



Lake Macquarie City Council

Development Contributions Plan

Community Facilities and Services Study

Toronto Contributions Catchment

2015 – 2030

Contents

Section	Page
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Policy Context.....	4
3. Social Profile of the Toronto Catchment.....	8
4. Toronto Contributions Catchment 2030.....	11
5. Key Issues for Community Infrastructure Provision...	14
6. Methodology.....	15
7. The Future of Community Infrastructure.....	16
8. Needs Assessment and Recommendations.....	24
9. Future Facility Provision.....	45
10. References.....	47
Appendix – Locations of Facilities identified for upgrade or expansion.....	49

1. Introduction

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

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

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

Lake Macquarie City Council Local Government Area (LGA) with an estimated residential population of 202,562 (as at 30 June 2014) covers a very large area, with a central lake, making infrastructure provision difficult. For the purposes of planning and providing facilities to meet the needs of the incoming population, the City has been divided in five contribution catchments.

The Toronto CC covers 22 suburbs on the western side of the lake. It extends from Teralba in the north, down to Wangi Wangi and Myuna Bay in the south, and out to Freemans Waterhole in the West. Most of the suburbs in the CC are situated on the lake.

Vision

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

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

Purpose

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

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

2. Policy Context

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

2.1 NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One

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

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

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

2.2 Draft Hunter Regional Plan

Prepared by the Department of Planning, this strategic document provides an overarching framework to guide development and investment in the Hunter region to 2036. It consolidates strategic planning considerations for land use and infrastructure for the eleven (11) local government areas in the Hunter.

The Draft Hunter Regional Plan identifies that by 2036, an additional 117,850 people are expected to be living in the region. The Plan aims to guide the delivery of homes, jobs, infrastructure and services to support the growing and changing needs of the Hunter.

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

- Direction 4.1 – Focus housing and service growth towards Hunter City and the region's existing towns and villages;

- Action 4.1.2 – manage the supply of housing in rural areas to protect social, environmental and economic value;
- Direction 4.2 – Provide housing and services that meet local communities’ needs; and
 - Action 4.2.1 – investigate options to integrate the delivery of housing with infrastructure.

2.3 Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City

Developed as a companion to the *Draft Hunter Regional Plan*, the *Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City* is a plan to capitalise on the area’s assets and to leverage greater economic and jobs growth, more housing, and better environmental protection. The Plan covers five (5) districts, with the Toronto CC incorporated in the ‘Northern Lake Macquarie District’.

The provision of community facilities in the Toronto CC will help to address the following two directions from the Plan:

- Direction 1.1 – Grow and diversify centres across the City; and
- Direction 1.6 – Coordinate infrastructure to support and deliver growth.

2.4 Lifestyle 2030 Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.5 Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2013 - 2023

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

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

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Strategy</u>
A connected community where diversity is welcomed and social needs are met	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to changing demographics to meet the social needs of the community • Build on community partnerships to promote and deliver community services • A wide range of community facilities, services and programs is provided to meet a diverse community
A community where culture is celebrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for and provide high quality and diverse cultural facilities and activities throughout the City
An economically vibrant and prosperous City where people want to live, work and visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide infrastructure that supports a vibrant and prosperous City

2.6 Lake Macquarie City Council Community Facilities Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

2.8 Other Council Community Strategies / Plans

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

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

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

3. Social Profile of the Toronto Contributions Catchment

The Toronto CC is located in the western side of Lake Macquarie LGA as shown in Figure 1. It includes the suburbs of Arcadia Vale, Awaba, Balmoral, Blackalls Park, Bolton Point, Booragul, Buttaba, Carey Bay, Coal Point, Fassifern, Fennell Bay, Fishing Point, Freemans Waterhole, Kilaben Bay, Marmong Point, Myuna Bay, Rathmines, Ryhope, Toronto, Wangi Wangi and Woodrising.

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

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



In 2015, it was estimated that the Toronto Catchment had a population of 31,487 persons comprising approximately 15% of the total LGA population. This figure includes people living in non-private dwellings such as nursing homes (residential care facilities), tourist accommodation including hotels and motels, hospitals, and moveable dwellings.

As highlighted later in this report, the socio-economic characteristics of the Catchment vary considerably between different suburbs. This needs to be considered in determining the spatial distribution of Council community infrastructure throughout the Catchment and in

particular, to ensure that those residents of greatest need have quality access to appropriate public facilities and services.

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

- The Catchment has an older population than the LGA with a median age of 44 compared to 41. It is the suburbs on the peninsulas south of Toronto that are generally the older areas, such as Carey Bay (median age of 58), Fishing Point (50), Coal Point (49) and Wangi Wangi (49). Those areas that have a lower median age are the in-land areas such as Ryhope (30), Woodrising (33), and Awaba (34);
- The suburbs that have a high proportion of those aged under 10 years of age and those aged 25-40, indicating that they consist of predominately younger families, include Awaba, Balmoral, and Blackalls Park;
- Marmong Point and Ryhope have a high proportion of those aged 10-19 years, and 40-54 years, indicating that these suburbs consist predominately of older families. Woodrising has high proportions of all age groups through to 54 years, indicating that this suburb consists predominately of families, both younger and older (it has very low proportions of people aged over 55 years);
- The catchment has significantly more people aged 65 years and over, accounting for 20.8% of the population, compared to 18.4% for Lake Macquarie. Suburbs that have a high proportion of people aged over 65 years include Booragul, Carey Bay, Coal Point, and Toronto;
- Unsurprisingly, suburbs such as Fishing Point, Coal Point and Wangi Wangi have a very high proportion of 'couple family without children', whilst Ryhope, Awaba and Woodrising have a very high proportion of 'couple family with children'. Bolton Point, Woodrising and Booragul have a high proportion of 'one parent families'.
- Areas that have a high proportion of single person households include Carey Bay, Boorgual and Toronto, which is indicative of the large number of seniors living complexes in these suburbs. Woodrising, Awaba and Ryhope have the highest numbers of average people per household;
- The Catchment has a similar proportion of people born overseas as the LGA, however it has a significantly higher proportion of people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Suburbs with high proportions of people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander include Bolton Point (8.9% of the population), Fassifern (6.0%) and Ryhope (5.8%);
- The Catchment has a slightly lower rate than the LGA for those working full-time, but a similar rate to the LGA for those working part-time. Accordingly, the Catchment has a higher unemployment rate, which is felt most in the suburbs of Bolton Point, Teralba and Toronto;
- Rates of motor vehicle ownership for the Catchment are similar to that of the LGA, with an average of 1.8 vehicles per household, and 7.1% of households in the Catchment reporting not having a vehicle. Booragul, Toronto, and Bolton Point were the suburbs that have the highest percentage of dwellings with no motor vehicles;
- Whilst the Catchment has a similar proportion of dwellings with an internet connection to that of the LGA, Buttaba, Coal Point and Kilaben Bay have the highest proportion, whilst Booragul, Teralba, Toronto and Carey Bay have the lowest proportion;
- Lake Macquarie has a higher proportion of dwellings than NSW that are a separate house (86.4% compared to 69.5%), and the Catchment has an even higher proportion (88.4%). In fact, all dwellings in Buttaba and Ryhope are separate houses, whilst, Coal Point (99.2%) and Fishing Point (98.0%) also have a very high proportion of separate houses;

- Carey Bay (19.3%), Bolton Point (12.4%) and Fassifern (11.7%) have a higher proportion of semi-detached houses than the Catchment (6.9%) and the LGA (7.3%), whilst Toronto is the only suburb that has a higher proportion of apartments than the LGA (10.5% compared to 5.3%), with the just 3.7% of dwellings in the Catchment being apartments;
- The Catchment has a slightly lower rate than the LGA of households who own or are purchasing their home (70.5% compared to 73.6% for the LGA). Bolton Point, Booragul and Toronto are suburbs that have a high proportion of people who are renting;
- The Catchment has a higher percentage of public housing than the LGA (6.8% compared to 4.9%), with it being highest in the suburbs of Bolton Point (32.7%), Booragul (17.9%) and Toronto (14.2%); and
- According to Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Bolton Point and Booragul experience very high levels of social disadvantage. This is a result of a high proportion of residents being less educated, having lower incomes, less skilled occupations and higher unemployment levels than those living in other suburbs. The suburbs of Toronto and Teralba also experience high levels of disadvantage, whilst Coal Point, Fishing Point and Kilaben Bay have low levels of disadvantage.

4. Toronto Contributions Catchment 2030

The Toronto CC is expected to reach 36,899 persons by 2030. As shown in Table 1, this is an increase of 5,412 persons from 2015. New residents are expected to be concentrated in the following six (6) suburbs, which account for almost 82% of the total growth in the Catchment;

- Teralba, with an additional 1,875 persons and a total population of 3,434 people. This is an increase of 120% and reflects significant growth compared to other suburbs in the CC;
- Toronto, with an additional 1,398 persons (24.0% increase) and a total population of 7,223 people;
- Blackalls Park, with an additional 361 persons (12.9% increase) and a total population of 3,151 people;
- Wangi Wangi, with an additional 292 persons (10.8% increase) and a total population of 2,989 people;
- Buttaba, with an additional 284 persons (27.6% increase) and a total population of 1,317 people; and
- Booragul, with an additional 213 persons (13.7% increase) and a total population of 1,767 people.

The suburb of Awaba is also anticipated to experience a significant increase (almost 50%) over the next 15 years, with an additional people 172 on top of its current population of 350 people.

Table 1: Estimated Residential Population by Suburb

Suburb	Existing Dwellings (2015)	Existing Persons (2015)	Projected additional Dwellings (2030)	Projected additional Persons (2030)	Total Dwellings (2030)	Total Persons (2030)	Growth (%)
Arcadia Vale	599	1,383	31	60	630	1,443	4.3
Awaba	129	350	58	172	187	522	49.2
Balmoral	296	731	21	36	317	767	4.9
Blackalls Park	1,144	2,790	166	361	1,310	3,151	12.9
Bolton Point	936	2,297	84	153	1,020	2,450	6.6
Booragul	667	1,554	106	213	773	1,767	13.7
Buttaba	422	1,032	101	284	523	1,317	27.6
Carey Bay	471	931	21	36	492	967	3.9
Coal Point	773	1,736	44	91	817	1,827	5.3
Fassifern	250	623	14	31	264	654	5.0
Fennell Bay	634	1,476	30	64	664	1,539	4.3
Fishing Point	477	1,045	32	65	509	1,110	6.3
Freemans Waterhole	51	110	0	0	51	110	0.0
Kilaben Bay	551	1,340	26	51	577	1,391	3.8
Marmong Point	323	765	21	36	344	801	4.7
Myuna Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Rathmines	817	1,947	78	163	895	2,109	8.4
Ryhope	34	102	0	0	34	102	0.0
Teralba	638	1,559	678	1,875	1,316	3,434	120.3
Toronto	2,764	5,825	766	1,398	3,530	7,223	24.0
Wangi Wangi	1,356	2,697	153	292	1,509	2,989	10.8
Woodrising	424	1,195	13	30	437	1,225	2.5
Total	13,756	31,487	2,443	5,412	16,199	36,899	17.2

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

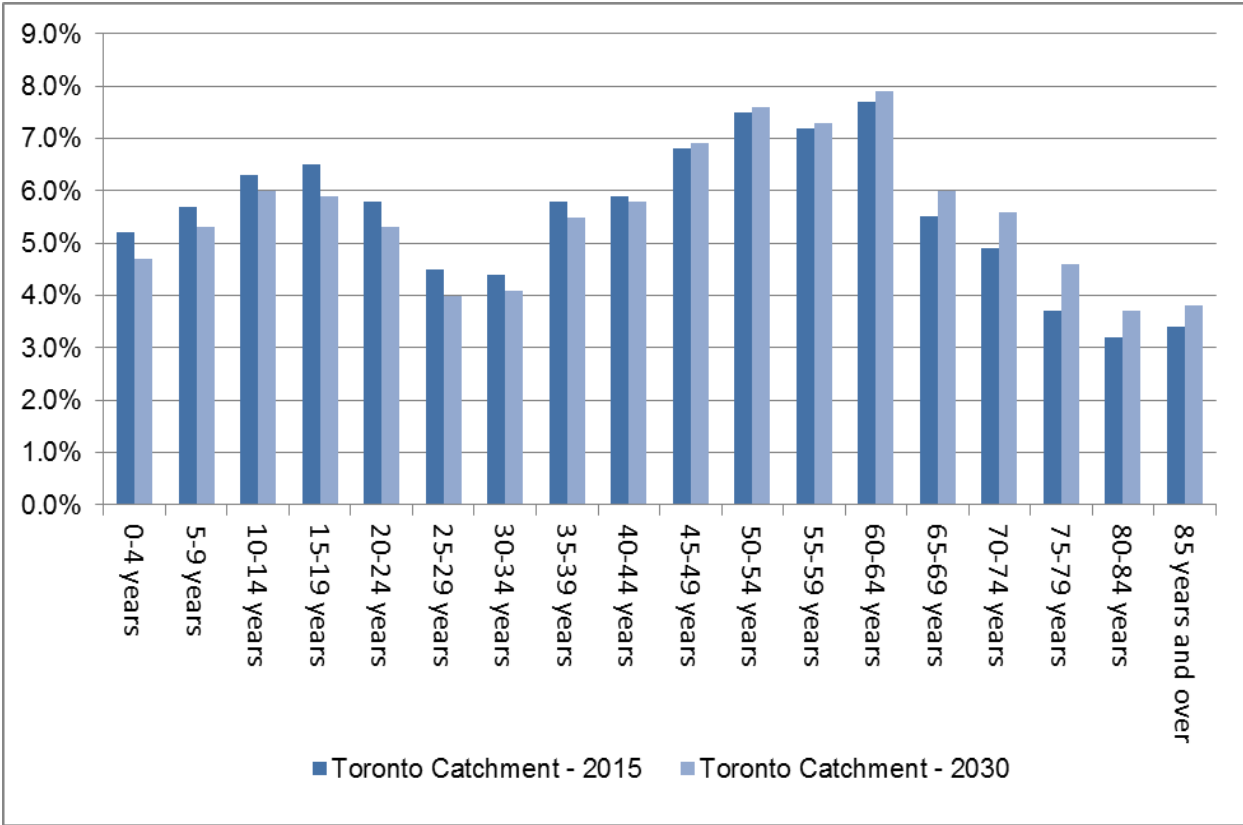
- The population will continue to age over the next 15 years, with the percentage over the age of 65 years increasing from 20.7% to 23.7%;
- The percentage of the population under the age of 19 is anticipated to decline from 23.7% to 21.9%; and
- Persons of the traditional workforce age is expected to decline from 62.0% to 60.3%. However, this decline is likely to reverse as the retirement age is shifted closer to 70 years old.

Table 2: Forecast Demographic Profile of Toronto Contributions Catchment

Age Groups	2015		2030		Growth 2015-2030	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% Change
0-4 years	1,637	5.2	1,734	4.7	97	5.9
5-9 years	1,795	5.7	1,956	5.3	161	9.0
10-14 years	1,984	6.3	2,214	6.0	230	11.6
15-19 years	2,047	6.5	2,177	5.9	130	6.4
20-24 years	1,826	5.8	1,956	5.3	129	7.1
25-29 years	1,417	4.5	1,476	4.0	59	4.2
30-34 years	1,385	4.4	1,513	4.1	127	9.2
35-39 years	1,826	5.8	2,029	5.5	203	11.1
40-44 years	1,858	5.9	2,140	5.8	282	15.2
45-49 years	2,141	6.8	2,546	6.9	405	18.9
50-54 years	2,362	7.5	2,804	7.6	443	18.8
55-59 years	2,267	7.2	2,694	7.3	427	18.8
60-64 years	2,424	7.7	2,915	7.9	491	20.2
65-69 years	1,739	5.5	2,214	6.0	475	27.3
70-74 years	1,543	4.9	2,066	5.6	523	33.9
75-79 years	1,165	3.7	1,697	4.6	532	45.7
80-84 years	1,008	3.2	1,365	3.7	358	35.5
85 years and over	1,071	3.4	1,402	3.8	332	31.0

Whilst all age groupings in the catchment will experience an increase in number over the period 2015 -2030, there will be significant changes to the proportion of the age groupings. As indicated in Figure 2, there will be a decrease in the overall proportion of all 5-year age groups up to those aged 45 years, and a significant increase in the proportion of those aged over 65 years.

Figure 2: Changing Demographic Profile of Toronto Contributions Catchment



Each suburb is likely to reflect this changing age profile, however, suburbs with new release areas such as Teralba and Toronto (the western edge) are more likely to attract families. In addition, due to the affordability of housing, the suburb of Blackalls Park is also likely to attract families. The infill development area in Toronto’s town centre is likely to attract a range of different lifecycle groups including young couples, couples starting families, singles, and older couples, whilst development in suburbs such as Booragul, is expected to be largely seniors housing.

5. Key Issues for Community Infrastructure Provision

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. The future of Community Infrastructure

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

7.1 Children and Family Facilities

Playgroups

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

Preschools

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

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

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

Long Day Care

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family Day Care

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

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

Out-of-School Hours Care

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

Integrated Child and Family Centres

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

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

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

7.2 Youth Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.3 Facilities for Older People and People with a Disability

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

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

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

Senior Citizens Clubs, Probus Clubs and Pensioners Associations

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

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

Support Services and Activities

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

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

Meals on Wheels

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

Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages

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

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

7.4 Community Men's sheds

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

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

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

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

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

7.5 General Purpose Community Facilities (Community Centres)

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

Community centres may provide:

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

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

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

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

7.6 Library Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.7 Cultural Facilities

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

Art Galleries

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

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

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

Exhibition / Convention Centres

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

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

Museums

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

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

Performing Arts Spaces

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

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

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

7.8 Community Hubs

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

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

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

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

7.9 Cemeteries / Crematorium

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

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

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

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

8. Needs Assessment and Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.1 Children's Services

Existing Provision:

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

Council-owned children's services facilities in the Toronto CC include:

- Bolton Point Child Care Centre (335m²) – provides 40 places for children aged 0 to 6 years;
- Toronto Community Child Care Centre (338m²) – provides 48 places for children aged 0 to 6 years;
- Wangi Peter Pan Kindergarten (442m²) – provides 39 places for children aged 3 to 6 years; and
- Woodrising Community Preschool (367m²) – provides 39 places for children aged 0 to 6 years.

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

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

Normative:

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

Comparative:

Toronto CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Council child care facilities, comprising 166 child care places, and a total gross floor area (GFA) of 1,482m² • This equates to 1 facility per 7,872 people, or 1 place per 12 children aged 0-6 years (47.1m² GFA per 1,000 people or 8.9m² GFA per place)
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 place per 6.57 children aged 0-4 years in centre based care, comprising 10.22m² GFA per place, and 1 place per 20.75 children in family day care • 1 place per 25 children aged 5-12 years for out of school hours care, with 3.25m² GFA per place
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's services space included in general purpose community space
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's services space included in general purpose community space
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's services space included in general purpose community space

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

Identified:

- Feedback received through regular surveys of child care centres indicates that:
 - The need for child care spaces for the 3-6 year age group is currently being met through both community child care centres (including the Council-owned centres) and private centres;
 - Additional child care centres (private) have been approved within the Catchment, however these have not been constructed as yet;
 - There is a shortage of child care spaces overall for 0-2 year olds. This is especially the case for the area south of Toronto (suburb);
- Bolton Point Child Care Centre has plans to enclose an area in order to improve service delivery;
- Toronto Community Child Care Centre will be undertaking works in 2016 to meet National Quality Framework ratio requirements, and to improve service delivery;
- Wangi Peter Pan Kindergarten is seeking to provide an additional service in the Rathmines area to provide care for 0-2 year olds. Council has approved the lease of part of Rathmines Community Hall for this purpose, however a development application is yet to be lodged; and
- Woodrising Community preschool is at capacity, however is unable to extend their service due to site constraints.

Indicative:

- Large numbers of children aged 0-6 years live in Toronto (372 children), Bolton Point (181 children) and Blackalls Park (174 children). However, Woodrising, Bolton Point and Awaba have the highest proportion of children aged 0-5 years;
- Similarly, large numbers of primary school aged children live in Toronto, Blackalls Park and Bolton Point, while this age group is also concentrated in Awaba, Woodrising, and Marmong Point;
- There are high level of social disadvantage amongst residents in Bolton Point, Booragul and Toronto, with children and parents requiring greater access to affordable child care and family support services; and
- Over the period of 2015 to 2030, the number of children aged 0-6 years is expected to increase by approximately 6.5%.

Discussion:

- Although the private sector is providing long day care, and is likely to continue to provide care, this will not satisfy all the future demand. Therefore, Council should continue to also provide long day care, to ensure that the community has adequate access to this type of care, especially for children aged under 2 years;
- Council should also continue to make space available for playgroups and OOSH services;

- No need to provide for preschools and family day care (which receives funds to cover the costs of its functions);
- Where possible, children’s services should be provided in integrated child and family centres, in a multipurpose facility, or ‘hubbed’ with other facilities in order to maximise potential for families to access additional services (eg support services, health services, workshop spaces);
- The need for child care spaces for 3-6 year olds, in the Toronto CC is currently being met through both community and private centres;
- The additional approved child care centres (private) will assist with meeting future demand within the Catchment;
- The planned additional service provided by Wangi Peter Pan Kindergarten at Rathmines for the 0-2 year old age group, will help to meet the shortage of spaces for this age group.

Recommendations:

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

8.2 Youth Services

Existing Provision:

Woodrising Youth Centre (348m²) is the only specific stand-alone youth centre within the Toronto CC. However, youth services/programs operate from other Council facilities (along with other programs and activities) including Toronto West Community Hall and Rathmines Boy Scouts hall.

Normative:

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

Comparative:

Toronto CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 youth facility (Woodrising Youth Centre) comprising 348m² • This equates to 1 facility per 31,487 people, or 11.1m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 facility per 13,000 people

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

Identified:

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

Indicative:

- Proportion of young people aged 12-24 years old in the Toronto Catchment is consistent with the LGA average;
- Whilst Woodrising, Fassifern and Blackalls Park are the suburbs with the highest proportion of young people, the suburbs of Toronto, Blackalls Park and Bolton Point have the highest numbers of young people (over 36% of all young people in the Catchment live in these three suburbs);
- High levels of disadvantage in Bolton Point, Booragul and Toronto is likely to be directly impacting on young people living in these suburbs; and
- Whilst there is expected to be an increase in the number of young people aged 12-24 years over the period 2015 to 2030, this will be predominately amongst the 12-19 year age group. This reflects the fact that those aged 20-24 years are very mobile, and are often required to relocate for study or work.

Discussion:

- Whilst there is only one (1) dedicated youth centres in the Toronto CC, youth services / programs are currently operating within general purpose community centres. This includes the Westlake Youth Action Group that operates out of Toronto West Community Hall, along with the Boy Scouts who operate out of Rathmines; and
- With limited facilities in the Toronto CC providing dedicated spaces for young people, facilities will require enhancement to better cater for the provision of youth services. This may include space for young people to increase their engagement in cultural activities.

Recommendations:

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

8.3 Services for Older People

Existing Provision:

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

However, for the Toronto CC, Toronto Meals on Wheels (86m²) provides dedicated aged services, and although the group owns the building, it is located on Council land.

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	n/a
NSW Planning	n/a
Queensland Government	(Aged Care Service / Respite Centre) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local – 1:7,000-10,000 people• District – 1:20,000-100,000 people

Comparative:

Toronto CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 facility - Toronto Meals on Wheels (whilst the facility is owned and managed by the group, it is on Council land), comprising a total of 86m².• This equates to 1 facility per 31,487 people, or 2.7m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No standards for facilities for older people
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No standards for facilities for older people (included within general facility service provision)
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No standards for facilities for older people

Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for services for older people is included in general purpose community space
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 facility per 30,000 people, comprising 1,000-2,000m² GFA
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for facilities for older people

Identified:

- Consultation undertaken as part of the development of Council's Ageing Population Strategy 2014-2017, and with services as part of the National Aged Care Reforms identified that:
 - Access to a range of community, recreational, retail and commercial facilities is limited for people with a disability; and
 - There is a need to maintain a range of community and recreation facilities that are accessible and suitable for activities for seniors;
- Existing day care respite services are meeting the current demand;
- Meals on Wheels services are moving towards being distribution centres, rather than kitchens. This will require remodelling of facilities to provide significant cold storage space, distribution areas and office space; and
- Although the Toronto Meals on Wheels building is owned by the group, it is located on Council land. At present, there is no formalised car park, making it very difficult and unsafe for the volunteers (many who are elderly), particularly when it is wet.

Indicative:

- The Catchment has a significantly older population than the LGA, with a median age of 44, compared to 41 for the LGA;
- Whilst the suburbs of Booragul, Carey Bay, Coal Point and Toronto have the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, it is the suburbs of Toronto, Wangi Wangi, Blackalls Park and Bolton Point that have the highest numbers overall. In fact, these four (4) suburbs account for over 45% of all people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, and is expected to increase as the suburbs grow; and
- The proportion of residents aged over 65 years is expected to increase from 20.7% to 23.7% over the period 2015 to 2030.

Discussion:

- Multipurpose facilities can continue to accommodate Seniors Citizens Clubs, Probus Clubs, and Pensioners Associations;
- Although multipurpose centres can be used for the provision of support services for older people and people with a disability, need to ensure that high support activities have their own dedicated space, and office space is available for their administration;
- Need to ensure that facilities are designed and located so that they are accessible to older people and people with a disability
- As the population grows and ages, and with government policies encouraging people to 'age in place', there may be the demand for additional high support activities such

as respite care. This can be met by the provision of additional facilities, or the expansion or conversion of an existing facility; and

- Providing a formal car park at Toronto Meals on Wheels will improve safety for the volunteers of the service, as well as enhancing the service’s operations as they cater for a growing number of clients.

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for space for services for older people, however, ensure that general / multipurpose space can be used to provide for these services (depending on the specific need at time of provision);
- Formalise the car park at Toronto Meals on Wheels to improve the safety for the volunteers of the service, as well as enhancing the service’s operations as they cater for a growing number of clients; and
- Continue to monitor the demand for high support activities (eg day care respite services), and if required, provide dedicated space for services for older people in multipurpose facilities, or expand or convert an existing facility to cater for this demand.

8.4 Community Men’s Sheds

Existing Provision:

There are three (3) Men’s Sheds located within the Toronto CC. Lake Macquarie Woodworkers operate out of Marmong Point Community Hall (217m²). Whilst it is technically not a Men’s Shed, it operates in the same way. Wangi Men’s Shed (420m²) is located on Council-owned land, however, the group owns the recently constructed building. Toronto Men’s Shed operates from Awaba Community Hall (140m²) which is a Crown facility.

Normative:

Not available

Comparative:

Toronto CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 facilities comprising a total of 777m² • This equates to 1 facility per 10,496 people, or 24.7m² per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space for Men’s Sheds is included in the general purpose community space

No other comparative standards are available

Identified:

- No specific consultation undertaken to date;
- The recently constructed Wangi Men’s Shed has catered for the need of the local population, and has a large membership;
- The Toronto Men’s Shed has outgrown their premises, and is seeking alternative premises closer to Toronto town centre; and
- There has not been any other interest for Men’s Sheds within the Catchment.

Indicative:

- Although Men's Sheds are able to be accessed by people of all ages (including women), they are generally utilised by older men;
- Whilst the suburbs of Booragul, Carey Bay, Coal Point and Toronto have the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years in the Catchment, it is the suburbs of Toronto, Wangi Wangi, Blackalls Park and Bolton Point that have the highest numbers overall; and
- With limited greenfield sites available in the Catchment, much of the growth will be more intensive residential development (eg. apartments, villas, or smaller-lot developments) that will restrict opportunities for residents to have access to backyard sheds/workshops.

Discussion:

- With three (3) Men's Sheds to service the needs of the Catchment, the Catchment is well serviced. In addition, the geographical location of the three facilities (Marmong Point, Awaba/Toronto and Wangi Wangi) ensures that there is adequate coverage throughout the Catchment (ie. all residents have easy access to a Men's Shed);
- With Toronto Men's Shed seeking alternative and larger premises closer to the Toronto town centre, this will cater for the future growth of Toronto (suburb) and the surrounding area; and
- Whilst the needs of the Catchment are currently being met, the provision of Community Men's sheds can be considered in the planning for future community facilities, depending on the needs of the community.

Recommendations:

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

8.5 General Purpose Community Facilities.**Existing Provision:**

In the Toronto CC in 2015, the following Council facilities were provided:

- Bolton Point Community Hall (315m²) – the facilities consists of a large meeting hall which is used for educational, arts and craft, and religious activities, as well as office space that is hired by Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council. The facility underwent a major upgrade of the toilets, floor, kitchen and provision of non-discriminatory access and use in 2010/11;
- Kilaben Bay Community Hall (121m²) – the facility was moved to the area from the Rathmines Air Base in the 1960s. It has minimal use (mainly by playgroups), however recent works (construction of an accessible toilet facility) has resulted in increased hirers;
- Home Modification Lake Macquarie (210m²) – this not-for-profit community organisation which provides home modifications and maintenance for the frail aged and people with a disabilities, lease space in an industrial area for the operation of their organisation;
- Rathmines Community Hall (1,018m²) – this state heritage-listed building consists of a main hall, meeting room and a separate area with a number of other meeting rooms (known as the 'Caretakers Cottage'). The facility is used regularly for Tae Kwon Do, Yoga, Tai Chi, as well as seasonal events such as the Catalina Players and Dobell Festival;

- Rathmines 'Catamaran Club' building (154m²) – located adjacent to the Community Hall, this building was formerly occupied by the Catamaran Club. It is now leased to the Lake Macquarie Classic Boat Association;
- Rathmines Boy Scouts Hall (152m²) – located on the lake, the building has been used by the Scouts since the 1960s. Whilst Council owns the facility, the Scouts have undertaken some works to the facility to make it a more usable hall. The facility is not used by any other groups;
- Teralba Community Hall (486m²) – located on the northern border of the Catchment, this facility is suitable for community activities, meetings and functions. It is leased to the Hunter Valley Scots Club;
- Toronto Multipurpose Centre (712m²) – built in 1993, this facility is the newest of Council's facilities in the Toronto Catchment. The facility is used by a range of services including Community Options and Alkira Respite Service, as well as for peer support, TAFE and other community and support groups;
- Westlakes Music Centre (535m²) – located at Rathmines, the facility has 2 performance halls and 4 studios. It is home to the Stilling Street Singers, the Western Lake Macquarie Concert Band, and the Toronto Brass Band, but is also available for hire by other community groups and music teachers;
- Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre (339m²) – built in 1986, the neighbourhood centre provides counselling services, parenting support programs, welfare and legal advice, and a range of other services and activities including dance, tai chi and playgroups;

The Toronto West Community Hall is also a Council facility within the Toronto CC, and is mainly used by Westlake Youth Action Group for youth programs and activities. However, the facility is in very poor condition, and Council's Community Facilities Strategy (2011) recommends that the current users of the facility should be relocated to alternative facilities, after which, the future of the facility should be reassessed.

There are also other non-Council facilities located in the Toronto CC. These include:

- 'Nikinpa' Aboriginal Child and Family Centre (610m²) – located at Toronto, this facility provides child care, as well as meeting and consulting rooms. The facility is available for hire for community use;
- Toronto Community Centenary Hub (246m²) – originally a senior citizens and pensioners hall, this facility, which is owned by the community group, provides a venue for a variety of activities such as yoga, gardening and social groups, and is available for community use;
- Westlake Amateur Radio Club (320m²) – occupying premises that the Club built at Teralba (on Council land), the club aims to promote amateur radio in all its modes and enjoyment;
- Community Activities Lake Macquarie (235m²) – this organisation leases commercial space for their operations at Toronto; and
- Scout and Girl Guide Halls – owned by the Scouts and Girl Guides Associations (apart from Rathmines Boy Scouts Hall), a number of these facilities are located throughout the Toronto CC. The Scouts and Girl Guides use the facilities for their purposes, however there may be the opportunity to seek shared use of the facilities for meetings and community activities.

A survey undertaken by Council of all public and private schools in the LGA identified that more than half of the schools have a hall available for community use. For the Toronto CC, 5 school halls are available, with these primarily used for dance classes, church groups, and martial arts/fitness classes. It is important to note that school halls are typically only available outside school hours, and are usually only able to accommodate one group at a time. School halls in the Toronto CC are able to cater for between 100 to 400 people.

Normative:

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

Comparative:

<p>Toronto CC (existing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 general purpose community facilities comprising a GFA of 5,633m² • This equates to 1 facility per 2,099 people, or 178.9m² GFA per 1,000 people of general purpose community space • This includes Nikinpa, Toronto Community Centenary Hub, Westlake Amateur Radio Club and Community Activities Lake Macquarie (as these provide community services/space), but excludes Toronto West Community Hall and other non-Council facilities
<p>Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General purpose/Family Activity area of 65m² GFA per 1,000 people; or • Multipurpose Centre (that includes children’s services space, youth space, and general purpose space) of 209.7m² per 1,000 people

Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160m² GFA per 1,000 people of multipurpose space (includes children's services space, youth space, and general purpose space)
Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 community facility of 950m² (including youth and children's space) per 4,000 people
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m² GFA per 1,000 people
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per 7,000-10,000 people, comprising 600-800m² GFA
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Neighbourhood centre per 3,500-6,000 people • 1 Multipurpose Centre per 20,000 people

Identified:

- Consultation was undertaken during the development of Council's Community Facilities Strategy that was adopted by Council in September 2011;
- Multipurpose facilities are well utilised, whilst many of the existing community halls no longer meet the expectations of residents (particularly the older facilities);
- Most facilities have spare capacity, with some facilities having very little usage;
- Whilst the community facilities are spread throughout the whole Catchment area, there is a concentration of facilities in Toronto and Rathmines;
- Rathmines Community Hall requires extensive internal refurbishment. The ageing facility is regularly used by the Catalina Players for performances, however lacks appropriate sound and lighting equipment. Upgrading the sound and lighting would also enhance the use of the facility for community meetings and functions;
- Whilst Kilaben Bay Community Hall has benefited from recent improvements, which has resulted in higher use of the facility, no such improvements have been undertaken to the external area, which is very unappealing and unusable. There is a need to provide a covered outdoor area with soft-fall to enhance the usage for the existing (and future) playgroups and mother's groups, however, it will also make the hall more appealing for a range of groups who seek an indoor-outdoor venue for their groups and functions; and
- There is a lack of community meeting space at Wangi Wangi. The Library receives many requests from community groups to provide space for their meetings, however this is not possible unless internal refurbishment is undertaken, and/or the external deck is enclosed to provide this meeting space.

Indicative:

- There is a high level of social disadvantage in Bolton Point, Booragul and Toronto, which also have high proportions of public/community housing tenants. In terms of social equity, these residents require more access to affordable support services / programs;
- Poor public transport within the Catchment makes it difficult for key target groups such as older residents with a disability, families with young children and young

people, to access services / programs. Therefore, the distribution and transport access to facilities needs to be considered;

- The suburb of Teralba, is forecast to experience the highest growth over the next 15 years with an additional 1,875 persons (an increase of 120%), with Toronto and Blackalls Park also experiencing a significant increase in population (an additional 1,398 and 361 persons, respectively);
- Preschool children with parents, primary and secondary school students, young people and older people are typically major users of multipurpose centres. Suburbs that are expected to have large numbers/concentrations of these target groups are:
 - Teralba, Toronto and Blackalls Park which will experience significant growth, with much of this likely to be families;
 - Toronto and Wangi Wangi which have high numbers of older people (65 years and over), along with Carey Bay, Coal Point and Booragul, which have a high proportion of older people; and
 - Marmong Point and Woodrising, which although they will not experience significant growth, are likely to experience significant changes to their age profile, as the existing population ages and/or new younger families move in.

Discussion:

- Council's preference is to provide multipurpose community centres that offer a wide range of services and peer support for workers, rather than accommodating services in individual premises (eg space for general activities, children's services, youth activities, seniors activities etc);
- Where possible and appropriate, facilities should be co-located to strengthen the development of community focal points or hubs;
- In terms of numbers of facilities, Toronto CC is well serviced with 1 facility per 2,099 people, which is above normative and comparative standards;
- Although there is a concentration of facilities in the Rathmines area and Toronto area, the geographical location of the facilities ensures that there is adequate coverage throughout the Catchment (ie. all residents are easily able to access a community facility);
- In determining the total floor space of community facilities for the Catchment, the following factors have been considered:
 - As the non-Council facilities provide space for community activities, and will continue to operate as community facilities into the future, they are taken into account when calculating existing community facility provision;
 - Located on the border of the Catchment, Teralba Community Hall is also utilised by residents of the Glendale Contributions Catchment. Therefore, in calculations, the use of this facility has been apportioned (ie. 50% of the floor space has been included);
 - Although some schools have halls available for community use, due to the restricted hours of availability, these have not been included in calculations;
 - Due to the uncertainty of the future of the Toronto West Community Hall, and the availability of use of the Scout and Girl Guide Halls, these facilities have also not been included in calculations;

- Therefore, total community floor space for the Toronto CC is:

General purpose space	5,210m ²
Children's services space	1,482m ²
Youth services space	348m ²

Space for services for older people	86m ²
Men's Shed space	777m ²
Total:	7,903m ²

- This equates to 251.0m² per 1,000 people of community space, which is considerably higher than the existing Lake Macquarie LGA standard of 209.7m² per 1,000 people for multipurpose space, as well as other comparable standards;
- If the existing facilities were to cater for the total anticipated population of 36,899 people (a growth of 5,412 people), this would equate to a standard of 219.1m² per 1,000 people. This is still higher than the Lake Macquarie LGA standard, as well as other comparable standards;
- Due to the high amount of multipurpose space available within the Toronto CC, it is unsurprising that most facilities in the Toronto CC have spare capacity, with some having very little usage;
- However, the low usage of many of the facilities is also attributable to their age and not being suited to the needs of the local community. The newest facility in the Catchment is the Toronto Multipurpose Centre, which is over 20 years old. Many of the other facilities in the Catchment were built in the late 1930s, and are reaching the end of their useful life. Therefore, to meet the needs of the future population, these facilities will need to undergo extensive renovations / upgrading; and
- Renovating or upgrading existing facilities will extend the useful life of the facilities and enable them to meet the needs of the future population. This will also improve the use of the facilities, making them more suitable for meetings, functions, activities and performances.

Recommendations:

- Adopt a standard of 160m² GFA per 1,000 people for future community facility provision. This is consistent with the standard adopted for the Morisset, Charlestown and Glendale Catchments;
- This standard is to include space for:
 - General community use (eg meetings, activities);
 - Children's services (eg long day care, playgroups, OOSH);
 - Youth services activities;
 - Services for older people; and
 - Space for specific uses such as Men's Shed activities and office space for community organisations.
- This will require a total of 5,904m² of community floor space to meet the needs of the future population;
- In adopting this standard, it is recognised that there is (and will continue to be) a significant over-supply of GFA for community service provision. However, in recognising that many of the existing facilities are reaching the end of their useful life, and will not meet the needs of the future population, then utilise this standard for the renovation / upgrading of existing facilities.
- Therefore, to meet the needs of the additional 5,412 people, 866m² of existing community floor space will need to be renovated / upgraded - this represents approximately 17% that is attributable to new development, with the upgrade of the remaining 5,038m² (or 83%) of community floor space attributable to existing development. The priorities for the allocation of the upgraded space is as follows:
 - Rathmines Community Hall– upgrading of the electrical circuits, audio and lighting equipment and new theatrical curtains;

- Toronto Meals on Wheels – formalise the car park (see Section 8.3);
- Kilaben Bay Community Hall – provision of a covered outdoor area with soft-fall; and
- Wangi Wangi Library – undertake internal refurbishment and/or enclose the deck to make space available for community activities / meetings.

8.6 Library Facilities

Existing Provision:

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

There are two libraries located within the Toronto CC: Toronto Library (1,000m²) and Wangi Wangi Library (112m²).

For Lake Macquarie, library stock is transferable between all libraries (eg. whilst an item is ‘held’ at Toronto Library, it is able to be borrowed through Swansea or Morisset Libraries). Therefore, it is more appropriate to consider library stock on a city-wide basis. At June 2015, there was a total of 248,798 physical library stock items across the City for a population of 202,562 people. The amount of physical stock has decreased significantly in recent years, as it reflects the library’s practice of reducing its physical stock, but having a greater focus on its electronic stock. (Electronic stock items are not included in the count, as a single electronic subscription means that that a user can now have access to many thousands of electronic items, such as back issues of magazines.)

In addition to the stock items, in 2015 there was a total of 15 public computers, with 11 at Toronto, and 4 at Wangi Wangi.

Normative:

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

Comparative:

<p>Toronto CC (existing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 library facilities within the Catchment, comprising 1,112m² GFA • This equates to 1 facility (central or branch) per 15,744 people, or 35.3m² GFA per 1,000 people • A total of 248,798 stock items across the City, equating to 1.2 stock items per person (does not include electronic stock) • 15 computers, equating to 1 computer per 2,100 people
<p>Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m² per 1,000 people
<p>Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset Contributions Catchment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32.5m² per 1,000 people • 1 computer per 2,000 people • 2.0 stock items per person
<p>Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Charlestown Contributions Catchment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20.3m² per 1,000 people (this does not take into account the community / meeting space that is / will be located with the libraries) • 1 computer per 3,000 people • 1.7 stock items per person
<p>Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Glendale Contributions Catchment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32.5m² per 1,000 people • 1 computer per 2,000 people • 1.7 stock items per person
<p>Maitland City Council Standard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards based on NSW State Library Standards
<p>Tweed Shire Council Standard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library space is included in general purpose community space
<p>Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District – 1 per 30,000 people • Branch – 1 per 5,000 people • 39m² GFA per 1,000 people for a branch library
<p>Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per 20,000 people

Identified:

- Extensive consultation was undertaken during the development of Council's Library Service Delivery Model that was adopted in November 2011. The Library Service Delivery Model recommended:
 - Toronto Library – retain as a lifestyle library and investigate options for community agencies or a commercial venture to operate from the site; and
 - Wangi Wangi Library – review current use, opening hours and staffing requirements. Further consultation with the community in regards to increased access and use of the facility by volunteers and local community groups.
- Wangi Wangi Library has received requests from community groups to provide space for their meetings. This would require some reorganisation of the shelving to make the space available, however there is also the possibility of enclosing the deck to provide this meeting space;
- There is currently ample space at Toronto Library to cater for the physical stock needs, therefore there are opportunities to make greater use of the space for other activities, including a café;
- With a greater amount of resources being more accessible via the internet and through other electronic means, this has resulted in a decreased reliance on the library's physical stock, however there is still a need to ensure high levels of electronic stock/items.

Indicative:

- Public libraries provide important resources for disadvantaged residents including affordable access to information, skills/training resources, and leisure activities. With high levels of social disadvantage in Bolton Point, Booragul, Toronto and Teralba, there is a significant need for ensuring that residents in these areas have access to public library services;
- The suburbs of Toronto, Wangi Wangi, Blackalls Park and Bolton Point account for almost half of the residents aged 65 years and over in the Catchment. Older people are major users of public library services;
- Primary and high school students are also significant users of public libraries for both education and leisure. There are 20 schools located in the catchment, with the majority of these located between Marmong Point and Toronto;
- Internet connection varies considerably throughout the catchment with several sub-catchments having a high proportion of dwellings with no internet connection. These are Booragul (29.6%), Carey Bay (25.5%), Teralba (25.5%) and Toronto (25.5%). For these areas, publicly accessible computers with internet connection is essential, particularly for low-income residents and those requiring assistance in developing computer skills (eg older people, people with a disability, and school students).

Discussion:

- Libraries should be integrated with other community/civic facilities, or located as part of a commercial hub;
- In terms of numbers of library facilities, with two (2) facilities, Toronto CC has adequate facilities to cater for the existing need, as well as the forecast population growth;
- Although the current GFA of the two library facilities is below the NSW State Library Standards, these standards identify that libraries provide a community focal point, and therefore should include meeting areas, multipurpose/training rooms, display areas and activity areas;

- The residents of the suburbs that have high levels of social disadvantage, or higher levels of no internet connection, have relatively easy access to Toronto Library or Speers Point Library (located just outside of the Toronto Catchment);
- Although the total physical stock items across the LGA is well below the NSW State Library standard, this does not take into account electronic stock such as e-books, e-audio and e-music. In addition, with such a large amount of physical stock (248,798 items) that is able to be accessed across the entire LGA, residents are able to be offered a wide variety of choice. Also, with a greater amount of resources being available on the internet and through other electronic means, there is reduced need for physical stock;
- Need to ensure the continued provision of electronic stock / items, which are generally more expensive to purchase and supply to the community; and
- The provision of public internet computers at the libraries is of high importance, especially to cater for those areas that have a large percentage dwellings that do not have internet connection.

Recommendations:

- Adopt a standard of 32.5m² per 1,000 people for future library facility provision. This is below the NSW State Library Standard, however is above the standard adopted for the Charlestown CC, and is consistent with the standard adopted for the Morisset and Glendale Catchments. The standard takes into consideration the changing nature of libraries, as well as the fact that like the Morisset and Glendale Catchments, the Toronto CC consists of a relatively dispersed population (rather than a highly urbanised population like the Charlestown CC);
 - To meet the needs of the 2030 population of 36,899 people, a total of 1,199m² GFA is required. This is an additional 87m² GFA;
 - The additional library space should be utilised to extend either of the two libraries within the Catchment. However, if this does not prove feasible, then the funds could be utilised to refurbish an existing library in order to enhance service provision, commensurate to the needs of the future population;
- Refurbish Wangi Wangi Library to make space available for community activities and meetings. This will require enclosing the deck – See Section 8.5
- Adopt a standard of 1.7 stock items per person, with funds used to either purchase physical or electronic stock. Whilst this is below the NSW State Library Standards, this is reasonable given the high number of total stock available across the LGA, and takes into account the greater availability of resources through the internet and other electronic means. It is also consistent with the standard adopted for Charlestown and Glendale Catchments:
 - The forecast population growth of 5,412 people will therefore require an additional 9,200 stock items; and
- Adopt a standard of one (1) public internet computer per 2,000 people. Whilst this is higher than the NSW State Library Standards and that adopted for the Charlestown CC, it is consistent with that adopted for the Morisset and Glendale Catchments. The Toronto CC is similar to the Morisset and Glendale Catchments, which consists of a relatively dispersed population, rather than a highly urbanised population like Charlestown:
 - The forecast population of 36,899 will therefore require a total provision of 18 computers. This will require an additional 3 public computers (2.7 are attributable to the new development).

8.7 Cultural Facilities

Existing Provision:

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

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

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

Normative:

NSW Growth Centres Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing Arts / Cultural Centre – 1:30,000 people
NSW Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing Arts / Cultural Centre – 1:50,000-120,000 people • Exhibition space / Art Gallery – 1:20,000-30,000 people
Queensland Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Gallery – 1:30,000-150,000 people • Performing Arts Centre – 1:30,000-50,000 people

Comparative:

Toronto CC (existing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 art gallery for the LGA (202,562 people). This equates to 4.8m² per 1,000 people • 1 performing arts centre for the LGA (202,562 people). This equates to 3.9m² GFA per 1,000 people
Lake Macquarie LGA Standard (as adopted in 2004 Citywide Contributions Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities
Lake Macquarie City Council Developer Contributions Plan for the Morisset, Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No standards for cultural facilities for the Morisset Contributions Catchment • For the Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5.0m² per 1,000 people for Art Gallery Space ○ 4.1m² per 1,000 people for Performing Arts space

Maitland City Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for cultural facilities
Tweed Shire Council Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural facilities space is included in general purpose community space
Wollongong City Council (West Dapto Release Area Standard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for cultural facilities
Newcastle City Council (Blue Gum Hills and Inner Newcastle Contributions Catchment) Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No standards for cultural facilities

Identified:

- No specific consultation has been undertaken to date;
- Art Gallery lacks storage space and space for displaying its permanent collection; and
- Performing Arts Centre has limited lighting, sound, orchestra pit, and foyer facilities (including reception / box office, toilet and catering facilities).

Indicative:

- People of all ages attend cultural events, programs and activities, although older people and children are particularly represented. Over one-third (35%) of Toronto CC residents are aged 55 years and over, while 17% are aged under 15 years. Over the period of 2015 to 2030, the proportion of those aged 55 years and over will increase to 39%, whilst those aged under 15 years will decrease slightly to 16% of the Catchment's population.

Discussion:

- The demand for exhibition / convention centre space is being met by private facilities (both within the Lake Macquarie LGA, as well as the neighbouring Newcastle LGA);
- Space for museums can be considered as part of general community space, if there is community demand and identified need;
- The current Art Gallery is sufficient to cater for the needs of the existing population, however will require expansion to cater for the future population needs;
- The current Performing Arts Centre is sufficient to cater for the needs of the existing population, however will require expansion to cater for the future population needs;
- Whilst it has been considered a 'general community facility' the Westlakes Music Centre is predominately utilised for cultural activities; and
- Council's other general purpose community facilities are also utilised to cater for cultural activities (eg drama and dance groups).

Recommendations:

- Not adopt a standard for exhibition / convention space as this need can be met by private facilities;
- Not adopt a stand-alone standard for museums, as this can be included as part of general community space, if there is community demand and identified need;
- For Art Gallery space, adopt a standard of 5.0 m² GFA per 1,000 people. This is comparable with the current levels of service provision, and is consistent with the standard adopted for the Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchments.

- For the forecast population of the Toronto CC, this will result in an additional 27m² GFA, in order to provide space for exhibition of the permanent collection, and storage; and
- For the Performing Arts Centre, adopt a standard of 4.1m² GFA per 1,000 people. This is comparable with the existing level of service provision, and is consistent with the standard adopted for the Charlestown and Glendale Contributions Catchments.
 - For the forecast population of the Toronto CC, this will result in an additional 22m² GFA, in order to enhance seating, reception / box office, toilet, performance and catering facilities.

8.8 Cemeteries

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

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

In the Lake Macquarie LGA, Council is responsible for the care, control and management of nine (9) cemeteries. One of these, Toronto Cemetery, is located within the Toronto CC. However, there is also a private cemetery located at Ryhope. The provision of Council's cemeteries services are on a user-pays basis.

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

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

Recommendation:

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

9. Future Facility Provision

Infrastructure Type	Toronto CC Service Standards	Indicative Staging of Provision		
		2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030
Community Space	160m ² per 1,000 persons Standard applied to the upgrading of existing facilities to ensure that they cater to the needs of the future population	Rathmines Community Hall – upgrading of electrical circuits, audio and lighting equipment and new theatrical curtains	Wangi Wangi Library – internal refurbishment and/or enclose the deck to make space available for community meetings / activities	
		Toronto Meals on Wheels – formalise the car park	Kilaben Bay Community Hall – provide a covered outdoor area with soft-fall	
Library Facilities	32.5m ² per 1,000 persons 1.7 stock items per person 1 public internet computer per 2,000 people		Provide 87m ² of library space at either of the two libraries within the Catchment. If it is not feasible to extend either of the libraries, then utilise funds to refurbish an existing library to enhance service provision, commensurate to the needs of the future population	
		Additional 3,067 stock items	Additional 3,067 stock items	Additional 3,066 stock items
			Additional 3 public computers, with 2.7 attributable to new development	

Infrastructure Type	Toronto CC Service Standards	Indicative Staging of Provision		
		2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030
Cultural Facilities	<p>5.0m² per 1,000 persons for Art Gallery space</p> <p>4.1m² per 1,000 persons for Performing Arts Centre space</p>		Expansion of Art Gallery to provide 27m ² of space for exhibition of the permanent collection and storage	Expansion of the Performing Arts Centre by 22m ² to enhance seating, reception / box office, toilet, performance and catering facilities

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Appendix – Locations of Facilities identified for upgrade or expansion

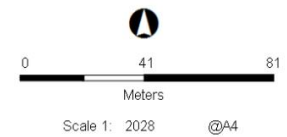


Rathmines Community Hall - proposed upgrade



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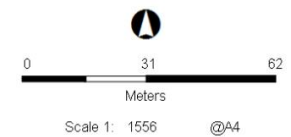




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Wangi Wangi Library - internal refurbishment for meeting space, and possible expansion for additional library space

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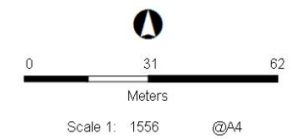


Kilaben Bay Community Hall - proposed covered outdoor area



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Toronto Library - possible expansion for additional library space



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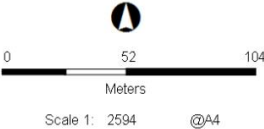


Location of expansion of the Art Gallery at Booragul



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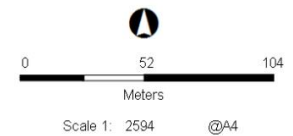


Location of expansion of the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre at Warners Bay



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Version History

Version No	Date	Details
1	25 July 2016	Draft document approved for public exhibition
	28 November 2016	Draft document adopted by Council unchanged

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