total participation rate and netball has a 3.0% participation rate.

However in Lake Macquarie, netball is the second highest participated sport in the City, the majority of participants are female, and netball is gaining in popularity, in NSW⁴²

• Tennis Australia

In 2010, Tennis Australia undertook the largest national study conducted by a sport to gain a clear understanding of the tennis consumer. The sample size was over 8,300 people, covering all capital cities and regional areas within each state and territory and included people aged from five to 75 years. Key insights include:

- The highest participation rates are in the 5-9 and 10-15 year age groups
- The sport (tennis) contributes strongly to the social cohesiveness of our community and provides a safe and healthy sport and social environment for Australians of all ages and abilities. Tennis is truly a sport for life and a sport for all.⁴³

Tennis Australia has prepared a guide to consider future growth when planning and designing your facility that includes the optimum orientation for tennis courts is north south. The guide outlines the estimated total land area required for a 2-court centre is 0.32 ha and 1.05 ha for a 4-court centre. Any design should also accommodate future growth.⁴⁴

• Sports Strategy

The *LMCC Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2020* applies to Council provided sporting facilities, which includes netball courts, but it excludes tennis and croquet courts. The strategy indicates that junior netball participation rates are double the participation rates of seniors, as the participation of females in organised sport decreases noticeably into the teen years.

⁴¹ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*

⁴² NSW Netball Association Ltd (2011) *Netball NSW: 2011 Annual Report*

⁴³ Tennis Australia (2011) *Tennis 2020: Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis*, p. 8, p.1.

⁴⁴ Tennis Australia (2013) *National Tennis Facility Planning and Development Guide*, p 15.

5.3 Comparative

The DoP in the Draft LDCG has specified indicative population thresholds for tennis and netball, as indicated in the table below.⁴⁵

The LMCC Recommended standards for the LGA are:

Tennis – the rate of provision used for tennis is one court for every 2,200 people, which is similar to the existing provision - LM LGA.

Netball – the rate of provision used for netball is one court for every 2,000 people, which is similar to the existing provision - LM LGA

Combining tennis and netball means a rate of provision for a sports court is one court for every 1,100 persons.

Table 13. Belmont CC – Sports Courts – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF COURTS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
TENNIS			
Belmont CC	26,107	19	1,374
LM LGA	200,849	97	2,071
Guidelines *			1,800
NETBALL			
Belmont CC	26,107	32	816
LM LGA	200,849	98	2,049
Guidelines *			3,000
RECOMMENDED STANDARD SPORTS COURTS			1,100

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

Combining tennis and netball equates to a current rate of provision of sports court in the Belmont CC of 1:512, compared to 1:1,030 for the LGA. This is due the largest complexes for both netball and tennis being located in the Belmont CC.

These standards are 'indicative only' provided as a guide and not intended to be a finite definition of need and not Government Policy. Croquet and Petanque have not been included in the above figures as there are no recommended guidelines for these sports. Council has approved a six court croquet facility within the Glendale Catchment Contributions Plan, however considering the distance of this facility to the Pelican/Swansea area, the older age group that croquet appeals to, and the increasing older population in the catchment, the provision of a second small croquet facility on the eastern side of the lake is considered appropriate.

5.4 Best Practice

Some councils are adopting a multi-purpose approach where tennis, netball and sometimes basketball utilise the same court space. This approach is common for indoor facilities and provided the practical and management issues are resolved, they may be suitable for some outdoor training facilities. A detailed design is required to demonstrate how both sports will play on the same court given the differences in court sizes, surfacing, and pole removal and management arrangements will need to be determined.

Tennis - Some councils are building purpose built modified courts specifically for children. This is in accordance with MLC Hot Shots, a strategy by Tennis Australia aimed to increase participation of primary school aged children.⁴⁶ Modified courts can be provided on existing or new courts and can be various sizes to suit different ages and skill levels. One full sized tennis court can accommodate four modified 'red courts' (11 m x 5 m - 5.5 m) and two full sized tennis courts can accommodate five modified 'orange courts' (18.5 m x 6.5 m). The decision to build a number of modified courts instead of a full sized court will be determined at the design stage.

Netball - can have multiple uses including tennis, netball, soccer, or basketball. This multi-purpose approach may be suitable for training courts but not for competition courts. LMCC has installed a movable basketball pole on the netball court at Gregory Park, West Wallsend. This enables informal use of the court for basketball when the court is not in use for netball.

⁴⁵ NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines

⁴⁶ Tennis Australia (2011) Tennis 2020: Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis, p. 5.

Croquet - A comparison of other council areas provides an indication of the possible need for croquet facilities. Newcastle City Council has a four-court croquet facility at National Park and Maitland City Council has a four-court croquet facility at Maitland Park. This is in addition to other smaller venues in the council areas.

5.5 Analysis

Tennis – The catchment has nineteen council tennis courts. Based on the rate of provision of one court for every 2,200 people there is an over provision of 7 tennis courts. The catchment is fortunate to have a major tennis centre comprising eight courts at Belmont.

The *Lake Macquarie Section 94 Contributions Plan - North Wallarah (2004)* identified a three-court tennis centre within the lake or coastal sector.⁴⁷ The identified site is a local park in the Lake sector, which has environmental constraints to 50% of the site area, leaving a useable area of 0.4Ha. Consequently, there is limited space to provide the proposed three tennis courts, a park area and a playground. Given the high provision of tennis courts within the Belmont catchment, the location of four court tennis centres at Swansea and Cave Beach, and the constrained site area, it is recommended to replace the three tennis courts with alternate recreation facilities in the park.

Multi-purpose courts are increasing in popularity. They can include opportunities for netball, basketball, and batball (tennis hit up walls) on full or half sized courts. Multi –purpose courts have the benefits of being free to use, flexible in use and accessible at all times of the day. When not in use these courts also provide a hard stand area for children to play handball, ride bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblade. When compared to the provision of tennis courts, multi-purpose courts have the added benefit of a lower asset life/maintenance cost.

This plan recommends to provide a multi-purpose court, in replacement of the tennis courts at Murrays Beach as detailed in section 6.3 and 6.4 of this plan. In addition, it also recommends installing lights at the Swansea Tennis Centre.

Netball – The catchment has 32 council netball courts and based on the LM rate of provision of one court for every 2,000 people there is an over provision of approximately 13 netball courts. This is due the major competition venue of 28 netball courts at Belmont. This venue provides competition netball courts for the eastern and northern section of the LMCC LGA, resulting in the higher rate of catchment provision. This plan recommends upgrading the Caves Beach netball venue to cater for the new population. These netball courts provide the closest club and training venue to the projected new southern communities

Croquet – A six-court croquet facility is planned for 118A T C Frith Avenue Boolaroo. While it is expected that this facility could service the LGA, the distance of this facility to older residents on the eastern side of the lake (in the Belmont Catchment) is considered too great and the provision of a smaller second facility is warranted. With the existing croquet facility at Pelican due to be lost due to the private sale of the land, Councils assistance in securing a future site for the development of a small two court facility, is considered appropriate. With the Belmont catchments 65 years and older age group increasing from 18.6% to 20.3% (an increase from 4,848 to 6,771 people), the provision of recreation facilities to meet the demands of this group is essential.

⁴⁷ LMCC (2004) Lake Macquarie Section 94 Contributions Plan: North Wallarah, Appendix C, Item 10, page 47 and Appendix E, Item 3, page 51.

5.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for sports courts in the Belmont CC are:

Table 14. Belmont CC – Sports Courts – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF SPORTS COURTS	PRIORITY
CAVES BEACH	Caves Beach Netball	Upgrade amenities	1 (equivalent) court	High
SWANSEA	Swansea Tennis	Upgrade & provide lighting	1 (equivalent) court	Medium
SWANSEA	Parbury Park	New – croquet facility	2 courts	High
TOTAL SPORTS COURTS			4	

There are no recommended standards for the provision of croquet courts. The provision of 1:1,100 directly relates to netball and tennis sports court provision. As stated above, the provision of the new croquet courts is considered an essential requirement for the expanding older community within the catchment.

6. Multi-purpose half-courts

Multi-purpose half-courts are outdoor recreation facilities that contain basketball hoops, netball rings and/or tennis hit up walls, also known as bat ball courts. These facilities are usually located in conjunction with a playground, skate park, or a sporting area. In Lake Macquarie, they are usually a half basketball court; however, LM has provided a full sized basketball court or a smaller half circle. They provide the major opportunities for young people for 'unstructured' play and the 'playground equivalent' for children over 9 years of age.⁴⁸

6.1 Existing Provision

The catchment has two (2) multi-purpose half-courts and one at the Swansea Gardens Lakeside Holiday Park, which has not been included in the existing provision. All are located in the north of the catchment.

Table 15. Belmont CC – Multi-purpose Half-courts – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	NO. OF MULTI-PURPOSE HALF-COURTS
BELMONT NORTH	8A Somerset Street	1
MARKS POINT	Baxter Field	1
TOTAL MULTI-PURPOSE HALF-COURTS		2

6.2 Identified Need

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions under 4.17 and one strategy identified is:

A variety of play venue sizes is achieved and a greater diversity of age groups and abilities are served including provision of skate facilities, multi-use courts, graffiti walls, 'rage cages'⁴⁹

6.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not specify an indicative population threshold for multi-purpose half-courts; however, it does specify a population threshold for basketball courts, which is one court for every 1,800 persons. The guidelines mention that 'not all facilities for basketball will need to be provided to a competition standard' and 'it may be possible to meet some of the demand through the provision of half courts'⁵⁰ Lake Macquarie does not provide any basketball courts but it does provide multi-purpose half courts.

Table 16. Belmont CC – Multi-purpose Half-courts – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF OUTDOOR BASKETBALL / MULTI-COURTS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	2	23,172
LM LGA	200,849	10	20,085
Guidelines *			1,800
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			15,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

6.4 Analysis

The recommended standard of provision of one multi-purpose court for every 15,000 persons is close to the existing provision. However, as stated in section 5.5 of this report, a multipurpose court is recommended to be provided in Murrays Beach in replacement of tennis courts that had previously been identified. While the provision of this multi-purpose court provides a higher level standard of provision, it does reduce the further over supply of tennis courts and addresses the spatial nexus identified in this isolated community. There are no viable options to provide traditional sporting fields in Murrays Beach and the provision of a multi-purpose court provides an alternate active recreation facility for this new community.

⁴⁸ Hornsby Shire Council (ND) *Unstructured Recreation Strategy: Volume 1*, p. 29, [In Hornsby - these facilities are called ball courts]

⁴⁹ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 38.

⁵⁰ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines*, p. 93.

6.5 Recommendations

The recommendation is for a multi-purpose court to serve the new development area of Murrays Beach.

Table 17. Belmont CC – Multi-purpose Half-courts – Proposed Location

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF MULTI-PURPOSE COURTS	PRIORITY
MURRAYS BEACH	Lakeside Sector - Local Park	new multi-purpose court	1	High
TOTAL MULTI-PURPOSE HALF COURTS			1	

7. Parks

Parks are an integral part of Lake Macquarie City Council's open space network and green corridors. They provide opportunities for families, friends, larger groups and the general community to come together for recreation, relaxation, and the celebration of community events. They help build social capital and a sense of place and assist in improving the health and wellbeing of the community.



Baxter Park, Nords Wharf

For the purposes of this section, a park is generally a maintained grassed area, embellished with park facilities. While the *LMCC Plan of Management for Community Land* (adopted 2011) has numerous parcels of land categorised as park, many of these have not been embellished and include road buffers, detention basins, or are irregularly shaped or too small in size. These parcels are not considered park but have been included in the Open Space section of this plan (Part D).

In determining the size of a park, areas that adjoin including natural, sporting areas or leased facilities are not considered part of the park. The park size only includes the area used as a park.

The existing parks detailed in Table 19, have been assessed according to the park hierarchy identified in Table 18 below. This hierarchy provides guidelines for determining local, neighbourhood, major and catchment parks and is the recommended standard for LMCC. This guideline utilises both park size and catchment (how far people travel) in determining the park hierarchy.

Table 18. Belmont CC – Park – Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	APPROXIMATE SIZE HA	CATCHMENT
Local Park	0.5 – 1 ha	400 m - 800 m
Neighbourhood Park	1 to 5 ha	2 km
Major Park	5 -10 ha	5 km
Catchment Park	10+ ha	10 km

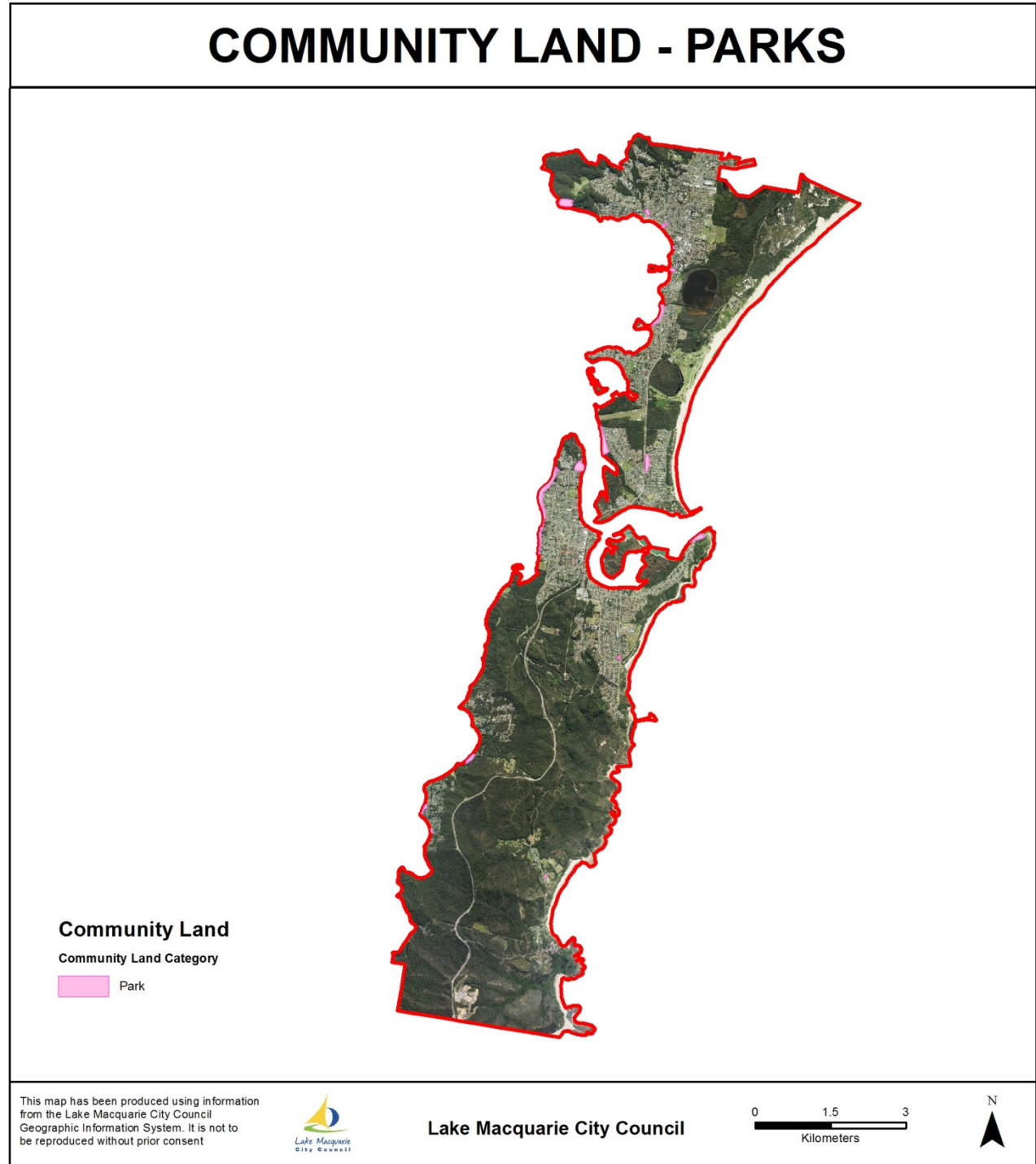
7.1 Existing Provision

The following parks are within the Belmont CC and shaded pink in the following map:

Table 19. Belmont CC – Park – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	STREET	PARK SIZE HA	NO. OF PARKS	TOTAL
LOCAL					12
BELMONT	Laughlin Reserve	65 Tudor Street	0.4	1	
BELMONT	Green Point, Cardiff Pt Quarry	180 Ross Street	0.8	1	
BELMONT	Cullen Park	656 Pacific Highway	0.5	1	
BELMONT	Belmont Rotary Park	50 Gerald, 27, 29, 31, 47 Marks St	0.4	1	
BLACKSMITHS	Dobinson Reserve	1A Pacific Highway	2.3	1	
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Flowers Drive Park	6 Northwood Road	0.3	1	
CAVES BEACH	Caves Beach Road Reserve	124A Caves Beach Road	0.52	1	
MARKS POINT	Ron Ferry Park	Swan St, Village Bay Cl, Marks Point	0.1	1	
NORDS WHARF	Baxter Park	62A Marine Parade	0.8	1	
NORDS WHARF	Gathercole Reserve	118A marine Parade	0.4	1	
SWANSEA	Humphreys Reserve	15 Wallarah Street (channel)	1.7	1	
SWANSEA HEADS	Reids Reserve	7A Lambton Parade	0.9	1	
NEIGHBOURHOOD					6
BELMONT	Belmont Lions Park & Foreshore Res	38,40 Macquarie St & road	1.1	1	
BELMONT SOUTH	Belmont South Foreshore Res	690A Paley Crescent	2.5	1	
CAMS WHARF	Wrightson Park	15A Crangan Bay Drive	2.1	1	
MURRAYS BEACH	Lake Foreshore Reserve	11B Saltwater Row	2.08	1	
PELICAN	Pelican Foreshore Reserve	1A Lakeview Parade	4.1	1	
SWANSEA	Swansea Western Foreshore	3A Lakeside Drive (lake)	9.6	1	
MAJOR					0
CATCHMENT					0
TOTAL PARKS			30.06		18

Figure 78 - Belmont CC - Parks - Existing



7.2 Identified Need

The following surveys, plans, strategies and guidelines demonstrate the identified need.

• NSW Making It Happen

The NSW Government is committed to improving health across NSW. One of the 12 Premier's priorities is to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five per cent over 10 years. This priority specifically identifies the importance of access to and promotion of recreation and the provision of open and green space.

• Draft Centres Design Guidelines

DoP has prepared design principles to guide the future development of centres, including:

- Analyse the opportunities to make new public spaces in the form of parks and squares when planning the renewal or revitalisation of an existing centre
- Parks and squares can give relief from urban environments; provide places for recreation and entertainment, places for meeting people but also places of solitude
- Ensure buildings front onto and overlook parks and squares with openings, balconies and terraces to allow passive surveillance and improve internal outlook⁵¹

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies actions and relevant strategies for the catchment, including:

- Develop lookout point along the coast and on higher reserve land
- Improve local paths and coastal parks through the provision of seating, signs, shade path improvements
- Continue to implement the Green Point Reserve Plan of Management with the exception of the recommendations relating to dog use⁵²

• Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy specifically identified the concept of a Lake Foreshore Regional Park. It states that 'existing sections of Lake Foreshore Park in which paths and other facilities have been developed are very popular open space areas and LMCC is seeking to extend the Lake Foreshore Park along the whole edge of Lake Macquarie. The strategy identifies a number of opportunities to rezone sections of the lake foreshore.⁵³ The proposal to extend the public accessibility of the foreshore both the lake and coastal is in keeping with this recommendation.

An open space participation survey was undertaken as part of the strategy and the results indicated that:

- 'taking children to playground' – had the highest participation rate
- 'informal games' – had the highest participation rate
- 'picnic/barbeque' had the second highest, with a participation rate higher than most sports such as soccer, tennis, cricket football, netball and athletics.

In relation to the future development of the City, the consistent themes included:

- Need for good forward planning to accommodate expected growth
- Acquisition of the lake foreshore is important⁵⁴

• Open Space Plan

The survey undertaken as part of the open space plan prepared by Clouston identified that:

- The most popular open space settings were developed foreshore parks (25%), natural bushland (19%) and beaches (16%)
- Parks with a large range of facilities (65.3%) were preferred
- Lake oriented recreation areas (62.1%) were preferred to beach oriented recreation areas (29.4%)
- Promote Lake Macquarie as a tourist destination, based on its recreation activities
- Land swaps and private owners to bring more foreshore into public ownership
- Acquisition of lake foreshore land seen as important⁵⁵

⁵¹ Ibid., NSW DoP (2011) *Draft Centre Design Guidelines*, Department of Planning Sydney, p. 48, and 49.

⁵² LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 66.

⁵³ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, p. 6-6, p. 57, 66.

⁵⁴ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, refers to Graph 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.20.

7.3 Comparative

The LDCG has not specified an indicative population threshold for the provision of parks. However, the guideline does provide a standard of one playground for every 500 dwellings, or a distance of 400 metres from a dwelling.⁵⁶ If the population threshold for a park is the same as for a playground, then based on an average occupancy of 2.5 persons per dwelling one park per 1,250 persons is the assumed population threshold. Refer to **Appendix 4** for additional information on various standards and guidelines.

Table 20. Belmont CC – Park – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF PARKS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	18	1,450
LM LGA	200,849	137	1,466
Guidelines *			1,250
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			1,400

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

In developing the LMCC recommended standard, the LDCG for playgrounds was utilised in conjunction with the actual provision in the catchment. The recommended park standard of one park for every 1,400 persons is similar to the actual provision within the catchment and considered reasonable for the future population.

7.4 Best Practice

The guidelines prepared by DoP are a best practice guide to assist Councils in planning their investments in open space and recreation. The guideline identifies opportunities and options such as:

- Acquiring larger sites for multiple and changing uses over time-larger sites can support multiple uses
- Reserving areas for expansion will provide flexibility as new needs emerge. Maintenance costs are minimised where there are fewer but larger open space areas⁵⁷

This plan generally supports the future provision of fewer local parks but larger neighbourhood and major parks due to their higher levels of use.

7.5 Analysis

There are 18 parks within the catchment as illustrated in **Figure 6**. Based on the recommended standard of one park for every 1,400 persons the existing level of provision for parks is adequate.

Future provision requires a major park in the catchment. This has been identified for the 155 hectare Green Point Foreshore Reserve in Belmont. It is proposed to include picnic and BBQ facilities, playground, recreation tracks and BMX track within this natural bushland setting. The provision of six new or upgraded parks for the catchment is identified below.

7.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for parks for the Belmont CC are:

Table 21. Belmont CC – Park – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PARKS	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Green Point Foreshore Reserve	Park – new	1	Medium
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Beach - SLSC	Park – new coastal park	1	Medium
CAVES BEACH	Caves Beach – SLSC & beach	Park – expand coastal park	1	Medium
MURRAYS BEACH	Lake Forest Drive	Park – new	1	High
PINNY BEACH	Northern Sector	Park - new	1	Low
SWANSEA	Town Centre Park	Park – new town park	1	Medium
TOTAL PARKS			6	

Some of the key recommendations for parks are:

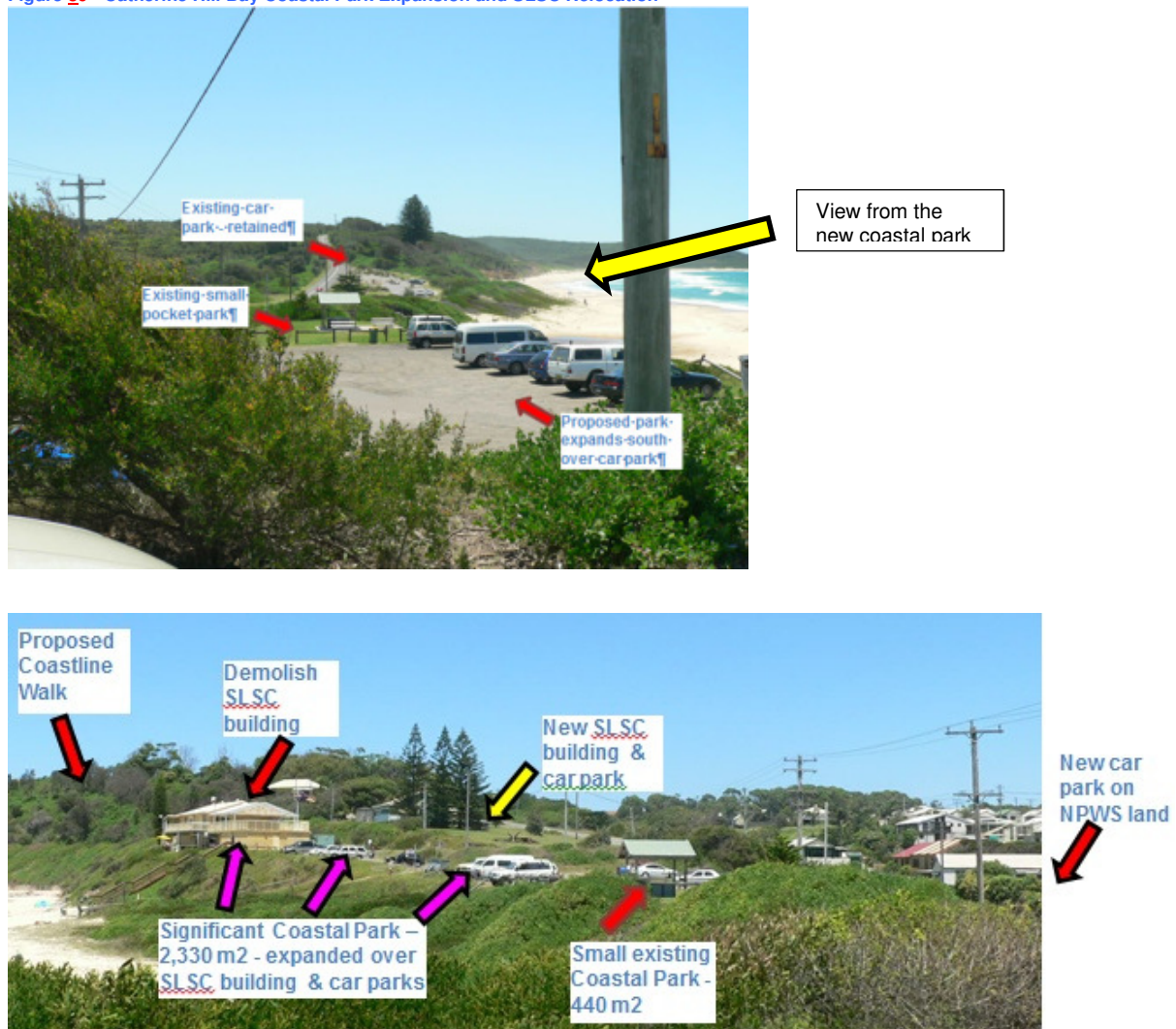
⁵⁵ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, prepared by Clouston, p. 14, 61, 66.

⁵⁶ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 93.

⁵⁷ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 8 and 36.

- **Belmont** - Green Point Foreshore Reserve – provides for a new park on the site of an old chitter dumpsite off Green Point Drive. The site area is approximate 5 hectares although some of this area may be unavailable due to environmental constraints.
- **Catherine Hill Bay** – expand the coastal park south by relocating car parking and the SLSC building/amenities back from the immediate coastal hazard zone. The provision of a coastline walkway within a 40-metre wide coastal reserve, is a requirement of the Coastal Hamlets development, and provides a connection to the proposal coastal park from the south. The Heritage Railway Line Walk, a requirement of the (Coast & Allied) development at Middle Camp, provides a connection to the proposed coastal park, from the north.

Figure 89 - Catherine Hill Bay Coastal Park Expansion and SLSC Relocation



- **Murrays Beach** – Provide a new local park on land to be dedicated along Lake Forest Drive. A new local park was identified in the 2004 North Wallarah Development Contributions Plan.
- **Pinny Beach** – Provide a new neighbourhood park. Park to be located in the northern sector on a combination of land to be dedicated and acquired. This park was identified in the 2004 North Wallarah Development Contributions Plan.

- **Caves Beach** – expand the coastal park by converting part of the access road and the turning circle back to park. Provide additional park facilities and parking to cater for the expected increased use. The following plan is one possible layout for the 0.3-hectare site, however, a master plan will be prepared to incorporate this proposal. The amenities building is to be demolished and relocated on site.

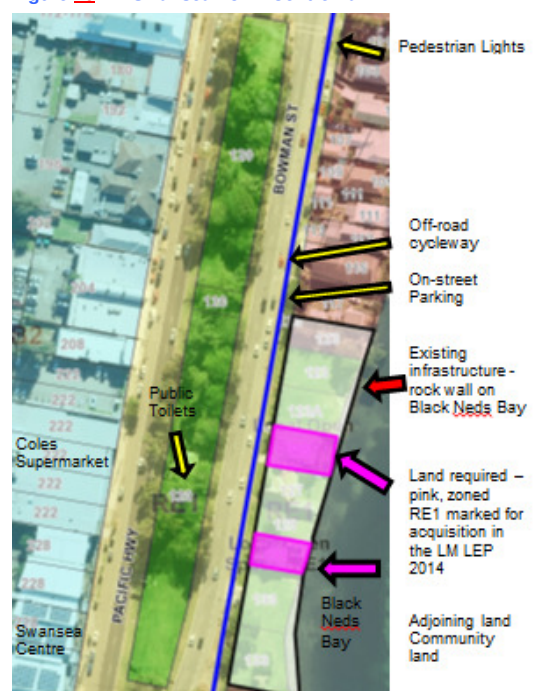
As part of a future stage 2, the grassed area above the beach (corner of The Esplanade and Caves Beach Road) may provide a future expansion of the park, with picnic and BBQ facilities, car parking and stairs down to the beach.

Figure 910 - Caves Beach Coastal Park Expansion



Figure 1011 - Swansea Town Centre Park

- **Swansea** – extend the Town Centre Park (opposite the Swansea Centre and Tourist Information Bureau). This park is centrally located and it provides a close connection with the town centre. The park is surrounded by an R3 zoning, which provides for medium density residential development, and is close to the B2 business zoning. The existing park is to be expanded with the acquisition of the last two remaining properties in this strip. Additional seating, a playground, and a public toilet, is proposed. This park site has the added aesthetic qualities of fronting Black Neds Bay.



8. Playgrounds

Playgrounds are recreation facilities usually located in parks or sportsgrounds. Playgrounds are traditionally designed to be fun and engaging for children and provide various elements that can assist in childrens physical, social and cognitive development. Recent playground designs have included equipment for older people to help maintain essential physical and mobility skills, and for the general population in the provision of outdoor gym equipment. Council is planning to provide a range of different playgrounds throughout the City, catering for different ages, themes, settings, and abilities, to provide a variety of play experiences, and alternate outdoor physical activity opportunities.

Playgrounds are to be provided in accordance with the playground hierarchy as outlined below. The playgrounds range from local with minimal equipment, to a catchment playground providing a wide variety of play equipment and opportunities for a progressive level of risk.

8.1 Existing Provision

There are 17 playgrounds within the catchment as detailed below:

Table 22. Belmont CC – Playground – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	NO. OF PLAYGROUNDS	TOTAL
LOCAL			14
BELMONT	Spinnaker Ridge Reserve	1	
BELMONT	Laughlin Reserve	1	
BELMONT	Belmont Lions Park	1	
BELMONT SOUTH	Belmont South Foreshore Park	1	
BLACKSMITHS	Blacksmiths Surf Club Reserve	1	
BLACKSMITHS	Dobinson Reserve	1	
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Flowers Drive Park	1	
CAVES BEACH	Silky Oak Drive	1	
CAVES BEACH	Caves Beach Road Reserve	1	
MARKS POINT	Baxter Field	1	
NORDS WHARF	Baxter Park	1	
SWANSEA	Richards Road Reserve	1	
SWANSEA	Chapman Oval / Burrigallana Reserve	1	
SWANSEA HEADS	Reids Swansea Heads Park	1	
NEIGHBOURHOOD			3
BELMONT SOUTH	Belmont South Foreshore Reserve	1	
MURRAY'S BEACH	Lake Foreshore	1	
PELICAN	Pelican Foreshore Reserve	1	
OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT			0
MAJOR			0
CATCHMENT			0
TOTAL PLAYGROUNDS			17

The Blacksmiths Beachside Holiday Park, the Swansea Gardens Lakeside Holiday Park, the Belmont Tennis Centre and Raffertys Resort also have playgrounds. These playgrounds have not been included in the above provision as they are connected to the facility and are generally not used by the wider community.

Table 23. Belmont CC – Playground – Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	GENERAL AGE RANGE	CATCHMENT
Local Playground	2 to 8 yrs	400 m to 800 m
Neighbourhood Playground	2 to 12 yrs	2 km
Major Playground	2 to 15 yrs	10 km
Catchment Playground	2 to adult	LM LGA

8.2 Identified Need

The following surveys, strategy and plans demonstrate the identified need for playgrounds.

• Recreation Plan

The recreation plan recommends certain actions including:

- A hierarchy of play facilities across the City
- Develop more imaginative and exciting playgrounds and provide safe bike access
- Family adult and older kids playgrounds
- A larger fenced playground in each city district capable of accommodating Family Day Care groups; fenced picnic areas of appropriate size adjacent to toilets
- Develop a new modern playground at a central location
- Undertake a program of works to expand the range of equipment provided at selected playgrounds in each catchment such that a variety of play venue sizes is achieved and a greater diversity of age groups, abilities, skills are served
- Initiate a program of works to reduce and/or consolidate playgrounds in catchments⁵⁸

• Liveable Communities Assessment

Comments from a survey of residents in Charlestown in 2010, relevant to this catchment as well include:

- Bigger playgrounds, more trees around
- Try to find more activity and play areas for children to encourage fitness⁵⁹

• NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan

The purpose of the plan is to guide the sport and recreation industry in addressing priority issues over the next five years. The relevant objectives are:

- To make it easier and affordable for people of all ages to be physically active and involved in their communities⁶⁰

8.3 Comparative

The LDCG specifies an indicative population threshold of one (1) playground for every 500 dwellings or 400 metres from a dwelling. Assuming an occupancy rate of 2.5 persons per dwelling the standard is one playground for every 1,250 persons. This standard is a higher level of provision than the existing local is or the citywide standard of provision. Refer to Appendix 4 for an outline of several of the relevant standards and guidelines.

Table 24. Belmont CC – Playground – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF PLAYGROUNDS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	17	1,536
LMCC LGA	200,849	120	1,674
Guidelines *			1,250
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			1,500

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

In developing the LMCC recommended standard, the LDCG for playgrounds was utilised in conjunction with the actual provision in the catchment. The recommended standard of one playground for every 1,500 persons is close to the actual provision in the catchment. The analysis and recommendations identify a slightly higher provision of playgrounds to support the future population of this catchment due to a spatial nexus.

8.4 Best Practice

The NSW government's, *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, is a best practice guide to assist Councils in planning their investments in open space and recreation. Key elements of the guidelines include a:

- Local park, size of **0.5 – 2 ha**, within 400 m distance from most dwellings⁶¹

⁵⁸ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, Action 4.17, p. 33, 37, 38, 49, 81, 89, 81

⁵⁹ Hunter New England Population Health and Hunter Regional Managers Network (2011) *Lake Macquarie Liveable Communities Assessment: Final Report*, Hunter New England Population Health, p. 172, 173.

⁶⁰ NSW Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and NSW Sport and Recreation (20?) *Game Plan 2012 NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan: Shaping our Future for a Sustainable Community*, p. 8.

A local park would usually include children's play equipment. The *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government* provide guidance for recreational planning and the guidelines recommend the development of locally appropriate standards.⁶² LMCC has used this approach and developed locally appropriate standards for the LM LGA. Refer to **Appendix 7**.

8.5 Analysis

There are 17 playgrounds within the catchment, and based on the recommended general standard of one playground every 1,500 persons, the existing level of provision is slightly under the recommended standard. While it is Council's preference to provide larger playgrounds at key locations with good linkages, this catchment is unique in the isolation of the southern communities. Due to this spatial nexus, a slightly higher provision of playgrounds has been provided. The provision of five new playgrounds (including outdoor gym equipment) for the catchment is identified below. This will equate to a total provision of 22 playgrounds for the total future population. In addition, the expansion of the playground at Catherine Hill Bay has also been identified.

8.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for playgrounds in the catchment are:

Table 25. Belmont CC – Playground – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PLAYGROUNDS	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Green Point Foreshore Res	Playground – new	1	Medium
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Oval	Playground – expand and upgrade	1	Medium
MURRAYS BEACH	Lake Sector – Local Park	Playground –new	1	High
PINNY BEACH	Northern Sector	Outdoor gym equipment - new	1	Low
PINNY BEACH	Northern Sector	Playground – new	1	Low
SWANSEA	Swansea Town Centre Park	Playground – new	1	Medium
TOTAL PLAYGROUNDS			6	

⁶¹ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 29.

⁶² NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 39.

9. Community Gardens

A community garden is a valued asset of the local community where residents come together to share knowledge and skills, socialise and grow food⁶³

Gardens are often an integral component of a park and they can include ornamental gardens, annual gardens, rose gardens, native gardens, edible gardens, bush tucker gardens, or food forests.

Community gardens provide an avenue for the community to learn, connect, be inspired, and to replicate in one's own backyard. They provide a range of social, physical, and psychological benefits and they provide a mechanism for people to interact with others. Community gardens build communities; they teach people how to grow their own food, and to eat locally grown produce (recommended in LMCC's Sustainable Eating Guide).

Community gardens can be located in a park, road reserve, or school, beside a neighbourhood or community centre or Men's Shed. In terms of scale, they can range from a few garden beds in a small cul-de-sac to a large City Farm comprising several hectares of land. Community groups can obtain approval to manage/maintain parks or community land and these areas may be a community garden. This concept is similar to sporting groups managing Council's sportsgrounds and Land care groups managing Council's natural areas.

Community gardens can occupy part of an existing park or they can be an entire park or community land parcel. For example, the Randwick Permaculture Interpretive Garden (PIG) is an edible landscaped public park, and referred to as a 'community park'. Such gardens have won 'Keep Australia Beautiful Awards', and are now an accepted feature in the urban landscape. Many Councils have developed policies to assist community groups managing community gardens.

9.1 Existing Provision

There is one community garden at the Swansea Mens Shed. Two other community gardens are located at schools; the Belmont Christian College and the St Lukes Preschool at Belmont.

9.2 Identified Need

There is an increasing demand for community gardens, and council now has 12 community gardens with several more in the planning stage. LMCC's first community garden at Belmont North has been operating since 1995 and the community garden at Morisset operating since 2010. The following documents demonstrate and strengthen the need for community gardens.

- **NSW Making It Happen**

The NSW Government is committed to improving health across NSW. One of the 12 Premier's priorities is to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five per cent over 10 years. This priority specifically identifies the importance of access to fresh, affordable, nutritious food – from community gardens.

- **Hunter Regional Plan 2036**

Under direction 17 – Create a healthy built environment through good design, there is a relevant action:

- Enhance access to fresh food by promoting initiatives that increase urban food production and access to produce from local farmers.

- **Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups**

LMCC has established a Sustainable Neighbourhood Program with 14 groups currently operating in the City and more planned throughout the LGA. These groups develop sustainable neighbourhood action plans (SNAPs), which identify actions relevant to their areas. All existing SNAPs have identified one or more community gardens in their action plans.

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions and strategies including:

- Promote opportunities for community group recreation development initiatives at appropriate sites – specific strategies include community gardens for vegetable growing⁶⁴

⁶³ Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Group (2011) *Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan*, Objective 3.1, p. 9.

- Enhance the provision of opportunities for other leisure activities
 - Initiate a program of facility development and provision to strengthen opportunities for informal leisure opportunities for all age groups including community gardens⁶⁵

• Community Gardens Policy

LMCC has supported the provision of community gardens through a *Community Gardens Policy* adopted in October 2009, and a procedure developed for assessing community garden requests.

• Draft Centres Design Guidelines

DoP has prepared design principles to guide the future development of centres. Principles include:

- Establish community gardens close to the residential areas of a centre for recreation, food source and education
- Investigate the potential of underutilised public parks and spaces and community-owned land near higher – density housing for new community gardens
- Consider innovative ways to include community gardens and urban farming in public spaces and streets, such as ‘edible streets’, to provide greater connection between residents with food production
- Promote access to fresh local and organic produce by supporting community gardens close to centres that could supply produce to local businesses and farmers’ markets
- Explore other innovative ways to include food production into daily life, such as ‘productive roof gardens’ and urban farms⁶⁶

9.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not specify an indicative population threshold for community gardens, which may be a few garden beds in a park, a small lot or a larger City Farm facility.

Table 26. Belmont CC – Community Gardens – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF COMMUNITY GARDENS	FACILITY PER PERSON
Belmont CC - Existing	26,107	1	26,107
LMCC LGA - Existing (2012)	200,849	12	16,737
Guidelines *			None known
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			5,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

While the existing provision may be considered reasonable, LMCC is committed to sustainability and has implemented a Sustainable Neighbourhood Program. Through this program communities develop sustainable action plans, including actions to ‘increase localised food production through the establishment of community gardens’. Community gardens are an essential ingredient for the transition to a more sustainable society and the provision of these in the future is reflected in the recommended standard.

The recommended standard of one (1) community garden for every 5,000 people supports their increasing popularity, the ageing population, and increases in unit/apartment living. One community garden for every two or three suburbs is considered reasonable for the future provision.

9.4 Best Practice

In 2012, the Green Building Council of Australia developed a guideline for Green Star Communities and a pilot rating tool. The guideline and tool validates environmental and sustainable initiatives by rating development projects according to a 1-6 star rating and a community garden is included in the tool.

As well as community gardens, city farms are growing in significance throughout Australia. City Farms are now established in Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and Canberra, and a City Farm is in the process of development at St Peters, Sydney.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan Volume 1*, Action 3.3, p. 28.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.* Action 4.2.1, p. 42.

⁶⁶ NSW Government (2011) *Draft Centres Design Guidelines*, p. 60.

⁶⁷ <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/meetings/calendar-and-business-papers-2015/2015/may/environment-committee>

9.5 Analysis

Community gardens are a recreational activity that are inclusive of the entire community. They are particularly important for an ageing community, for people living alone who may suffer from social isolation, and for people living in high-density vertical communities, with little private open space.

Some basic park infrastructure is required for the establishment of community gardens. Depending upon the scale of the community garden, these park facilities could include the provision of water, bubbler, shade structure, seating, pathways to and through the site, public toilet, and if a large community garden some car parking may be required. Council may consider contributing to park infrastructure; but items used on a regular basis, such as mulch, garden equipment, and plant materials will not be considered.

Currently, there are 97 suburbs in the LM LGA, and the ultimate aim would be one community garden in every suburb. However, at present the recommended general standard is one community garden for every two to three suburbs or one community garden for every 5,000 persons.

The following hierarchy for community gardens is recommended for the future provision:

Table 27. Belmont CC – Community Gardens - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Local	up to 0.2 ha	1 km	1:5,000
Neighbourhood	0.2 - 0.5 ha +	4 km	1:50,000
City Farm	several hectares	city wide	1:200,000

9.6 Recommendations

This plan recommends that an area of community land categorised as park be retained within each suburb for the possible establishment of community gardens in the future. This is particularly important in areas of medium or high-density residential development. The development of a community garden is usually community driven, which provides adequate support for the initial set-up as well as the ongoing operation of the garden.

This plan identifies the following sites, which may be suitable for the development of community gardens. However, they are dependent upon community demand, subject to a site assessment, and these proposed locations may be changed if alternate sites are more suitable.

Table 28. Belmont CC – Community Gardens – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF COMMUNITY GARDENS	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Green Point or Cullen Park	New community garden	1	Low
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Oval	New community garden	1	Low
MARKS POINT	Village Bay Close	New community garden	1	Low
MURRAYS BEACH	Lakeside Sector Park	New community garden	1	Low
SWANSEA	Burragalana Reserve	New community garden	1	Low
TERALBA	Griffen Road (proposed)	City Farm - new	1	Low
TOTAL COMMUNITY GARDENS			6	

10. Dog Exercise Areas

A dog exercise area is an area for dogs to exercise off lead, and to socialise with other dogs. These areas are also known as dog off-leash parks⁶⁸ or dog parks⁶⁹. Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world, and for the vast majority of Australians, dogs and cats are companions and much-loved members of our families.

10.1 Existing Provision

LMCC has 28 dog exercise areas across the LGA, five of which are within the Belmont CC and these are detailed in the following table and illustrated in the following plan.

Table 29. Belmont CC – Dog Exercise Area – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	AVAILABLE TIMES	NO. OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS
BLACKSMITHS	Dobinson Reserve	At all times	1
BLACKSMITHS	Nine Mile Beach (part of)	At all times	1
CAVES BEACH	Hams Beach (part of)	At all times	1
MARKS POINT	Docker Street Reserve	At all times	1
SWANSEA	Thomas Humphreys Park	At all times	1
TOTAL DOG EXERCISE AREAS			5

10.2 Identified Need

Around 63% of Australian homes have a pet, and almost 40% of Australians own a dog⁷⁰. In August 2017 there were an estimated 78,706 dogs in the LM LGA (up from 58,406 in 2012), including 9,380 in the Belmont catchment. An increase in population means an increase in dog registrations and the need for designated dog exercise areas. The following demonstrates the identified need for dog exercise areas:

- Parks and Leisure Australia**

The importance of dogs as companions is highlighted in the results of a recent online survey of 800 residents in a Melbourne municipality. One of the responses highlights the fact that providing areas for dogs also provides opportunities for exercise for their owners.

I exercise more because I have a dog – 72%⁷¹

- Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions including:

- Improve dog management in parks – define and promote more dog use areas in parks⁷²

- Open Space Strategy**

The Recreation Participation Survey undertaken in 2001 indicated that ‘walking the dog’ was a popular recreation activity with high rates of participation. According to the survey, exercising the dog had more than double the participation rates of the most sports including soccer, tennis, cricket, football, netball, and athletics.⁷³ The *LM Open Space Strategy* recommends the further development of a citywide pathway network, which will respond to the demand for suitable facilities for people to walk their dogs.⁷⁴

⁶⁸ National Heart Foundation of Australia (2011) *Neighbourhood Walkability Checklist: How walkable is your community?* P. 9.

⁶⁹ Queensland Government website [Parks 4 People](#)

⁷⁰ Petcare Information and Advisory Service (2006) *National People and its Pet Survey Socially Responsible Pet Ownership in Australia: A Decade of Progress*, prepared by Professor Bruce Headey. http://www.petnet.com.au/sites/default/files/National_People_and_Pets_2006.pdf

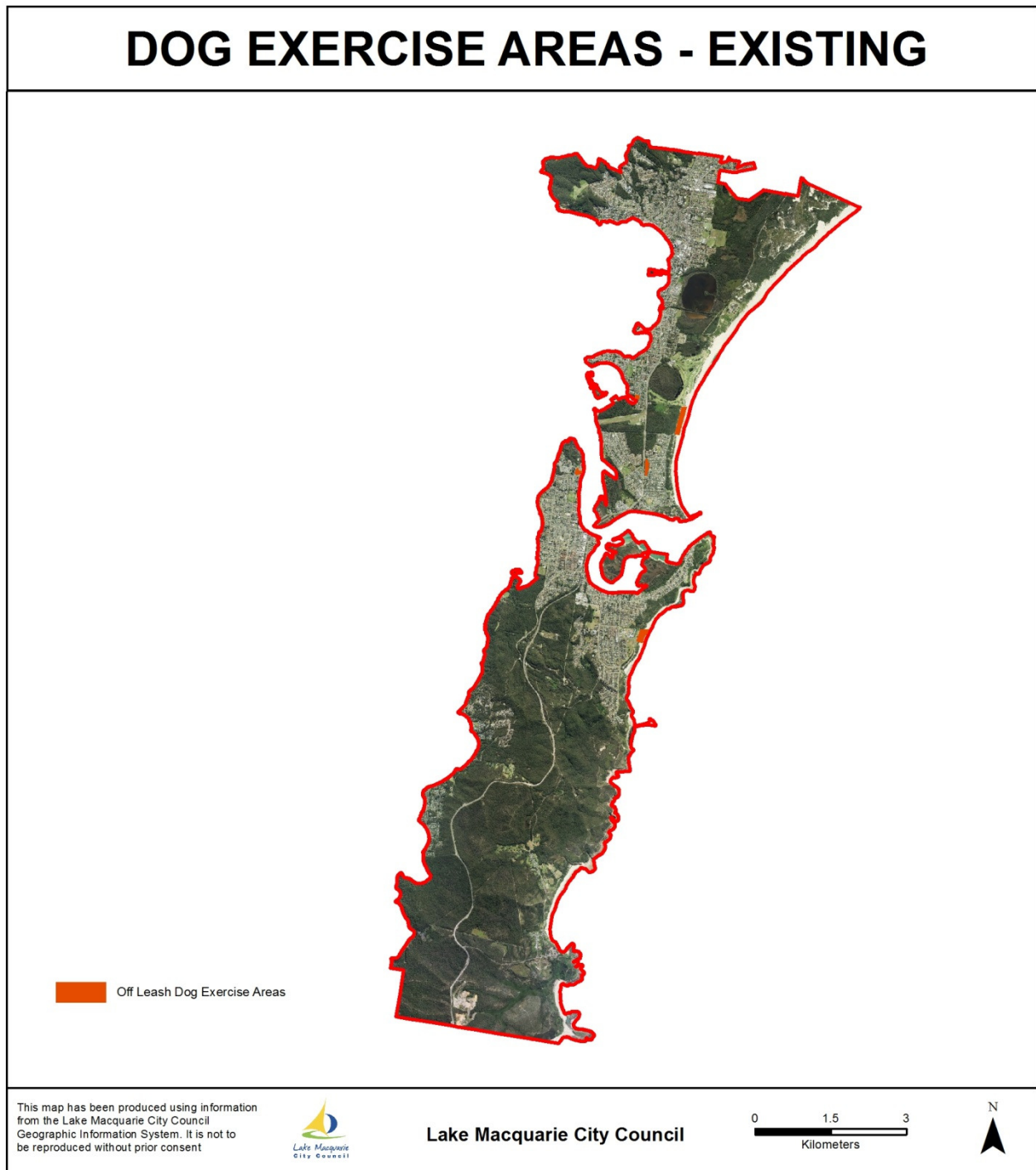
⁷¹ Parks & Leisure Australia (2013) Fenced Dog Parks: What you probably don't know but need to know! PLA Vic/Tas Region Seminar Series held in Melbourne on 19 March 2013.

⁷² LMCC (1998) *LMCC Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, Action 2.9, p. 26.

⁷³ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, Graph 4.2.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 6-5.

Figure 1142 - Belmont CC - Dog Exercise Areas - Existing



• Council Policy

In 2005, LMCC adopted a Dog Exercise Areas Policy in response to a growing demand for off-leash dog exercise areas and in accordance with the Companion Animals Act (1998). The policy states that 'Council will provide open space sites for the exercising of dogs off leads'. Dog exercise areas can have disposal bins, water supply with water basin, seating, shade, and some areas may be fenced.

10.3 Comparative

Dog exercise areas can share a park and be available for restricted periods or they can be fenced and occupy an area on an unrestricted basis. The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 requires Council to provide dog exercise areas, and considering the level of dog ownership, most Councils are now providing specific dog exercise areas and dog parks.

For instance, Hornsby Shire Council has six fully fenced off-leash dog areas. Whereas Redland Council has 30 dog off leash areas⁷⁵ (19 of which are fully fenced and two have dog agility equipment) this equates to a provision standard of one dog off leash area per 4,787 population. Gosford City Council has 40 dog exercise areas this equates to a provision standard of one dog exercise area per 4,170 persons. The DoP has not specified a provision standard in its guidelines, but the above comparison provides an indicative guide and the recommended standard is reasonable.

Table 30. Belmont CC – Dog Exercise Area – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	5	5,221
LMCC LGA	200,849	29	6,926
Guidelines *			None known
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			7,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The recommended standard of one dog exercise area for every 7,000 persons is similar to the citywide provision, and reasonable for future provision. The future provision of one fenced dog park for each catchment is recommended.

10.4 Best Practice

Dog exercise areas are now a standard provision requirement, with some Councils providing fenced areas and dog agility equipment. Dog owners are also park users, and the need for fenced areas or fencing along park boundaries allows dog owners to exercise their dog's safely off-leash.

10.5 Analysis

There are five (5) dog exercise areas currently provided within the catchment. Unfortunately, none of the facilities located in the southern catchment are able to serve the new development areas of Murrays Beach, Catherine Hill Bay and Nords Wharf. Based on the recommended standard of one dog exercise area for every 7,000 persons, and considering the projected new population is 7,252 one additional dog exercise area is required. It is intended for this new dog exercise area to be located within one of these suburbs. Once subdivision plans are finalised, a site will be identified for this new facility. Should the new subdivision areas not yield an appropriate site, Nords Wharf Oval could be identified for a future dog exercise area. This suburb has the highest 2017 dog ownership in the southern part of the catchment at 360.

At this time, there are no enclosed dog exercise areas in the Belmont catchment. As per the recommended standards, future provision should include an enclosed facility within the catchment. Analysis of existing 2017 dog ownership identifies the highest numbers of dogs are located in Belmont (2356), Swansea (1811), Caves Beach (1422) and Belmont North (1000 within this catchment). This plan proposes an enclosed dog exercise area to be established within the vicinity of these suburbs, pending further analysis. It should be noted that two existing off leash sites in the catchment are located on the beach, and therefore have not required the use of limited green space. Dog exercise areas on the beach require minimal ongoing maintenance in comparison to a grass area.

⁷⁵ Redlands City Council (2012) *Redland Open Space Strategy 2012 – 2026*, p. 44.

10.6 Recommendation

The provision of a new dog exercise area in the southern area of the catchment is to be identified once the new subdivision plans in this area have been finalised. It is recommended to provide an enclosed off leash area in the northern or central areas of the Belmont Catchment.

Table 31. Belmont CC – Dog Exercise Area – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS	PRIORITY
North/Central Catchment	To be determined	New or upgrade to enclosed dog exercise area	1	High
Southern Catchment	To be determined	New dog exercise area	1	Medium
TOTAL DOG EXERCISE AREA			2	

11. Skate Parks

Skate parks are now a common recreation facility in most Council areas. Skate parks provide an unorganised outdoor recreation opportunity, in a safe setting, that promotes social interaction and an outlet for creativity. Skateparks are used by riders of skateboards, scooters and bikes, and the successful provision of these can assist in reducing the use of shopping centres, roads, malls and other public places as alternate venues. Young males tend to be the dominant user group, however there is an increasing use by younger children, adults and females. Skate parks can be located in parks, sportsgrounds, or incorporated into public domain or plaza areas. They may comprise vert ramps, bowls, street skate components such as ramps/rails/steps, or a combination of all the above.

11.1 Existing Provision

LMCC has nine (9) skate parks in the LGA, with another four in the planning stage to be located at Charlestown, Windale, Cameron Park and Morisset. Many of the existing facilities are small in scale catering for only local users, while larger skate parks attract users from the surrounding areas. The existing skate park located in Swansea is 1,000m² and centrally located in the catchment.

Table 32. Belmont CC – Skate Park – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME / LOCATION	NO. OF SKATE PARKS
SWANSEA	Burragallana Reserve/ Chapman Oval	1
TOTAL SKATE PARKS		1

11.2 Identified Need

The following plans and Councils' resolution demonstrate the identified need for skate parks.

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain strategies and actions including:

- Provision of multi-use venues for young people with facilities for roller blade and skate activities such venues should be placed in prominent positions with easy access to public transport and commercial support services such as food outlets and other forms of entertainment⁷⁶

- **Council Report**

Council at its meeting of 27 April 1999, resolved to support the development of skate facilities throughout the City. The report identified the development of a skate park at Swansea/Caves Beach – as now provided. The report also identified the future provision of a skate park at Belmont.

11.3 Comparative

The LDCG specifies an indicative population threshold for a small and large skate park, which is a higher standard of provision than in LM. The guidelines also mention that there is usually only one large skate park provided per LGA. However, many Sydney Councils have an LGA the size of one of LM's catchments.

Table 33. Belmont CC – Skate Park – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF SKATE PARKS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	1	26,107
LMCC LGA	200,849	9	22,317
Guidelines * - small skate park			6,000
- large skate park			10,000
RECOMMENDED GENERAL STANDARD			20,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

⁷⁶ LMCC (1998) *Lake Macquarie City Council Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 58

For comparison, the City of Newcastle has ten (10) skate parks equating to approximately one skate park per 15,478 persons. Maitland City Council has five (5) skate parks equating to approximately one skate park per 13,929 persons. Whereas Wyong Shire Council has 16 skate parks, equating to approximately one skate park per 10,000 persons, however, Wyong is now providing larger skate facilities. Their new skate park at Bateau Bay cost \$2.5 M (for beginner to professional skaters) incorporates additional facilities such as spectator facilities, multi-purpose half court, parkour equipment, large stage, shade, bubblers, toilet, picnic and BBQ facilities - making it a family friendly space inclusive of all ages.

The LMCC recommended general standard of one skate park for 20,000 persons is similar to the citywide provision, and considered reasonable.

11.4 Best Practice

Skate parks are best co-located with other community or recreation facilities, in public parks, sportsgrounds, and places with good passive surveillance. Other important considerations are ease of access, transport, user safety, and for the larger facilities public toilets, seating, shade, bubblers and integrating the facility with other family friendly uses to activate the space.

11.5 Analysis

The recommended general standard is for one skate park for every 20,000 population and provision of a large skate park per catchment (see Table 34 below). The Swansea skate park is approximately 1,000m² which makes it larger than the small skate park but less than half of a large skate park. Current site constraints do not allow expansion of this skate park to the recommended 2,500m². The forecast population of the catchment is 33,359. Requests have been received for a new skate park in Belmont over the past five years and supported in the 1999 Council report, identified in Section 11.2 above. To meet the demonstrated recreational needs, it is considered appropriate to upgrade the existing skate park through additional shade at Swansea and provide a small skate park in the Belmont area. The provision of two skate parks, one small and one large, in the catchment provides access for the northern and southern communities.

11.6 Recommendation

The recommendation for the catchment is to upgrade the existing skate park at Swansea through additional shelter and provide a new small skate park in the Belmont area. The location of this skate park will need to be determined following further analysis and consultation, but would ideally be located in the suburb of Belmont, Belmont North or Belmont South.

Table 34. Belmont CC – Skate Park Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Small Skate Park	500m ²	2 to 5km	1:20,000
Large Skate Park	2,500m ²	5 to 10km	1 per catchment

Table 35. Belmont CC – Skate Park – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL SKATE PARKS	PRIORITY
SWANSEA	Swansea Skate Park	Skate park – upgrade	0.3	High
NORTHERN CATCHMENT	To be determined	Skate park – new, small	1	High
TOTAL SKATE PARK			1.3	

12. BMX Tracks

BMX (Bicycle Motocross) is fast becoming a recognised sport and has increased its profile since its introduction into the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. BMX can include racing or freestyle, and freestyle BMX includes dirt, flatland, park/street and vert. BMX tracks can be located in parks, sportsgrounds, natural areas, or a community group may request land to build a facility that they manage.

BMX riding is increasing in popularity and since BMX cycling was added to the Olympic program in 2008, Australia has celebrated multiple podium finishes at BMX World Championships and the 2012 Olympic Games.

12.1 Existing Provision

There are no authorised BMX tracks in this catchment. The two authorised BMX tracks in the City are located at Argenton and Cameron Park. The BMX facility at Argenton is fenced and use is restricted to members of the Lake Macquarie BMX Club outside of competition. The track at Cameron Park is fenced but is open and available to the public at all times for BMX use.

12.2 Identified Need

The need for BMX is demonstrated by the number of unauthorised informal BMX tracks constructed in bushland areas, and by number of community requests for these facilities.

The following demonstrates the identified need for BMX tracks.

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions and strategies including:

- Evaluate opportunities for developing near or within urban sites for both BMX club activities and informal riding
- Provision of informal BMX facilities preferably in association with other recreation venues, which serve other activities and age groups so that infrastructure can be shared
- Provision of informal BMX facilities at linked, nodal points in each of the south, north-west, north-east, and south-eastern sectors of the City, preferably in association with other recreation venues
- Assess reserves capable of supporting informal local mountain bike and BMX activities⁷⁷

• Hornsby Shire Council

Hornsby Shire Council funded the preparation of an *Unstructured Recreation Strategy*, which identified:

- The expressed demand for BMX freestyle in Hornsby is estimated to be of a similar size to skateboarding
- BMX may have a greater growth potential than skateboarding, however this demand is dispersed across a number of different disciplines that require different facilities.
- BMX use is likely to continue to be as strong as skate parks⁷⁸

12.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not specify an indicative population threshold for BMX tracks, however BMX is included as key community infrastructure, and the population threshold for a skate park is linked to BMX. The guideline acknowledges that 'the need for BMX tracks can be reduced by sharing a facility with skate park'.⁷⁹ These uses are quite different i.e. dirt tracks for BMX versus smooth sealed surfaces for skate. However, this plan recommends combining a BMX track with a mountain bike facility.

Lake Macquarie's recommended standard is for two separate facility types, one BMX track for every 20,000 persons and one skate park for every 20,000 persons. This is comparable to the DoP's indicative standard for one large skate park per 10,000 persons and one small skate park for every 6,000 persons (which includes BMX).

⁷⁷ LMCC (1998) *Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, Action 4.20, p. 56, p. 57, p. 70.

⁷⁸ Hornsby Shire Council (ND) *Unstructured Recreation Strategy: Volume 1*, p. 39.

⁷⁹ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 94.

Table 36. Belmont CC – BMX Track – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF AUTHORISED BMX TRACKS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	0	26,107
LMCC LGA	200,849	2	100,425
Guidelines* (DoP 2009)			combined with skate
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			20,000

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

For comparison, Cairns Regional Council with an Estimated Residential Population (ERP) in 2011 of 162,740 has 11 skate parks and 18 authorised BMX tracks. In addition, Cairns Regional Council has a large number of unauthorised BMX tracks and several private BMX tracks such as Cairns BMX. The Council BMX tracks equate to a provision standard of one BMX track every 9,041 persons.

For LMCC the recommended standard of one BMX track for every 20,000 persons is reasonable for the future provision as it reflects the identified need for these facilities (as evidenced by the number of unauthorised facilities found in bushland reserves) and it also considers Council's asset maintenance responsibilities.

12.4 Best Practice

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) in their *Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy* identified that the provision of a small number of high quality mountain bike areas is a key strategy for reducing unauthorised mountain biking and track construction.⁸⁰ The same principle is applicable to BMX tracks.

12.5 Analysis

There are no authorised Council BMX tracks in the catchment. However, the construction of unauthorised BMX tracks at numerous locations including Green Point Foreshore Reserve demonstrates there is a need for an authorised facility. The following hierarchy is a general guide for future provision.

Table 37. Belmont CC – BMX Track - Hierarchy

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Small BMX Track	2,000 m2	2 to 5 km	20,000
Large BMX Track	5,000 m2	5 to 10 km	One per catchment

Based on the recommended general standard of one BMX track for every 20,000 persons, one new BMX track is proposed within the catchment.

12.6 Recommendations

The recommendation for a BMX facility for the catchment is:

Table 38. Belmont CC – BMX Track – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF BMX TRACKS	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Green Point – Major Picnic Area, at the old chitter dump site	New BMX track	1	Medium
TOTAL BMX TRACKS			1	

⁸⁰ NPWS (2011) *NPWS Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy*

13. Shared Pathways

Shared pathways are off-road sealed paths that cater for a variety of users including walkers, joggers, bicycles, roller blades, and people with strollers or walking the dog. They are wider than footpaths and usually located on community land in parks, sportsgrounds, or through natural areas, such as the Fernleigh Track. A popular shared pathway is the Lake Macquarie foreshore route, extending from Booragul to Eleebana. In this plan, the term 'shared pathways' also includes separated or segregated pathways; however, to date these have not been provided in LM.

13.1 Existing Provision

There are 23,858 lineal metres of shared pathways in the Belmont CC as detailed in the following table. Of particular note is the Fernleigh Track, a shared pathway located on a former rail corridor from Adamstown to Belmont.

Table 39. Belmont CC – Shared Pathway – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	LENGTH IN METRES
BELMONT	Green Point Foreshore Reserve	3,583
BELMONT	Fernleigh Track, Ernest St	2,740
BELMONT	Marks Street	126
BELMONT	Belmont Foreshore Reserve, Brooks Pde	480
BLACKSMITHS	Pacific Hwy (West), Soldiers Rd	1,022
BLACKSMITHS to SWANSEA	Pacific Hwy (east) - Awabakal Ave to Bowman St, Blacksmiths breakwall	3,770
CAVES BEACH	Coastal Track	825
CAVES BEACH	Park Ave - Strathmore Rd to Rea St	663
CAVES BEACH	Mawson Close	170
CAVES BEACH	(end of) Braemar Rd & Parbury Rd to roundabout Swansea	820
MARKS POINT	Pacific Hwy	196
MURRAY'S BEACH	Foreshore Reserve	1,753
MURRAY'S BEACH	Lake Forest Drive, from Jetty Point Drive to Nightshade Cr	1,295
SWANSEA to MURRAY'S BEACH	Marks St, Old Pacific Hwy to Jetty Point Drive	3,665
SWANSEA	Breakwall to Granny's Pool	600
SWANSEA	Swansea Channel	1,450
SWANSEA	Bridge St & Charmers St	200
SWANSEA	Western Foreshore – car park to Wallarah St/Lakeside Drive	500
TOTAL SHARED PATHWAYS		23,858

13.2 Identified Need

The following survey, strategy, plans, guidelines, and policy demonstrate the identified need for shared pathways.

- NSW Making It Happen**

The NSW Government is committed to improving health across NSW. One of the 12 Premier's priorities is to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five per cent over 10 years. This priority specifically identifies the importance of making walking easy and the promotion of recreation and provision of open and green space

- Hunter Regional Plan 2036**

Under Direction 17, Create a healthy built environment through good design and Direction 18, Enhance access to recreation facilities and connect open spaces, there are four relevant actions:

- Enhance the quality of neighbourhoods by integrating recreational walking and cycling networks into the design of new communities to encourage physical activity;
- Facilitate more recreational walking and cycling paths including planning for the Richmond Vale Rail Trail and expanded inter-regional and intra-regional walking and cycling links, including the NSW Coastal Cycleway.

- Deliver connected biodiversity-rich corridors and open space areas for community enjoyment.
- Enhance public access to natural areas, including coastal and lake foreshores.

• Community Plan

The Community Plan identifies the values for the city, where we want to be in the future and how will we get there and the community identified the measure of the 'amount of new cycleways and footpaths being provided is increasing'.⁸¹

• ERASS

According to the ERASS Report 2010, NSW participation rates for 'walking (other)' was 34%; (and does not include bushwalking); cycling was 10.6% and running was 9.1 %. The participation rate of walking (other), cycling and running is 53.7%. Shared pathways provide for all these activities. Over the 10 years the surveys were conducted, walking (other) consistently had the highest participation rate far exceeding any of the other 165 activities identified. Walking has the highest participation rates for both males and females and people continue this activity well into their older age.

• Open Space Strategy

A recreation participation survey was undertaken as part of the open space strategy. The survey results indicated that walking for exercise had by far the highest level of participation and the next highest was 'swim/surf at beach'. This can be compared to the total participation time for soccer, tennis, football (AFL, RL, RU) and cricket which is less than half the total participation time for 'walking for exercise'. The results also indicated that cycling has a much higher participation rate than any sport including basketball, soccer, tennis, cricket, football, netball and athletics.⁸²

An open space participation survey was undertaken as part of the strategy and the results indicated that:

- 'walking for exercise' – had the highest participation rate of any activity, (almost double that of the next highest activity which was 'swim/surf at beach')

• Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan identifies a target of increasing walking and cycling trips to 6% of total trips within the City⁸³. Relevant 'Transport' key performance indicators include:

- Upgrade and develop cycling and pedestrian facilities
- Improved connections for cycling between existing walkways, cycleways, schools, sporting facilities, public transport, parks, residential, commercial and business areas.

• Cycling Strategy

The *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, identifies the future provision of both on-road and off-road cycleways. As part of the cycling strategy, a community survey was undertaken and the results included:

- "I'd like to ride on a dedicated path...away from cars – they are the biggest potential danger"
- Of the regular and infrequent cyclists who said they didn't ride because available facilities aren't safe or comfortable enough, 70% said there aren't enough separated bicycle paths⁸⁴

The strategy recommends that Council:

- Require future private development in Lake Macquarie to make adequate provision of cycling infrastructure and facilities
- Maximise off-road routes where roads have speed limits of 60 kph there is a strong desire for off-road routes completely separated from motorised traffic.
- Maximise off-road routes to serve both transport and leisure trips.⁸⁵

⁸¹ LMCC (2017) *Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*, page 18.

⁸² LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, Graph 4.2, 4.7

⁸³ LMCC (2014) *City of Lake Macquarie Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2014-2023*

⁸⁴ LMCC (2012) *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, p.18.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 74, 168.

• Liveable Communities Assessment

Comments from a survey of residents in Charlestown in 2010 include.

- Large linked pathways are needed within the Council area
- More cycle ways that connect up
- Good job with the walkways going around the lake keep going
- Spend serious money on making a serious effort on redesigning pedestrian and cycleways separate from motorcars⁸⁶

These comments are also relevant for the Belmont catchment.

• Recreation Plan

The recreation plan identifies specific strategies including:

- Prepare a program of works to further the implementation of the Lake and Coastal paths
- Improve the provision of on and off-road cycle and walkways in the catchment
- Develop walking paths along both shores of Swansea Inlet with a promenade along the Swansea coastline upstream from the bridge⁸⁷

• Open Space Plan

The survey undertaken as part of the open space plan prepared by Clouston identified that:

- Cycleways (57.9%) were preferred to sportsgrounds and facilities (37.1%)⁸⁸

The plan identifies:

- City walkways for acquisition or designation including the Lake Macquarie Walk
- Tourist opportunities to take advantage of cycleways and walking trails⁸⁹

• Guidelines for Walking and Cycling

The NSW government strongly supports walking and cycling facilities through the various plans that have been prepared including the *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*. Key elements of the guidelines include:

- Improving conditions for walking and cycling not only reduces local traffic problems, but saves us money and improves our health and quality of life
- Creating a walkable and cycleable city is an important element in creating a sustainable city
- Redevelopment should aim to improve and expand the extent of public walking and cycling access
- Development assessment processes improve consideration of walking and cycling, and improve the provision of bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities⁹⁰

• NSW Bikeplan

The plan aims to encourage more and safer cycling specifically:

- Double the use of cycling to get to work across all of NSW, between 2006 and 2016⁹¹

• Draft Centres Design Guidelines

DoP has prepared design principles to guide the future development of centres to improve liveability.

Principles include:

- End-of-trip facilities in buildings to encourage walking and cycling. Locate secure bicycle storage in well-lit, visible locations
- Promote 'active living' within parks and squares by connecting walkways and cycleways to local networks to improve health and well-being
- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists within centres⁹²

⁸⁶ Hunter New England Population Health and Hunter Regional Managers Network (2011) *Lake Macquarie Liveable Communities Assessment: Final Report*, Hunter New England Population Health, p. 172, 173.

⁸⁷ LMCC (1998) *LMCC The Recreation Plan, Volume 1*, p. 42, 61.

⁸⁸ LMCC (1006) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan*, prepared by Clouston, p. 14.

⁸⁹ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, Figure 1.7.

⁹⁰ NSW Government (2004) *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*, p. 3, 15, 33, 39.

⁹¹ NSW Government (2010) *NSW Bikeplan*, p. 5

⁹² NSW DoP (2011) *Draft Centre Design Guidelines*, Department of Planning, Sydney, p. 38, 49, 74.

13.3 Comparative

The LDCG has identified shared pathways as key community infrastructure, although there is no indicative population threshold for shared pathways. LMCC has prepared a cycling strategy identifying off-road cycleways, which in LM all are shared pathways. The existing provision of 0.91 lm per person and proposed future provision of 0.91lm is higher than the LMCC city recommended standard. This higher provision can be attributed a number of factors including;

- Long lineal shape of the catchment (17km long from north to south);
- Unique attribute of extensive lake foreshore and coastal foreshore;
- Isolation of communities, and connecting these communities through shared pathways;
- Significant arterial road bisecting the southern half of the catchment;
- The topography and inundation levels limiting alternate recreation opportunities. Shared pathways can be designed around many of these issues; and
- Community expectation for shared pathway provision from the Cycling Strategy.

Considering these factors it is considered reasonable to have a higher provision of shared pathways in this catchment. The current provision of 0.91lm per person is the same as the proposed future provision.

As a comparison in 2014, Canberra had a population of 367,000 and 343 km⁹³ of off-road cycle paths throughout an area of 814.2 km² which equated to 0.93 metres per person, and this is not including the 403 km of on-road cycle lanes.

Table 40. Belmont CC – Shared Pathway – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	METRES OF SHARED PATHWAYS	METRES PER PERSON OF SHARED PATHWAY
Belmont CC	26,107	23,858	0.91
Guidelines*			Shared Pathways & Cycleways Plan
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			0.91

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

13.4 Best Practice

Shared pathways are provided in areas of low volumes of pedestrians and cyclists.⁹⁴ According to the Austroads Standards, separated paths are provided where there are large numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using the same path, sites include promenades along a foreshore or river frontage.⁹⁵ A segregated path i.e. an exclusive bicycle path and a parallel exclusive pedestrian path, permits fast bicycle travel and is the most desirable of the off-carriageway alternatives, particularly for commuters.⁹⁶

Austroads has a model to provide guidance on when to provide on-road and off-road infrastructure for cyclists according to traffic volumes and traffic speed. A similar model could be developed for shared pathways to provide guidance on when an additional separated pathway based on volumes of use, is required.⁹⁷

13.5 Analysis

This catchment has an extensive coastline and lake foreshore which lends itself to the provision of shared pathways. One significant shared pathway is the Fernleigh Track, which extends to Belmont. This plan identifies the route extending south to connect with the existing shared pathway along the Pacific Highway at Awabakal Avenue.

The master plan for the development of North Wallarah identifies a route from the Pinny Beach development area along the coast. This plan provides provision of a number of new shared pathways including a connection of Pinny Beach to the southern end of Caves Beach.

⁹³ ACT Government (2012) *Territory & Municipal Services Annual Report 2011-2012 Volume 1*, p. 15.

⁹⁴ Department of Infrastructure and Transport (2012) *Walking, Riding and Access to Public Transport: Draft Report for Discussion*, P. 109.

⁹⁵ Austroads Standards Australia (1999) *Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 14 Bicycles*, a separated path is where cyclists and pedestrians are required to use separate designated areas of the path.

⁹⁶ Austroads Standards Australia (1999) *Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice Part 14 Bicycles*, p. 86, 90

⁹⁷ Austroads 2009, *Guide to Traffic Management: Part 4: Network management*, report AGTM 0409, Austroads, Sydney, NSW – Figure 4.7.

13.6 Recommendations

The recommendations for shared pathways within the catchment are:

Table 41. Belmont CC – Shared Pathway – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	CYCLING STRATEGY OR OTHER PLAN	LENGTH METRES	PRIORITY
BELMONT	South Coast – south of Fernleigh Track	Belmont 3	1,800	High
BLACKSMITHS	Blacksmiths Beach and Blacksmiths breakwall	Blacksmiths 2	1,235	High
CAMS WHARF	33 Point St – Linkage Murrays Beach to Raffertys Resort	Linkage	97	Low
CAMS WHARF	Raffertys Rd to Crangan Bay Rd	Nords Wharf 1B	550	Medium
CAVES BEACH	Southern Beaches - Caves Beach Coastal Reserve	Caves Beach Masterplan	770	Medium
NORDS WHARF	Government Rd to Marine Pde (junction with Phillip Dr)	Nords Wharf 1A	700	Low
PINNY BEACH	Southern Beaches – Nth Wallarah (coastal sector) – end of Spoon Rocks Rd south to end of Pinny Beach development	Indicative Future	1,025	Medium
SWANSEA	Swansea Western Foreshore	Swansea 2	450	Low
TOTAL SHARED PATHWAYS			6,627	

Figure 1213 - Belmont CC - Proposed Shared Pathways

The proposed routes are indicative only, subject to master planning and detailed design

PROPOSED OFF ROAD SHARED PATHWAYS



This map has been produced using information from the Lake Macquarie City Council Geographic Information System. It is not to be reproduced without prior consent



Lake Macquarie City Council

0 1.5 3
Kilometers



14. Tracks and Trails

Walking tracks and recreational trails provide opportunities for people to access natural areas, promoting physical activity, which lowers the incidence of obesity, depression and other illnesses related to sedentary lifestyles. A walking track is a track provided for walkers, whereas a recreational trail caters for walkers, joggers, bicycles and sometimes horses.

Tracks and trails may be located on varied terrain, on narrow tracks where access is limited, or utilise fire trails or unsealed roads. The frequency and volume of use are the main factors dictating the width of the trail. If use is expected to be high, some tracks may require a more durable surface. Decomposed granite and other forms of fine crushed rock may be used where the frequency and volume of use is low and a less visually dominant pathway construction is required.⁹⁸

Recreational trails can offer you an exhilarating experience⁹⁹

14.1 Existing Provision

There are numerous tracks and trails in LM. The following table includes the tracks and trails identified in Council's mapping system.

Table 42. Belmont CC – Tracks and Trails – Existing

SUBURB	LOCATION	LENGTH IN METRES
BELMONT	Green Point Foreshore Reserve	6,650
BELMONT NTH / FLORAVILLE	Belmont Quarry or Lunns Quarry	1,230
BELMONT	Belmont Sporting Complex to coast	320
BELMONT	Belmont Lagoon	1,260
BLACKSMITHS	Blacksmiths Nature Reserve	1,822
CAVES BEACH	Coastal Reserve	2,435
CAVES BEACH	Coastal Walk	870
SWANSEA	Coon Island	800
SWANSEA	Black Neds Bay Walking Trail	1,630
SWANSEA HEADS	Coastline Walk	1,860
SWANSEA	Galgabba Reserve	1,240
TOTAL TRACKS AND TRAILS		22,942

In addition, there are some significant natural areas located close to or within the catchment providing some tracks and trails that are not included in the existing provision. They include:

- Belmont Wetlands State Park – various unnamed tracks and trails – refer to the PoM
- Munmorah State Conservation Area – Moonee Beach trail, Palms circuit track,
- Wallarah National Park – Coastal walking track, Scenic trail, Yondeo trail

14.2 Identified Need

The following surveys, strategy, plans, and policy demonstrate the identified need for providing tracks and trails.

• Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Under Direction 18, Enhance access to recreation facilities and connect open spaces, there are three relevant actions:

- Deliver connected biodiversity-rich corridors and open space areas for community enjoyment.
- Enhance public access to natural areas, including coastal and lake foreshores

⁹⁸ Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (2005) *Sydney Metropolitan – Regional Recreation Trails Framework Final Report*, prepared by Hassell Pty Ltd, section 2.2 and 2.3.

⁹⁹ Tails SA (ND) *South Australian Trails: Your Guide to Walking, Cycling, Horse Riding, Diving, Canoeing*, p. 2. www.southaustraliantrails.com

- Facilitate more recreational walking and cycling paths including planning for the Richmond Vale Rail Trail and expanded inter-regional and intra-regional walking and cycling links, including the NSW Coastal Cycleway.

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions including:

- Continue with works to enhance the recreational use and benefits offered by ocean and lake foreshores including enhanced general access and improved trail developments
- Develop a coastal trail from the Pacific Highway on the north side of Swansea Bridge along the coast northward along Nine Mile Beach and beyond
- Continue the proposed coastal trail along Nine Mile Beach from the south with branching trails through the Blacksmiths Nature Reserve, the Belmont Lagoon, lake foreshore, Jewells Swamp and northward to Awabakal Nature Reserve
- Assess strategies for improving access to the coast
- Signpost coastal walk and provide a route through the vegetation to the south,
- Develop coastal walking trails¹⁰⁰

• Open Space Strategy

The open space recreation participation survey indicated:

- Forward planning to allow to have land available
- Walking trails are scarce and not integrated with other potential trails
- Lack of public ownership of open space
- People feel bushland is protected yet often it is in private or corporate ownership¹⁰¹
- 'walking for exercise' – had the highest participation rate of any activity, (almost double that of the next highest activity which was 'swim/surf at beach')

• Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines

The guidelines identified:

- Three main standards for open space which include, parks, outdoor sport and linear and linkages
- Strategic land acquisition to improve linkages and maximise the open space resource¹⁰²

• Growth Centres Development Code

The code provides the basis for the planning and design of precincts in the North West and South West Growth Centres in Sydney, which will provide around 181,000 new homes. The code specifies that:

For each precinct an open space system should be established as an integrated network, incorporating parks, squares, plazas, riparian corridors, playing fields, and **recreational trails**¹⁰³

• Cycling Strategy

As part of the Cycling Strategy, a community survey was undertaken in October 2011 and results of the survey include:

- Regular and infrequent cyclists were also asked to indicate what journeys they usually use for cycling
- 82% of infrequent cyclists and 78% of regular cyclists use cycling for leisure on off-road paths
- while 35% of regular cyclists and 15% of infrequent cyclists cycle on mountain bicycle trails¹⁰⁴

Among all cyclists, regardless of cyclist type, gender and age, the most commonly reported trip purpose is cycling for leisure on off-road bicycle paths (e.g. the Fernleigh Track). Comments from survey respondents indicated that this was almost always because riders felt safer being separated from traffic' (p.10). Also off-road shared paths were the most commonly used facility by all cyclists (79%).¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁰ LMCC (1998) *LMCC The Recreation Plan Volume 1*, p.42, 61, 63, 69 and 85.

¹⁰¹ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, prepared by Clouston, p. 57, 58.

¹⁰² Department of Planning (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 29 and 34.

¹⁰³ Growth Centres Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, p. B-71.

¹⁰⁴ LMCC(2012) *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, p. 10.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

14.3 Comparative

The LDCG does not have an indicative population threshold for tracks, however bushland tracks are included as key community infrastructure, and the matters for consideration indicate that they would be acceptable if they form part of an established recreational network.¹⁰⁶ The existing provision of 0.88 lm per person and proposed future provision of 0.88lm is higher than the LMCC City recommended standard. Similar to shared pathways, this higher provision can be attributed to the long lineal shape of the catchment, the isolation of communities, and lower density and the increased opportunity for tracks and trails given the surrounding natural environment and topography.

Table 43. Belmont CC – Tracks and Trails – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	TRACKS & TRAILS IN METRES	PERSONS PER METRE OF TRACKS & TRAILS
Belmont CC	26,107	22,942	0.88
Guidelines *			Where part of an established recreational network
LOCAL TRACKS & TRAILS STANDARD			0.88

Source: *NSW DoP (2009) Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

14.4 Best Practice

The NSW government's, *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*, strongly supports the provision of walking and cycling facilities. Key elements of the guidelines include:

- Walking and cycling access is provided to and along natural areas such as ridges and creeklines
- Councils are encouraged to raise the priority of path and trail projects to increase overall funding levels.¹⁰⁷

The South Australian Government has prepared a guideline for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails in South Australia¹⁰⁸, which would also be applicable for NSW.

14.5 Analysis

Council has been progressively acquiring land along the lake and providing access for walking and cycling. Some of these lands have been acquired from Council's open space reserve and other funding sources.

14.6 Recommendations

The recommendation for tracks and trails in the Belmont CC includes:

Table 44. Belmont CC – Tracks and Trails – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH IN METRES	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Green Point Foreshore Reserve	Lake Trail and Crown St East-West Trail to new park area	1,350	Medium
BELMONT SOUTH	8 Ocean Park Rd, 801A Pacific Hwy, to 116 Ungala Rd	Coastal Trail	2,225	Medium
CAVES BEACH	Caves Beach Southern Coastal Trail	Coastal Trail - Lookout south to Spoon Rocks Beach access	450	Medium
SWANSEA	2 Jetty Point Drive, 370A Pacific Hwy	Lakeside Trail	1,500	High
SWANSEA	Bargoed House, - 340 Pacific Hwy	Lakeside Trail	850	High
TOTAL TRACKS AND TRAILS			6,375	

In addition to the above,

- Council is in the process of upgrading the recreation trail around Coon Island at Swansea, which is funded from the revenue from the Swansea Gardens Lakeside Holiday Park.
- There are a number of routes identified in approved development areas. These include the Coastal Route – car park near CHB Oval to CHB Surf Club and the Heritage Trail linking providing a link to the Middle Camp

¹⁰⁶ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 92.

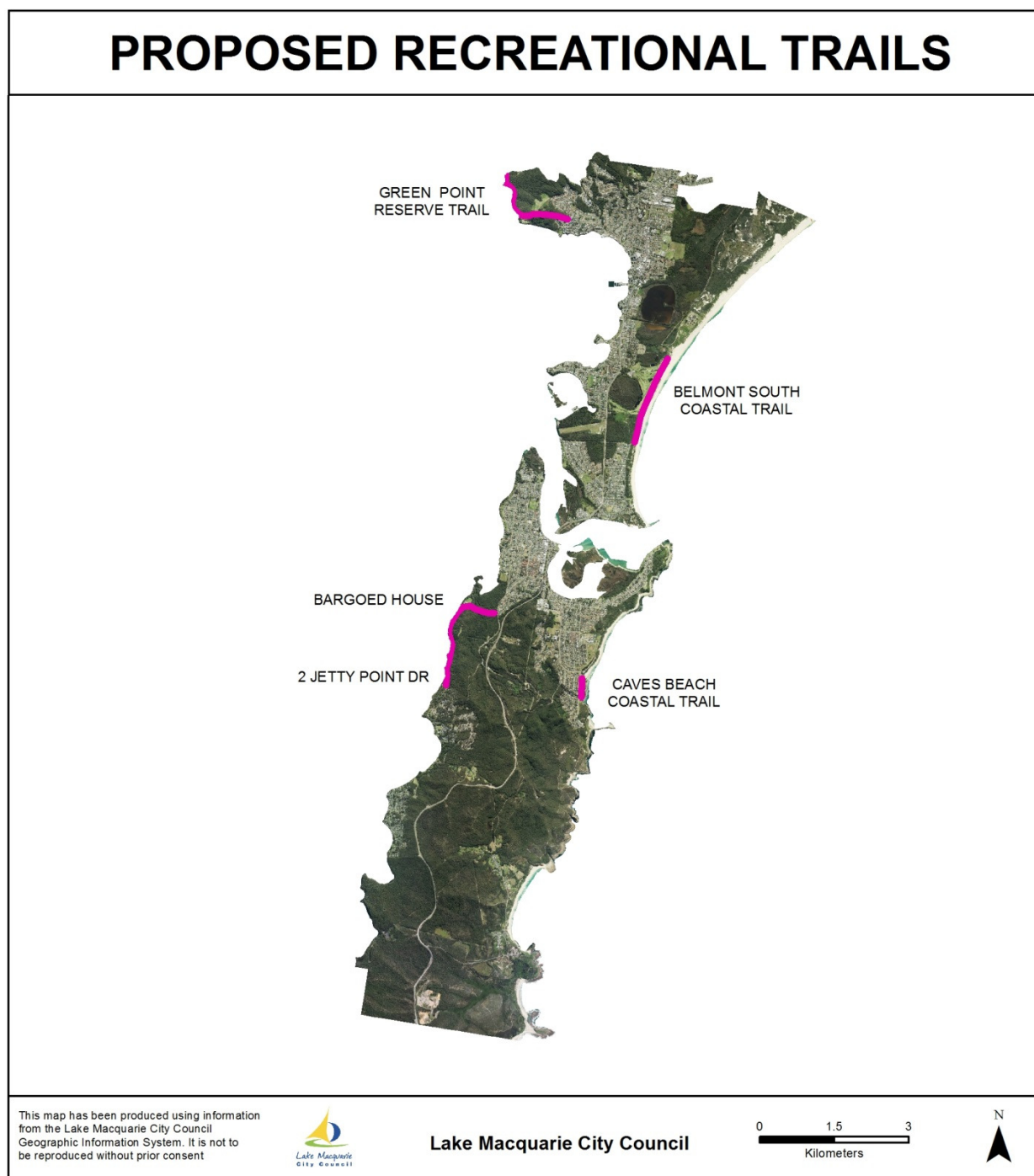
¹⁰⁷ NSW Government (2004) *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling*, p. 23, p. 58.

¹⁰⁸ Trails SA (N.D.) *Sustainable Recreation Trails: Guidelines for the Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Recreational Trails in South Australia*.

development. These are a requirement of the development approval and are to be provided by the developer. If the development approval lapses they will be considered as a possible condition of consent on a subsequent approval.

- Another key open space linkage requirement involves the old Aero pelican site at Belmont, at 862 Pacific Highway Marks Point. The foreshore reserve land has eroded to the point that it no longer exists. This may be included in a subsequent review of the Belmont contributions plan.

Figure 1314 - Belmont CC - Proposed Tracks and Trails



15. Coastal Land

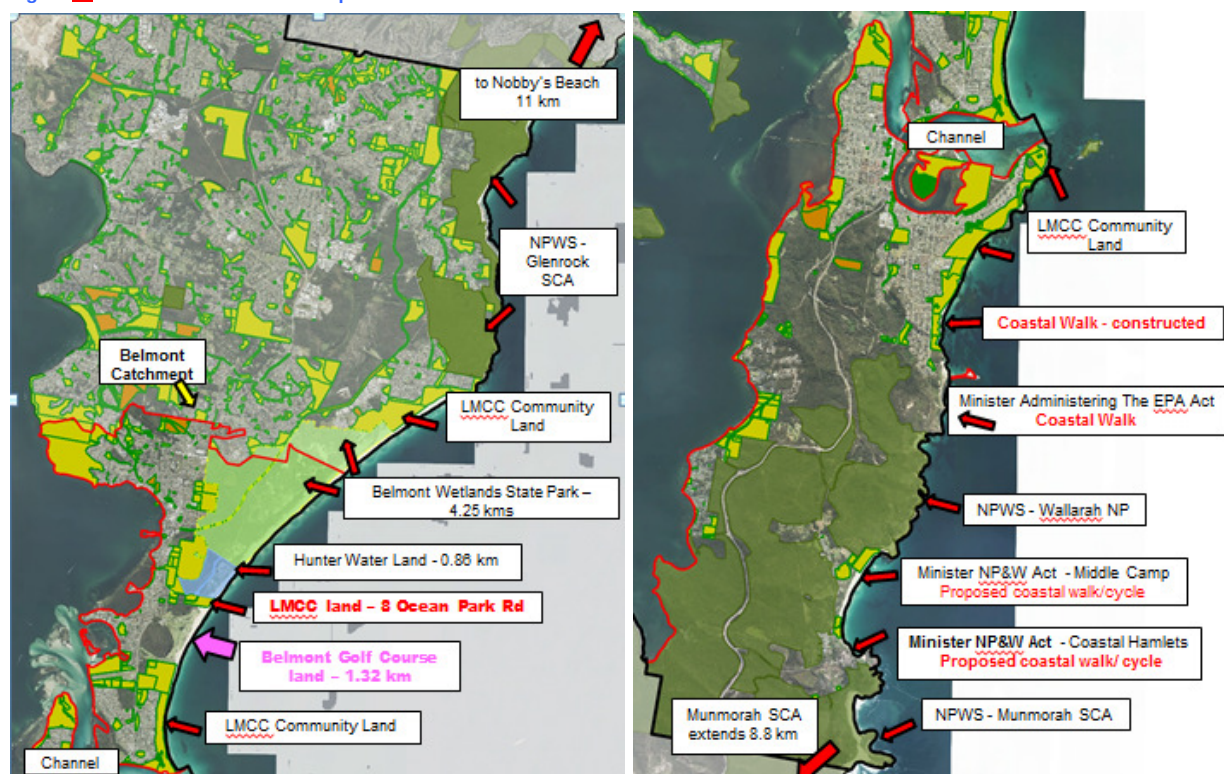
LMCC has approximately 30 kms of coastline (measured generally) from the LGA boundary at Flaggy Creek in the north to the LGA boundary past Catherine Hill Bay in the south. Most of this coastline (apart from 1,320 lm or 1.3 kms) is public land. The coastline extends north into the NCC LGA some 8.3 kms to Nobby's Beach then another 2.8 kms to Corroba Oval at Stockton.

There has been a concerted effort over the last decade to gain approximately 11.5 kms of coastal land into public ownership as detailed below:

- Belmont Wetland State Park – owner Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – 514.1 ha providing 4,250 lm or **4.25 kms** of coastline
- Coastal Walk – Caves Beach to Spoon Rock – (required by Nth Wallarah development) owner The Minister Administering The EPA ACT 1979, 9B Mine Camp Rd, Pinny Beach - 19.89 ha providing 1,500 lm or **1.5 kms**
- Wallarah National Park – 9 Mine Camp Rd, Pinny Beach – provides 770 lm or 0.77 kms
- Munmorah State Conservation Area (north coastal section) – 145 Mine Camp Rd, Catherine Hill Bay 1,700 lm or **1.7 kms**
- Minister of the NP&W ACT - 75 Flowers Drive, Catherine Hill Bay - (required in 2012 by Coal & Allied Middle Camp development – Proposed Coastal Walk - 800 lm or **0.8 kms**
- Dept of Planning) - 595 Pacific Hwy, Crangan Bay - (required by Coastal Hamlets development to be dedicated) 0 Proposed Coastal Walk — 650 lm or **0.7 kms**
- Munmorah State Conservation Area (south coastal section) 2,100 lm or **2.1 kms**

The following plans indicate the significant public ownership of the coastal land in the LM LGA.

Figure 1415 - Belmont CC - Ownership of Coastline Land



15.1 Identified Need

There are many policies and planning documents that support and recommend the public ownership of the coast including:

- **State Environmental Planning Policy No 71 – Coastal Protection**

This state policy identifies matters for consideration including:

- Existing public access to and along the coastal foreshore for pedestrians or persons with a disability should be retained, where possible, and public access to and along the coastal foreshore should be improved.
- The likely impact of coastal processes and coastal hazards on development and any likely impact of development of coastal process and coastal hazards

- **State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) Amendment (State Significant Sites – South Wallarah Peninsula) 2010**

The objectives of the policy include:

- To provide for the protection of the coastal environment of the State for the benefit of both present and future generations through promoting the principles of ecological sustainable development (page 12)
- Proposed development will not impede or diminish... the physical, land-based right of access of the public to or along the coastal foreshore (page 14)

The policy has also identified for the provision of a coastal walkway.

- **Hunter Regional Plan 2036**

Under Direction 18, Enhance access to recreation facilities and connect open spaces, there are two relevant actions:

- Deliver connected biodiversity-rich corridors and open space areas for community enjoyment.
- Enhance public access to natural areas, including coastal and lake foreshores.

- **Coastal Design Guidelines for NSW (2003)**

The guidelines identify the vision for the NSW coast for an interconnected open space network strategically planned both regionally and locally to preserve significant areas of natural bushland and coastal ecosystems. The network also has urban open spaces to provide a variety of recreation opportunities.

The desired future character for new development on the coast including:

- In new coastal settlements the centre and surrounding residential areas are separated from the foreshore by a parkland or roadway or nature reserves (page 32)
- Setbacks from the coastal edge and other surrounding natural areas, such as reserves and lakes, respect environmental constraints and protect properties from coastal hazards (page 32)

- **Coastal Zone Management Plan**

- Prepare a Master Plan for the coastal walk between Glenrock and Catherine Hill Bay
- Complete selected sections of a coastal walking and cycling network¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan – Part A For the Coastline (2015), Objective 21.1 and 21.2, p. 164

• Development Control Plan – Lake Macquarie Coastline

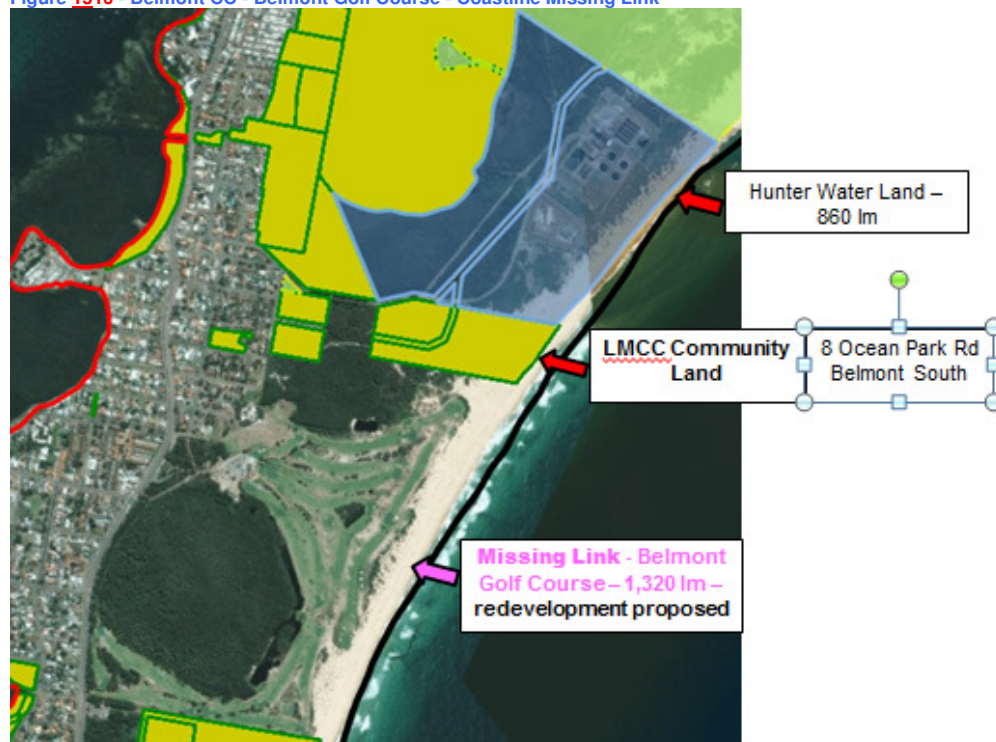
One of the DCP's objectives is to protect and enhance the special physical, ecological, heritage and archaeological, recreational amenity, visual aspects of the Lake Macquarie Coastline. Specific controls include:

- Development should comply with...any Plan of Management relating to the coastline or a coastal reserve
- Development **must not preclude public access** to the coastline
- Development should facilitate the coastal walk corridor and provide educational opportunities
- Development on land adjoining or adjacent to the Coastal Risk Area must be consistent with the effective conservation of a coastal corridor and cultural heritage within the zone **and the provision of the coastal walk and public access to and from the area**¹¹⁰

15.2 Analysis

Within the LM LGA the last parcel that is not in public ownership is the Belmont Golf Club. The Belmont Golf Club is actively exploring options to upgrade their facility which may include a medium density development. The club have expressed an interest in expanding into the adjoining Council owned land to the north. Council is open to discussions with the club although nothing has eventuated to date.

Figure 1516 - Belmont CC - Belmont Golf Course - Coastline Missing Link



15.3 Recommendations

Since land ownership or management could change in the future, this plan recommends securing public access along the coast of the Belmont Golf Club land (see Appendix 10, Point 1).

¹¹⁰ Lake Macquarie City Council (2017) Development Control Plan – Part 12 – Precinct Area Plans – Lake Macquarie Coastline

16. Mountain Bike Areas

Mountain bike areas have tracks specifically constructed for mountain bikes. Tracks can include a number of broad styles: cross-country, all-mountain, downhill, free riding, dirt jumping and trials.¹¹¹ Cross-country and all-mountain riding are the most popular styles of mountain biking. These can include short wide tracks for the beginner, longer single tracks for endurance, one-direction technically challenging tracks, or tracks designed for high-speed. Bike parks, also known as bike skills parks, are purpose built playgrounds for bicycles. They include natural and constructed features to build skills through progressive challenges, they cater for the whole family, from beginner tracks to technically challenging tracks.

16.1 Existing Provision

The Wallarah National Park provides for mountain bikes on the Yondeo trail and the Scenic Trail. The Yondeo trail provides access to the coast and Pinny Beach, whereas the Scenic Trail is a challenging mountain bike ride through coastal forest and heathland providing views along the rugged coastline.

Other areas outside the catchment for mountain bikes are located at:

- Glenrock SCA - cycling is authorised in the northern zone. This area has designated bicycle only tracks indicating the level of difficulty and the direction of cycling.
- Awaba State Forest (Mt Faulk Rd, Cooranbong) – comprises a downhill racing track and a number of cross-country tracks.

16.2 Identified Need

The following survey, plans and strategy demonstrate the identified need for mountain bike areas.

- **ERASS**

The number of people who participated in recreational cycling at least three times per week increased by 35% from 2001 to 2009 in NSW, and by 43% from 2001 to 2008 in Sydney.¹¹²

- **NSW Bikeplan**

NSW Bikeplan aims to encourage more and safer cycling specifically:

Promote cycle access to and through designated NSW National Parks and Crown reserves, including the use of sustainable mountain bike tracks¹¹³

- **Nature-based Outdoor Recreation**

Mountain bike riding in Australia is becoming increasingly popular. In a 2008 survey, NSW residents said they had participated in cycling and mountain biking on an unsealed road or track 26 million times in the preceding year. In Greater Sydney, 15% of residents had participated in the past year, while in the Southern Tablelands and South Coast 20% of residents had participated. There is evidence of unmet demand for opportunities for mountain bike riding on an unsealed road or track with between 9% and 30% of residents saying they were interested in participating more frequently by identifying a lack of local opportunities.¹¹⁴

- **Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy**

The *NPWS Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy* (2011) has identified that the provision of a small number of high quality mountain bike experiences is a key strategy for reducing unauthorised mountain biking and track construction.

- **Recreation Plan**

The Recreation Plan identifies certain actions under 4.26, and a strategy identified is:

¹¹¹ NSW Government Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (2010) *Discussion Paper: National Parks and Wildlife Service Cycling Policy Review and Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy*, p. 7.

¹¹² Australian Sports Commission (2009) *Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey, 2009*.

¹¹³ NSW Government (2010) *NSW Bikeplan*, p. 23.

¹¹⁴ NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Water (2009) *Nature-based outdoor recreation demand and preferences quantitative research findings*, prepared by Ipsos-Eureka Social Research Institute.

Assess informal reserves capable of supporting informal local mountain bike and BMX activities¹¹⁵

- **Cycling Strategy**

The *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021* identifies that mountain bike trails are the second highest priority in key destinations for cycling trips.¹¹⁶

16.3 Best Practice

Trails SA has produced a guide *South Australian Trails: Your Guide to Walking, Cycling, Horse Riding, Diving, Canoeing* that identifies and specifies the use of each trail. Certain trails provide for multiple uses whilst other trails (such as racing tracks) have sole use.

Mountain biking is a popular recreation activity undertaken all year round unlike some sports that have either a summer or winter use.

16.4 Analysis

The high use of the Glenrock SCA and the Green Point Foreshore Reserve for mountain biking indicates that this recreation activity is growing in popularity. Since many of the other areas used for informal mountain biking are subject to residential development in the future, of primary importance is the security of land tenure, which is essential to ensure trails can be provided in the future. The recommended standard provision is one mountain bike area per ward, with a long-term provision of one mountain bike area per catchment.

16.5 Recommendations

This plan recommends that certain tracks within the Green Point Foreshore Reserve be permitted for bicycles including the tracks identified for upgrading in the plan.

¹¹⁵ LMCC (1998) *LM Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 49.

¹¹⁶ LMCC (2012) *LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021*, prepared by GHD, p. 16.

17. Surf Life Saving Facilities

Lake Macquarie is fortunate to have extensive lake foreshore and coastal land. Residents within the Belmont CC are likely to access aquatic facilities within and outside the catchment. Access to Lake Macquarie is available along the western border of the catchment and good surfing beaches are located at Blacksmiths, Caves Beach and Catherine Hill Bay.

17.1 Existing Provision

LMCC has four surf lifesaving facilities (SLSF) providing patrolled beaches and beach facilities at Blacksmiths, Caves Beach, Catherine Hill Bay, and Redhead. Within the Belmont CC, there are three council SLSF:

Table 45. Belmont CC – Surf Life Saving Facility - Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	NO. OF SLSF
BLACKSMITHS	Swansea-Belmont Surf Life Saving and beach facility	1
CATHERINE HILL BAY	Catherine Hill Bay Surf Life Saving and beach facility	1
CAVES BEACH	Caves Beach Surf Life Saving and beach facility	1
TOTAL SLS FACILITIES		3

17.2 Identified Need

• Open Space Plan

The survey undertaken as part of the open space plan prepared by Clouston identified that:

- The most popular open space settings were developed foreshore parks (25%), natural bushland (19%) and beaches (16%)

• Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan

This plan identifies that all three SLSF are either wholly or partly located in the immediate coastal hazard zone planning lines.¹¹⁷

17.3 Comparative

The LDCG specifies an indicative population threshold of one SLSF for each patrolled beach. All three patrolled beaches located in the Belmont catchment have existing SLSF. The additional population at Catherine Hill Bay and residing growth areas of Pinny Beach, Murrays Beach and Nords Wharf will place increased pressure on existing SLSF and beach facilities, particularly those in Catherine Hill Bay and Caves Beach.

Table 46. Belmont CC – Surf Life Saving Facility - Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF SURF LIFE SAVING FACILITIES	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	3	8,702
LMCC LGA	200,849	4	50,212
Guidelines ¹¹⁸			A surf lifesaving facility for each patrolled beach
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			10,000

In this catchment it is realistic for the provision of SLSF to be in alignment with the number of patrolled beaches, as identified in the Draft Local Development Contribution Guidelines. The recommended standard is in alignment with this guideline.

¹¹⁷ LMCC (2015) *Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan*, p57,58,60

¹¹⁸ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, Indicative population threshold, p. 96.

17.4 Analysis

The Blacksmiths and Catherine Hill Bay SLSF are located entirely within the immediate coastal hazard zone, while Caves Beach is located partly in this zone¹¹⁹. Due to Catherine Hill Bay being the highest growth suburb in the catchment, this SLSF has been identified as a future project for relocation in this plan. Council is in the process of acquiring adjacent land to relocate this facility outside the immediate coastal hazard zone and undertake other associated works. See Appendix 10, point 3, and section 7.6 for further details. This project will be funded through multiple sources of funding including Section 94, and asset replacement, while funding has also been specifically identified in the Middle Camp development (Coal and Allied). The identified S94 funding will be used to acquire the land, and undertake a portion of the expansion of the SLSC and for ancillary works including new car parks.

SLSF also provide vital community facility functions through the provision of meeting and function rooms. The relocation of the CHB SLSF could provide opportunities for the enhancement of these community facility functions. This is discussed further in the Community Facilities Background Paper for the Belmont Catchment Developer Contributions Plan.

17.5 Recommendations

Based on the recommended standard of one SLSF for every 10,000 persons, and the increased pressure on SLSF by the future population, it is proposed to partly fund the redevelopment of the Catherine Hill Bay SLSF and ancillary works. The cost of these upgrades is attributable to the new population.

Table 47. Belmont CC – Surf Life Saving Facility – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	No. of SLSF	PRIORITY
CATHERINE HILL BAY	CATHERINE HILL BAY BEACH	Relocation of SLSC out of Coastal Hazard Zone	1	Medium
TOTAL SLS FACILITIES			1	

¹¹⁹ LMCC (2015) *Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan*, p57,58,60

18. Swimming Pools

Swimming is an activity that is part of the Australian culture. This is partly attributable to our many beautiful beaches and waterways, our climate, and the continued successes of Australian swimmers. Swimming is part of our school curriculum and learn to swim classes are recommended for every Australian child.

Public swimming pools are part of Council's community service obligation. They continue to operate even though these services operate at a cost to Council. Many of the pools constructed are now ageing and have not kept pace with current demands. LMCC is planning to upgrade its swimming centres to provide a range of services and facilities to increase their year round use.

18.1 Existing Provision

LMCC currently has six (6) swimming centres across the LGA. The Swansea Swim Centre is the only Council owned swimming centre in the catchment. This centre operates from October to April each year and provides a 50m outdoor solar heated pool, a 15m outdoor heated pool, and a toddler pool.

The following table details the number of centres and pools within the catchment. Babies wading pools and spa pools are not included.

Table 48. Belmont CC – Swimming Pools – Existing

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	NO. OF SWIM CENTRES	NO. OF POOLS
SWANSEA	Swansea Swim Centre	1	2
TOTAL SWIM CENTRES/POOLS		1	2

Other private swimming pool located in the Belmont CC have not been included. These include:

- Murrays Beach community pool located at 7 Nine Acres Way, Murrays Beach - one outdoor pool, exclusive for Murrays Beach residents.
- A resort pool at each of Council's four holiday parks located in Belmont, Belmont South, Blacksmiths and Swansea, for use by guests only.

18.2 Identified Need

Lake Macquarie has funded the preparation of a number of reports/studies that examine the development of its swimming centres and indoor sports centres. Refer to the references in **Appendix 15**.

The following surveys, plans, and model, demonstrates the identified need.

• ERASS

According to the ERASS 2010 annual report, swimming has a 13.6% total participation rate. Information was collected from persons aged 15 years and over who participated in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport over a 12-month period prior to interview in 2010.¹²⁰

• Pool Service Delivery Model

The *LMCC Pool Service Delivery Model* (PSDM) was developed to provide a strategic direction to the future development of Council's community aquatic facilities providing for the needs for the next 10-20 years. It recommends the redevelopment of the Swansea Swim Centre by providing:

- New concourse to the 50 m pool,
- New 25m indoor pool
- New health and fitness centre,
- New amenities and administration centre
- New café/kiosk

The PSDM has identified the current swim centres will serve an immediate catchment of five kilometres. It was adopted by Council in June 2009 and has funded the position of Special Projects Officer to develop the recommendations of the PSDM.

¹²⁰ Australian Sports Commission (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*.

• Community Plan

The plan identifies directions and progress indicators such as:

- Implement recommendations of Pool Service Delivery Model (PSDM) for individual centres¹²¹

18.3 Comparative

The LDCG does specify an indicative population threshold of one swimming pool for every 17,500 persons. A swimming pool is considered different to a swimming centre as a swimming centre may comprise several pools.

Table 49. Belmont CC – Swimming Pools – Comparative

COMPARATIVE	POPULATION	NO. OF SWIMMING POOLS	PERSONS PER FACILITY
Belmont CC	26,107	2	13,054
LMCC LGA	200,849	15	12,553
Guidelines ¹²²			17,500
RECOMMENDED STANDARD			12,000

The recommended standard of one swimming pool for every 12,000 persons is similar to the actual provision within the catchment and within the city and considered reasonable for the future provision.

18.4 Best Practice

The design to upgrade the Swansea Swim Centre will consider the *Best Practice Guidelines for Water Management in Aquatic Leisure Centres* prepared by Sydney Water in 2011 or other guidelines and examples of other energy efficient models. The design will also provide for sustainable operational practices and be advised by peak bodies such as the Aquatic Recreation Institute and the Australian Leisure Facilities Association.

18.5 Analysis

Based on the recommended standard of one swimming pool for every 12,000 persons, 0.6 of a swimming pool is required for the additional population.

18.6 Recommendations

The recommendation for the Belmont CC is:

To provide funding towards the redevelopment of the Swansea Swim Centre. This swimming centre is located close to the majority of the new community and is the only swim centre available by either Council or the private sector in the Belmont catchment. The redevelopment of the swim centre will provide a year round service for the community through the provision of an indoor swimming pool, and provide important services including swimming lessons. This redevelopment is identified in the LMCC PSDM and supported through this plan.

Table 50. Belmont CC – Swimming Pools – Proposed Locations

SUBURB	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF SWIMMING POOLS	PRIORITY
Swansea	Swansea Swim Centre	Redevelopment of existing centre	1	Medium
TOTAL SWIMMING POOLS			1	

¹²¹ LMCC (2008) *LM Community Plan 2008-2018*, p. 44.

¹²² NSW DoP (2001) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, Indicative population threshold for a swimming pool is 17,500 persons, whereas the threshold for a multi-purpose leisure/aquatic centre is 60,000 + people, p. 94.

19. Other Recreation Facilities

In addition to the recreation facilities identified in the plan, there are a number of other recreation facilities in the catchment. They include other Council recreation facilities, such as boat ramps and jetties, community-based facilities, and private recreation facilities. Some are located on crown land, Council owned community (CL) or and operational land (OL) and others on private land. Some of these other recreation facilities include:

19.1 Existing Provision

- **Golf Courses**

One 18 hole golf course is located in the catchment at Belmont Golf Club, 801A Pacific Highway, Belmont.

- **Bowling Greens**

The following bowling greens are located in the catchment:

- Belmont Bowling Club, 1 High St, Belmont – 2 bowling greens, private facility
- Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club, 69 Flowers Dr, Catherine Hill Bay – 1 bowling green, LMCC CL
- Marks Point Sports Club, 3A Findon St, Marks Point – 2 bowling greens, private facility
- Swansea Bowling Club, 1 Charles St, Swansea – 3 bowling greens, private facility
- Swansea Workers Club, 9 Rawson St, Swansea – 2 bowling greens, private facility

- **Lake Facilities**

The catchment has a good distribution of public boat ramps and jetties including:

- **Boat Ramps**

- Belmont South – Paley St
- Blacksmiths – Bali St
- Cams Wharf – Cams Wharf Rd
- Marks Point – Naru St
- Nords Wharf – Branter St
- Pelican – Lakeview Pde
- Swansea – Dobinson Dr
- Swansea – Lakeside Dr
- Swansea – The Esplanade
- Swansea – Wallarah St

- **Jetties**

- Belmont – Belmont Baths* (off Brooks Pde/Maude St)
- Belmont – Belmont Public Jetty (Belmont Foreshore Reserve, Brooks Pde)
- Belmont – Green Point Public Jetty (Green Point Foreshore Reserve)
- Blacksmiths – Inner harbour, pontoon wharf beside boat ramp
- Murrays Beach – Murrays Beach Public Jetty (off Saltwater Row)
- Nords Wharf – Nords Wharf Public Jetty (off Nords Wharf Rd)
- Pelican – Pelican Public Jetty (Pelican Foreshore Park, Lakeview Pde)
- Swansea – Swansea Public Jetty and Pontoon (off Chalmers St)
- Swansea – Belmont St Public Jetty (Belmont St)
- Swansea – James C Boyd Reserve Public Jetty (The Esplanade)

*Belmont Baths to be reconstructed.

- **Sailing, Rowing or Windsurfer Clubs**

- Belmont – Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, The Parade, Belmont – private land
- Belmont – Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, Ada St, Belmont – Crown land, leased to Club

- **Holiday/Residential Parks**

Five holiday/residential parks are located in the catchment including:

- Belmont Bayview Holiday Park, 1 Gerald St, Belmont, Crown Land, LMCC operated
- Belmont Pines Lakeside Holiday Park, 24 Paley Cres, Belmont South, Crown Land, LMCC operated
- Blacksmiths Beachside Holiday Park, 30 Gommer St, Blacksmiths, Crown Land, LMCC operated
- Spinnakers Leisure Park, 687 Pacific Hwy, Belmont, private facility
- Swansea Gardens Lakeside Holiday Park, 15 Wallarah St, Swansea, Crown Land, LMCC operated

- **Camping Areas**

There are no free camping sites in the Belmont catchment. To the south of the catchment there are two sites in the Lake Munmorah State Recreation Area with the closest being in Frazer Park.

- **Other Recreation Facilities**

Other recreation related facilities within the catchment include:

- Marks Point Marina, 21 Edith St, Marks Point – crown land
- Boy scout halls, Belmont and Swansea

19.2 Identified Need

The following survey demonstrates the identified need for some other recreation facilities within the Belmont CC.

- **Hunter Regional Plan 2036**

Under Direction 18, Enhance access to recreation facilities and connect open spaces, there is one relevant action:

- 18.5 Implement actions and invest in boating infrastructure priorities identified in regional boating plans to improve boating safety, boat storage and waterway access.

- **ERASS**

According to the ERASS 2010 annual report, golf has a 7.6% total participation rate¹²³ and golf is ranked ninth in the ten most popular sports and physical activities for adults (survey undertaken of persons aged 15 years and over) in NSW in 2007.¹²⁴ Lawn bowls has a 2.3% total participation rate and this participation rate has increased by 20% over the period 2001 to 2010.¹²⁵

¹²³ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*

¹²⁴ NSW Sport and Recreation (2007) *Sport and Physical Activity in New South Wales*

¹²⁵ ASC (2010) *Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey 2010 Annual Report*, p. 35.

19.3 Analysis

Golf – The LDCG identifies a golf course as key community infrastructure and specifies an indicative population threshold of one golf course for every 30,000 people.¹²⁶ There is one 18-hole golf course located at Belmont, and based on the LDCG guidelines it adequately serves this catchment. LMCC does not provide for golf in its LGA as the private sector has provided these facilities. If however, any of these golf courses are redeveloped for another purpose, Council may reconsider the need to provide for golf in the future.

Bowling Greens – There are five clubs and ten bowling greens in the catchment. One of these facilities is located on public land. Over recent years, Council has reclassified many of these sites, enabling the sale of the land to the respective bowling club. However, in the event that a bowling club ceases to operate, the land may then be on-sold, and the community loses the recreation facility and the future use of the (community) land. Three bowling greens associated with the Belmont Macquarie Bowling Club (next to Belmont Sporties Club), are proposed to be redeveloped for an alternate non – recreation use.

Men's Sheds – Council has provided land for various clubs and community organisations including scouts and girl guides, and more recently for men's sheds. There is a men's shed located at 74 Pacific Highway, Blacksmiths (at the previous Tourist Information Centre). In addition, there is a men's shed at Belmont North, just over the boundary within the Charlestown catchment.

19.4 Recommendations

Golf – There is one 18-hole golf course within the catchment and no additional golf courses are required.

Bowling Greens – Lawn bowls is a recreational activity popular with older adults and with the increased aging population, participation rates should increase. The Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club is located on land that is part of a larger sporting and recreation area. If this club ceased to operate, Council should retain the site, as the land can be repurposed for another recreation use. Alternatively, the building can be removed/demolished and the land categorised as park or sportsground. Consideration regarding the future provision of meeting rooms currently within the CHB Bowling Club is discussed in the Community Facilities Background Paper for the Belmont Catchment Developer Contributions Plan.

Men's Sheds – There are a range of recreational uses that require public land. Currently, Men's Sheds are increasing in popularity with some facilities i.e. the Belmont North Men's Shed, experiencing waiting lists and users have time limits to use the facility. The need for Men's Sheds is likely to increase in the future, as the population ages and Council should retain suitable public land for this purpose. The provision of Men's Sheds is considered further in the Community Facilities Background Paper for the Belmont Catchment Developer Contributions Plan.

¹²⁶ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, Indication population threshold, p. 88.

PART D – OPEN SPACE

Public open space is important because it contributes to the physical health and social wellbeing of a community.¹²⁷

Open space is public land owned or managed by Council set aside for leisure, recreation, and sporting activities and for conservation, biodiversity and scenic values. Open space includes public land managed by other organisations, such as national parks, conservation areas, botanic gardens and zoological gardens. It also includes community title land, which is open and available to certain landholders within a subdivision. Whereas private open space is, land in private ownership and can include parks, gardens¹²⁸, sporting areas, tennis courts, or golf courses.

Open space areas have long been recognised as a basic requirement of human settlement planning. These areas are an important resource for social interaction, rest and recuperation and for pursuing healthy activities.¹²⁹

For LMCC, the nature of its LGA, its extensive existing natural resources, including the Lake Foreshore, coastal beaches, bushland hinterland, and steep terrain has resulted in a significant provision of open space. LMCC has undertaken several studies to assess the type and distribution of its open space and determine a strategic direction for the appropriate and effective provision of recreation facilities in its LGA.

Community Land

Community land is meant for public access and use and though it is a small share of the total, it is the open space that is 'closest to the community' and is fundamental to liveability and the quality of life in neighbourhoods'¹³⁰

Community land¹³¹ is the term used to describe the open space land owned or managed by Council. Community land includes land in the LGA owned by LMCC¹³² and crown land reserved for public recreation or for a public purpose, managed by LMCC.

LMCC owned land classified as operational land,¹³³ crown land where LMCC is not the trust manager, or crown land reserved for other purposes, such as a garbage dump or quarry, is not community land.

LMCC adopted a *Plan of Management for Community Land* (PoM) in 2011, which lists and maps the community land in the City. The data contained in this PoM, current as at November 2011, forms the basis of this section. Since that time, Council has reclassified some of the community land (listed in the PoM) to operational land, and has consequently sold the land. In addition, Council has also purchased or received developer-dedicated land, which was not included in the PoM.

The purpose of this plan is to determine if the existing community land within the Belmont CC is adequate to serve the needs of the existing and future community. The location of the existing community land and recreation facilities was considered in relation to the projected growth to determine if the existing land and facilities were able to meet the future demand.

¹²⁷ Growth Centres Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, p. B-71.

¹²⁸ The Hunter Valley Gardens, in Pokolbin, is an example of a privately owned formal gardens comprising 25 ha.

¹²⁹ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 6.

¹³⁰ *Ibid*, p. 29.

¹³¹ Community land would ordinarily comprise land such as a public park or public reserve, land conveyed or transferred to council under s340A of the LGA 1919, or any land dedicated or taken to be dedicated as a public reserve s340C or s340D or the LGA 1919, or any land dedicated or taken to be dedicated under s49 and s50.

¹³² On the commencement of the Community Land Management Act 1998, the following land that is vested in or under the control of a council is taken to have been classified as community land. a) land comprising a public reserve; b) land subject to a trust for a public purpose; c) land dedicated as a condition of a development consent under s 94 of the EP&A Act 1979; d) land reserved, zoned or otherwise designated for use under an environmental planning instrument as open space; and e) land controlled by a council that is vested in the corporation constituted by s 8(1) of the EP&A Act 1979. Within 1 year after the relevant commencement, a council may, by resolution, classify, as community land or operation land, any public land that is vested in it or under its control and that is not classified by subclause (2). Any public land that maybe classified by resolution under subclause (3) and that is not classified within 1 year after the relevant commencement is taken to have been classified as community land.

¹³³ Operational land would ordinarily comprise land held as a temporary asset or as an investment, land which facilitates the carrying out by a council of its functions, or land which may not be open to the general public, such as a works depot or a council garage.

20. City Wide Provision

20.1 Existing Provision of Community Land

LM LGA has approximately 4,098 ha of community land or 20 ha/1,000 population as detailed in the following table. However, the LM LGA is 758 km² and the community land represents only 5.4% of the total area within the City.

The Community Land Management Act was introduced in 1998, which required Council's to classify public land, (land owned or managed by Council), into community land or operational land and to categorise community land into the designated categories of Natural Area, Park, Sportsground, or General Community Use. Council's community land has been categorised to reflect the dominant existing use of the land or the proposed future use of the land. For example, a playground located in a sportsground was categorised sportsground as this is the dominant use of the land and some community land may have been categorised sportsground as this is the intended future use of the land.

Table 51. LM LGA – Community Land – Existing

COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORIES	AREA HA	% OF TOTAL COMMUNITY LAND	HA/1,000 POPULATION ^A
Natural Area	3,058	75	15.2
Park	489	12	2.4
Sportsground	379	9	1.9
General Community Use	172	4	0.9
TOTAL	4,098	100	20

Note: ^A Based on an existing population of 46,811

- **Natural Area**

Within the City community land categorised as natural area, comprises 3,058 ha and 75% of the total community land in the City, or 15.2 ha/1,000 population. Land categorised natural area includes bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse, and foreshore. Whilst there may be some permissible recreation uses within some natural areas, such as, bush walking and mountain bike riding, a large proportion of the land is steeply sloping, contains creeks, watercourses, or vegetation communities, including wetlands that preclude most recreation uses. As such, Council does not consider natural areas to be usable recreation lands, and Council will not accept these lands as an offset, for the requirement to provide land for open space under section 94 of the EPA Act.

- **Park**

Community land categorised as park comprises 489 ha and 12% of the total community land in the City or 2.4 ha/1,000 population. However, this is not a true indication of the parks in the City as many of the lands categorised as park include miscellaneous lands. These include road buffers, drainage reserves, detention/retention basins, small or irregular shaped parcels (residue lands from subdivisions), flood prone/low lying land, electricity easements, or land with other restrictions that limit the use of the land for recreation. Since Councils were required to use the categories specified in the LG Act 1993, and there was no category to describe these miscellaneous lands, any land that appeared to be mowed and maintained, or any land containing detention basins or wet ponds, was categorised park.

- **Sportsground**

Community land categorised as sportsground comprises 379 ha and 9% of the total community land in the City or 1.9 ha /1,000 population. Land categorised sportsgrounds includes existing sports fields/ovals, netball and tennis courts, and land proposed for future sportsgrounds. Small areas comprising a playground, skate park, or BMX track located within a sportsground were categorised according to the dominant use of sportsground.

- **General Community Use**

Community land categorised as general community use comprises 172 ha and 4% of the total community land in the City or 0.9 ha/1,000 population. Land categorised general community use includes land leased or licensed or land proposed to be leased or licensed and usually contains community buildings. Council has reclassified some leased community land (mainly lands containing community buildings) to operational land and some of this reclassified land has now been sold. The above information reflects the existing community land that is leased/licensed, not the operational land that is leased/licensed.

- **Recreation Land**

Recreation land is land categorised as park or sportsground. Of the community land in the City, 868 ha or 21% of the land is categorised park or sportsground or 4.3 ha/1,000 population. This land includes existing parks or sportsgrounds, land proposed as park or sportsground, and other miscellaneous lands (categorised park as there was no other suitable category). Therefore, only a portion of this recreation land is considered usable recreation land.

21. Belmont CC

21.1 Existing Provision of Community Land

The Belmont CC has approximately 771 ha of community land or 29.7 ha/1,000 population. The total area of the catchment is 50 km² (5000Ha) and the community land represents 15.4% of the total area within the catchment. The land is categorised according to the categories specified in the LG Act 1993 as detailed in the following table. Refer to Figure 17, for a plan illustrating the community land and categories of the land within this catchment.

Table 52. Belmont CC – Community Land – Existing

COMMUNITY LAND CATEGORIES	AREA HA	% OF TOTAL COMMUNITY LAND	HA/1,000 POPULATION ^A
Natural Area	618	80	23.8
Park	82.5	11	3.2
Sportsground	45.8	6	1.8
General Community Use	24.7	3	0.9
TOTAL	771	100	29.7

Note: ^A Based on an existing population of 26,107

- **Natural Area**

Community land categorised natural area includes approximately 618 ha comprising 80% of the total community land in the catchment or 23.7 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded green in Figure 17. There are a number of parcels that have been included in the figures above that have not been formally categorised at this time and not shown in Figure 17, however, these have been included to provide a realistic representation of the natural areas that Council either owns or has care, control and management of. In addition, the catchment also contains state managed areas including:

The Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area (SCA) includes a small area in the catchment, south of Nords Wharf. The Munmorah SCA is partly located in the catchment, south of Catherine Hill Bay and includes the suburb of Moonee. Wallarah National Park is east of Cams Wharf to the coastline and extends north into Pinnys Beach. The Belmont Wetlands State Park is located in Belmont. LMCC has no management responsibilities of these areas, and they are not included in the above table.

- **Park**

Community Land categorised park includes approximately 82.5 ha comprising 11% of the total community land in the catchment or 3.2ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded pink in Figure 17. There are a number of parcels that have been included in the figures above that have not been formally categorised at this time and not shown in Figure 17, however, these have been included to provide a realistic representation of the park areas that Council either owns or has care, control and management of. This is more than the citywide level of provision, which is 2.4 ha/1,000 population. The catchment contains numerous miscellaneous lands (as previously discussed) which are not used or developed as park.

- **Sportsground**

Land categorised sportsground includes approximately 45.8 ha comprising 6% of the total community land in the catchment or 1.8 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded yellow in Figure 17. There are a number of parcels that have been included in the figure above that have not been formally categorised at this time and not shown in Figure 17, however, these have been included to provide a realistic representation of the sportsground areas that Council either owns or has care, control and management of.

- **General Community Use**

Community land categorised general community use includes approximately 24.7 ha comprising 3% of the total land in the catchment or 0.9 ha/1,000 population. Refer to the land shaded orange in Figure 17. The three tourist parks have not been included in this assessment. There are two areas of land categorised general community use but are not used/developed as general community use and these areas are detailed in the following table.

Table 53. Belmont CC – Community Land – Land Categorised but not General Community Use

LAND CATEGORISED GENERAL COMMUNITY USE NOT USED/DEVELOPED AS GCU	AREA HA
8 Ocean Park Rd, Belmont South	5.1
67 Docker St and 116 Ungala Rd Blacksmiths	8.2
TOTAL	13.3

The land categorised general community use and not used/developed as general community use is approximately 13.3 ha. Therefore, the land categorised and developed/used as general community use is (24.7 ha minus 13.3 ha) = **10.4 ha** or **0.4 ha/1,000** population, less than half the 24.7 ha outlined in Table 47.

- **Actual Recreation Land**

Of the 771 ha of community land in the Belmont CC, only a proportion of this land is actual recreation land. The actual recreation land is the land categorised park or sportsground as detailed in Part C the Recreation section of this plan under 'existing provision'.

Within the Belmont CC the actual recreation land is 76.6 ha or 2.9 ha/1,000 population, as detailed in the following table.

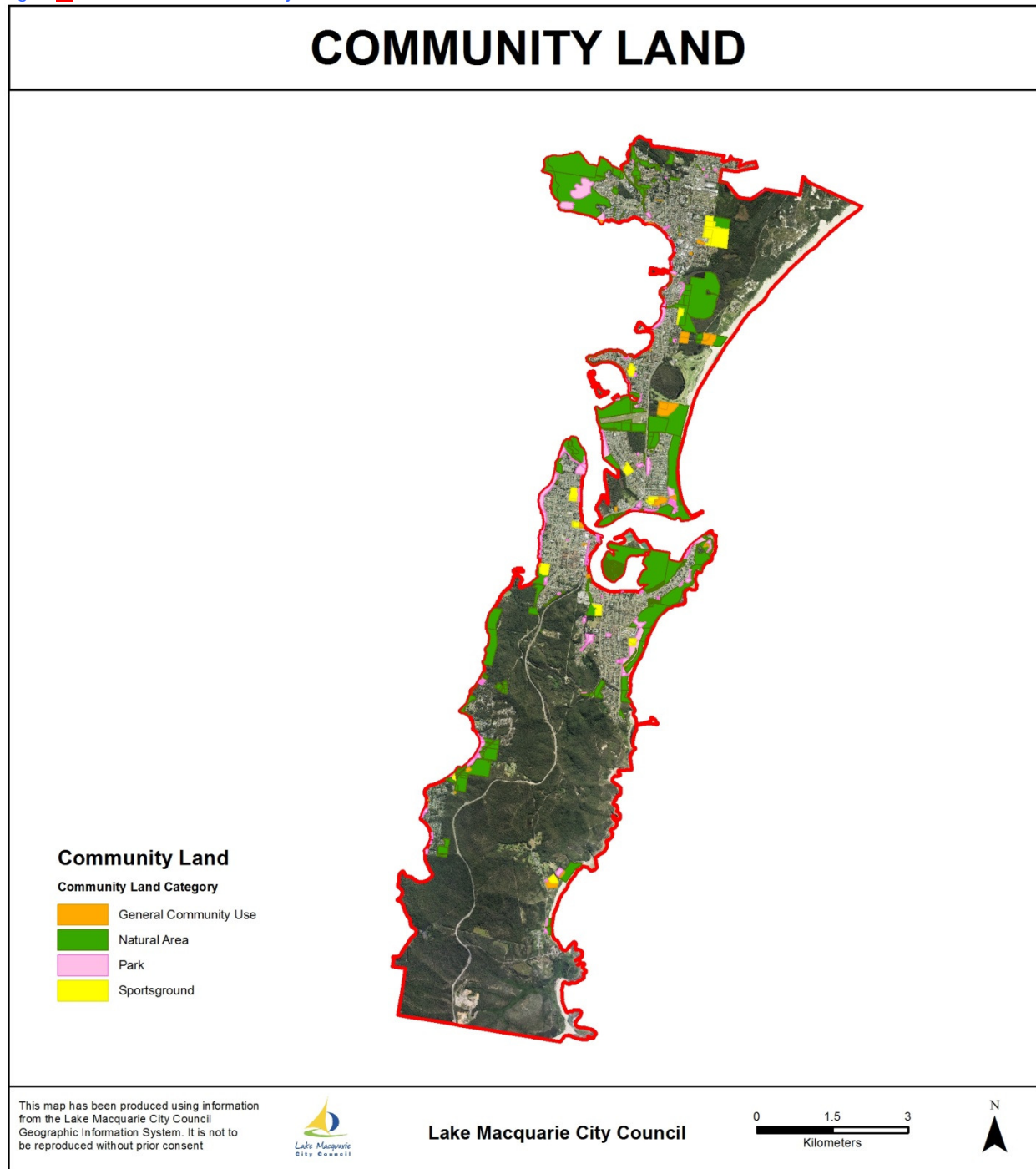
Table 54. Belmont CC – Actual Recreation Land

CURRENT RECREATION LAND USE ^A	AREA HA	HA/1,000 POPULATION ^B	% OF URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA ^C
TOTAL SPORT LAND	45.8	1.75	2%
TOTAL PARK LAND	30.8	1.18	1.4%
TOTAL RECREATION LAND ^D	76.6	2.9	3.4%

Note: ^A Current recreation land, use is detailed in Part C of this plan, this recreation use can change depending on current needs
^B Based on an existing population of 26,107
^C Urban residential area in the Belmont CC includes land zoned RU4, R2, R3, and E4 = 2,260 ha
^D Includes the dog exercise area at Docker St Reserve Marks Point

The Belmont Catchment has a higher proportion of land used for sport (often described as organised or active recreation), to the proportion of land used for park, (often described as unorganised or passive recreation). The catchment provides a major sportsground complex in Belmont but does not include a major park area. This has played a significant role in the higher provision of sportsground to park in the Belmont Catchment.

Figure 1617 - Belmont CC - Community Land



The above plan identifies the location of existing community land categories in the Belmont CC. More detailed information regarding the categories of community land within the Belmont catchment, can be found in the *Plan of Management for Community Land 2011*, accessible from Council's website.¹³⁴

¹³⁴ LMCC (2011) *Plan of Management for Community Land 2011*.

21.2 Issues

The issues identified for community land include:

- The majority of existing community land is categorised as natural area (618ha or 80% of the CL) and has limited recreation opportunity.
- Only a small proportion of the land is currently used for recreation, i.e. sportsgrounds 6%, park 4%.
- The southern area of the catchment from Murrays Beach/Pinny Beach to Catherine Hill Bay has limited useable recreation land due to the topography of the land and environmental constraints

21.3 Identified

The following survey, guidelines, and plans demonstrate the identified need.

• NSW Making It Happen

The NSW Government is committed to improving health across NSW. One of the 12 Premier's priorities is to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five per cent over 10 years. This priority specifically identifies the importance of access to and promotion of recreation and the provision of open and green space.

• Hunter Regional Plan 2036

Under Direction 18, Enhance access to recreation facilities and connect open spaces, there are two relevant actions:

- Deliver connected biodiversity-rich corridors and open space areas for community enjoyment.
- Enhance public access to natural areas, including coastal and lake foreshores.

• NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan

The purpose of the plan is to guide the sport and recreation industry in addressing priority issues over the next five years. The relevant objectives are:

- To increase the availability of useable open space to ensure facilities are of a quality standard to meet community expectations
- Success measure: Two per cent increase in access of useable open space¹³⁵

• Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy undertaken by URS revealed that the LM LGA has one of the highest allocations of open space. However, a substantial proportion is natural area covered by remnant vegetation with significant biodiversity conservation values. Consequently, the potential for development of new recreation facilities in these areas is more limited than the number of hectares per head of population implies.¹³⁶

• Open Space Plan

The Open Space Plan undertaken by Clouston identified that:

- Half of the City's reserves are less than 0.5 ha accounting for only 3.5% of the total area of open space in the City. Many of these small reserves are dedications from developments over the years and are providing limited recreational opportunity, often being of poor quality, little used and difficult to maintain.
- There are significant numbers of very small reserves in the City, some as small as 300 m².
- Reserves with a size less than 0.2 ha = 30% of the numbers of reserves but less than 1% of the total area of public open space in the City.¹³⁷

¹³⁵ NSW Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and NSW Sport and Recreation (20?) *Game Plan 2012 NSW Sport & Recreation Industry Five Year Plan: Shaping our Future for a Sustainable Community*, p. 12.

¹³⁶ LMCC (2001) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy*, prepared by URS, Executive Summary.

¹³⁷ LMCC (1996) *Lake Macquarie Open Space Plan: Volume 1*, p. 20; *Volume 2*, p. 5; Table 2.4.

• Recreation Plan

The Recreation Plan identifies specific strategies including:

- Undertake land / site acquisition and enhancements as deemed appropriate¹³⁸
- In new residential areas, land acquisition for recreational uses should occur where possible, prior to subdivision and development so that the areas acquired reflect an understanding of the community(ies) to be served and the uses to be supported.¹³⁹

21.4 Comparative

DoP have provided two guidelines for local government. The *Local Development Contributions Guidelines* lists the key community infrastructure type and provides an indicative population threshold for each recreation facility whereas the *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government* provides the area requirements for open space types.

There are a number of different standards for recreation and open space provision including:

• Catchment/Access Based Standard

A catchment/access based standard is the service area radius or maximum distance, which residents should have to travel to access recreation facilities.¹⁴⁰ The *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines* provides the area requirements for open space and the distance of these types from most dwellings.¹⁴¹

- Local Parks – 0.5 ha – 2 ha, 400 m buffer
- District Parks – 2-5 ha, 2 km
- Local Linear and Linkage – up to 1 km
- District Linear and Linkage – 1-5 km
- Local Outdoor sport – 5 ha, 1 km buffer
- District Outdoor sport – 5-10 ha, 2 km buffer

Generally, this guideline is used when planning for new residential development areas.

• Percentage of Residential Area

The *Recreation and Open Space Guidelines* also identifies the recommended recreation area of land (excluding regional recreation areas) as a percentage of the residential area. The following table compares the percentage of community land with the urban residential area in the catchment to the actual levels of provision in the suburban outer areas of Sydney. However, for Sydney, the actual level of provision does not include regional recreation areas, whereas in LMCC they do include regional areas.

The results indicate that the Belmont CC has a significantly lower level of provision of both parks and sport to the suburban outer of the Sydney Metropolitan. According to this standard, the Belmont CC should have around 8.8% of recreation land whereas it has 3.4%.

Table 55. Belmont CC – Recreation Land – % of Urban Residential Area Standard

Table 55: Belmont CC – Recreation Land – % of Urban Residential Area Standard			
COMPARATIVE	PARKS, LINEAR & LINKAGE	OUTDOOR SPORT	TOTAL
	% OF URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA ^A		
Belmont CC ^B	1.4%	2%	3.4%
Guidelines ^C	4.2%	4.6%	8.8%
Sydney Metropolitan - Suburban Outer ^D			8%
Notes: ^A Urban residential area in the Belmont CC = 2,260ha and includes land zoned RU4, R2, R3, E4			
^B Refer to Table 50, Actual Recreation Land			
^C NSW DoP (2010) <i>Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government</i> , p. 29			
^D Ibid. The average level of provision of non-regional recreation areas in different parts of metropolitan Sydney, p. 27			

¹³⁸ LMCC (1998) *Recreation Plan: Volume 1*, p. 22.

¹³⁹ Ibid. p.14.

¹⁴⁰ NSW DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 28.

¹⁴¹ Ibid., p. 29.

- **Area Standard – 2.83 ha /1,000 population**

While the above two standards are from the *Recreation and Open Space Guidelines*, a third common standard is from the Growth Centres Development Code¹⁴². This standard is used to guide the precinct planning in the North West and South West of Sydney providing some 181,000 new homes.¹⁴³ This standard is derived from a British standard for the provision of open space from the early 1900s. This standard in the development code requires 7 acres/1,000 population or 2.83 ha/1,000 population to provide adequate playing space for children.

21.5 Best Practice

The *Recreation & Open Space Planning Guidelines* is identified as the best practice standard for analysis of open space and recreational land provision. This guideline provides the area requirements for local open space and the distance of these local open space types from dwellings:

- Local Parks – 0.5 ha – 2 ha, 400 m buffer
- Local Outdoor sport – 5 ha, 1 km buffer
- Local Linear and Linkage – up to 1 km

The guideline also identifies the proportion of open space as a percentage of the urban residential area for different open space types.¹⁴⁴

- Parks/Linear and Linkage = 4.2%
- Outdoor Sport = 4.6%
- Total = 8.8%

In relation to community land, the guidelines advise:

- Larger sites can support multiple uses – a better use of space...Reserving areas for expansion will provide flexibility as new needs emerge
- Open space of different types needs to be provided to accommodate different needs¹⁴⁵

21.6 Analysis

The Belmont CC is a long lineal catchment bounded on two sides by the lake and coastline. It is more developed and populated in the northern section and central sections, with a large proportion of projected growth in the southern section. Belmont has a higher proportion of apartment living which will create additional requirements for access to quality public open space. There is a high provision of shared pathways in the catchment to both facilitate the connection of isolated communities and meet expectations of the community for the provision of these along lake foreshore and coastline areas. Due to the high proportion of natural areas in the catchment, particularly in the southern section, the topography and the associated environmental constraints, provision of new developed recreation sites is limited. This places an increased reliance on developing nearby existing sites.

The plan recommends building and expanding on existing facilities, and the provision of new facilities to support the new development areas where possible.

21.7 Recommendations

This plan has identified the recreation facilities according to a needs based approach considering the projected population growth to 2030. The plan considers the existing facility provision (both public and private), the future trends and future needs, and attempts to provide a wide spectrum of recreation opportunities close to the projected growth. This plan recommends the provision of quality recreation land to fulfil specific recreation needs in the required locations as opposed to a quantitative approach to open space provision. The additional recreation land to be acquired to provide the identified recreation facilities is listed in **Appendix 9** and **10**.

¹⁴² NSW Growth Centre Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, Table A.4 p. A-11.

¹⁴³ NSW Growth Centre Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, Table A.4 p. A-11.

¹⁴⁴ DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 18.

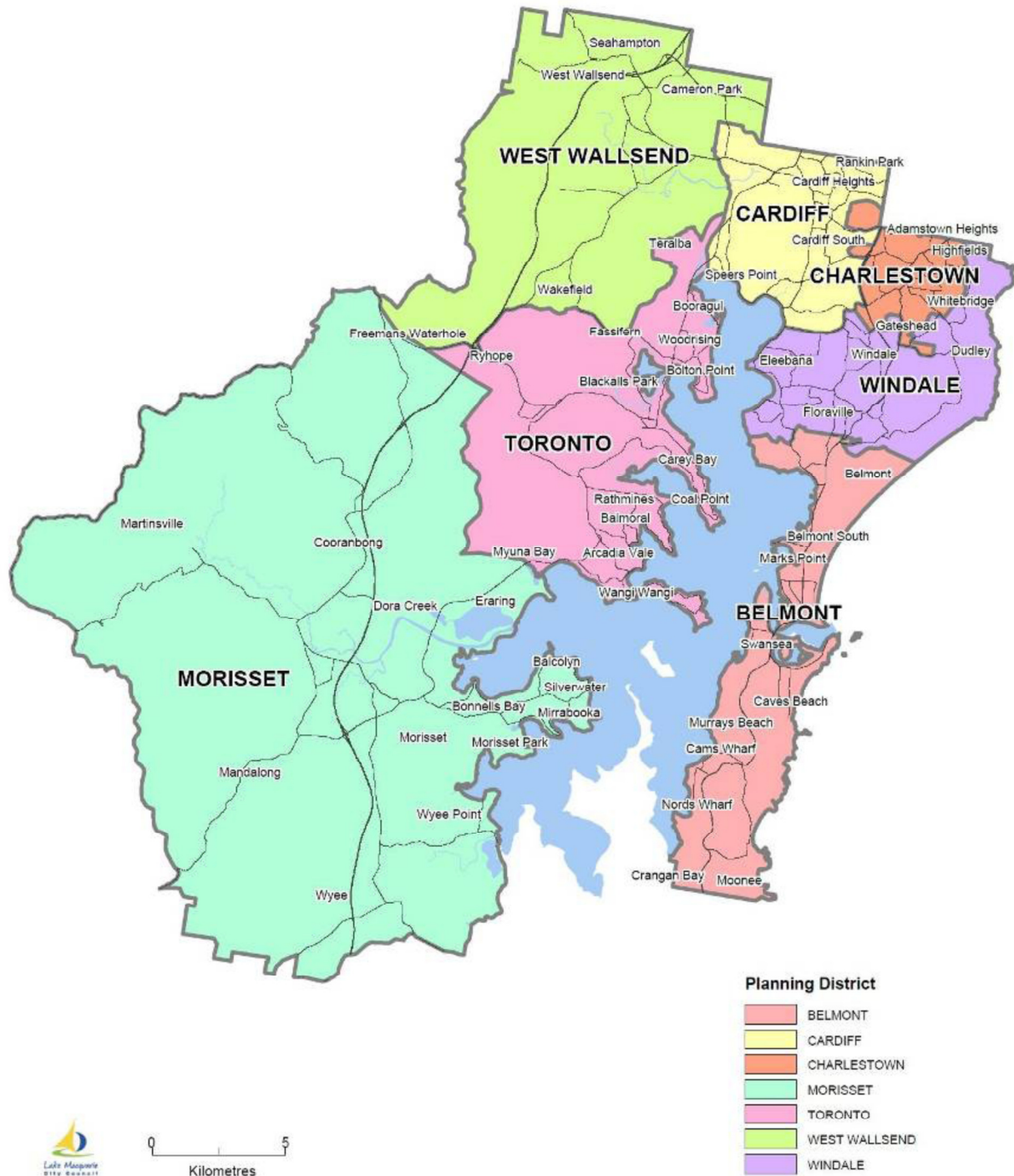
¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 36 and 27.

PART E – APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Planning Districts

Lake Macquarie LGA has been divided into seven Planning Districts (PD) to assist in census and planning analysis. The study area of this plan is the Belmont Planning District.

Figure 1748 - LM LGA - Planning Districts



Produced by Integrated Planning
Project: 2009/1293 14/04/2009

APPENDIX 2 – Sports Field Calculation

Council has used the following methodology to calculate the number of generic sports fields in the City. A generic field could be a soccer or rugby league field or it could be a larger area, such as a cricket or AFL oval, or athletics track/field. If the cricket oval has two fields occupying the same space, the number of fields is calculated according to its highest number of fields i.e. two generic fields. If a cricket oval has an AFL oval or an athletics track overlayed, then it is one generic field. A junior field can include a cricket oval, junior soccer field or a mini-rugby league field, which is 0.5 of a field.

One Field –

Sole use, usually one season use, for example:



Wyee Oval, Wyee
1 sole use cricket oval
= 1 field



Michael Bird Field, Windale
1 sole use league field
= 1 field



Park Ave Res, Caves Beach
1 sole use equestrian
= 1 field



Neegulbah Pk, Macquarie Hills
1 sole use athletics track
= 1 field

One Field –

Dual use, one field/oval for summer, and one field/oval for winter use, for example:



Charlestown Oval

1 cricket oval (summer) &
1 soccer field (winter)
= 1 field



Hillsborough Oval

1 cricket oval (summer) &
1 AFL oval (winter)
= 1 field

One Field –

Multiple uses, one field used for athletics, cricket and football, for example:

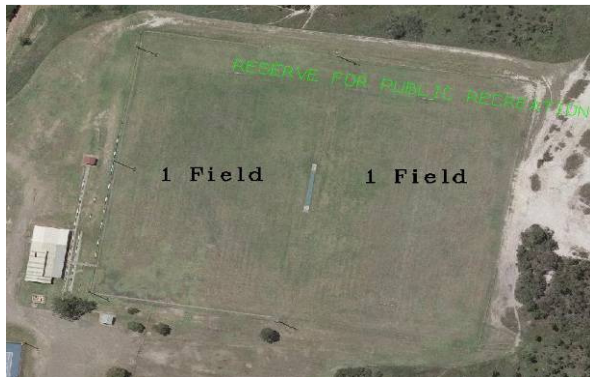


Neville Thompson Oval, Dora Creek

1 cricket oval (summer) &
1 athletics track (summer) &
1 league field (winter)
= 1 field

Two Fields –

One field/oval for summer use and two fields for winter use, for example:



1 cricket oval (summer) &
2 League Fields (winter)
= 2 fields

Hunter Barnett Fields, Windale

0.5 Field –

Junior fields can include a junior cricket oval, mini-rugby league field or a junior soccer field:



1 junior cricket oval
= 0.5 field

Riawena Park, Whitebridge



1 mini rugby league field
= 0.5 field

Keith Barry, Toronto

A Sports Ground is an area that may contain a number of fields /ovals and courts, for example:



2 soccer fields (& cricket oval) &
2 rugby league fields (& cricket oval);
1 junior soccer & 1 mini rugby league = 5
fields,
Also 4 tennis courts and 5 netball courts.

Croudace Bay Sportsground

This method is used to calculate the number of generic sports fields in the recreation and land plans. If the number of fields/ovals were calculated according to uses or sports played, then the total number of sports fields would be considerably more than indicated in the plans. This is an alternative approach to the indicative population threshold for each sport as outlined in the *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*.

APPENDIX 3 – Indicative Standard for Sports Fields

DoP has developed a guideline to identify indicative population thresholds for key infrastructure¹⁴⁶ in relation to community facilities. DoP uses population thresholds for individual sports fields as detailed below. LMCC has used a generic sports field approach. To determine an indicative population threshold for a generic sports field a sample population of 50,000 persons was used. The guideline does not identify the population threshold for a generic field (as used in this plan) that is why the following analysis has been undertaken.

Table 56. Belmont CC – Sports Fields – Standards

SPORTS FIELDS/OVALS	INDICATIVE POPULATION THRESHOLD ¹⁴⁷ 1 facility per	FOR A POPULATION OF 50,000 No. of fields/ovals
AFL (winter)	50,000	1
Athletics Track (summer)	25,000	2
Baseball/Softball (winter/summer)	25,300	2
Cricket (summer)	2,500	20
Hockey (all year)	5,000	10
Rugby League (winter)	3,000	16.7
Rugby Union (winter)	25,000	2
Soccer (winter)	5,000	10
TOTAL NO. OF FIELDS/OVALS		63.6

The guideline states that 'consideration should be given to co-location of facilities to maximise usage e.g. Cricket and AFL'.¹⁴⁸ Competition sports played in summer include athletics, basketball, cricket, softball, whereas competition sports played in winter include AFL, baseball, football (soccer), rugby league, and rugby union. Based on the standards identified in the DoP's guideline (table above) and if all sports fields have a summer and winter use, wherever possible, then the total fields required for a population of 50,000 is approximately 48 sports fields, as outlined in the following table:

Table 57. Belmont CC – Sports Fields – Standards – Possible Dual Use Arrangements

POSSIBLE USE ARRANGEMENT	TOTAL GENERIC FIELDS	AFL	ATHLETIC TRACKS	BASE/ SOFT- BALL	CRICKET	RUGBY LEAGUE	RUGBY UNION	SOCCER
Athletics & Cricket	2		2		2			
Cricket & Baseball	1			1	1			
Cricket & Softball	1			1	1			
Cricket & AFL	1	1			1			
Cricket & Soccer	10				5			10
Cricket & Rugby League	17				9	17		
Cricket & Rugby Union	2				1		2	
TOTALS	34	1	2	2	20	17	2	10

The provision for hockey has been deleted from the above table since LMCC does not provide hockey fields due to a synthetic hockey centre at Broadmeadow provided within the Newcastle City LGA. However, LMCC does provide for equestrian and archery that are not included in the above provision standard. In order to make an allowance for these fields the generic standard has been rounded down.

Table 58. Belmont CC – Generic Sports Field – Standard

INDICATIVE STANDARD	TOTAL FIELDS REQUIRED	FOR A POPULATION OF	FIELD/OVALS PER 1,000 POPULATION	APPROX. EQUAL TO
Fields/Ovals	34	50,000	1,460	1,400

If the indicative population thresholds (for each sport identified in the guideline, excluding hockey) is applied to a population of 50,000, a standard for a generic field is one (1) field per 1,400 persons. This is comparable to the citywide standard of one (1) field per 1,419 persons.

¹⁴⁶ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 92-93

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.* p. 92.

APPENDIX 4 – Park and Playground Standards

Various planning documents provide guidelines for the provision of parks and playgrounds as detailed in the following table. The standards or measures used to assess the provision of parks or playgrounds are size, distance and population. The Draft LDCG state that 'they (the standards) are not intended to be a finite definition of need' and all facilities must be considered in the context of the population characteristics of the LGA with the population thresholds applied on a case-by-case basis.¹⁴⁹

Table 59. Belmont CC – Guidelines for Parks and Playgrounds

GUIDELINES	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	DISTANCE FROM DWELLINGS	POPULATION THRESHOLD
Draft LDCG ¹⁵⁰	Playground	None specified	400 m	1 per 500 dwellings (1,250)
R & O/S Guidelines ¹⁵¹	Local park	0.5 – 2 ha	400 m	
	District park	2-5 ha	2 kms	
Growth Centres Development Code ¹⁵²	Local park	None specified	400 m	
	Neighbourhood park		2 kms	
Open Space Design Guidelines for Landcom Projects ¹⁵³	New parks	0.5 ha		
	Smaller parks	0.5 ha – 1 ha		

The common theme in the above standards is the 400 m distance from most dwellings to a local park or playground. The Belmont CC covers an area of 49.95 km² and is small in comparison to the other catchments such as Toronto CC with an area of 116.2 km², and Glendale CC with an area of 120 km². However, it is twice the size of the City of Sydney's entire LGA, which covers an area of 26 km². A distance of 400 m is an appropriate standard many Sydney Council areas, such as the City of Sydney, but this standard is not achievable for the majority of the LM LGA.

The LDCG also recommends providing a playground for every 500 dwellings. Based on the assumption of 2.5 persons per dwelling¹⁵⁴ the population threshold would be one playground for every 1,250 persons. Using the standard of one playground for every 1,250 persons, then 160 playgrounds would be required for the City. Whereas, the existing provision throughout the city is 112 playgrounds, or one playground for every 1,790 persons. This plan recommends an alternative approach by providing a hierarchy of playgrounds and providing higher quality playgrounds with multiple play opportunities at key locations.

• Comparative

A comparison of playground provision within some other LGA's revealed that the City of Sydney conforms to the distance from dwellings criteria but not the population threshold. If there is a high population in a small area then the average distance from each dwelling may be less than the 400 m standard and the population threshold maybe more than the above standard. For the City of Sydney, the average distance from dwellings to a playground is 319 metres (a higher rate of provision than the 400 m standard) but the rate of provision of one playground for every 2,098 persons (quite low in comparison to the standard of one playground for every 1,250 persons).

Wollongong, Tweed, and Coffs Harbour Council's conform to the population threshold but not to the distance from dwellings criteria, whereas the Newcastle City Council's rate of provision is similar to the rate of provision for LM LGA. The following table provides a summary of the playground comparative analysis.

¹⁴⁹ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*. p. 91.

¹⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 93.

¹⁵¹ DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 29

¹⁵² Growth Centres Commission (2006) *Growth Centres Development Code*, B-79

¹⁵³ Landcom (ND) *Open Space Design Guidelines for Landcom Projects*, p. 5.

¹⁵⁴ Based on 2011 Census Quick Stats: Lake Macquarie(C) [LM LGA] the average number of people per household is 2.5

LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL

Table 60. Belmont CC – Comparison of Other LGA's

COUNCIL AREA	LGA POPULATION	AREA Km ²	NO OF PLAYGROUNDS	AVERAGE AREA Km ² /PLAYGROUND A	AVERAGE DISTANCE FROM DWELLINGS $r = \sqrt{A/\pi}$	PLAYGROUND PER POPULATION
Guidelines ¹⁵⁵					400 m	1,250
City of Sydney	176,255	26	84	0.310	0.319 m	2,098
Wollongong	201,215	714	153	4.667	1,219 m	1,315
Tweed	91,000	1,303	83	15.699	2,235 m	1,096
Coffs Harbour	72,115	1,174	56	20.964	2,583 m	1,288
Newcastle	154,896	187	92	2.033	804 m	1,684
Lake Macquarie	200,849	787.4	112	6.317	1,418 m	1,790
RECOMMENDED STANDARD					400 - 800 m	1,500

The above figures are to be used as a general guide only as the entire area (of the catchment or LGA) was used in the calculation. There has been no consideration for the zoning of the land and employment land or bushland has no requirement to provide a playground.

• Identified

The National Health Survey (NHS) results from the 2007/08 survey run by the Australian Bureau of Statistics released in 2009 revealed that approximately 600,000 Australian children (aged 5 to 17 years) or 25% of all children were overweight (17%) or obese (8%).¹⁵⁶

The Heart Foundation recommends as a general guide:

- Adults include at least 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity (such as brisk walking) on most, if not all days of the week. This amount of activity can be accumulated in shorter bouts, such as three 10-minute walks per day.
- For children, it is 60 minutes.¹⁵⁷

The following table details the average time taken to walk certain distances at a slow, medium or fast walking pace.

Table 61. Walking Distance Calculator

Walking Speed	Time/Distance		
	10 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes
Slow	0.6km	1.2km	1.8km
Medium	0.9km	1.8km	2.7km
Fast	1.1km	2.2km	3.3km

Source: <http://www.travelsmart.qld.gov.au/Travel-alternatives/Walking.aspx>

According to Austroads Standards, the practical limit for most non-recreational walking trips is approximately 1.5 km, equating to a 15-minute walk. School children may walk up to 2 km to school and people walking for recreation and exercise may walk up to 4km'.¹⁵⁸

• Analysis

Based on a slow walking speed it would take 13 minutes to walk 800 metres or less if walked at a medium walking speed. By providing a local playground 800 metres from most dwellings, would take about 26 minutes for the return journey if walked at a slow walking speed. This alone does not provide the recommended exercise for a child of 60 minutes a day.

Pathways to playgrounds (and other key destinations) provide good access and encourage walking. Thus, the walk or cycle to the playground significantly adds to the recreational experience of visiting the playground.

If the playground is of a higher quality, the distance travelled to the playground makes the journey worth the effort and the walk contributes to the individual's daily exercise requirement.

¹⁵⁵ DoP (2009) *Local Development Contributions Guidelines*. p. 91.

¹⁵⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) *National Health Survey, 2007/08* (ABS Cat. No. 4364.0)

¹⁵⁷ <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/healthy-eating/mums-united/getting-active/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁵⁸ Austroads Standards(1999) *Guide to Traffic Engineering Practices, Part 13: Pedestrians*.

- **Recommendation**

The following provision standards are considered reasonable for LM LGA for the life of this plan.

In areas where population densities are low or moderate, a distance of 800 metres from most dwellings is considered reasonable.

In areas where population densities are high and where there is a significant proportion of apartments (in medium or high-density development around town/city centres), a distance of 400 m from most dwellings is more appropriate.

Where communities have high levels of social disadvantage or where communities are physically isolated, the distance provision standard may not be appropriate and a higher level of provision is required.

The aim is for each catchment in the City is to have one major playground, several neighbourhood playgrounds, at least one fenced playground, a learner cyclist circuit, and at least one set of outdoor gym equipment. All playgrounds are to have good connections, preferably linked with pathways providing easy walking and cycling access.

For parks, the standard is recommended standard for LM LGA is slightly higher, as not every park has a playground. The focus is on the providing larger parks that can provide the greatest diversity of recreation opportunity.

These standards are a general guide only and do not take into consideration the hierarchy of parks or playgrounds as the larger the park or playground the greater the distance people will travel to use the facility. For example, the distance from most dwellings of a park 2 to 5 ha in size is 2 kms.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁹ NSW DoP(2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p 29.

APPENDIX 5 – Park Hierarchy

Table 62. City – Park Hierarchy

FUNCTION	LOCAL	NEIGHBOURHOOD	MAJOR	CATCHMENT
	Taylor Memorial Park	Wilkinson Park, Cardiff	Warners Bay Foreshore	Speers Point Park
USABLE PARK AREA	0.5 ha to 1 ha	1 to 5 ha	5 to 10 ha	10 + ha
DISTANCE FROM RESIDENTS	400 to 800 m	Usually 2 km	Usually 5 km	Usually 10 km
STANDARD	Every 1,400 persons	Every 5,000 persons	Up to 50,000 persons	50,000 + persons
AREA SERVED	One per suburb	Two or three suburbs	Several per catchment	Catchment (10-15 suburbs)
USAGE	Minimal	Moderate	High	Very High
GROUP USE	Individuals, carer with children	Small – medium sized groups	Large groups, functions	City festivals, civic events, circus
USES/ACTIVITIES	Park with some facilities often a playground	Playground, picnic/BBQ, multi-court, skate, BMX, fete/markets	Playground, picnic/BBQ, skate, BMX, informal cricket/soccer, kite flying, fete/markets, weddings	Playground, picnic/BBQ, skate, BMX, informal cricket/soccer, kite flying, fete/markets/circus/wedding
TRAVEL TO PARK	Mostly walk	Walk or cycle	Walk, cycle or drive	Walk, cycle or drive
DURATION	Short (10-15 mins)	Up to 30 mins	Up to 1 hour	Up to several hours
ACCESS	Maybe accessible	Some parts accessible	Mostly all accessible	Extremely good accessibility
PARK FACILITIES	Very limited	Some	Moderate	Large number
QUALITY	Basic	Moderate	Good quality	High Quality
Public toilet	No	Yes	Several	Large number to cater for large events
Seating	One park bench	Several park bench seats	Numerous park bench seats	Park bench seats throughout the park
BBQ	No	One	Several	Numerous, some covered
Rubbish bin	No	One	Several	Numerous
Picnic table	No	One	Several	Numerous
Covered picnic table	No	One covered picnic table	Several and a covered group area	Numerous and covered group areas
Shade structure	No	Not usually	Yes	Yes
Pathways	Pathway to play equipment	Shared pathway to play equipment & beyond	Shared pathway to play and through park, may incl. separated pathways	Numerous shared and separated pathways linking activity nodes
Parking	On street	On street	Off street, perimeter parking	Off street, parking bays
Signage	Park sign	Park sign	Park & directional sign	Park, directional & interpretive sign
Other features	Not generally	Minimal	Yes	Sculptural art, fountains/water features
Landscaping	one or two large trees	Several large trees	Numerous significant trees with minor landscaped areas	Many significant trees in expansive grassed park area with landscaping
PLAYGROUND	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age range	2 to 8 years	2 to 12 years	2 to 15 years	2 years to adult
Equipment	Slide, rocker, climbing equip	Large range of equipment	Several different areas of age related equipment, themed playground	Large scale, purpose built, many different play areas or special features i.e. themed, water play, nature play, adventure play
Bubbler / tap	One bubbler	At least one bubbler	Several bubblers	Numerous bubblers
Seating	One bench seat at playground	Two bench seats at playground	Numerous bench seats at playground	Bench seats throughout the playground
Fencing	Not unless required	Not unless required	Probably	Yes
OTHER FAC. bicycle circuit, outdoor gym, skate park, BMX track	No	Possibly	Generally more than one	Several

APPENDIX 6 – Recreation Land Requirements

The DoP in their guidelines recommend that Councils take care to ensure that the land they are receiving for open space purposes is appropriate for the end use¹⁶⁰.

Parks are:

Reserves which have had their physical character and/or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and wellbeing uses. They include ornamental gardens, play facilities, community gardens and informal lawns¹⁶¹

A sports ground is an area comprising sports fields, ovals or courts used for organised, competition or sports training.

Considering the above, the land dedicated for a park or sportsground is required to be '**fit for purpose**' and is not to comprise any of the following:

- land required for environmental purposes i.e. endangered vegetation communities, endangered flora, nest/roost trees, senescent trees or any tree species known to drop limbs,
- any flood prone land,
- land for drainage,
- any contaminated land or water bodies,
- transmission line easements

The land must:

- be flat land
- be centrally located to the catchment population served,
- be predominantly square in configuration,
- have extensive street frontage on at least two of its site boundaries
- have good visibility into the area and good surveillance i.e. residential dwellings overlooking the land
- have good access, located on a shared pathway, or cycleway network,
- have good solar access (winter sun),
- provide some shade (for summer),
- for **parks** - slopes generally <1:15, some areas of steeper slope <1:4 may be permitted for a park,
- for a local park minimum size of 5,000 m² of usable space
- for **sports grounds** - field grade between 1:70 and 1:100 depending upon the nature of the growing media and subsurface drainage system. The land is to provide a minimum of two senior full sized fields and a cricket oval, oriented north/south with the required safety zone, dead ball areas and buffers and provide sufficient land for additional supporting infrastructure, such as car parking, amenities, playground. .
- the entire parcel of land is to be categorised as 'sportsground' or 'park' according to the L G Act (1993).

Refer to Council's specification templates for specific design requirements.

¹⁶⁰ NSW DoP (2009) *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 74.

¹⁶¹ DoP (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, p. 16.

APPENDIX 7 – LMCC Rates of Provision – Standards

The following table details the locally appropriate standards for recreation facilities for the Belmont CC. It also identifies the recommended number of facilities required based on the projected population.

Table 63. Belmont CC – Standard of Provision

RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	RECOMMENDED STANDARD	NO. OF RECREATION FACILITIES FOR A POPULATION 7,252
Sports Fields	1,500	4
Sports Courts	1,100	5
Multi-Courts	15,000	0.4
Parks	1,400	4
Playgrounds	1,500	4
Community Garden	5,000	1
Dog Exercise Area	7,000	0.7
Skate Park	20,000	0.3
BMX Tracks	20,000	0.3
Shared Pathways	0.91	6,627 lm
Tracks and Trails	0.88	6,373 lm
Mountain Bike Areas	1/ward	1
Beach Facilities	1:10,000	0.7

APPENDIX 8 – Recommended Standards

The following indicative standards are the locally specific provision standards applicable for LMCC. They are based on the citywide existing provision in the LGA and take into consideration changing use patterns, expressed community needs and anticipated future needs.

Table 64. Belmont CC – Recreation Standards

DESCRIPTION	SIZE	CATCHMENT	POPULATION THRESHOLD	FACILITIES
SPORTS FIELD			1:1,500	
Small Sports Ground	up to 5 ha	1 km		1 to 2 fields/ovals
Medium Sports Ground	5 to 10 ha	2 km		3 to 5 fields/ovals
Major Sports Ground	over 10 ha	3 to 5 km		5 + fields/ovals
TENNIS			1:2,200	
Small Tennis Centre	0.5	1 km		1 - 3 courts
Medium Tennis Centre	1.2 ha	2 km		4 - 7 courts
Major Tennis Centre	1.5 + Ha	5 + km		8 courts +
NETBALL			1:2,000	
Netball Training Centre	1.5 ha	2 km		1 - 6 courts
Netball Competition Centre	4 ha	10 + km		12 + courts
MULTI-COURT			1:15,000	
PARK				
Local Park	0.5 to 1 ha	400 m - 800 m	1,400	
Neighbourhood Park	1 to 5 ha	1 km	5,000	
Major Park	5 to 10 ha	5 km	Up to 50,000	
Catchment Park	10 + ha	10 km	50,000 +	
PLAYGROUND				
Local Playground	2 to 8 yrs	400 m - 800 m	1,500	
Neighbourhood Playground	2 to 12 yrs	2 km	5,000	
Major Playground	2 to 15 yrs	5 km	Up to 50,000	
Catchment Playground	2 to adult	10 km	50,000 +	
COMMUNITY GARDEN				
Local	up to 0.2 ha	1 km	1:5,000	
Neighbourhood	0.2 - 0.5 ha	4 km	1:50,000	
City Farm	over 10 ha	city wide	1:200,000	
DOG EXERCISE AREA			1:7,000	
SKATE PARK			1:20,000	
Small Skate Park	500 m2	2 to 5 km		
Large Skate Park	2,500 m2	5 to 10 km		
BMX TRACK				
Small BMX Track	2,000 m2	2 to 5 km	1:20,000	
Large BMX Track	5,000 m2	5 to 10 km		
SHARED PATH			1:0.37 LIN METRES	
TRACKS AND TRAILS			1:0.60 LIN METRES	
MOUNTAIN BIKE AREA			1:CATCHMENT	
SURF LIFE SAVING FAC.			1:60,000	
BOAT RAMP			1:20,000	
JETTY			1:20,000	
SWIM POOL			1:12,000	
INDOOR SPORT & RECREATION CENTRE			1:60,000	

APPENDIX 9 – Recreation Land – This Plan

Table 65. Belmont CC – Open Space Land Acquisition or Easement

SUBURB	FACILITY NAME	DESCRIPTION	m ²	PRIORITY
BELMONT	Belmont Golf Club	801A Pacific Highway, Marks Point - Part Lot PT 1 DP 203376	84,150	High
CAMS WHARF	between Murrays Beach & Rafferty's Resort	33 Point Street, Cams Wharf - Part Lot 1 DP 10585	280	Low
CATHERINE HILL BAY	west of CHB SLSF	15 Hale Street, Catherine Hill Bay - part Lot 102 DP 1194707	1,800	High
CATHERINE HILL BAY	around CHB Oval	69A Flowers Drive, Catherine Hill Bay - Lot 3 DP 1180181	23,150	Medium
PINNY BEACH	Northern sector	To be determined	5,000	Medium
SWANSEA	Lake foreshore - north of Murrays Beach	2 Jetty Point Drive, Swansea - Part Lot 1 DP 880078	960	High
SWANSEA	Swansea Town Park	125 Bowman Street, Swansea - Lot 21 DP 962696	416	Medium
		131 Bowman Street, Swansea - Lot	284	Medium
SWANSEA	Lake foreshore - pinch point	92 Belmont Street, Swansea - Part Lot 1 DP 773126	51	Medium
		3 Boyd Street, Swansea - Part Lot D DP 411265	5	Medium
TOTAL (m2)			116,096	
TOTAL RECREATION LAND (Ha)			11.6Ha	

The land required to provide the recreation facilities in this plan is approximately **11.6 Ha**, which is considerably less than the existing provision standard in the LM LGA. As a simple comparison, based on the project growth of 7,252 persons and using the (British) standard of 2.83 ha/1,000 persons, **20.5 ha** of usable recreation land is required to be provided.

APPENDIX 10 – Recreation Land Acquisitions

The Draft LDCG identifies matters for consideration and the guideline recommends that council should identify the land to be acquired.¹⁶² The following land is required to be acquired, dedicated or easements created to provide the facilities recommended in this plan.

¹⁶² NSW Department of Planning (2009) *Draft Development Contributions Guidelines*, p. 93.

1. Belmont – Coastal land

The majority of the 31km coastline within Lake Macquarie LGA is in public ownership. Only one section, approximately 1.3km of the coastline, is owned privately by the Belmont Golf Club (Part Lot PT1 DP203376). To enable continuous public ownership of the coastline, and allow provision of a future coastal walk that would extend from Stockton in the Newcastle LGA to the Munmorah State Recreation Area in the south (over 47km), it is proposed for LMCC to acquire an easement over this land.

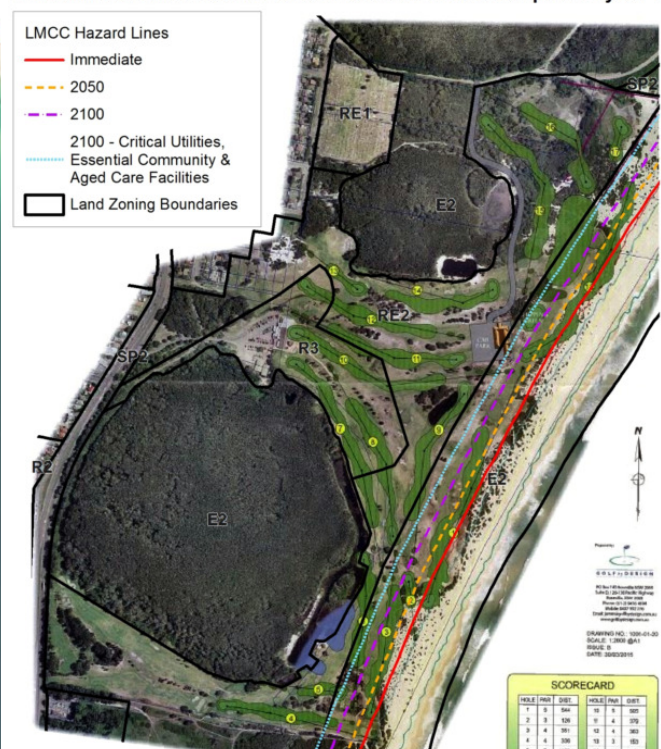
As illustrated in the aerial photo below (left), it is proposed for Council to acquire an easement from the 2100m hazard line east (shown in grey shading), excluding existing golf fairways. Council owns land to the north of Belmont Golf Club (8 and 8A Ocean Park Rd). Belmont Golf Club has previously approached Council regarding the expansion of the golf course north onto part of this Council land parcel. To enable both Council and the Belmont Golf Club to benefit, it is proposed for Council to dedicate part of the northern parcel to the club for their future expansion and in return the club to provide an easement over the coastal strip from the 2100 hazard line as described above. The aerial photo below (right) provides a possible concept layout should the club be successful in gaining access to the Council owned land.

The land required is approximately 1,320 lm of coastline of the **Belmont Golf Club Land**:

- 801A Pacific Highway, Marks Point – Part Lot PT1 DP203376, approximately 8.4 ha (subject to survey) indicatively identified by the grey shaded area in the plan opposite (excluding fairways).



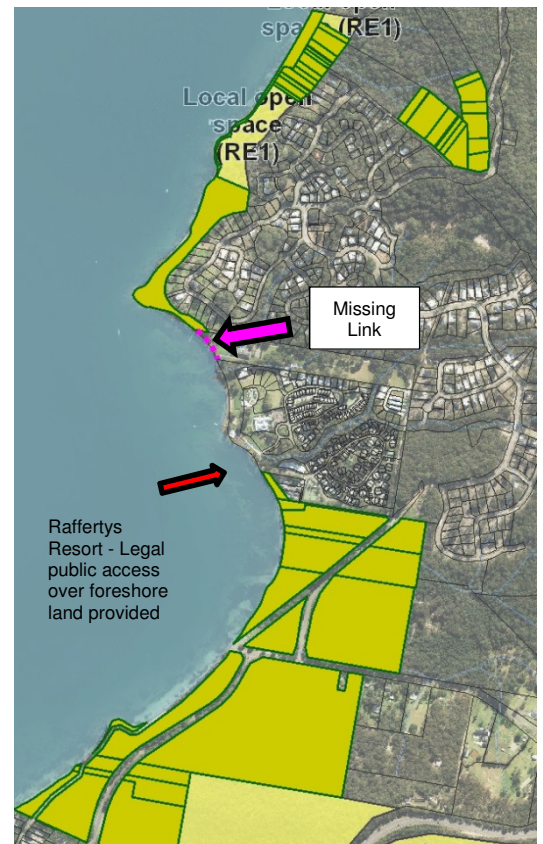
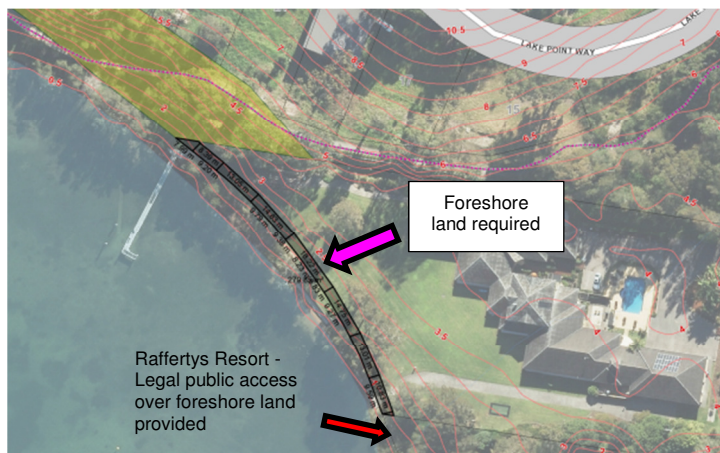
LMCC Hazard Lines overlaid on Belmont Golf Club Conceptual Layout 1



2. Cams Wharf – Foreshore Linkage - Part 33 Point Street

The majority of the lake foreshore from Nords Wharf to Murray's Beach (approx. 2.7km) is publicly accessible (i.e. LMCC community land, land to be dedicated to Council or legal public access is provided, eg Raffertys Resort) as shown in aerial photo right.

To provide contiguous public access, a 3m wide easement is required along the lake foreshore of a private property located at 33 Point St, Cam Wharf, approximately 280m², as illustrated below. Once an easement is provided Council will be able to provide formalised access along the lake between Murrays Beach and Rafferty's Resort, linking Murrays Beach through to Nords Wharf along the lake foreshore.



3. Catherine Hill Bay – Beach Facilities & Park

The existing layout of the coastal park, SLSC building and car parking is not ideal. The SLSC building is located within the coastal hazard zone, the park is small (440m²) and will not cater for the identified future growth, and the car parks are located on coastal land, dividing the building and the park.

It is proposed to relocate the SLSC building outside the coastal hazard zone, expand the coastal park to over 2,300m², relocate the car parks and provide links to the future coastal walk both north and south of the site. To enable this reconfiguration, two parcels of land are required to be acquired (total of 1,800m² and shaded pink in the plan right):

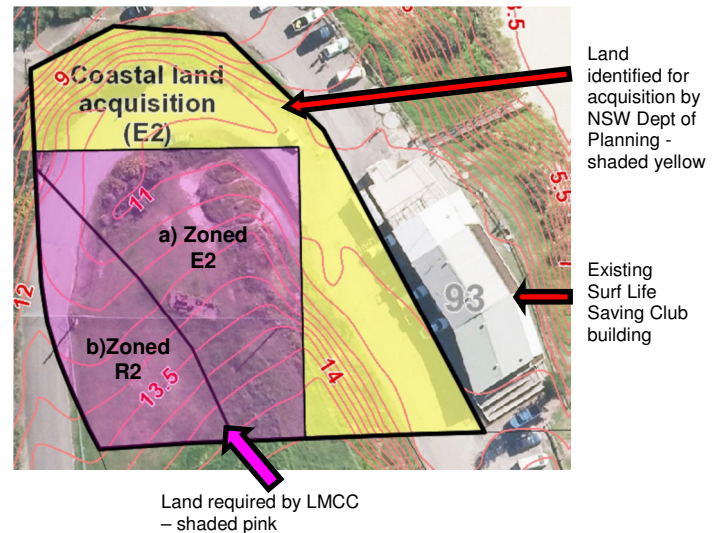
- a) 15 Hale St, Catherine Hill Bay – part lot 102 DP 1194707 - approx. 1,120 m² – zoned E2; and
- b) 15 Hale St, Catherine Hill Bay – part lot 102 DP 1194707 - approx. 680 m² zoned R2.

The adjoining land (part of the same lot and shaded yellow in the plan right) is identified for acquisition by the NSW Department of Planning in the LM LEP 2014 and is approx. 1,450 m² and zoned E2.

A number of plans support the relocation of the SLSC building back from the coastal hazard zone:

- *Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) Part A Final Draft (2015) – D07649241*
- *LMCC Plan of Management 1 Catherine Hill Bay (2001)*
- *LMCC Coastline Management Plan (1999)*

Catherine Hill Bay is projected to increase the existing population by 2,363 people, while the neighbouring suburbs of Nords Wharf, Murrays Beach and Pinny Beach will combine for additional 3,188 people. The works identified above are required to be completed to cater to this expanding population and for future sustainability factors. The acquisition of this land is the only viable option to ensure this project can be achieved.



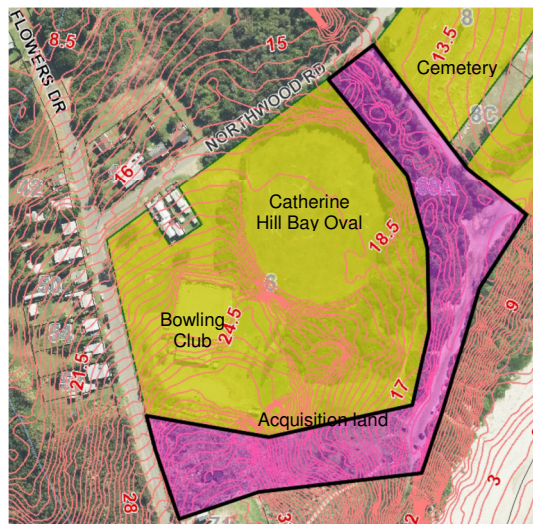
The following plan, prepared by LMCC in 2011, identifies the total land required by dark black line, LMCC acquisition and NSW Department of Planning acquisition



4. CATHERINE HILL BAY – Oval expansion

Catherine Hill Bay currently only provides for a single cricket/football field. It has been identified to expand this oval to allow for two football fields with a cricket wicket located between the fields. This will assist to service the growing population in this area and provide a two football field complex south of Swansea and Caves Beach. To enable this expansion the purchase of additional open space is required.

Surrounding land located at 69A Flowers Dr, Lot 3 DP 1180181 has been identified for acquisition through the LM LEP 2014 (shaded yellow in the plan opposite). The acquisition of this land will allow the expansion of the ovals. The parcel has an area of 23,150m² and is zoned RE1 Public Recreation. The purchase of this land will gain the added benefit of a direct access to the beach.



As shown in the map left, Council currently owns the land that includes the bowling club and greens, the playground and the sportsground, and the north eastern parcel that includes the cemetery (all shaded yellow). In this map the proposed acquisition land is shaded purple.

The proposed acquisition land is identified to be transferred to LMCC as Public Open Space in the **'Middle Camp Land Transfer Plan'** Revision 5, prepared by Monteath & Powys dated 1 October 2010.

5. PINNY BEACH – New Park

Pinny Beach is a new development area that is proposed to provide an additional 1,882 people to 2030. Pinny Beach is made up of two areas, the coastal sector and the northern sector. Land of approximately 0.5ha is to be dedicated to Council to provide a park for the coastal sector, although there is limited opportunity to provide this park on suitable land. At this time the developers of Pinny Beach have identified a village green in the coastal sector that will be held under community title.

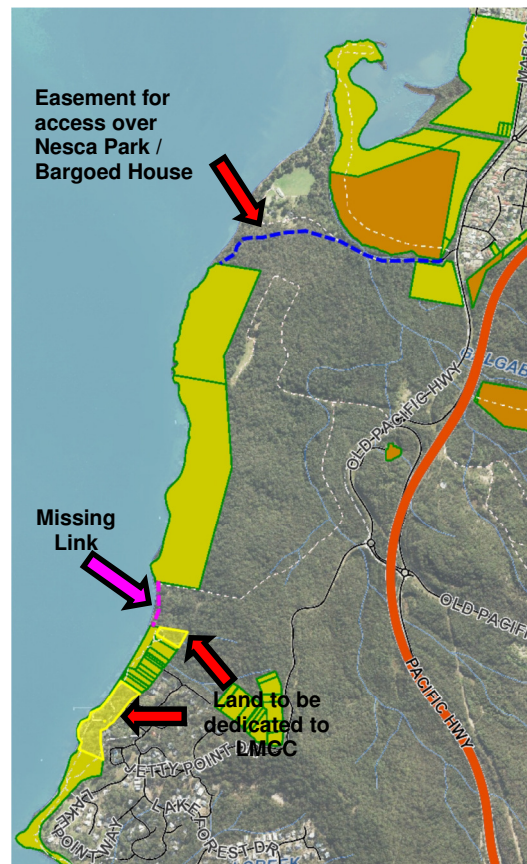
The northern sector is proposed to have a higher population than the coastal. Due to this, discussions have been held to combine the land dedication from the coastal sector with a proposed 0.5ha acquisition by Council. This will enable the provision of a 1ha park centrally located in the northern sector. Having a larger site will allow Council to provide a neighbourhood level park and playground with outdoor fitness equipment, shade and barbeque facilities for both the northern and coastal communities. The final site of the new park will be determined in consultation with developers as plans for this northern sector are finalised. The proposed site will be relatively level, highly visible, have no environmental constraints or limiting factors and centrally located within the northern sector community.

6. SWANSEA – Foreshore Linkage

Council currently has a shared pathway/recreation trail that goes along the channel/lake foreshore from Black Neds Bay to Coon Island and along the western foreshore of Swansea. Council is currently establishing an easement over Ausgrid land through Nesca Park/Bargoed House, as identified by the blue dashed line to link existing council owned land (shaded yellow). To continue this link south to Murrays Beach there is one privately owned absolute waterfront parcel of land located at 2 Jetty Point Rd, Swansea (Lot 1 DP 880078). A pink dashed line highlights the foreshore location of this parcel of land.

This private parcel has an approved DA for a dwelling house which has commenced. There is a private jetty extending from the waterfront. As a condition of the DA approval, an easement is to be provided to Council through the property to allow public thoroughfare. This easement is to be located between 130m to 200m from the high tide mark measured perpendicularly.

It is proposed to secure an easement through this property to link Council owned land south and north of this property. This would require a total easement area of approximately 960m².



7. SWANSEA – Town Park

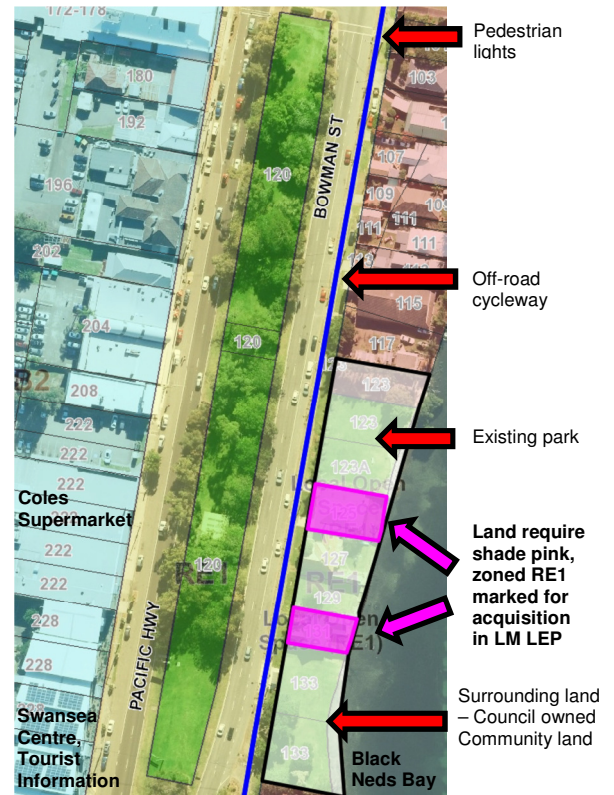
The land required is shaded pink on the plan below and includes:

- 125 Bowman Street , Swansea– Lot 21 DP 962696, 416 m2, and
- 131 Bowman Street, Swansea – Lot 2 DP 449780, 284 m2

Both parcels are zoned RE1 Public Recreation and are marked for acquisition in the LM LEP 2014. Council has been progressively acquiring the land along this section of Black Neds Bay since 1976 and 7 of the 9 parcels identified for acquisition have been acquired. Once all 9 parcels have been acquired, Council will establish a 4,000m2 town park within the site

The land is centrally located within the Swansea town centre. It is opposite the Swansea Centre containing a library, youth centre and tourist information bureau. An off-road cycleway runs along Bowman Street and parking is permitted along the street boundary.

The site has an extensive waterfrontage providing high amenity and access to Black Neds Bay.



8. SWANSEA – Foreshore Linkage

The land required is shaded pink on the plan below and includes:

- 92 Belmont Street, Swansea – Part Lot 1 DP 773126 – 51 m², and
- 3 Boyd Street, Swansea – Part Lot D DP 411265 - 5 m²

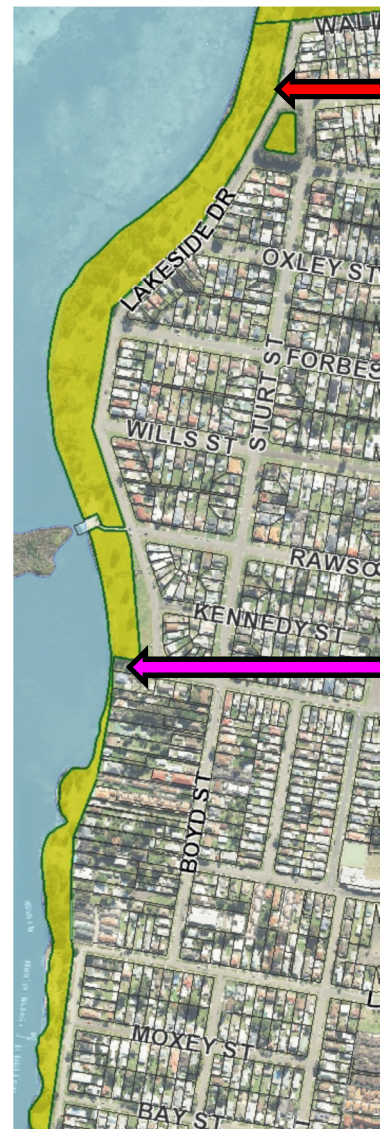
A crown reserve R89275 reserved for public recreation extends along the western side of Swansea. The reserve is identified as 3A Lakeside Drive, Swansea and LMCC is the trust manager. There is a pinch point in the reserve just south of the unformed end of Belmont Street, as indicated on the plan opposite.

The *LMCC Cycling Strategy* has identified an off-road shared pathway extending along this western foreshore reserve as indicated by the blue dotted line on the plan below.

In order to provide this planned off-road shared pathway a small amount of privately owned land is required. The proposed shared pathway will need to be realigned to fit within Council community land and the proposed acquisition land.



Proposed Acquisition



Community land – shaded yellow

Pinch Point

APPENDIX 11 – Planned Recreation Facilities

The recreation facilities proposed and included in the Belmont Developer Contributions Plan are:

SUBURB	RECREATION FACILITY	PRIORITY
BELMONT	FERNLEIGH EXTENSION / SOUTH COAST ROUTE	
	Shared path - Belmont Lagoon, Alick St to Beach St - 1,800 lm	High
	GREEN POINT FORESHORE RESERVE	
	Park - new	Medium
	Playground - New - Adventure	Medium
	BMX Track / Mountain Bike Skills Area - new	Medium
	Recreation trail – part lake foreshore track & loop – 1,350 lm	Medium
	BELMONT SPORTING COMPLEX	
	Sports fields - upgrade, amenities building	Medium
	CULLEN PARK	
	Community garden	Low
BELMONT SOUTH	8 OCEAN PARK ROAD	
	Recreation Trail - coastal trail – new – 2,225 lm	Medium
	Land acquisition - easement	High
BLACKSMITHS	BLACKSMITHS - CHANNEL TO BEACH	
	Shared Path - north side of Swansea Channel - Pacific Hwy along Ungala Rd to Blacksmiths beach and breakwall- 1,235 lm	High
CAMS WHARF	PART 33 POINT ST	
	Shared Path – linkage – Murrays Beach to Raffertys Resort – 97 lm	Low
	Land Acquisition - easement	Low
	PART NORDS WHARF 1B	
	Shared Path – Raffertys Rd to Crangan Bay Rd – 550 lm	Medium
CATHERINE HILL BAY	CATHERINE HILL BAY OVAL	
	Sports fields - upgrade - reconfigure dual use, relocate bowling club, amenities, car park	Medium
	Playground - local - upgrade	Medium
	Community Garden (or alternate site)	Low
	Land acquisition	Medium
	CATHERINE HILL BAY - BEACH	
	Beach Facility – part new SLSC building & amenities located back from coast, car park	High
	Park - new - neighbourhood	High

	Land acquisition	High
CAVES BEACH	CAVES BEACH - BEACH	
	Park - upgrade - expand park by removing turning circle	Medium
	Netball courts – Amenities upgrade	High
	Shared path - coast - Surf Club north Mawson Close - 770 lm	Medium
	Recreation trail – Caves Beach lookout to Spoon Rocks beach access trail	Medium
MARKS POINT	2A VILLAGE BAY CLOSE (OR ALTERNATIVE)	
	Community garden -new	Low
MURRAYS BEACH	LAKESIDE SECTOR LOCAL PARK	
	Park - new	High
	Playground – new	High
	Multi-purpose court - new	High
	Community Garden - new	Low
NORDS WHARF	LINK TO GATHERCOLE PARK	
	Shared pathway – Part Nords Wharf 1A – 700 lm	Low
PINNY BEACH	COASTAL SECTOR	
	Shared pathway – end Pinny Beach to Spoon Rocks Road south 1,025 lm	Medium
	NORTHERN SECTOR	
	Park – new neighbourhood	Low
	Playground – new neighbourhood	Low
	Outdoor exercise equipment	Low
	Land acquisition	Medium
SWANSEA	BARGOED HOUSE	
	Shared path - Recreation trail - 850 lm	High
	BURRAGALANA RESERVE	
	Skate park - upgrade shelter / shade trees	High
	Community garden - new	Low
	PARBURY PARK	
	Croquet Courts – new	High
	SWANSEA SWIM CENTRE	
	Upgrade to provide an enclosed swimming pool	Medium
	SWANSEA TENNIS	
	Sports courts - upgrade & provide lighting	Medium

	SWANSEA TOWN PARK	
	Park – new	Medium
	Playground - new	Medium
	Land acquisition	Medium
	SWANSEA WESTERN (LAKE) FORESHORE	
	Shared path - Lake - Belmont St to Lake Rd - 450 lm	Low
	Land acquisition	Medium
	2 JETTY POINT DR & 370A PACIFIC HWY	
	Recreation trail – South of Bargoed House to Murrays Beach – 1500 lm	High
	Land acquisition – easement	High
CATCHMENT	NORTHERN CATCHMENT	
	Skate Park - new	High
	NORTHERN – CENTRAL CATCHMENT	
	Enclosed dog exercise area - new	High
	SOUTHERN CATCHMENT	
	Dog exercise area - new	Medium
TERALBA	TERALBA - GRIFFEN ROAD (PROPOSED)	
	City Farm - new	Low

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APPENDIX 13 – Glossary of Terms

Best practice	Considers service issues, industry standards and new service models
Citywide standard	Means existing standard of provision within the City of Lake Macquarie
Club-based physical activity	Physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by a sport or recreation club or association that required payment of membership, fees or registration. This is distinct from fitness, leisure or sports centres that required payment for participation. Excludes all aerobics/fitness participants
Community garden	A public garden used for growing edible plants and herbs maintained by the community
Community land	Land retained for public use such as a park or public reserve
Comparative need	The need based on service equity and provision across the LGA, between LGAs and based on planning standards
Contribution catchment	The contribution catchment is the boundary of the Belmont Contribution Catchment as defined by Figure 1
Dog exercise area	A dog exercise area or dog park is a facility set aside for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners
Estimated Resident Population	Estimated Resident Population (ERP) – is the official ABS estimate of the Australian population. The ERP is based on the results of the census and is compiled for each census and updated quarterly between census. The ERP is calculated by applying the following adjustments to the 'usual residence' census counts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include Australian residents who were temporarily absent overseas on census night; - Adjust the census counts for undercounting using results of the Post Enumeration Survey and; Backcast the resulting estimates, which relate to 6 August 2001 to 30th June 2001 using births, deaths and migration data.
Identified need	Is based on the outcomes of consultation with residents and key stakeholders
Football	Football refers to a number of sports that involve, to varying degrees, kicking a ball with the foot to score a goal. The most popular of these sports worldwide is association football, more commonly known as just "football" or "soccer". Unqualified, the word football applies to whichever form of football is the most popular in the region
Futsal	A scaled down version of outdoor soccer mainly played indoors
Gateball	A mallet sport, like croquet, played on courts with a level grass cover, ideally, croquet courts are excellent. It is a fast moving game played by people of all ages.
Local standard	Existing standard of provision within the respective catchment i.e. Belmont CC
Multi-purpose half-court	A hard surface area usually a half basketball court used for informal games of basketball, netball goal shooting, and could include a tennis hit up wall
Multi-purpose sports court	A hard surface court with different line markings to enable a number of different sports to be played on the one court e.g. futsal, basketball, netball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, or badminton
Non-organised physical activity	Physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was non-organised in full or in part (that is, not fully organised by a club, association or other type of organisation)
Normative need	The socio-demographic profile of the area, relative social disadvantage and resultant social issues
Open space (public)	Public land set aside for sport, recreation and community purposes, including parks, sports fields, playgrounds, skate parks, civic squares, plazas, and bushland
Organised physical activity	Physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport that was organised in full or in part by (1) a fitness, leisure or indoor sports centre that required payment for participation, (2) a sport or recreation club or association that required payment of membership, fees or registration, (3) a workplace, (4) a school, or (5) any other type of organisation
Organised sport	Organised sports are those that are organised in full or part by a club, association or other type of organization.
Operational land	Land held as a temporary asset or as an investment, land that facilitates the carrying out by a council of its functions or land, which may not be open to the general public, such as a works depot or a council garage.
Park	An area of land with a town, set aside for public use, often landscaped with trees and gardens and with recreational and other facilities: Hyde Park.
Participation rate	For any group, this is the number of persons who participated in the activity,

	expressed as a percentage of the population in the same group
Passive open space	An area of land, generally in an urban context, which is landscaped, beautified and set aside for the enjoyment of the public, excluding sporting activities
Public land	Any land (including public reserves) vested in or under the control of the council, but does not include a public road, land subject to the <i>Trustees of school of Arts Enabling Act 1902</i> , or a regional park under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
Recreation	Recreation is an activity, voluntarily undertaken primarily for pleasure and satisfaction, during leisure time
Recreational trail	A recreational trail maybe a narrow unsealed track or an unsealed fire trail. These occur mainly in natural areas on steeply sloping land or on land with constraints and are used by cyclists with wide tyres and walkers
Shared pathway	A shared pathway is an accessible sealed pathway provided though parks or sporting areas but can also be provided through natural areas. It is a multi-use pathway for walking, cycling, skates/ roller blades, people with walking aides, mobility scooters and parents/carers with strollers
Sport	An activity requiring some physical degree of prowess, usually of a competitive nature, such as racing, baseball, tennis, golf, bowling, wrestling, boxing, hunting etc
Sports ground	A sportsground is an area of open space which may comprise one or more sports/playing fields, ovals or courts used for organised or competition sport
Sports field	A sports field is a flat usually grassed area used to play sport and it includes synthetic surfaced fields
Walking (bush)	Includes bush walking only, excludes other types of walking which are categorised as walking (other)
Walking (other)	Walking but does not include bushwalking

APPENDIX 14 – Key to Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AFL	Australian Football League
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
CC	Contributions Catchment
CL	Community Land
Community Plan	<i>LMCC Community Plan 2008-2018</i>
CP	Developer Contributions Plan
Cycling Strategy	<i>LMCC Cycling Strategy 2021</i>
DCP	Development Control Plan
DoP	NSW Department of Planning
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
EPA Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
ibid	Ibid. (Latin, short for ibidem, meaning "the same place") is the term used to provide an endnote or footnote citation or reference for a source that was cited in the preceding endnote or footnote.
LDCG	<i>(Draft) Local Development Contributions Guidelines (2009)</i>
e.g.	For example
ERASS	Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey
Ha	Hectares
kms	Kilometres
LHRS	<i>Lower Hunter Regional Strategy</i>
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Act
LM	Lake Macquarie
LMCC	Lake Macquarie City Council
LM LCA	<i>Lake Macquarie Liveable Communities Assessment</i>
LM LGA	Lake Macquarie Local Government Area
NCC	Newcastle City Council
NPWS	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
NURA	Northlakes Urban Release Area
PCYC	Police Citizens Youth Club
PD	Planning District, (refer to Appendix 1)
PoM	Plan of Management
Pop	Population
PSDM	Pool Service Delivery Model
Recreation Plan	<i>Lake Macquarie City Council Recreation Plan</i>
RL	Rugby League
RU	Rugby Union
SCA	State Conservation Area
SEIFA	Socio-economic Indices for Areas
SLS	Surf Life Saving
SLSF	Surf Life Saving Facility
SNAP	Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan
Social Plan	<i>Lake Macquarie Social Plan 2009-2014</i>
Sports Strategy	<i>Lake Macquarie City Council Sports Facility Strategy 2009-2014</i>
SRA	State Recreation Area
R&O/S	Recreation and Open Space

APPENDIX 15 – References

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