

MORISSET CONTRIBUTIONS CATCHMENT

**RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES STUDY**

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for
LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL

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MAY 2011

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1 Introduction

The coordinated and effective delivery of public recreation, open space and community facilities and services (often termed public community infrastructure) is essential to maintaining a high quality of life for the Lake Macquarie population. It is integral to the liveability and successful growth of established and new communities.

To fund the delivery of public community infrastructure, local government is able to require development contributions to fund new/extended facilities required as a result of new development. The NSW Department of Planning has established draft guidelines to determine the nexus and contribution required from new development to meet the increased demand for community infrastructure while ensuring that new development is not overburdened with high costs.

The *Recreation, Open Space and Community Facilities and Services Study – Morisset Contributions Catchment* report has been prepared for Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) to support and inform the preparation of a Development Contributions Plan for the Morisset Contributions Catchment (CC). It has been prepared with an understanding of the NSW Department of Planning's guidelines for development contribution plans together with the issues raised by the Local Contributions Review Panel.¹ Therefore, the recommended levels of service or standards have been developed to specifically respond to these requirements. They are not provision standards which can be directly derived from other geographic areas.

The study area is identified in Figure 1 and extends from Freeman's Waterhole in the north, Morisset Peninsula in the east, south to Wyee and west to Martinsville/Mandalong.

It draws on the extensive range of studies already undertaken by Lake Macquarie City Council and undertakes a social needs assessment to determine draft service provision standards for the Morisset CC to meet existing and future community needs to 2025². These draft standards/thresholds will be further reviewed in consultation with key community stakeholders and the broader community prior to the adoption of a Community Infrastructure Plan for the Morisset CC to 2025.

2 Social Planning Context

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

2.1 Lake Macquarie Community Plan 2008 – 2018

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

- A city responsive to its environment;
- A city that makes an equitable contribution to global sustainability;
- A well-designed adaptable and liveable city;

¹ See relevant directions/circulars released by the Department of Planning, Department of Planning, draft *Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, November 2009 and JBA Planning Consultants, *Report to Local Contributions Review Panel – Lake Macquarie*, March 2009

² A full list of references are provided at the end of this report

- A well-served and equitable city;
- A city of progress and prosperity;
- A city responsive to the well-being of its residents; and
- A city that practices participatory democracy and is well-governed.

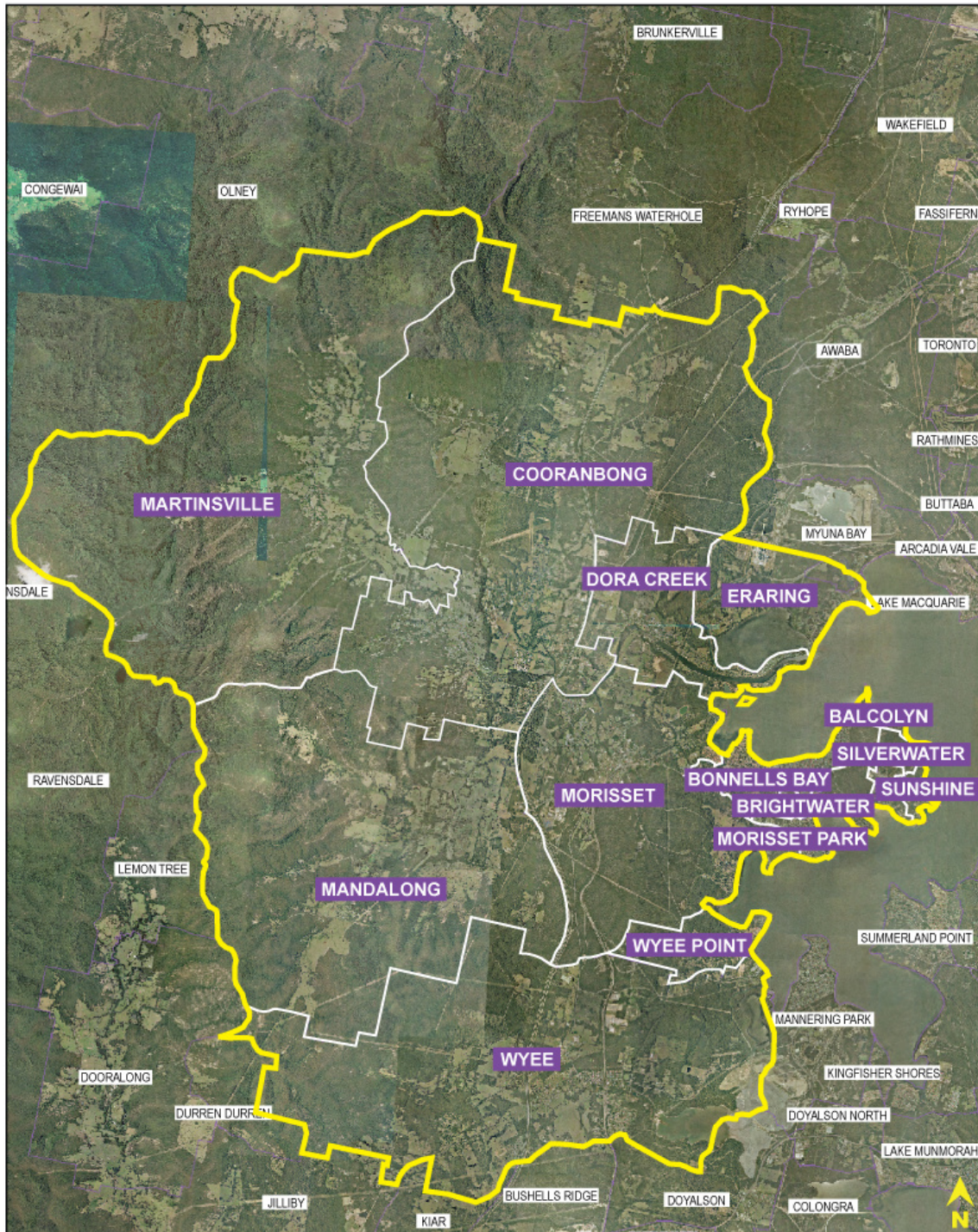


Figure 1: Morisset Contributions Catchment as defined by Lake Macquarie City Council 2009

The plan identifies several key priorities for recreation, open space and community facilities and services in the LGA including:

- Priority 2.2 – plan for facilities and services in response to future growth and demographic change;
- Priority 2.3 – facilities and programs for young people;
- Priority 2.4 – services for older people and people with a disability;
- Priority 2.5 – provision of high quality child care;
- Priority 3.1 – provision of community based swimming centres;
- Priority 3.2 – plan and develop sports grounds and facilities;
- Priority 3.3 – provide playground, skate, cycleway/pathway and parkland facilities;
- Priority 3.5 – provide new and upgraded lakeside aquatic facilities;
- Priority 3.7 – plan for adequate open space in new release areas;
- Priority 3.9 – increase community engagement in Art Gallery programs;
- Priority 3.12 – adapt library services to meet community expectations;
- Priority 3.18 – ensure Hunter Region Sports Centre meets existing and future needs;
- Priority 3.21 – provide space within the city for cultural activities and performances;
- Priority 4.1 – provide a forward works program for footpaths, cycleways, traffic facilities, public transport, road safety and parking; and
- Priority 5.5 – ensure new development provides adequate facilities for incoming population.

2.2 Lake Macquarie Social Plan 2009-2014

An overarching report which supports Council's 10 year *Community Plan*, this plan identifies the social issues and priorities for the “*planning of services, facilities and programs in response to new urban development, social trends and demographic change*”.³

The plan provides an assessment of specific social indicators and based on consultation with key stakeholders provides an action plan to deliver the following outcomes:

- **Housing** – providing affordable and appropriate housing; services for the homeless; improvements to caravan parks/relocatable home parks;
- **Health** – focussing on the ageing population; improving access to general practitioners and primary health care; addressing obesity; supporting carers and supporting improved Aboriginal health outcomes;
- **Education, Employment and Childcare** – improving employment opportunities particularly for older people, youth and people with a disability; supporting literacy and numeracy programs for Aboriginal children; and improving the supply of child care (including outside school hours care);
- **Transport** – improving the public transport network including bus infrastructure, cycleways to key destinations and increased community transport;
- **Community Safety** – addressing crime concerns; supporting road safety education; educating the community about disasters; and educating older people about safety in the home;

³ P 6, *Lake Macquarie Draft Social Plan 2009-2014*

- **Leisure, Recreation and Culture** – providing activities for young people; supporting volunteerism; building walking and cycling tracks; supporting artistic development; and increasing utilisation of recreation infrastructure; and
- **Urban Development and Built Environment** – managing and monitoring growth; providing services to meet new resident needs; and implementing policies/programs to adapt to climate change.

Council has also adopted a *Community Services and Facilities Policy* (2005) which recognises its social obligation to contribute to services that support residents with high needs; supports community service agencies through the construction and maintenance of multipurpose community centres to accommodate them; supports several management models for community facilities; and sets fees for community services in its facilities to subsidise operational and maintenance costs based on capacity to pay; building quality and relevance to achieving the goals of *Council's Social Plan*. This policy is an important guideline for the provision of community infrastructure in the Morisset CC and broader LGA.

2.3 Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006 -2031

Prepared by the Department of Planning, this strategic planning document covers the Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Maitland, Port Stephens and Cessnock LGAs. It provides directions for the growth of the region with an additional 115,000 new dwellings accommodating 160,000 persons in the next 25 years. Key elements of the strategy impacting on the social sustainability of the Morisset CC include;

- Changing housing demands of smaller households and decreasing occupancy rates across the region;
- Increasing housing demand from new households wanting to live in the region;
- Growth of Morisset as an emerging major regional centre providing a focus for new housing, employment, community services and specialised infrastructure to support surrounding communities;
- Maintenance of Toronto (which is outside the Morisset CC) as a lower order town providing shopping, business and higher density housing to service local district area needs; and
- Release of new greenfield lots, such as North Cooranbong, with improved neighbourhood design and more efficient use of infrastructure.

The strategy also identifies neighbourhood planning principles (see Figure 2) to be implemented at the local level to ensure high quality development outcomes.

In addition, to ensure that new residential developments are not only economically and environmentally sustainable but also socially sustainable, the strategy identifies the following sustainability criteria which focus on social outcomes (see Appendix 1, *Regional Strategy*):

- **Infrastructure provision** with mechanisms in place to ensure services are provided in a timely and efficient manner;
- **Access** with transport options for efficient and sustainable travel between homes, jobs, services and recreation existing or able to be provided;
- **Housing diversity** with a range of housing choices to ensure that a broad population can be housed;
- **Employment lands** with regional/local employment opportunities to support the Lower Hunter's expanding role in the wider regional and NSW economies; and
- **Quality and equity in services** with quality health, education, legal, recreational, cultural and community development and other government services accessible.

The planning principles and sustainability criteria identified in the strategy are consistent with those identified in Council's strategic plans outlined in Sections 2.1 and 2.2. Together they form a strong framework to guide the direction of this study.

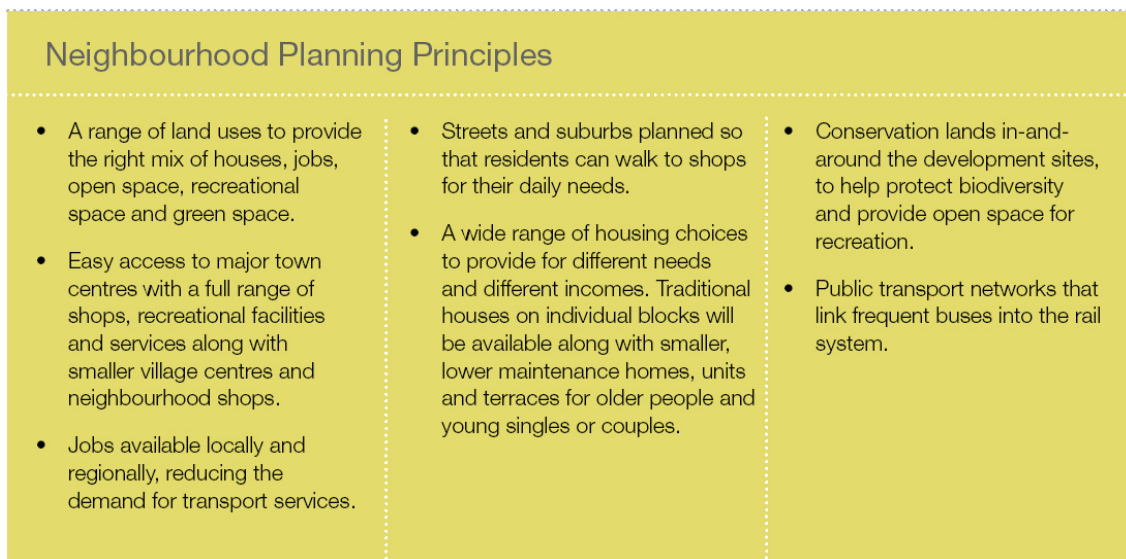


Figure 2: Lower Hunter Regional Strategy Neighbourhood Planning Principles

3 Social Profile of Morisset Contributions Catchment

The Morisset CC is located in the south-western sector of the Lake Macquarie LGA (see Figure 1). It includes the towns of Morisset, Cooranbong, Wyee, Dora Creek; the suburbs along Morisset Peninsula including Balcolyn, Bonnells Bay, Brightwaters, Morisset Park, Mirrabooka, Silverwater and Sunshine; and the scattered rural areas of Mandalong and Martinsville to the west. In 2006, the CC had a population of 20,748 residents comprising 11% of the total LGA population (183,138 persons).

The Morisset CC covers a geographical area of approximately 29,869 hectares with considerable distances between outlying towns such as Martinsville and Mandalong to the CBD in Morisset. This dispersed settlement of the towns/villages is an important consideration for this catchment as compared to other catchments within the LGA, which do not have such considerable geographical diversity. For instance, the Charlestown Contributions Catchment on the eastern shores of lake Macquarie, has an area of approximately 5,690 hectares, with distances to centres and facilities much less than in Morisset.

Morisset is the recognised town/service centre for the Catchment with a population of 1,061 persons in 2006⁴. It accommodates a range of educational, health and emergency services which service the Catchment. It also has two major supermarkets (Bi Lo and Coles) together with a wide range of specialty and convenience stores.

This section draws on information provided by DFP, *Residential Population and Non-Residential Development Growth Estimates*, April 2010 which has been prepared to inform the Development Contributions Plan for the Morisset CC. More detailed socio-demographic characteristics of the Morisset CC from the 2006 Census are also provided in Appendix A.

⁴ Based on Census Collector Districts 1120512 and 1120513 covering the area of the town centre

3.1 Residents

For the Morisset CC, the following population characteristics are evident:

- A total population in 2006 of 20,748 persons living in 7,687 households⁵. This was an annual increase of 1.6% from 2001 (19,160 persons) which was lower than previous years (1991-2001 annual population increase of 2.5%);
- Morisset CC was more disadvantaged than many other areas in the LGA based on the Socio Economic Index of Disadvantage/Advantage (SEIFA) as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2006 (see Figure 4). Wyee and Morisset have been identified as areas of high disadvantage with residents in these areas less educated, having lower incomes, less skilled occupations and higher unemployment levels than those living in other areas;
- Age groupings of the population were similar to those of the LGA and the Lower Hunter Region with the exception of a slightly higher proportion of persons aged over 55 years. Almost one in three persons (31%) were aged 55 years and over;
- Only 5% were born in culturally and linguistically diverse countries with this consistent with the LGA (4%) and Region (5%);
- Labour force participation rate was 49% which was less than for the LGA (56%) and the region (56%);
- Majority of dwellings were detached (almost 87%) and only 6% of dwellings medium density housing;
- Average occupancy rate for the Morisset CC was 2.53 persons per dwelling which was lower than that of the LGA (2.56 persons per dwelling) but higher than the region (2.51 persons per dwelling);
- The most dominant family 'type' comprised a couple without children, whereas in the LGA and the region as a whole, a couple with children comprised the dominant family type. The proportion of lone person households was similar in the Contributions Catchment and LGA but slightly lower than the region;
- Almost 72% of dwellings are either owned/being purchased while the proportion of rented households is relatively low at 21%. This reflects the CC's historical affordability for home purchase generally, particularly when compared with the Sydney metropolitan area;
- Median weekly rent paid for a dwelling in the Morisset CC in 2006 was \$191 and the median monthly mortgage was \$1,374;
- The median annual household income in the Morisset CC was \$41,496. This is lower than both the LGA (\$47,944) and the region (\$46,852); and
- There an average of 1.7 vehicles per household and only 7% of households having no vehicle in the Morisset CC.

Council's *Social Plan 2009 -2014* also identifies the following demographic trends for the LGA as a whole which are reflected in the Morisset CC:

- Ageing population of the LGA with one in four residents expected to be aged 65 years and over by 2022 (see Figure 3);
- Declining population of families with young children with both 0-11 years olds and 25-44 years olds significantly less than the 1990s;

⁵ This includes the population living in private dwellings and non-private dwellings. Non-private dwellings include hotels, staff quarters, boarding houses and private hotels, boarding school, residential college, hospitals, prisons and nursing homes.

- Large concentration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents (2nd largest population of all LGAs in NSW);
- Small proportion of residents from non-English speaking backgrounds;
- Low rate of fulltime employment, high rate of part-time employment and significant unemployment;
- Low proportion of people employed as a professional or manager;
- Low median weekly household income at \$922; and
- Slightly higher levels of socio-economic advantage/disadvantage in the LGA compared to the rest of NSW with a SEIFA index of 995 although this varies considerably between the City's suburbs (see Figure 4). For the Morisset CC, Morisset and Wyee areas having the highest level of disadvantage (together with Windale, Awaba, West Wallsend, Edgeworth, Teralba-Booragul and Belmont South for the remainder of the LGA).

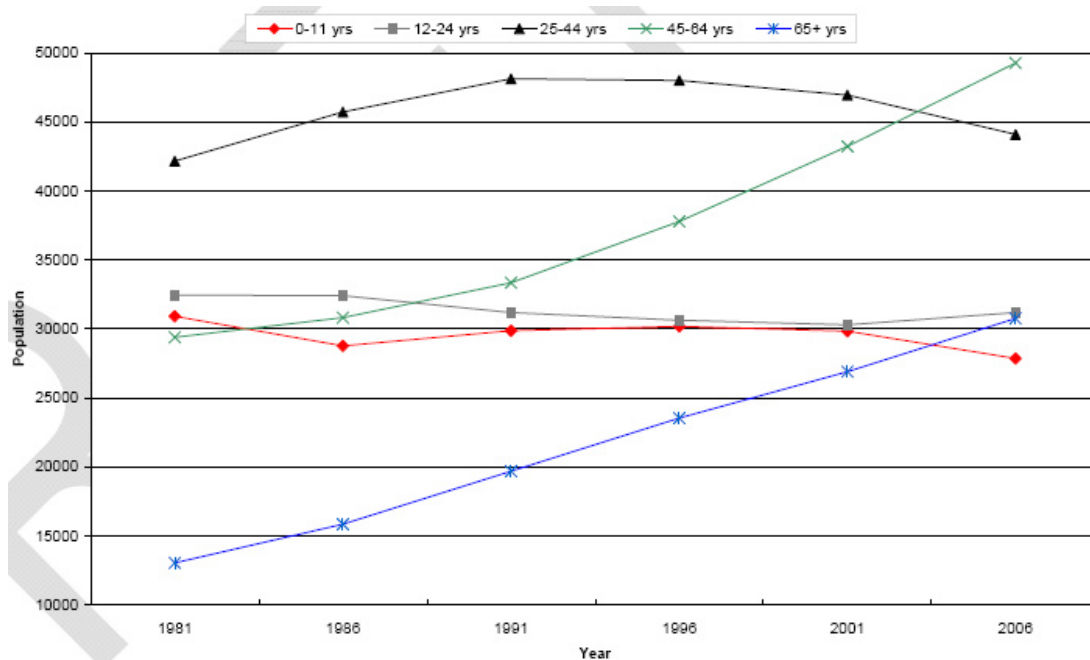


Figure 3: Trends for Lake Macquarie's Age Groups 1981 – 2006

Source: Lake Macquarie City Council, *Social Plan 2009 -2014, 2008*

3.2 Workers

With a workforce of some 7,700 persons in 2006, the majority are employed in health care/social assistance and manufacturing industries. An estimated 61% of the jobs in the Morisset CC are taken up by local residents (2006 Journey to Work) while research suggests that there is an undersupply of jobs locally given the skills available amongst residents.⁶

⁶ See p 21 and p 53, *Residential Population and Non-Residential Development Growth Estimates*, prepared by DFP, April 2010

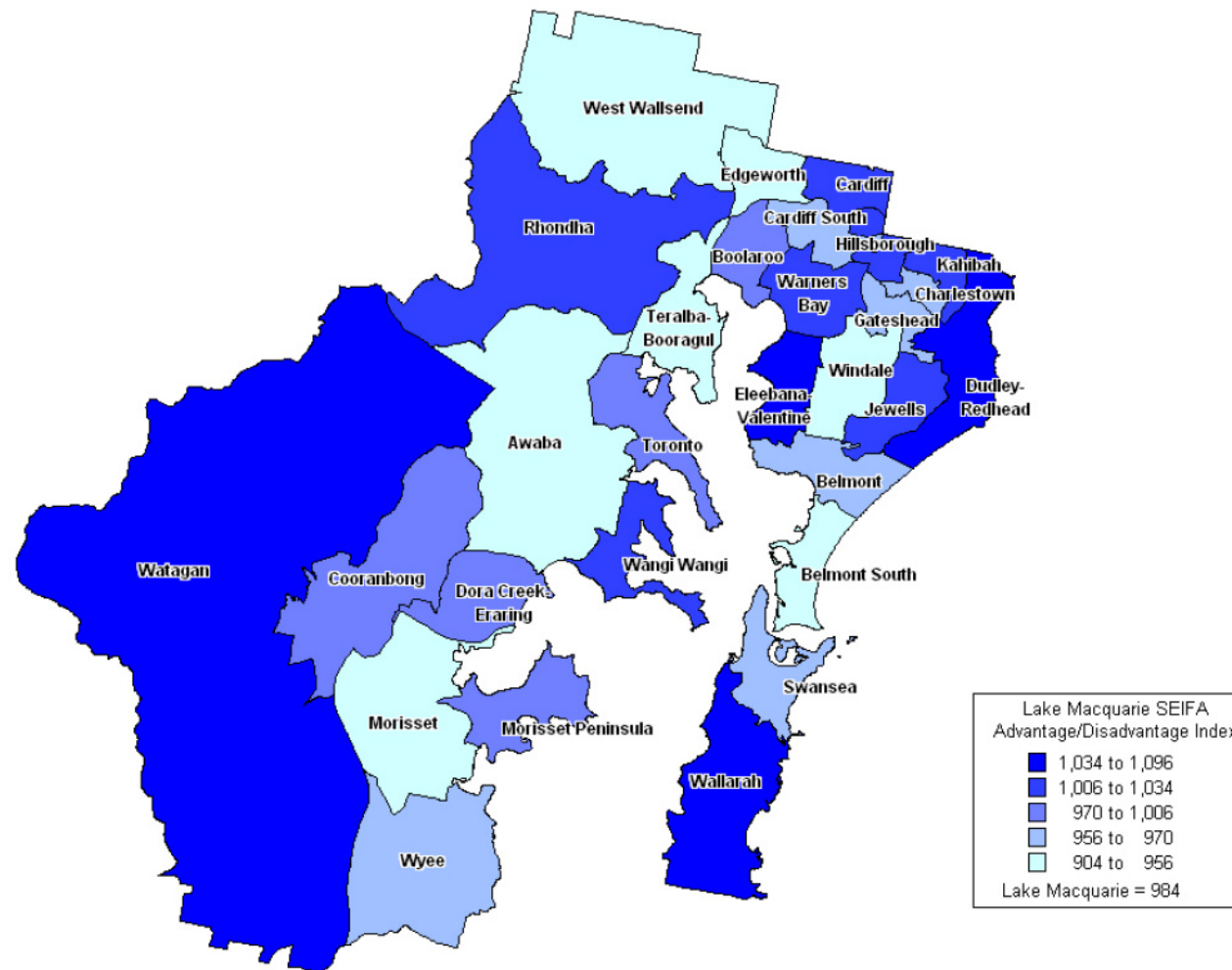


Figure 4: SEIFA Map of Lake Macquarie LGA – Advantage/Disadvantage Index 2006 Census

Source: Lake Macquarie City Council, *Draft Social Plan 2009 -2014*, 2008

3.3 Tourists

Detailed information on visitation by day trippers and longer term tourists to the Morisset CC is not available. However, it is evident that the foreshore areas and the lake itself attract large numbers of tourists and visitors. Equally the Watagans National Park west of Cooranbong, Martinsville and Mandalong are also major tourist destinations. The economic benefit of tourism for the LGA is significant.

For LMCC, the provision of supporting infrastructure such as picnic areas, amenities, parks, shared walking/cycling facilities and parking are important for tourists. This needs to be considered by Council in the planning of community infrastructure to ensure that in some specific locations, tourist facilities are provided.

However, as outlined in Section 4.3, as the majority of existing tourist accommodation is provided as holiday homes, occupants of this type of accommodation are counted as residents for the purposes of this study and the Development Contributions Plan for the Morisset CC.

4 Morisset Contributions Catchment 2025

As outlined earlier, extensive research has been undertaken to assess the development potential and anticipated growth of the Morisset CC to 2025. Low, medium and high growth scenarios over 5 year intervals have been prepared by DFP with Council adopting the medium growth scenario as the development baseline for this report. Tables 1-4 provide detailed residential and worker population medium growth estimates with more detail on the impact of these estimates on the Morisset CC in the following section.

4.1 Residents

The Morisset CC is expected to reach 35,555 residents by 2025 with this an increase of 83% from 2006. This major increase is significant in terms of population change in the CC and will place pressure on existing community infrastructure. As detailed in Table 1, it is expected that population growth will be concentrated in;

- **Cooranbong** with some 5,380 new residents primarily in the greenfield development located to the north of Cooranbong village;
- **Wyee** with over 2,900 new residents expected as the township expands;
- **Morisset Peninsula, including Bonnells Bay**, with some 2,190 new residents;
- **Morisset** with 2,770 new residents expected in expanding areas on the edge of the existing town;
- **Morisset South** with almost 1,400 new residents;
- Expansion in the existing villages at **Dora Creek** and **Wyee Point**.

In addition, the number of residents living in age care dwellings (identified as non-private dwellings) is also expected to increase from 470 persons to 770 persons over the same period (73% increase).

As shown in Table 2, the age profile of the Morisset CC by 2025 will be;

- Primarily families with children. 27% of residents (9,570 persons) are aged less than 20 years old. This is consistent with 2006 (27% aged under 20 years old) although more importantly, the number of children and youth will almost double;
- Young and middle aged adults and couples aged 20-44 years olds increasing from 28% in 2006 to 33% of residents by 2025. This age group will double to 11,833 persons;

- Older residents aged 65 years and over will increase to 6,050 persons and comprise 17% of the total population. In 2006, this age group comprised 20% of the total CC population.

The majority (73%) of new dwellings in the CC are expected to be detached dwellings with 16% attached dwellings/units and a small proportion self-care seniors housing and manufactured homes (see Table 3). Some aged care housing (e.g. nursing homes and hostels) is also likely to be built.

4.2 Workers

The number of people working in the Morisset CC is also expected to increase with an additional 1,850 workers, of which approximately 82% are forecast to be working in the Morisset Town Centre and Morisset Industrial Area (see Table 4). This is an increase of 40% from 2006 with the majority of new jobs expected to be taken up by existing/future local residents.

As highlighted in Section 3.2, given that the majority of residents have a strong preference to working locally/in the LGA and that in 2006, there was an undersupply of jobs for residents, it is considered that the increased workforce will primarily be from the Morisset CC and Lake Macquarie LGA. Therefore, these workers are not expected to place additional demands on community infrastructure provision in the Morisset CC. Additional workers will however have access to improved open space, recreation and community facilities and services provided as a result of residential growth.

The location of the workforce growth however in the Morisset Town Centre and Morisset Industrial Area does reinforce the need to locate new/expanded community infrastructure in the Morisset Town Centre and Morisset suburb to ensure access for those working in the area.

4.3 Tourists

It is expected that day trippers and longer-term tourists to the Morisset CC will increase by the year 2025 although no visitation projections are available. However, as shown in Table 3, this tourism growth is not likely to provide a large number of tourist apartments/rooms. Rather, the majority of tourists are likely to be day trippers from outside the LGA/Lower Hunter and/or short-term visitors staying with family, friends or in private holiday rentals/bed and breakfast accommodation/backpacker hostels.

It is recommended that Council recognise the need for supportive tourist infrastructure in key locations within the LGA and incorporate this into the planning of parks, pedestrian/cycleway facilities and other infrastructure likely to be used by tourists.

As this report is to inform the preparation of a Development Contributions Plan for the Morisset CC, the demand generated by tourism developments is likely to be small and needs to be considered in terms of apportionment to use by residents. That is, future tourism development is anticipated to generate an additional 150 beds/person places to 2025 which needs to be considered in the context of an additional total population of 15,820 persons by 2025.

Table 1: Estimated Resident Population Growth – Medium Growth Scenario

Estimated Residential Population by Sub-Catchment 2010-2025 (DFP, 2010)					
Locality	Persons				
	2010 (Existing)	2015	2020	2025	Growth 2010-2025
Cooranbong	5,130	7,200	8,910	10,510	5,380
Bonnells Bay	4,150	4,530	4,860	5,080	930
Dora Creek	2,350	2,540	2,730	3,060	710
Martinsville	420	430	430	450	30
Mandalong	470	470	480	500	30
Morisset	1,240	2,140	3,160	4,010	2,770
Morisset Peninsula	5,250	5,880	6,320	6,510	1,260
Morisset South	320	500	1,000	1,720	1,400
Wyee	2,570	3,170	4,340	5,480	2,910
Wyee Point	880	940	1,150	1,290	410
Total	22,780	27,800	33,380	38,610	15,830

Note:
- Age Profile based on all persons (i.e. occupied private dwellings and non-private dwellings)

Source: DFP, *Residential Population and Non-Residential Development Growth Estimates*, April 2010

Table 2: Estimated Age Profile – Medium Growth Scenario

Forecast Demographic Profile 2010-2025 (DFP, 2010)										
Age (years)	2010		2015		2020		2025		Growth 2010-2025	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% Change
0-4	1,160	5.6	1,520	6.0	1,970	6.5	2,300	6.5	1,140	98.2
5-9	1,230	5.9	1,610	6.4	2,030	6.6	2,430	6.8	1,200	97.0
10-14	1,440	6.9	1,650	6.5	2,090	6.8	2,450	6.9	1,020	70.7
15-19	1,480	7.1	1,740	6.9	1,990	6.5	2,390	6.7	910	61.7
20-24	1,450	7.0	1,720	6.8	2,010	6.6	2,240	6.3	780	53.8
25-29	1,170	5.6	1,730	6.8	2,030	6.6	2,290	6.4	1,110	94.9
30-34	940	4.5	1,550	6.2	2,160	7.1	2,420	6.8	1,480	158.0
35-39	1,190	5.7	1,330	5.3	2,000	6.5	2,550	7.2	1,360	114.2
40-44	1,330	6.4	1,530	6.1	1,720	5.6	2,340	6.6	1,010	76.4
45-49	1,390	6.7	1,620	6.4	1,860	6.1	2,010	5.7	620	44.7
50-54	1,400	6.7	1,620	6.4	1,880	6.1	2,090	5.9	690	49.6
55-59	1,360	6.5	1,580	6.3	1,830	6.0	2,060	5.8	700	51.5
60-64	1,200	5.8	1,490	5.9	1,730	5.6	1,940	5.5	740	61.5
65-69	1,130	5.4	1,290	5.1	1,570	5.1	1,790	5.0	660	58.7
70-74	940	4.5	1,120	4.4	1,280	4.2	1,530	4.3	590	63.0
75+	1,980	9.5	2,160	8.6	2,440	8.0	2,730	7.7	750	37.7
Totals	20,790	100	25,240	100	30,600	100	35,550	100	14,770	71.0

Note:
- Age Profile based on persons in occupied private dwellings only and hence total are different to Table 1.

Source: DFP, *Residential Population and Non-Residential Development Growth Estimates*, April 2010

Table 3: Estimated Type of Residential Development – Medium Growth Scenario

Estimated Residential Development 2010-2025 (DFP, 2010)						
Residential Dwelling Type	Occupancy Rate ^A	# Dwellings / Beds				Growth 2010-25
		2010	2015	2020	2025	
Private Dwellings^B	2.55	8,280	10,050	12,060	13,930	5,650
Dwelling House / Lot	2.91	7,430	8,760	10,190	11,460	4,030
Residential Accommodation ^C with 1 bedroom / bedsit	1.22	30	70	120	180	150
Residential Accommodation ^C with 2 bedrooms	1.62	80	200	360	540	460
Residential Accommodation ^C with 3 or more bedrooms	2.48	70	180	320	480	410
Seniors Housing ^D	1.37	370	470	620	730	370
Moveable Dwellings (Long -term)	1.50	310	380	460	530	230
Non-Private Dwellings (Beds)^E	-	1,230	1,480	1,760	2,060	840
Residential Care Facility	bed	470	570	670	770	300
Hostels/Boarding Houses/Backpacker's/Group Homes/Hospitals	2.24	410	510	630	790	390
Educational Establishments (residential component)	bed	240	240	240	240	0
Moveable Dwellings (Short -term)	site	20	40	50	70	50
Bed and Breakfast Accommodation	bed	60	80	100	120	60
Hotel or Motel Accommodation / Serviced Apartments	bed	40	60	70	90	50
Notes: A. Forecast average occupancies across the Contributions Catchment as at 2025. B. This is the average occupancy rate of all dwellings in the Contributions Catchment as forecast to 2025 for residential development. C. Excluding boarding houses, dwelling houses, group homes, hostels and seniors housing. D. Excluding residential care facilities (Estimates based on 2001 and 2006 ABS Census data). E. NSW Average based on 2001 and 2006 ABS Census data.						

Source: DFP, *Residential Population and Non-Residential Development Growth Estimates*, April 2010

Table 4: Estimated Worker Growth – Medium Growth Scenario

Forecast Non-Residential Development 2010-2025 (DFP, 2010)										
Industry Sector	2010		2015		2020		2025		Growth 2010-2025	
	GFA (m ²)	Workers	GFA (m ²)	Workers	GFA (m ²)	Workers	GFA (m ²)	Workers	GFA (m ²)	Workers
Retail	26,470	850	30,870	970	37,950	1,200	41,450	1,340	14,980	490
Specialty Shops	15,990	640	17,790	710	21,870	880	25,370	1,020	9,380	380
Supermarkets	10,480	210	13,080	260	16,080	320	16,080	320	5,600	110
Commercial	6,070	530	7,350	610	8,900	720	10,300	810	4,240	280
Industrial	83,500	1,270	110,730	1,510	151,570	1,870	206,020	2,350	122,520	1,080
Small Factory Units	17,770	380	33,930	550	58,170	800	90,480	1,140	72,710	770
Warehouse/Manufacturing	48,680	720	53,360	760	60,380	820	69,740	900	21,060	180
Bulky Goods	8,500	80	11,690	100	16,490	120	22,880	150	14,380	60
Storage	8,550	90	11,740	110	16,540	130	22,930	160	14,380	70
TOTAL	116,030	2,650	148,950	3,100	198,420	3,780	257,770	4,500	141,730	1,850
Note: Future workers based on <i>Employment Monitoring of Commercial Centres and Industrial Areas</i> (DoP, 1991) as follows: - one worker per 25m ² GFA of specialty retail. - one worker per 50m ² GFA of supermarket retail. - one worker per 15m ² GFA of commercial. - one worker per 95m ² GFA of small factory unit. - one worker per 120m ² GFA of warehouse/manufacturing. - one worker per 225m ² GFA of bulky goods. - one worker per 200m ² GFA of storage.										

Source: DFP, *Residential Population and Non-Residential Development Growth Estimates*, April 2010

5 Existing Provision of Community Infrastructure

As an established area, the Morisset CC houses a range of community infrastructure provided by government, non-profit organisations and the private sector. This section identifies the type, location, service level and capacity of existing community infrastructure which is widely used by the Morisset CC population and/or specific target groups within the community (i.e. older people, children, people with a disability etc).

It also identifies infrastructure located outside the CC which may also cater for local needs. Further information on available community infrastructure is provided in Appendix B-Recreation Facilities, Appendix C-Open Space and Appendix D-Community Facilities and Services.

It should be noted that this inventory may not include all community infrastructure in the CC but rather has focused on infrastructure which is primarily available for public use. This approach is consistent with Council's role as identified in the Local Government Act 1993.⁷ Private community infrastructure is often limited for community use by the following factors:

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

Some non-Council facilities do however play a role in providing activity/event space for community activities and by working in partnership with these providers, Council can reduce duplication and poor coordination, ensuring that the full range of community needs are met.

5.1 Open Space and Recreation

People require access to open space for active sport, informal recreation activities and leisure. In particular for Lake Macquarie City, open space provision also includes conservation, biodiversity and scenic landscapes which are strongly valued by the community. For LMCC, its geographically dispersed and growing local and tourist populations and extensive existing natural resources (including the lake foreshore, coastal beaches and bushland hinterland) has resulted in specific issues related to the provision of useable open space which is available for the many formal and informal recreation activities required by the population.

Council has undertaken several studies to determine strategic directions for the appropriate and effective provision of open space and recreation facilities in the LGA. As identified in the individual sections below, each of these studies has provided significant evidence on the existing provision and need for useable open space both in the Morisset CC and across the LGA.

⁷ See NSW Local Government Act 1993 Section 8 which “enables Councils to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively”.

5.1.1 Open Space

LMCC currently manages 6,904.2 hectares of community land (LMCC owned land and Crown reserves with public access) in the LGA of which 6,705.2 hectares is categorised under the Local Government Act 1993 as natural area (NA), sportsground (S) or park (P)⁸. For the Morisset CC, 813.7 hectares of community land is categorised as natural area, sportsground or park which comprises 12% of the total community land in the LGA⁹.

As required by the Act, community land is managed in accordance with its category and must be used for the purpose it is classified. As a result, community land classified as natural areas are generally not useable for public recreation and this needs to be acknowledged when assessing the need for public open space. These lands are however an important component of the public open space system and have high conservation/biodiversity value.¹⁰

In addition, it needs to be acknowledged that not all land designated as park is suitable for active use and up to 50% of such land may be constrained land (e.g. occupied by native bushland). Therefore the figures stated below should not be construed as being 100% constraint-free land.

Analysis of detailed data taken from Council's Geographic Information System (GIS) in August 2010 identifies the following distribution of public open space in the Morisset CC:

- The majority of community land (85.4% or 695.1 hectares) is classified as natural area with this concentrated in Morisset and Wyee (47% and 16% respectively of total natural areas).
- Parks comprise 85.5 hectares (10.5%) of the total community land. The majority of land categorised as park is located in Dora Creek (20%), Morisset (14.5%) and Bonnell's Bay (13%).;
- Sportsgrounds comprise 33.1 hectares (4.1%) of the total community land. The majority of land for sportsgrounds is located in Morisset (29%) and Cooranbong (22%).;
- 21.8 hectares of land has been identified by Council for acquisition for public open space. Eleven sites have been zoned for acquisition with these located at Martinsville (10.8 hectares), Mirrabooka (6.8 hectares) and small sites at Wyee Point, Wyee, Morisset Park, Morisset and Cooranbong (see Figure 5).

This distribution of community land highlights that:

- The Morisset CC has 118.6 hectares of community land – a component of which is considered usable - comprising 85.5 hectares categorised as parks and 33.1 hectares categorised as sportsground;
- The majority is located Morisset, Dora Creek, Cooranbong and Bonnell's Bay.
- The majority of the land zoned 6(1) Open Space and hatched for acquisition by LMCC is required for conservation/biodiversity with only a small component suitable for recreation activities i.e. useable public open space.

Sections 5.1.2 – 5.1.5 provide more detailed information about the use of this public open space.

⁸ Current as at October 2011.

⁹ Current as at October 2011.

¹⁰ See NSW Local Government Act 1993, Section 36 for definitions of each community land category and legal requirements for use and management of community land

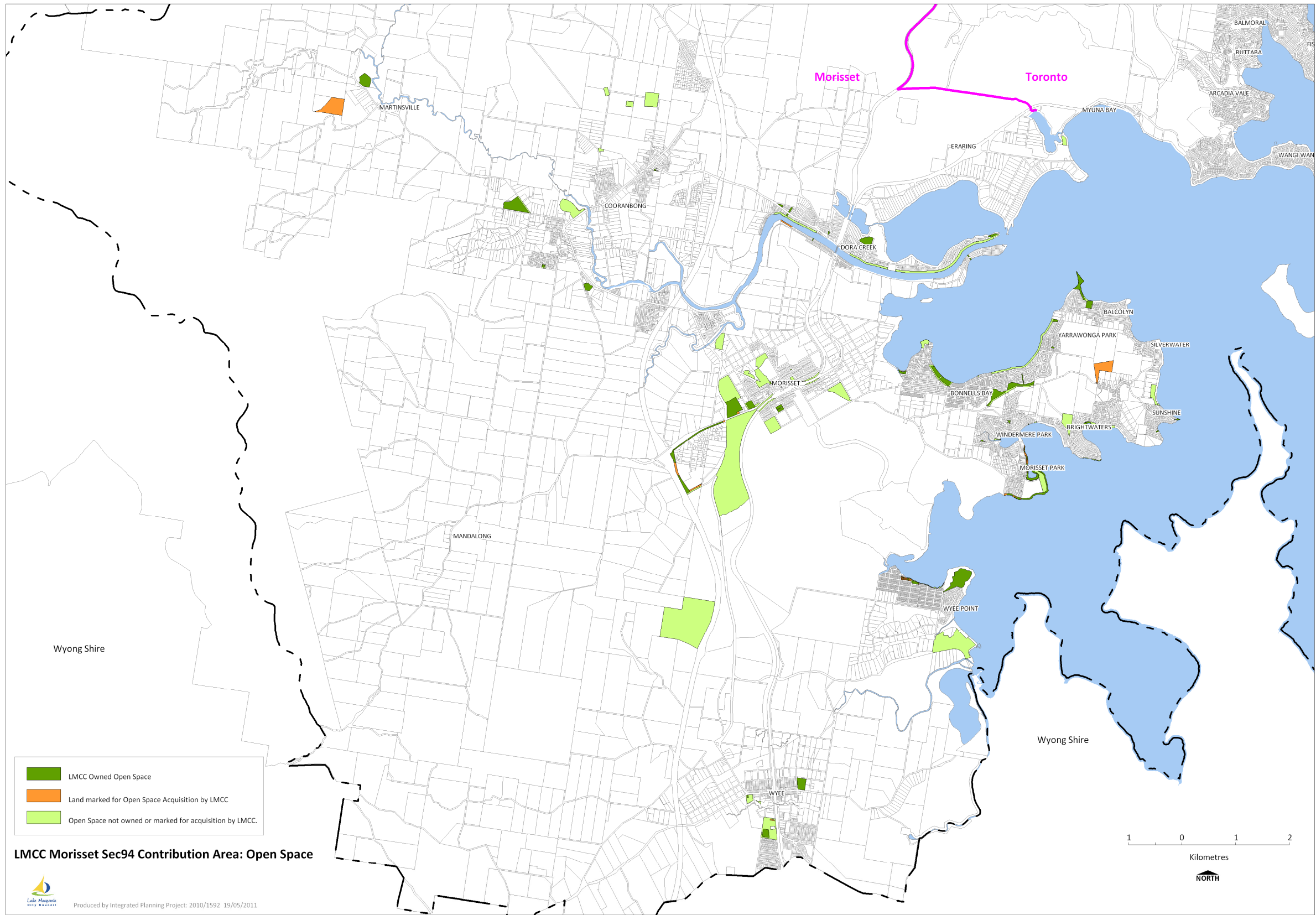


Figure 5: Proposed Public Open Space Acquisitions in Morisset CC
 Source: LMCC, GIS Survey, September 2010

5.1.2 Sportsgrounds and Playing Fields

Morisset CC currently has 33.1 hectares of community land classified as sportsgrounds (4% of total community land).

This land provides for a total of 8 sportsgrounds¹¹/11.25 equivalent playing fields^{12,13}:

- Douglas Street Oval, Dora Creek – 2 fields (1 oval used for cricket and soccer) and 1 junior cricket field;
- Martinsville Recreation Area, Martinsville – 1 cricket oval,;
- Bernie Goodwin Reserve, Morisset – 2 fields (used for soccer and cricket), 1 junior soccer field;
- Gibson Field, Morisset – 1 rugby union field (see Figure 6);
- Auston Oval, Morisset – 1 soccer field;
- Wyee Oval, Wyee – 1 field (used for cricket);
- Wyee Point Field, Wyee Point – 1 junior field (to be completed in December 2011); and
- Cooranbong Recreation Reserve – 1 equestrian ground.

Additional 2 non-Council sportsgrounds / 2 playing fields are also available for community sporting use at;

- Neville Thompson Oval, Dora Creek Workers Club – 1 field (used for cricket, athletics and rugby league), 2 practice cricket wickets; and
- Morisset Showground – 1 rugby league field.

In total, these 10 sportsgrounds provide 13.25 equivalent playing fields (some are used for more than one sport) while other specific-use sports grounds are also provided as outlined below:

- 1 rugby union field;
- 2 rugby league fields;
- 4 soccer fields;
- 3 junior soccer fields;
- 5 cricket ovals;
- 2 junior cricket fields; and
- 1 athletics field.

Playing fields are not available locally for Australian Rules football and softball/baseball with users travelling to Toronto (Australian Rules football) and Belmont (baseball) or further to play their chosen sport. For higher grade players of some codes, district facilities are located at the Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale.

¹¹ Defined as follows under clause 103 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*:
“Land should be categorised as a sportsground under section 36 (4) of the Act if the land is used or proposed to be used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.”

¹² According to the Macquarie Dictionary, a **playing field** is ‘a field or open space used for sports, athletics, etc., esp. by schools. *The Macquarie Dictionary, Second Edition (1991)*.

¹³ Junior/modified fields are equated to 0.75 of a standard playing field



Figure 6: Bernie Goodwin Reserve, Morisset

Council's *Sport Facility Audit*, 2008 undertook a survey of the 74 public and private schools located in the LGA and identified for the 6 schools which responded in the Morisset CC that:

- 7 playing fields are provided on school-owned property;
- Only 3 of these fields are available for community use. The suitability of these fields for competition sport has not been assessed and it is likely that additional upgrading works and management structures would be required to enable community use; and
- Only 1 school does not use Council sporting facilities for school sport. The remaining 5 schools all use Council sporting facilities for school sport.

5.1.3 Parks and Playgrounds

As outlined in Section 5.1.1, community land categorised as parks comprises 85.5 hectares or 10.5% of the total community land in the Catchment. The majority of land used for parks is located in Bonnells Bay (13%), Dora Creek (20%) and Morisset (14.5%).

Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area is not included in the community land classified by LMCC and is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

In the Morisset CC there are currently 13 parks providing 13 playgrounds located at:

- Balcolyn – 2 playgrounds at Pantowara Reserve and Shingle Splitters Point;
- Bonnells Bay – 1 playground at Pendlebury Park (see Figure 7);
- Brightwaters – 1 playground at Brightwaters Reserve;
- Cooranbong – 1 playground at Cooranbong Park;
- Dora Creek – 1 playground at Douglas Street Oval;

- Morisset – 1 playground at Macquarie Street Reserve, 1 playground at Morisset Lions Park and 1 playground at Bernie Goodwin Oval;
- Morisset Park – 1 playground at Macquarie Road Reserve;
- Wyee – 1 playground at Wyee Community Hall Reserve;
- Wyee Point – 1 playground at Wyee Point; and
- Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area also has a playground located on Morisset Park Road.

Two playgrounds were previously located at Sunshine and Martinsville Oval and are due for replacement in the 2011/12 financial year. This will increase the total provision in the Morisset CC to 15 playgrounds.



Figure 7: Pendlebury Park, Bonnell's Bay has a good playground, half-basketball court, picnic areas, toilets and boat ramp

5.1.4 Sports Courts

Both netball and tennis are important sports within the LGA with Council providing 103 netball courts and 69 tennis courts spread across the City. The majority of these are single use facilities only (i.e. either for netball or tennis) and are not multipurpose courts which can be used for tennis, netball, basketball or soccer (see Best Practice, Section 8.1.3).

For netball, major competition facilities are located at Belmont (27 courts), Wangi Wangi (12 courts) and Charlestown (26 courts) with smaller training facilities located in local areas. In the Morisset CC, only 1 outdoor court is provided at Wyee Recreation Reserve with players having to travel outside the catchment to the Westlakes Netball Association courts at Wangi. Netball is currently played at the local schools. Bonnell's Bay Public School – 1 resurfaced netball court, Morisset Public School – 1 netball court, Morisset High School – 1 netball court and 4 multi-use courts. The Morisset Indoor Sports Centre, which is leased by the PCYC, also has 1 multi-court which is line marked for netball.

Tennis courts in the Morisset catchment are predominately privately owned. The Morisset and District Tennis Centre located in Morisset is a privately operated facility comprising 8 courts. Two privately operated courts are also located at the Bay Hotel Motel at Bonnells Bay. Council provides 3 tennis courts for public hire at Martinsville Recreation Area (1 court) and Wyee Recreation Reserve (2 courts).

5.1.5 Natural Areas and Foreshore Reserves

As outlined in Section 5.1.1, the majority of community land in the Morisset CC is categorised as natural area (695.1 hectares or 85.4%) of which 61.8 hectares (9%) is classified as natural area foreshore. These foreshore lands are natural areas maintained to protect the biodiversity and conservation values of Lake Macquarie.

They also provide important public access to Lake Macquarie and support its high recreational value through the provision of infrastructure such as walking trails, public boat ramps and public jetties.

There are extensive areas of foreshore land within the Morisset Contributions Catchment. These are categorised as park and are located at Balcolyn, Dora Creek, Yarrowonga Park, Silverwater, Sunshine, Mirrabooka, Windermere Park, Brightwaters, Morisset Park, and Wyee Point.

5.1.6 Other Recreation Facilities

Other, informal, recreation facilities are important with the increasing trend both within the LGA and Australia-wide towards non-organised sport. These facilities provide an important component of the broad range of recreational experiences required by the community with the main facilities provided by Council in the Morisset CC comprised of:

- Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas – four (4) areas are located in the Catchment at Bonnells Bay (Pendlebury Park); Morisset (Bernie Goodwin Reserve); Dora Creek (Douglas Street Reserve); and Wyee (Wyee Oval). Council currently has 28 off leash areas across the LGA;
- Public Jetties and Boat Ramps - Lake Macquarie is one of the largest coastal saltwater lakes in Australia and is about twice the area and volume of Sydney Harbour. The centrepiece of LMCC is the lake, having 174 kilometres of foreshore, which provides a multitude of recreation opportunities. Public boating facilities are important recreational infrastructure provided by LMCC with Council owning/managing 33 public jetties and 31 boat launching ramps across the LGA. In the Morisset CC, 4 existing public jetties are located at Bonnells Bay, Sunshine, Brightwaters and Dora Creek. There are 7 public boat launching ramps located at Bonnells Bay, Balcolyn (2), Dora Creek, Morisset Park, Sunshine and Wyee.
- Mountain Bike Track – The Awaba Mountain Bike Park is located in the Watagans National Park, Mt Nellinda Road, Cooranbong. This facility hosts major events and is managed by the Hunter Mountain Bike Association;
- Community Gardens – There is 1 community garden located on community land in the Morisset CC. It is the Yunung or Wollotuka Community Garden located adjoining the Morisset Multi-Purpose Centre at Dora Street, Morisset.

5.1.7 Informal Youth Recreation Facilities

There are numerous youth related recreation facilities within the Morisset CC including:

- Skate Parks – two (2) skate parks are located at Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre, Bonnells Bay (see Figure 8) and Community Hall Reserve, Wyee. The LGA has a total of 9 skateboard facilities;

- BMX Tracks - no BMX tracks are located in the Morisset CC. There is one major track at Argenton, near Glendale and another track at Cameron Park. There are no authorised small-scale facilities in the LMCC LGA;
- Multi-courts – These facilities are usually a half-basketball court and they may include a tennis court hit up wall and netball rings. In the Morisset Contributions Catchment, a multi-court is located at Pendlebury Park Bonnells Bay.



Figure 8: Skate facilities at Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre

5.1.8 Aquatic Facilities

Aquatic facilities within or nearby the Morisset CC include:

- Morisset Swim Centre comprising a 25m outdoor heated pool, 15m outdoor learn-to-swim pool and a children's wading pool (see Figure 9);
- Other facilities outside the Contributions Catchment include the proposed Warnervale Swimming centre located 15-minutes drive south of the Morisset Town Centre and the Council-owned and leased indoor swimming centre in Toronto.

5.1.9 Indoor Sports Centre

Indoor sports facilities within the Morisset CC include:

- Council manages the former Morisset Indoor Sport Centre which is leased to the NSW Police and Community Youth Clubs (non-profit organisation) to operate a range of youth and community recreational and sporting activities. The facility is located on Crown Land. The centre is well-located within walking distance of Morisset High School and nearby Morisset Primary School.



Figure 9: Morisset Swim Centre

5.1.10 Shared Walkways/Cycleways

LMCC is strongly committed to providing shared pathways which are used predominantly for walking and cycling. Several major facilities are located within the LGA including the extensive facility located on the Lake Macquarie foreshore extending from Booragul to Eleebana, some 8.9 kilometres. LMCC also has the Fernleigh Track comprises some 13.2 kilometres from Highfields to Belmont. Another shared pathway has recently been constructed along the old tramway corridor from Wallsend to Glendale. LMCC plans to link this facility to the cycleway around the lake from Glendale via Cockle Creek to Speers Point.

A total of 4.3 kms of shared walkways/cycleways are provided in the Morisset CC extending along Fishery Point Road from Pulbah Street, Morisset to Bay Vista Road, Bonnells Bay. An overall plan for cycleway provision throughout the LGA was adopted by Council in 1996 and provides a linking framework to the Newcastle LGA.¹⁴ LMCC has engaged a consultant to prepare a Cycleways Strategy planned for completed by end of 2011.

There are a number of walking trails in LM. The Watagan NP has several defined walking trails including: Boarding House Dam, The Gap Creek Falls Trail, Muirs Walking Trail, The Pines Trail and the Watagan Trail. The Great North Walk is a significant walk extending from Newcastle to Sydney and it is located through the Morisset CC.

5.1.11 Other Sports Facilities

The Morisset Country Club, located on the edge of Morisset Town Centre, is a privately-owned 18 hole golf course which also provides 2 lawn bowling greens and a major licensed club.

¹⁴ See Cycle Planning Consulting Services, *Newcastle Lake Macquarie Bike Plan*, 1996

5.2 Community Facilities

Council's *Community Facility and Services Policy 2005* (see Section 2.2) recognises the importance of public community facilities to the health and well-being of Lake Macquarie City residents. This section identifies existing Council facilities together with some non-Council facilities which provide facility space and services to address the needs of the community.

5.2.1 Community Multipurpose Centres

Council currently provides 7 neighbourhood centres, 22 community halls and 4 seniors centres across the LGA. Three Council community centres/halls and 2 non-Council multipurpose centres are located in the Morisset CC:

- Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre (357m²);
- Morisset Multipurpose Centre (1,450m²);
- Wyee Community Hall (580m² and see Figure 10);
- Morisset Memorial Hall (550m²) is located in the Morisset Town Centre and is used for a range of community activities. The hall is located on Crown Land and is managed by a community trust (see Figure 11);
- Dora Creek Hall (320m²) is a private facility with bookings available through the Dora Creek District School of Performing Arts Inc.; and
- Cooranbong Community Services Centre is also a non-Council facility operated by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It provides services such as emergency relief; information and referral; and second hand goods shop together with making space available for community groups, meetings and seniors groups.

All 3 Council facilities are used for a wide range of community activities, programs and events. Morisset Multipurpose Centre provides office space for government and non-government services. Services operating from the centre include Southlake Neighbourhood Centre Project, Horizons Disability Services, Happy Hippo Toy Library, Morisset Outside School Hours Care, Southlakes Carers and Day Care Centre and NSW Health Child and Family Nursing Service.

The Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre similarly provides activity/meeting space for groups such as Balcolyn Senior Indoor Bowls group, Westlake Macquarie Family Support services, Westlake Macquarie Australian Breast Feeding Association, Southlakes Youth Service, Bonnells Bay Buzzie Bees Playgroup and the Community Environment Network

Both the Morisset Multipurpose Centre and Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre are leased by Council to non-profit community-based organisations. The Wyee Community Hall is a more traditional local hall managed by a Council community committee and is similarly used for local community meetings, playgroup and other community activities.

The Morisset Memorial Hall and Dora Creek Hall are located on Crown Land, managed by a trust or community organisation, for the purpose of community activities. As these facilities will continue to operate as community facilities into the future, they should be taken into account when calculating existing community facility provision.

Local school halls are often used by community groups and residents for community activities, events and programs. A recent survey undertaken by Council of all public and private schools in the LGA highlighted that only 31% of schools (27 schools) had a hall available for community use. A further 16 schools will have new halls being constructed in 2010/2011 which will be available for community use. In total, 49% of schools (43 schools) have/will have halls available for community use.

For the Morisset CC, 5 school halls are available/will be available for community use (of the total 12 schools) with these primarily used for dance classes, church groups and music classes. It is important to note that school halls are typically only available outside school hours and weekends and are usually only able to accommodate one group at a time (i.e. not multiple users).

School halls in the Morisset CC are a range of sizes accommodating small groups (50 people) to large sports/function halls (1,000 people). The largest hall is that provided by the Avondale Seventh Day Adventist College at Cooranbong.



Figure 10: Wyee Community Hall



Figure 11: Morisset Memorial Hall is not owned by Council but is extensively used by the community

5.2.2 Libraries

With a total of 883,044 visits in 2008/09, the Lake Macquarie Library Service is one of the most used Council services. Focussed on meeting the needs of a dispersed and diverse population, Council's public library facilities are based on a district and branch service model. Three (3) district libraries are located at Charlestown, Toronto and Speers Point together with 7 branch libraries at Morisset, Edgeworth, Cardiff, Windale, Belmont, Wangi Wangi and Swansea. Council also provides a mobile library service which services the rural areas and areas with poor public transport.

Given the small size of the Morisset Library (210m²) and limited book stock (1.02 books per person), the library is well used with 69,502 visits in 2008/09. With only 4 public access computers with internet in the library, computer usage is high at 78% (the second highest after Windale library).

The library also provides over 100 children and adult activities/events each year. The insufficient capacity of the library is highlighted by comparison to the State Library of New South Wales standards (based on 2010 catchment population):¹⁵

- The facility is undersized with a building of 973m² gross floor area required to service its 2010 catchment population (i.e. 20,786 persons);
- Stock is insufficient with 2.2 items required per capita compared to 1.02 items provided;
- Existing provision of public access computers is poor with 12 terminals required (see Figure 12).



Figure 12: Limited existing provision of public access computers at Morisset Library

¹⁵ See State Library of New South Wales, *People Places – A Guideline for Public Library Buildings in NSW*, 2005 and *Living Learning Libraries – Standards and Guidelines of NSW Public Libraries*, 2009

Council is currently preparing a Library Services Delivery Model (LSDM) to guide the effective and efficient delivery of all library services for the next 20 years. The strategy will address the growing and changing needs of the City's population together with minimising community cost and maximising community benefit expenditure.

5.2.3 Children's Services

The City has a large concentration of children aged 0-12 years old. As a result, a range of children's services are available in the LGA including long day child care; preschool; outside school hours care (OSHC) including vacation care; and playgroups for pre-schoolers.

Currently, a total of 3,028 centre-based child care places are available in the LGA for an estimated 13,017 children aged 0-6 years. This equates to an LGA average of 1 place per 4.2 children (based on 13,017 children aged 0-6 years in 2006 Census).

In addition, LMCC's Family Day Care scheme offers 1,266 children care in licensed homes. Council currently owns 15 centre based services in the LGA with 12 being long day care and 3 preschools. These services are leased to a range of community-based non-profit providers.

OSHC services provided 375 before and after school care places and 550 vacation care places in 14 centres across the City. Playgroups meet in a range of Council and church-based halls throughout the LGA.

For the Morisset CC, children's services provision has grown in response to increased demand with 6 long day care centres, 1 preschool and 2 outside school hours care services.¹⁶ Only one of these facilities/services is owned and/or managed by Council (Southlakes OSHC is located in the Morisset Multipurpose Centre). Council does however provide Family Day Care services in the Morisset CC with 9 carers providing for a total of 148 children or 32 effective fulltime places daily. Council has also advised that there is space within existing community centres to cater for additional places.

5.2.4 Youth Service Facilities

Council does not provide any specific youth facilities in the LGA with a multipurpose approach to the use of Council facilities. The three Council-owned community centres/halls in the Morisset CC (Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre; Morisset Multipurpose Centre and Wyee Community Hall) are used for youth activities with Southlakes Youth Service (a government-funded service) providing outreach youth services at these and other locations in the LGA.

The Morisset Indoor Sports Centre owned by Council is leased to the NSW Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYC) which is providing a range of recreational and sporting activities targeting children and youth (see Figure 13).

5.2.5 Aged Services Facilities

As for youth services, Council has adopted a multipurpose approach to the use of its facilities. As a result, many Council facilities are used by older residents and provide a range of aged support services. This includes services such as respite care, neighbour aid, community transport and education/activity programs for older residents.

However, for residents living in the Morisset CC, Council's Meals on Wheels service is based at Morisset (which also services a kitchen at Toronto) while several other aged services are located outside the CC.

¹⁶ Some long day care centres also provide OSHC places but the number of places are limited and typically do not provide the full range of before/after/vacation care activities for 5-12 years olds evident in stand-alone OSHC services



Figure 13: Existing Morisset Indoor Sports Centre

5.2.6 Cultural Facilities

In addition to Council's public libraries (detailed separately in Section 5.2.2), public cultural facilities are provided to service an LGA-wide population. These are;

- **Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery** at Booragul has a purpose built gallery, sculpture park, and café. In 2006, the gallery had some 30,000 visits. Building plans to extend the art gallery to provide a theatrette and offices has been approved by Council but funding remains unallocated;
- **Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre** at Warners Bay provides a venue for local performing arts including music, theatre, dance and cultural group performances. The centre has a maximum capacity of 300 people and comprises a stage (suitable for theatre and film), orchestra pit, rehearsal room and change rooms. The centre has been operating since 2001 and in 2006 had an annual utilisation of 31%.

Some community centres/halls and school halls are also used for cultural events including dance, music, theatre and visual arts. Council's art gallery and performing arts centre however are higher level facilities which provide for major performances and exhibitions.

5.2.7 Cemeteries

LMCC is responsible for the management of 9 cemeteries in the LGA:

- Belmont Cemetery;
- Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery;
- Johnston Family Cemetery;
- Morisset Cemetery;

- Martinsville Cemetery;
- Toronto Cemetery;
- Whitebridge Cemetery;
- Wyee Cemetery; and
- West Wallsend Cemetery.

Of these, three cemeteries located at Martinsville, Morisset and Wyee are in the Morisset CC. Three privately owned and operated cemeteries are also in the Morisset CC - Bethshan Cemetery, Wyee; Avondale Cemetery, Cooranbong and Catholic Cemetery, Cooranbong. Private cemeteries are also located in the LGA including Lake Macquarie Memorial Park, Cessnock Road, Ryhope.

Council's *Cemetery Strategy*, 2007 has reviewed provision across the LGA and considers that existing public cemeteries are adequate to meet demand for the next 10-20 years. This assessment is based on the implementation of a range of policies to increase capacity and make more effective use of the existing facilities. The strategy identifies the capacity for an estimated additional 5,800 plots in Council's cemeteries of which 2,050 plots (35%) are located in the Morisset CC.

6 Key Issues for Community Infrastructure Provision

Using the social planning principles identified for Morisset (Section 2) and the social profile of its existing and future population (Sections 3 and 4), the following key issues are evident for community infrastructure provision in the Morisset CC. These issues have been considered in the determining the demand for and timing of additional/expanded community infrastructure. (see Section 7).

- **Access** – given the continued dispersed settlement pattern and existing poor public and private transport connections, many people find it difficult to access open space, recreation and community facilities in the Morisset CC. This is further amplified by the large geographic area of the Morisset CC which is 299km². Groups who are particularly access disadvantaged are those who may have limited mobility including older people, people with a disability, young people and children. Residents of rural areas may also find it difficult to access infrastructure within the CC and across the LGA.
- **Equity** – geographic distribution across the CC is important to ensure access for the majority of the population. However, for public community infrastructure it is also important for consideration to be given to those populations with the greatest social needs. As outlined earlier, high levels of social disadvantage are evident for residents of Morisset and Wyee (see Figure 4) this is an important consideration in terms of service provision. Populations with higher levels of social disadvantage require greater access to public community infrastructure than those who are more well-resourced.
- **Quality** – as the CC grows, new high quality open space, recreation and community infrastructure will be provided in greenfield areas such as Cooranbong. This is required as part of the development contribution agreements already established for these developments. For infill development in existing areas, new residents may have access to existing open space, recreation and community facilities which are considered to have capacity for additional use. Often, this existing infrastructure lacks the high quality condition typically provided by new facilities. The need to ensure that high quality community infrastructure is available to populations in both greenfield and infill areas is essential. Requirements for quality community infrastructure are an important component of best practice.

- **Integration** – coordinated and efficient service delivery is an important objective of service providers. The Morisset CC population requires access to health, education, legal, recreational, cultural, community development and other government and non-government services. At the local level, the opportunity exists for greater coordination and sharing of resources to provide high quality integrated services as a focal point for villages, towns and major centres. This integrated approach is consistent with Council's *Community Plan* direction to support community well-being and liveability.
- **Sustainability** – to ensure that community infrastructure is sustainable it is important to ensure that Council's social objectives are addressed; community involvement and participation is supported; infrastructure is financially viable in the short and long term including construction, operation and ongoing maintenance; and facilities are flexible to meet the future population needs.

7 Methodology

To determine the public community infrastructure needs and timing of the existing and future populations, the following four indicators have been used;

- **Normative** need which considers the socio-demographic profile of the area, relative social disadvantage and resultant social issues;
- **Comparative** need which considers need based on service equity and provision across the LGA, between LGAs and based on planning standards;¹⁷
- **Identified** need which is based on the outcomes of consultation with residents and key stakeholders;
- **Best practice** need which considers service issues (as identified in Section 6), industry standards and new service models.

In assessing each of the indicators above consideration has been given to the issues raised in Section 6.

8 Needs Assessment

This section considers the key issues (Section 6) and applies the indicators (Section 7) to determine the needs of the Morisset CC for specific recreation and community facilities (as provided in Section 8.1.1- 8.2.8). Then based on an assessment of the land take required to accommodate these facilities, the amount of appropriate community land required to meet these needs is determined in Section 8.3.

8.1 Open Space and Recreation

Consistent with Council's *Community Plan* goal of "A city responsive to the well-being of its residents" and related priority actions (see Section 2.1), the provision of open space and recreation facilities which encourage and support the health and well-being of its residents is essential.

¹⁷ Planning standards are generally the population thresholds identified in Appendix C, Sieve Criteria for Infrastructure, *Draft Development Contribution Guidelines*, NSW Department of Planning, November 2009 and referred to in this report as DOP 2009. Where no specific guideline has been provided by the Department, other relevant standards as provided in Appendix E have been used.

However, review of several Council open space and recreation studies undertaken for the LGA have identified the following issues for the Morisset CC:¹⁸

- Existing community land – of which a portion is useable - in the Morisset CC is 118.6 hectares (14.6% of total community land), comprising 85.5 hectares of parks (10.5% of total community land) and 33.1 hectares of sportsgrounds (4.1% of total community land). However, in some instances, up to 50% of individual sites categorised as park may be covered by bushland and in fact, not be fully useable;
- Majority of existing community land managed by Council (85.4%) is categorised as natural area and is generally unusable for recreation. The majority of natural areas are not useable for recreation activities with few walking/access tracks/facilities available. These natural areas are primarily for environmental conservation/biodiversity;
- 21.8 hectares of land is zoned open space and hatched for acquisition by LMCC with the majority of this for environmental conservation/biodiversity (see Figure 5);
- Some community land is poorly distributed with the majority concentrated in large tracts of natural areas in the western side of the Contributions Catchment. Other significant tracts of community land are located on the lake foreshores. Comparatively only a small amount of community land is located near to the major population centres of Morisset, Wyee, Dora Creek and Cooranbong;
- LMCC has actively sought to protect the foreshores of Lake Macquarie with 497 hectares (7% of total public open space) in the catchment classified as natural area foreshore. Foreshore areas provide public access to Lake Macquarie and supporting infrastructure such as public jetties, fishing areas and picnic facilities;
- Given the high level of social disadvantage in parts of the Contributions Catchment such as Morisset and Wyee, foreshore reserves across the Catchment provide opportunities for affordable recreational activities such as fishing and walking with this particularly important for families, young people and older people; and
- Physical access to water-based activities is a high priority for the majority of Morisset CC residents, with population concentrated on the edges of Lake Macquarie e.g. Morisset Peninsula.
- Limited public transport is available with poor accessibility between population areas and existing community land;
- Significant older population requiring access to appropriate and affordable recreation which encourages physical activity; and
- Lack of activities in the area for young people particularly which is affordable and accessible.

8.1.1 Sportsgrounds and Playing Fields

Normative

Council's *Sports Facility Strategy 2009–2014* provides extensive quantitative and qualitative data on the existing provision and need for sports facilities in the LGA. Outcomes of surveys undertaken for the strategy which are relevant to the Morisset CC highlight that;

- Ageing population will require access to more formal and informal sporting activities particularly low impact sports. In 2006, 20% of the total population are aged 65 years and older in the Morisset CC;
- Young people actively participate in organised sport with 27% aged under 20 years in the Morisset CC;

¹⁸ See the full list of studies undertaken by Council on open space and recreation in LGA at the end of this report

- Morisset CC will require improved access to sporting facilities (particularly junior sport) due to projected population growth;
- Sporting facilities need to be provided for both male and female participants;
- Sports participation rates in the Morisset CC may appear to be lower than some other districts, however, this may be attributed to the proportionally lower population rate within this catchment or the larger geographic area and a larger proportion of small isolated communities where facility provision is lacking;
- Based on growth in sports participation in the LGA, significant growth is expected in soccer, netball, rugby league and cricket teams across the LGA in the next 25 years with each of these sports requiring additional playing field/sports facility provision; and
- Existing sportsgrounds/playing fields are concentrated in Morisset (5 sportsgrounds) which is geographically central to the majority of residents. However, provision is poor in both Morisset Peninsula (1 playing field at Bonnells Bay) and Cooranbong (no playing fields).

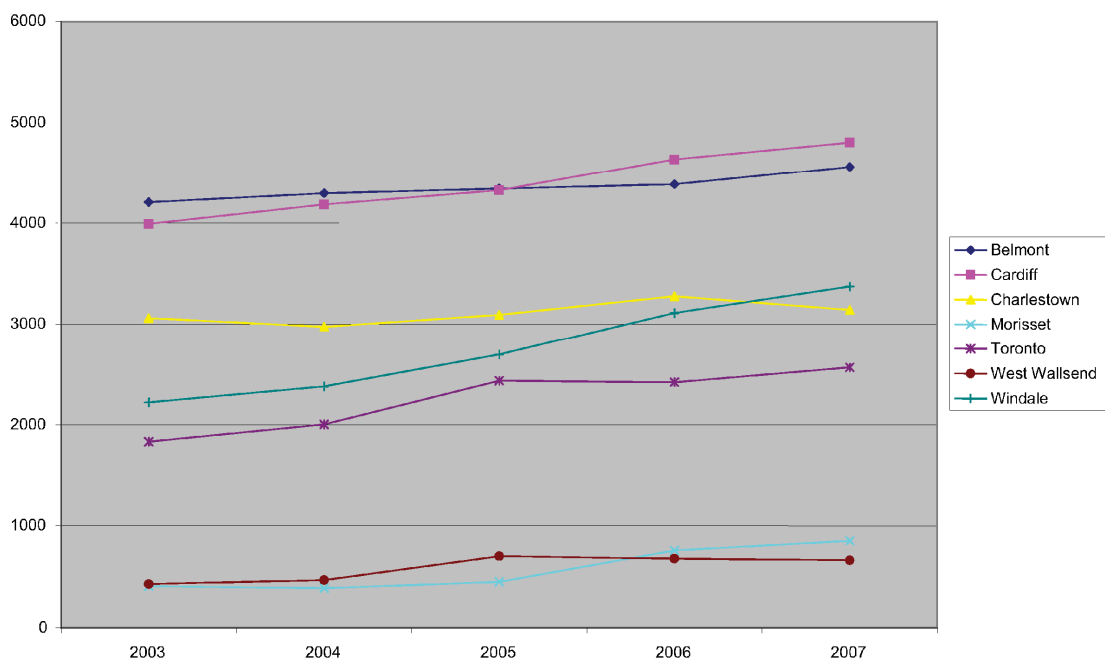


Figure 14: Club Sports Participation 2003-2007 by Contributions Catchment
Source: Lake Macquarie City Council, *Sports Facility Strategy 2009-2014*, 2008

Comparative

- Morisset CC
 - 1 playing field per 1,600 persons (based on 13 fields and 20,786 residents in 2010);
 - 1 sportsground per 2,070 persons (based on 10 sportsgrounds including non-Council grounds);
- LGA
 - 1 playing field per 1,180 persons (based on 155.5 equivalent fields and a total population of 183,138);
 - 1 sportsground per 2,500 persons (based on 73 equivalent sportsgrounds);

- Standard
 - no DoP 2009 standard provided for multipurpose playing field but standard of 1 playing field per 1,500 persons used (derived standard from DoP 2009)¹⁹; and
 - 1 sportsground per 3,000 persons (derived standard from DoP 2009)²⁰.

Identified

Council undertook consultation with sporting clubs in the LGA as provided in Council's *Sports Facility Strategy 2009 – 2014* (2010) which highlighted the following issues for clubs:

- Dora Creek Workers Cricket Club – total of 162 players with the club highlighting the need for improved physical access to sportsgrounds i.e. walking paths to sportsgrounds.
- Morisset United Soccer Club – total of 448 players with need for major improvements to Auston and Bernie Goodwin Ovals including floodlighting, car parking and amenities.
- Southlakes Junior Rugby League Club – total of 140 players using Dora Creek Workers Club (non-Council) for matches and Douglas Street Oval for training only (no floodlighting and only 1 field). Major upgrade to Douglas Street Oval required including parking, seating, shade etc.
- Southern Lakes Rugby Union Club – total of 70 players using Gibson Field with improvements required.

Two clubs do not use facilities in the Morisset CC but include many members from the area:

- Southern Lakes Junior Cricket Club – 100 players using facilities at Toronto which are considered poor.
- Southern Lakes Cricket Club – 80 players using facilities at Toronto which need improvement.

A survey of sportsground use by public and private schools in the Morisset CC also highlighted the use of Martinsville Oval, Auston Oval, Bernie Goodwin Oval and Wangi Oval for school sport.

Of the 105 clubs responding to the survey only 5 were specifically using facilities in the Morisset CC. Several sports had no clubs nor facilities located in the Morisset CC.

Best Practice

As outlined earlier and highlighted in Council and industry reports²¹, best practice provision of sportsgrounds and sports facilities focuses on;

- **Increasing sportsground/playing field capacity through facility upgrades and management/allocation policies.** All sportsgrounds should include floodlighting (where appropriate), field irrigation, fencing, car parking, amenities, clubhouse, BBQs and children's playground/youth recreation facility. However, industry benchmarks

¹⁹ In the DoP 2009 Guidelines, sportsgrounds for different sporting codes have varying population catchments with both netball and rugby league having the standard of 1:3,000 persons while 5 other codes have larger population catchments e.g. soccer sportsground 1:5,000 persons. The standard used here is considered to reasonably reflect the intent of the DoP 2009 guideline with each oval/sportsground usually accommodating two playing fields or 1 playing field: 1,500 persons.

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ *Game Plan 2012* prepared by the NSW Sport and Recreation Industry specifically identifies these strategies to improve sports and recreation participation. See also the full list of references at the end of this report regarding recreation infrastructure.

suggest that 20 hours per week usage per field is the maximum field capacity with this varying depending on playing surfaces, weather conditions, type of sport and age of participants; and

- **Providing land for new sportsgrounds, particularly in new development areas, where appropriate land is available.** Provision should be based on 1 multipurpose sportsground providing 2 full sized playing fields with room for cricket pitch between fields and conversion to sports oval per 3,000 people. Typically requiring between 3.25-5.0 hectares of land with additional land for co-located sports facilities added to this area if desirable and achievable, for other specific sports such as netball, equestrian, tennis, BMX (ultimate land size will vary for specific sports facilities required). The NSW Department of Planning's recently published *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government (2010)* specifies a typical area of 5 hectares for local outdoor sport. Sites need to meet Council criteria as being suitable for a sportsground; and
- **Community use of high school/private sportsgrounds where appropriate management agreements and provision standards can be met.** Sportsgrounds for community use need to meet Council sportsground standards and be available for allocation to sporting codes consistent with Council and school/owner policies. Funds may be required to upgrade these sportsgrounds to appropriate Council standards including a legally binding agreement to ensure public access. Where this community use is consistent with other Council sportsgrounds, this facility may be considered as meeting the recommended standard outlined below. The use of Council funds to upgrade facilities on private land (including private school sportsgrounds) is not considered appropriate given that these facilities/sites are not public land with long-term ownership/use not guaranteed.

Recommendation

To meet existing and future needs, a best practice approach is recommended whereby need is addressed through:

- **Upgrading and increasing the capacity of existing grounds/facilities** – through the improvement of playing surfaces, increased maintenance, irrigation, floodlighting, upgrading amenities building, providing additional car parking and other allocation management, the capacity of existing facilities will be extended considerably; and
- **Providing additional facilities where sufficient need is determined** – rather than targeting each individual sporting code, the provision of additional sportsgrounds/playing fields has been assessed. In the future, these additional facilities can be allocated to particular sporting codes depending on demand at the time. This approach provides greater flexibility for Council with future demands from individual sporting codes subject to significant changes over time. It also allows for the development of multipurpose sportsgrounds which can cater for a range of sporting codes providing a more efficient use of open space resources.

For some smaller sports which may draw on participants from throughout the LGA, this approach also enables allocation of sportsgrounds/open space on a demand specific basis e.g. equestrian, petanque, croquet, archery etc.

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC Council:

- Adopt a standard of 1 multipurpose sportsground per 3,000 persons (minimum 2 playing fields equating to 1 field per 1,500 persons); and
- Recognise that facilities need to be located near the existing population/Council infrastructure; and
- Ensure that new facilities are provided as part of new development areas where the population numbers warrant such inclusion.

8.1.2 Parks and Playgrounds

Normative

The growing population of the Morisset CC has a significant demand for public playgrounds. Using the data provided in Table A2 and Table A3, Appendix A and existing provision outlined in Section 5.1.3, it is evident that for the Morisset CC:

- Large proportion (11.5%) of primary school children aged 5-12 years with this slightly above the LMCC LGA average of 10.8%. Large numbers of primary school aged children live in Balcolyn, Bonnells Bay, Cooranbong, Dora Creek, Morisset, Morisset Park, Windermere Park, Wyee and Wyee Point;
- Significant proportion (6%) of preschool children aged 0-4 years with large numbers of pre-schoolers evident in Balcolyn, Bonnells Bay, Cooranbong, Morisset and Wyee;
- Large proportion (7.4%) of high school children aged 13-17 years with this slightly higher than the LMCC LGA average (7.3%). Large numbers of high school children live in Bonnells Bay, Cooranbong, Morisset and Wyee;
- Overall, suburbs which have a low rate of provision of playgrounds for the number of children and/or total population are Bonnells Bay, Cooranbong, Windermere Park and Wyee (see Table A3, Appendix A);
- Inadequate public transport and large geographic area make it difficult for children and parents to access playgrounds and informal recreation facilities with a need for more local facilities;
- High levels of social disadvantage particularly in Morisset and Wyee with families requiring access to affordable outdoor activities such as playgrounds, skate parks and BMX tracks;
- Several small rural areas with few local public facilities such as playgrounds. For children and parents in these areas, a local playground is one of the only public facilities often available and typically provides a place for parents and children to meet;
- There is a lack of high quality large playgrounds which provide a greater diversity and amount of play equipment, often suitable for large groups, children's parties, family/friend BBQs etc; and
- 2% of children/youth aged under 20 years old (95 persons) in the Morisset CC have some level of disability. However, the CC does not currently have any specific equal access play equipment for children with a disability.

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - 1 playground/park per 640 dwellings/1,400 persons (based on 15 playgrounds and 8,279 dwellings/20,786 residents in occupied private dwellings in 2010);
- LGA:
 - 1 playground/park per 570 dwellings/1,500 persons (based on 119 playgrounds); and
- Standard:
 - 1 playground/park per 500 dwellings/around 1,500 persons and/or within 400 metres walking distance of dwellings (DOP, 2009).

Identified

No consultation has occurred with community representatives regarding the current provision of playgrounds in the Morisset CC.

Best Practice

Playground/park provision is primarily focused on delivering high quality play environments for children of varying ages and abilities which act as a focal point for social interaction and integration. As a result, best practice requirements include:²²

- Provision of a park with a playground within 5 minutes/400 metres²³ barrier-free walking distance of the majority of homes so that children with/without carers can easily access public play spaces. This however is more difficult in dispersed communities where there may be significant physical barriers to access;
- Minimum size of 0.5 hectares for a local park to allow multiple activities for a range of different age groups/interests to use the space. A park of this size allows for picnic and seating areas; areas for informal ball games/activities; passive seating areas; pathways; safe, shaded play equipment; and landscaping. The 2010 NSW DoP guidelines recommend a size of 0.5-2 hectares for local parks. A minimum pocket park size of 0.3 hectares considered appropriate in urban infill/Town Centre areas²⁴;
- Neighbourhood parks and playgrounds for urban centres with large child populations which provide a focal point for children and parents/carers with play equipment for all child age groups and abilities. These large playgrounds have been provided in many LGAs as part of major formal parks and provide an affordable high quality informal recreation facility particularly targeting families. It is important to note that these large playgrounds are also used by local residents as their playground. The inclusion of equal access play equipment is essential in terms of equity, access and integration; and

Provision of multipurpose neighbourhood parks with minimum size of 0.5-2 hectares to enable a range of activities for user groups while ensuring effective and efficient use of open space resources. This includes the provision of additional infrastructure such as playgrounds, BBQ/picnic facilities and informal recreation facilities e.g. skate park, off-road children's bicycle track and/or fitness equipment

Recommendation

Given that the importance of providing parks and playgrounds within close proximity to children and residents; the limited public transport and dispersed settlement pattern in the catchment; and that the catchment has an undersupply of small parks and playgrounds compared to comparative standards, for this CC it is recommended that Council adopt standards for park/playground provision based on achieving an overall standard of 1 park/playground per 1,300 persons. This also reflects best practice with a diversity of playgrounds/parks provided within reasonable walking/transport access of residents.

²² See NSW Growth Centres Commission, *Development Code*, Part 2, 2006; Department of Planning, *Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government*, 1992; Landcom *Open Space Design Guidelines*, 2008; NSW Department of Planning (2010) *Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government*; The Trust for Public Land, *The Excellent City Park System*, USA, 2003; and Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, *Is the Grass Greener?*, United Kingdom, 2003 and other subsequent guidelines.

²³ See Department of Planning, *Draft Development Contribution Guidelines: Preparation and Administration of Development Contributions Plans*, November 2009.

²⁴ See Landcom, *Open Space Design Guidelines*, May 2008.

Consistent with best practice, provision will focus on large playgrounds in each major centre (i.e. Cooranbong, Morisset, Morisset Peninsula and Wyee) interspersed by small playgrounds/parks within the suburbs and rural localities. Based on this approach, a total of 27 playgrounds/parks will be required in the catchment by 2025 (based on 35,555 persons) with the following standards recommended to provide the distribution required:

- Overall 1 playground/park per 1,300 persons, distributed as set out below:
 - 1 playground/local park per 2,000 persons preferably within walking distance of dwellings, where possible;
 - 1 playground/local park per rural locality;
 - 1 large playground/neighbourhood park per 4,000 persons; and
 - 1 large playground/neighbourhood park per CC designed to provide access for all.

8.1.3 Sports Courts

Normative

As identified in Section 8.1.2, Council has undertaken extensive research on the existing provision and need for sports facilities in the LGA culminating in the adoption of its *Sports Facility Strategy 2009–2014*. Outcomes of surveys undertaken for the strategy which are relevant to the provision of netball and tennis courts in the Morisset CC highlight that;

- Morisset CC will require improved access to sporting facilities (particularly junior sport) due to projected population growth in the CC;
- Sporting facilities need to be provided for both male and female participants with netball and tennis particularly attractive to female players;
- Older people are also playing competitive and social netball and tennis with growing interest in veterans and masters events;
- Based on growth in sports participation in the LGA, significant growth is expected in netball teams across the LGA in the next 25 years with additional courts required to meet this need; and
- Sports participation in the Morisset CC is significantly lower than some other catchments with research suggesting that this could be linked to the large geographic area of the catchment and the dispersed settlement pattern.

Comparative

Netball

- Morisset CC – 1 netball court per 20,800 persons (based on 1 court and 20,786 residents in 2010);
- LGA – 1 netball court per 1,700 persons (based on 107 courts); and
- Standard – 1 netball court per 3,000 persons used (DOP, 2009)

Tennis

- Morisset CC – 1 tennis court per 1,600 persons (based on 13 tennis courts and 20,786 residents in 2010);
- LGA – 1 tennis court per 1,810 persons (based on 101 public courts); and
- Standard – 1 tennis court per 1,800 persons (DOP, 2009).

Identified

As part of Council's consultation with existing sporting clubs to inform the *Sports Facility Strategy 2009–2014*, Morisset Netball Association identified that it has a total of 124 players using the Westlakes Netball Association courts at Wangi. The club identified the need for major improvements to the courts including playing surface, change rooms, clubrooms, seating, shade and car parking. Some 900 players from across the Morisset CC and other nearby areas use this facility with no competition and limited training facilities available locally.

Netball clubs have strongly highlighted to Council the need for additional courts within the catchment and the capacity to host major competition events in conjunction with Netball NSW requirements. The Morisset Netball Club Inc currently has 13 teams (approximately 130 players) and they currently use netball courts at the Bonnells Bay Public School, Morisset Public School, and the Morisset High School.

As there are no tennis clubs using public facilities in the Morisset CC, to date, feedback on the need for public tennis facilities has been limited.

The limited facilities for netball and tennis in the Morisset catchment is consistent with several other sporting codes which travel outside the catchment to play their preferred sport.

Best Practice

Consistent with best practice identified in Section 8.1.2, best practice provision of netball and tennis facilities focuses on;

- **Increasing capacity through facility upgrades and management/provision policies.** Where appropriate, sports courts should be concentrated to provide the opportunity for training and competition consistent with the management/operation requirements of the specific sport. For these larger facilities provision should include floodlighting, fencing, car parking, amenities, clubhouse and playground to facilitate use at a wide range of times and by different user groups is encourage.
- **Providing multipurpose sport court facilities which can be used for a range of sports including tennis, netball, soccer or basketball.** Where fewer courts are provided for informal use/training this multipurpose approach is being adopted by many Councils. The overall requirements are not as high (i.e. do not require floodlighting, extensive car parking, separate amenities etc) with multipurpose sports courts located within a park or sportsground to ensure efficient and shared use of open space resources.
- **Providing for facilities within new residential development areas.** Such facilities should cater for the demands of the new population and where possible, such facilities could incorporate expansion for wider locality use.

Recommendation

As highlighted by the normative, comparative and identified indicators, there is a shortfall in the current provision of netball courts and public tennis courts in the Morisset CC. However, both sports require some aggregation of courts for competition purposes which for netball are currently located at Wangi (12 courts) and for tennis are provided by a private centre in Morisset (8 courts).

Therefore, for netball courts it is recommended that for the Morisset CC Council:

- Adopt a standard of 1 netball court per 2,500 persons which recognises the existing shortfall of training facilities in the catchment and will allow additional competition courts at Wangi (or another west-lakes competition venue) and reflects comparative standards; and

- Consider issues of equity; integration (demand for competition courts as a result of Morisset's population growth); access (need for local training courts) and quality (multipurpose sports courts could be provided in some locations) in determining where new facilities are provided.

For tennis courts it is recommended that for the Morisset CC Council:

- Adopt a standard of 1 tennis court per 2,000 persons which is higher than currently provided across the LGA but recognises that if private tennis facilities were not available in the Catchment, Council would be required to provide these facilities (i.e. 10 tennis courts in Morisset for 20,786 persons in 2010);
- Consider issues of equity (majority of existing courts are in Morisset only); integration (demand for competition courts as a result of Morisset's population growth); and quality (multipurpose sports courts could be provided in new development areas) in determining where and when new facilities are provided.

8.1.4 Natural Areas and Foreshore Reserves

The importance of maintaining important natural areas in public ownership is recognised in Australian and State government legislation. The rigorous environmental assessment methodology used to determine lands for protection is well-documented. Public foreshore access and usage for a range of recreational activities is similarly recognised with the following best practice requirements identified:²⁵

- Locate and connect new and existing open spaces which protect and maintain natural reserves, conservation areas, parks and environmental protection areas and the natural and rural setting of the settlement including the scenic values of the visual catchment;
- Provide safe and convenient public access to the foreshore from settlement areas;
- Enhance and provide open spaces for a range of passive recreational activities which may include facilities such as marinas, recreational jetties and boat ramps; and
- Provide for lakeside recreational activities such as recreational fishing, walking, cycling, sailing, boating, dog walking, picnicking and other appropriate activities.

Recommendation

As outlined earlier, given to the unique nature of the City of Lake Macquarie and in particular, the high quality conservation values of Lake Macquarie and other natural assets in the area, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Not adopt a provision standard for lands to be categorised as natural areas or bushland and zoned environmental protection;
- Recognise that the requirement for these lands to be in public ownership be determined through assessment by relevant Council Officers;
- Use the best practice requirements outlined above to ensure community access is managed consistent with the conservation, biodiversity and recreational objectives of the sites.

²⁵ See NSW Department of Planning, *Coastal Policy*, 1997; Coastal Council of NSW, *Coastal Design Guidelines for NSW*, 2003; and J. Daly, *Recreation and Sport Planning and Design*, Chapter 7, Coastal Recreation Planning and Design, 2000

8.1.5 Other Recreation Facilities

Informal recreational activities are popular in many communities and typically include activities such as walking for exercise, exercising dogs, jogging, cycling, sailing, fishing, boating and surfing. For many people, informal recreation is affordable, flexible and can be undertaken singularly or in groups. Council's *Recreation Participation Survey, 2001* highlighted the strong preference of Lake Macquarie residents in informal recreation activities.²⁶

Normative

- Given the high level of social disadvantage in Morisset and Wyee access to affordable recreational activities is important particularly for families, young people and older people;
- Over 20% of residents in the Morisset CC are aged 65 years and over;
- Almost one in four residents (23% or 4,871 persons) are young people aged 12-24 years old;
- Physical access to water-based activities is high for residents living close to the edge of Lake Macquarie (e.g. Morisset Peninsula);
- Fishing, walking and cycling for exercise and walking the dog are affordable leisure/recreational activities which are popular for all ages but particularly for older people; and
- Fishing is a major recreational activity in the Morisset CC and Lake Macquarie City. It is estimated that one in four people in the Hunter Region are recreational fishers.²⁷

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - 1 public boat ramp per 3,000 persons (based on 7 public boat ramps and 20,786 persons in 2010);
 - 1 public jetty per 5,200 persons (based on 4 public jetties); and
 - 1 dog exercise area per 5,200 persons (based on 4 dog exercise areas).
- LGA:
 - 1 public boat ramp per 6,000 persons;
 - 1 public jetty per 6,000 persons; and
 - 1 dog exercise area per 6,000 persons.
- Standard:
 - No known standard for public boat ramps;
 - No known standard for public jetties; and
 - No known standard for dog exercise areas.

²⁶ This was undertaken as part of the *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy, 2001* prepared by URS

²⁷ See NSW Department of Primary Industries, *Survey of Recreational Fishing in New South Wales, 2001*

Identified

The 2001 *Recreation Participation Survey* undertaken across all Contributions Catchments in the LGA identified the following important recreation trends for the Morisset CC:²⁸

- Over 50% of recreation participation in the Morisset CC was in walking for exercise, swimming at the public pool, exercising dogs, picnics/BBQs and swimming/surfing at the beach. This was consistent with all other contributions catchments in the LGA; and
- A significant number of older people in the Morisset CC were involved in exercising dogs and boating/sailing.

Best Practice

High levels of participation in informal recreation activities are evident in many communities in Australia. As informal recreation covers a wide spectrum of facilities, best practice has tended to focus on providing affordable, diverse and appropriate facilities including:

- **Dog exercise areas** with this particularly important in urban areas and medium/high density areas where private outdoor space is limited; and
- **Boat ramps and public jetties** in coastal areas and areas with lakes, major dams and/or rivers. Very often, these are provided adjacent to each other better meeting user needs. Public access to water is becoming increasingly important as governments are unable to afford the high cost of foreshore/coastal land acquisition. Public recreation focused on water bodies is highly desirable in Australia and provides for a wide range of affordable recreation activities for all age groups.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council adopt the following standards:

- 1 public jetty per 6,000 persons consistent with the LGA standard and comparable to existing provision in the CC;
- 1 public boat ramp per 6,000 persons consistent with the LGA standard and preference to providing a public jetty and boat ramp in one location where possible; and
- 1 dog exercise area per 6,000 persons consistent with the LGA standard and comparable to existing provision in the CC.

8.1.6 Informal Youth Recreation Facilities

For many young people, informal recreation is part of their everyday recreational activities and may include skateboarding, cycling (including BMX and mountain bike riding) and surfing.

Normative

- Given the high level of social disadvantage in Morisset and Wyee access to affordable recreational activities is important particularly for families, young people and older people;
- Almost one in four residents (23% or 4,871 persons) are young people aged 12-24 years old; and
- Youth unemployment rate high at 19% for 15-19 year olds and 13% for 20-24 year olds.

²⁸ This survey was undertaken as part of the *Lake Macquarie Open Space Strategy 2001*

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - 1 skate facility per 10,400 persons (based on 2 skate facilities);
 - No BMX facility; and
 - 1 multi-court per 20,800 persons.
- LGA:
 - 1 skate facility per 20,000 persons; and
 - 1 BMX facility per 91,500 persons.
- Standard:
 - 1 skate facility per 6,000 persons, 1 large skate facility per 10,000 persons (DOP 2009); and
 - 1 major BMX facility per LGA; local BMX facilities may be shared with skate facilities (DOP 2009).

Best Practice

High levels of participation in youth recreation activities are evident in many communities in Australia. As youth recreation covers a variety of facilities, best practice has tended to focus on providing affordable, diverse and appropriate facilities including:

- **Informal youth recreation facilities** such as multi-courts providing a half basketball court and may include a tennis court hit up wall and netball rings suitable for informal games. Most large local parks now include these types of facilities specifically targeting young people ensuring they are more multipurpose and catering for a range of age groups/interests. A more flexible approach to the type of youth facility provided also allows for new innovations in youth recreation; and
- **Skate/BMX facilities** for young people of varying ages and abilities. Some facilities may be more local in scale with others district facilities attracting users across the LGA. Important considerations for these facilities are ease of transport access and user safety. For suburbs with poor public transport, local facilities are typically provided. Co-locations with schools, community centres, large public parks and sportsgrounds with good passive surveillance are favoured.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council adopt the following standards:

- 1 informal youth recreation facility per 6,000 persons and at least 1 informal youth recreation facility per new development area (depending upon size) due to access and equity issues for local youth with many young people needing access to facilities within their local area. Also, by using a broad definition of informal youth recreation facility will allow for a range of different and innovative recreation facilities such as skate, BMX and multi-courts but current demand is for skate parks and BMX tracks. One larger informal youth facility per CC.

8.1.7 Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Facilities

Council has undertaken several studies to determine the need for public multipurpose indoor recreation and aquatic facilities for the LGA. The assessment provided below is based on the information included in these reports with specific reference to Council's *Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy* (adopted 2004) and *Lake Macquarie City Council Pool Service Delivery Model*, 2008.

The recommendations of these reports are supported as the assessments have included similar indicators as outlined below. As with other major facilities, the provision of public indoor recreation and aquatic facilities need to be considered across the LGA given their high capital/recurrent costs.

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - 1 swimming centre per 20,800 persons;
 - 1 indoor sports centre per 20,800 persons;
- LGA:
 - 1 swimming centre per 36,600 persons (based on 5 centres);
 - 1 indoor sports centre per 61,000 persons (based on 3 centres); and
- Standard:
 - 1 swimming centre per 17,500 persons (DOP, 2009);
 - 1 multipurpose aquatic/indoor sports centre per 60,000+ persons/per LGA but large LGA may have more than one centre; if operated on commercial basis they should not be developer funded (DOP, 2009);
 - 1 indoor sports centre per 100,000+ persons (DOP, 2009);
 - Other standards are provided in Table E2, Appendix E.

Normative, Identified and Best Practice

As outlined earlier, studies already undertaken by Council have assessed these and other indicators with the following recommendations:²⁹

- Maintenance of existing Morisset Swimming Centre and expand centre to provide an additional pool and water space, upgrade amenities and additional car parking;
- New indoor centre at Toronto with 2 courts, fitness room, activities room and associated facilities;
- Enhancement of existing Morisset Indoor Recreation Centre; and
- Expansion of the existing indoor recreation facility at Glendale (Hunter Sports Centre) and redevelopment of the Charlestown Swimming Centre.

²⁹ Specific reference is made to Section 6, *Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy* and Section 9, *Lake Macquarie City Council Pool Service Delivery Model* report which assess the facility and site development options for the swim centre/indoor recreation centre or swim centre respectively. Both reports also consider best practice (such as incorporating 'dry' facilities), identified needs (consultation with sporting groups and the community) and normative needs (population trends, travel times etc).

Morisset CC has few indoor recreation and aquatic facilities provided by the private sector and non-profit organisations (e.g. Licensed clubs and private operators) although there is one indoor centre operated by the YMCA. This may change in the future as the population of the Contributions Catchment grows and Council may be able to work with other providers to deliver community use of private facilities. To be available for community use these facilities will need to meet Council facility standards and be available to community-based sports groups consistent with Council's fee and access policies for other public facilities in the LGA.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council adopt provision standard of:

- 1 swimming centre per 36,000 persons;
- 1 indoor sports centre per 36,000 persons (minimum 2 courts, 2 multipurpose activity rooms and amenities)
- These standards are considered reasonable as they address the criteria of integration (building on the co-location of the existing pool and indoor recreation centre), quality (improving the useability of the indoor recreation centre) and sustainability (cost of expansion of indoor recreation centre is reasonable compared to pool upgrade). (. They also reflect the recommendations of Council's LGA wide strategy for pools and indoor recreation centres which requires the retention of the existing Morisset Swim Centre and enhancement of the Morisset Indoor Recreation Centre to a standard comparable with other facilities e.g. proposed new indoor centre at Toronto;
- The standard for the swimming centre is consistent with the existing provision in the LGA while the standard for the indoor sports centre is higher than the existing LGA provision. However, as outlined above, the indoor sports centre standard reflects the needs identified by Council in other studies.
- Support the provision of commercial indoor centre and/or aquatic facilities in the Morisset CC and LGA with these to be considered as addressing the adopted standards outlined above where community use is consistent with Council provision.

8.1.8 Shared Pathways - Walkways/Cycleways

A detailed assessment of shared paths and cycleways has been undertaken by Better Transport Futures, *Morisset Contributions Catchment Development Contributions Plan, Traffic and Transport Study*, 2011. This section draws upon the analysis within that study. LMCC is also preparing a Cycleway Strategy due for completion by the end of 2011.

Normative

- As identified in Section 5.1.7, provision of shared walkways/cycleways in the Morisset CC is low;
- Given the high level of social disadvantage in Morisset and Wyee the provision of locally accessible and affordable recreational activities is important particularly for families, young people and older people. Shared walkways/cycleways are recreational facilities which if available, are well-used by these population groups; and
- Over 20% of residents in the Morisset CC are aged 65 years and over with walking and cycling age-appropriate activities.

Comparative

The Better Transport Futures assessment is based on the following minimum service levels standards for shared walkways/cycleways:³⁰

- All new collector roads to be provided with standard dual use path on one side of road, and pavement cross sections incorporating combined parking/cycling lanes; and
- On existing nominated collector routes, apply dual use path standard, or on road style lanes to suit local conditions.

Identified

Previous consultations have indicated that pedestrian and cyclist safety is a key concern particularly in the Morisset Town Centre and around schools. Consultation was also undertaken on cycleway route development as part of Council's adopted *Newcastle Lake Macquarie Bike Plan, 1996* and consultation is occurring as part of the preparation of Council's Cycleway Strategy due for completion by the end of 2011.

Best Practice

The provision of shared walkways/cycleways in new release developments, in large parks and open spaces and along riparian corridors and public foreshores is evident in many LGAs. The demand from the community is high with the majority of facilities well-used and walking/cycling major recreation activities for a range of age and lifecycle groups. The associated health benefits from a more active lifestyle are strongly supported by the NSW government particularly in relation to obesity and cardio-vascular disease.³¹ Environmentally sustainability is also supported through the provision of walking/cycling facilities.

Given the wide range of approaches and opportunities through which shared walkways/cycleways are provided, best practice guidelines focus on the planning, design and funding of facility provision. The NSW government's, *Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling, 2004* strongly support the provision of walking and cycling facilities as part of new developments. Based on these guidelines, the following planning principles are recognised by government, industry and community stakeholders.³²

Shared walkways/cycleways should be:

- Legible and connected to the existing or proposed local and district network of walking and cycling facilities;
- Focus on trip generators/destinations such as schools, shops, parks, public transport stops and other facilities to optimise utilisation;
- Attractive, safe and comfortable for users;
- Shared facilities should have sufficient width, adequate sightlines, gentle gradients and marked centrelines; and
- Provide walking/cycling infrastructure as early as possible in the land development process to encourage use and deter the development of car-dependent communities.

³⁰ See Section 5.5.1, Better Transport Futures, *Draft Morisset Development Contributions Plan, Traffic and Transport Study, 2010*

³¹ See *Premiers Council for Active Living* at www.pcal.org.au together with the *NSW State Plan* which has a target of increasing the number of people who participate in sport and physical activity by 10% by 2016 and stopping the growth in childhood obesity and reducing to 22% by 2016.

³² See http://www.pcal.nsw.gov.au/planning_and_design_guidelines/walking_and_cycling_routes

Recommendation

It is recognised that best practice provision of shared walkways/cycleways is based on assessment of both transport and recreational needs and the development of a coordinated network of provision. Therefore, the outcomes of the Traffic and Transport Study (being prepared by Better Transport Futures) and the DoP's planning guidelines have been used to inform the provision of shared walkways/cycleways in the Morisset CC.

As shown in Figure 15, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council require:

- Provision of off-road shared walkways/cycleways to minimum service standards;
- Key pedestrian and cycling routes to Morisset CBD, high school, sporting facilities and train station;
- Shared pathways along riparian corridors, creeks and linking key activity nodes in new development areas such as North Cooranbong and Wyee West;
- Off road routes to connect to key destinations including open space, recreation and community infrastructure; and
- Bicycle parking facilities for all new community facilities, parks and park upgrades.

8.1.9 Recreation and Open Space Outside the Catchment

In addition, to open space and recreation facilities within the Catchment, consideration has also been given to such facilities outside of the Catchment that are reasonably accessible by Catchment residents and therefore add to the supply of facilities the Catchment relies upon.

The Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre is a 21 hectare facility owned by the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) located approximately 8 kilometres north of Morisset and just outside the Morisset CC. Given the distance of the centre from the majority of the population in the CC, limited provision of public transport and extensive use of the centre by schools and other non-local users, its capacity to provide suitable space for sportsgrounds and other active recreation is considered limited. It is considered that the recommendations provided in Section 8.1.1 – 8.1.7 better address the issues highlighted in Section 6 of this report.

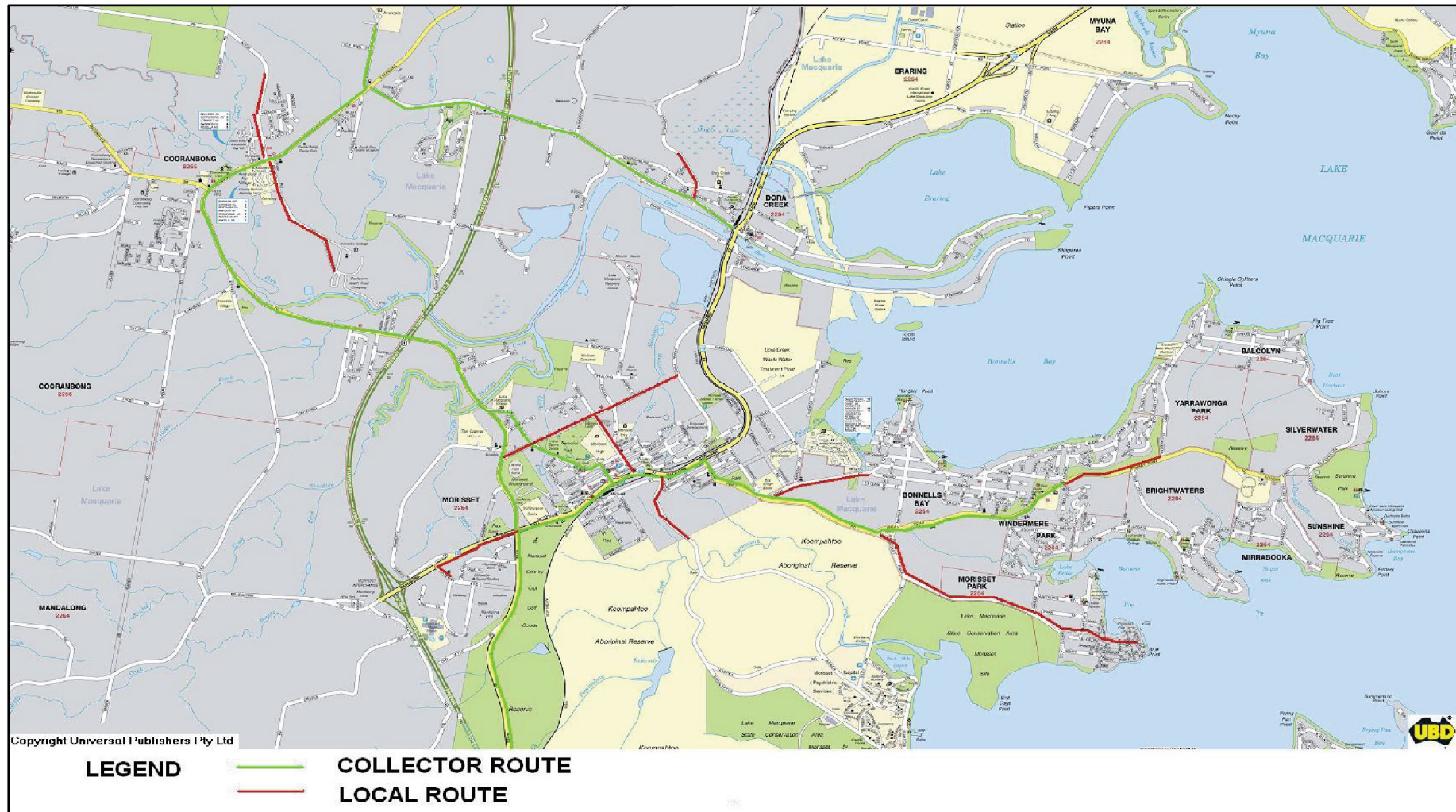


Figure 15: Recommended Shared Walkways/Cycleways as identified by Better Transport Futures

8.2 Community Facilities

8.2.1 Community Multipurpose Centres

Normative

The Morisset CC has 3 Council community multipurpose centres located at Bonnells Bay, Morisset and Wyee and two non-Council community centres at Morisset and Dora Creek. The following social characteristics and issues highlight the potential need for multipurpose community centres within the CC:

- Higher level of social disadvantage of residents in Morisset and Wyee requires more access to the affordable support services/programs which typically operate in multipurpose community centres;
- Lack of public transport within the CC makes it difficult for key target groups such as older residents, residents with a disability, families with young children and youth to access services/programs. Therefore the distribution and transport access to multipurpose community centres needs to be considered. This is particularly important for Morisset Peninsula (8,265 residents living in several dispersed suburbs) and Cooranbong (4,476 residents);
- This also impacts on rural and small suburbs which house key target groups but not of sufficient size necessarily to require a community multipurpose centre. However, very often in these suburbs other Council and non-Council facilities can be used for local community activities/meetings/functions such as school halls, rural fire service facilities (with potential small extensions), church halls and other facilities. This partnership approach ensures effective and efficient use of available resources with Council and government agencies working together to meet local community needs;
- Preschool children with parents, primary and secondary school students, youth and older people are typically major users of multipurpose community centres. As shown in Table A2 Appendix A, suburbs with large numbers/concentrations of these target groups are Cooranbong (all target groups); Morisset (residents aged 65+ years) and Bonnells Bay (preschool and primary school aged children);
- Utilisation of existing Council multipurpose community centres varies considerably with the Morisset Multipurpose Centre providing a service model which ensures high levels of usage. Centre space is a mix of office space for government/community-based services and meeting/activity rooms for community groups. It is leased to a community-based organisation which provides permanent staff, management and program coordination at the centre. This is very different to both the Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre and Wyee Community Centre which are unstaffed with bookings/management undertaken by a community committee. Utilisation of both these facilities is considerably less than for the Morisset Multipurpose Centre although overall all centres are reasonably used;
- Other non-Council facilities including school halls, Morisset Memorial Hall and Dora Creek Hall are similarly available on a bookings/hall for hire basis. Programming and coordination to deliver a range of appropriate community services/activities is not the core business of these facilities but rather they provide space for community groups and small businesses (e.g. school tutoring, dance schools, music lessons etc);
- The Cooranbong Community Services Centre operated by the Seventh Day Adventist Church is a staffed facility which focuses on delivering specific social services;
- It is important for Council to consider the community services/programs which its multipurpose community centres should deliver and the management models which assist in this delivery process; and

- Wyee Community Hall is not appropriately designed to be multipurpose facility and is of lower building standard than Council's centres at Bonnells Bay and Morisset. This limits its utilisation particularly, as the population grows and additional demands are placed on the facility.

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - 1 Council owned community multipurpose centre per 4,200 persons (based on 3 Council-owned and 2 non-Council owned community centres); and
 - 1m² GFA per 6.38 persons (based on a total of 3,257m² GFA for 20,786 residents in 2010).
- LGA:
 - 1 Council owned community multipurpose centre per 5,550 persons;
 - 1m² GFA per 15 persons general community use; and
 - 1m² GFA per 5 persons multipurpose (including children's services, youth space and general community space).
- Standard³³:
 - 1 small multipurpose centre per 3,500-10,000 persons;
 - 1 medium multipurpose centre per 15,000-20,000 persons; and
 - 1 large multipurpose centre per 20,000-30,000 persons.

Identified

The draft Community Facilities Strategy and information obtained by Council from the lessees and hirers of the facilities, indicates relatively low usage of some community halls. These halls are generally older facilities which no longer meet the demands of residents. By contrast, Council's information is that the usage of multipurpose facilities is very high. This is due to the design of the facilities and the permanent presence of community organisations within these facilities to take bookings and develop and/or coordinate programs and services within the facilities.

There is no capacity within Morisset Multipurpose Centre to cater for an increased demand.

Best Practice

Local government is the key provider of publicly-owned community multipurpose centres. As recognised in Council's *Community Services and Facilities Policy* (2005), these spaces/facilities provide for the delivery of a range of community services, activities and programs by organisations and community groups.

In terms of best practice, there has been a strong move away from the provision of single-purpose community facilities. As highlighted in Landcom's *Community Centre Guidelines*, prepared in consultation with local government and other stakeholders, the following guiding principles for community centres focus on multipurpose facilities which:

- Address community needs and promote social outcomes for the community;
- Be multipurpose allowing for a range of community services, programs and activities;
- Act as a focal point contributing to the public domain and sense of place;

³³ These standards are based on DOP guidelines 2009

- Adopt sustainable funding, management and maintenance arrangements;
- Ensure equitable access for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, income levels and interest;
- Support community cohesion by being places of social interaction, cooperation and networks;
- Be recognised in the community with a strong local profile;
- Involve the community in planning, design and delivery;
- Work collaboratively with community, government and local stakeholders;
- Promote physical integration by locating with/near schools, shops, public transport and other community facilities e.g. libraries;
- Ensure flexibility and adaptability to meet changing community needs over time; and
- Ensure integrated planning with consideration of design, delivery and operation of a facility.

The NSW government also strongly supports the community use of public school facilities.³⁴ This includes community use of school halls which, as outlined in Section 5.1, is occurring in some public schools in the Morisset CC. Further use of these facilities however has constraints given that community centres/halls are often required for week day use (which is in conflict with school usage) and need a range of multipurpose rooms/storage/kitchens suitable for community activities. As with school sportsgrounds, community use requires that school halls meet Council standards and can be allocated to community groups consistent with Council and school policies. In terms of best practice, school halls can be used for some community services/activities (e.g. Outside School Hours Care; regular bookings for dance groups, music tuition; adult education classes, etc).

Importantly, child care and preschool facilities may be provided on school sites with sufficient land areas and this is typically supported by the Department of Education and Training.

With Australia's growing aged population, community multipurpose centres are also being increasingly used to provide services for older people. The strong move away from single-purpose facilities is resulting in centres being used for frail-aged service such as day care/respite programs, carer support programs, community restaurants, attached meals-on-wheels kitchens and the like. Similarly for the well-aged, gentle exercise programs, leisure learning classes and social activities operate in many community multipurpose centres. Many aged care service providers also use office space within centres.

This integrated approach which includes older people within the activities/functions of community centres has been well-received and reinforces the need to for multipurpose and flexible centres which cater for multiple uses at the one time. Age-specific facilities however may be required for some programs such as food services (e.g. Meals-on-Wheels).

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Adopt a provision standard of 1 Council-owned community multipurpose centre per 8,000 persons or 1m² of community space per 6.38 residents. This equates to an additional 2,315m² of floor space to meet the demands of the forecast future population (see Section 9.9 for more detailed recommendations);

³⁴ See NSW Department of Education and Training, *Community Use of School Facilities Policy*, September 2009

- This standard is consistent with the existing rate of provision of multipurpose community space in the Morisset catchment; addresses normative need (caters for a dispersed settlement pattern and limited public transport) and is reasonable for comparative need with the recommended standard lower than existing centre provision in the LGA but higher than the DOP standard. This recognises the best practice trend/DOP guideline which encourages servicing larger population catchments with more multipurpose facilities and that other public facilities such as school halls are available for community use;
- In accordance with recommendations within this section and other recommendations within this report (see Sections 8.2.3 and 8.2.4), Council's preferred approach is to co-locate other community facility floor space with general community floor space. In summary, this includes the following additional floor space in the Morisset CC to cater for the forecast additional population to 2025:

Total community floor space	<u>2,315m²</u> (based on 1m ² per 6.38 persons)
Children's Services floor space	560m ² (based on rates in Section 8.2.3 and equivalent to 1m ² per 4.11 persons)
Youth Services floor space	310m ² (based on rates in Section 8.2.4 and equivalent to 1m ² per 48 persons)
General Community floor space	1,445m ² (residual after accounting for Children's Services and Youth Services equating to 1m ² per 10.22 persons)

- Use the above per square metre rate to provide greater flexibility by adding community space to existing community facilities to improve their capacity to provide for additional multipurpose space and/or space for specific uses e.g. commercial kitchens, meetings rooms, office space, etc. This approach is consistent with best practice improving the multipurpose functionality of existing facilities (integration) and supporting accessibility (all existing facilities are well-located);
- Require all Council-owned community multipurpose centres to provide for a range of users including children, youth and older residents. Specific spaces within a centre may target different age groups (e.g. sound room for youth, play area for pre-schoolers, lounge area for seniors) but it is intended that all spaces are multipurpose and not for the exclusive use of any group. To accommodate this range of uses however, community multipurpose centres should provide several activity rooms, meeting rooms, office spaces, kitchen facilities and storage areas to accommodate a range of different user groups;
- Work collaboratively with existing and future public and private schools in the Morisset CC to facilitate community use of school halls and surplus school buildings (see also Section 8.2.3 on use of school facilities for OSHC services); and
- Identify and secure agreements for community use of other Council and non-Council facilities in rural and small suburbs such as school halls, rural fire service facilities (with potential small extensions), church halls and other facilities. This partnership approach ensures effective and efficient use of available resources with Council and government agencies working together to meet local community needs.

8.2.2 Libraries

In determining a service provision standard for public libraries in the LGA it is important to note that Council is currently preparing a comprehensive strategy for the development of the City's library services. This research will be more comprehensive than the assessment undertaken below and when adopted, should be used to inform Council's Development Contributions Plans. The following assessment however provides a reasonable direction for development of library infrastructure in the immediate future.

Normative

The residents of the Morisset CC have a high need for expanded public library facilities with the following socio-demographic characteristics indicating a significant need for public library services:

- High level of social disadvantage in the CC particularly for Morisset and Wyee residents (see Figure 4). Public libraries provide important resources for disadvantaged residents including affordable access to information, skills/training resources and leisure activities;
- Almost one third (32%) of residents aged 55 years and over (compared to 27% for Lower Hunter). Older people are major users of public library services;
- Only 60% of dwellings have internet connection with this consistent with the LGA but significantly below the Sydney average (66%);
- Twelve (12) schools are located in the CC with school students significant users of public libraries for both education and leisure;
- 39% of persons aged 15 years and over have post-school qualifications with this consistent with than the LGA but below the Sydney average (43%); and
- Comparatively high unemployment rate in 2006 at 7% compared to the Sydney average (5%).

Review of existing utilisation data for the Morisset Library also points to the limited capacity of the service:

- Second highest utilisation of public access computers for all LGA libraries at 78% (Windale library has the highest utilisation);
- Visitation increased by 3% between 2007/08 and 2008/09;
- Around 1,000 new borrowers register with the Morisset Library annually; and
- 2,200 people visited the branch in 2008/09 for children/adult programs.

The next nearest Council library to the CC is located at Toronto with this 1,000m² facility having a local population catchment of 13,356 persons while also supporting the Morisset and Wangi Wangi branches (together having a total catchment population of 42,825 persons).

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - 10m² library space per 1,000 persons (i.e. 1 branch library of 210m² for 20,786 residents in 2010);
 - 0.2 public internet computers per 1,000 persons;
 - 1.02 stock items per person;
- LGA:
 - 27m² library space per 1,000 persons;
 - 0.3 public internet computers per 1,000 persons;
 - 1.8 stock items per person; and

- Standard:
 - 1 branch library per 10,000 persons (DOP, 2009);
 - Sliding scale rate of 47m² GFA of library space per 1,000 persons for branch library servicing 20,000 – 35,000 persons with rate decreasing as larger population serviced³⁵;
 - 2 public internet computers for first 1,000 persons and 1 per 2,000 persons thereafter for populations of 10,000 – 50,000 persons³⁶;
 - 2.2 stock items per person³⁷.

Identified

Council is currently preparing a development strategy for provision of public library services across the LGA. This study will include extensive research and public consultation. However, given the research already undertaken for library services required in the Morisset CC, it is evident that the existing provision is inadequate for both the existing and future residents.

However, consultation with stakeholders and the general community on the recreation, open space and community facility/service needs of the Morisset CC will be undertaken to inform this study. Issues relating to public library services will also be canvassed in that process.

Best Practice

The State Library of NSW, Public Libraries Branch provides well-researched standards and guidelines on best practice provision of public library buildings and services. Referenced earlier in this report, these standards/guidelines have been applied to the Morisset CC with the following outcomes:

- Morisset Library is undersized (at 210m²) with a building of 973m² gross floor area required to service its 2010 catchment population;
- Stock is insufficient with 2.2 items required per capita compared to 1.02 items provided; and
- Existing provision of public access computers is poor with an additional 8 terminals required.

In terms of facility provision the State Library also recommends that library buildings³⁸:

- Provide a cultural hub and focal point for the community;
- Are functional and multipurpose accommodating a range of activities and uses;
- Enable access to the latest technology in a user-friendly manner;
- Attract a wide range of users providing areas for relaxation, research, leisure and learning;
- Are effective and efficient in the delivery of services;

³⁵ For detailed methodology see the State Library of New South Wales, *People Places - A Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*, 2nd Edition, 2005 and *Living Learning Libraries – Standards and Guidelines of NSW Public Libraries*, 2009

³⁶ For detailed methodology see the State Library of New South Wales, *People Places - A Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*, 2nd Edition, 2005 and *Living Learning Libraries – Standards and Guidelines of NSW Public Libraries*, 2009

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ See Sections 2.1 and 4.4, State Library of New South Wales, *People Places - A Guide for Public Library Buildings in New South Wales*, 2nd Edition, 2005

- May be co-located with multiple buildings and/or services on one site or adjacent sites bringing a range of services/activities together in one location. There are many successful examples of co-located libraries across Australia;
- May be joint-use service with two or more distinct library service providers servicing one client group in the same building. There are few examples of this in Australia due to the challenges of merging governance structures for separate authorities e.g. local government and Department of Education and Training; and
- Develop from a co-operative approach between all stakeholders to ensure that changing needs of the community are met.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Adopt the building standard set by the State Library of NSW with Morisset CC requiring a branch library of 973m² GFA (2010 population).
- This standard is consistent with the DOP guidelines and higher than existing catchment provision; recognises the normative need for public library services due to social disadvantage and need for skills development/education; and that in terms of best practice a larger public library will provide a multifunctional public focal point for the community;
- Adopt a public internet computer standard of 2 computers for the first 1,000 persons and 1 per 2,000 persons thereafter for populations of 10,000 – 50,000 persons. This standard reflects the catchment's below average level of home-internet connections; high usage of existing public internet computers and large concentration of school students and older residents who are major users of public internet computers. It is also consistent with State Library of NSW guidelines and best practice with public libraries major providers of public internet connections in public spaces ;
- Adopt a library stock standard of 2 items per person. This standard is considered reasonable as it is consistent with comparable standards being slightly lower than the DoP/State Library of NSW standards but higher than existing provision;
- Use the best practice requirements outlined above to determine location and built requirements for the expanded/new Morisset Library. This may include expansion of the building to include joint use facilities; and
- Use the standards and guidelines provided by the State Library of NSW to inform the service requirements for the expanded/new Morisset Library.

8.2.3 Children's Services Facilities

Normative

Based on available data provided by Council on child care provision in the Morisset CC and LGA, the following issues are evident:

- 7 long day child care centres, 1 community-based preschool and Council's Family Day Care service provide 357 places in the Morisset CC. The centres are located at Bonnells Bay (1), Cooranbong (3), Mirrabooka (1), Morisset (2) and Wyee (1) while Family Day Care services are located throughout the catchment;
- Only one stand-alone OSHC services is provided at the Morisset Multipurpose Centre, Morisset (Council-owned facility) with limited OSHC places provided in some long day child care centres;
- Estimated 49% of Long Day Care/Preschool places in the LGA are provided in Council-owned facilities all of which are leased to community-based non-profit service providers;

- Estimated 80% of OSHC places in the LGA are provided in Council-owned and public/private school facilities and operated by community-based non-profit service providers;
- Large numbers of children aged 0-4 years old in Cooranbong (242 children), Bonnells Bay (160 children) and Wyee (132 children);
- Large numbers of children aged 5-12 years in Cooranbong (466 children), Bonnells Bay (312 children) and Wyee (287 children);
- 8 primary schools which are the main feeders for OSHC and also act as 'one stop shop' locations for parents with preschool and primary school aged children are located in the Morisset CC; and
- Higher level of social disadvantage of residents in Morisset and Wyee with children and parents in these areas requiring greater access to affordable child care and family support services.

Comparative³⁹

- Morisset CC:
 - 1 place per 3.5 children aged 0-4 years for Long Day Care/Preschool/Family Day Care with 9% of places in Council-owned facilities (based on 357 places and 1,249 children as per Table A2, Appendix A); and
 - 1 place per 60 children aged 5-12 years for OSHC with 100% of stand-alone places located in Council-owned facilities (based on 40 places for 2,390 children as per Table A2, Appendix A);
- LGA:
 - 1 place per 5 children aged 0-4 years with 75% in Centre-based care and 25% in Family Day Care;
 - 1 place per 25 children aged 5-12 years;
 - 10.22m² internal floor area (including corridors, nappy change areas and offices) and 46.4m² external area per place for Centres;
 - 3.25m² internal floor area and 12m² external area per place for OSHC services.
- Standard:⁴⁰
 - 1 place per 5 children aged 0-4 years for Long Day Care including private child care and Family Day Care;
 - 1 place per 2 children aged 4 years old for Preschool including private provision;
 - 1 place per 25 children aged 5-12 years old for OSHC.

Identified

No consultation has occurred regarding the provision of children's services in the Morisset CC.

³⁹ Based on standards from other sources as identified in Table E1, Appendix E.

⁴⁰ Based on standards from other sources as identified in Table E2, Appendix E.

Best Practice

Access for children to a range of appropriate services has long been recognised as laying the foundation for long-term health and well-being in adulthood.⁴¹ In particular, the link between high levels of social disadvantage/poor educational outcomes and lack of children's services has been identified by many researchers.⁴² Many councils throughout Australia are providers of children's services including long day child care, preschool services, outside school hours care, family day care, supportive playgroups, early intervention services, homework programs etc. Provision by local government, often in partnership with the non-profit and community-based organisations, has typically focussed on high need services to socially disadvantaged residents e.g. families living in public housing/low-income private rental housing; children with a disability; children at risk, etc. Very often, private sector service provision is not available/affordable for these families with the service subsidised by the State/Federal government/s.

Best practice provision of facilities to deliver these children's services is:

- **Long Day Child Care** which is typically provided by the private sector with users having access to means-tested government funded fee relief. Even in new release areas, proactive provision of development information by developers/Council, typically secures long day child care provision by the private sector. The provision of places for children aged under 2 years old is particularly important for working parents with some private sector providers not meeting this need. Diversity of providers is an important consideration given the impact on the community as a result of the collapse of ABC Learning Centres. Councils/non-profit providers often target disadvantaged communities or where private sector provision is poor;
- **Family Day Care** which provides long day child care and outside school hours care in the private homes of trained carers. Family day care may be favoured in many rural/dispersed communities and in new release areas where demand would not be sufficient for centre-based care in the initial development stages, or as an alternate option that suits individual families. Family day care services require office and activity space for staff and carer programs/training;
- **Preschool services** are provided by the private and government/non-profit sectors. Preschools provide sessional services for children aged 3- 6 years old usually from 9am-3pm and are primarily used by parents who are not both working/working part-time. Preschool services can be centre-based or mobile services operating at different locations across an LGA. However, for many socially disadvantaged parents, preschool services can be unaffordable (unless operated by the DET) as limited fee-relief is provided by the government. Recently the Federal government recognised the important role of preschool education for children and established a target of 1 preschool place per 2 children aged 4 years (15 hours per week of preschool education in year prior to starting school);⁴³
- **Outside School Hours Care** is typically provided by the non-profit/government sectors with means-tested government fee relief available. The service may provide before school, after school and/or vacation care and are not typically provided by the private sector due to high staffing costs. Services usually use school facilities (i.e. school hall, surplus classroom or purpose-built facility) although Council community centres are often used when no appropriate school facilities are available or several schools are serviced. Access to adequate secure open space is a key requirement for OSHC services;

⁴¹ See World Health Organisation, *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*, Wilkinson and Marmot, 2003

⁴² See Vinson, Tony 2006, *The Education and Care of Our Children: Good Beginnings*, report prepared for the NSW Teachers Federation. Summary at: <http://www.nswtf.org.au/media>; full report at http://www.nswtf.org.au/media/latest_2006/files/20060518_Preschools.CCf

⁴³ Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, *Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Policy*, 2009

- **Playgroup** is an important community-based service which provides educational outcomes and family support for preschool children and parents/carers. Playgroups are typically major users of Council community multipurpose centres requiring weekday access to appropriate space for children's activities. The service is usually very affordable for parents while specialist supported playgroups are also government funded for socially disadvantaged children/families;
- **Integrated/Multipurpose Family and Children's Centres** are being built by Councils with growing populations providing several of the services outlined above in one facility. Centres may also provide other government-funded services such as family support, early intervention, early childhood health services and parenting programs. This more flexible approach enables a one-stop shop for families with programs able to respond to changed government funding and community needs.⁴⁴

Recommendation

Assessment of the indicators above identifies that:

- Need for long day care services is being reasonably met in the Morisset CC with provision consistent with comparative standards outlined above. The majority of centres provide for children under 2 years old; have operating hours suitable for working parents. However, the catchment has few community-based/Council non-profit services which is inconsistent with provision throughout the LGA;
- Provision of OSHC services in the CC is low compared to comparative standards. Council provides all the stand-alone OSHC facilities in the catchment (100%) and the majority throughout the LGA (80%);
- Family day care also provides both long day care and OSHC places which support these centre-based services and provide choice/flexibility for parents;
- Compared to the LGA averages, Council owns only one facility in the Morisset CC which is specifically used for children's services. Use of Council facilities by community-based non-profit organisations greatly impacts on the range and affordability of children's services provided. It also provides service choice/diversity for parents and increased competition which should improve affordability;⁴⁵ and
- Community space for services which support children and families is also required and this is not provided by the private sector. This space needs to be specifically designed and furnished for children's services and programs (i.e. appropriate furniture, toilets, kitchen, cot room, fenced play area, etc) and enable flexible provision of services appropriate to community needs and government funding availability.

Based on the information provided, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- 1 place for every 5 children aged 0-4 years for children's service provision, with 33% to be provided by Council (equivalent to 1 place per 15 children aged 0-4 years) and 67% provided by private/government. Of the 33% to be provided by Council, 75% are to be long day care and 25% family day care;
- 10m² internal floor space and 46m² external area for each 0-4 years place;
- 1 place for every 25 children aged 5-12 years for OSHC services, with 25% in Council facilities (equivalent to 1 place per 100 children aged 5-12 years);
- 3.25m² internal floor space and 12m² external area each 5-12 years place;

⁴⁴ Hornsby Shire Council's Somerville Park Centre and Penrith City Council's Glenmore Park Child and Family Precinct are good examples of this approach.

⁴⁵ See Deb Brennan, *Child Care – Where we came from and where we are going*, March 2009 at <http://www.apo.org.au/audio/child-care-where-we-came-and-where-we%E2%80%99re-going>

- Final areas will be subject to legislative requirements at the time of construction;
- The children's service provision is to include Long Day Care, preschool programs, family day care, family support programs/parenting groups, counselling services, children's health services, and other education and training programs, along with the necessary office space required to perform these functions. The children's service provision is to be provided in multipurpose or integrated Child and Family Centres which reflects best practice.
- These standards reflect the standards from the DoP, and are lower than the current situation in the Morisset CC. They also reflect that private operators will provide some long day care, and private and government provides some preschool and OSHC. However, they make an allowance for other children's service provision. The spatial requirements reflect NSW Community Service requirements of unencumbered spaces, and the need for corridors, meeting/counselling rooms, office spaces, toilets, kitchens, staff areas etc.
- For the forecast Morisset CC population, these recommended rates equate to the following requirements:
 - A total of 152 Council provided Children's Services places for 2,300 children aged 0-4 years with 75 new Children's Services places for the forecast additional 1,140 children aged 0-4 years. Of these 75% (56 places) are to be long day care equating to a total of 1,140m² of indoor floor space and 5,240m² of external area with 560m² of indoor floor space and 2,585m² of external area attributable to the forecast additional population;
 - A total of 39 Council provided OSHC places for 3,900 children aged 5-12 years with no new OSHC places for the forecast additional 1,805 children aged 5-12 years due to the % reduction in Council provided space. This equates to a total of 127m² of indoor floor space and 468m² of external area with no new floor space for the forecast additional population due to the % reduction in Council provided spaces;
- Work collaboratively with existing and future public and private primary schools in the Morisset CC to facilitate use of school halls and surplus school buildings for community-based/Parents & Citizens operated OSHC services. Operation by non-profit services will facilitate more affordable fees for users.

8.2.4 Youth Services Facilities

Young people use a range of services/facilities including centre-based services, informal youth recreation facilities (see Section 8.1.4), library and cultural services (see Section 8.2.2) and other sporting/recreation facilities (see Section 8.1). The section below focuses on the provision of centre-based services.

Normative

- Almost one in four residents (23% or 4,871 persons) are young people aged 12-24 years old;
- Unemployment rate is high at 19% for 15-19 year olds and 13% for 20-24 year olds;
- Many young people have difficulty accessing education, employment and services due to poor public transport provision and scattered settlement patterns;
- High levels of disadvantage in Morisset and Wyee are likely to be directly impacting on young people living in these suburbs (see Figure 4); and
- Only 60% of dwellings have internet connections, further limiting access to youth access to information and education services.

Comparative

- Morisset CC – All community centres are capable of accommodating youth space with Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre and Morisset Multipurpose Centre currently providing youth services within multipurpose floor space;
- LGA – 1m² per 48 persons; and
- Standard – 1 youth centre per 10 -30,000 persons.

Identified

No consultation has been undertaken regarding the provision of youth services or youth-specific facilities in the Morisset CC

Best Practice

The provision of a range of services targeting youth is important. Many government and non-profit organisations provide facilities and services for young people. Again, current best practice in service provision has moved away from providing single-purpose youth centres due to their inability to be responsive to diverse and dispersed youth needs. Providers have sought to focus on funding youth workers/development officers to deliver youth services, programs and events using a range of community facilities including community multipurpose centres, cultural facilities, libraries, parks, public domain spaces, shopping centres and showgrounds. This approach has enabled more young people to benefit from the programs provided; for services to be targeted to specific high need groups; and for services to change continually depending on youth interests.

This does not mean however that affordable and appropriate space is not required for youth services but rather that this space is integrated into community centres. Ensuring that facilities are appropriate for young people is essential particularly noise management (for youth events, music practice/performance etc). In terms of management, Council may operate government programs at various locations and/or lease space to non-profit providers to provide youth and community services.

Examples of this integrated approach include:

- Narellan Library and Youth Centre;⁴⁶
- Liverpool Police and Community Youth Club;⁴⁷ and
- City of Sydney Youth Centres.⁴⁸

Council's position is that youth specific areas are able to be incorporated into multipurpose facilities however, they may need their own dedicated space as it is not always possible to share space due to equipment required and its setup and storage, so that other groups can use the space (e.g. pool tables, etc). Accordingly, Council's approach is that youth areas should also have their own separate access and there is a need for office space and counselling rooms for youth workers and counsellors. Where possible, youth activity spaces should have direct access to outdoor activity space for active and passive recreational programs.

⁴⁶ See http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/page/narellan_youth_space.html

⁴⁷ See <http://www.pycnsw.org/liverpool>

⁴⁸ See <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Community/YouthServices/YouthCentres/Default.asp>

Recommendation

Council's assessment is that existing level of youth facility provision is appropriate and is meeting current needs.

The general standard of provision assumes the provision of other community facilities e.g. children's services, multi-purpose community / neighbourhood centres and therefore, Council's approach is that youth facility provision should not be replaced by the general standard for multipurpose centres (it needs to be in addition to this space).

Best practice identifies that youth activities require their own space, due to conflicting uses of space. However, this space can be incorporated into a larger multipurpose facility as it will enable some sharing of spaces e.g. toilets, kitchen, carparking etc, as well as promoting social cohesiveness.

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Adopt the existing LGA standard of 1m² for every 48 persons to be incorporated into multipurpose centres. This equates to a total of 740m² including 310m² for the forecast additional population (14,770 people). This adopts the existing LGA provision, takes into account the general standards (of providing youth facilities for new populations) and reflects the best practice principles (of providing youth facilities as part of a multipurpose facility, but with their own dedicated areas).
- Allow for youth services/activities/programs in the floor space requirements in Council's multipurpose community centres, recreational centres and other Council facilities within the CC (see Section 8.2.1);
- Work collaboratively with the existing and future public and private schools in the Morisset CC to facilitate use of school halls and surplus school buildings for youth activities; and
- Ensure that these Council facilities are appropriately designed for use by young people particularly noise management and equipment storage (e.g. for youth events, music practice/performance etc).

8.2.5 Aged Services Facilities

Older people use a range of existing Council services/facilities but particularly parks and open space (see Section 8.1.1), walkways/cycleways (see Section 8.1.7), library and cultural services (see Section 8.2.2) and other sporting/recreation facilities (see Section 8.1). The section below focuses on the provision of centre-based aged services. Aged services are provided to the well-aged (people aged 55 years and over), frail-aged (people aged 70 years and over) and very frail aged (85 years and over).

Normative

- As shown in Table 2, with 6,241 residents (32%) in the Morisset CC aged 55 years and over, the need for aged services is significant. The need will further increase as the number of older residents is expected reach 10,050 residents by 2025;
- In addition, given the high level of social disadvantage in Morisset and Wyee, the provision of local affordable and relevant aged services is important;
- Council has a multipurpose approach to the provision of community facilities with 38 facilities within the LGA used by organisations providing services and activities to older people;⁴⁹

⁴⁹ See p25, *Lake Macquarie Ageing Population Plan 2008-2017*

- There is a Meals on Wheels located at Morisset. The service also has a kitchen at Toronto, but Morisset is the base; and
- Southlake Carers operate a day care respite program and neighbour aid program from the Morisset Multipurpose Centre (they have their own designated space).

Comparative

- Morisset CC
 - There is a Meals on Wheels located at Morisset. The service also has a kitchen at Toronto, but Morisset is the base; and
 - Southlake Carers operate a day care respite program and neighbour aid program from the Morisset Multipurpose Centre (they have their own designated space).
- LGA
 - 1 specific aged services facility per 45,760 persons (i.e. 4 Meals on Wheels for 183,000 persons); and
 - Other community facilities throughout the LGA are leased and used exclusively by aged service providers e.g. Charlestown Multipurpose Centre is used by Biala Respite Service, Charlestown Carers Centre.
- Standard
 - no DOP standard for Council aged services facility

Identified

The *Lake Macquarie Ageing Population Plan 2008-2017* undertook extensive consultation with key stakeholders including local area consultations and on specific issues during 2004-2006. Consultation outcomes feature strongly in the plan with the following issues identified relevant to this report:

- Some Council facilities and infrastructure (e.g. footpaths, libraries and public amenities) are not built and/or maintained to meet the needs of an ageing population;
- Additional respite care facilities are needed; and
- All facilities need to be located near public transport to ensure access by older people.

The plan also identifies the need to better provide for people with dementia and other aged care services and recommends the provision of a Council-owned dementia respite care facility at Morisset. However, no funding has yet been allocated by Council towards this project.

Indicative space requirements for the identified dementia respite service are 320m² of internal floor space, 200m² for external area, covered portico and car parking (including a bus space).

Best Practice

As with youth services (see Section 8.2.4), aged services provision by Councils has moved away from provide specific seniors activity centres to ensuring that all public community facilities are multipurpose and provide appropriate spaces which can be used by all age groups. For older people, multipurpose facilities which are well-designed can be used aged services such as centre-based meals, day respite, aged activity groups and gentle exercise classes. Also more recently, private and non-profit organisations are providing a range of services for the frail aged/very frail aged as part of residential aged care facilities. As an extension of the residential aged care facility, many providers also offer care packages in the home, centre-based day respite services and specific dementia care programs.

Aged services are funded by Commonwealth, State and local government with the private and non-profit sectors actively engaged. For Councils, the need for single purpose facilities to provide aged services, particularly for the frail aged, will be very much dependent on the availability of both for-profit and non-profit providers and the capacity of these providers to service aged pensioners/self-funded retirees and the well-aged/frail aged.

For the frail aged in particular, these providers have professional staff and established services which can effectively cater for the needs of older residents and assist in their housing and care requirements throughout the ageing process. For many councils, the potential to work with these providers to identify needs and promote collaboration/coordination is considered by many to be a best practice approach to addressing the needs of an ageing population.

Although it is best practice to locate aged services within multipurpose centres, these services often require specific spaces which are not able to be used for other purposes.

Recommendation

Based on the indicators provided above, it is considered that aged services are best provided through multipurpose use of Council facilities and provision by other aged care services providers in the catchment. This is consistent with best practice, comparative need and normative need. The identified need for a Council-owned dementia care facility can be met through appropriate design considerations in proposed community multipurpose centres and also through the provision of services by the private and non-profit sectors. Space in 8.2.1 is adequate to provide for this – have allowed for this.

The importance of targeted service delivery particularly in Morisset and Cooranbong is also highlighted as this is where the majority of older people live, social disadvantage is significant and transport access is better than other parts of the Contributions Catchment. Therefore it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Not adopt a standard for aged services facilities in the catchment but allow for these services to be accommodated within community multipurpose centres (see Section 8.2.1). Space requirements in multipurpose centres needs to ensure that they can accommodate the requirements for aged services (including the need for a dementia respite service, as identified) – this space will need to be dedicated for these services (i.e. not able to be used as multipurpose);
- Where a specific service need arises requiring a purpose-built facility which is not provided by the private/non-profit sectors, this be considered at the time based on a detailed assessment of need For example, the provision of a locally-based Meals on Wheels facility may be required depending on the future service delivery model and population demand);
- Provide fully accessible spaces suitable for older people in Council's multipurpose community centres, recreational centres, public libraries and other Council facilities within the CC; and
- Work collaboratively with private and non-profit residential aged care providers and aged service providers to support the use of their facilities for programs such as day respite care, dementia day care and other aged services.

8.2.6 Cultural Facilities

Normative

- Council's *Cultural Plan 2007-2013* provides a detailed assessment and action plan to support cultural life in the Lake Macquarie LGA;
- People of all ages attend cultural events, programs and activities although older people and children are particularly represented. Almost one third (32%) of Morisset CC residents are aged 55 years and over while 19% are aged under 15 years old;

- Mandalong Gallery, Mandalong and The Block Gallery, Martinsville are private galleries located in the Morisset CC;
- An estimated 10 Aboriginal groups in the LGA are involved in arts and cultural development;
- Historical societies and museums in the CC include Morisset Hospital Historical Society, Sunnyside Historic Home and South Sea Island Museum (both located at Cooranbong);
- Some 40 community groups in the LGA undertake cultural activities including musical and theatrical performance, arts and crafts, writing and dance; and
- For the Newcastle Statistical Region (which includes Lake Macquarie), 4,200 persons are employed in cultural and recreational industries.

Comparative

- Morisset CC:
 - No public cultural facilities are located in Morisset CC;
- LGA:
 - 1 performing arts centre per 183,000 persons;
 - 1 art gallery per 183,000 persons; and
- Standard:
 - 1 performing arts/cultural centre/entertainment centre per 50,000 – 120,000 persons (DOP, 2009);
 - 1 exhibition centre/art gallery per 20-30,000 persons (DOP, 2009).

Identified

To inform Council's *Cultural Plan 2007 – 2013*, consultation with a wide range of community groups and residents occurred. Key needs for cultural facilities in the LGA were:

- Support for smaller cultural facilities;
- Economic and creative benefits of attracting cultural industries to the LGA;
- Need for a purpose-built performing arts centre as part of community/cultural hub/precinct to replace the existing centre;
- Importance of the existing Art Gallery in the LGA; and
- Importance of Local Aboriginal Land Councils in terms of repositories of cultural knowledge, practice and artefacts.

Best Practice

Councils throughout NSW actively provide facilities and resources for cultural activities, events and programs.⁵⁰ Best practice provision focuses on:⁵¹

- Preparation of a Cultural Plan to guide and support the development of cultural life in the community;

⁵⁰ See 34 Cultural Policies and Plans by different NSW Council's at www.lgsa.org.au

⁵¹ See NSW Ministry for the Arts and Department of Local Government, *Cultural Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, 2004

- Considering the three dimensions of culture i.e. cultural values about connections between people and between people and places; cultural materials including creative products, cultural assets and cultural resources; and cultural processes which develop and support cultural expression; and
- In terms of built facilities, a wide range of infrastructure to support the actions identified in cultural plans including community centres, sportsgrounds, parks, libraries, art galleries and museums.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Adopt a standard of multipurpose use of all appropriate Council facilities for cultural events/activities in the Morisset CC rather than building single-purpose cultural facilities. This includes community multipurpose centres, public libraries, indoor recreation centres, parks and other open space and recreation facilities;
- Not adopt a specific cultural facility standard for the Morisset CC given that the limited need identified by the normative, comparative and best practice indicators.
- Review this standard when community needs for improved/expanded cultural facilities is identified as the LGA population grows.

8.2.7 Cemeteries

Given the locational requirements for cemeteries, standards of provision at an LGA-wide level are considered to be more appropriate than at the local Contributions Catchment level.

As highlighted in Section 5.2.6, Council's *Cemetery Strategy*, 2007 considers that existing public cemeteries have sufficient capacity to meet demand for the next 10-20 years through a range of policies to increase capacity and make more effective use of the existing facilities. The strategy identifies the availability of more than 5,800 additional plots in Council's cemeteries while several private cemeteries are also located in the LGA. More than one third of these available plots are located in the Morisset CC.

Opportunities to further increase cemetery capacity are also being considered by the NSW Land and Property Management Authority⁵². As recommended in Council's strategy, legislation changes which may increase the capacity of existing public and private cemeteries need to be monitored.

Based on the NSW annual death rate of 6 deaths per 1,000 population (ABS 2007) and the current population of the Lake Macquarie LGA, it is estimated that the LGA has some 1,100 deaths per annum. With capacity for 6-10 year evident in Council's existing cemeteries, the assessment provided in Council's strategy appears reasonable.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council should:

- Not adopt a provision standard for public cemeteries;
- Monitor public and private cemetery capacity and legislation changes to increase cemetery capacity;

⁵² Potential options for increasing the capacity of public cemeteries are outlined at http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au/crown_land/crown_reserves/cemeteries

- Support the appropriate development of private cemeteries; and
- Review Council's existing property portfolio to identify appropriate land opportunities for future use if required.

8.2.8 Community Facilities Outside the Catchment

For all community facilities/services discussed in Sections 8.2.1 - 8.2.7 consideration has been given to facility provision across the LGA (i.e. comparative standards). As Morisset and more specifically, the Morisset Town Centre is expected to become a major regional centre for the Lower Hunter Region (see Section 2.3), it is essential that a full range of public community infrastructure is available in the CC rather than reliance on residents travelling to use other facilities/services outside the catchment.

Some infrastructure such as cultural facilities and cemeteries however are to be provided on an LGA-wide basis. This approach is considered more sustainable and consistent with the social planning frameworks outlined in Section 2 and issues identified in Section 6.

8.3 Community Land Requirements

The assessment provided in Sections 8.1.1 – 8.2.7 and further refined in Section 9 and Table 6 has been used to determine the community land requirements for the provision identified. The assessment indicates the need for an additional 31.6 hectares of community land to be provided to meet the needs of the additional 14,769 persons expected in the catchment from 2011-2025. This comprises 30.6 hectares for sportsgrounds, recreational facilities and parks and 1 hectare for community facilities.

Therefore, it is recommended that for the Morisset CC, Council:

- Adopt a community land provision standard of 2.14 hectares per 1,000 persons for future development comprising 2.07 hectares per 1,000 persons for sportsgrounds, recreation facilities and parks and 0.07 hectares per 1,000 persons for community facilities;
- This standard will provide 31.6 hectares of community land suitable to accommodate the open space, recreation and community facility needs of future development identified in this study;
- Recognise that this standard is below the existing rate of provision in the catchment of 6.75 hectares per 1,000 persons (based on 140.4 hectares of parks, sportsgrounds and general community use land for 20,786 residents in 2010) but this provides a planned overall future rate of provision of 4.84 hectares per 1,000 persons for both existing and projected population growth;
- Land classified as natural areas and zoned environmental protection to be provided in addition to the above standard with these to be determined by environmental assessment and not included as useable public open space.

8.4 Assessment Summary

Table 5 below summaries the outcomes of the needs assessment for each type of community infrastructure analysed in Section 8.

Table 5: Assessment of Existing Community Infrastructure Capacity

Community Infrastructure Type	Existing Service Provision Morisset CC 20,786 persons 2010	Recommended LMCC Service Provision Threshold/Standard	Capacity Assessment
Sportsground and Playing Fields	1 sportsground/2 playing fields per 2,070 persons 1 playing field per 1,600 persons	1 multipurpose sportsground/2 playing fields per 2,500 persons 1 playing field per 1,500 persons	Minor Shortfall
Parks and Playgrounds	1 playground/park per 1,400 persons	1 playground/park per 1,300 persons comprising: - 1 playground/local park per 2,000 persons preferably within walking distance of dwellings where possible; - 1 playground/ park per rural locality; - 1 large playground/neighbourhood park per 4,000 persons; and - 1 large playground/neighbourhood park per CC designed to provide access for all.	Minor Shortfall
Sports Courts	1 tennis court per 1,600 persons 1 netball court per 20,800 persons	1 tennis court per 2,000 persons 1 netball court per 2,500 persons	Oversupply of tennis courts but shortfall in netball courts due to location of competition courts in Wangi
Other Recreation Facilities	1 public jetty per 5,200 persons 1 public boat ramp per 3,000 persons but variations in quality of provision 1 dog exercise area per 5,200 persons	1 public jetty per 6,000 persons 1 public boat ramp per 6,000 persons 1 dog exercise area per 6,000 persons	Spare Capacity
Informal Youth Recreation Facilities	1 informal youth recreation facility (e.g. skate park, BMX, multi-court, etc) per 7,000 persons	1 informal youth recreation facility per 6,000 persons 1 informal youth recreation facility per new development area 1 larger informal recreation facility per CC	At Capacity

Community Infrastructure Type	Existing Service Provision Morisset CC 20,786 persons 2010	Recommended LMCC Service Provision Threshold/Standard	Capacity Assessment
Indoor Sports Centre	1 indoor sports centre per 20,800 persons Indoor sports centre will require additional capacity	1 indoor sports centre per CC (equating to 36,000 persons in Morisset CC as at 2025)	At Capacity
Aquatic Centre	1 swimming centre per 20,800 persons	1 swimming centre per 36,000 persons	At Capacity
Shared Pathways - Walkways/Cycleways	4.3 kms of shared walkways/cyclways The Great North Walk traversing the Morisset CC	Key linkages in new development areas and to key facilities such as schools, sporting areas, shops and employment centres and in accordance with LMCC's Traffic and Transport Study, Cycleway Strategy and DCP	At Capacity
Community Multipurpose Centre	1 Council owned community multipurpose centre per 7,000 persons plus 2 non-Council owned centres 1m ² per 6.38 persons Wyee Community Hall does not meet quality criteria	1 community multipurpose centre per 8,000 persons or 1m ² per 6.38 persons up to 8,000 persons Community partnerships in rural and small areas of less than 8,000 persons	At Capacity
Children's Services and OSHC	1 children's services place per 3.5 children aged 0-4 years with 9% provided by Council 1 OSHC place per 60 children aged 5-12 years	1 children's services place per 5 children aged 0-4 years with 33% provided by Council comprising 10m ² internal floor space and 46m ² external area 1 Integrated Family and Children's Centre with 1 OSHC place per 25 children aged 5-12 years (25% provided by Council) comprising 3.25m ² of indoor play space and 12m ² of outdoor play space Provide children's services and OSHC within multipurpose community centre	Shortfall Spare Capacity
Youth Services	Provision in existing facilities Some facilities do not meet quality and access criteria e.g. indoor recreation centre poor quality and with few informal youth recreation facilities	1m ² per 48 persons Provide youth services within multipurpose community centre	Shortfall
Aged Services	Provision in existing facilities	Provide dementia respite care services comprising 320m ² of internal floor area and 200m ² of external area within multipurpose community centres	At Capacity

Community Infrastructure Type	Existing Service Provision Morisset CC 20,786 persons 2010	Recommended LMCC Service Provision Threshold/Standard	Capacity Assessment
Public Library*	<p>1 branch library per 20,800 persons</p> <p>Branch library does not meet equity, integration and quality criteria</p> <p>Branch library does not meet State Library of NSW standards with current building 210m²</p>	<p>As per SLNSW standards</p> <p>Population 20,000 – 35,000 persons = 47m² GFA of library space per 1,000 persons</p> <p>Population 35,000-65,000 = 42m² GFA of library space per 1,000 persons</p> <p>Populations 10,000 – 50,000 persons = 2 computers for first 1,000 persons and 1 per 2,000 persons thereafter</p> <p>2 stock items per person</p>	Shortfall
Cultural Facility	No public cultural facilities are located in Morisset CC	No standard– provide in Council's multipurpose community centres, recreational centres and other Council facilities within the CC	Spare Capacity
Cemetery	Additional 2020+ plots available	No standard	Spare Capacity

9 Morisset Contributions Catchment Community Infrastructure Provision

Based on the outcomes of Section 8, this section provides a plan for the provision of Community Infrastructure for the Morisset Contributions Catchment to the year 2025. For each infrastructure component, the recommended standard has been applied with the resultant requirements to meet existing and future needs identified. The rationale for the recommended provision strategy (i.e. location, capital works and timing) is detailed below with Tables 6, 7 and 8 providing a summary of the infrastructure. The infrastructure is divided into three sections - Open Space and Recreation (Table 6), Shared Pedestrian/Cycleways (Table 7) and Community Facilities (Table 8).

9.1 Community Land

The recommended standard for the provision of community land has been derived by determining the demand for the specific infrastructure outlined in this study and the resultant land requirement for this infrastructure (see sections below for further details).

The resulting recommended standard for community land for parks, sportsgrounds and community facilities in the Morisset CC for future development equates to 2.14 hectares per 1,000 residents with this excluding all open space categorised as natural area. This comprises 2.07 hectares per 1,000 persons for sportsgrounds, recreation facilities and parks and 0.07 hectares per 1,000 persons for community facilities. This standard will provide sufficient community land to accommodate the community, recreation and leisure needs of the Morisset CC to 2025 as identified in this study.

9.2 Sportsgrounds and Playing Fields

In the catchment, existing provision as at 2010 are 10 sportsgrounds (i.e. 8 Council and 2 non-Council sportsgrounds) providing 13.25 equivalent playing fields. Based on the recommended standard, sportsground provision is adequate but as many of these sportsgrounds only provide one playing field there is a minor shortfall with approximately half of one playing field required to meet existing needs. To meet this need, it is recommended that Council upgrade existing fields which have the capacity for additional usage consistent with best practice. This will respond to the needs identified by existing sporting groups and should include improvements to playing surfaces, irrigation, floodlighting, expanded amenities building etc. Sportsgrounds identified for upgrades are also well-located for the existing population with the following upgrades recommended:

- Auston Oval, Morisset; and
- Bernie Goodwin Reserve, Morisset.

To meet the future population needs 2010-2025 the following additional sportsgrounds/playing fields are recommended for provision:

- 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields at North Cooranbong to meet the needs of this new release area as per the Voluntary Planning Agreement;
- 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields at Mirrabooka Quarry, Morisset Peninsula with limited existing provision currently on Morisset Peninsula and significant population growth expected (equity);
- 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields at North Cooranbong consistent with the Voluntary Planning Agreement);
- 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields at Wyee West (Precinct 4) with this consistent with the expected growth of Wyee West;

- 1 new field/field upgrade at Gibson Field, Morisset; and
- 1 field upgrade at Douglas Street Oval, Dora Creek.

It is important to note that a best practice approach should be taken of increasing sportsground/playing field capacity in the catchment through major upgrading works where such fields are well-located in relation to the new population and if upgraded, have the potential to cater for more usage (see Section 8.1.2).

9.3 Parks and Playgrounds

With existing provision at 13 playgrounds and 2 replacement playgrounds to be provided in Sunshine and Martinsville, based on the recommended standards, the Morisset CC has a minor shortfall of playgrounds which could be met by the following if appropriate sites become available:

- New playground at Mandalong which is a rural locality with no public playgrounds and significant numbers of children. This should be provided on existing public open space where possible; and
- Additional small playground at Windemere Park given that the suburb has a large number of children (176 children) aged under 13 years old and no playground facilities.

To meet the future population needs 2010-2025, 11 parks, 10 new playgrounds and 2 playground upgrades are recommended. Three of these are recommended to be large playgrounds. The recommended provision is as follows:

Bonnells Bay

- 1 new playground at existing park at Bonnells Bay

Cooranbong

- 1 new playground and 1 new park within new development area at Babers Road, Cooranbong

Dora Creek

- 1 new playground and 1 new park within new development area at Coorumbung Road, Dora Creek

North Cooranbong consistent with the Planning Agreement (North Cooranbong) (VPA)

- 1 new playground and 1 new park (Local Park North)
- 1 new playground and 1 new park (Local Park South)
- 1 new large playground and 1 new park (Neighbourhood Park On-site)
- 1 new large children's playground and 1 new park (On-site Sports Facility & Dog Exercise Area)
- 1 new park and upgrade existing children's playground (Town Common - Neighbourhood Park & Sporting Facility)

Morisset

- Upgrade existing playground to a large playground at Bernie Goodwin Reserve, Morisset

- 1 new playground and 1 new park within new development area Koompahtoo land, south of Morisset
- 1 new playground and 1 new park within the new development area south of the railway line, Morisset

Wye

- 1 new park north (1499 Hue Hue Rd, Wye)
- 1 new playground and 1 new park co-located with the new sporting facilities within the new development area.

9.4 Sports Courts

Consistent with the recommended standards, the approach in the catchment is to provide both competition/high level netball and tennis courts together with some multipurpose sports courts for training/informal use which can be adapted to other sports as the need arises (e.g. netball, basketball, soccer and tennis).

Therefore, for netball, based on the recommended standard of 1 netball court per 2,500 persons, the following provision is recommended:

Morisset

- 4 new multipurpose netball courts at Morisset which is central location for players throughout the catchment. Potential locations are adjacent to the Morisset Indoor Recreation Centre or adjacent to Gibson Field, Morisset with both locations providing the opportunity for shared facilities such as car parking and amenities.

Morisset Peninsula

- 2 new multipurpose netball courts sites could include Bonnells Bay or Mirrabooka Quarry.

To meet the future population needs, 6 additional netball courts will be required with the following locations recommended:

North Cooranbong

- 2 new multipurpose netball courts on-site within the new development area in accordance with the North Cooranbong VPA (part of the total 4 multi-purpose court facility).

Wye

- 2 new multipurpose netball courts at the new sporting facility in the new development near Mannering Creek.

Competition Venue

- 2 new multipurpose netball courts at competition venue (site may include Wangi Wangi) in accordance with the North Cooranbong VPA.

For tennis courts, based on the recommended standard of 1 tennis court per 2,000 persons, there is no shortfall in provision with 10 tennis courts required to meeting existing community needs and a total of 13 public and private tennis courts available. But as the population grows, there is no guarantee that private facilities will be provided and Council must be responsible in providing public tennis court facilities as it has done in other catchment areas in the LGA.

Therefore, the following provision is required to meet the needs of new residents:

North Cooranbong

- 2 new multipurpose tennis courts on-site within the new development area in accordance with the North Cooranbong VPA (part of the total 4 multi-purpose court facility).

Wyee

- 3 new tennis courts with the new development area at Wyee.

9.5 Natural Areas and Foreshore Reserves

No standard is recommended to be adopted for natural areas and foreshore reserves given the high conservation values of Lake Macquarie and other natural assets in the Morisset CC. Provision is dependent on the identification of natural areas and foreshore areas for protection through the Lake Macquarie LEP.

9.6 Other Recreation Facilities

For public boat ramps based on the recommended standard of provision of 1 boat ramp per 6,000 persons no additional boat ramps are required. However, several ramps require upgrading to cater for the additional demand and works could include reconstruction of car parking, toilets and fish cleaning table. The boat ramps to be upgraded include:

- Balcolyn;
- Morisset Park – Lakeview Parade; and
- Wyee Point.

For public jetties, based on the recommended standard of provision of 1 jetty per 6,000 persons, 2 additional jetties required for the new population (with one of these allowed for under the North Cooranbong VPA). These include:

- **Sunshine** - at site of existing boat ramp; and
- **Balcolyn** - at site of existing boat ramp.

For dog exercise areas, based on the recommended standard of provision of 1 dog exercise area per 6,000 persons, 2 additional areas will be required for the new population. These include:

- **Wyee** - within the new development area; and
- **North Cooranbong** - within the new development area with the on-site sporting facilities in accordance with the North Cooranbong VPA.

9.7 Informal Youth Recreation Facilities

Three youth recreation facilities are provided within the Morisset CC. Based on the recommended standard of 1 informal youth recreation facility per 6,000 persons and 1 larger youth recreation facility per CC, the following local facilities are required to be provided:

- **North Cooranbong** – 1 skate facility to be provided with the on-site sporting facilities in the new development area in accordance with the North Cooranbong VPA;
- **Mirrabooka Quarry** – 1 BMX track provided together with the sporting facilities;
- **Wyee** – one youth recreation facility (likely BMX track) to be provided for the new development area; and
- **Wyee** – upgrade existing skate park for new development area.

One larger youth recreation facility is to be provided at:

- **Morisset** – one larger skate park is proposed be provided at the Bernie Goodwin Oval.

9.8 Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Facilities

For aquatic facilities, based on the recommended standard of 1 per 36,000 persons, no new facility is required within the Morisset CC. However, given the small size of the swimming pools in the facility (i.e. 25 metre heated pool and 15 metre learn to swim pool), the centre has no capacity for the additional growth. Expansion could include an additional pool and/or water space, upgrade of amenities and additional car parking if required.

Similarly, the existing Morisset Indoor Sports Centre has limited capacity with only 1 indoor court provided. Although the facility is adequate to meet existing needs, the future growth of the Morisset CC is sufficient to justify an extension of the existing facility to provide an additional court and amenities. This provision will ensure that the facility meets best practice/quality requirements and as outlined in Section 8.1.7 is consistent with service standards identified in Council's *Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy* (adopted 2004).

The following is required to cater for the additional demand:

- **Morisset** – Indoor sports Centre – upgrade to provide one additional court;
- **Morisset** - Aquatic Centre – expansion could include an additional pool and/or water space, upgrade of amenities and additional car parking, if required.

9.9 Shared Walkways/Cycleways

Provision of shared walkways/cycleways is based on the recommendations from the Cycleways Strategy; the Traffic and Transport Study prepared by Better Transport Futures; the North Cooranbong VPA, and LMCC's DCP. Recommended provision for new shared pathways at:

- **North Cooranbong** (in accordance with VPA):
 - South-western side of development site to and through the Cooranbong Town Common;
 - South-eastern side of development site along Freemans Drive to Cooranbong Town Common;
 - Southern part of development site along Alton Road to Freemans Drive;
 - Cooranbong Town Common to Morisset Railway Station.

- **Bonnells Bay:**
 - Along Fishery Point Road from Bay Vista Road to the proposed sporting facility at Mirrabooka;
 - Along Morisset Park Road to Trinity Point.
- **Morisset:**
 - Along Awaba Street from the Morisset Showground to Moira Park Road;
 - Through Bernie Goodwin Reserve from Awaba Street to Newcastle Street.
- **Wyee** (new development area):
 - Along Mannering Creek to the Wyee railway station;
 - Along the riparian corridor from Bushells Ridge Road to Mannering Creek;
 - From Mannering Creek to the Wyee Recreation Area and community hall.

9.10 Community Multipurpose Centres

Existing provision as at 2010 is three Council-owned community multipurpose centres and two non-Council centres with these existing facilities at capacity.

To address the future needs of new residents, 1,445m² of general community space is required with provision at the following locations recommended:

- Additional 255m² of community multipurpose space to extend Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre by 2025 to meet equity (additional population growth), integration (incorporating provision with existing facilities) and sustainability (facility size provides for multipurpose activities) criteria.
- New community multipurpose centre at North Cooranbong 740m² by 2020 consistent with the Voluntary Planning Agreement and meeting the recommended standard for an additional community centre in the catchment;
- Additional 260m² of community multipurpose space at the new Morisset Library by 2020 consistent with equity (to meet increasing population needs) and integration (when library is constructed) criteria;
- Additional 190m² of community multipurpose space to extend Wyee Community Hall by 2025 to cater for new resident needs at Wyee West and Wyee meeting equity (additional population), integration (incorporating provision with existing facilities) and sustainability (facility size provides for multipurpose activities) criteria; and

This distribution of additional community multipurpose space is based on the delivery of 4 functional centres throughout the catchment of appropriate size to meet a range of needs. It is essential that these centres are not single-purpose facilities but rather multipurpose facilities as recommended although Council requires some dedicated children's, youth and aged service space in each facility.

Based on the above floor space requirements and the proposed specific use spaces described in the following sections, the future size of these centres (including any existing floor space) will be approximately:

- Bonnells Bay = 962m² (Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre);
- Cooranbong = 950m² (new Cooranbong Community Centre);
- Morisset = 1,785m² (Morisset Multipurpose Centre and Morisset Library); and
- Wyee = 1,005m² (Wyee Community Hall).

For locations with smaller populations and less population growth, Council should ensure that the community halls available at local schools are promoted for community activities and should work in partnership with the DET to facilitate use for community activities. For example, in the Morisset CC, community use of the school hall at Dora Creek should be supported.

9.11 Libraries

With the current shortfall in public library facilities in the catchment and the recommendation to adopt the State Library of NSW standards, provision is required for;

- Expansion of the Morisset Library to 973m² to meet the existing shortfall in provision in the catchment. Importantly, the 8 additional public access computers and 20,321 additional stock items (based on 21,251 existing stock) will be required as supporting infrastructure for the library; and
- Further expansion of the Morisset Library to 1,493m² by 2025 with an additional 7 public access computers and 29,538 additional stock items to resource the new library facility. The expansion of the library is consistent with the directions provided in Council's *Morisset Structure Plan*, 2008 and highlights the significant need for public library services for both the existing and future residents in the catchment. The proposed new public library in Morisset is to be located in Yambo Street, Morisset.

9.12 Children's Services Facilities

9.12.1 Children's Services

Based on the recommended standard of 1 children's services place per 5 children aged 0-4 years with 33% provided by Council, there is a shortfall in existing provision of 45 places (based on 1,160 children aged 0-4 years in 2010). This equates to a shortfall of approximately 450m² of internal floor space and 2,070m² of external area which is capable of being met within the existing multipurpose community floorspace throughout the Catchment.

As the population grows, by 2025 a further 56 long day care places (i.e. 114 places total by 2025) will be required to meet the demands of the new population (based on 2,300 children aged 0-4 years in 2025). This equates to 560m² of internal floor space and 2,585 m² of external area. This should be met by:

- Provision of 25 places, 250m² of internal floor space and 1,155m² of external area at the Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre (see Section 9.10 above);
- Provision of 15 places, 150m² of internal floor space and 690m² of external area as part of the new North Cooranbong Multipurpose Centre (see Section 9.10 above);
- Provision of 16 places, 160m² of internal floor space and 740m² of external area in an upgraded Wyee Community Hall (see Section 9.10 above).

9.12.2 OSHC Services

Based on the recommended standard of 1 OSHC place per 25 children aged 5-12 years old with 25% provided by Council, there is an oversupply in existing provision of 19 places (based on 2,090 children aged 5-12 years old in 2010 and 40 places). This existing provision of 40 places will continue to satisfy future demand as by 2025, the forecast 3,900 children aged 5-12 years will require only 40 places (being 25% provided by Council).

However, as highlighted in Section 8.2.3, the current distribution of child care services is focussed on Cooranbong, Morisset and Morisset Peninsula with Council's OSHC service at Morisset. Few child care services are located in Wyee with no OSHC services available. Given the future growth of Wyee West, the high level of social disadvantage in Wyee and the limited transport from Wyee to other centres, the provision of an Integrated Family and Children's Centre in Wyee West (Precinct 4) by 2025 is recommended.

9.13 Youth Services Facilities

Existing provision as at 2010 comprises multipurpose space at Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre and office space in the Morisset Multipurpose Centre used for youth programs. Based on Council's recommended standard of 1m² per 48 persons, the Morisset CC currently requires approximately 430m² of dedicated youth space and this is capable of being met within the existing supply of multipurpose community floor space.

To address the future demands of new residents, approximately 310m² additional of youth space is required with provision at the following locations recommended:

- Provision of 100m² of additional dedicated youth space at the Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre (see Section 9.10 above);
- Provision of 60m² of additional dedicated youth space as part of the new North Cooranbong Multipurpose Centre (see Section 9.10 above);
- Provision of 75m² of additional dedicated youth space at the new Morisset Library (see Section 9.10 above); and
- Provision of 75m² of additional dedicated youth space at Wyee Community Hall (see Section 9.10 above).

9.14 Aged Services Facilities

No specific standard is recommended to be adopted for aged services however, facility needs should be met as identified by Council which includes a Dementia Respite Care facility comprising:

- 320m² of indoor floor space; and
- 200m² of outdoor area.

This should be provided as part of a Multipurpose Community Centre (as dedicated space).

Consistent with existing Council policy, multipurpose use of Council facilities should also continue with Council ensuring that all new facilities meet appropriate universal access standards and provide spaces suitable for older people activities and programs.

In addition, aged services may also be provided in facilities provided by other aged care services providers and Council should be working with other government funding agencies, non-profit aged service providers and the private sector to ensure appropriate provision particularly in Morisset.

9.15 Cultural Facilities

No standard is recommended to be adopted for cultural facilities with utilisation of the existing LGA-wide cultural facilities and multipurpose use of Council's other public facilities recommended i.e. libraries, community multipurpose centres, public parks etc. Partnerships with existing primary and high schools to ensure that school halls are accessible to the community for cultural events, activities and programs are also recommended.

9.16 Cemeteries

No standard is recommended to be adopted for cemeteries with significant capacity in existing Council and private cemeteries within the LGA. Council should however further develop the capacity of its existing facilities and monitor the opportunities which may result in potential legislation changes being considered by the NSW Land and Property Management Authority⁵³.

⁵³ Potential options for increasing the capacity of public cemeteries are outlined at http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au/crown_land/crown_reserves/cemeteries

Table 6: Morisset Open Space and Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2010-2025

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
Community Land	2.07 hectares per 1,000 persons				
Sportsgrounds/ Playing Fields	1 sportsground ^A / 2 playing fields per 3,000 persons OR 1 field per 1,500 persons	Provide 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset Peninsula (Mirrabooka) – 2 new fields 	Provide 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields and upgrade 2 existing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooranbong – Town Common – 2 new fields^B Morisset – Bernie Goodwin – 1 upgrade Gibson Field – 1 new field/field upgrade 	Provide 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields and upgrade 1 existing field: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong (on-site) – 2 new fields^B Morisset – Auston Oval – 1 upgrade 	Provide 1 new sportsground/2 playing fields and upgrade 1 existing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee (New development area south of Mannering Creek) – 2 new fields Dora Creek – Douglas Street Oval – 1 upgrade
Parks	1 park per 1,300 persons comprising ^C : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 local park per 2,000 persons preferably within walking distance of dwellings, where possible 1 local park per rural locality 1 neighbourhood park per 4,000 persons 1 neighbourhood park per CC designed to provide access for all 		Provide 3 new parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – Local Park South (on-site)^B Cooranbong – Local Park – within new development area at Babers Road Dora Creek – Local Park – within new development area Coorumbung Road 	Provide 4 new parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – Local Park North (on-site)^B Cooranbong – Town Common Neighbourhood Park^B Cooranbong – Park – in conjunction with on-site Sporting Facility & Dog Exercise Area^B Wyee – Neighbourhood Park North (1499 Hue Hue Road, Wyee) Provide 1 park upgrade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset – Bernie Goodwin upgrade to neighbourhood park 	Provide 4 new parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – Neighbourhood Park (on-site)^B Morisset – Local Park in new development area south of Morisset (Koompahtoo land) Morisset – Local Park in new development area south of railway line Wyee – Neighbourhood Park – in new development area south of Mannering Creek in conjunction with sports facility

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
Playgrounds	1 playground per 1,300 persons comprising ^C : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 playground per 2,000 persons preferably within walking distance of dwellings, where possible 1 playground per rural locality 1 large playground per 4,000 persons 1 large playground per CC designed to provide access for all 	Provide 1 playground upgrade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset – upgrade existing playground in Bernie Goodwin Reserve and provide access for all 	Provide 4 new playgrounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong Local Playground – Local Park South (on-site)^B Bonnells Bay – 1 new playground at existing park in Bonnells Bay Cooranbong – Local Playground– within new development area at Babers Road Dora Creek – Local Playground – within new development area Coorumbung Road 	Provide 3 new playgrounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – Local Playground – Local Park North (on-site)^B Cooranbong – Town Common Neighbourhood Playground^B Cooranbong – Playground – in conjunction with on-site Sporting Facility and Dog Exercise Area^B 	Provide 4 new playgrounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – Neighbourhood Playground – Neighbourhood Park (on-site)^B Morisset – Local Playground – Local Park in new development area south of Morisset (Koompahtoo land) Morisset – Local playground – Local Park in new development area south of railway line Wyee –Neighbourhood Playground – Neighbourhood Park – in new development area south of Mannering Creek with sports facility
Sports Courts	1 netball court per 2,500 persons	Provide 4 new netball courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset - 2 new courts Morisset Peninsula - 2 new netball courts (Bonnells Bay or Mirrabooka Quarry) 	Provide 4 new ^A netball courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset - 2 new courts North Cooranbong – 2 new^A netball courts – Town Common^B 	Provide 2 new ^A netball courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong - 2 new multipurpose netball courts – on-site Sporting Facility^B 	Provide 4 new netball courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – 2 new netball courts Competition Venue – 2 netball courts at netball competition venue (site may be Wangi)^B

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
	1 tennis court per 2,000 persons		Provide 2 new ^A tennis courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – 2 new^A tennis courts – Town Common^B 	Provide 2 new ^A tennis courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – 2 new^A tennis courts^B 	Provide 2 new ^A tennis courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – 2 new^A tennis courts in new development area
Other Recreation Facilities	1 jetty per 6,000 persons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunshine – provide 1 new jetty (at site of existing boat ramp) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balcolyn – provide 1 new jetty (at site of existing boat ramp) 	
	1 boat ramp per 6,000 persons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balcolyn – provide 1 boat ramp upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset Park, Lakeview Parade – 1 boat ramp upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee Point – provide 1 boat ramp upgrade
	1 dog exercise area per 6,000 persons			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – provide 1 new dog exercise area in the new development area with the on-site Sporting Facility^B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – provide 1 new dog exercise area in the new development area
	1 informal youth recreation facility per 6,000 persons 1 informal youth recreation facility per new development area 1 larger youth recreation facility per CC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mirrabooka Quarry – provide 1 new BMX Track in conjunction with Sporting Facility Morisset – provide 1 larger skate park at Bernie Goodwin Oval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong – provide 1 new skate facility with on-site Sporting Facility^B North Cooranbong – provide 1/2 multi-court – Local park North^B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – provide 1 new youth recreation facility (likely BMX Track) for new development area Wyee – upgrade existing skate park
Aquatic Centre	1 swimming centre per 36,000 persons				Morisset – Aquatic Centre – expansion could include an additional pool and/or water space, upgrade of amenities and additional car parking, if required

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
Indoor Sports Centre	1 indoor sports centre per 36,000 persons (min. 2 courts, 2 multi-purpose activity rooms)			Morisset - Indoor Sports Centre – upgrade centre to provide 1 additional court and activity room	
Shared Pathways - Walkways/ Cycleways			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong - South-western side of development site to and through the Cooranbong Town Common^B North Cooranbong - South-eastern side of development site along Freemans Drive to Cooranbong Town Common^B North Cooranbong - Southern part of development site along Alton Road to Freemans Drive^B North Cooranbong - Cooranbong Town Common to Morisset Railway Station^B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morisset - Along Awaba Street from the Morisset Showground to Moira Park Road Morisset - Through Bernie Goodwin Reserve from Awaba Street to Newcastle Street Bonnells Bay - Along Fishery Point Road from Bay Vista Road to the proposed sporting facility at Mirrabooka Bonnells Bay - Along Morisset Park Road to Trinity Point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee - Along Mannering Creek to the Wyee railway station Wyee - Along the riparian corridor from Bushells Ridge Road to Mannering Creek Wyee - From Mannering Creek to the Wyee Recreation Area and community hall
Notes: Works described in this table are dependent upon development rates and final yields achieved and will be adjusted accordingly. A. Multipurpose Facilities B. North Cooranbong VPA C. Included in open space provision, each local park to be a minimum on 0.5 ha and neighbourhood park a minimum of 0.5-2.0 ha					

Table 7: Morisset Community Facilities Infrastructure Plan 2010-2025

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
Community Multipurpose Centres	1 community multipurpose centre per 8,000 persons or 1m ² per 6.38 persons comprising general community space at 1m ² per 10.22 plus children's services and youth services floor space (see below) Community partnerships in rural and small areas of less than 8,000 persons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonnells Bay - Upgrade Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre providing for 255m² of general community floor space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Cooranbong - Provide new community multipurpose centre comprising 740m² of general community floor space Morisset - Provide 260m² of new general community floor space at the new Morisset Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – Upgrade Wyee Community Hall providing for 190m² of general community floor space
Public Library* <i>*State Library of NSW recommends planning building size for future growth i.e. 10 year projected population. In this table however, population as per the year identified has been used to determine building size</i>	Population 20,000 – 35,000 persons = 47 m ² GFA of library space: 1,000 persons Population 35,000-65,000 = 42m ² GFA of library space: 1,000 persons Populations 10,000 – 50,000 persons = 2 computers for first 1,000 persons and 1 per 2,000 persons thereafter 2 stock items per person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Morisset Library to 973m² 8 new public access computers 20,321 new additional stock items (based on 21,251 existing stock) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Morisset Library to 1,181m² 2 new public access computers 8,908 new additional stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Morisset Library to 1,432m² 3 new public access computers 10,716 new additional stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Morisset Library to 1,493m² 2 new public access computers 9,914 new additional stock items

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
Children's Services Facilities	<p>Children's Services</p> <p>1 children's services place per 5 children aged 0-4 years with 33% provided by Council. Of this 33%, 75% to be long day care comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10m² internal floor space; and 46m² external area <p>Provide in Council-owned integrated child and family centre and/or as part of Multipurpose Community Centres (as dedicated space)</p>		<p>Provide 25 Council provided children's services places comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonnells Bay – provide 250m² of internal floor space and 1,155m² of external area at Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre or alternatively at a new facility on the Morisset Peninsula 	<p>Provide 15 additional Council provided children's services places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooranbong – provide 150m² of internal floor space and 690m² of external area at the new North Cooranbong Multipurpose Centre 	<p>Provide 16 additional Council provided children's services places comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – provide 160m² of internal floor space and 740m² of external area at Wyee Community Hall
	<p>OSHC</p> <p>1 OSHC place per 25 children aged 5-12 years with 25% provided by Council comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.25m² of indoor play space; and 12m² of outdoor play space <p>Provide in Council-owned integrated child and family centre and/or as part of Multipurpose Community Centres (as dedicated space)</p>	No additional Council owned places required	No additional Council owned places required	No additional Council owned places required	An Integrated Family and Children's Centre in the new development area at Wyee would be warranted on limited existing provision and high social disadvantage

Infrastructure Type	Morisset CC Service Provision Threshold	2010 20,786 persons	2015 (0-5) 25,240 persons	2020 (6-10) 30,598 persons	2025 (11-15) 35,555 persons
Youth Services Facilities	1m ² of internal floor space per 48 persons Provide as part of Multipurpose Community Centres (as dedicated space)		Provide additional internal floor space comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonnells Bay – 100m² of internal floor space at Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre or alternatively at a new facility on the Morisset Peninsula 	Provide additional internal floor space comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooranbong – provide 60m² of internal floor space at the new North Cooranbong Multipurpose Centre; Morisset – 75m² of internal floor space at Morisset Multi-purpose Centre or new Morisset Library 	Provide additional internal floor space comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyee – provide 75m² of internal floor space at Wyee Community Hall
Aged Services Facilities	No specific standard – meet specific facility needs as identified by Council which includes a Dementia Respite Care facility comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 320m² of indoor floor space; and 200m² of outdoor area Provide as part of a Multipurpose Community Centre (as dedicated space)	Support multipurpose use of facilities for aged services	Support multipurpose use of facilities for aged services	Support multipurpose use of facilities for aged services	Support multipurpose use of facilities for aged services
Cultural Facilities	No standard – LGA wide facility	Support multipurpose use of facilities for cultural activities/events	Support multipurpose use of facilities for cultural activities/events	Support multipurpose use of facilities for cultural activities/events	Support multipurpose use of facilities for cultural activities/events
Cemeteries	No standard – LGA wide facility	Maintain and develop capacity of existing cemeteries	Maintain and develop capacity of existing cemeteries	Maintain and develop capacity of existing cemeteries	Maintain and develop capacity of existing cemeteries

APPENDIX A

Table A1: Selected Characteristics of the Morisset CC Population

Table 1: Extract from 2006 Basic Community Profile						
	Morisset CC		Lake Macquarie LGA		Lower Hunter	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Total Persons	20,748		183,139		493,463	
Australian born	16,688	80%	156,314	85%	417,725	85%
Overseas born: ESC	1,693	8%	9,346	5%	23,289	5%
Overseas born: NESC	1,085	5%	7,761	4%	23,506	5%
Total Overseas born	2,778	13%	17,107	9%	46,795	9%
Aged 15 or more	16,800	81%	147,263	80%	396,425	80%
Labour force/Total Pers.	8,308	49.5%	82,228	55.8%	224,096	56.5%
Different address 5 years ago (5+yo)	8,154	39.3%	57,586	31.4%	171,972	34.9%
Age Groups in the Population	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
0-14	3,939	19.0%	35,874	19.6%	97,040	19.7%
15-24	2,544	12.3%	23,159	12.6%	66,328	13.4%
25-54	7,513	36.2%	70,392	38.4%	195,613	39.6%
55+	6,752	32.5%	53,714	29.3%	134,481	27.3%
Total	20,748	100.0%	183,139	100.0%	493,462	100.0%
Usual Place of Residence	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
Counted at home	19,735	95.1%	174,587	95.3%	470,409	95.3%
Same statistical local area	203	1.0%	1,466	0.8%	4,302	0.9%
Different SLA	467	2.3%	3,584	2.0%	12,989	2.6%
Structure of (Occupied Private) Dwellings	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Separate House	6,472	86.9%	58,821	87.2%	154,298	83.8%
Semi/Row/Town/etc	465	6.2%	4,631	6.9%	13,928	7.6%
Flat/Unit/Apartment	180	2.4%	3,030	4.5%	13,617	7.4%
Other Dwellings	300	4.0%	917	1.4%	2,096	1.1%
Not stated	28	0.4%	44	0.1%	104	0.1%
Total OCC	7,445	100%	67,443	100%	184,043	100%
Average Occupancy (Persons/dwelling)	2.53		2.56		2.51	
Persons usually present per household	Households	%	Households	%	Households	%
1 person	1,744	23.4%	15,508	23.0%	45,992	25.0%
2 persons	2,803	37.6%	23,973	35.5%	64,612	35.1%
3 persons	1,082	14.5%	10,521	15.6%	28,623	15.6%
4 persons	1,055	14.2%	11,015	16.3%	28,295	15.4%
5 persons	546	7.3%	4,715	7.0%	11,882	6.5%
6 or more persons	224	3.0%	1,710	2.5%	4,639	2.5%
Total households	7,454		67,442		184,043	
Nature of Occupancy	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Owned	2,921	39.2%	26,625	39.5%	67,608	36.7%
Being Purchased	2,439	32.7%	23,094	34.2%	60,654	33.0%
Rented:						
Real Estate Agent	908	12.2%	7,347	10.9%	25,410	13.8%

*Recreation, Open Space and Community Facilities & Services Study
Morisset Contributions Catchment
Final Report*

Table 1: Extract from 2006 Basic Community Profile							
	Morisset CC		Lake Macquarie LGA		Lower Hunter		
State Housing Auth.	38	0.5%	3,372	5.0%	9,543	5.2%	
Other rented	584	7.8%	3,905	5.8%	12,632	6.9%	
Not stated	62	0.8%	430	0.6%	1,221	0.7%	
<i>Total Rented</i>	<i>1,592</i>	<i>21.4%</i>	<i>15,054</i>	<i>22.3%</i>	<i>48,806</i>	<i>26.5%</i>	
Other tenure	263	3.5%	758	1.1%	1,685	0.9%	
Not Stated	236	3.2%	1,911	2.8%	5,289	2.9%	
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,451</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>67,442</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>184,042</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	
Household Composition							
Couple with Children	2,248	39.8%	22,392	43.6%	57,306	42.7%	
Couple without Children	2,424	42.9%	19,718	38.4%	51,082	38.1%	
Single Parent	921	16.3%	8,635	16.8%	23,764	17.7%	
Other Families	59	1.0%	582	1.1%	1,906	1.4%	
<i>Total Families</i>	<i>5,652</i>		<i>51,327</i>		<i>134,058</i>		
Lone Person Households	1744	23.4%	15508	23.0%	45992	25.0%	
Group Households	175	2.3%	1491	2.2%	6222	3.4%	
Medians							
	Value		Value		Value		
Weekly Rent	\$191		\$188		\$187		
Monthly Mortgage	\$1,374		\$1,328		\$1,315		
Annual Household Income	\$41,496		\$47,944		\$46,852		
Weekly Income per Household	No. of H'holds	Percent	No. of H'holds	Percent	No. of H'holds	Percent	
\$0 - \$649	2,825	37.9%	23,252	34.5%	64,410	35.0%	
\$650 - \$1999	2,997	40.2%	27,893	41.4%	76,238	41.4%	
\$2000 +	758	10.2%	8,918	13.2%	23,422	12.7%	
Other, including not stated		11.7%		10.9%		10.9%	
Motor Vehicles							
		% of H'holds		% of H'holds		% of H'holds	
Zero		7%		9%		10%	
One		40%		37%		38%	
Two		34%		36%		35%	
Three or more		21%		21%		19%	
No. of vehicles not stated		4%		4%		4%	
<i>Average</i>	<i>1.7</i>		<i>1.6</i>		<i>1.6</i>		
Source: ABS 2006 Census							
Note: "Households" may exceed "dwellings" in this table, but only because of Census definitions.							

Table A2: Target Age Groups by Suburb 2006

Suburb	Total Popn	0-4 years	5-12 years	13-17 years	18-24 years	65+ years	70+ years
Balcolyn	1478	108	175	92	102	260	177
Bonnells Bay	2756	160	312	192	216	556	252
Brightwaters	550	31	47	40	45	98	72
Cooranbong	4476	242	466	331	485	914	724
Dora Creek	1312	47	141	98	111	275	189
Eraring	212	9	9	14	25	44	29
Mandalong	419	35	46	38	38	42	26
Martinsville	494	20	42	56	51	64	47
Mirrabooka	664	41	84	47	47	125	87
Morisset	3108	115	219	133	202	1082	882
Morisset Park	781	42	103	57	68	122	90
Silverwater	739	58	86	45	44	141	98
Sunshine	424	29	44	30	25	85	61
Windermere Park	914	63	113	74	72	123	73
Wyee	2338	132	287	177	152	379	284
Wyee Point	811	70	131	56	54	55	31
Yarrawonga	740	47	85	47	61	120	760
LGA Average		5.9	10.8	7.3	8.3	16.8	12.2
SSD Average		6.6	10.4	6.6	9.9	12.3	8.9

Source: ABS Census 2006

Table A3: Distribution of Public Playgrounds in Morisset Contributions Catchment based on 2006 Census data

Suburb	0-4 years	5-12 years	13-17 years	Total <18 years	No. of Small Public Playgrounds	No. of Large Public Playgrounds	Rate of Playground Provision per suburb <18years	Rate of Playground Provision per suburb total residents
Balcolyn	108	175	92	375	2	0	1 per 187 children	1 per 739 persons
Bonnells Bay	160	312	192	855	1	0	1 per 855 children	1 per 2756 persons
Brightwaters	31	47	40	118	1	0	1 per 118 children	1 per 550 persons
Cooranbong	242	466	331	1039	0	1	1 per 1039 children	1 per 4476 persons
Dora Creek	47	141	98	286	1	0	1 per 286 children	1 per 1312 persons
Eraring	9	9	14	32	0	0	0 per 32 children	0 per 212 persons
Mandalong	35	46	38	119	0	0	0 per 119 children	0 per 419 persons
Martinsville	20	42	56	118	0	0	0 per 118 children	0 per 494 persons
Mirrabooka	41	84	47	172	0	0	0 per 172 children	0 per 664 persons
Morisset	115	219	133	467	1	2	1 per 156 children	1 per 1036 persons
Morisset Park	42	103	57	202	1	1	1 per 101 children	1 per 781 persons
Silverwater	58	86	45	189	0	0	0 per 189 children	0 per 739 persons
Sunshine	29	44	30	103	0	0	0 per 103 children	0 per 424 persons
Windermere Park	63	113	74	250	0	0	0 per 250 children	0 per 914 persons
Wyee	132	287	177	596	0	1	1 per 596 children	1 per 2338 persons
Wyee Point	70	131	56	257	1	0	1 per 257 children	1 per 811 persons
Yarrawonga	47	85	47	179	0	0	1 per 179 children	1 per 740 persons
Total Catchment	1249	2390	1527	5166	8	5	1 per 397 children	1 per 1709 persons

Source: ABS Census 2006 and Council playground database 2010

Appendix B – Recreation Facilities

Table B1: Recreation Facilities in Morisset CC by Suburb

Recreation Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision
<i>Sportsgrounds and Playing Fields</i>			
Bonnells Bay Reserve	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 modified soccer field
Cooranbong Recreation Reserve	LMCC	Cooranbong	Equestrian field, amenities block, clubhouse and irrigated field
Douglas Street Oval	LMCC	Dora Creek	1 athletics field also used for cricket and soccer 1 junior cricket wicket Clubhouse, amenities block, irrigated fields, lighting
Neville Thompson Oval, Dora Creek Workers Club	Licensed Club	Dora Creek	1 field used for cricket, athletics and rugby league Floodlights and irrigated field
Martinsville Recreation Area	LMCC	Martinsville	1 cricket oval
Bernie Goodwin Reserve	LMCC	Morisset	2 soccer fields (also used for cricket) 1 junior soccer field
Gibson Field/Awaba Street Oval	LMCC	Morisset	1 rugby union field and amenities block
Auston Oval	LMCC	Morisset	1 soccer field Floodlighting, amenities block and irrigated field
Morisset Showground	Morisset Agricultural Show Society	Morisset	1 rugby league field
Wyee Oval	LMCC	Wyee	1 cricket oval
Wyee Point Reserve	LMCC	Wyee Point	1 junior field
<i>Parks and Playgrounds</i>			
<i>Playgrounds</i>			
Pantowara Reserve	LMCC	Balcolyn	1 playground
Shingle Splitters Reserve	LMCC	Balcolyn	1 playground
Pendlebury Park	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 playground
Brightwaters Reserve	LMCC	Brightwaters	1 playground

Recreation Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision
Cooranbong Town Common	LMCC	Cooranbong	1 playground
Douglas Street Oval	LMCC	Dora Creek	1 playground
Bernie Goodwin Reserve	LMCC	Morisset	1 playground
Macquarie Street Reserve	LMCC	Morisset	1 playground
Morisset Lions Park	LMCC	Morisset	1 playground
Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Morisset (on Morisset Park Road)	1 playground
Macquarie Road Reserve	LMCC	Morisset Park	1 playground
Wyee Community Hall Reserve	LMCC	Wyee	1 playground
Wyee Point Reserve	LMCC	Wyee Point	1 playground
<i>Sport Courts</i>			
Martinsville Recreation Area	LMCC	Martinsville	1 tennis court
Bay Hotel Motel	Private	Morisset	2 tennis courts
Morisset & District Tennis Club	Private	Morisset	8 tennis courts
Wyee Recreation Reserve	LMCC	Wyee	2 tennis courts 1 netball court
<i>Other Recreation Facilities</i>			
<i>Youth Recreation Facility</i>			
Bonnells Bay Skate Park	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 skate park adjacent to community centre
Pendlebury Park	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 multi-court
Wyee Skate Park	LMCC	Wyee	1 skate park adjacent to community centre
<i>Off Leash Dog Exercise Areas</i>			
Pendlebury Park	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 off leash area
Bernie Goodwin Reserve	LMCC	Morisset	1 off leash area
Douglas Street Reserve	LMCC	Dora Creek	1 off leash area
Wyee Oval	LMCC	Wyee	1 off leash area

Recreation Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision
<i>Public Jetty</i>			
Bonnells Bay Public Jetty	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 public jetty and associated facilities
Brightwaters Public Jetty	LMCC	Brightwaters	1 public jetty and associated facilities
Dora Creek Public Jetty	LMCC	Dora Creek	1 public jetty and associated facilities
Sunshine Public Jetty	LMCC	Sunshine	1 public jetty and associated facilities
<i>Public Boat Ramp</i>			
Pendlebury Park Boat Ramp	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
Hall Reserve Boat Ramp	LMCC	Balcolyn	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
Shingle Splitters Point Boat Ramp	LMCC	Balcolyn	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
Dora Street Boat Ramp	LMCC	Dora Creek	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
Lakeview Road Boat Ramp	LMCC	Morisset Park	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
Sunshine Reserve Boat Ramp	LMCC	Sunshine	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
Mecca Tourist Park Boat Ramp	LMCC	Wyee Point	1 boat ramp and associated facilities
<i>Aquatic Centre</i>			
Morisset Swim Centre	LMCC	Morisset	15m learn to swim pool 25m heated pool Wading pool
<i>Indoor Sports Centre</i>			
Morisset Indoor Sports Centre	LMCC and leased to PCYC	Morisset	1 indoor court and amenities
<i>Shared Pathway – Walkway/Cycleway</i>			
Fishery Point Road from Pulbah Street, Morisset to Bay Vista Road, Bonnells Bay	LMCC	Morisset-Bonnells Bay	4.3 km of shared walkway/cycleway
<i>Other Sports Facilities</i>			
Morisset Country Club	Private	Morisset	18 hole golf course and 2 lawn bowls greens

Table B2: Recreation Facilities outside Morisset CC which are used by Morisset Population

Recreation Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Standard of Provision
Westlakes Netball Association Courts	LMCC	Wangi Wangi	Need identified for significant upgrading
Hunter Sports Centre	LMCC	Glendale	Athletics Centre Gymnastics Centre Soccer Field Amenities, parking, kiosk, lighting etc
Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area – Myuna Bay	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Wangi Wangi	Foreshore Park 1 district Playground
Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre	NSW Department of Education and Training	Myuna Bay	Sport and Recreation Centre with facilities booked for school/community/private group use

Appendix C: Community Facilities and Services

Table C1: Community Facilities in Morisset CC

Community Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision	Community Use
<i>Community Multipurpose Centre/Hall</i>				
Bonnells Bay Youth and Community Centre	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	Main Hall (90 people) and Activity Room (15 people); 357m ²	Balcolyn Senior Indoor Bowls Westlake Macquarie Family Support Westlake Macquarie Australian Breastfeeding Association Southlakes Youth Service Bonnells Bay Buzzy Bees Playgroup Community Environment Network
Cooranbong Community Services Centre	Seventh Day Adventist Church	Cooranbong	Small hall	Southlakes Red Cross Community meetings
Morisset Multipurpose Centre	LMCC	Morisset	Hall, meeting room and activity rooms; 1,450m ²	Neighbourhood Centre Toy Library Disability Project Youth Centre OSHC Community Garden Child and Family Health Service Business Chamber and Community Alliance Southlakes Carers Southlakes Community Bus Meeting Rooms Main Halls
Morisset Memorial Hall	Community Trust and Crown Land	Morisset	Hall and meeting rooms	Healthy Moves classes Dance classes
Wyee Community Hall	LMCC	Wyee	Hall and meeting room; 580m ²	Information not available
Dora Creek Bridge Club	Private	Eraring		

Community Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision	Community Use
<i>School Hall (available for community use)</i>				
Avondale Seventh Day Adventist College School Hall	Independent	Cooranbong	Large Hall with 1000 person capacity	Church Services, basketball, functions, dance tuition.
Bonnells Bay Public School Hall	Public	Bonnells Bay	Hall with 300 person capacity	Church, kids club, Dance, meetings, Martial Arts
Cooranbong Public School Hall	Public	Cooranbong	Hall with 200 person capacity	Church services, Dance Tuition, Meetings, Playgroup, music tuition
St John Vianney's Primary School Hall	Catholic	Morisset	Small hall with 50-70 person capacity	No existing community user groups
Morisset Public School Hall	Public	Morisset	Hall with 200 person capacity	Church Services, Dance Tuition, meetings
<i>Other Halls</i>				
Dora Creek Community Hall	Dora Creek District School of Performing Arts	Dora Creek		
Morisset Uniting Church Hall	Uniting Church	Morisset	Hall	NA
Morisset Masonic Hall	Grand Lodge of Freemasons	Morisset	Hall	Morisset Senior Citizens and Pensioners Assn
<i>Public Library</i>				
Morisset Branch Library	LMCC	Morisset	210m ² GFA	Wide range of activities for children, youth and all ages; author talks; special events; history week; and exhibitions. Only has 4 public internet computers and small meeting room

Community Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision	Community Use
<i>Children's Services Facility</i>				
<i>Long Day Child Care</i>				
Lake Macquarie Family Day Care Service	LMCC	Operates in Morisset CC with offices at Boolaroo.	Long day care 0-5 year olds with 32 places	9 carers for 148 children
Kindy Patch Preschool	Private	Bonnells Bay	Long day care 0-5 year olds with 59 places	
Avondale Early Learning Centre	Facility owned by Seventh Day Adventist Church; community-based service	Cooranbong	Long day care 7.30am-5.30pm 0-5 year olds with 50 places	195 children per week
Mission Australia Early Learning Services	Owned by Mission Australia	Cooranbong	Long day care 7am-6pm 0-5 year olds with 39 places	40 children per week
Mirrabooka Early Childhood Centre	Private	Mirrabooka	Long day care with 20 places	
Daffy Down Dilly Children's Learning Centre	Private	Morisset	Long day care 7am-6pm 0-5 year olds with 59 places	
Morisset and District Children's Centre	Community-based	Morisset	Long day care 7.30am-5.30pm 0-5 years with 28 places	70 children per week
Wyee Child Care Centre	Private	Wyee	Long day care 7.30am-5.30pm 2-5 years with 50 places	
<i>Child Care - Preschool Service</i>				
Cooranbong Valley Preschool	Community-based	Cooranbong	Preschool 9am-3pm; 2-5 year olds with 20 places with some available for OSHC	41 children per week

Community Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision	Community Use
<i>Child Care – Outside School Hours Service</i>				
Avondale Early Learning Centre	Community-based	Cooranbong	Some OSHC places with long day care service	
Cooranbong Valley Preschool	Community-based	Cooranbong	Some OSHC places with preschool	
Mission Australia Early Learning Services	Owned by Mission Australia; community-based service	Cooranbong	Some OSHC places with long day care service	
Southlakes OSHC	Community-based	Morisset	40 place service	
Mirrabooka Early Childhood Centre	Private	Mirrabooka	Some OSHC places with long day care service	
<i>Youth Services Facility</i>				
Bonnells Bay Community and Youth Centre	LMCC	Bonnells Bay	Main Hall (90 people) and Activity Room (15 people)	Managed by Community Environment Network; Balcolyn Senior Indoor Bowls group, Westlake Macquarie Family support services, Westlake Macquarie Australian Breast Feeding Ass, Southlakes Youth Service, Bonnells Bay Buzzie Bees Playgroup, Community Environment Network
Morisset Indoor Sports Centre	LMCC and leased to PCYC	Morisset	1 indoor court and amenities	
Morisset Multipurpose Centre	LMCC	Morisset		Part of facility used for Youth centre
Wyee Community Hall	LMCC	Wyee	Hall and meeting room	
<i>Cultural Facility</i>				
There are no specific cultural facilities in the Morisset CC. Existing community centres, school halls and other halls are used for local cultural activities and events.				

Community Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision	Community Use
<i>Cemetery</i>				
Morisset Cemetery	Crown Land/LMCC	Morisset		1000 + additional plots
Wyee Cemetery	Crown Land/LMCC	Wyee		600 + additional plots
Bethshan Cemetery	Church	Wyee		
Avondale Cemetery	Church	Cooranbong		
Catholic Cemetery	Church	Cooranbong		

Table C2: Community Facilities and Services near Morisset CC used by Morisset Population

Community Facility	Ownership/ Management	Location	Existing Provision	Community Use
<i>Other Halls</i>				
Due to poor public transport, use of hall facilities outside the catchment is considered limited				
<i>Children's Service Facility</i>				
A range of child care services are located outside the Morisset CC although no specific data is available on use by residents of Morisset. It is considered that the majority use services within the catchment given existing employment patterns.				
<i>Youth Facility</i>				
Due to poor public transport and the multipurpose use of Council's existing facilities for youth activities, use of youth facilities outside the catchment is considered limited				
<i>Aged Services Facility</i>				
Due to poor public transport and the multipurpose use of Council's existing facilities for aged services, use of facilities outside the catchment for aged services is considered limited				
<i>Library Service</i>				
Due to poor public transport and evidence that the majority of workers live locally, use of library facilities outside the CC is considered limited				
<i>Cultural Facility</i>				
Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery	LMCC	Booragul	Purpose built gallery, sculpture park and cafe	Used for exhibitions and events; 30,000 visits in 2006
Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre	LMCC	Warners Bay	300 seat theatre with stage, orchestra pit, rehearsal room and change rooms.	Used for music, theatre, dance and cultural performances
<i>Cemetery</i>				
Toronto Cemetery	Crown Land/LMCC	Toronto		3000+ additional plots
Lake Macquarie Memorial Park	Private	Ryhope		

APPENDIX E

Table E1: Indicative Facility Thresholds, NSW Department of Planning, 2009

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Land acquisition		
Land for any community infrastructure (except land for riparian corridors)	See thresholds for facilities below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the plan show where the land is to be acquired? Does the plan make use of co-location where possible to reduce the land area required?
Open space and recreation facilities		
General	The Department prepared 'Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government' that provides clear threshold and planning considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These guidelines have recognised the differences in demand for recreation needs across four separate urban environments, being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Inner Urban Areas Suburban Areas New Release Areas Regional Areas The planning guidelines offer assistance to identifying benchmarks for recreation needs in these urban environments.
Passive open space / recreation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be considered against 'Recreation and Open Space Guidelines for Local Government'
Bushland tracks	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only where they form part of an established recreational network
Active open space / recreation facilities:	See List below	
Ovals, sports grounds	AFL – 50,000 persons Baseball/Softball – 25,300 persons Cricket – 2,500 persons Hockey – 5,000 persons Netball – 3,000 persons Rugby League – 3,000 persons Rugby Union – 25,000 persons Soccer – 5,000 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration should be given to co-location of facilities to maximise usage eg cricket and AFL If standard of provision is higher is there a local reason why – population structure, sporting preference? Demand for such facilities will be dependant on locational and demographic characteristics. What existing facilities are there to service need? Access to these facilities is heavily car dependant a wider scope of spare capacity can be considered

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Outdoor sports courts	Basketball – 1,800 persons Tennis – 1,800 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all facilities for basketball will need to be provided to a competition standard – it may be possible to meet some of the demand through the provision of half courts.
Indoor sports courts and recreation centres	100,000+ persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population threshold may be lower for rural/remote communities Population threshold may differ for metro areas where there is more potential for cross-boundary levying and where access to alternative/nearby facilities is common.
Athletics tracks	25,000+ people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A grass surface running track will be sufficient to service the local community of 25,000 people If the facility has a synthetic track etc it will be used to service a much larger population eg 100,000+ people If so this needs to be properly accounted for in apportionment
Recreation amenities buildings	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may include change rooms and toilets, equipment storage and a small canteen Should not include a grandstand or tiered seating – this implies commercial operations Wherever possible they should service more than one field and different sports.
Playgrounds	1/500 dwellings or distance of 400m from dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If in greenfields situation land acquisition may also need to be included however it is preferable that this land be gained through dedication If in a brownfields situation and land acquisition is required council should identify the land to be acquired and be mindful of the household characteristics If land can't be acquired it is still acceptable to levy for the upgrading/embellishment of existing open space as this makes better use of open space

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Skate parks	Small – 6,000 people Large – 10,000 people but usually only one large park would be provided per LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major considerations for demand would be demographic structure, access and mobility There is also no need to provide a large number of these parks in a small area regardless of the population. If there is more than one or two parks proposed – do they have a skate/BMX strategy to support the provision of multiple parks?
BMX tracks		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A major facility (\$500,000+) would be a regional facility Need for BMX tracks can be reduced by sharing facility with skate park. If there is more than one track proposed – do they have a skate/BMX strategy to support the provision of multiple parks?
Golf courses	30,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there existing private facilities that will cater for this demand?
Multi-purpose leisure / aquatic centres (incorporating aquatic, indoor sports and other facilities)	60,000+ people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These should only be considered at a rate of one per LGA – exception may be where there is a large LGA with more than one major centre May need to consider cross boundary implications as in metro area there would be a good case for sharing between LGAs Care needs to be taken also as many of these facilities are operated on a commercial basis and should not be developer funded
Swimming pools	17,500 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This threshold applies to swimming pools
Shared pathways and cycleways	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Council have a shared pathways plan that justifies demand?
Civic and community facilities		
Public domain / streetscape works	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the link between new development and need for public domain works? Increased demand should distinguish between the needs from workers, residents and tourism. Do the scope of works reflect demand or desired outcomes. Is a direct or indirect plan the best approach to deliver these outcomes.

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Children's services:		
Long day care centres	320 children aged 0-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has private sector provision of this type of facility been taken into account? • As a contestable service this infrastructure/facility is considered to be additional community infrastructure
Pre-schools	4-6,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has private sector provision of this type of facility been taken into account? • As a contestable service this infrastructure/facility is considered to be additional community infrastructure
Family day care	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As this service is essentially home-based only small office area needs to be provided
Occasional care centres	12-15,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can this be accommodated in other community facilities?
Outside of school hours care	4-6,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a stand alone facility required? • This type of service is usually run out of an existing facility eg school hall, community centre
Youth centres	10-30,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this need to be a stand alone facility – especially if the population is near the lower end of the threshold • Has the existing population been properly accounted for in apportionment? Look at catchments for the facility

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Performing arts, cultural centres	50-120,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the size comparative to the size of the population Are there special circumstances where the lower threshold should be used eg a remote/rural community Is there an opportunity for cross-boundary sharing of facilities? Considered to be additional community infrastructure
Exhibition space / art galleries	20-30,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this need to be a stand alone facility or can it be co-located with other functions? Considered to be additional community infrastructure
Entertainment centres	120,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are a large facility with a catchment that is usually beyond the LGA boundaries (ie regional facilities – need to check that all demand is considered when working out apportionment) Need would be further reduced if performing arts/cultural centres also provided Considered to be additional community infrastructure
Surf life saving facilities	1 for each patrolled beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obviously only applicable to coastal councils Contribution limited to the building construction, not equipment.
Libraries	Branch – 10,000 people Central- 20-35,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These standards are set by the NSW State Library with appropriate needs analysis provided Has Council considered the structure of their existing library services when identifying new facilities required? There would generally be only one central per LGA and size of facility would depend on population served Contributions limited to building and works not equipment
Multi-purpose community / neighbourhood centres	Small – 3,500-6,000 people Large – 15-20,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the size of the catchment? Are there multiple facilities co-located in the centre? What existing facilities are there which could cater for demand? Has Council considered the running costs of providing numerous small facilities?
Meeting halls	Small – 10,000 people Large – 20-30,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would be dependant on factors such as location and accessibility Have alternate non-council providers been considered as part of this assessment eg schools, clubs

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Stormwater, roads and transport facilities		
Stormwater management systems	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should only be included where the systems serve more than one development Levies should be limited to main trunk/network systems
Flood mitigation works	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not usually development/population growth related Should not be included and is not considered to be additional community infrastructure
Intersection works	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the facility is only required to service a single development then it could be condition of consent matter or are there multiple developments accessing the facility? Is the need for the works justified by a traffic study or LATM Scheme? Is the demand for the work from existing areas or other areas that aren't contributing? How are these accounted for in the apportionment?
Roads and road widening	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the need for the works justified by a traffic study or LATM Scheme? Is the demand for the work from existing areas or other areas that aren't contributing? How are these accounted for in the apportionment? Is Council maintaining levels of service or improving the level of service – if they are improving the level of service to provide excess capacity funding from other sources is needed.
Local area traffic management schemes	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only to be included where they directly relate to the impacts of new development.
Bus shelters	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a plan for where they are to be provided What other forms of funding have been included
Public car parks (non-commercial operation)	1 space/30m ² of parking not provided on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has Council identified where these are to be provided?
Shared pathways		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the pathway part of a shared pathway plan or network?

Infrastructure type	Indicative Population Threshold	Matters for consideration
Emergency services		
Rural fire services	To be determined by rural fire service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care needs to be taken where upgrading existing facilities that new development is only being levied for the additional facilities/equipment required by increase in population. Not all increases in population will require new facilities. Contribution limited to the building construction, not equipment. Councils also have a legislative responsibility under Pt 5 Division 5 of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> to provide funds for the operation of the Rural Fire Service. These funds must be discounted before apportionment applied
State emergency services	To be determined by SES	
Other infrastructure		
Affordable housing	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only in areas covered by the SEPP or where negotiated VPAs Note: this would need ministerial approval under Part 5B and is considered to be additional community infrastructure.
Development contributions administration and management		
Development contributions planning and administration staff	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing/resource levels should be in keeping with the scope of the plan eg a large release area will require a higher level of staff than a low growth existing community Generally only s94 co-ordinator and s94 accountant positions should be included.
Contributions plan preparation	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only where the expenditure is 100% related to the preparation of the s94 plan

Source: NSW Department of Planning, *Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines*, November 2009

Table E2: Recommended Service Thresholds/Standards for Community Infrastructure

Community / recreation facility	Standard	Source
Open Space/Recreation		
Local park	0.5-2.0 ha within 400m of most dwellings and 1.5ha park within 1 km of most dwellings	NSW Department of Planning, <i>Recreation and Open space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, 2010</i>
	1: 2,000 people	NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
	Small parks consist of 0.2 ha minimum area provided to serve neighbourhood needs within 300m safe walking distance of 90% of all dwellings.	AMCORD, Queensland Residential Design Guidelines, 1995.
	Local parks of 0.5 ha within 5 minute barrier free walk (400m) of all dwellings; may be reduced to 0.3 ha in urban areas	Landcom Open Space Design Guidelines 2008; NSW Growth Centres Commission Development Code 2006
	Large local parks consisting of 0.4 - 1.0 hectare minimum area provided within 500m safe walking distance of 90% of dwellings.	AMCORD, Queensland Residential Design Guidelines, 1995
	Minimum size of 0.5 hectares for new release areas. Each household should be within 500 metres of open space of at least 0.5 ha.	NSW Department of Planning, 1992
District park	2 – 5 ha within 2 km of most dwellings	NSW Department of Planning, <i>Recreation and Open space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, 2010</i>
	District parks, consisting of 3 ha minimum area and containing a range of recreation settings, are provided within 2 km of all dwellings.	AMCORD, Queensland Residential Design Guidelines, 1995.
Local Open Space	2.83 hectares per 1000 people	NSW Growth Centres Commission, 2006
Indoor basketball courts	1: 56,000 people (regional) 1: 5000 residents (local)	Australian Basketball Stadium standard Australian standard
Local Sportsground	5 ha within 1 km of most dwellings	NSW Department of Planning, <i>Recreation and Open space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, 2010</i>
	1: 3,000 people Minimum of 2 full sized playing fields with room for cricket pitch between fields and conversion to sports oval	NSW Department of Planning, 1992
	1: 2,000 people	NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
District Sportsground	5 – 10 ha within 2 km of most dwellings	NSW Department of Planning, <i>Recreation and Open space Planning Guidelines for Local Government, 2010</i>
Cricket pitches	1: 2,200 people	NSW Land Commission
Hockey fields	1: 3,000 people	NSW Land Commission
League fields	1: 1,000 people	NSW Land Commission
Netball courts	1: 1,000 people	NSW Land Commission
	1: 2,119 people	NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
Soccer fields	1: 1,000 people	NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
Tennis courts	1: 1,000 people	NSW Land Commission
	1: 3,410 people	NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
Community/Public Buildings		
Community Centres	1 small centre: 3,500-6,000 people 1 medium centre: 6,000-10,000 people 1 large centre: 10,000 – 20,000 people	NSW Growth Centres, 2006; Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, AMCORD, 1995; and standards used by the

Community / recreation facility	Standard	Source
		consultant in other studies
Long day child care	1 place per 5 children aged 0-4 years	NSW Growth Centres, 2006
Preschool	1 place per 2 children aged 4 years (15 hours per week of preschool education in year prior to starting school)	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, 2009
Outside School Hours service	1 place per 25 children aged 5-12 years	NSW Growth Centres, 2006
Youth Centre	1: 10,000 people	Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development; AMCORD, 1995
Older Residents Centre	1: 8,000 – 10,000 people; dependent on age profile of population	Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, AMCORD, 1995
Public library	Minimum size of 139m ² but no minimum population. Around 10,000 people can be used to support a branch library of 500m ² . Library link service may be provided without dedicated facility but not as replacement for library facility.	State Library of NSW, 2000
Public Schools		
Public primary school	1: 1500 -2500 lots/5000 people Influenced by access to existing schools with capacity including private sector provision. Also local demography may not support large child population. 3 hectare site required.	NSW Growth Centres 2006; NSW Department of Education & Training; Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, AMCORD, 1995
Public secondary school	1: 4500-6000 lots/13,000 – 15,000 people Influenced by access to existing schools with capacity including private sector provision. Also local demography may not support large youth population. 6 hectare site required.	NSW Growth Centres, 2006; NSW Department of Education & Training; Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, AMCORD, 1995
Other Built Infrastructure		
Residential Aged Care	High Care 44 places per 1000 people aged 70+ years Low Care 44 places per 1000 people aged 70+ years Community Care 25 places per 1000 people aged 70+ years	Department of Health and Ageing, 2009
Community Health Centre	1: 20,000 people	NSW Growth Centres, 2006
Hospital	2 beds: 1000 people	NSW Growth Centres, 2006
Small retail centre with supermarket	1: 15,000 people but dependent on site location and broader catchment area	Estimate by consultant
Fire Station	No threshold; dependent on response times	NSW Fire Services
Ambulance Service	No threshold; dependent on response times	NSW Ambulance Service
Police Station	No threshold; Dependent on response times	NSW Police

Source: Adapted from Development Code NSW Growth Centres, 2006; Commonwealth Department of Housing and Regional Development, AMCORD, 1995 and other sources including service providers

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