



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

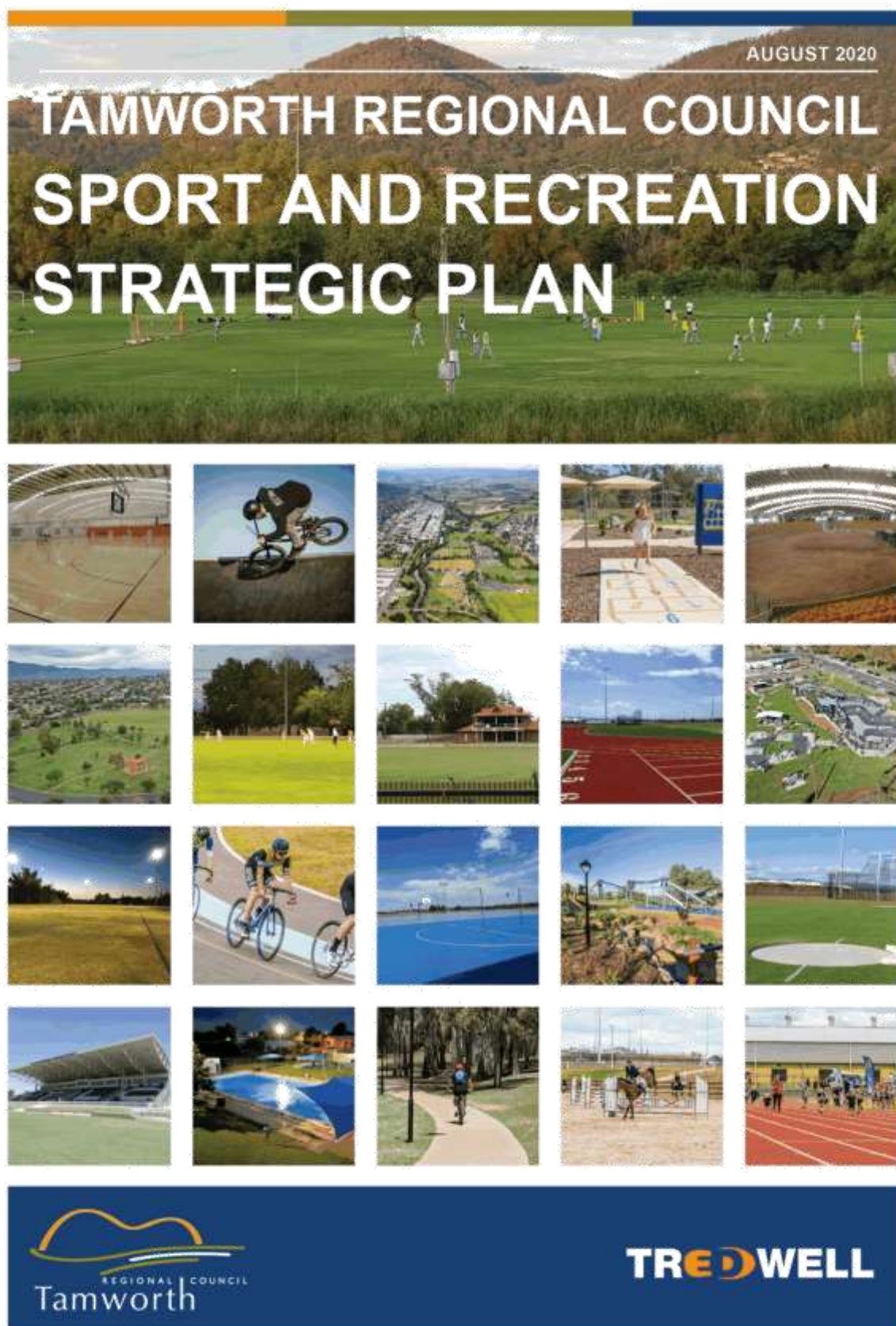
ANNEXURES for ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

25 AUGUST 2020

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3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

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The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

All stakeholders and community members who have contributed through an online survey, workshop or interview are also thanked for their time and effort.

Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

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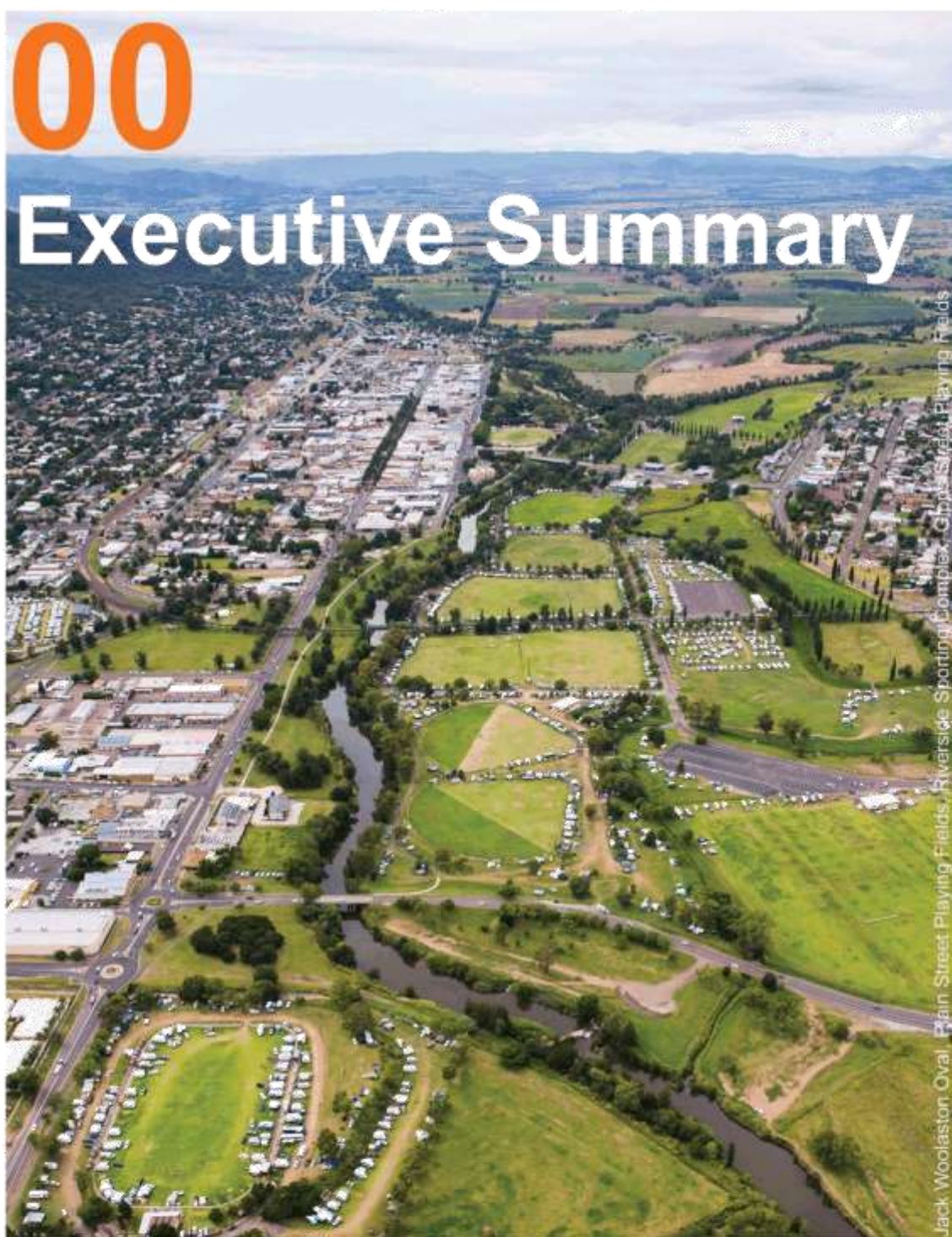
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00 Executive Summary

Introduction

This Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan provides a road map for planning and developing sport and recreation facilities (structured and unstructured) across the Tamworth region to align with the planned growth identified in Tamworth's Blueprint 100 strategy.

Tamworth City is the major centre for the Northern Inland New South Wales (NSW) catchment area which has a growing population of 200,000 people. It is the largest population centre in the New England North West planning region. Over the past decade, Council has significantly improved its provision of sport and recreation facilities to support current and future populations.

The region covers a diverse geographic area with a growing population of over 60,000 residents. The towns of Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle, and another 17 localities, offer an attractive lifestyle, which is underpinned by a strong regional economy.

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) plays diverse and important roles in facilitating sport and recreation through planning, facility management, partnerships, advocacy, service provision and funding.

Successful networks of sport and recreation facilities, clubs and programs are dependent on partnerships and ongoing cooperation between a wide range of organisations, including all levels of government, peak bodies, clubs and associations, and the wider community.

The social, economic and health benefits of sport and recreation to communities are well recognised. The benefits of a well-supported and strategically planned network of sport and recreation facilities, clubs/service providers and programs/events contribute towards the themes of Council's *Keychange Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027* through the themes of: *A Spirit of Community; A Prosperous Region; An Accessible Region; A Region for the Future* and *A Region of Progressive Leadership*.

In 2008, Council endorsed the *Recreation and Open Space Plan* (2008). This Plan provided strategic directions to guide Council in the development of sport, recreation and open space. The Tamworth region has made significant progress in sport and recreation since 2008, with the development of many high-quality facilities, a strong network of clubs and service providers, and a wide range of highly successful programs and events.

Key infrastructure projects include the development of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC), The Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE), Tamworth Regional Playground, Tamworth Adventure Playground, Tamworth Regional Skate Park, The Youthie, Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct, and Tamworth Mountain Bike Park.

The strategic direction for sport and recreation is influenced by a number of policies and plans. It is also influenced by peak body strategic directions, at various levels, including international, federal, state, regional and local. These documents have guided the development of this strategic plan, particularly the following:

- *Sport 2030* (2018)
- *Tamworth Regional Blueprint 100* (Draft 2019)
- *Keychange Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027*.

00 Executive Summary

Demand and Trends

Sport and recreation needs are influenced by the Tamworth region's demographic profile. The region has:

- a high proportion of the population under 18 years and above 60 years of age
- one of the highest projected population growth rates in regional NSW
- a significantly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians compared to other areas of regional NSW
- various levels of socio-economic disadvantage across the region
- a high rate of volunteering.

Demand will also be influenced by trends such as those towards:

- individualised activities
- informal recreation activities
- modified formats of traditional sports
- motivation through fitness apps
- female participation in traditionally male sports
- adventure activities
- playing on synthetic playing surfaces.

The AusPlay Survey findings show that NSW participation rates align with broader trends, indicating that adults have higher participation rates in unorganised, recreational activities such as walking and fitness/gym, while children generally participate at higher rates in organised sports, such as netball and tennis.

A survey of the community found that the top three activities among survey respondents were the primarily individual activities of:

- jogging/walking/running,
- fitness/gym/aerobics
- swimming/diving.

Based on current levels of 'demand conversion' for each activity, the projected number of future participants has been estimated by ActiveXchange using the SportsEye Network, supplemented with AusPlay participation data, where required. These have been projected for a population of 100,000 as well as a population of 79,000 which is the projected population of the region in 2041, according to NSW Government Population Forecasts (2016).

Football (soccer) is found to be the sport/activity with the highest number of current and projected future participants, followed by netball, Oztag, hockey and basketball.

Facilities Network

The facility inventory identifies 118 across the Tamworth region which provide facilities for sport and recreation. Of these venues, 67 are located within the Tamworth urban area, 12 in Barraba, 8 in Manilla, 6 in Nundle, 4 in Kootingal, 4 in Bendemeer, 2 at Mt Borah and the remainder located across rural localities.

The condition of the sport and recreation venues across the region has been assessed on a scale aligning with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's (IPWEA) *Condition Assessment and Asset Performance Guidelines*. It has been found that 4% are in very good condition, 46% have minor defects only, 23% requiring maintenance, 25% requiring renewal and 2% are unserviceable assets.

The hierarchy of sport and recreation venues has also been identified to assist in the provision analysis. The region has:

- international-level venues for equestrian sports and gliding,
- national-level venues for football (soccer), hockey, rugby league and rugby union,
- state-level venues for athletics, cycling, basketball and netball; and
- regional, district and local level facilities for a wide range of sport and recreation activities.

00 Executive Summary

Consultation

The consultation process undertaken to develop this Strategic Plan involved six community workshops, an online community survey, an online club/user group survey and stakeholder interviews.

Key positive feedback related to:

Location of facilities

Facilities being generally well maintained and looked after

Facility provision at the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE) and Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC)

Low cost and affordable sport and recreation opportunities

Broad range of facilities

Council planning for the future

Community connectedness

Key issues raised related to:

Need for specific facility improvements and enhanced maintenance regimes

Facilities unavailable at times

High participation and facility use costs

Aged/basic aquatic facilities

Limited spectator facilities

Limited car parking

Facilities without disability access

Need for improved access and connectivity between facilities for active transport

Need for improved sports lighting

Need for improved changerooms

Supply and Demand Analysis

The Tamworth region is anticipating significant population growth over coming decades which requires significant planning to ensure that the supply of sport and recreation facilities meets demand. Using data analytics from ActiveXchange, supply and demand factors have been analysed to derive the key directions for activities. Supply factors have been informed through the development of the Facility Inventory. Demand factors have been informed through the following information:

- up to date member numbers, distribution and participation rates
- population forecasts and age structures to 2041 (low: 79,000, high: 100,000)
- sport-specific demand modelling, based on mosaic population segmentations
- actual and projected future conversion of estimated demand into memberships
- benchmarking against facility provision and demand conversion in other local government areas
- sport and recreation participation trends
- drive-time decay (i.e. propensity to drive certain distances to access facilities)
- member deprivation (i.e. level of affluence).

The following population trigger points have been used to assess facility requirements: 62,000 (2018 population estimate); 70,000; 80,000; 90,000 and 100,000. The broader region's population has also been considered and is anticipated to grow significantly over coming decades.

Supply and demand factors have been considered for the following activities:

- athletics
- Australian football
- baseball and softball
- BMX
- cricket
- cycling
- equestrian sports
- football (soccer)
- golf
- gymnastics
- hockey
- lawn bowls
- motorsports
- mountain bike riding
- netball and basketball
- Oztag and touch football
- recreational walking and cycling
- rugby league
- rugby union
- skate
- swimming and water polo
- tennis

00 Executive Summary

Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities have been identified for sport and recreation in the Tamworth region through the development of this Plan.

Key challenges relate to:

Water security
Providing for a regional catchment
Population growth
Balancing needs of community-level and elite sport, traditional sport and emerging activities, Tamworth City and towns
Encouraging active lifestyles
New development areas
Maintaining Tamworth as 'Australia's Home of Equine Sports'
Aged aquatic facilities
Flood prone areas
Playing field capacity
Support facilities

Key opportunities relate to:

Sporting hub or Northern Inland NSW
Maximising usage and attracting events
Resilient and flexible-use facilities
Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre
Regional-level oval
Expansion of Riverside Sporting Complex
Strategic provision of park-based recreational facilities
Recreational trails and active transport
Enhanced Tamworth Mountain Bike Park
Enhanced provision of youth activity spaces
Upgrade of Tamworth BMX Track
Expansion of Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct
Long-term provision of additional indoor courts

Vision and Principles

The sport and recreation vision for the Tamworth region reflects the aspirations of the community. The sport and recreation vision for the Tamworth region is



A balanced network of high-quality sport and recreation facilities, clubs/service providers, programs and events which ensures Tamworth is the sporting hub of Northern Inland NSW and meets the needs of the growing and diversifying population. A network which enables sport and recreation to contribute significant social and economic benefit through maximising community participation, encouraging active lifestyles, attracting a wide range of events and offering pathways for sporting excellence.

The following planning principles have been developed to guide the development, future provision and management of sport and recreation across the Tamworth region.

- maximum community participation
- shared precincts and community hubs
- sustainability
- partnerships
- working together with clubs and community
- maximised and validated community benefit
- effective management and maintenance.

The planning principles underpin the Strategy and Action Plan and will facilitate ongoing decision making and prioritisation of actions.

00 Executive Summary

Strategy and Action Plan

Strategies and actions for developing sport and recreation across the region have been identified under the categories of:

- facilities
- clubs and service providers
- programs and events.

Each strategy has a supporting rationale and addressed key trends. Each action has corresponding timeframes, partners and an estimate of required resources. The Strategy and Action plan is guided by this Plan's Principles and strives to achieve the Vision for sport and recreation across the region.

Strategies addressing the **Facilities** component relate to:

1. Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE)
2. Council owned and/or managed regional-level sport and recreation facilities
3. Tamworth urban area - Council owned and/or managed district/local-level sport and recreation facilities
4. Towns and outlying areas - Council owned and/or managed district/local-level sport and recreation facilities
5. Non-Council owned or managed sport and recreation facilities
6. New developments
7. Facility management and operation
8. Research and planning

Strategies addressing the **Clubs and Service Providers** component relate to:

9. Governance, training and development
10. Volunteering
11. Partnerships

Strategies addressing the **Programs and Events** component relate to:

12. Events
13. Communication
14. Resourcing
15. Inclusion and access



01 Introduction

Project Overview

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) acknowledges the significant contribution that sport and recreation bring to the community. The planning and design of such facilities needs to be carefully considered to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed now and into the future, particularly with the planned growth identified in Tamworth's Blueprint 100 strategy. Council has worked with the specialist sport, recreation and open space planning firm, Tredwell, on the preparation of this Strategic Plan.

Aim and Scope

This Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan provides a road map for planning and developing sport and recreation facilities. This aligns with the planned growth identified in Tamworth's Blueprint 100 strategy.

The project scope included:

- determining achievements with Council's *Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008)*
- providing an up-to-date inventory of sport and recreation facilities
- conducting a literature review, demographic and trend analysis
- undertaking extensive consultation with the community and key stakeholders
- determining current and future needs, demands, issues/opportunities and identify the key community infrastructure that will be required with population growth
- determining and rationalising development guidelines pertaining to open space
- guidance for the consolidation, future development and further support for sport, recreation and open space provision
- provision of a strategic approach to Council's role and function in provision, investment and support for services
- provision of a prioritised costed action plan based on population and/or participation trigger points including identification of funding sources and opportunities.

Key Definitions

For the purposes of this report the following definitions have been used, aligning with the *Blueprint for an Active Australia*:

Sport: A human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport.

Recreation: Activity engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.

Project Approach

The five stage project methodology is outlined in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Methodology

01 Introduction

Regional Context

Tamworth City is the major centre for Northern Inland New South Wales (NSW) which has a growing population of more than 200,000 people and encompasses other major towns such as Inverell, Armidale and Gunnedah. Tamworth is the largest population centre in the New England North West planning region. The region's geographic location is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Location Map

The Tamworth region is one of the most progressive and innovative regions in NSW. It has a strong reputation for quality of life, and over the past decade has significantly improved its provision of sport and recreation facilities to support the current population and allow for future growth.

The Tamworth region covers a diverse geographic area with a growing population of over 60,000 residents. The towns of Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle, and another 17 localities, offer an attractive lifestyle underpinned by a strong regional economy.

The region's positive "can do" attitude is reflected in the continuous investment in large scale infrastructure projects, including those relating specifically to sport and recreation. For example, the development and continued success of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) and the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE).

The Tamworth region is noted for its friendliness, its comfortable lifestyle and its progressive attitude. The lifestyle offered combines country living with city style, history, sport and culture.

Provision of high-quality sport and recreation facilities, clubs and programs are increasingly contributing to the attractiveness of the Tamworth region for lifestyle.

01 Introduction

Council's Role in Sport and Recreation

Local government plays a major role in the development of sport and recreation, particularly at the community level. Successful networks of sport and recreation facilities, clubs and programs are dependent on partnerships and ongoing cooperation between a wide range of organisations, including all levels of government, peak bodies, state sporting organisations (SSOs), clubs and associations, and the wider community. The NSW sport and recreation delivery framework is outlined in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Sport and Recreation Delivery Framework NSW

Council plays an important role in facilitating benefits and achieving positive outcomes for its community through sport and active recreation provision. This is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Council's Role

Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning • Master planning • Policy development
Facility management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset management • Leasing and licensing • Compliance with legislation and industry standards
Partnerships and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating on behalf of the community and clubs • Partnering with other Councils, State and Federal Government • Strengthening relationships with sporting clubs
Service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club development and training • Information provision • Sports club liaison/engagement • Special events • Inclusive programs
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • Capital investment • Accessing external funding

01 Introduction

Benefits of Sport and Recreation

It is well recognised that sport, community and recreational activities provide social benefits, economic benefits and health benefits. Councils are key contributors through the provision of Council assets, including facilities and playing areas along with the provision of services and support. Without fit for purpose facilities being available, sporting and recreational clubs, groups and community organisations would not be able to exist, grow and prosper.

Social benefits are realised by bringing people together and providing opportunities for social interaction. Clubs and organisations provide a network and sense of belonging, drawing together people of different backgrounds, ages, religions and cultures. Sport and recreation clubs foster community pride and are the hub of community life, especially for regional and rural communities and they bind families and communities through shared experiences. Clubs and organisations create volunteer opportunities to develop life skills and leadership abilities, contribute to lifelong learning and assist with finding work/life balance.

Health benefits are realised as increased physical activity, reduced obesity, reduced incidence of non-communicable disease and improving mental health. This results in avoided healthcare costs and eases pressure on the health system. Reducing the incidence of disease extends life, reduces the rate of early mortality and increases the quality of life.

Economic benefits are generated through creation of opportunities for events and tourism, particularly drawing participants, officials and spectators who contribute significantly to the visitor economy. Economic benefits also arise from construction, maintenance and operation of sport and recreation facilities, and the creation of short- and longer-term employment activities. Sport and recreation also contribute to increased productivity of those who are physically active as healthy workers are more productive and take fewer sick days.

While the benefits of recreation are particularly difficult to quantify, significant efforts have been made to quantify and publish the benefits of Australia's sport sector and the community sport infrastructure. As illustrated in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

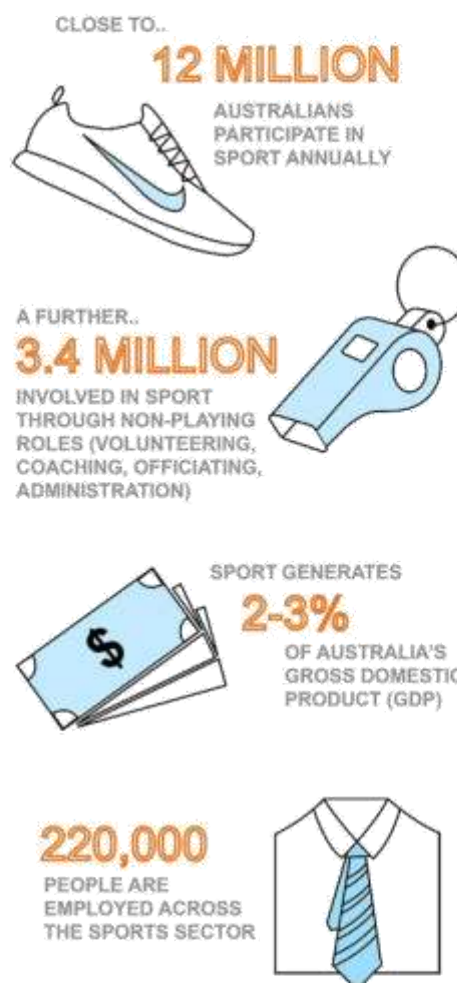


Figure 4: Benefits of Australia's Sport Sector

Source: Australian Sports Commission
2019 – 2022 Corporate Plan

01 Introduction

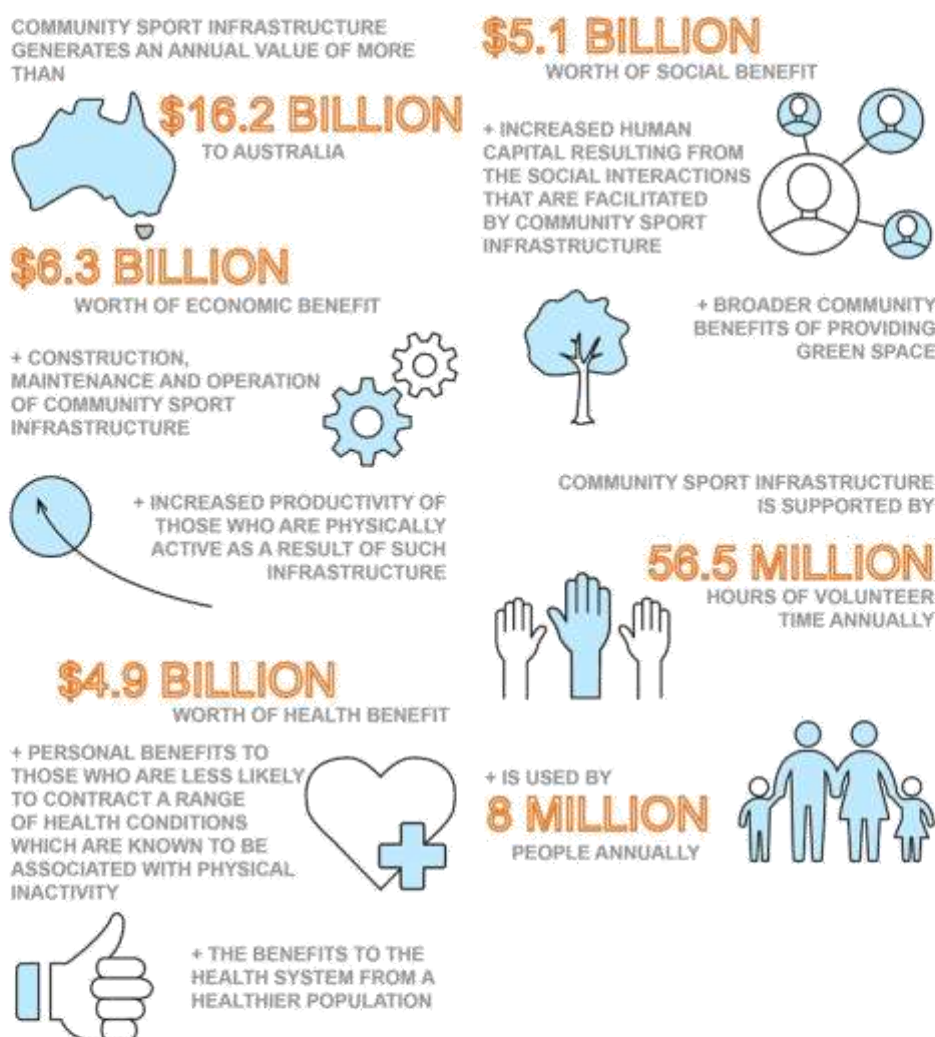


Figure 5: Value of Community Sport Infrastructure

Source: *The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure* (KPMG, 2018)

01 Introduction

The benefits of a network of well-supported and strategically planned sport and recreation facilities, clubs/service providers and programs/events contribute towards the themes of the Council's *Keychange Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027*, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Benefits Aligning with Community Strategic Plan Themes

A Spirit of Community	A Region for the Future
Promotes social interaction	Helps to sustain the environment through protecting open space
Creates volunteering opportunities	Promotes active lifestyles including active modes of transport
Promotes inclusivity by drawing diverse groups of people together	Enhances the use and efficiency of community infrastructure through adaptable design, shared use and reducing duplication
Provides positive alternatives to anti-social behaviour	Integrates short- and long-term environmental sustainability considerations into facility design
Fosters community pride and support	Assists in mitigating climate change, reducing urban heat island effect and stormwater management
Promotes healthy, active lifestyles	A Region of Progressive Leadership
A Prosperous Region	Empowers, inspires and motivates individuals
Creates employment opportunities	Contributes to higher levels of self-esteem and self-worth
Stimulates economic growth through investment, events and tourism	Creates community leaders and champions
Eases pressure on health systems	Promotes fair, inclusive competition and achievement
Promotes productivity through work/life balance and healthy workforce	Creates new skills and opportunities such as teamwork and leadership
An Accessible Region	
Enhances connectivity of places and facilities across the region	
Provides a sense of belonging, ownership and responsibility within community spaces	
Promotes access to community facilities through participating or spectating in competition, programs or events.	

01 Introduction

Review of the Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008)

In 2008, Council endorsed the *Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008)* which provided direction for the development of sport, recreation and open space.

The recommended actions of this plan were grouped into the following five strategic areas:

1. viability of sport and recreation groups
2. Council policies, coordination and management arrangements
3. maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and programs
4. new facilities, programs and initiatives
5. information and awareness.

Table 3 outlines the status of key outcomes within each strategic area.

Further details relating to the status of recommended actions in the *Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008)* are provided in Appendix A: Review of Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008).

Table 3: Key Outcomes since 2008

1: Viability of sport and recreation groups	
Status	Key Outcome
✓	Facilitation of an open, up to date database of sport and recreation contacts.
✓	Facilitation of regular meetings between sport and recreation groups and Council staff involved in maintenance of facilities.
X	Facilitation of a program of education and training for sport and recreation groups. Refer actions 7.4 and 9.2
X	Development of partnerships to expand, target and promote new sport and recreation programs. Refer action 11.4
2: Council policies, coordination and management arrangements	
Status	Key Outcome
✓	Media communication for significant works within parks.
✓	Annual review of budget allocations for sport and recreation purposes to support development and management of facilities.
✓	Use Council funds to attract external funding.
✓	Prepare a Sport Field and Venue Lease/Licence Review and develop a consistent policy for fees and charges.
X	Investigate employing an officer to identify funding sources and prepare applications. Refer action 14.1
X	Update zoning within the Local Environmental Plan to identify new park areas and amend Development Control Plans and Section 94 Plan. Refer actions 8.1 and 8.4

01 Introduction

3: Maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and programs		4: New facilities, programs and initiatives	
Status	Key Outcome	Status	Key Outcome
✓	Master Plan for the NICSE including a third synthetic hockey field and a turf cricket field	✓	Development of the Tamworth Sports Dome (2010), further expansion completed in 2019
✓	Development of Hyman Park	✓	Support to source funding for Tamworth Pistol Range – indoor pistol facility
✓	Master Plan for Bicentennial Park	✓	Embellishments at Glenriddle Reserve (at Split Rock Dam) as a camping and boating area
✓	Charrettes for land released areas and Development Applications	✓	Establishment of sport and recreation programs at the Sports Dome and the Youthie
✓	Development of Tamworth Regional Playground and new play facilities in Nundle, Kootingal and Manilla	✓	Replacement/upgrade of the Velodrome and Criterion Track, with relocation to the NICSE
✓	Develop the Tamworth Youth Hub	✓	Distribution of information regarding sport and recreations grants to relevant groups and clubs
✓	Develop a Parks Risk Management Plan and Asset Management Plan	✓	Acquisition of new land for open spaces in development areas
✓	Provide support to user groups to source external funding for improved facilities	✓	Development of signage and maps for Oxley Reserve recreational trails
✓	Develop a Cycle Strategy and Design Standard for pedestrian/cycle networks	✓	Creation of a promotional materials to promote sport and recreation opportunities in Victoria Park Precinct
✓	Cycle/pedestrian pathways providing access to Riverside Sporting Complex, Tamworth Mountain Bike Park, the NICSE, the Peel River in Nundle	✓	Acquire land in the Hills Plain, Moore Creek and Kootingal areas with consideration for accessibility of roads for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists Refer action 8.7
✓	Develop youth/skate precincts at Viaduct Park, Tamworth, O'Meara Park, Barraba, Chaffey Park Manilla		
✓	Improve Barraba War Memorial Swimming Pool (e.g. inflatable play)		
✓	Shade at Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool		
✓	Prepare a business case for Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre		
✓	Rezone Oakburn Park Motor Sports Precinct		
X	Master Plan for the Sporting Precinct from Jewry Street to Locks Lane Refer actions 2.5 and 8.3		
X	Protect disused rail corridors and investigate the potential for a Rail Trail Refer action 8.7		
5: Information and awareness			
Status	Key Outcome		
✓	Ensure information and resources are available at information centres and key tourism points across the region		
X	Assist rural centres to develop parkland and cultural trail pamphlets for their communities Refer action 8.7		

01 Introduction

Key Developments Since 2008

The Tamworth region has experienced significant progress relating to the development of sport and recreation since 2008 with the development of high-quality facilities, a strong network of clubs and service providers, and a range of successful programs and events. Key infrastructure projects over this period have included:

1. Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (2008)
2. The Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE), including:
 - Tamworth Sports Dome (2011)
 - Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre (2019)
 - Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre (2019)
 - Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre (2020)
3. Tamworth Mountain Bike Park (2014)
4. Tamworth Regional Playground (2015)
5. Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct (2015)
6. The Youthie (2015)
7. Tamworth Adventure Playground (2015)
8. Tamworth Regional Skate Park (2019)



01 Introduction

Background Documents

The strategic direction for sport and recreation is influenced by a number of policies and plans, and peak body strategic directions, at various levels, including international, federal, state, regional and local.

Partnerships and cross-agency collaboration allow planning for sport and recreation facilities, programs and services which support various strategic outcomes, such as health and local economic development.

The following strategic documents may influence the directions for sport and recreation in the Tamworth region and have been reviewed to inform this Plan:

International Documents

- *Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030* (World Health Organisation)

National Documents

- *Sport 2030*
- *The Australian Physical Literacy Framework* (Sport Australia, 2019)
- *Blueprint for an Active Australia* (Heart Foundation, 2019)

State Documents

- *20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW* (July 2018)
- *NSW State Infrastructure Strategy Update* (2014)
- *Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2018-2022*
- *Office of Sport Future Needs of Sport Infrastructure Study* (Ongoing)
- *Office of Sport: Her Sport Her Way 2019-2023*

Regional Documents

- *New England North West Regional Plan 2036*
- *Draft New England and North West Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018-2023*

Local Documents

- *Keychange 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan*
- *Tamworth Blueprint 100* (Draft, 2019)
- *Tamworth Tomorrow – Driving the Tamworth Region's Economic Growth 2016-2021*
- *Tamworth Region Infrastructure Strategy* (2014)
- *Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021*
- *Aquatic Management Plan* (November 2017)
- *Tamworth Sports Dome Asset Management Plan* (2017)
- *Horticulture and Recreation Asset Management Plan* (2017)
- *Aquatic Facilities Asset Management Plan* (2017)
- *Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence Stage 2 Business Case*
- *The Precinct Master Plan and Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence Report* (December 2014)
- *Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence Master Site Plan* (2015)
- *Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre – Business Case* (2019)
- *Tamworth Sports Field Lighting Development – Business Case*
- *Tamworth Regional Astronomy and Science Centre – Final Business-Case*
- *Engineering Design Minimum Standards for Subdivisions and Developments* (March 2019)
- *Tamworth Regional Council General Policy Register*
- *Shared Paths and Cycle Maps* (2019)

The relevant information from each of these documents is included in Appendix B: Background Review.

01 Introduction

Sport 2030 (2018)

Sport 2030 provides the Vision for Australian sport in 2030: Australia is the world's most active, healthy sporting nation, known for its integrity and excellence.

The strategic priorities for implementing this Plan are to:

- build a more active Australia — More Australians, more active, more often
- achieve sporting excellence — National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success
- safeguard the integrity of sport — A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption
- strengthen Australia's sport industry — A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.

Tamworth Regional Blueprint 100 Draft (2019)

Blueprint 100 is an overarching strategy which provides a roadmap to take the Tamworth region towards Council's vision of a prosperous economy, high living standards and planned population growth.

The Blueprint is driven by the NSW Government's encouragement for both Wagga Wagga and Tamworth to aim to be key state inland cities.

Key components of the Vision include a region focussed on:

- enhanced quality of life
- greater prosperity
- compassion for its people
- reverence for its culture
- respect for nature
- retention of more residents
- welcoming of new citizens
- generation of new jobs
- improved skill levels
- enhanced liveability
- affordability.

Keychange 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan

Keychange 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan identifies Council's Vision and links this to strategies and actions for Council to undertake to 2027.

The community Vision, the five key themes of the Plan, and the strategies relevant to each are outlined in Table 4.

Table 4: Community Strategic Plan Vision, Themes and Strategies

Vision: A region of opportunity and prosperity, a place to call home	
A Spirit of Community	Active healthy communities
	Promote our Region's heritage, character and culture
	Safe places to live, work, play and visit
A Prosperous Region	A strong and diverse economic base
	Promote "Destination Tamworth" as a great place to visit a great place to live
	Quality, affordable lifelong education and learning opportunities
	Make Tamworth as the next major freight distribution centre in Regional NSW
An Accessible Region	Safe and efficient transport network
	Improve choice, availability and quality of transport options for our Region
	Functional communications and technology for the Region
A Region for the Future	Sound asset and land planning to facilitate future community needs.
	Promote sustainable living to protect and support our environment, heritage and resources.
A Region of Progressive Leadership	Community feel informed, heard, valued and involved in the future of the Region
	Our Region is well led and managed

01 Introduction

State Sporting Organisations/Peak Bodies

Partnerships with sport and recreation state sporting organisations (SSOs) and peak bodies will be important in the implementation of this Plan. These are responsible for the development of their sport across the state, from community participation through to elite performance level. Many of these organisations cater for the growing recreational needs of their activities.

The strategic directions of these organisations have both direct and indirect influences on sport and recreation in the Tamworth region. Some sports have strategic documents prepared at the state level, and others have national documents. Some sports have strategic plans or guidelines relating specifically to facilities.

The following resources have been reviewed to inform the development of this Plan:

- *AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines* (2019)
- Australian Bushman's Campdraft and Rodeo Association (ABCDRA) Website
- *Australian Mountain Bike Trail Guidelines* (2019)
- *Australian Rugby Strategic Plan 2016-2020*
- *Baseball Australia Strategic Plan*
- *Basketball NSW Strategic Plan 2016-2020*
- *Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) Strategic Plan 2017-2019*
- *Cricket NSW Strategy 2017-2022*
- *Croquet Strategic Plan 2019-2022*
- Cycling NSW Website
- Equestrian NSW Website
- *Football NSW Facilities Strategic Plan 2014-2024*
- *Gymnastics in Australia Strategic Plan 2020-2023*
- *National Rugby League (NRL) Strategic Plan 2018-2022*
- *Netball in NSW – Statewide Facilities Strategy (2018-2033)*
- NSW Amateur Pistol Association Inc Website
- NSW Hangliding and Paragliding Association Website
- *NSW Touch Association Strategic Plan 2015-2020*
- *Pony Club NSW 2018 Annual Report*
- *Reframing the Future - Athletics in New South Wales (OneSport) 2017-2020*
- Skate NSW Website
- *Softball NSW Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Reframing the Future*
- *Squash NSW Strategic Plan 2017-2019*
- *Swimming NSW Strategic Plan*
- *Tennis NSW Strategic Plan 2018-21*
- *Tennis 2020 Facility Framework for Australian Tennis*
- *The Hockey Revolution, Hockey NSW.*

01 Introduction

Planning Precincts

To support comprehensive analysis of sport and recreation issues and opportunities across the region, 16 'precincts' have been used to categorise geographic areas.

These precincts are aligned with the precincts created by *.id* - the population experts which outline data for the region relating to population demographics, projected growth, and economic indicators.

The precincts are outlined in the table and maps below, with a unique reference letter.

Table 5: Planning Precincts

	Ref	Precinct
Tamworth Urban Area	A	Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth
	B	Hillvue
	C	West Tamworth (Central)
	D	West Tamworth (Coledale)
	E	South Tamworth
	F	Calala (Residential)
	G	North Tamworth
	H	Westdale - Taminda
	I	Oxley Vale
	J	Warral - Kingswood - Nemingha - Calala (Rural)
	K	Moore Creek - Daruka - Tintinhull - Hallsville
Non-Urban	L	Western Rural
	M	Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer
	N	Manilla and District
	O	Barraba - Rural North
	P	Nundle - Rural South

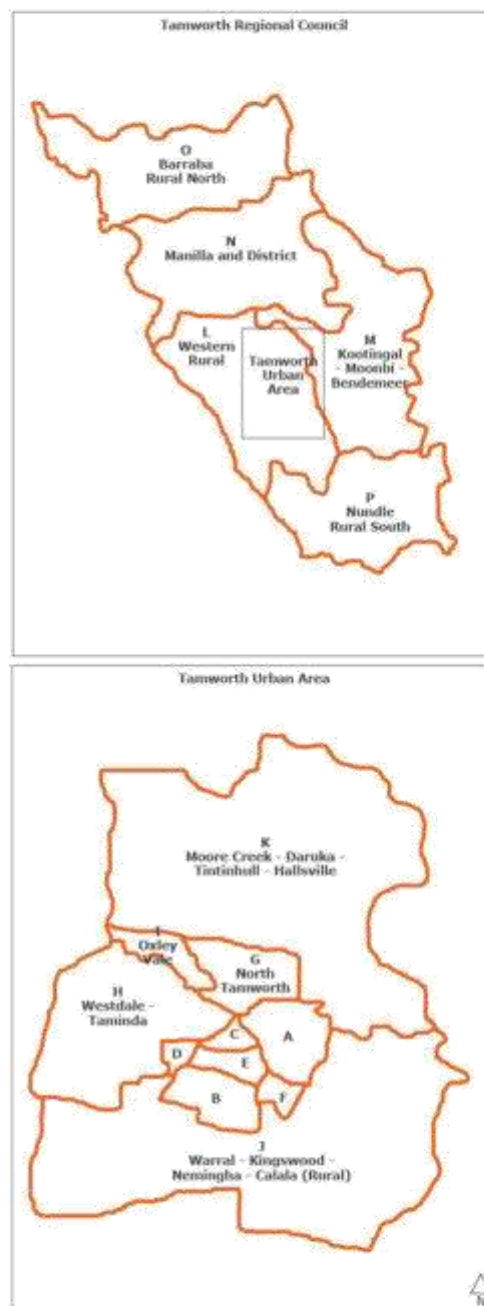


Figure 6: Precincts



02 Demand and Trends

Demographic Implications

The Tamworth region is home to an estimated resident population of 62,156 people (2018). The Tamworth urban area makes up approximately three quarters (47,504 people) with the balance residing in the towns of Manilla, Barraba, Kootingal, and Nundle or rural localities across the region.

Table 6 outlines key demographic features of the region and their implications on sport and recreation.

Table 6: Demographic Indicators and Implications on Sport and Recreation

Key Demographic Indicator	Implications on Sport and Recreation
Population Age Structure At the 2016 Census the population of the Tamworth region had a higher proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than the average across New South Wales. The region's median age of 40 years was lower than the average across regional NSW (43 years).	Trends and preferences vary across age groups and life stages and it is important that sport and recreation provision is relevant to the region's population. Provision of adaptable facilities which host a wide range of activities will support involvement from all age groups.
Population Growth With one of the highest projected population growth rates in regional NSW, the Tamworth region is expected to grow by 25.86% to 79,468 by 2036 (NSW Government Forecasts, 2016). This would represent average annual growth of 1.18%.	Growth in population numbers will likely bring higher demand in number, capacity and diversity of sport and recreation facilities. It is important to ensure that new development areas are serviced with access to opportunities for both sport and recreation.
Cultural Diversity Indigenous Australians comprise a significantly higher percentage of the Tamworth region's population (10.1%) than the average across regional NSW (5.5%). Overseas migration is expected to contribute significantly to the region's population growth. Currently, the Tamworth region has a lower than average population of people born overseas (6.8%) than the average across Regional NSW (11.2%).	Programs and services across the region need to encourage participation and be inclusive to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. With projected population growth across the region, it is anticipated that the proportion of people born overseas will increase and that this will bring different sport and recreational preferences. It is important that the variety of sport and recreation opportunities offered cater for people from different cultural backgrounds.
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage The population of the Tamworth region has a SEIFA Disadvantage Index score of 962, which is lower than that of the average across regional NSW (971), indicating a higher level of relative socio-economic disadvantage. Within the Tamworth region, levels of relative socio-economic disadvantage vary significantly between affluent areas such as Moore Creek - Daruka - Tintinhull - Hallsville with a high index score of 1,083.5, to relatively disadvantaged areas such as West Tamworth (Coledale) with a score 663.2.	It is important that sport and recreation opportunities are affordable and accessible to all people, regardless of their level of affluence. Investment in sport and recreation should be strategically planned to ensure that resources are targeted, maximising community participation, encouraging active lifestyles and maximising community benefit.
Rate of Volunteering At the 2016 Census, the Tamworth region had a volunteering rate of 21.8%, higher than the average across regional NSW (20.8%) and all of NSW (18.1%).	Volunteers are recognised as an invaluable resource for communities across the Tamworth region. It is imperative that volunteers are effectively supported, recognised and valued in their role.

02 Demand and Trends

Trends

A range of trends have been identified and published by organisations such as Sport Australia which will influence sport and recreation into the future. Table 7 outlines specific sport and recreation trends, and Table 8 outlines relevant broader societal trends.

Sport and Recreation Trends

Table 7: Trends Influencing Sport and Recreation

Trend	Description
 Individualised Activities	Increasing popularity of individualised activities (such as yoga, gym, aerobics and jogging) that align with increasingly busy lifestyles.
 Sport to Get Fit	Consumers are increasingly engaging in specialised products to get fit whilst traditional sport participation has declined.
 Lifestyle and Community	Consumers want to be part of something and are attracted to products that define them, their lifestyle or community.
 Active Ageing	Physical activities need to be diversified to meet the needs of the growing cohort of older Australians.
 Synergistic Policy Making	Governments and companies are increasing their utilisation of sport and recreation to achieve their policy objectives.
 Corporatisation of Sports	The corporatisation of sport is returning higher salaries at the elite level, placing pressures on less financially backed sports.
 Participation Costs	Rising cost of participation in sport and recreation is now becoming a barrier for some members of the community.
 Changing Preferences	The community's activity preferences are continually changing which directly impacts how the facility network will be utilised.

Trend	Description
 Informal Recreation	Participation rates in traditionally organised sports are broadly declining, with preferences trending towards recreational activities.
 Increasingly Popular Modified Formats	Modified formats of traditionally organised sports are increasing in popularity (e.g. T20, AFL 9s, Rugby 7s, Futsal), as are other activities previously considered as extreme or niche (e.g. BMX).
 Emergence of Fitness Apps	Technological advances have introduced a range of fitness apps that promote participation in physical activity and provide platforms for individuals to compete against themselves or others.
 Female Participation in Traditionally Male Sports	Female participation in traditionally male dominated sports has exploded in recent years. This is placing pressure on facilities in terms of capacity (e.g. field use) and functionality (e.g. changeroom design). It is important to ensure facilities are appropriate and clubs/programs are inclusive.
 Asset Management	Asset management is a key requirement and focus of local government who own and control vast amounts of infrastructure. Ensuring contemporary asset management principles are applied is a necessity as is identifying lifecycle costings for proposed new facilities.
 Adventure Activities	'Adventure', 'Lifestyle', 'Extreme' and 'Alternative' sports are increasing in popularity.
 Synthetic Playing Surfaces	Synthetic playing surfaces are becoming more widespread. Environmental, social, health and financial outcomes need to be considered, as discussed in further detail below.

02 Demand and Trends

Synthetic Playing Surfaces

The use of synthetic turf playing surfaces is becoming more widespread. They are now the standard for high-level competitions for athletics and hockey. The Tamworth region's existing provision at the NICSE is in line with these requirements at the state level.

Synthetic playing surfaces have been slower to emerge for other sports, such as football codes, but with continuous technology evolutions and improvements they are becoming increasingly prominent internationally, across Australia and in NSW.

A key driver of the provision of synthetic playing fields is the specific requirement of sporting organisations at various levels including regional, state and national organisations. Football NSW has supported the development of synthetic fields in NSW as a solution for some environments, where usage is greater than natural grass fields can cope with.

Potential benefits associated with provision of synthetic playing surfaces include:

- enhanced field capacity
- consistent surface quality
- set maintenance regimes
- usage capacity not directly impacted by rainfall events
- less reliance on water supply.

Potential challenges associated with provision of synthetic playing surfaces include:

- restricted access as public open space
- hot playing surface and heat island effect
- glare during hours of direct sunlight
- potential for odour, dependent on materials, such as rubber granule infill
- need for long-term thinking and forward planning, such as lifecycle costing
- environmental and financial challenge associated with disposal at end of life.

Usage capacity of turf playing fields and finite water resources are two key challenges facing the Tamworth region. These may intensify into the future in the context of population growth and a changing climate.

Council is well positioned to address future increased demand for turf playing field capacity at the community-level with significant portions of public land along the Peel River available for the future expansion of the Riverside Sports Complex. This land is central and has access to bore water for irrigation. With development of additional playing fields at the Riverside Sports Complex and effective management and scheduling, it is likely that a synthetic surfaces would not be required for additional playing field capacity, unlike many other urban areas across Australian which have significant land constraints. While playing fields are suitable developments in flood prone areas, there are limitations relating to the development of support infrastructure such as pavilions, changerooms and spectator facilities.

Prior to making the significant investment decisions relating to synthetic surfaces, the following factors must be comprehensively considered:

- local climatic and environmental factors
- broader environmental impacts
- social impacts
- health impacts
- potential user groups/sport specific requirements
- asset management requirements and lifecycle costing
- alternative options to meet objectives (e.g. providing sports lighting to allow for more flexible fixtures, training times etc).

It is important to ensure that the potential development of synthetic playing surfaces is also considered in line with the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan's planning principles (refer Section 07 Vision and Principles).

02 Demand and Trends

Societal Trends Influencing Sport and Recreation

Broader societal trends will also influence sport and recreation in the Tamworth region, such as those outlined in Table 8.

Table 8: Societal Trends

Trend	Description
Increasingly Busy Lifestyles 	Australians now have less time available for recreation, and a smaller proportion of that time is spent being physically active.
Virtual vs Reality 	Consumers are increasingly moving online to connect, deliver and access services, obtain information, perform transactions, and work.
Personalisation 	Community members are increasingly seeking personalised experiences, with an expectation for these experiences to complement their individual identity.
Share Economy 	Consumers are becoming less attached to the ownership of goods and are more often sharing services through peer-to-peer platforms.
Convenience is King 	Consumers expect instant gratification through the rise of on-demand services built upon speed and accessibility.
Expectations of Governance 	Greater pressures on community groups and clubs to establish corporate structures and formal forms of governance.
Inactivity in Children 	Inactivity in children is growing, linked to a decline in sport in schools, less active commuting and increased screen time.
Emergence of Online Communities 	Sport and recreation are being transformed by technology; social technologies have created online communities outside traditional club structures.

Key trends which have influenced the development of the Strategy and Action Plan have been identified, and these are illustrated using the icons above in Section 08 Action Plan.

Trend	Description
Climate Resilience 	Climate change is predicted to bring more extreme weather events leading to more frequent bushfires, droughts and floods. Open space is increasingly linked to climate change adaptation, with forward planning required to ensure resilience.
Visitor Economy 	The visitor economy is now recognised at all levels of government as an intrinsic, sustainable and driving part of economic development.
Nature Based Tourism 	The emergence of nature-based tourism and increasing visitor numbers will place additional pressures on certain facilities, particularly trail networks and high profile regional open spaces.
Partnerships 	Public/private/community partnerships with schools, private providers and across local/state/federal levels of government are essential moving forward to ensure provision of sustainable services with maximum community benefit.
Urbanisation 	Australia is ahead of this global megatrend with the majority of Australia's population already living in urban areas. This is relevant to major cities and regional centres as they draw populations from smaller towns.

02 Demand and Trends

Participation Rates

NSW Adults and Children

Participation rates in sport and recreation across Australia are monitored through the national *AusPlay* survey, administered by Sport Australia.

In line with the national trends, the top five activities among NSW adults in 2019 were primarily individual fitness pursuits that fit into people's increasingly busy lifestyles. While organised sport is less popular, football (soccer), golf and tennis still feature within the top ten activities. The top ten adult activities in NSW are shown in Figure 7.

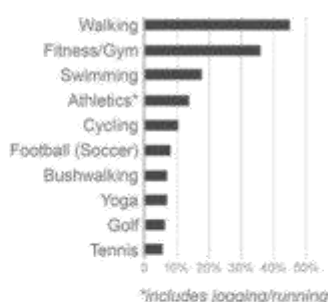


Figure 7: Top 10 Activities, NSW Adults, 2019

Children participate in sport and physical recreation at different rates than adults. For example, their involvement in swimming is 20% higher than that of adults and is overall generally higher in sports such as netball and tennis. Children also participate in activities such as gymnastics and dancing at higher levels. The top 10 organised activities for children in NSW are shown in Figure 8.

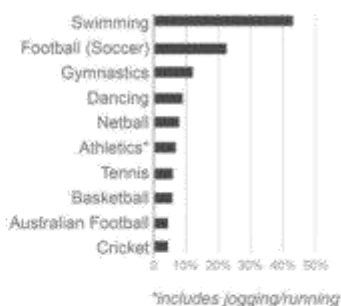


Figure 8: Top 10 Organised Activities, NSW Children, 2019

*includes jogging and running

Local Participation

The Tamworth region has a proud sporting culture, with a strong history of elite athletes and active leagues and associations drawing participants from across the wider region. Individualised activities have shown to be popular with the respondents who completed the online community survey. This is in line with trends across Australia, and the world.

Figure 9 was compiled from the 167 community survey responses to the following question: *What sport and recreation activities do you participate in, and how regularly?* The 'number of responses' identifies those who indicated participation on at least a fortnightly basis.

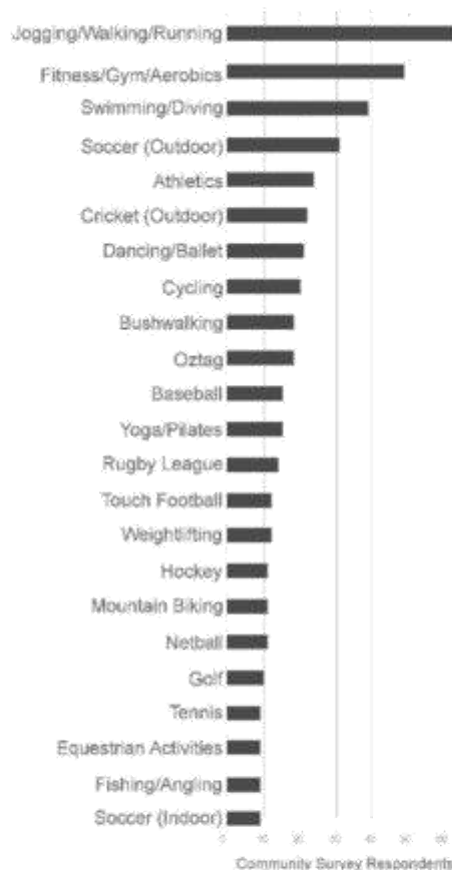


Figure 9: Local Participation - Community Survey

02 Demand and Trends

Projected Local Demand

Estimates of the current and projected future demand for specific sports/activities has been projected by ActiveXchange, using the SportsEye Network and supplemented with AusPlay participation data, where required. The SportsEye Network provides data analytics showing 'potential demand' for specific sports/activities, as well as the current 'demand conversion' rate (i.e. conversion of potential participants into actual participants). Further information based on the SportsEye Network and ActiveXchange data analytics is provided in Section 05: Supply and Demand Analysis.

The estimated member numbers for specific sports, at different population levels, are illustrated in Figure 10. It is evident that football (soccer) is the sport/activity with the highest number of current and projected future participants, followed by netball, Oztag, hockey and basketball.

This projection of estimated members, shown in Figure 10, does not account for the increase in demand conversion which is anticipated as a result of facility improvements. For example, it is likely that the demand conversion for both athletics and competitive cycling will increase significantly as a result of the recent development of high-quality facilities to accompany well operated clubs/associations and appealing programs/events. Broader demand factors for a range of key sports have been considered, as explained in Section 05 Supply and Demand Analysis and incorporated into section 08 Action Plan.

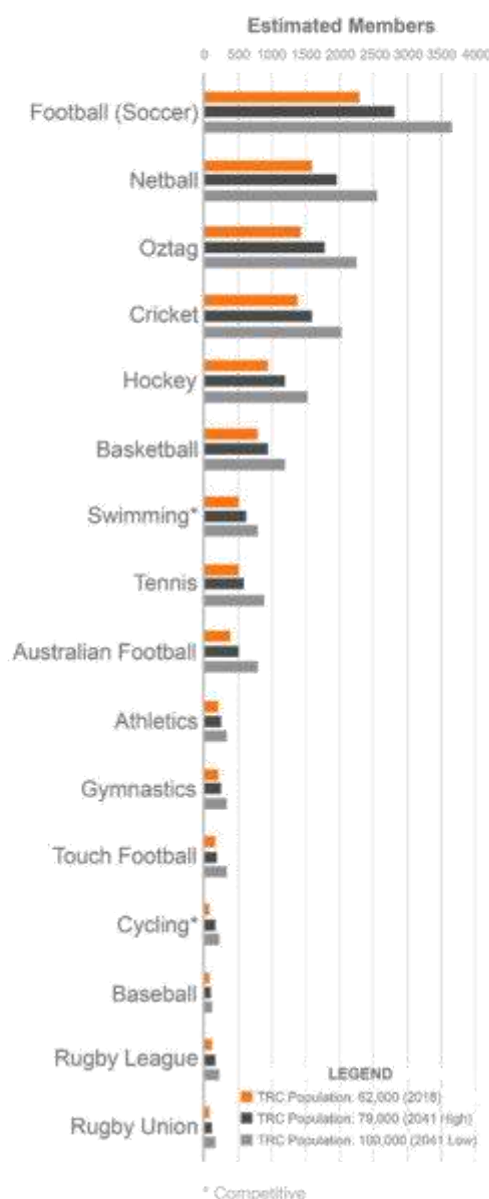


Figure 10: Estimated Members at Population Levels





03 Facility Inventory

Facility Network

The facility inventory identifies 118 venues across the Tamworth region which provide facilities for sport and recreation. Of these venues, 66 are located within the Tamworth urban area, 12 in Barraba, 8 in Manilla, 6 in Nundle, 4 in Kootingal, 4 in Bendemeer, 2 at Mt Borah and the remainder located across rural localities. The distribution of facilities is shown in Figure 11. Location details at a closer scale are provided in Appendix C: Facility Inventory.

Tamworth City is the primary hub for sport and recreation across the region's facility network, with many high-quality facilities of international, national, state, regional and local significance. The network is also supported by the sport and recreation precincts in the towns of Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle. Smaller, localities across the region typically have a recreation ground, managed under a Section 355 (s355) Committee, with a community hall, court(s), grass pitch or oval and associated amenities.

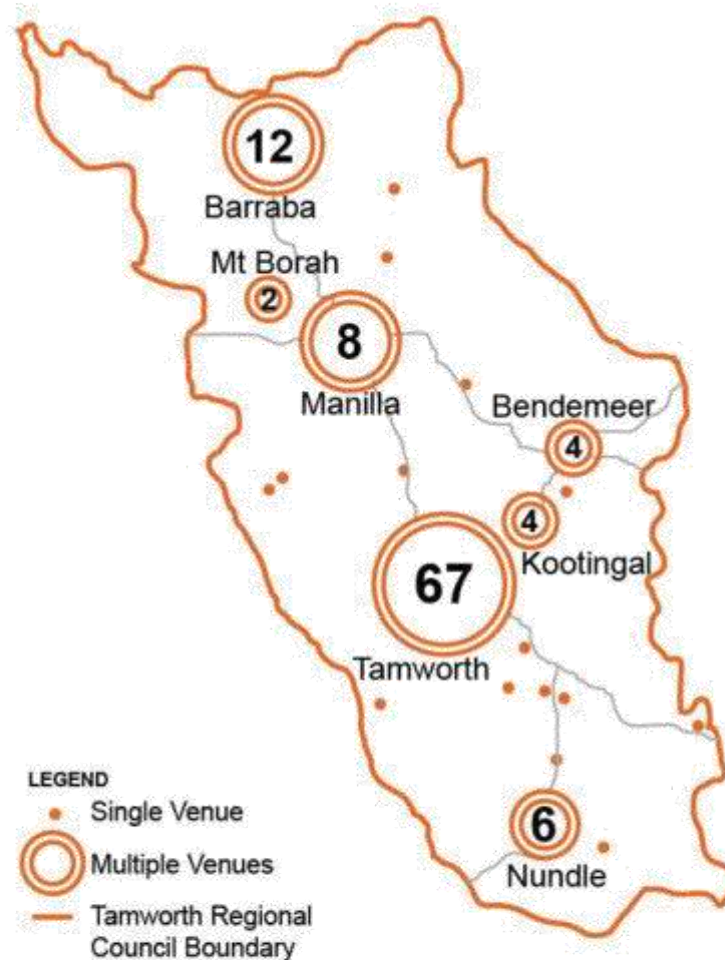


Figure 11: Facility Network Distribution

03 Facility Inventory

Facility Inventory

The facility inventory of existing sport and recreation facilities across the Tamworth region has been prepared based on information drawn from:

- visits to key venues
- Council's geospatial data/mapping files
- Council documents, such as management plans
- consultation

While the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan focusses on Council's role for the provision of sport and recreation facilities, the inventory also includes several facilities which are owned privately or by clubs.

The inventory does not include the following types of facilities:

- school facilities
- privately owned fitness centres/gyms
- recreation facilities (e.g. trails) in national parks and state forests
- recreation facilities (e.g. playgrounds) located in open spaces which are not of regional or district significance.

Definitions

The following definitions have been used in the preparation of this inventory:

Venue: *The location where sport and/or recreation facilities are located.*

Facility: *An asset which provides for sport and/or recreation activities to occur.*

A venue may have multiple facilities within it.

Venues - by Precinct

Sport and recreation venues are categorised, by precinct, in Table 9, with unique reference numbers.

Table 9: Venues - By Geographic Location

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth [18]	
A1	Bicentennial Park - No. 1 Oval
A2	ANZAC Park
A3	Kamilaroi Walking Track
A4	Tamworth PCYC
A5	Tamworth City Bowling Club
A6	Oxley Bowling Club
A7	Bicentennial Park - Tamworth Regional Playground
A8	Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool
A9	Peel Picnic Spot
A10	Peel River Levee Bank Track
A11	Treloar Park
A12	Tamworth Croquet Court
A13	Victoria Park - Marsupial Park
A14	Victoria Park - Tamworth Botanic Gardens
A15	Victoria Park - Tamworth Miniature Railway, Observatory and Men's Shed
A16	Victoria Park - Oxley Lookout
A17	Powerhouse Park
A18	Railway Park
B: Hillvue [8]	
B1	AELEC
B2	NICSE - Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre
B3	NICSE - Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre
B4	NICSE - Tamworth Sports Dome
B5	NICSE - Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre
B6	NICSE - Tamworth Regional Gymnastics Centre
B7	Chauvel Park
B8	Longyard Golf Course

03 Facility Inventory

C: West Tamworth (Central) [9]		H: Westdale – Taminda [5]	
C1	Belmore Park	H1	Riverside Sporting Complex
C2	West Tamworth Sports and Bowling Club	H2	Tamworth Jockey Club
C3	West Tamworth Tennis Club	H3	Oakburn Park Motor Sports Complex
C4	South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool	H4	Thomas Mitchell Park
C5	Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct	H5	Paceway Tamworth (Former Tamworth Showgrounds)
C6	Gipps Street Sports Complex	I: Oxley Vale [1]	
C7	Tamworth Golf Club	I1	Pages Park
C8	Tamworth Bunkhouse	J: Warral - Kingswood - Nemingha - Calala (Rural) [4]	
C9	Cross Park	J1	Kingswood Park
D: West Tamworth (Coledale) [3]		J2	Nemingha Recreation Reserve
D1	Tamworth Centenary Park	J3	Koobah Equine Facility
D2	The Youthie – Tamworth Youth Centre	J4	Redbank Park
D3	Granny Munro Park	K: Moore Creek - Daruka - Tintinhull – Hallsville [2]	
E: South Tamworth [4]		K1	Tamworth Junior Riding Club
E1	Chaffey Park Tamworth	K2	Moore Creek Recreation Reserve
E2	Ken Chillingworth Oval	L: Western Rural [6]	
E3	Hyman Park	L1	Attunga Recreation Sports Ground
E4	South Tamworth Bowling Club	L2	Somerton Flying Field
E5	Freestyle Boulderling Gym	L3	Somerton Recreation Ground
F: Calala (Residential) [1]		L4	Duri Memorial Sports Ground
F1	Monk Park	L5	Tamworth Clay Target Club
G: North Tamworth [10]		L6	Tamworth Rifle Range
G1	Viaduct Park – Tamworth Regional Skate Park		
G2	Viaduct Park – Playing Fields		
G3	Tamworth Rugby Park		
G4	Riding for the Disabled - Tamworth		
G5	Jack Woolaston Oval		
G6	North Recreation Reserve – Playing Fields		
G7	North Recreation Reserve – BMX Track		
G8	Tamworth Mountain Bike Park		
G9	Tamworth Pistol Club		
G10	North Tamworth Bowling Club		

03 Facility Inventory

M: Kootingal / Moonbi / Bendemeer [11]		O: Barraba - Rural North [13]	
M1	Kootingal Recreation Reserve	O1	Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool
M2	Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool	O2	Barraba Showground
M3	Kootingal and District Bowling Club	O3	Barraba Sports Ground
M4	Chaffey Street Reserve	O4	Barraba Tennis Courts
M5	Bendemeer Showgrounds	O5	Barraba Bowling Green
M6	Bendemeer Football Ground	O6	Barraba Golf Course
M7	Bendemeer Bowling Club	O7	Barraba Bicentennial Community Centre
M8	Moonbi Recreation Ground	O8	Barraba Air Strip
M9	Piallamore Tennis Courts	O9	Barraba Rugby League Ground
M10	Dungowan Sports Ground	O10	O'Meara Park
M11	Dungowan Tennis Courts	O11	Barraba Lookout
N: Manilla and District [12]		O12	Glenriddle Reserve
N1	Chaffey Park Manilla	O13	Rotary Park
N2	Brady Park	P: Nundle - Rural South [10]	
N3	Manilla Bowling Club	P1	Nundle Recreation Ground
N4	Manilla Golf Course	P2	Nundle Swimming Pool
N5	Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool	P3	Nundle Sport and Recreation Club
N6	Manilla Tennis Courts	P4	Nundle Recreational Trail
N7	Manilla Show and Sports Complex	P5	Nundle Tennis Courts
N8	Watsons Creek Recreation Reserve	P6	Sheba Dams Camping Reserve
N9	Manilla Riverwalk	P7	Niangala Recreation Reserve
N10	Mt Borah Launch Site	P8	Niangala Tennis Courts
N11	Mt Borah Mountain Bike Trails	P9	Woolomin Recreation Ground
N12	Split Rock Dam	P10	Captain Cook Park

03 Facility Inventory

Venues by Activity

The activity type and number of sport and recreation venues provided across the region are outlined in Table 10.

Note: Many venues offer multiple facilities. Further details relating to each venue are included in Appendix C: Facility Inventory.

Table 10: Venues by Activity

Activity and Venue	No.
Athletics Track and Field B3 NICSE - Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre	1
Hockey B5 NICSE - Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre	1
Cycling (Competitive) B2 NICSE - Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre	1
Netball and Basketball B4 NICSE - Tamworth Sports Dome	1
Swimming A8 Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool C4 South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool M2 Kootingal Memorial Swimming Pool N5 Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool O1 Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool P2 Nundle Swimming Pool	6
Tennis A11 Treloar Park C3 West Tamworth Tennis Club K2 Moore Creek Recreation Reserve L1 Attunga Recreation Sports Ground L3 Somerton Recreation Ground L4 Duri Memorial Sports Ground M1 Kootingal Recreation Reserve M6 Bendemeer Football Ground M9 Piallmore Tennis Courts M11 Dungowan Tennis Courts N6 Manilla Tennis Courts N8 Watson's Creek Recreation Reserve O4 Barraba Tennis Courts P5 Nundle Tennis Courts P8 Niangaia Tennis Courts P9 Woolomin Recreation Ground	16

Activity and Venue	No.
Oztag H1 Riverside Sports Complex	1
Touch Football N1 Chaffey Park Manilla C6 Gipps Street Sports Complex	2
Football (Soccer) C5 Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct C6 Gipps Street Sports Complex G6 North Recreation Reserve N1 Chaffey Park Manilla	4
Rugby League C5 Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct H1 Riverside Sports Complex G2 Viaduct Park - Playing Fields M10 Dungowan Sports Ground G5 Jack Woolaston Oval M1 Kootingal Recreation Reserve M6 Bendemeer Football Ground O9 Barraba Rugby League Ground N7 Manilla Show/Sports Complex	9
Rugby Union C5 Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct H1 Riverside Sports Complex G2 Viaduct Park - Playing Fields M10 Dungowan Sports Ground E2 Ken Chillingworth Oval G3 Tamworth Rugby Park O3 Barraba Sports Ground	7
Cricket A1 Bicentennial Park - No. 1 Oval B7 Chauvel Park C1 Belmore Park H1 Riverside Sports Complex J1 Kingswood Park J2 Nemingha Recreation Reserve K2 Moore Ck Recreation Reserve L1 Attunga Recreation Ground L3 Somerton Recreation Ground N1 Chaffey Park Tamworth N2 Brady Park Manilla N8 Watson's Ck Rec. Reserve O3 Barraba Sports Ground P1 Nundle Recreation Ground P9 Woolomin Recreation Ground	15
Australian Football A1 Bicentennial Park - No. 1 Oval	2

03 Facility Inventory

Activity and Venue	No.	Activity and Venue	No.
H1 Riverside Sports Complex		Recreational Walking and/or Cycling	6
Baseball and Softball	1	A3 Kamilaroi Walking Track	
H1 Riverside Sports Complex		A10 Peel River Levee Bank Track	
Gymnastics	1	N9 Manilla River Walk	
B6 Tamworth Regional Gymnastics Centre		P4 Nundle Recreational Trail	
Equestrian Sports	10	A13 Tamworth Marsupial Park	
B1 AELEC		A14 Tamworth Botanic Gardens	
G4 Riding for the Disabled – Tamworth		G8 Tamworth Mountain Bike Park	
H5 Paceway Tamworth		(Yuundu Warruni Cultural Trail)	
J3 Koobah Equine Facility		Motorsport	1
K1 Tamworth Junior Riding Club		H3 Oakburn Park Motor Sports Complex	
M5 Bendemeer Showgrounds		Aero Sports	2
M8 Moonbi Recreation Ground		L2 Somerton Flying Field	
N7 Manilla Show and Sports Complex		O8 Barraba Air Strip	
O2 Barraba Showgrounds		Beach Volleyball	1
H2 Tamworth Jockey Club		C8 Tamworth Bunkhouse	
Lawn Bowls	10	Squash	1
A5 Tamworth City Bowling Club		C8 Tamworth Bunkhouse	
A6 Oxley Bowling Club		Croquet	1
C2 West Tamworth Sports and Bowling Club		A12 Tamworth Croquet Court	
E4 South Tamworth Bowling Club		Shooting Sports	3
G10 North Tamworth Bowling Club		L5 Tamworth Clay Target Club	
M3 Kootingal and District Bowling Club		L6 Tamworth Peel Valley Rifle Club	
M7 Bendemeer Bowling Club		G9 Tamworth Pistol Club	
N3 Manilla Bowling Club		Paragliding and Hangliding	1
O5 Barraba Bowling Green		N10 Mt Borah Launch Site	
P3 Nundle Sport and Recreation Club		Bouldering	1
Golf	5	E5 Freestyle Bouldering Gym	
B8 Longyard Golf Course		Open Space (Regional/District)	16
C7 Tamworth Golf Course		A2 ANZAC Park	
N4 Manilla Golf Course		A7 Tamworth Regional Playground	
O6 Barraba Golf Course		A13 Tamworth Marsupial Park	
P3 Nundle Sport and Recreation Club		A17 Powerhouse Park	
Skate	4	A18 Railway Park	
G1 Viaduct Park - Tamworth Regional Skate Park		D1 Tamworth Centenary Park	
N1 Chaffey Park Manilla		D3 Granny Munro Park	
M4 Chaffey Street Reserve Kootingal		E3 Hyman Park	
O10 O'Meara Park Barraba		F1 Monk Park, Calala	
BMX	1	H4 Thomas Mitchell Park	
G7 North Recreation Reserve - BMX Track		I1 Pages Park, Oxley Vale	
Mountain Bike Riding	2	J4 Redbank Park, Calala	
G8 Tamworth Mountain Bike Park		N1 Chaffey Park Manilla	
N11 Mt Borah Mountain Bike Trails		O10 O'Meara Park	
		O13 Rotary Park Barraba	
		P10 Captain Cook Park	

03 Facility Inventory

Condition Ratings

The condition of venues and facilities across the region's network vary considerably. In rural localities, this is often dependent on population numbers and the availability of community members to use and maintain these facilities.

Each venue has been given a rating to reflect an assessment of its current condition. While many were rated through site visits, support was provided by Council staff to provide assessments of other facilities (generally those in outlying areas of the LGA). In some cases, the facility manager (e.g. private provider or s355 Committee) was contacted to obtain information about the facility condition.

The condition assessment ratings are those used the system outlined in the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's (IPWEA) *Condition Assessment and Asset Performance Guidelines*. The percentage of venues in each of the five condition rating categories is outlined in Figure 12.

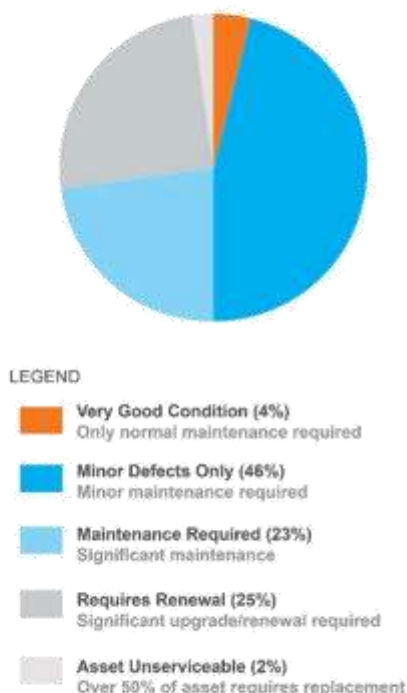


Figure 12: Condition Assessment Ratings

Land Tenure and Management

Land tenure and management has been obtained from Council's geospatial data. The categories of land tenure and management which have been identified and examples of these are provided in Table 11.

Table 11: Land Tenure/Management

Category	Example Venues
Council owned and managed	Swimming pools
Council owned – leased	Oakburn Park Motor Sports Complex, Tamworth Regional Gymnastics Centre
Council owned - s355 Committee Managed	Attunga Recreation Sports Ground
Crown owned - Council entrusted with management	Chaffey Street Reserve, Kootingal
Crown owned - Council entrusted and s355 Committee managed	Victoria Park - Tamworth Miniature Railway
Crown owned - club managed	Tamworth Mountain Bike Park
Club owned and managed	Bowling clubs, golf clubs
Privately owned and managed	Mt Borah Launch Point and Mountain Bike Trails, Tamworth Bunkhouse (squash courts and beach volleyball courts)

Details of each venue are provided in Appendix C: Facility Inventory.







03 Facility Inventory

Facilities Hierarchy

Establishing a hierarchy of sport and recreation facilities assists in the review of existing facilities, and the planning of new facilities. This is particularly important when assessing service levels for each class of facility and in obtaining external funding, as many of the funding programs are aligned to one or more levels of a facility hierarchy.

The hierarchy can be used to guide the strategic distribution of facilities and to ensure that service levels are appropriate to the intended level of usage and the population catchment which is catered for. The hierarchy levels for sport and recreation facilities align with the NSW Government's hierarchy classifications and are outlined in Table 12.

Table 12: Sport and Recreation Hierarchy

Classification	Overview	Example in Tamworth Regional Council Area
International 	<p>A sporting facility that meets requirements to conduct training and/or competitive events at an international level.</p> <p>A recreation facility that draws users from international locations.</p>	<p>Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC)</p> <p>Paragliding at Mt Borah (Manilla District)</p>
National 	<p>A sporting facility that meets requirements to conduct training and/or competitive events at a national level.</p> <p>A recreation facility that draws users from across Australia.</p>	<p>NICSE – Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre</p>
State 	<p>A sporting facility that meets requirements to conduct training and/or competitive events at a State level.</p> <p>A recreation facility that has a unique/high profile attraction that attracts people from wide catchments across NSW or beyond.</p>	<p>NICSE – Tamworth Sports Dome, Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre, Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre and Tamworth Regional Gymnastics Centre</p>
Regional 	<p>A sporting facility that attracts users from beyond the Council area. These facilities can cater for large numbers of people, teams or individuals.</p> <p>A recreation facility that offers a unique and enhanced recreational experience to those offered at district or local level facilities.</p>	<p>Tamworth Mountain Bike Park Riverside Sports Complex Tamworth Regional Playground Tamworth Regional Skate Park</p>
District 	<p>A sporting facility that has a catchment beyond a small number of towns, without the level of infrastructure of a regional facility.</p> <p>A recreation facility that draws users from across the broader district.</p>	<p>Kootingal Recreation Reserve Chaffey Park Manilla Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool Nundle Swimming Pool</p>
Local 	<p>Local recreation and sport facilities cater for activities primarily targeted at the population of a township.</p>	<p>Nundle Recreational Trail Manilla Riverwalk Piallmore Tennis Courts Dungowan Sports Ground</p>

03 Facility Inventory

Figure 13 demonstrates the distribution of the Tamworth region's facilities across the hierarchy.



Figure 13: Distribution of Facilities Across the Hierarchy



04 Consultation

Consultation Process

The consultation undertaken to produce the Tamworth Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan was guided by a *Communication and Engagement Strategy* which was developed during Stage 1 of the project.

The objective was to ensure the community and key stakeholders had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan, and to ensure that the values and aspirations of the community and stakeholders are reflected in the Plan.

Engagement Mechanisms

The following mechanisms were used to engage with the community and stakeholder:

- online club/user group survey
- online community survey
- community workshops
- stakeholder interviews
- site tours.

Communication and Marketing

In line with the project's *Communication and Engagement Strategy*, the opportunities for engagement were widely promoted across the Tamworth region via the following:

- online (Council project page)
- social media posts
- media release
- radio advertisements
- newspaper advertisements
- distribution of the flyer to sport and recreation clubs and other community organisations listed on Council's Community Directory.

A series of flyers and a project overview sheet were developed to support the communications process.

Online Club/User-Group Survey

The club/user group survey was available online for the 36-day period from 11 November 2019 to 16 December 2019.

The survey received contributions from the following nine organisations:

- Tamworth Swans AFC
- Tamworth Veterans Cricket
- Tamworth Basketball Association
- Tamworth Junior Riding and Pony Club
- New England Roller Derby League
- Tamworth and District Minor League
- Tamworth Mountain Bikers
- Dungowan Cowboys Junior Rugby League Club
- Tamworth City BMX Club.

Online Community Survey

The community survey was available online and in paper copies for the 36-day period from 11 November 2019 to 16 December 2019.

The survey received 164 contributions (all received online).

04 Consultation

Community Workshops

The community was provided with the opportunity to attend community workshops across the region over a one-week period in November 2019. The dates and locations of the six workshops were:

Kootingal
Monday 25 November 2019
6 – 7.30pm at the Kootingal Bowling Club

Nundle
Tuesday 26 November 2019
6 – 7.30pm at the Nundle Library

Tamworth
Wednesday 27 November 2019
6 – 7.30pm at the Tamworth Community Centre

Barraba
Thursday 28 November 2019
4 – 5.30pm at the Barraba Old Council Building

Manilla
Thursday 28 November 2019
6.30 – 8pm at the Manilla Small Town Hall

Tamworth
Friday 29 November 2019
9.30 – 11am at the Tamworth Community Centre

The community workshops were centred around the “Community Wheel” interactive tool. This provided attendees with the opportunity to assess, discuss and focus on issues and opportunities relating to the following aspects of sport and recreation within their local area:

- access
- sport/recreation clubs and associations
- facilities
- economic development
- programs and activities
- community governance

Attendees were also asked to share their vision for sport and recreation across the region and within their local area.

Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews with key stakeholders provided the opportunity for targeted input into the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan.

The following topics were discussed where relevant, as well as other topics raised by the representatives:

- participation
- facilities
- programs
- partnerships
- NSW strategic directions
- issues/opportunities.

Site Tours

In some cases, representatives of key stakeholder organisations provided a tour of their key facilities with explanations relating to topics such as memberships/participation, facility requirements and future aspirations for their organisation.

04 Consultation

Key Findings

The themes which emerged from the consultation processes are outlined in the tables below with regards to key positive feedback (Table 13) and key issues (Table 14). Site-specific findings have been included in Appendix C: Facility Inventory.

Table 13: Key Positive Feedback

	Location of facilities
	Facilities being generally well maintained and looked after
	Facility provision at the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE) and Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC)
	Low cost and affordable sport and recreation opportunities
	Broad range of facilities
	Council planning for the future
	Community connectedness

Table 14: Key Issues Raised

	Need for specific facility improvements and enhanced maintenance regimes
	Facilities unavailable at times
	High participation and facility use costs
	Aged/basic aquatic facilities
	Limited spectator facilities
	Limited car parking
	Facilities without disability access
	Need for improved access and connectivity between facilities for active transport
	Need for improved sports lighting
	Need for improved changerooms



05 Supply and Demand Analysis

Providing for Population Growth

The Tamworth region is anticipating significant population growth over coming decades which requires significant planning to ensure that the supply of sport and recreation facilities meets demand. It is projected that the region's growth will primarily be driven by property developments in the following planning precincts:

- Precinct B: Hillvue
- Precinct F: Calala (Residential)
- Precinct G: North Tamworth
- Precinct K: Moore Creek - Daruka - Tintinhull - Hallsville
- Precinct N: Manilla and District
- Precinct M: Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer

(Planning precincts as geographically illustrated in Section 1, Figure 6).

Forecast Id. notes that the Tamworth region's primary role in the post-war period has been attracting families from the surrounding rural areas and from overseas, while losing young adults to larger centres such as Newcastle and Queensland. The importance of the Tamworth region as a destination for families is expected to continue.

The continued development of higher education opportunities for residents of the Tamworth region, through establishment of training facilities/universities and online courses, is likely to reduce the number of young adults leaving the district.

The appeal of the area is a reflection of the climate, the significant amount of residential housing opportunities and employment prospects. Local demand is relatively strong as Tamworth has reached a size where it is creating significant numbers of new households as young adults leave the family home and seek new dwellings.

Supply and Demand Factors

The provision of specialist data analytics relating to the Tamworth region's sport and recreation requirements have been provided by specialists in this field, ActiveXchange.



The SportsEye Network, established and facilitated by ActiveXchange, uses integrated membership databases and facility inventories from several partners including Sport NSW and various state sporting organisations. Where required, this information has been supplemented with local facility and membership information, and participation trends and demographic structures sourced from Sport Australia's AusPlay Participation Data (2019).

Supply factors for the Tamworth region have been obtained through the development of the Facility Inventory, which includes the following attributes of existing facilities:

- number
- capacity
- hierarchy
- location/distribution
- plans in place.

Demand factors assessed have included:

- up to date member numbers, distribution and participation rates
- forecast population forecasts and age structures (low: 79,000, high: 100,000)
- sport-specific demand segmentation modelling, based on mosaic population segmentations
- actual and projected future conversion of estimated demand into memberships
- benchmarking against facility provision and demand conversion in other LGAs
- sport and recreation participation trends,
- drive-time decay (i.e. propensity to drive certain distances to access facilities)
- member deprivation scores (i.e. level of affluence).

05 Supply and Demand Analysis

Population Trigger Points

The following population trigger points have been used for forecasting future sport and recreation facility requirements:

Population trigger points:

- 62,000 (2018 population estimate)
- 70,000
- 80,000
- 90,000
- 100,000

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2016) projects the Tamworth region's population to reach up to 74,600 in 2036, which is the furthest projection provided by this source.

Forecast Id. (2017) projects that the Tamworth region's population will reach 75,676 in 2036 and 79,468 in 2041.

As Tamworth will continue to be the regional centre for Northern Inland NSW, it is important to consider the fact that the broader region's population is also anticipated to grow significantly.

Activity-Specific Provision Needs

To assess the facility provision requirements to cater for anticipated population changes across the Tamworth region, supply and demand factors have been considered where possible across the following key sport and recreation activities:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • athletics | • cricket |
| • hockey | • Australian football |
| • cycling | • gymnastics |
| • netball and basketball | • skate |
| • swimming and water polo | • BMX |
| • baseball and softball | • equestrian sports |
| • tennis | • motorsports |
| • rugby league | • lawn bowls |
| • rugby union | • golf |
| • football (soccer) | • mountain bike riding |
| • Oztag and touch football | • recreational walking and cycling. |

Table 15 outlines the projected future facility requirements and the focus/directions for each of the key activities listed above.





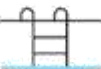


This analysis and focus/directions are based on consideration of:

- supply and demand factors used by ActiveXchange data analytics
- requirements of the broader population of Northern Inland NSW
- facility Inventory (including location, condition, usage, hierarchy)
- Council, club and community plans and aspirations for the facility network
- strategic directions of the Federal Government, NSW Government, Council, state sporting organisations, clubs and associations.
- population projections and trigger points
- trends influencing sport and recreation
- best-practice facility provision which includes multi-use, adaptable and flexible spaces.

The assessment of each activity relating to population trigger points and projected future requirements is further outlined in Appendix D: Projected Facility Requirements.

05 Supply and Demand Analysis








Table 15: Activity-Specific Required Facilities, Directions and Focus

Activity	Projected Facility Requirements	Focus/Directions
Athletics 	No projected requirement for additional facilities to cater for population growth up to 100,000.	Focus on activating the existing NICSE Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Hockey 	No projected requirement for additional facilities to cater for population growth up to 100,000.	Focus on activating existing facility at NICSE Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Cycling (competitive) 	No projected requirement for additional facilities to cater for population growth up to 100,000.	Focus on activating existing facility at NICSE Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Netball and Basketball 	<p>No projected requirement for additional outdoor competition courts.</p> <p>Projected future requirement for basketball and netball access to additional multi-use indoor courts (at population 90,000 -100,000).</p>	<p>Focus on maintaining existing high-quality netball and basketball facility with indoor and outdoor courts.</p> <p>Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions</p> <p>Plan for development of three additional indoor courts when population of the Tamworth region reaches 90,000-100,000.</p>
Swimming 	Current requirement for consolidation of number of swimming centres, including provision of a regional-level aquatic and leisure centre.	<p>Focus on development of the Tamworth Regional Aquatics and Leisure Centre at the NICSE, and consolidation of the two aged district-level facilities in Tamworth urban area – both to remain open until new centre is constructed and operational.</p> <p>Continued provision of district aquatic facilities in Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle.</p>
Baseball and Softball 	<p>No projected requirement for additional baseball or softball facilities.</p> <p>Requirement for flexible diamonds catering for baseball, softball and modified formats (e.g. Tee-ball, Baseball5, Fully Loaded Softball).</p>	<p>Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities at Riverside Sports Complex.</p> <p>Ensure fields are multi-purpose where possible.</p> <p>Enhance facility to support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p>
Tennis 	No projected future requirement for additional tennis venues or courts.	<p>Focus on balancing the provision and distribution of tennis facilities across the region to support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p> <p>Enhancements to include upgrades at Treloar Park Tennis Centre (13 courts), enhancements at facilities with five or more courts, and repurposing of disused courts in rural localities.</p>

05 Supply and Demand Analysis

Activity	Projected Facility Requirements	Focus/Directions
Rugby League and Rugby Union 	No projected requirement for additional venues or pitches for rugby league or rugby union. Pitches to be multi-use, catering for various fields sports with improved capacity to host tournaments/events.	Focus on optimising quality of existing facilities and enhancing community access, as well as developing Riverside Sports Complex with multi-use field capacity to host large tournaments/events as well as to support regular programs/competitions.
Football (Soccer) 	Projected future requirement for additional pitches as population grows. Need for multi-use playing fields catering for various field sports. Balance of facility provision (i.e. number and surface type) to be informed by outcomes of the Synthetic Pitch Feasibility Study.	Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities, as well as developing additional multi-use playing fields. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Oztag and Touch Football 	Projected future requirement for additional multi-use playing fields as population grows. Need for multi-use playing fields catering for various field sports.	Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities, as well as developing new/additional multi-use playing fields. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Cricket 	Projected future requirement for a regional/state-level oval to host elite-level games offering a high-quality spectator experience. No requirement for additional number of district/local cricket venues/ovals.	Focus on balancing the provision and distribution of cricket facilities across the region. Future provision to include development of state/regional-level venue at the NICSE, enhancements at Riverside Sports Complex, and repurposing of disused ovals in rural localities. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Australian Football 	Projected future requirement for a regional/state-level facility to host elite-level games. Requirement for one additional oval to cater for population of 100,000.	Focus on developing state/regional-level venue at the NICSE, and enhancements at No. 1 Oval and Riverside Sports Complex. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.
Gymnastics 	No projected requirement for additional gymnastics facilities. Potential requirement for upgrade/expansion of existing facility.	Focus on maintaining high quality regional-level gymnastics facility, with access to additional capacity at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC) to cater for large events.
Skate 	Projected future requirement for additional youth activity spaces to cater for population growth. May be co-located with recreational BMX facilities.	Focus on progressive development of new youth activity spaces (including skate facilities) as the population grows.

05 Supply and Demand Analysis

Activity	Projected Facility Requirements	Focus/Directions
 BMX	Required upgrade of existing competitive BMX track to meet requirements of state-level competitions. Development of new recreational, community accessible BMX tracks. May be co-located with youth precincts/skate parks.	Focus on upgrading existing competitive BMX facility to a state-level. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions. Progressively develop of new youth activity spaces (incorporating recreational skate and BMX facilities) as the population grows.
 Equestrian Sports	No projected future requirement for additional equestrian facilities.	Focus on maintaining high quality national, regional and district-level facilities, and continued attraction of equine events and regular programs. Ensure balance between elite and community level facilities and pathways for Tamworth to maintain its position as 'Australia's Home of Equine Sports'.
 Motorsport	Current requirement for upgrade/expansion of existing motorsport precinct to cater for population growth.	Focus on developing a state-level multi-use motorsport facility at Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct.
 Lawn bowls	No projected requirement for additional facilities for lawn bowls. Demand likely to be influenced by population growth and ageing population structure.	Focus on supporting clubs to sustainably provide, high quality and highly valued facilities to the community. Support clubs/facility owners to determine suitable redistribution and/or repurposing of facilities, as required.
 Golf	No projected requirement for additional facilities for golf. Demand likely to be influenced by population growth and ageing population structure, noting overall downward trend in Golf participation rates in Australia and NSW.	Focus on supporting clubs to sustainably provide, high quality and highly valued facilities to the community. Support clubs/facility owners to determine suitable redistribution and/or repurposing of facilities as required.
 Mountain Bike Riding	Current requirement for upgrade/expansion of existing mountain bike trails network to cater for population growth and increasing popularity of mountain bike riding as a recreational pursuit.	Focus on expanding and improving Tamworth Mountain Bike Park as a high quality regional-level facility. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs.
 Recreational Walking and Cycling	Current requirement for upgrade/expansion of recreational trails network to cater for population growth and increasing popularity of trail-based activities as a recreational pursuit.	Focus on strategically planning for a well distributed and connected network of recreational trails across the region.









06 Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

The key challenges which have been identified for sport and recreation in the Tamworth region are outlined in Table 16.

Table 16: Key Challenges

<p>Water Security</p> 	<p>Many sport and recreation facilities across the Tamworth region are heavily reliant on the availability of water, particularly for irrigation of playing fields. Water security needs to be a key consideration in the development and ongoing maintenance of facilities, acknowledging the predicted increase in frequency and severity of drought associated with a changing climate.</p>
<p>Regional Catchment</p> 	<p>Tamworth is the major centre for the broader catchment area of Northern Inland NSW which has a growing population of more than 200,000 people. Sport and recreation facilities need to cater for a population catchment beyond the local government area boundary, acknowledging Tamworth's as the sporting hub for Northern Inland NSW.</p>
<p>Population Growth</p> 	<p>Planning for sport and recreation facilities in the Tamworth region needs to prepare for the projected increase in population number and diversity. The region's population is projected to grow by more than 25% over the two decades leading to 2036, with increased cultural diversity. It is important that the variety of sport and recreation opportunities offered caters for a larger and more diverse population into the future.</p>
<p>Balancing Provision</p> 	<p>Planning for and developing sport and recreation opportunities across the Tamworth Regional Council area requires a strategic approach to ensure that provision is balanced to maximise community benefit within finite resources. This includes balancing provision to meet the needs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• community-level and elite sport• traditional sports and emerging activities• Tamworth City and the region's towns.
<p>Encouraging Active Lifestyles</p> 	<p>It is important that a wide range of sport and recreation opportunities are accessible to encourage active lifestyles. It is important to encourage community members to stay active throughout all stages of life, whether this is through organised sport or informal recreation.</p>
<p>Finite Resources</p> 	<p>Sport and recreation facilities, clubs and programs require valuable community resources in planning, development and operation. It is important that finite community resources are strategically allocated to maximise community benefit.</p>

06 Challenges and Opportunities

New Development Areas



As the region's population grows and becomes higher density, it is important to ensure that development of new residential areas considers the sport, recreation and open space needs of the future communities, including connectivity for active transport.

Maintaining Tamworth as the Home of Equine Sports



Tamworth is known as 'Australia's Home of Equine Sports', with a rich history and culture relating to equestrian activities. The region has a wide variety of equine facilities and is particularly renowned for the world-class Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) which hosts some of the largest equine and livestock events in the Southern Hemisphere. It is important that the Tamworth region maintains this status through continued provision of high-quality facilities and events, acknowledging the economic and cultural significance for the region.

Aged Aquatic Facilities



Tamworth Regional Council owns and operates six aquatic facilities across the region, with two located in Tamworth, one in Manilla, one in Barraba, one in Kootingal and one in Nundle. Each of these facilities is aged, costly to operate and will require significant renewal in the foreseeable future.

Flood Prone Areas



One of Tamworth's key sport and recreation precincts, Riverside Sports Complex, is located on a flood prone area alongside the Peel River, close to the centre of Tamworth. While this location has benefits, such as access to water for irrigation, it also has challenges associated with the need for innovative designs to meet the specific requirements for flood prone areas.

Playing Field Capacity



While the Tamworth region has a high quantity of playing fields which cater for a wide range of sports, it is acknowledged that some of these fields have limited capacity to sustain additional usage without resulting in decline of surface condition.

Support Facilities











Sport and recreation venues across the Tamworth region have varying levels of support infrastructure (i.e. pavilions, changerooms, lighting and spectator viewing areas) to accompany the primary facility. Due to finite resources, investment in support facilities are often deferred to later stages of development, despite their significant role in the functionality of a sport and recreation venue.

06 Challenges and Opportunities









Opportunities

The key opportunities which have been identified for sport and recreation in the Tamworth region are outlined in Table 17.

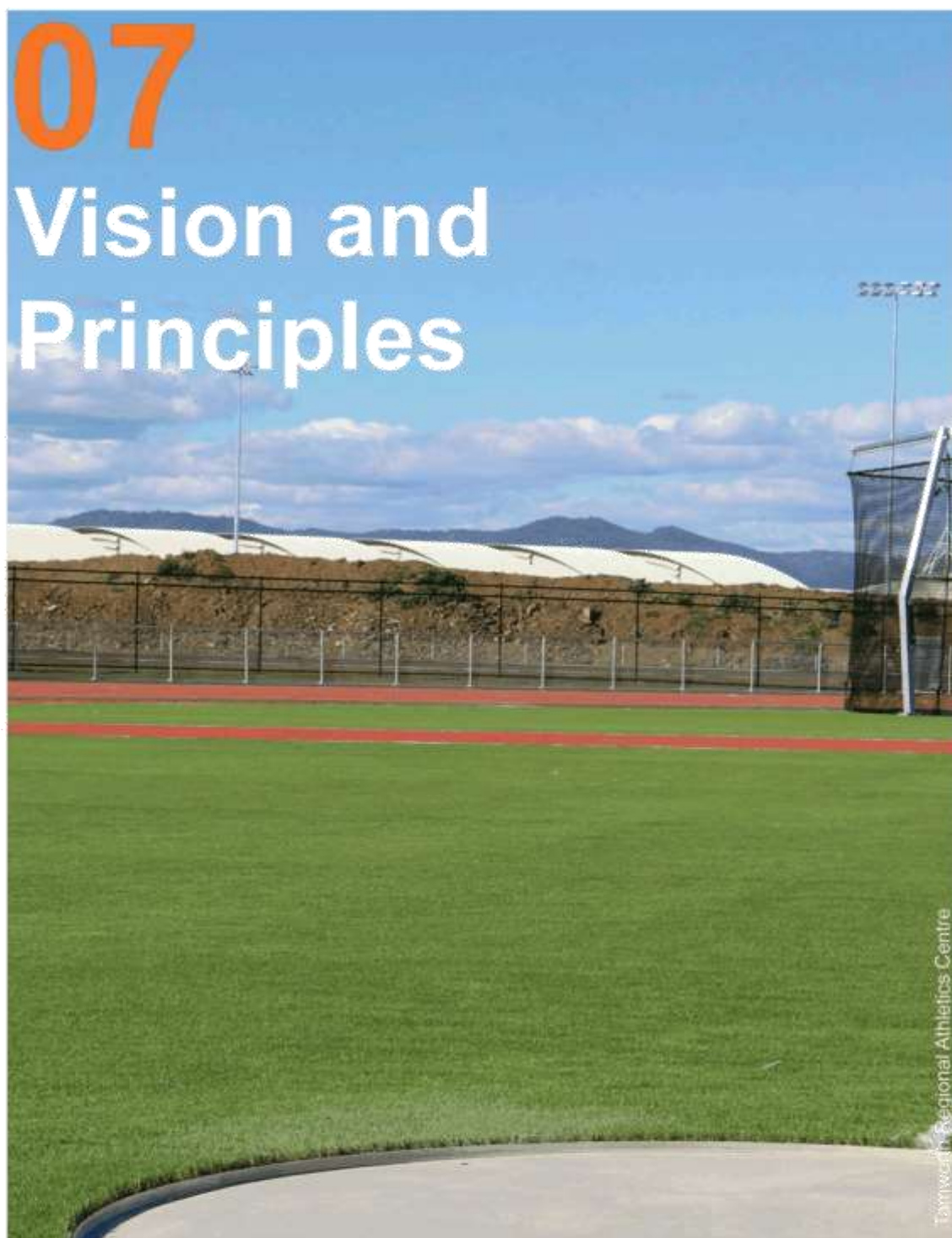
Table 17: Key Opportunities

<p>Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW</p> 	<p>Tamworth can capitalise on its position as the major centre for Northern Inland NSW, continuing to develop high quality, regional-level facilities to solidify its role as the sporting hub of Northern Inland NSW.</p>
<p>Maximising Usage and Attracting Events</p> 	<p>The Tamworth region has a range of sport and recreation facilities with capacity to sustain higher levels of usage such as the recently developed regional-level facilities at the NICSE. It is important that opportunities to utilise these facilities are promoted across the Northern Inland region and beyond.</p>
<p>Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities</p> 	<p>As sport and recreation facilities across the Tamworth region are progressively developed and/or improved, a key opportunity is to ensure that they are resilient to potential future changes, such as climate change, technology advancements and changing participation preferences, to remain fit-for-purpose into the future.</p>
<p>Effective Communication</p> 	<p>Effective communication is an important component of sport and recreation planning and maximising community participation. It is important to ensuring that sport and recreation stakeholders, and the wider community, are provided reliable information in a timely manner.</p>
<p>Inclusive Sport and Recreation</p> 	<p>Inclusivity in sport and recreation is an important aspect of development within a community. The benefits of active lifestyles are obtainable by all community members if opportunities are inclusive and accessible.</p>
<p>Capacity Building and Community Empowerment</p> 	<p>Community resources can be maximised through capacity building and community empowerment, particularly through encouraging meaningful contributions through well-supported volunteering roles.</p>
<p>Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre</p> 	<p>Development of the proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre will provide a high quality, modern and multi-purpose facility which will consolidate the requirement for the two existing 50 metre swimming pools in Tamworth which are aged, costly to operate and require renewal. It is important to note that the consolidation of aquatic centres shall not occur until the proposed new centre is constructed and fully operational.</p>
<p>Regional-level Oval</p> 	<p>Development of an oval for elite competition Australian football and cricket, as well as other sports at the NICSE will enable Tamworth to cater for the needs of Northern Inland NSW and attract significant events. It is important that this facility is designed to allow for future expansion, such as the development of a stadium in the future.</p>

06 Challenges and Opportunities

<p>Expansion of Riverside Sporting Complex</p> 	<p>Undeveloped areas of the Riverside Sporting Complex (i.e. along Locks Lane) offer the opportunity for the expansion of this precinct with new sport and recreation facilities, such as community accessible open space and multi-purpose playing fields.</p>
<p>Strategic Provision of Park-based Recreational Facilities</p> 	<p>With Council's Parks Hierarchy being developed, there is opportunity to review and align the service levels associated with provision and distribution of park-based recreational facilities, such as playspaces, outdoor fitness equipment and community courts. Ensuring a consistent and strategic approach will enable Council to meet community demand and expectations, acknowledging the rising popularity of informal recreation.</p>
<p>Recreational Trails and Active Transport</p> 	<p>There is significant opportunity for Council to enhance provision of formalised recreational trails and active transport routes which showcase the region, enhance connectivity, and encourage healthy, active lifestyles. This opportunity may include activation of the Peel River as an aquatic-based recreational facility.</p>
<p>Enhanced Tamworth Mountain Bike Park</p> 	<p>The Tamworth Mountain Bike Park is a well-established venue with a mountain bike trail network and a cultural walking trail. The site has capacity for expansion of the trails network integrating trails suitable people of all abilities (in line with Mountain Bike Australia's Adaptive Cycle Guidelines) and may have potential to attract national-level events.</p>
<p>Enhanced Provision of Youth Activity Spaces</p> 	<p>There is opportunity to enhance Council's provision of youth activity spaces across the region to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the community, progress with changing recreational preferences and facilitate informal recreation for young people.</p>
<p>Upgrade of Tamworth BMX Track</p> 	<p>Tamworth BMX Track offers opportunity for enhancement to become a state-level facility with capacity to host state series events and to bring other high-level competitions to Tamworth.</p>
<p>Expansion of Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct</p> 	<p>Oakburn Park Motorsports Precinct is a well-established motorsport precinct with capacity for expansion and diversification of activities provided for. Expansion of this facility provides the opportunity for the Tamworth region to host regional, state or national level events for a wide range of motorsports, as well as to facilitate activities such as driver training.</p>
<p>Long-term Development of Additional Indoor Courts</p> 	<p>While the Tamworth Sports Dome at the NICSE provides high quality and sufficient quantity of indoor and outdoor courts, future population and demand projections have identified the long-term future requirement for three additional multi-use indoor courts. It is proposed that these additional facilities are incorporated into an expansion of the Sports Dome at the NICSE. This requirement is to be considered into long-term planning to ensure that space is available for such development when required.</p>





07 Vision and Principles

Vision

The following vision has been developed as a reflection of the aspirations of the Tamworth region community in relation to sport and recreation.



A balanced network of high-quality sport and recreation facilities, clubs/service providers, programs and events which ensures Tamworth is the sporting hub of Northern Inland NSW and meets the needs of the growing and diversifying population. A network which enables sport and recreation to contribute significant social and economic benefit through maximising community participation, encouraging active lifestyles, attracting a wide range of events, and offering pathways for sporting excellence.

Key Components

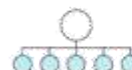
Planning for sport and recreation is multifaceted and interrelated. Consideration needs to be given to the three major components of planning: *facilities, clubs and service providers, and programs and events* which are detailed below. These components cannot be considered in isolation.

Facilities



- planning (strategies, feasibility studies, master plans, reviews)
- delivery (upgrades, new facilities, repurposing, collocation, multi-purpose, accessible)
- management (governance, occupancy agreements, programming, asset management, maintenance)

Clubs and Service Providers



- club development
- communication
- engagement
- accessibility
- volunteering
- partnerships
- training and development

Programs and Events



- targeted population groups
- events, programs and services
- resourcing
- communication and marketing
- inclusion
- pathways








07 Vision and Principles

Planning Principles

The planning principles outlined in Table 18 have been developed, based on community aspirations and industry best-practice, to guide the development and management of sport and recreation across the Tamworth region.

The planning principles are relevant to the three components of sport and recreation planning and underpin the Strategy and Action Plan. These relationships are illustrated in Figure 14.

Table 18: Planning Principles

PRINCIPLE 1 Maximum Community Participation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities, clubs and programs offer a range of accessible recreational opportunities targeted to the needs of the community and deliver associated health benefits to all people regardless of age, socio-economic status or ability. A balanced approach to the provision of facilities across community-level participation, as well as elite pathways, programs and events. A balanced approach to the provision of facilities which facilitate active lifestyles through informal recreation activities as well as through competitive sport.
PRINCIPLE 2 Shared Precincts and Community Hubs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate and practical, facilities are clustered and co-located with compatible users to optimise use whilst maintaining organisational identity and individual needs through adaptable and flexible designs.
PRINCIPLE 3 Sustainability		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities, clubs and programs effectively integrate long and short-term economic, environmental, social and cultural considerations. Facility and program developments strategically align with Council strategies to meet current and future community needs and provide value-for-money.
PRINCIPLE 4 Partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative approaches are used to plan, deliver and manage facilities, clubs and programs with the community, government, clubs, associations, educational institutions and the private sector. Partnerships are utilised to achieve community outcomes beyond sport and recreation.
PRINCIPLE 5 Working Together with Clubs and Community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs and the wider community are effectively engaged in the planning and design of sport and recreation facilities and programs. An inclusive culture of sport and recreation is achieved through club development programs, positive relationships and provision of facilities that support opportunities for all.
PRINCIPLE 6 Maximised and Validated Community Benefit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community benefit is identified, validated and maximised through the investment of sport and recreation facilities. Investments which demonstrate the maximum local and regional community benefits are prioritised.
PRINCIPLE 7 Effective Management and Maintenance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities are managed and maintained in a manner that promotes safe condition, minimises financial liability and complies with relevant legislation, policies and standards.

07 Vision and Principles

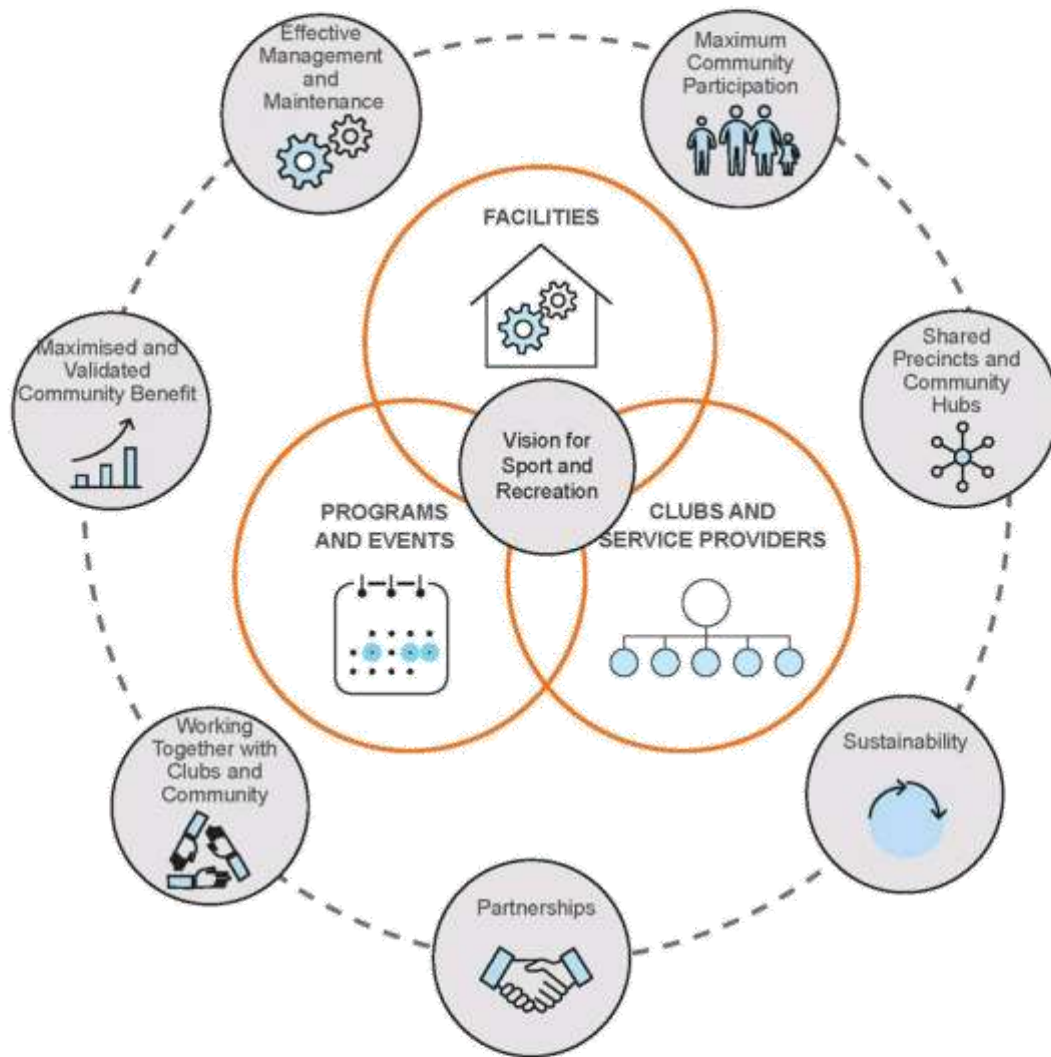
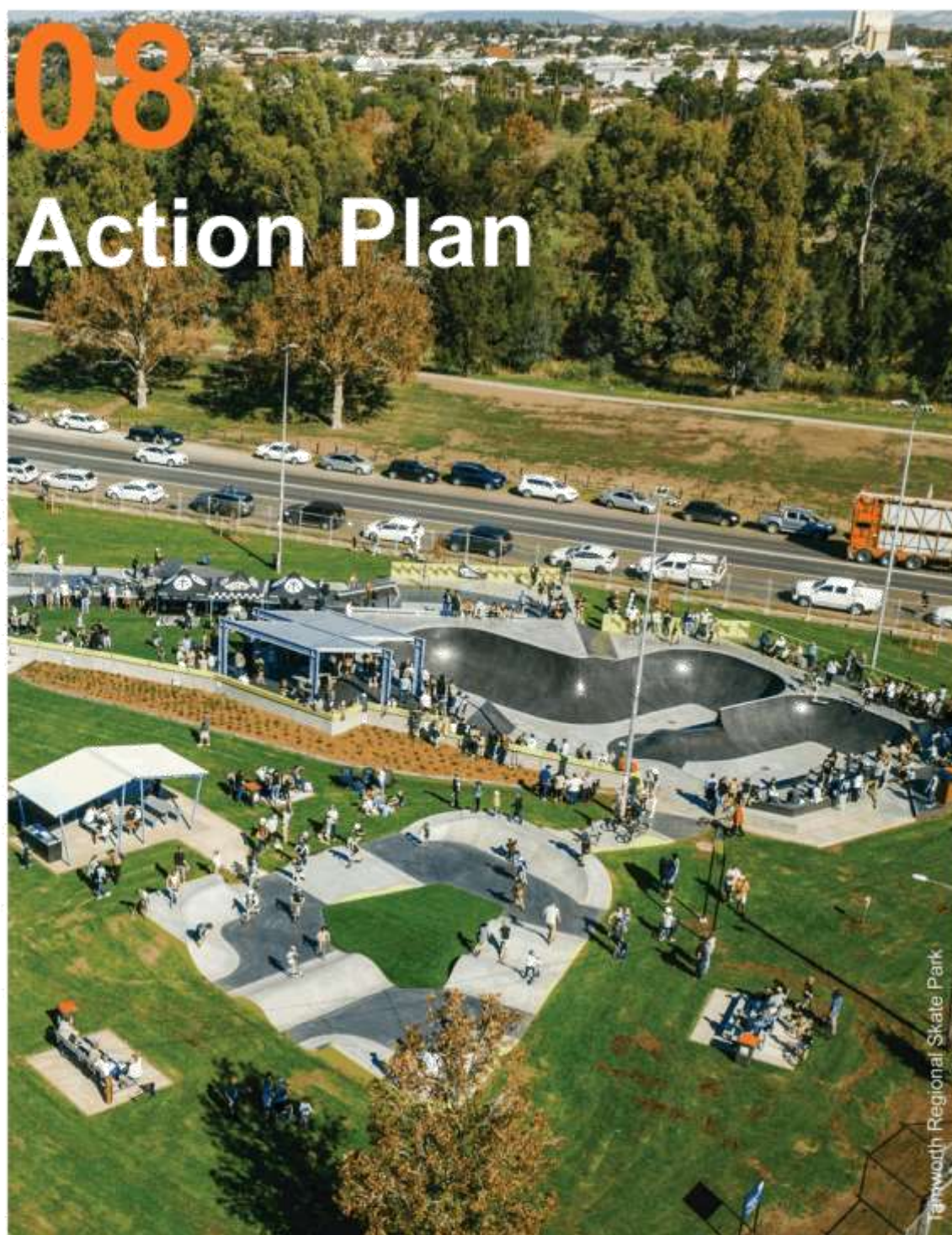


Figure 14: Interrelated Components of Sport and Recreation Planning



08 Action Plan

Strategy and Action Plan

The Strategy and Action Plan for developing sport and recreation across the Tamworth region is detailed over the following pages. Each of the three components of sport and recreation planning (facilities, clubs/service providers, and programs/events) have been addressed through a series of strategies and actions, which are guided by the planning principles, and strive to achieve the Vision.

Each strategy is provided with a supporting rationale, key trends (corresponding to Section 02), key challenges and opportunities (corresponding to Section 06), and a series of actions (with corresponding timeframes), partners and estimated resource requirements.

The Strategy and Action Plan has been prepared with the intention of remaining flexible to adapt to dynamic influences such as community needs, funding opportunities and technological advances.

Priority and Timeframes

In assessing the priority for each of the strategies, the following factors have been considered:

- alignment with the Vision
- alignment to strategic plans
- identified need
- community support
- level of planning undertaken
- feasibility
- safety.

Based on this assessment, timeframes have been indicated for each action using the following scale:

- immediate (2020 - 2022)
- short (2023 - 2027)
- medium (2028 - 2031)
- longer (2032 - 2042)
- ongoing.

The timeframe identified for the completion of each action is indicative and should be reviewed annually. The staging of investment will allow maximum value from the existing facilities as well as the sustainable provision of new facilities, services, and programs.

Partners

Partners who may be able to assist Council with the delivery of the action have been identified. It is stressed that without partner support it is unlikely that many of these actions will be achieved. The lead partner(s) are identified in bold, such as Tamworth Regional Council (**TRC**), alongside the assisting partners.

Resources

Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan will require significant resources from Council and its partners. An estimation of the resources (financial / human) required to implement each action has been identified. These are broad indicative estimates and should be reviewed prior to implementation. There has been no financial commitment from Council to implement the actions identified and relevant actions will be considered as part of normal annual business planning/budgeting and long-term financial planning processes. The Action Plan provides the following indicative resource requirements:

- low \$0 – \$100,000
- medium \$100,000 – \$500,000
- high \$500,000+

Funding Sources

In addition to Council funding, a variety of funding sources may be available to deliver the actions outlined in this Plan. It is important to note that funding programs often change, and it is important to source up-to-date information such as eligibility criteria and guidelines.




08 Action Plan

Overview

The 15 strategies which form the framework for the Action Plan are categorised into facilities, clubs and service providers, and programs and events.

The title of each strategy is outlined in Table 19. The complete strategy, with corresponding rationale and actions is provided on the following pages.

Table 19: Overview of Strategies

Facilities		
 Overall Objective: A balanced and high quality network of sport and recreation facilities across the Tamworth region which ensures Tamworth is the sporting hub of Northern Inland NSW, maximises community participation, encourages active lifestyles, attracts a wide range of events and offers pathways for sporting excellence.		
Strategy	Title	Page
1	Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE)	54
2	Council owned and/or managed regional-level sport and recreation facilities	58
3	Tamworth urban area - Council owned and/or managed district/local-level sport and recreation facilities	62
4	Towns and outlying areas - Council owned and/or managed district/local-level sport and recreation facilities	64
5	Non-Council owned or managed sport and recreation facilities	69
6	New developments	73
7	Facility management and operation	76
8	Research and planning	78
Clubs and Service Providers		
 Overall Objective: Empowered, valued, and supported sport and recreation clubs and service providers across the Tamworth region.		
Strategy	Title	Page
9	Governance, training and development	83
10	Volunteering	84
11	Partnerships	86
Programs and Events		
 Overall Objective: A calendar of high-quality, well-promoted and inclusive sport and recreation programs and events across the Tamworth region.		
Strategy	Title	Page
12	Events	88
13	Communication	90
14	Resourcing	92
15	Inclusion and access	94

08 Action Plan

Facilities

Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE)

1. Strategy: Strategically plan for the continued development of the NICSE, with the provision of regional, state and national-level facilities which cater for the local community, elite sport pathways, competitions and events, and maintain Tamworth's position as Australia's home of equestrian sports.

Rationale: The NICSE is a major regional sporting precinct in Tamworth, catering for the needs of Northern Inland NSW. Stages 1 and 2 of the development have seen the successful construction and opening of high quality, elite-level facilities of international, national and regional level significance. These include the Australian Equestrian and Livestock Events Centre, the Tamworth Sports Dome, the Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre, the Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre and the Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre. The provision of these facilities provides athletes from across the Northern Inland region with pathways to sporting excellence, attracts high level events and encourages local participation in sport and recreation. For Tamworth to continue its role as the regional centre for Northern Inland NSW, this world-class venue requires additional facilities to enable attraction and hosting of a wide variety of sports at regional, state, national and international level. While Tamworth, particularly at the NICSE, offers a wide range of impressive facilities, there is opportunity to enhance the variety of activities catered for in providing a regional-level sport and recreation hub. Proposed Stage 3 and 4 developments are:

- a regional-level aquatic and leisure centre, consolidating the requirement for two aged outdoor 50 metre pools in Tamworth which require renewal (Note: the consolidation of aquatic centres shall not occur until the proposed new centre is constructed and fully operational);
- a regional-level oval for Australian football and cricket, as well as other sports. While No. 1 Oval in the city centre is currently the premier venue for Australian football and cricket, this facility cannot cater for these sports at a regional-level (due to oval size and restrictions of the site). This oval will be maintained as a sporting venue but cannot cater for the needs of Northern Inland NSW or attract significant events;
- a Cricket Centre of Excellence to ensure that training facilities support the development pathways for elite cricketers across the region;
- a Sports House offering support facilities and a base for various sport organisations to support the NICSE as a regional sporting hub.













Future population and demand projections have identified the future requirement for three additional indoor courts, and a regional-level playing field to cater for Australian Football, cricket and other sports, when the region's population reaches 90,000-100,000.

While on-site group-style accommodation has previously been identified as a potential facility to be provided at the NICSE, it is considered that this may not be required or viable due to the extensive range and capacity of private accommodation providers (e.g. hotels, motels, caravan parks) accessible to the NICSE and the broader trend for sporting groups to prefer choice relating to accommodation.

Sport Australia, Sport NSW, and the NSW Office of Sport support the strategic direction of developing regional sporting hubs, and Tamworth's role as the regional centre for NSW has been cemented through being identified by the NSW Government as the regional centre for Northern Inland NSW. The *New England North West Sport and Recreation Plan 2018-2022* supports the continued development of the NICSE as a regional sporting hub to cater for the broader region.

Key Relevant Trends						
	Lifestyle and Community	Synergistic Policy Making	Female Participation	Asset Management	Visitor Economy	Partnerships

08 Action Plan

Key Opportunities	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	 Regional-level Oval	 Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre	 Long-term Development of Additional Indoor Courts	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre
Key Challenges	 Regional Catchment	 Population Growth	 Balancing Provision	 Aged Aquatic Facilities	 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	 Maintaining Tamworth as the Home of Equine Sports
Action						
<p>1.1. NICSE Stage 3 and 4 Master Plan: Undertake an update/revision of the NICSE Master Plan to progress with Stages 3 and 4 of development and continue with seeking funding for implementation.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a staged approach to allow for progressive development in line with Council priorities and funding availability facilitation of robust player development pathways continued provision of Australia's best equine sports facility provision of a regional-level Aquatic and Leisure Centre provision of a regional-level oval to cater for elite-level Australian football and cricket, as well as other sports provision of a Cricket Centre of Excellence with multi-purpose facilities available to a range of sports provision of a 'Sports House' to facilitate the co-location of the Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS) with other sporting organisations and access to elite-level training and support facilities outcomes of the Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study [Refer Action 8.3] ensuring that support facilities (i.e. lighting, clubrooms, changerooms/amenities) are provided to meet requirements of current and potential user groups continued provision of camping facilities accessible to the AELEC. consideration of the requirement and viability of on-site group accommodation future provision (when population reaches 90,000 – 100,000) of three additional indoor multi-purpose courts, catering for basketball, netball and for the needs of other indoor sports (e.g. skate sports). 						
				Immediate	Partners	Low
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Clubs/User Groups SSOs NSW Office of Sport Community 	

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
1.2. Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre: Progress with the planning process and attract funding to develop a regional-level Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Tamworth at the NICSE.	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Federal Government • NSW Government • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	High Estimated at \$50M+
1.3. Support Facilities: Enhance support facilities (e.g. canteen, first aid, and spectator seating/shade) at the NICSE to support attraction of elite-level competitions/events, as well as for activation at the community-level. For example, at the Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • SSOs 	Medium
1.4. NICSE Regionally Significant Sports Fields: Develop a regionally significant multipurpose oval sports field at the NICSE with footprint allowing for development of a stadium into the future	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	High
1.5. NICSE Tamworth Sports Dome: Develop three additional indoor multipurpose courts at the Tamworth Sports Dome, when the region's population reaches 80,000-90,000 residents, to cater for regional demand in traditional courts sports (e.g. basketball, netball) as well as niche/emerging sports such as skate sports.	Long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	High
1.6. Activation of Existing Facilities: Ensure that the wide variety of high-quality facilities at the NICSE are promoted for use by clubs/schools/participants across the Northern Inland region, as well as for competitions/events attracting participants from beyond this catchment. [Refer also Action 8.5 and 12.2]	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • SSOs • Destination Tamworth 	Low
1.7. AELEC: Continue with progressive facility enhancements at the AELEC to meet market demand – maintaining the existing high rates of usage/activation catering for a broad range of activities, with a focus on equine sports and events. Strive to maintain this facility's status as 'Australia's best equine sports facility'.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • AELEC • SSOs • Clubs/User Groups 	Low
1.8. NICSE Sports House: Develop a business case for a 'Sports House' that offers support facilities and is a base for development officers to administer their sports from the NICSE as a regional sporting hub.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • SSOs • Office of Sport 	Low

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>1.9. Planning for Additional Multi-use Indoor Facilities: Plan towards provision of three additional multi-use indoor sport facilities for when the Tamworth region population reaches 90,000-100,000.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilities to cater for sports such as basketball, netball, futsal, volleyball, badminton, and roller sports, as well as other sports as demand emerges in the Tamworth region (e.g. indoor hockey, squash, fast fives netball, 3 x 3 basketball). • identified requirement for a total of 10 multi-use indoor courts to cater for demand when population reaches 90,000-100,000. • need for access to support facilities (e.g. clubrooms, changerooms, spectator facilities). • co-location of multiple sports to achieve efficiencies in land use, provision of support facilities, maintenance, and operations. • provision of facilities for multiple sports with a 'home' atmosphere. • provision of adaptable courts/areas to allow for flexible use and responsiveness to future demand/participation trends. 	Longer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • SSOs 	Low

08 Action Plan

Council Owned and/or Managed Regional-Level Sport and Recreation Facilities

2. **Strategy:** Ensure that Tamworth Regional Council offers a balanced variety of regional-level sport and recreation facilities across the LGA which provide for the needs of Northern Inland NSW as well as local participants and attract tournaments, events and visitors from beyond this catchment.

Rationale: In addition to the NICSE, Council owns and/or manages a wide variety of regional-level sport and recreation facilities. It is important that this network of facilities is maintained to a high-level to optimise usage from across the Tamworth region and the broader catchment across Northern Inland NSW and continues to attract events and tournaments from beyond this region.








Council has recently prepared a Master Plan for the region's premier open space, Bicentennial Park, in consultation with the wider community. The implementation of this Master Plan will enhance the Tamworth CBD, provide connectivity between a number of sport and recreation facilities and open new sport and recreation opportunities associated with aquatic activities along the Peel River. The No. 1 Oval will be enhanced as a sporting venue, however, does not have the field area/capacity to host elite level Australian football and cricket competition, hence the proposed development of a regional-level oval playing field at the NICSE.

While the two 50 metre outdoor swimming pools in Tamworth are highly valued community assets, these facilities are aged and costly to operate. The development of the proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre will provide a modern and renewed aquatic facility which will meet and exceed standards and expectations of aquatic centres. It is important to note that the consolidation of aquatic centres shall not occur until the proposed new centre is constructed and fully operational.







The Riverside Sporting Complex is a key venue for field sports in Tamworth, providing for a wide range of popular activities across many multi-use playing fields. This area, including the undeveloped areas reserved for sport and recreation (i.e. along Locks Lane and Marius Street) offer the opportunity for the expansion of this precinct to ensure that popular field sports in Tamworth can continue to grow their memberships, while maintaining community access to the open space for recreational pursuits. A master plan of the entire sport and recreation precinct alongside the Peel River will ensure that the best options for development are chosen in the short, medium and long term, resulting in the highest level of community benefit. This master plan will likely need to be staged, with the initial stage providing an overall high-level plan for the riverside precinct, and following stages planning for sections of the precinct in further detail. This planning process should consider the opportunity and potential for different uses of the land over the short, medium and long term.

Many clubs/user groups using facilities owned and/or managed by Council are progressing with plans to seek funding for facility upgrades and expansions. For example, the significant planned upgrades at Treloar Park Tennis Facility (funded), proposed upgrades to the Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct and facility enhancements at the Tamworth BMX Facility. User groups taking this initiative to develop their facility is supported where it aligns with the vision, principles, and directions of this Plan. Council can support these groups to develop their business case and attract external funding.

There is significant opportunity for Council to enhance provision of recreational trails. A key opportunity for improvement is the improved connectivity between key destinations at Victoria Park and Oxley Park showcasing the region and encouraging healthy, active lifestyles.

Key Relevant Trends:	Individualised Activities	Active Ageing	Asset Management	Climate Resilience	Inactivity in Children	Visitor Economy
						
Key Opportunities	Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	Expansion of Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct	Expansion of Riverside Sporting Complex	Enhanced Provision of Youth Activity Spaces	Recreational Trails and Active Transport	Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities

08 Action Plan

Key Challenges	   				 	
	Regional Catchment	Population Growth	Balancing Provision	Flood Prone Areas	Water Security	Playing Field Capacity
Action						
2.1. Bicentennial Park: Implement, in stages, the Bicentennial Park Master Plan (2020) which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sports Venue/Festival and Event Space at No. 1 Oval with improved amenities/changerooms, fencing/access, lighting and power • improved pathways/connectivity incorporating a 'public art trail' • improved landscaping, park/outdoor furniture and lighting • passive recreational spaces • possible carpark extensions and maintenance facilities • additional play equipment linking with the existing Tamworth Regional Playground • improved access to the Peel River, including a potential kayak and leisure craft launching area. • a weir 	Ongoing	• TRC	High			
2.2. Viaduct Park Regional Youth Hub: Continue with the preparation of a Master Plan to guide the next stages of development of at the Viaduct Park Regional Youth Hub for optimised activation and provision of a range of activities targeted to engage young people.	Immediate	• TRC • Tamworth Regional Youth Council • Community	Low			
2.3. Treloar Park Regional Tennis Centre: Progress with the planned redevelopment of Treloar Park Tennis Centre providing facilities to host informal community use, club-based participation, regional/state tournaments and national/international ranking tennis events.	Immediate	• TRC • Wests Ent. Group • Federal Government • SSO	High <i>Funded at \$2.8 million</i>			
2.4. Oakburn Park Motorsports Precinct: Progress with planning process and seek funding for major upgrades at Oakburn Park Motorsports Complex with capacity to host club-based participation and regional/state/national level events for a wide range of motorsports including speedway, motocross, karting and drag racing, as well as rider/driver training services.	Immediate	• Tamworth Motorsports Association • TRC	Low			














08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>2.5. Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan: Prepare a staged master plan for the sport and recreation precinct along the Peel River (including Cross Park, Gipps Street and Plain Street Playing Fields, as well as the potential development areas adjacent Marius Street and Locks Lane to Scott Road) to guide the long-term provision of high-quality, regional-level sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes of the <i>Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study</i>. [Refer Action 8.3] • provision of playing fields for the following sports, as well as informal community use of open space: football (soccer); cricket; touch football; Australian football; baseball; softball; rugby league; rugby union; Oztag. • provision of multi-use playing fields allowing for flexible use and adaptations. • potential for different uses of the land over the short, medium and long term. • provision of fit-for-purpose support facilities (e.g. clubrooms, changerooms, amenities, sports lighting, car parking, cricket nets, spectator areas etc.) using innovative design, acknowledging limitations and specific requirements for flood prone areas. • facilities to cater for regular use, and capacity to host large-scale events/tournaments. • requirements of potential universities establishing in Tamworth. • reclamation of Barnes Gully. • optimised connectivity for walking/running and cycling across the site. • repurposing the site of the existing, disused netball courts. • optimised irrigation/drainage on playing fields. 	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • SSOs • Universities • Community 	Low
<p>2.6. Victoria Park and Oxley Park: Prepare a master plan for Victoria Park and Oxley Park to guide enhancement as a regional-level recreation precinct which showcases key destinations and natural areas. Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrades to infrastructure at the Oxley Lookout Park as a key destination for residents and visitors, and as the key trailhead for the recreational trail network. • enhancements of the Kamilaroi Walking Track including classification and signage in line with the <i>Australian Standard 2156.1 - 2001 Walking Tracks - Classification and Signage</i>. • enhancements of the existing walking tracks within the Tamworth Botanic Gardens and Tamworth Marsupial Park. • opportunity to develop a fitness trail to encourage active lifestyles. • formalisation and enhancement of the recreational trail which links Oxley Lookout, Tamworth Marsupial Park, Tamworth Miniature Railway and Tamworth Botanic Gardens. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Destination Tamworth • Community 	Low

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
2.7. Tamworth BMX Track: Enhance the Tamworth BMX facility to meet the requirements of regular club usage, state series events, and to bring other high-level competitions to Tamworth. Seek funding as required to continually enhance the facility in line with the needs of the Northern Inland region.	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Tamworth City BMX Club 	M
2.8. Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool: Continue to operate the Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool to meet community needs until the proposed new Tamworth Aquatic and Leisure Centre is constructed and fully operational, and the precinct developed in accordance with the <i>Bicentennial Park Master Plan</i> (2020).	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC 	High
2.9. South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool: Continue to operate the South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool to meet community needs until the proposed new Tamworth Aquatic and Leisure Centre is constructed and fully operational. Until then, explore opportunities for suitable options to repurpose this site for the benefit for the community.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC 	High
2.10. Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct: Continue provision of the Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct which supports elite-sport pathways and high-level competition/events for various football codes and provides high quality spectator experiences.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West's Ent. Group TRC 	Medium
2.11. Tamworth Regional Gymnastics Centre: Continue provision and activation of the Tamworth Regional Gymnastics Centre, to provide a high-quality facility, participation pathways from community-level to elite, and to host high-level gymnastics events. Seek external funding as required to continually enhance the facility in line with the needs of the Northern Inland NSW region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamworth Gymnastics Club TRC 	Low
2.12. Riding for the Disabled – Tamworth: Continue to provide an accessible facility for the provision of horse-riding programs and services to people with a disability, and to seek external funding as required to continually enhance the facility in line with the needs of the Northern Inland NSW region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riding for the Disabled – Tamworth TRC 	Low
2.13. Somerton Flying Field: Continue to provide the facility to meet the requirements of state and regional level rallies, and to attract participation/membership from across the Tamworth region. Seek external funding as required to continually enhance the facility in line with the needs of the Northern Inland NSW region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Tamworth Area Radio Model Aircraft Club 	Low







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Tamworth Urban Area - Council Owned and/or Managed District/Local-Level Sport and Recreation Facilities						
<p>3. Strategy: Ensure that Tamworth Regional Council offers a balanced network of sport and recreation facilities across the Tamworth urban area with provision of strategically distributed, quality and diverse district and local-level facilities.</p> <p>Rationale: District and local level sport and recreation facilities play an important role in the Tamworth region's facility network. These facilities support sport and recreation opportunities at the community level and tend to be more widely distributed, rather than centralised at a regional sports hub (i.e. NICSE) as many regional level facilities are. There are a number of district and local facilities across the Tamworth urban area which provide important sport and recreation opportunities and need to be maintained into the future. These facilities importantly provide for maximum community participation, and many are important in providing pathways to elite sport.</p> <p>As many of these facilities are in suburban areas with relatively low levels of passive surveillance, the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design are an important factor in facility provision to reduce the occurrence of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The playing fields at North Recreation Reserve are highly valued and well used facilities for football (soccer) which require upgraded irrigation and playing surfaces. Other facilities which require review and upgrades include Chaffey Park, Belmore Park, Chauvel Park and Kingswood Park which provide for Cricket. These ovals also provide for public use of open space, generally in suburban areas.</p> <p>Public access to public open space should be provided wherever possible. Currently there are three Council owned Rugby League or Rugby Union facilities which are leased to clubs with exclusive use (i.e. fences and locked gates). It is acknowledged that restricting community access is often important to leases/clubs to enable ticketed entry and protection of facilities from anti-social behaviour. However, where possible community access should be encouraged to district/local level facilities as well as flexible use of fields for multiple activities as required to meet demand.</p>						
Key Relevant Trends	 Individualised Activities	 Active Ageing	 Changing Preferences	 Asset Management	 Inactivity in Children	 Urbanisation
Key Opportunities	 Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities		 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events			 Enhanced Provision of Youth Activity Spaces
Key Challenges	 Support Facilities	 Population Growth		 Water Security		 Balancing Provision
Action				Timeframe	Partners	Resources
3.1. North Recreation Reserve: Progress with planned upgrades to the playing fields and support facilities at North Recreation Reserve Playing Fields and determine/implement the best option to improve irrigation of fields.				Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• North Companions Soccer Club	Medium










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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
3.2. Chaffey Park, Belmore Park, Chauvel Park and Kingswood Park: Review the provision of cricket and open space facilities at Chaffey Park, Belmore Park, Chauvel Park and Kingswood Park and determine the most effective use to maximise community benefit.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • SSO • Tamworth District Cricket Association • Clubs/User Groups 	Low
3.3. Exclusive Use of Council Owned Facilities: Review lease arrangements for Council-owned sport and recreation facilities with exclusive use arrangements. Seek to maximise community access and flexible use where suitable, while maintaining provision for ticketed entry to games. Arrangements may involve allowing for community use of facilities outside of regular club usage times. Exclusive-use (gated) playing fields include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Woolaston Oval • Ken Chillingworth Oval • Tamworth Rugby Park. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	Low
3.4. Viaduct Park Playing Fields: Maintain provision of community-accessible playing fields at Viaduct Park with fit-for-purpose support facilities including sports lighting.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups 	Low
3.5. The Youthie (Tamworth Youth Centre) and Centenary Park: Maintain provision of facilities for informal sport and recreation within The Youthie and at the adjacent youth activity space in Centenary Park. Consider opportunities to offer additional youth facilities in Centenary Park and ensure integration of the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	Low
3.6. West Tamworth Tennis Club: Continue to provide and activate the West Tamworth Tennis Club to a high standard, to provide club-based competition as well as hosting of tournaments/events. Seek external funding as required to continually enhance the facility.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Tamworth Tennis Club • TRC 	Low
3.7. Tamworth Croquet Court: Maintain provision of croquet courts and support facilities in line with the needs of the Tamworth Croquet Club.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Croquet Club • TRC 	Low

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Towns and Outlying Areas - Council Owned and/or Managed District/Local-Level Sport and Recreation Facilities						
<p>4. Strategy: Ensure that Tamworth Regional Council offers a balanced network of sport and recreation facilities across its towns and rural localities through provision of strategically distributed, quality and diverse district and local-level facilities.</p> <p>Rationale: District and local-level sport and recreation facilities play an important role in the Tamworth region's facility network. These facilities support sport and recreation opportunities at the community level and tend to be more widely distributed, rather than centralised at a regional sports hub (i.e. NICSE) as many regional level facilities are. These facilities importantly provide for maximum community participation, and many are important in providing pathways to elite sport. District and local facilities across the region's towns and outlying areas provide important sport and recreation opportunities. There are some venues, particularly in those managed by s355 Committees in rural localities, which were historically established to service larger active populations and sporting groups and may now be able to serve a new purpose for the localised area. A review of these sites is proposed. In consultation with residents and s355 Committees to ensure that the strategic direction for such provision is reviewed to meet current and future community needs. The district and local-level sport and recreation precincts in the towns of Koolingai, Manilla, Barraba and Nundle are key community venues and support key components of community life such as activities at recreation grounds, tennis courts and swimming pools. It is important that these precincts are developed and maintained to maximise community benefit for each of these growing towns.</p> <p>Council is currently in the process of preparing a master plan for Chaffey Park, Manilla in consultation with user groups and the community to guide the provision of fit-for-purpose facilities to meet the needs of the Manilla District community into the future. A review and/or master plan process is recommended for several key recreation precincts across the region to ensure that the facilities maximise community benefit. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brady Park in Manilla currently has an oval, turf cricket pitch and built support facilities which are in poor condition and are not well utilised. It is anticipated that facilities such as Brady Park may be able to service other needs (e.g. flexible open space) to maximise community benefit.• The provision of two sports grounds in Barraba with rectangular pitches maintained for competition is unlikely to be required with current and projected future levels of usage/demand. There may be opportunity to consolidate these and repurpose them in order to reduce maintenance requirements and maximise community benefit.• The Barraba Bicentennial Hall provides indoor courts for sport and recreation; however, the facility's current key user group is the Barraba Band. A review of the function of this facility will ensure that future decisions relating to maintenance and development are meeting the needs of the local community and maximising community benefit. The required function and future direction for this facility is to be determined in consultation with current and potential user groups as well as the local community. This process may also assist with further activating this underutilised facility.• With the reduced demand for playing fields in Bendemeer, the Football Ground may be able serve an alternate function, such as a flexible use passive recreation area, requiring lower service levels than a competitive sporting field. This is to be determined in consultation with the community. <p>The towns of Barraba, Manilla and Koolingai have skate parks which may be enhanced to provide additional youth activities, while Nundle does not have an existing youth activity space or skate park. This opportunity for provision is to be considered in the master plan for the recreation ground.</p> <p>The value of equestrian facilities in these towns are of paramount importance to ensuring that the region maintains its strong culture and reputation as 'Australia's home of equine sports'.</p>						
Key Relevant Trends						
	Individualised Activities	Active Ageing	Changing Preferences	Asset Management	Inactivity in Children	Climate Resilience

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Key Opportunities	 Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Enhanced Provision of Youth Activity Spaces			
Key Challenges	 Water Security	 Balancing Provision	 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	 Aged Aquatic Facilities	 Support Facilities	 Inclusive Sport And Recreation
Action						
4.1. Chaffey Park Manilla: Progress with the development of a Master Plan for Chaffey Park Manilla to guide enhancement as a district-level sport and recreation precinct which caters for a variety of sports as well as informal community use.				Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provision of facilities for the following sports, as well as informal community use of open space: athletics, cricket, touch football, rugby league, football (soccer), sustainable long-term water solutions for the playing surface,• irrigation and sports field lighting designs,• provision of amenities,• improvements to the children's play area,• maintaining provision of the existing youth area (skate park and learn-to-ride park),• potential for future enhancements to the youth area with provision of additional facilities,• connectivity to and within the site for walkers, cyclists and vehicles.				Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• SSOs• NSW Crown Lands• Community	Low
4.2. Brady Park, Manilla: In consultation with the community and current/potential user groups, review the purpose and function of Brady Park in Manilla and develop/repurpose in line with findings.				Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Manilla District Cricket Association• Clubs/User Groups• Community	M
4.3. Barraba Sports Ground and Barraba Rugby League Ground: Develop master plans for both the Barraba Sports Ground and the Barraba Rugby League Ground.				Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• S355 Committee• NSW Crown Lands• Community	Low
Key considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review of the utilisation of both fields• identification of efficiencies in land use, maintenance and operations.						

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
4.4. Bendemeer Football Ground: In consultation with relevant user groups and the community, review the function of the Bendemeer Football Club and seek to ensure the facility meets the needs of the current and future population of Bendemeer and district.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • User groups • Community 	Low
4.5. Barraba Bicentennial Community Centre: In consultation with the community and user groups, review the function of the Barraba Bicentennial Community Centre and ensure that a strategic direction is provided for this facility to meet the needs of the community and maximise benefit. Accommodate for flexible use and diversification of programs for activation of the facility.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Barraba Band • Barraba Central School • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	Low
4.6. Nundle Recreation Ground: Prepare a master plan to guide the enhancement of facilities at Nundle Recreation Ground to ensure that facilities are provided to a high standard and meet the needs of the community. Consult with the community and current/potential future user groups to consider the needs of both organised sport and active recreation, including the requirement for a youth activity space in Nundle.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Nundle Cricket Club • Peel Valley Bush Cricket • Clubs/User Groups • NSW Crown Lands • Community 	Low
<p>4.7. Koolingal Recreation Reserve: Prepare a master plan to guide the enhancement of Koolingal Recreation Reserve as a district-level sport and recreation precinct which caters for a variety of sport as well as informal community use.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koolingal has the highest forecast population growth rate outside of Tamworth urban area between 2020 and 2041 (17.67%) • provision of facilities for formalised sports, as well as informal community use of open space. (current sport usage: Rugby League) • sustainable long-term water solutions for the playing surface • Irrigation and sports field lighting designs • provision of amenities • continued use of the site for camping during the Tamworth Country Music Festival • improvements to facilities for children/young people • connectivity to and within the site for walkers, cyclists and vehicles. 	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • SSOs • s355 Committee • Community 	Low

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
4.8. Review of Facilities in Rural Localities [Refer Action 8.8]	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • s355 Committees • User Groups • Community 	Low
4.9. Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool: Maintain provision of the Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool to meet the needs of the Manilla and district community now and into the future.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	High
4.10. Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool: Maintain provision of the Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool to meet the needs of the Kootingal and district community now and into the future.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	High
4.11. Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool: Maintain provision of the Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool to meet the needs of the Barraba and district community now and into the future.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	High
4.12. Nundle Swimming Pool: Maintain provision of the Nundle Swimming Pool to meet the needs of the Nundle and district community now and into the future.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	High
4.13. Manilla Tennis Courts: Maintain provision of tennis courts in Manilla, maintaining and resurfacing courts as required. Consider opportunities to enhance support facilities.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manilla and District Tennis Club • TRC 	Medium
4.14. Barraba Tennis Courts: Maintain provision of tennis courts in Barraba, maintaining and resurfacing courts as required. Consider opportunities to enhance support facilities.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Barraba Town and District Tennis Club • Tennis NSW / Tennis Australia 	Medium
4.15. Barraba Air Strip: Continue provision of the Barraba Air Strip and seek opportunities to optimise maintenance of this facility.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Barraba Aero Club 	Low

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>4.16. Equestrian Sport and Event Venues: Maintain provision of the venues which facilitate equestrian sports and community events in towns /outlying areas and support the Tamworth region to maintain its position as 'Australia's home of equine sports'. Consider opportunities to enhance support facilities to meet the needs of user groups. Council owned and/or managed equestrian sport and event venues in towns/outlying areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barraba Showground, • Manilla Show and Sports Complex • Bendemeer Showground • Moonbi Recreation Ground • Duri Memorial Sports Ground. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • S355 Committee/s • Clubs/User Groups • Equine Sport Associations 	High
<p>4.17. Moonbi Recreation Reserve: Prepare a master plan to guide the enhancement of the Moonbi Recreation Reserve as a district-level sport and recreation precinct which caters for a variety of sports as well as informal community use.</p>	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • S355 Committee/s • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	Low
<p>4.18. Youth Activity Spaces: Continue to provide high-quality district-level youth spaces in Koollingal, Barraba and Manilla with progressive enhancements to ensure that attractive spaces are provided and activated. Existing skate parks should be enhanced as youth activity spaces with additional facilities such as pump tracks, parkour and other relevant youth focussed facilities.</p> <p>Skate parks exist at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Meara Park, Barraba • Chaffey Park, Manilla • Chaffey Street Reserve, Koollingal. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Community • Tamworth Regional Youth Council 	High
<p>4.19. Camping Reserves: Improve amenities for camping at Sheba Dams Camping Reserve, Split Rock Dam and Glenindie Reserve.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • NSW Crown Lands 	Medium

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Non-Council Owned or Managed Sport and Recreation Facilities

5. **Strategy:** Support the continued provision of high-quality sport and recreation facilities at non-council owned/managed venues, contributing to a balanced network across the LGA.

Rationale: Sport and recreation facilities owned and managed by organisations other than Council (e.g. clubs, private operators, schools) are important components of the region's sport and recreation facility network. It is important to ensure that the provision of these facilities to a high standard remains viable into the future.

There are some activities such as golf, lawn bowls, squash, paragliding/hangliding and shooting which rely upon provision from providers other than Council, and continued access for community use is to be encouraged. In some cases, Council is able to provide direct support through partnerships with community organisations to ensure the viability of their facility to maximise community participation and benefit.

School facilities offer important capacity options for sport and recreation. For example, in some urban areas, demand for facilities cannot be met by Council provisions due to factors such as land availability. On the other hand, in areas with low population numbers and densities, demand does not justify the provision of Council or commercially viable facilities. The community/shared use of school facilities is common practice across Australia through agreements between local councils and a school or education body. In the context of a growing population and increasing pressure on sports facilities, there may be opportunities to achieve synergies between the facility needs of schools/education bodies and those of the community. It is important for Council to maintain collaborative relationships with schools and the NSW Department of Education to share after-hours access to school facilities if/when the need arises for the efficient use of finite community resources. This is particularly likely in areas where population density does not justify the requirement for Council provision of facilities such as indoor courts and playing fields.

Key Relevant Trends	Partnerships	Informal Recreation	Active Ageing	Changing Preferences	Expectations of Governance	Adventure Activities
Key Opportunities	Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities	Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	Enhanced Tarnworth Mountain Bike Park	Recreational Trails and Active Transport	Effective Communication
Key Challenges	Maintaining Tarnworth as the Home of Equine Sports	Support Facilities	Balancing Provision	Encouraging Active Lifestyles	Regional Catchment	Water Security

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
5.1. Tamworth Mountain Bike Park: Progress with continued facility enhancements and activation of the Tamworth Mountain Bike Park and the integrated cultural walking trail. Planned enhancements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expansions of the trails network • trail enhancements to meet Mountain Bike Australia's Adaptive Cycle Guidelines • upgrade of facilities seeking to host national-level events. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Mountain Bike Club • Clubs/User Groups • NSW Crown Lands • TRC 	Medium
5.2. Mt Borah Launch Site and Mountain Bike Trails: Continue to provide and activate high-quality facilities at Mt Borah for Mountain Bike Riding and Hanggliding/Paragliding which host high level events and attract visitors to the region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Owner • Clubs/User Groups • TRC 	Low
5.3. Tamworth Bunkhouse: Continue to provide squash and beach volleyball facilities, maintaining opportunities for community access and social competitions.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Owner - Tamworth Bunkhouse • Clubs/User Groups • TRC 	Medium
5.4. Equestrian Sport Facilities: Continue provision of high-quality equestrian sport facilities with capacity to host events. Attract external funding where required for enhancements – supporting Tamworth to maintain its position as 'Australia's home of equine sports' and providing for Tamworth's unique and attractive country lifestyle. Non-Council owned or managed equestrian facilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Junior Riding Club • Tamworth Paceway • Koobah Equine Facility • Tamworth Jockey Club. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Owners/Clubs • Clubs/User Groups • TRC 	Low


















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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>5.5. Bowling Clubs: Support and encourage the continued provision of high-quality lawn bowls facilities which are used and valued by the community, host events and encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>Bowling Facilities (all non-Council owned or managed) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendemeer Bowling Club • Koolingal Bowling Club • North Tamworth Bowling Club • South Tamworth Bowling Club • West Tamworth Sports and Bowling Club • Oxley Bowling Club • Tamworth City Bowling Club • Manilla Bowling Club • Barraba Bowling Club • Nundle Sport and Recreation Club. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owners/Clubs 	Low
<p>5.6. Golf Courses: Support and encourage the continued provision of high-quality golf courses which are used and valued by the community, host events and encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>Golf Courses (all non-Council owned or managed) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longyard Golf Course • Tamworth Golf Course • Manilla Golf Course • Barraba Golf Course • Nundle Sport and Recreation Club. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owners/Clubs 	Low
<p>5.7. Shooting Sport Clubs: Support and encourage the continued provision of high-quality shooting facilities which are used and valued by members in the community, host events, encourage active lifestyles and provide for Tamworth's attractive country lifestyle.</p> <p>Shooting Facilities (All non-Council owned or managed) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Peel Valley Rifle Club • Tamworth Clay Target Club • Tamworth Pistol Club. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owners/Clubs 	Low

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
5.8. Tamworth PCYC: Support and encourage the continued provision of the high-quality and adaptable PCYC facility which offers a wide variety of active recreation and fitness opportunities, particularly for young people.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owner - PCYC • Clubs/User Groups 	Low
5.9. Nundle Tennis Courts: Support and encourage the continued provision of high-quality tennis courts in Nundle and collaborate with the facility owner to optimise community access to the facility.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owner - Fossickers Tourist Park 	Low
5.10. Dungowan Tennis Courts: Continue to provide tennis courts for community and club use in Dungowan, maintaining and resurfacing courts as required. Consider opportunities to enhance support facilities and seek external funding as required.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owner – Dungowan Tennis Club 	Low
5.11. Access to School Facilities: Work collaboratively with local schools to create a strategy that increases access to, and utilisation of, school sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Schools • Department of Education 	Low
5.12. Private Gyms and Fitness Centres: Continue to support the provision of high-quality, commercially viable gyms and fitness centres in Tamworth to facilitate active lifestyles of the growing population.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Facility Owners 	Low

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New Developments						
<p>6. Strategy: Ensure that new development areas are serviced with quality and flexible-use sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of growing and diversifying populations, to maximise community participation and to encourage active lifestyles.</p> <p>Rationale: The Tamworth region area is projected to experience strong population growth which will include higher density development in the city centre as well as numerous greenfield residential developments. New residential areas will require access to high quality sport and recreation facilities to enable active lifestyles and encourage maximum community participation. The <i>Open Space Development Guidelines</i> (Refer to Appendix E) have been prepared to guide the development of open spaces across the Tamworth region ensuring a consistent approach underpinned by best practice. These Guidelines refer to Council's <i>Engineering Design Minimum Standards for Subdivisions and Developments</i> (2019), and the NSW Government's <i>Draft Green Infrastructure Policy</i> (2017). New development areas must have sufficient land zoned for sport and recreation and it is important for Council and developers to work together in the preparation of master plans ensuring implementation with appropriate resources for ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>The University of New England (UNE) and other institutions are actively pursuing the establishment of campuses which could potentially host around 2,000 students a week with 50 staff and residential accommodation. This opportunity has been identified as suitable at the site of the former/disused Velodrome in the City Centre. It is important that sufficient sport and recreation facilities, programs and services are supported by the university to cater for anticipated growth in demand and diversity for sport and recreation activities.</p>						
Key Relevant Trends	 Partnerships	 Urbanisation	 Climate Resilience	 Changing Preferences	 Individualised Activities	 Informal Recreation
Key Opportunities	 Recreational Trails and Active Transport	 Strategic Provision of Park-based Recreational Facilities	 Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Effective Communication	
Key Challenges	 New Development Areas	 Support Facilities	 Balancing Provision	 Population Growth	 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	 Finite Resources

















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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
6.1. Hills Plain Recreation Reserve: Undertake a Master Plan for the Hills Plain Recreation Reserve to guide the staged embellishment of this land into a district level park to meet the needs of the community. Key considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable landscaping • formalised recreational zones • connectivity to neighbouring business precinct • public art • community gardens • shared community events space/s (e.g. for community markets). 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Developers • Community 	Low
6.2. Open Space Development Guidelines: Maintain regularly reviewed, up to date <i>Open Space Development Guidelines</i> (Refer Appendix E) to guide consistent methods and standards for the development of public open spaces that meet the collective needs of the Tamworth region communities. Update these guidelines to ensure alignment with Council's forthcoming Parks Hierarchy Plan and the NSW Government's forthcoming Draft Green Infrastructure Policy.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	Low
6.3. Compliance with Standards: Ensure that all developments comply with relevant standards, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's <i>Engineering Design Minimum Standards for Subdivisions and Developments</i> (2019) • Australian Standards (e.g. <i>Australian Standard 2156.1 - 2001 Walking Tracks - Classification and Signage</i>) • sport-specific facility standards (refer to relevant SSO) • relevant legislation (e.g. <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>). 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Developers 	Low
6.3. New Recreation Precincts: Ensure that adequate community infrastructure is provided to meet the demands generated by new development and that the existing community is not burdened by the provision of community infrastructure required as a result of future development, in line with Council's <i>Development Contributions Plan</i> (2013) and the NSW Government's <i>Open Space for Recreation Guide</i> (2018).	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Developers 	Low

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>6.5. Land Allocations: Guided by the Open Space Development Guidelines and relevant legislation and standards, advocate for appropriate allocation of quality, function and flexible-use spaces for sport and recreation activities within future development areas to meet the needs of the community.</p> <p>This could include the development of structure plans or land agreements that plan for appropriate sport, recreation and open space provision. Encourage provision of adaptable spaces which will encourage active lifestyles and maximum community participation.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Developers 	Low
<p>6.6. Connectivity/Active Transport: Ensure that new residential development areas provide recreational trails and walking/cycling routes to encourage active lifestyles and optimised connectivity.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Developers 	Low
<p>6.7. University Precinct: Support the development of a university campus and broader precinct in the Tamworth City Centre at the site of the former/disused Velodrome. Ensure that sufficient sport and recreation facilities, programs and services are supported by the university, and accessible from the campus, to cater for anticipated growth in demand and diversity for sport and recreation activities.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Universities 	Low

08 Action Plan

Facility Management and Operation						
7. Strategy: Ensure that management and operation of Tarnworth Regional Council sport and recreation facilities is forward-thinking, sustainable, equitable and is best practice.						
Rationale: The extensive suite of sport and recreation facilities/assets under the Council's ownership and control requires sustainable facility management and maintenance processes and systems. This is particularly important given the added complexity that many facilities are leased to sporting clubs who are responsible for general building maintenance and that most clubs have limited resources and are reliant upon volunteers. Ensuring compliance with relevant legislative requirements and standards is also important. There is also a need for facility managers including clubs and associations to continually develop and plan for the future including adapting facility management practices and developments.						
Key Relevant Trends	 Asset Management	 Partnerships	 Climate Resilience	 Online Communities	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Expectations of Governance
Key Opportunities	 Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities		 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW		 Tarnworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre
Key Challenges	 Regional Catchment	 Support Facilities	 Balancing Provision	 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	 Population Growth	 Aged Aquatic Facilities
Action				Timeframe	Partners	Resources
7.1. Aquatic Facility Business Modelling: Explore management of Council's six public aquatic facilities.				Immediate	• TRC	Low
7.2. Sports Dome Business Growth Plan: Prepare a business growth plan for the Tarnworth Sports Dome to identify opportunities for business expansion and a framework to achieve this, ensuring a sustainably operated facility into the future.				Immediate	• TRC	Low
7.3. Governance, Audits and Compliance: In line with occupancy agreements and Council's Asset Management Plans, audit sport and recreation facilities for compliance with relevant legislation, policies, standards and (e.g. risk management, Disability Discrimination Act, Australian Standards, lease requirements, inclusive sport cultures). Review audit on a regular basis.				Immediate	• TRC	Low
7.4. Education and Training: Continue to support ongoing education and training in best practice planning, management and maintenance for sport and recreation facilities for Council staff in the Sport and Recreation Division.				Ongoing	• TRC	Low

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
7.5. Higher Education: Advocate for the provision of higher education courses in Tamworth which support the development of the sport and recreation industry, such as Sport Management, Sport Science and Recreation Planning.	Ongoing	• TRC	Low
7.6. Smart Technology: Continually investigate new technologies for 'smart' management and maintenance, particularly in the areas of lighting (e.g. LED, automation/smart controllers) and irrigation (e.g. central control, moisture sensors).	Ongoing	• TRC	Low
7.7. Climate Resilient Facilities: Enhance the capacity of sport and recreation infrastructure and providers to adapt to a warmer and drier climate with more frequent and intense heat waves, droughts and more severe rainfall events. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating night/indoor/shaded events, competitions and training activities to allow for participation at cooler times/locations (e.g. revising schedules and programs, providing additional shading structures and installing/upgrading of sports lighting), • continuing to reduce reliance on potable water to irrigate sports grounds and increase alternative water sources (e.g. increasing stormwater capture and re-use and improvements to irrigation), • ensuring new facilities are designed to be resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and a changing climate (e.g. highly durable building standards), • ensuring that Council has frameworks in place to guide operations during times of drought etc. (e.g. Council's Drought Management Plan). 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	Low

08 Action Plan

Research and Planning

8. **Strategy:** Strategically research and plan for the continued progression of sport and recreation across the Tamworth Regional Council area to ensure the provision of a balanced network of facilities to meet the needs of current and future populations.

Rationale: It is important that the Tamworth region's sport, recreation and open space network is continually developed in response to strategically identified programs of works and demonstrated need, ensuring that investments in the facility network maximise community benefit. While the development of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan has included extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community, and assessment of future needs – further consultation and assessment is required regarding the plans outlined.

The initial developments relating to Council's *Parks Hierarchy Plan* have been developed and are intended to be finalised integrating and aligning with this Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan. This Plan will also inform several proposed subsequent planning processes, such as the *Open Space Re-investment Strategy*, the *Playspace*, *Outdoor Fitness and Community Courts Strategy* and the *Recreational Trails Strategy*.

The *Pool Maintenance and Asset Improvement Plan* is to be developed to ensure that Council has a robust plan for the ongoing management of aquatic facilities across the region. While the development of a Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre at the NICSE is a high priority for Council, it is also a high priority to ensure that the existing facilities in Barraba, Manilla, Koolingal and Nundle are operational well into the future, and that the two existing swimming pools in Tamworth remain operational until the new centre is constructed.

The *Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study* is to be developed for the Tamworth urban area in close consultation with SSOs and user groups. Council has access to significant portions of land along the Peel River for the future development of sport and recreation facilities to meet the projected future demand for turf playing fields. It is imperative that planning for these new areas comprehensively considers interrelated details such as the usage capacity of existing playing fields, sports lighting, water availability, user group requirements and lifecycle costing. This planning process will ensure that the development of playing fields maximises community benefit and meets the needs of user groups. For example, the inclusion of a synthetic playing field at the NICSE would significantly impact upon the required number of turf playing fields at the Riverside Precinct. Findings from consultation for the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan identified that key issues across the region's facility network primarily related to sports lighting, change-rooms, car parking and spectator facilities.

The *Major Sport Event Attraction Strategy* is also a high priority to support the activation of Tamworth's high quality and diverse network of facilities with extensive capacity for competitions and events. Ensuring that Tamworth attracts a wide range of high-level and high-participation events and tournaments will support the region's economy.

There are some venues, particularly those managed by s355 Committees in rural localities, which were historically established to service larger active populations and sporting groups and may now be able to serve a new purpose for the localised area. A review of these sites is proposed, in consultation with residents and s355 Committees to ensure that the strategic direction for such provision is reviewed to meet current and future community needs.

Key Relevant Trends	Changing Preferences	Synergistic Policy Making	Asset Management	Climate Resilience	Visitor Economy	Partnerships
						
Key Opportunities	Sporting Hubs of Northern Inland NSW	Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities	Strategic Provision of Park-based Recreational Facilities	Recreational Trails and Active Transport	Expansion of Riverside Sporting Complex

08 Action Plan

Key Challenges	Population Growth	Water Security	Balancing Provision	Aged Aquatic Facilities	Playing Field Capacity	Support Facilities
	Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources		
8.1. Parks Hierarchy Plan: Develop the Parks Hierarchy Plan as a strategic framework to guide the current and future provision and service of parks and open space across the Tamworth region.		Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC	Low		
8.2. Pool Maintenance and Asset Improvement Plan: Develop the Pool Maintenance and Asset Improvement Plan to guide Council's approach to the maintenance and improvement of Council's aquatic facilities.		Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC	Low		
8.3. Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study: In consultation with SSOs and user groups, review the current distribution, hierarchy, level of lighting, irrigation/water availability, support facilities and usage requirements of playing fields across the Tamworth urban area and assess options to meet the needs of projected demand to 2041. Key considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provision for football (soccer), rugby league, rugby union, touch football and Oztag, as well as other sports which may emerge (e.g. AFL 9s, ultimate). Refer Appendix D for projected facility requirements• co-location of multiple sports to achieve efficiencies in land use, provision of support facilities, maintenance, and operations• capacity of existing sports grounds to sustain additional use• water security and implications of climate change/prolonged periods of drought• requirements of potential universities establishing in Tamworth• alignment with Council's <i>Drought Management Plan</i>• sports lighting requirements for training and competition for each sport• site suitability for sports lighting (e.g. buffering from residential areas)• required support facilities (e.g. clubrooms, changerooms, spectator facilities)• provision of facilities for multiple sports with a 'home' atmosphere• provision of adaptable playing fields to allow for flexible use and responsiveness to future demand/participation trends• community access to public open space• lifecycle costing of synthetic pitches including sinking fund requirements• optimising Tamworth's ability to host high level events/competitions.• options for modern/ smart technologies e.g. LED lighting, automation/smart controllers, moisture sensors• identified requirement for additional multi-use natural turf rectangular pitches to cater for projected demand in line with growth projections and plans.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• SSOs	Low			

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
8.4. Open Space Re-Investment Strategy: Develop an Open Space Re-Investment Strategy, informed by consultation, the Parks Hierarchy Plan and the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan to guide Council's approach to redistribution and optimisation of the region's open space network.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC 	Low
8.5. Major Sport Event Attraction Strategy: Prepare a strategy to guide Council and its partners with a strategic approach to the attraction of major sport events to activate the diverse network of impressive regional, state and national-level facilities offered. [Refer also Action 12.2]	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Destination Tamworth SSOs 	Low
8.6. Playspace, Outdoor Fitness and Community Courts Strategy: Review the distribution of playspaces, outdoor fitness equipment and community courts across the region to ensure a strategic distribution in line with Council's Parks Hierarchy Plan.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Community 	Low
8.7. Recreational Trails Strategy: Prepare a Tamworth Regional Recreational Trails Strategy to strategically plan for the enhancement of existing trails and the development of new trails across the region, assessing opportunities relating to walking, mountain biking, horse riding and canoe/kayaking. Existing trails (informal and formal) identified across the region include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamworth Mountain Bike Park Trails Network Kamilaroi Walking Track Peel River Levee Bank Track Mount Borah Mountain Bike Trails Network (privately owned) Manilla River Walk Nundle Recreational Trail trails within Tamworth Marsupial Park trails within Tamworth Botanic Gardens trails adjacent to Sheba Dams Camping Reserve various trails within National Parks. 	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Clubs/User Groups Community 	Low

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>8.8. Review of Facilities in Rural Localities: Review the function and needs of sport and recreation venues managed by s355 Committees in rural localities across the Tamworth region to ensure that a strategic approach to provision is adopted, and that the venues meet the needs of communities in these localities now and into the future. This may involve upgrading, adapting or repurposing facilities such as tennis courts, recreation grounds/cricket ovals and community halls [Refer also Action 4.8].</p> <p>Sport and recreation venues managed by s355 Committees in rural localities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attunga Recreation Sports Ground • Dungowan Sports Ground • Duri Memorial Sports Ground • Moore Creek Recreation Reserve • Nemingha Recreation Reserve • Mangala Recreation Reserve • Mangala Tennis Courts • Pliamore Tennis Courts • Somerton Recreation Ground • Watsons Creek Recreation Reserve • Woolomin Recreation Ground 	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • s355 Committees • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	Low
<p>8.9. Master Plans: Continue to prepare master plans to guide the development and enhancement of sport and recreation precincts.</p> <p>Master plans identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRCSE Stage 3 and 4 [Refer also Action 1.1] • Viaduct Park Youth Hub [Refer also Action 2.2] • Riverside Sports Complex [Refer also Action 2.5] • Victoria Park and Oxley Park [Refer also Action 2.6] • Chaffey Park Manilla [Refer also Action 4.1] • Barraba Sports Ground and Barraba Rugby League Ground [Refer also Action 4.3] • Nundle Recreation Ground [Refer also Action 4.6] • Koolingai Recreation Reserve [Refer also Action 4.7] • Hills Plain Recreation Reserve [Refer also Action 6.1] 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Community 	Medium

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>8.10. Hierarchical Provision of Facilities: Where opportunities arise, align facilities with strategic hierarchies/directions identified by state sporting organisations.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis Australia's facility hierarchy, that seeks a balance of regional (16+ courts), sub-regional (12+ courts), medium (8+ courts) and local (4+ courts) tennis centres. Football NSW's Facility Hierarchy outlined in the <i>Facilities Strategic Plan 2014 – 2024</i> which seeks to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> national: first class facility with full broadcast lighting state: two synthetic fields, three turf fields, multi-purpose indoor sports centre with full size FIFA court + specific support facilities regional: several good quality pitches (grass or synthetic) + support facilities local: competition and training ground (turf) + specific support facilities 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Clubs/User Groups SSOs 	Low
<p>8.11. Strategic Facility Planning Training: Support and encourage clubs and service providers to prepare strategic facility plans. Consider introducing the requirement for business/facility plans to be prepared and submitted by the lessee/club when seeking future facility leases and for major funding applications through Council.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC Clubs/User Groups 	Low
<p>8.12. Integration with Strategic Plans: Ensure that strategic direction for sport and recreation is integrated into Council's suite of strategic planning documents and implemented accordingly, for example <i>Tamworth Regional Council's Blueprint 100</i> (2020) and Community Strategic Plans.</p>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC 	Low













08 Action Plan

Clubs and Service Providers

Governance, Training and Development

9. Strategy: Support training and development opportunities for volunteers and administrators of sport and recreation clubs, associations and service providers to continually improve their governance and management.

Rationale: Local government can play a key role in supporting local clubs, associations and service providers through the facilitation of training and development opportunities for volunteers, staff, coaches and officials. Organisations such as the Office of Sport, NSW Volunteering, Sport NSW and various SSOs/peak bodies provide training opportunities and there is an opportunity to partner with these organisations to deliver training and development programs. Up-skilling key stakeholders who manage provision of sport and recreation will assist in ensuring a more professional and effective sporting service will be provided to the community.

Key Relevant Trends	 Expectations of Governance	 Partnerships	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Lifestyle and Community	 Personalisation	 Increasingly Busy Lifestyles
Key Opportunities	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW		 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events		 Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities	
Key Challenges	 Regional Catchment		 Balancing Provision		 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	
Action						
9.1. Sports Operational Meetings: Continue to facilitate Sports Operational Meetings on a monthly basis to discuss and proactively improve day to day operations and functions unique to a sport. Continue the practice of publishing meeting notes on Council's webpage to ensure transparency and documentation. [Refer also Action 13.2]			Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• Service Providers	Low	
9.2. Training and Development: Support members of the Tamworth region volunteering community to upskill and attend relevant training courses which enhance the operations of sport and recreation clubs and build upon community-based leadership capacity. This may include training in subjects such as strategic facility planning [Refer also Action 8.11], child protection requirements, recruitment, retention and management of volunteers, event planning, financial management, risk management and governance.			Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• Service Providers• NSW Volunteering• SSOs• Community	Low	

08 Action Plan












Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
9.3. Club Accreditation: Encourage all sport and recreation clubs to become accredited with relevant schemes such as Good Sports, Football's National Club Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) or Rugby League's Blue Shield Program, which encourage good governance, and safe and inclusive environments which maximise community participation.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • SSOs 	Low
9.4. Healthy and Inclusive Cultures: Promote active and healthy lifestyle choices across all sport and recreation providers (i.e. responsible alcohol consumption, healthy eating) to encourage community involvement and facilitate a healthy, inclusive culture.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Service Providers • SSOs • Community 	Low

Volunteering




10. Strategy: Assist clubs and service providers in developing and maintaining strong volunteer bases

Rationale: Volunteers are the backbone of all community-based clubs and associations. Without volunteers, community-level sport and recreation would not function effectively. Sporting volunteers are the largest section of the volunteer market and there is a need to recognise this major contribution to the community through positive social, health and economic impacts.















Council currently facilitates an annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony which is integrated with further acknowledgements such as New England Volunteer Awards and NSW Volunteer Awards. Council also facilitates a volunteer program via RU Volunteering, which has the vision for the Tamworth region to be the Volunteer Capital of Australia, and to nurture and strengthen a community that has a culture of Volunteering. A virtual/online hub is facilitated for volunteer skills and contributions to be supported to have the biggest impact. Volunteers can also be supported by Council through ensuring access to relevant training.

Key Relevant Trends	 Lifestyle and Community	 Partnerships	 Personalisation	 Expectations of Governance	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Increasingly Busy Lifestyles
Key Opportunities	 Capacity Building and Community Empowerment	 Inclusive Sport and Recreation	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Effective Communication	

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Key Challenges	 Finite Resources	 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	 Balancing Provision	
	Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
10.1. Volunteer Recognition and Awards: Continue the annual volunteer recognition event for sport and recreation volunteers (e.g. administrators, coaches and officials).		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• NSW Volunteering• SSOs• Community	Low
10.2. Volunteer Referral Service: Continue to support RU Volunteering to provide a virtual hub as a platform for people seeking volunteer roles to match with compatible organisations seeking volunteer assistance.		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• NSW Volunteering• Community	Low
10.3. Volunteer Training Courses: Support members of the Tamworth region volunteering community to upskill and attend relevant training courses which enhance the operations of sport and recreation clubs and build upon community based leadership capacity. [Refer also Actions 8.11 and 9.2]		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• NSW Volunteering• SSOs• Community	Low

08 Action Plan

Partnerships						
11. Strategy: Foster partnerships with sport and recreation clubs, associations, service providers, schools, other Local Governments, state and federal governments to develop and provide sporting opportunities in the Tamworth region.						
Rationale: The delivery of sport and recreation across the Tamworth region is achieved through partnerships between all three levels of government (local, state and federal), schools, state sporting organisations, associations, clubs and the private sector. Without these collaborative arrangements to plan for and provide facilities, services and resourcing, sport and recreation activities would not exist in the format they do today. These partnership arrangements need to be preserved and strengthened to ensure the ongoing development of sport and recreation in the region. Regional planning and collaboration with relevant agencies should continue to be pursued along with specific initiatives to strengthen and support vulnerable clubs and associations. Ongoing partnerships will enhance cohesion of plans and can improve governance while achieving synergies between various objectives.						
Key Relevant Trends	 Partnerships	 Expectations of Governance	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Lifestyle and Community	 Asset Management	 Corporatisation of Sports
Key Opportunities	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	 Capacity Building and Community Empowerment	 Inclusive Sport and Recreation	 Effective Communication		
Key Challenges	 Finite Resources	 Encouraging Active Lifestyles	 Population Growth	 Balancing Provision		
Action						
11.1. Regional Sport and Active Recreation Council: Regularly meet with staff responsible for sport and recreation planning from other local government areas across the New England and North West region to discuss and collaborate on regional sport and recreation matters (on at least an annual basis). This meeting may be an opportune time to continually revise and update the region's Sport and Active Recreation Plan which was established as an evolving document in 2017.				Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• NSW Office of Sport• Other Local Governments	Low

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
11.2. SSO Regional Strategic Plans: Encourage state sporting organisation's (SSOs) to develop strategic plans for the development of their sport across the region. Provide direction and support for this where possible.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • SSOs 	Low
11.3. Cross-Sport Member Attraction: Support and encourage clubs and service providers to partner with other sports to encourage cross-sport member attraction for sports with complementary winter and summer seasons.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers 	Low
11.4. Establish and Maintain Partnerships: Establish and maintain partnerships with national and state peak bodies, private industry, government, non-government organisations and education bodies to enhance club development and participation.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • Education Providers • SSOs • NSW and Federal Governments 	Low

08 Action Plan

Programs and Events

Events
















12. Strategy: Actively seek opportunities to host sport and recreation events in Tamworth and support organisers to maximise the associated economic benefits.

Rationale: The Tamworth region is already home to an impressive calendar of sport and recreation events, attracting visitors from across NSW, Australia and in some cases internationally. The preparation of a *Major Sport Event Attraction Strategy* will provide Council and its partners with the necessary framework to ensuring continuity of existing events and to attract new event opportunities.

The Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELC) is a key contributor to the region's extensive event capacity, particularly for equine sports. This facility is also regularly used to accommodate a wide range of other activities (e.g. sidetar racing).

Tamworth also has hosting rights to a range of high-profile events such as the National Primary Games and regional and state championships in various sports and it is important to continually maintain these where possible, as well as apply for hosting of others. The region's capacity to host large quantities of visitors associated with events is supported through the extensive accommodation offerings and demonstrated during the annual Country Music Festival which accommodates 300,000 visitors across ten days.













Events play an important role in promoting sport and active recreation to residents and visitors and bringing benefit to the regional economy. Council can support the continuation of these events in the region by providing operational support and retrospective analysis and projections of event impacts.

Key Relevant Trends	 Visitor Economy	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Partnerships	 Corporatisation of Sports	 Expectations of Governance	 Lifestyle and Community
Key Opportunities	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	 Capacity Building and Community Empowerment	 Inclusive Sport and Recreation	 Effective Communication	
Key Challenges	 Support Facilities	 Water Security	 Maintaining Tamworth as the Home of Equine Sports	 Finite Resources		
Action						
12.1. Events Calendar: Develop and promote an events calendar for sport and recreation and make it available on the Council's website. Where possible, this may be part of a broader initiative across the New England North West region which aims to reduce clashes and duplication of events across the region.			Timeframe	Partners	Resources	
			Immediate	• TRC	Low	

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
12.2. Major Sport Event Attraction Strategy: Prepare a Strategy to guide Council and its partners with a strategic approach to the attraction of major sport events to activate the diverse network of impressive regional, state and national-level facilities offered. [Refer also Action 8.5]	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Destination Tamworth • SSOs 	Low
12.3. Hosting Rights: Establish and maintain hosting rights for a wide variety of sport and recreation events to be held in the region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Service Providers • SSOs 	Low
12.4. Operational Support: Provide operational support to sport service providers such as expertise in training, marketing and event management to support service providers to deliver successful events, programs and services across the Tamworth region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • SSOs 	Low
12.5. Data Collection and Analysis: Collect data relating to significant sport and recreation events to allow for retrospective analysis of the economic impacts to the regional economy, and to inform projections for future events.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	Low
















08 Action Plan

Communication						
<p>13. Strategy: Develop a range of informative and innovative communication initiatives to keep the community engaged and informed about sport and recreation opportunities in the Tamworth region.</p> <p>Rationale: Continually developing and maintaining strong communication and relationships with sport and recreation stakeholders is a key pillar of this Plan. Providing relevant and timely information through various communication platforms will be required on a regular basis.</p> <p>Sport Operational Meetings are held monthly with individual sport associations to discuss and improve day to day operations and functions unique to a sport. Sports are represented at these meetings typically by their president or key administrator and they meet with TRC's Sport and Recreation Development Officer and the respective Sports Supervisors. TRC has been conducting Sports Operational Meetings since 2016 and these have proved invaluable for both the local sport associations and TRC. The meetings have acted as a direct communication channel between sports and TRC and provided an avenue to maximise community benefit. The meetings have enabled all involved to establish and maintain strong working relationships.</p> <p>On a bi-monthly basis, Council invites sport association representatives to address the Council's Sports Working Group (SWG). The purpose of the Sports Working Group meetings is to provide all associations utilising Council sports facilities another direct avenue of communication with the Council regarding all matters associated with the representative's sport. This communication allows Council to identify and gauge areas of interest amongst the sporting community.</p> <p>Council can continually update and maintain a range of communication resources and platforms to support these ongoing relationships.</p>						
Key Relevant Trends	 Partnerships	 Expectations of Governance	 Lifestyle and Community	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Partnerships	 Expectations of Governance
Key Opportunities	 Capacity Building and Community Empowerment	 Finite Resources	 Inclusive Sport and Recreation	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Capacity Building and Community Empowerment	
Key Challenges	 Regional Catchment					
Action				Timeframe	Partners	Resources
<p>13.1. Sport and Recreation Contacts: Ensure that a comprehensive database of sport and recreation clubs and organisations is kept up to date to support club development, club sustainability and ongoing relationships. Ensure that contact details are routinely updated. This may be integrated with the existing <i>Tamworth Regional Directory</i>.</p>				Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TRC• Clubs/User Groups• Service Providers	Low

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Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
13.2. Sports Operational Meetings: Continue to facilitate Sports Operational Meetings on a monthly basis to discuss and proactively improve day to day operations and functions unique to a sport. Ensure that new organisations are included in such meetings and continue the practice of publishing meeting notes on Council's webpage to ensure transparency and documentation. [Refer also Action 9.1]	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers 	Low
13.3. Sport and Recreation Webpage: Further develop and continually maintain Council's web page dedicated to sport and recreation. Offer timely and relevant information on club development, events, funding opportunities (i.e. links to Grants Hub page), training and industry information. Consider enabling the community to sign up for alerts when new information is added which is relevant to their topics of interest.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	Low
13.4. Marketing and Promotion: Continue to market and promote sport and recreation opportunities and programs to the community. For example, social media posts, regular press releases or articles for local media highlighting local initiatives.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers 	Low
13.5. New Communication Technologies: Identify and promote new communication technologies and apps that encourage greater participation in sport and recreation.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • Community 	Low
13.6. Sports Working Group: Continue to facilitate the Sports Working Group on a bi-monthly basis to allow a direct communication between Sport Associations and Council to discuss strategic sport matters.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers 	Low

08 Action Plan

Resourcing						
14. Strategy: Obtain the necessary resources to effectively coordinate the implementation of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan. Rationale: A significant level of resources will be required to implement the actions and initiatives identified within this Plan including staff resources, internal and external funding support. There is an opportunity to access a range of funding programs in which recreation developments and programs are eligible to be funded.						
Key Relevant Trends	 Partnerships	 Asset Management	 Synergistic Policy Making	 Expectations of Governance	 Participation Costs	 Corporatisation of Sports
Key Opportunities	 Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW	 Capacity Building and Community Empowerment	 Effective Communication	 Maximising Usage and Attracting Events	 Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities	
Key Challenges	 Finite Resources	 Regional Catchment	 Population Growth	 Balancing Provision		
Action						
Timeframe			Partners		Resources	
14.1. Strategic Projects Coordinator: Ensure the function of Strategic Projects through continual support for an ongoing position, such as Strategic Projects Coordinator, with a focus on the implementation of this Plan.			• TRC		Low	
14.2. Budget Allocations: Ensure ongoing budget allocations for Council's Sport and Recreation Division to support the implementation of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan.			• TRC		Low	
14.3. Grants Hub Webpage: Continue to maintain Council's 'Grants Hub' webpage which offers a register of external funding opportunities for relevant organisations within the Tamworth region.			• TRC		Low	
14.4. Grant Information Sessions: Provide education and information sessions for sport and recreation organisations regarding best-practice for accessing grant funding. This may be linked with training courses relating to governance [Refer also Action 9.2] and strategic facility planning [Refer also Action 8.11].			• TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • NSW Volunteering • SSOs • Community		Low	

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
14.5. Support for Funding Applications: Provide letters of support to community organisations for funding applications which align with the vision and principles of this Plan.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	Low
14.6. Private Investment and Commercial Partnerships: Explore options for private investment and commercial partnerships for the continued provision of high-quality sport and recreation opportunities across the region.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Private Sector 	Low

08 Action Plan

Inclusion and Access

15. Strategy: Maximise community participation through ensuring that sport and recreation opportunities are inclusive of all people regardless of factors such as cultural background, gender, physical ability and affluence.

Rationale: Inclusivity in sport and recreation is an important aspect of development within a community. The benefits of active lifestyles are obtainable by all community members if opportunities are inclusive and accessible. There is an opportunity to support, encourage and facilitate various initiatives and programs that are inclusive of all people and target increased participation from specific population groups.
















Facilitation of Come n' Try Days are an important process in the recruitment of participants, and it is essential that these programs are approachable, inclusive of all people including children and adults, held regularly and are well promoted.

Council can maximise community participation and benefit through promoting programs and initiatives which break down barriers to participation in sport and recreation. For example, the NSW Government's Active Kids program which provides a voucher of up to \$100 for parents / guardians / carers to contribute to the cost of their children's membership fees in approved sport and active recreation activities.

Young people are the largest proportion of the Australian population that participate in the majority of sport and highly active recreation activities, with participation rates over double the rate of adults. It is critical to ensure that places where young people participate are safe and welcoming.

The success and increasing popularity of modified formats of various sports (e.g. Walking Football, T20 Cricket, AFL 9's, Tee-ball, 3x3 Basketball) has demonstrated the ability to assist in breaking down cultural and physical barriers, promoting inclusion and creating more opportunities for participation. There are innovative programs available to be established in communities to support maximum community participation by targeting specific inactive segments of the population and tailoring programs to suit.

Another common barrier to participation in sport and recreation is access to transport services. This is a common issue in widely distributed rural areas, as well as within urban environments. Transportation to access sport and recreation opportunities in Tamworth from towns such as Barraba, Manilla, Nundle and Koolberrig require significant time commitments for participants and families, and costs to individuals.

Key Relevant Trends	 Synergistic Policy Making  Lifestyle and Community  Partnerships  Active Ageing  Female Participation  Participation Costs
Key Opportunities	 Inclusive Sport and Recreation  Capacity Building and Community Empowerment  Effective Communication  Maximising Usage and Attracting Events  Resilient and Flexible-use Facilities
Key Challenges	 Regional Catchment  Balancing Provision  Encouraging Active Lifestyles  Population Growth

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
15.1. Come n Try Days: Partner with clubs and service providers to conduct 'Come n Try' days and similar participation events on a regular basis for both children and adults. Encourage integration with clubs and service providers to provide ongoing participation opportunities and encourage a non-competitive environment to encourage newcomers to try.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers 	Low
15.2. Promote Relevant Programs and Initiatives: Promote programs and initiatives which are facilitated by other organisations (e.g. the Active Kids Voucher facilitated by the NSW Government) to encourage the breaking down of barriers which prevent community members from participating in sport and recreation. Encourage clubs, service providers and schools to cross-promote such initiatives.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • NSW Government 	Low
15.3. Child Safe and Child-Friendly Environments: Support clubs and service providers to ensure provision of sport and recreation environments that are safe and friendly for children.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • SSOs • NSW Government 	Low
15.4. Targeted Groups: Encourage and support the delivery of sport and recreation events, programs and services which target people who are not currently participating in sport and recreation, or leading healthy and active lifestyles. This may involve specific programs developed to attract people in population groups such as: disengaged young people; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; persons with a disability; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; older people.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Clubs/User Groups • Service Providers • SSOs 	Low
15.5. Modified Formats: Encourage and support service providers with the provision of modified versions of sport and recreation activities to encourage maximum community participation. For example, walking football which encourages participation by people who may be less physically fit or able.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Service providers • SSOs 	Low
15.6. Inclusive and Accessible Facilities: Ensure that all new sport and recreation facilities are accessible to all people, and that a program of works is established to adapt existing facilities to be inclusive. For example, ensuring that facilities comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and that facilities such as changerooms are provided for all users of a facility.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Service providers • SSOs 	Low

08 Action Plan

Action	Timeframe	Partners	Resources
15.7. Regional Sport and Recreation Transport Network: Explore options for the development of a Regional Sport and Recreation Transport Network to support people living in outlying areas to access sport and recreation facilities, programs and events. Where possible this may be part of a wider network across the New England North west region. The network may involve components such as modified bus routes to align with sport and recreation programs/events and formalised carpooling arrangements.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC • Transport Providers • SSOs • Education Providers • Service Providers • Other Local Governments 	Low
15.8. Recreational Use: Ensure that sport and recreation facilities and spaces are accessible to the community for casual/informal participation, as well as organised sport.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRC 	Low

Appendices



Blossington Park, Tamworth

Appendices

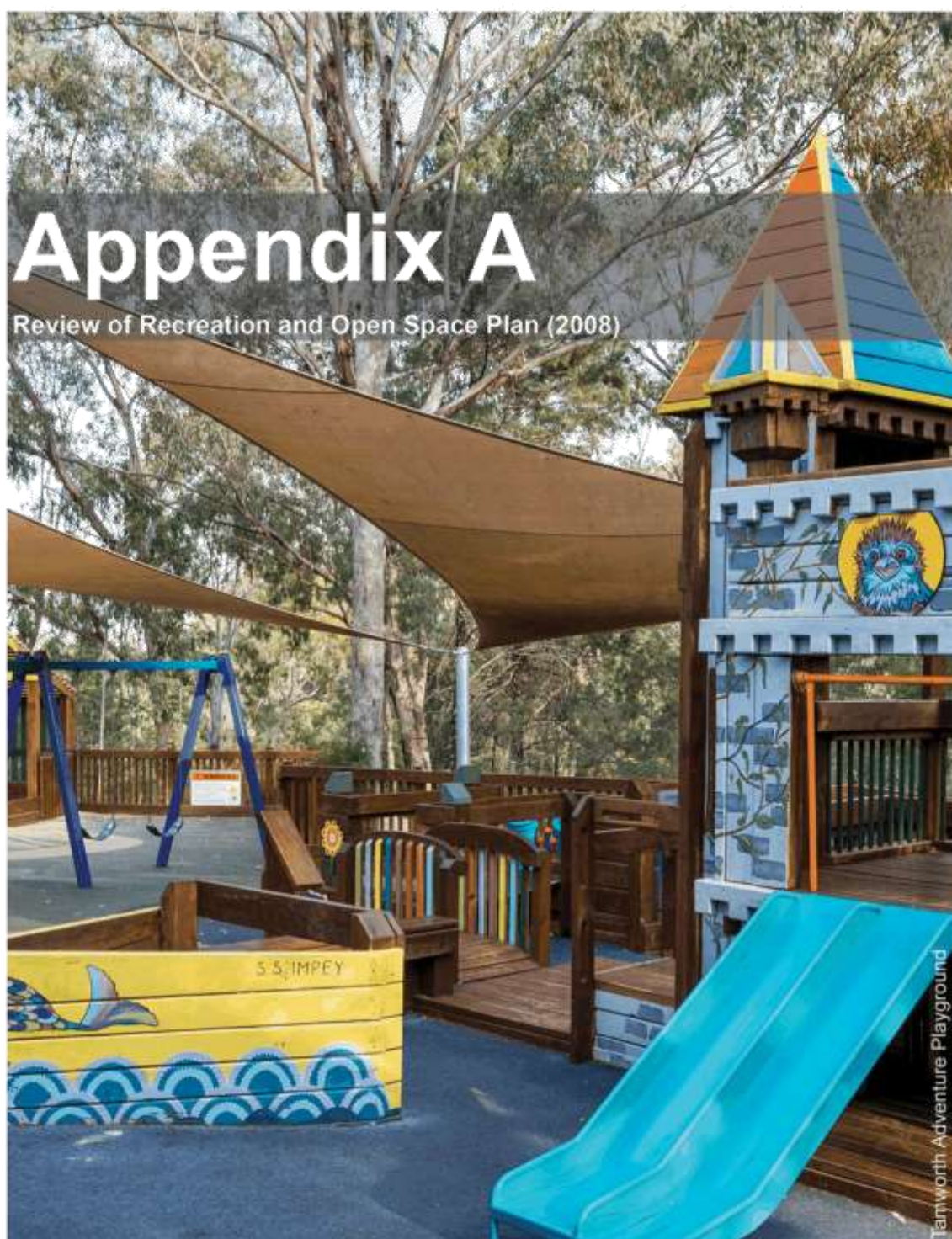
Appendix A: Review of Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008)

Appendix B: Background Review

Appendix C: Facility Inventory

Appendix D: Projected Facility Requirements

Appendix E: Open Space Development Guidelines



Version No.	Date	Description	Editor
1	19.05.2020	Draft 1	Tredwell
2	28.07.2020	Draft 2 - Amended following Public Exhibition	Tredwell
3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

Acknowledgements

Tamworth Regional Council and Tredwell acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our region.

The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

All stakeholders and community members who have contributed through an online survey, workshop or interview are also thanked for their time and effort.

Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

Disclaimer

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Background Information

In 2008, Council endorsed the *Recreation and Open Space Plan* (2008). This has provided direction for the development of sport, recreation and open space in the Tamworth region.

The recommended actions of this plan were grouped into the following five strategic areas:

1. viability of sport and recreation groups.
2. Council policies, coordination and management arrangements
3. maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and programs
4. new facilities, programs and initiatives
5. information and awareness.

The 2008 Plan has been reviewed to inform the development of the Tamworth Regional Council Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (2020).

The following tables outline the actions recommended within the 2008 Plan, with a comment on the status (provided by relevant Council staff in late 2019), and how this has been addressed in the Tamworth Regional Council Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (2020). Reference numbers for specific Strategies and Actions are provided where relevant which correspond to the Action Plan of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (2020).

The status column has been colour coded as follows:

Completed
Partially completed / Underway
Ongoing
Not completed
Superseded / No longer applicable

Review and Status Update

Strategic Area 1: Viability of sport and recreation groups

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<p>1.1 Provide support to the volunteer organisation and club sector to ensure the long-term viability of sport and recreation provision in Tamworth</p> <p>1.1.1 Facilitate a program of education and training for sport and recreation groups across Tamworth, focusing on identified training needs. Training and club development should initially focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic and business planning • funding and grant applications • club governance and committee management • risk management • volunteer management • advertising and marketing. <p>Contact should be made with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to explore the full range of available opportunities, including funding options.</p>	<p>Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.</p>	<p>Action 7.4: Education and Training</p>
<p>1.1.2 Pilot an annual forum for community-based sport and recreation organisations. The forums should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote information and resource sharing • provide networking opportunities • open communication between Council and sport and recreation groups • encourage education and training program co-ordination. <p>The forums could be delivered in partnership with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and should provide a platform to co-ordinate the delivery of information for the benefit of both community and Council. The forums could also provide a mechanism for Council and the community to monitor and evaluate policies affecting community-based organisations and help develop strategies to respond to emerging issues.</p>	<p>Status as of 2019/20: Superseded. Comment: Superseded by the Introduction of Sport and Recreation Sports Operational Meetings and Sports Awards.</p>	<p>Actions 9.1 and 13.2: Sports Operational Meetings</p>
<p>1.2 Provide support to the volunteer organisation and club sector to ensure the long-term viability of sport and recreation provision in Tamworth</p> <p>1.2.1 Liaise with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of, and access to funding opportunities 	<p>Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Council and the now Office of Sport maintain a strong relationship for the betterment of the community.</p>	<p>Action 13.1: Sport and Recreation Contacts</p>

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the co-ordination of an annual process for clubs to notify Council of changes to office bearers or their contact details. Details should be able to be made public to interested parties. 	Council maintains an up to date data base of sport contacts across the region.	
1.2.2 Develop a communication package from Council to inform club office bearers of key Council contacts, responsibilities and processes.	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Regular meetings established in 2016 between groups and Council staff involved in maintenance of facilities.	Action 13.1: Sport and Recreation Contacts Actions 9.1 and 13.2: Sports Operational Meetings
1.2.3 Develop partnerships with community organisations, government departments (NSW Department of Sport and Recreation NSW Health, Division of General Practitioners, NSW Education and Training) and professionals delivering recreation activity programs, information and advice to expand, target and promote appropriate new programs (e.g. walking, community recreation and physical activity programs).	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Council has established and maintains ongoing relationships with multiple organisations to assist with program development and delivery.	Action 11.4: Establish and Maintain Partnerships
1.3 Ensure formal sporting opportunities exist for females		
1.3.1 Actively assist volunteers to develop sporting clubs (e.g. netball, basketball or softball) that will provide regular opportunities for females to be involved in formal sport in outlying towns.	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Council provides resources to volunteers within the community and acts as a medium to connect volunteers and clubs.	Strategy 10: Volunteering Strategy 15: Inclusion and Access

Strategic Area 2: Council policies, coordination and management arrangements

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
2.1 Ensure an appropriate level of resources is allocated to achieve optimal sport and recreation outcomes		
2.1.1 Review recommendations in this Plan and co-ordinate priorities and timeframes across Council with other planning strategies. Undertake a regular process for undertaking reviews and reporting outcomes.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Many of the recommendations have occurred with capital improvements and new developments. All programs are reported through the appropriate channels internally at Council and to the appropriate constituents externally.	Action 8.12: Integration with Strategic Plans:
2.1.2 Complete a major review of this Plan within 10 years.	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Addressed by this project.	N/A
2.1.3 Review annual budget allocations for sport and recreation purposes to ensure adequate funding is available for the development and management of facilities. Council funding can also be used to attract external funding from sources such as NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Budgets reviewed annually.	Strategy 14: Resourcing
2.2 Ensure that community, sport and recreation groups have adequate support for seeking funding		
2.2.1 Investigate the possibility of employing an officer to work across Council departments and community groups to identify potential funding sources and prepare appropriate applications.	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	Action 14.1: Strategic Projects Coordinator:
2.3 Ensure appropriate tenure is available for sport and recreation organisations		
2.3.1 Develop a leasing/ right-of-use policy that clearly articulates roles and responsibilities, maximises community benefit and promotes sound management of assets, whilst ensuring all regular user groups have appropriate tenure to support their development plans and potential.	Status as of 2019/20: Underway. Comment: Currently being undertaken delivery expected June 2020.	✓
2.4 Ensure equity of support for 355 Committees and other community groups across the region		
2.4.1 Develop a consistent policy for fees, charges, maintenance and support mechanisms for community organisations/ committees that reflects the income potential and community benefit of organisations.	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: This was reviewed in 2017 and implemented. Reviewed annually.	✓

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
2.5 Ensure open space and recreation needs are reflected in statutory planning documents		
2.5.1 Update zoning within the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) to identify new park areas as detailed in Sections 8.3, 8.4 and Appendix Four.		
2.5.2 Amend Development Control Plans and Section 94 Plan to address findings of the open space assessment (Section 8), specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflect the need for improved embellishment of district parks • provide additional land development criteria to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ adequate road frontage ◦ regular dimensions ◦ minimum widths ◦ immunity from constrain by infrastructure/ drainage functions ◦ connectivity ◦ vegetation and landscaping ◦ diversity in play opportunities and park settings ◦ amend the desired standard of service to reflect the hierarchy of parks. 	Status as of 2019/20: Underway. Comment A: current strategic project underway with an expected delivery date of June 2020. This will provide a Parks Hierarchy and Re-Investment Strategy.	Action 8.1: Parks Hierarchy Plan Action 8.4: Open Space Re-Investment Strategy

Strategic Area 3: Maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and programs

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
3.1 Ensure appropriate future development at key sport and recreation sites		
3.1.1 Work closely with the individual organisations, peak bodies, Sports Working Group and other key stakeholders to develop appropriate plans for key sites, in particular:	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed.	Action 8.9: Master Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> precinct master plan for the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre and surrounds (e.g. Regional Sporting Complex, Tamworth Regional Events and Conference Centre, Longyard Golf Club and undeveloped land) master plan for the Regional Sporting Complex, including provision of a third synthetic hockey field and retention of one turf cricket field (able to accommodate grass hockey fields). 	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NICSE masterplan adopted 2014. This plan is currently being reviewed. Third hockey field under construction in 2020, as part of NICSE stage 2. 	Strategy 1: NICSE Action 1.1: NICSE Stage 3 and 4 Master Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> master plan for the Moonbi Recreation Reserve 	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete.	Action 4.17: Moonbi Recreation Reserve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> master plan for the sporting precinct from Jewry Street to Locks Lane (in light of relocations of sporting codes to this area) 	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete.	Action 2.5: Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan Action 8.3: Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> concept/master plans for district recreation parks including Hyman Park, Anzac Park, Chauvel Park and Powerhouse Park 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Hyman Park embellished to district park status in 2018/19.	Action 8.1: Parks Hierarchy Plan Action 3.2: Chaffey Park, Belmore Park, Chauvel Park

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strategic asset condition audit and master plan for the Barraba Showgrounds 	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete.	and Kingswood Park: Action 8.6: Playspace, Outdoor Fitness and Community Courts Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> review master plan for Bicentennial Park with the view to developing a regional recreation park with major play facility catering for all ages and abilities, and associated picnic/community gathering nodes. 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Bicentennial Park Masterplan updated 2020.	Action 4.16: Equestrian Sport and Event Venues: ✓ Action 2.1: Bicentennial Park:
3.2 Undertake appropriate planning and design to ensure spaces are attractive and functional		
3.2.1 As a general rule, establish concept/ master plans prior to the development of district or regional recreation parks and sporting complexes to prevent ad hoc development.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: This is carried out prior to funding/grant applications. Examples include the Bicentennial Park Regional Playground, Viaduct Park Youth Hub, and Centenary Park Youthie. Recently introduced charrettes for land released areas/Development Applications.	Action 8.9: Master Plans
3.2.2 Work with the Oakburn Park Management Committee to investigate opportunities to enhance the appearance of the bund and adjoining road side at Oakburn Park.	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: To be addressed in context of broader upgrade proposals.	Action 2.4: Oakburn Park Motorsports Precinct
3.3 Ensure a range of play opportunities are available for youth		
3.3.1 Develop additional play opportunities in parks throughout the region. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nundle—develop a playground facility to service the local community and visitors. This may include support for the plans of local groups. 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment:	Action 8.1: Parks Hierarchy Plan

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koolingal—develop a playground near Sandy Creek behind the War Memorial Hall • Manila—establish a skate park/ active youth space • Tamworth – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ develop a regional playground and supporting picnic and activity node ◦ improve district parks to provide for activities in a range of age groups and interests ◦ create a youth activity hub at the skate park by providing additional elements (e.g. courts, hit-up wall). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundie, Koolingal and Manila projects have been completed. • Tamworth - the Regional Playground and the Youth Hub have been completed. • District parks have been improved and others are still to be designed. 	Action 8.6: Playspace, Outdoor Fitness and Community Courts Strategy
3.4 Ensure parks are embellished to meet community needs.		
3.4.1 Develop additional play opportunities in parks throughout the region.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: To be further addressed in the development of the Parks Hierarchy Plan in 2020.	Action 8.1: Parks Hierarchy Plan Action 8.6: Playspace, Outdoor Fitness and Community Courts Strategy
3.5 Ensure open space is well maintained and attractive		
3.5.1 Undertake an audit of maintenance and safety issues across open space areas and develop a plan to address the backlog. Allocate sufficient resources to deliver improvements in a timely manner.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and maintenance of playgrounds has been developed and implemented. • A Risk Management Plan for parks has been prepared. • Audit of maintenance not carried out. • Sufficient resources not provided for improvements. Council undertakes monthly inspections. Complete audit not undertaken. 	Action 8.6: Playspace, Outdoor Fitness and Community Courts Strategy Strategy 14: Resourcing
3.5.2 Develop an asset management and replacement plan to ensure funds are allocated for capital replacement within the life cycle of assets.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed.	Strategy 14: Resourcing

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
3.5 Encourage and support sport and recreation organisations in applying for grants from external funding sources to develop and improve facilities and opportunities		
3.5.1 Prioritise assistance to those organisations that have identified their needs in either this Plan or through other development plans lodged with Council or New South Wales Sport and Recreation. In particular, encourage and support the following groups to obtain external funding:	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed.	Strategy 14: Resourcing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barraba Sports Ground—relocate cricket practice facility, rebuild the amenities and canteen facility and continue to pursue opportunities to use recycled water for field irrigation (and golf course irrigation) 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: New cricket nets were installed at the sports ground in 2019 and a bore water source has been established for the sporting field. The golf course has its own irrigation supply.	Action 4.3: Barraba Sports Ground and Barraba Rugby League Ground
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barraba Tennis Facility—upgrade the existing clubhouse 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Minor renovations to clubhouse.	Action 4.14: Barraba Tennis Courts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barraba Recreation Ground—develop a new amenities facility 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: New amenities have been built.	Action 4.3: Barraba Sports Ground and Barraba Rugby League Ground
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Koolingal Recreation Reserve—level and irrigate the field, install lights to competition standard and enhance spectator facilities (shade, covered awning and car parking) 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: The field has irrigation.	Action 4.7: Koolingal Recreation Reserve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. 1 Oval—install lights to AFL and cricket competition standard and upgrade shower facilities 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Lights have been upgraded. No action on showers.	Action 2.1: Bicentennial Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken Chillingworth Oval—install lights to competition standard 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed.	Action 3.3: Exclusive Use

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
	Comment: Oval has been leased by Pirates who upgraded the lights.	of Council Owned Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby Park—install lights to competition standard and investigate opportunities for additional parking in the Rugby Park/Viaduct Park precinct 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Park has been leased and the Magpies have installed lights. No action taken regarding car parking.	Action 3.3: Exclusive Use of Council Owned Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gipps Street Sports Complex—level, irrigate and re-turf the playing fields, upgrade existing lighting and install additional lights to competition standard 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Gipps Street Sports Complex has been upgraded with new irrigation, lights and turf.	Action 8.3: Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study Action 2.5: Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside Sporting Precinct (Baseball)—install lights to competition standard on Diamond 1 and investigate opportunities for additional car parking 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed. Comment: No action on lights for Diamond 1 or car parking.	Action 8.3: Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study Action 2.5: Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside Sporting Precinct (Softball)—install lights to competition standard on Diamond 1 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed. Comment: No action on lights for Diamond 1.	Action 8.3: Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study Action 2.5: Riverside

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside Sporting Precinct (Cricket)—level and top dress the Carter Street playing fields and develop a fit five net practice facility 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Four lane practice facility has been installed to a high standard. This facility has no fixed lighting however has power facilities for bowling machines and temporary lighting.	Sports Complex Master Plan: Action 8.3: Playing Fields and Outdoor Sports Lighting Options Study Action 2.5: Riverside Sports Complex Master Plan:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riverside Sporting Precinct (Netball)—investigate opportunities to enhance car parking (taking into consideration reduced pressure as a result of the new indoor sport development) 	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: Netball has relocated to the Sports Dome.	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaffey Park—rebuild and increase the number of cricket practice nets. 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: The two practice nets were renewed in 2019.	Action 3.2: Chaffey Park, Belmore Park, Chauvel Park and Kingswood Park
3.6.2 Investigate opportunities to develop additional spectator facilities (seating and shade) across all sporting facilities.	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed. Comment: Community priority has been for sport field lighting. The majority of sporting fields are on flood plain and spectator facilities are not appropriate in these areas.	Action 8.9: Master Plans
3.7 Continue the implementation of a well-designed and connected pedestrian and cycle network for residents and visitors.		
3.7.1 Liaise with community walking and cycling groups to establish priority pathway developments and include these in a revised Walk/Cycle Strategy.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Draft Cycle Strategy written in consultation with cycling groups.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
3.7.2 Ensure appropriate standards for pedestrian/cycle network development and maintenance, including assessment of safety and design criteria (e.g. minimum width and Austroad design guidelines).	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Design standard completed.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy
3.7.3 Investigate opportunities to develop pedestrian/cycle networks in sporting areas.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Cycleway/pedestrian pathways designed and under construction for Riverside Sporting Complex, to the Mountain Bike Park. Cycleway to NISCE constructed.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy Action 8.9: Master Plans
3.7.4 Continue the development of pedestrian/cycle opportunities in the region by initially focussing on:	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a link around the Manilla River between Cherry Street Park and the Sports Ground in Barraba 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a link along the Peel River in Nundle 	Status as of 2019/20: Completed Comment: Pathway completed along Peel River in Nundle.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing additional links within Hanging Rock (natural areas) 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a link along Station Street in Koolingal to connect the shops with the new development areas. 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop linking paths and trails within existing waterway parkland 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing visual connections through the street network to connect Chaffey Park and The Junction (Manilla) 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a link from Campbell Road (Calala) to King George V Memorial Avenue. 	Status as of 2019/20: Not completed.	
3.8 Improve parks, sporting and recreation facilities to meet a diverse range of user group needs and have safe and quality embellishments		
3.8.1 Continue to work with communities in rural centres to develop active play spaces for youth, including bike riding areas, hard courts and/or skate facilities. Investigate provision of a modular skate park system (mobile and flexible	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Have developed Barraba skate facility and multi-use court and Manilla skate facility and learn to ride track.	Action 8.8: Review of Facilities in

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
configuration) that can be rotated around skate facilities in the short term, ensure rural centres have adequate youth facilities permanently located in the long term.	No action on the modular skate items.	Rural Localities:
3.8.2 Consider developing a second skate facility on the southern side of Tamworth (Hyman Park).	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: It was decided as a result of community consultation that skate facilities spread across Tamworth would mean that the facility would be small and not functional. The decision to create a new more complex skate facility was preferred to be one that could hold a regional skate event. This was constructed at Viaduct Park in 2018-19.	N/A
3.8.3 Monitor the frequency with which the waterslide and high diving board are in operation at the Barraba War Memorial Swimming Pool. Ensure times of operation reflect community demand and increase frequency where staffing levels allow.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Water slide access for specific bookings and functions. Pool Supervisor and bookings staff monitor community requests and practicality of providing this service. Weekend access dominates bookings and staffing requirements. Inflatable play device is available for major events. The high diving board was removed.	Action 7.1: Aquatic Facility Business Modelling
3.8.4 Consider developing additional shade at the Kootingal-Moonbi War Memorial Swimming Pool.	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Additional shades have been provided.	Action 4.10: Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool
3.8.5 Monitor and evaluate the use, public benefit and operational cost of the Olympic Pool over time, in relation to proposed upgrades and changing opportunities at South and West Tamworth Memorial Swimming Pool.	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Aquatic Centre Business Case quantified the refurbishment costs for Olympic and South and West facilities if a new Centre was not developed. \$15 million and \$22 million respectively.	Action 2.8: Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool Action 2.9: South and West Tamworth War Memorial

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
3.9 Ensure the long term viability of recreation and sporting land use		
3.9.1 Protect disused rail corridors and investigate the potential for a Rail Trail from Manilla to Barraba initially, but potentially could link to Tamworth.	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete. Comment: No action has been taken.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy
3.9.2 Protect the use of Oakburn Park for motor sport and other difficult to locate activities through appropriate buffering from any residential land use within the Local Environment Plan (LEP).	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: The land for the park was rezoned to reflect the current use. No specific changes have been made in the LEP regarding a buffer zone. The existing land uses adjacent to the park which include chicken farms and a Council water reuse farm are such that development for housing is unlikely, along with the airport - making the area undesirable.	Action 2.4: Oakburn Park Motorsports Precinct
3.9.3 Investigate resource allocations across Barraba to ensure the Barraba Airstrip is maintained to a minimum standard for emergency service access as a priority in the long term.	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: Barraba road maintenance crew maintain the airstrip. Regular mowing. Emergency services preference is use of a helicopter rather than a fixed winged aircraft.	Action 4.15: Barraba Air Strip
3.9.4 Identify and protect publicly owned Travelling Stock Routes for their environmental values and long term potential to provide outdoor recreation/ nature appreciation activities.	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: Travelling Stock Routes are managed and maintained by Local Land Services. Not Council responsibility.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy

Strategic Area 4: New facilities, programs and initiatives

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
4.1 Ensure that community, sport and recreation facilities are available to meet community needs		
4.1.1 Work with the Department of Lands and appropriate user groups to consider plans for trail bike riding in the Tamworth region. This process would need to investigate the environmental and social implications of trail bike riding in the area and would involve community consultation.	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: Council and Crown Lands do not have an appetite for this type of facility due to risk and insurance issues.	Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy
4.1.2 Continue to progress the development of the proposed indoor sports facility. Through detailed consultation with relevant user groups and peak sporting bodies, the plans should be finalised and opportunities for funding confirmed.	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Sports Dome built in 2010. Further expansion completed in 2019.	✓
4.1.3 Investigate the development of a community park at the southern entrance to Barraba. This park could incorporate the disused railway line. Investigations should include consideration of potential constraints such as contamination.	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: No action has been taken. O'Meara Park is the more desirable recreation facility to be embellished to a district park standard.	Action 8.1 Action 8.4: Open Space Re-investment Strategy
4.1.4 Support the Tamworth Pistol Club's state government application for the development of an indoor pistol facility.	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Council supported the club with their grant application.	✓

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
4.1.5 Investigate opportunities for Connors Creek Reserve to be opened to sailing and boating (electric motors only).	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: No action has been taken. Glenniddie Reserve which is located at the top end of Split Rock Dam was embellished as camping and boating area due to the size of this dam being larger than Connors Creek. Access was also an issue where as Glenniddie was adjacent to an existing road.	N/A
4.2 Ensure that sport, recreation and physical activity programs are available to meet community demand and population changes		
4.2.1 Facilitate partnerships to develop a range of physical activity programs for residents (e.g. walking groups, aqua fitness groups and men's health program). These should target groups of high need (e.g. indigenous people and older residents). Facilities that should be encouraged to be used include local parks, swimming pools, tennis courts and walking tracks. Ensure programs are specific to expressed resident needs.	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Council employs a Programs Officer at the Sports Dome to organise and facilitate a variety of programs to continue and expand the use of the Sports Dome by the broader community.	Strategy 11: Partnerships
4.2.2 Work in partnership with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and Tamworth Youth Advisory Council to develop a range of regular youth activities, events and school holiday programs that are delivered across the region using local facilities and service providers (e.g. BMX/skate skills development, youth adventure camps and come and try programs).	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Sports Dome provides school holiday activities along with other activities such as disability sport days. The Youthie coordinates routine activities.	Strategy 11: Partnerships Action 15.4
4.3 Ensure that sport, recreation and physical activity programs are available to meet community demand and population changes		
4.3.1 Investigate and trial different delivery strategies when activities are conducted (e.g. buses for one-off events, deliver activities in all townships).	Status as of 2019/20: Ongoing. Comment: Council considers the broader social impact, such as transportation and travel strategies with all new and proposed projects.	Strategy 11: Partnerships

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<p>4.3.2 Review access arrangements/ procedures to facilities such as tennis courts in rural centres and the velodrome to ensure community use and benefit are maximised. Assist groups to make facilities available where appropriate.</p>	<p>Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Tennis courts in rural areas are managed by 355 committees or clubs. Prior to 2019 the velodrome track was accessed by local competitive riders at will. The velodrome and criterion track has now been replaced with a new facility which is open to the public.</p>	<p>Action 3.3: Exclusive Use of Council Owned Facilities Action 15.6: Inclusive and Accessible Facilities Action 15.8: Recreational Use</p>
<p>4.4 Increase the outcomes and value of obtaining external funding by Council and the community</p> <p>4.4.1 Council should seek external grant funding for initiatives in this Plan and others and assist the community to access grants by supplying information, training in grant writing and, time permitting, helping with key grant applications. Council may consider employing a Grants Officer to assist the community</p>	<p>Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed Comment: Council has sought grants for a number of projects identified within the plan. Information regarding grants is forwarded to relevant groups and clubs. No training has been provided to community groups or clubs. Council staff have assisted or completed grants for clubs. No grants officer position has been created.</p>	<p>Strategy 14: Resourcing</p>
<p>4.5 Ensure adequate parkland is available to meet the needs of current and future populations</p> <p>4.5.1 Acquire land in the Hills Plain, Moore Creek and Koolingal areas in line with projected needs identified in Section 8.3, with particular consideration for accessibility of roads for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists.</p>	<p>Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete. Comment: Council continues to work with developers and the community to ensure parks are embelished to the appropriate standard.</p>	<p>Action 8.4: Open Space Re-investment Strategy</p>

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
4.5.2 Ensure any rural/rural residential development to the south of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre is master planned to support equine friendly development, including appropriate horse trails (ideally linking to Kingswood area), stabling and exercise yards in conjunction with future development.	Status as of 2019/20: No longer applicable. Comment: No action has been taken. The land is not rural residential.	N/A
4.5.3 Address current and future deficiencies in the network through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • augmentation of existing parks to improve access, road frontage and visibility • acquisition of land to address deficiencies • consideration of the role of water storage areas within the open space network. 	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete. Comment: To be further addressed in the completion of the Parks Hierarchy Plan in 2020.	Action 8.4: Open Space Re-investment Strategy

Strategic Area 5: Information and awareness

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
5.1 Improve communication channels with Council and awareness by community organisations of their roles and responsibilities		
5.1.1 Develop and trial an information and communication package that aims to improve clarity of roles and responsibilities of Council, NSW Department of Sport and Recreation and community organisations. This should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leasing and facility management and maintenance • feedback and reporting procedures between Council and community groups to ensure communication is two-way • available funding programs and helpful funding application hints. Information should then be delivered through a range of mediums and forums.	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete. Comment: No action has been taken.	Strategy 13: Communication
5.2 Promote the recreation, physical activity and open space assets of the Region and improve public awareness of Council and its activities		
5.2.1 Develop an Outdoor Recreation Opportunities brochure promoting camping, walking and cycling opportunities across the region. Initially, Council will need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspect and repair any trails on Council land • install appropriate signage • map all trails • grade the trails according to difficulty 	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed. Comment: Some trails across the LGA have had minor improvements.	Strategy 13: Communication Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy

Actions	Status (as of 2019/20) Comments	Reference in Action Plan (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a brochure of the trails noting other opportunities such as camping opportunities, locations for water etc. 		
5.2.2 Assist rural centres to develop parkland and cultural trail pamphlets for their communities.	Status as of 2019/20: Incomplete	Strategy 13: Communication Action 8.7: Recreational Trails Strategy
5.2.3 Develop promotional brochure(s) for Tamworth parkland to promote and raise awareness of physical activity and recreational opportunities.	Status as of 2019/20: Partially completed Comment: Brochure created for Victoria Park precinct only.	Strategy 13: Communication
5.2.4 Ensure information and resources are available at information centres and key tourism points across the region.	Status as of 2019/20: Completed. Comment: Information brochures, which have been created and are available at all visitor centres.	Strategy 13: Communication



TREDWELL

Version No.	Date	Description	Editor
1	19.05.2020	Draft 1	Tredwell
2	28.07.2020	Draft 2 - Amended following Public Exhibition	Tredwell
3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

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Tamworth Regional Council and Tredwell acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our region.

The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

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Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

Disclaimer

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International Documents

Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 (World Health Organisation)

Overview

Vision: More active people for a healthier world

Mission: To ensure that all people have access to safe and enabling environments and to diverse opportunities to be physically active in their daily lives, as a means of improving individual and community health and contributing to the social, cultural and economic development of all nations.

Target: A 15% relative reduction in the global prevalence of physical inactivity in adults and in adolescents by 2030.

Objectives:

1. Create Active Societies
2. Create Active Environments
3. Create Active People
4. Create Active Systems

Current Situation

Worldwide, 1 in 4 adults, and 3 in 4 adolescents (aged 11-17 years), do not currently meet the global recommendations for physical activity set by WHO. As countries develop economically, levels of inactivity increase. In some countries, levels of inactivity can be as high as 70%, due to changing patterns of transportation, increased use of technology and urbanisation.

Physical activity levels are also influenced by cultural values. In most countries, girls, women, older adults, underprivileged groups, and people with disabilities and chronic diseases, all have fewer opportunities to access safe, affordable and appropriate programmes and places in which to be physically active.

The global cost of physical inactivity is estimated to be INT\$54 billion per year in direct health care, in 2013, with an additional INT\$14 billion attributable to lost productivity. Inactivity accounts for 1-3% of national health care costs, although this excludes costs associated with mental health and musculoskeletal conditions.

Opportunities

Physical activity can and should be integrated into the settings in which people live, work and play. Sport and active recreation can help promote physical activity for people of all ages and abilities. Globally it can be a key driver of tourism, employment and infrastructure, and can also help in humanitarian programmes.

Investing in policies to promote walking, cycling, sport, active recreation and play can contribute directly to achieving many of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Background

Regular physical activity is proven to help prevent and treat noncommunicable diseases, hypertension, overweight and obesity and can improve mental health and quality of life.

Societies that are more active can generate additional returns on investment including a reduced use of fossil fuels, cleaner air and less congested, safer roads.

This Action Plan provides a framework of effective and feasible policy actions to increase physical activity at all levels. It shows the need for a whole-of society response to achieve a paradigm shift in both supporting and valuing all people being regularly active, according to ability and across the life course.

National Documents

Blueprint for an Active Australia – National Heart Foundation

Synergies

Active living plays a key role in broader economic and social goals for our nation:

- walking, cycling and public transport are affordable and sustainable solutions to traffic congestion
- these same behaviours contribute to cleaner air, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable environments
- active neighbourhoods and cities are more liveable, with higher levels of social capital and community cohesion and lower levels of crime
- in the context of an ageing community, physical activity enables older Australians to live more active lifestyles with reduced risk from disabling and costly chronic diseases
- fit and active workers are more productive, take fewer sick days and make a positive contribution to our economic wellbeing.

Background

Our daily dose of physical activity can significantly reduce the risk of Australia's leading killers: heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Physical activity can also improve mental health.

The health effects of physical activity are compelling. However, the potency of physical activity as a policy investment for Australia extends far beyond health.

Definitions

Sport has been defined as 'a human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport'.

Active recreation has been defined as those activities 'engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity'. Participation in these activities is linked positively to physical, social and cognitive health.

Importance of Sport and Active Recreation

The value of sport has been calculated to be of great value to the Australian economy. It provides an estimated \$83 billion in combined economic, health and educational benefits each year, with a return on investment of \$7 for every dollar spent. In 2017, it was estimated that sport creates \$29 billion of net health benefits each year.

The latest sports and physical recreation participation data for Australia shows that:

- 45% of children aged 0-14 engage in after school physical activity or organised sport at least once per week
- physical activity participation is increasingly supported by technology, with 39% of Australian adults utilising a form of activity tracker or wearable device.
- 81 % of Australian children are not meeting the recommended Australian guidelines for physical activity
- nearly 70 % of adults are either sedentary or have low levels of physical activity
- two-thirds of adults and one-quarter of children are overweight or obese.

What can be done?

Implement policies to promote sport and active recreation, such as:

- continue funding local government to maintain, improve and expand local sporting and recreation facilities
- develop public open-space policies
- protect existing public open space
- design for 'multifunctional open space'.
- facilitate cooperative planning, funding and management partnerships
- joint use agreements to overcome resource constraints/ensure equitable access
- strengthen the corporate and governance structures
- all-weather sports pitches such as artificial playing surfaces.

Improve sport and recreational facilities, such as:

- improve the quality and functions of public open spaces to attract more user groups
- sports buildings such as pavilions, clubhouses, change rooms should be valued and maintained
- sports building design should also consider inclusion of ancillary facilities that help enable people to participate
- identify opportunities to integrate sports activities and equipment with other uses
- integrating fitness trails and outdoor gym equipment into public open spaces.

Promote participation in sport and active recreation among at-risk groups and across their lifespan, such as:

- programs to promote and maintain participation during key life transitions
- provide training and education of high-quality coaches at all levels of sport
- provide opportunities for people of all abilities, gender, ethnicity and religion
- use sport as a tool to create social change
- provide subsidies for participation costs
- recognise the growing importance of technology to improve access.

Sport 2030

Vision for Australian Sport in 2030:

Australia is the world's most active, healthy sporting nation, known for its integrity and excellence.

Mission:

- reduce inactivity by 15% by 2030
- international sporting success
- a fair, safe and strong sport sector
- a thriving sport and recreation industry.

Strategic Priorities:

- Build a more active Australia — More Australians, more active, more often
- Achieving sporting excellence — National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success
- Safeguarding the integrity of sport — A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry — A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry

Targets:

- Improve the physical health of Australians — including reduced risk of chronic conditions
- Improve the mental health of Australians — including the improved management of mental illness and greater social connectedness
- Grow personal development — being active can help everyone endeavour to be their best self
- Strengthen our communities — through improved cohesion and reduced isolation
- Grow Australia's economy — building on the already significant contribution of sport to the Australian economy.

State Documents

20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW (July 2018)

Goal for 2038:

People living in our regions in 2038 will enjoy higher standards of living, greater cultural and community engagement, and healthier and happier lifestyles than today. This will be through better incomes, job opportunities, services, infrastructure, access to housing, and support from youth through to old age.

This Strategy sets out a pathway for ensuring regional NSW will continue to be a vibrant and growing part of the NSW economy and that people are supported in the decision to live in the regions. The Vision has goals to ensure regional living has greater community engagement, healthier and happier lifestyles.

Tamworth Regional Council LGA fits within the 'lower north west' economic region, which is identified as a 'growth centre'.

Regional NSW is Australia's largest and most diverse regional economy. Rich with natural resources, it is home to a third of the state's population and produces one-fifth of NSW's gross state product. Regional NSW has thriving agricultural, energy and resources industries and strong manufacturing, tourism and service sectors.

'Growth centres' are hubs of growth in regional NSW. Populations are rapidly increasing as people migrate to regional cities such as Bathurst, Orange, Tamworth, Dubbo, Lismore, Wagga Wagga and Coffs Harbour, attracted by their lifestyles and employment industries. The hubs in growth centres typically provide sophisticated health, education and cultural services to surrounding inland areas.

Migration to Regional NSW

Regional NSW attracted 12,000 more residents overall in the 2015–16 financial year. Close to 90,000 people moved into regional NSW, with many of these new residents coming from greater Sydney. This continues a long-term trend of migration out of Sydney towards growing regional centres in NSW.

Large proportions of new residents are also moving from Queensland and Victoria. While some people are also moving away from the regions, net migration to regional NSW is still positive. Although overseas migration typically contributes less to growth in regional NSW than in Sydney, some international migrants and refugees are settling in regional areas.

Large proportions of new residents are also moving from Queensland and Victoria. While some people are also moving away from the regions, net migration to regional NSW is still positive. Although overseas migration typically contributes less to growth in regional NSW than in Sydney, some international migrants and refugees are settling in regional areas.

Mega Trends Affecting Regional NSW

- The rise of Asia: By 2030, four of the five largest economies will be in Asia: China, India, Japan and Indonesia.
- Rapid Urbanisation: in NSW, people are increasingly moving to urban centres other than Sydney.
- Demographic and Social Change: Australia's population is ageing, with the over-65s soon to be the fastest growing segment of the population.
- Digital Disruption: Digital technology has been progressing exponentially. The increasingly disruptive potential of data, connectivity and mobility will continue to drive and accelerate big change in the economy.

The NSW State Infrastructure Strategy Update (2014)

Key Priority

To deliver targeted upgrades to the State's cultural, sporting and environmental infrastructure to drive growth in the visitor economy, realise the economic and social benefits and support local participation, creativity and liveability.

Key Opportunity

To create regional creative hubs and cultural precincts across the state, including utilising digital infrastructure to drive local and tourist visitation and innovative use of existing community infrastructure.

Key relevant challenges:

- revitalise the NSW cultural, sports and tourism economies
- move away from ad hoc investment decisions to better target investment towards renewing ageing cultural and sporting infrastructure, strengthening defined precincts, and providing better facilities to more people
- maintain competitiveness in the events market through investment in stadia
- engage in meaningful partnerships with local councils in the cities of Newcastle and Wollongong and across regional NSW
- support tourism and environmental initiatives in regional NSW.

Key relevant opportunities:

- Create regional creative hubs and cultural precincts across the state, including utilising digital infrastructure to drive local and tourist visitation and innovative use of existing community infrastructure.

Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Vision

A vibrant and valued sport and active recreation sector that enhances the lives of the people of NSW.

Key relevant targets:

- 100% utilisation of facilities.
- 80% of State Sporting Organisations with sound organisational health.
- 65% of NSW adults participating in regular physical activity by 2025.
- 30% of NSW children participating in regular physical activity outside of school by 2020.

The sport and active recreation sector contributes around \$10 billion annually to the NSW Gross State Product. Sport and active recreation contribute significantly to health, economy, social wellbeing and liveability.

Key challenges and opportunities:

- shifting participation landscape
- sector sustainability
- access to places and spaces
- integrity in sport
- customer expectations
- high performance success
- availability and analysis of data
- partnerships

Priorities:

1. Places and Spaces: Well managed facilities that meet the needs of users and investors.
2. Sector Performance: A strategically focused and empowered sector.
3. Participation: More people in NSW participating in sport and active recreation.
4. High Performance Pathways: More NSW sporting success and NSW being a valued partner in Australia's international success.
5. Our Capability: The Office of Sport has the capability to make valued contributions.

Future Needs of Sport Infrastructure Study (Ongoing Study)

Overview

An ongoing study that includes data from State Sporting Organisations and Councils on their sporting facility priorities.

Facilities play an important role in increasing and maintaining participation in sport and active recreation. Informed data from key stakeholders is critical in identifying priorities for future investment. The information provided also plays an important role in the development and implementation of strategic plans.

This study has been conducted since 2015 and has been vital in providing an evidence base for future funding. This includes \$300 million across the Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund, Stronger Country Communities Fund and the Greater Sydney Sport Facilities Fund.

Office of Sport: Her Sport Her Way 2019-2023

Vision

Enable women and girls to be valued, recognised and have equal choices and opportunities to lead and participate in sport in NSW.

Pillars and Objectives:

1. Participation: Increase the number of women and girls playing sport.
2. Places and Spaces: Lead, guide, inform and invest in the provision of sport facilities that support women and girls.
3. Leveraging Investment: Maximise investment in women's sport.
4. Leadership: Increase the number of women in leadership positions.

Office of Sport: Future Champions Strategy (2019)

Goal

Sustained NSW sporting success and NSW being a valued partner in Australia's international success.

Mission

To provide informed and holistic support to develop NSW athletes at every step along their pathway to becoming a future champion.

This document recognises and supports the individual needs of all NSW pathway athletes regardless of gender, whether they be metropolitan or regionally based, male or female, able bodied or athletes with disability. The Strategy also understands the importance of specifically supporting athletes from indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities to achieve their best.

A snapshot of this Strategy is provided on the following page.

NSW Sporting Landscape

The NSW sporting landscape crosses three key macro levels of the sport continuum - foundational (grass roots participation), pre-elite (talent) and elite (high performance).

The NSW Office of Sport provides funding and support to organisations across the whole sport continuum including to NSW Institute of Sport, 11 regional academies and to over 90 State Sporting Organisations and State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability. It also funds the development of sports infrastructure at all levels of the performance continuum.

FUTURE CHAMPIONS AT A GLANCE			
PATHWAY LEADERSHIP	 Informed, aligned and collaborative pathway leadership	1.1	Review and refine NSW talent pathways through implementation of FTEM NSW
		1.2	Grow targeted investment into NSW talent pathways
		1.3	Strengthen NSW pathway leadership through best practice and networking
COACHING	 A well-resourced, empowered and capable coaching workforce	2.1	Promote the importance of dedicated coach development
		2.2	Grow coaching capability
		2.3	Increase coaching capacity
EMPOWERED ATHLETES	 Educated and supported NSW athletes in control of their pathway	3.1	Empower the athlete voice to inform strategy and practice
		3.2	Advance systemic financial support initiatives for athletes
		3.3	Develop centralised educational resources for athletes and supporting stakeholders
PATHWAY INTELLIGENCE	 Research-based and innovative solutions informing pathway policy and practice	4.1	Prioritise systemic, longitudinal data collection and analytics
		4.2	Establish collaborative athlete monitoring systems to build the evidence base and inform day-to-day athlete case management
		4.3	Utilise evidence-based pathway intelligence to inform strategy and practice
COMPETITION	 Accessible, appropriate and progressive competition opportunities	5.1	Provide accessible and progressive competition opportunities
		5.2	Continue to host benchmark events within NSW
PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENTS	 Accessible and adaptive, best practice training and competition environments	6.1	Prioritise quality, innovative and accessible talent development environments and facilities
		6.2	Ensure pathway athletes have access to inclusive, safe, supportive and facilitative daily training environments

Figure 1: Future Champions (2019) at a Glance

Regional Documents

New England North West Regional Plan 2036

Vision

Nationally valued landscapes and strong, successful communities from the Great Dividing Range to the rich black soils of the plains.

Key Relevant Priorities

- Deliver a variety of housing options in Tamworth and promote development that contributes to the unique character of Manilla, Kootingal, Barraba, Nundle, Moonbi and other areas.
- Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism places and enhance visitor experiences.

This Plan is a 20-year blueprint for the future of the New England North West region. Funding will be coordinated for regional infrastructure including open space and recreational precincts.

Regionally focused goals

1. A strong and dynamic regional economy

- Direction 8: Expand tourism and visitor opportunities.
- Direction 9: Coordinate growth in the cities of Armidale and Tamworth. Tamworth's higher-order health facilities and regional sports and entertainment precinct will support residents and attract visitors for major events. Tourism and community life will be further bolstered by retail and commerce along Peel Street and recreation at Bicentennial Park.

2. A healthy environment with pristine waterways.

3. Strong infrastructure and transport networks for a connected future.

- Direction 16: Coordinate infrastructure delivery.

4. Attractive and thriving communities

- Direction 17: Strengthen community resilience.
- Direction 18: Provide great places to live. Action 18.3 Develop comprehensive settlement planning guidelines.
- Direction 19: Support healthy, safe, socially engaged and well-connected communities. The structure and design of communities can influence community health, wellbeing and social cohesion.
- Action 19.2 Facilitate more recreational walking and cycling paths, linkages with centres and public transport, and expand inter-regional and intra-regional walking and cycling links.
- Action 19.3 Establish social infrastructure benchmarks, minimum standards and social impact assessment frameworks within local planning.

Local Government Narrative: Tamworth

Tamworth Regional is strategically positioned in the south of the region with access to Sydney and Newcastle. Tamworth is a regional city that provides one in three of the region's homes and jobs and a variety of high-level services, including civic, entertainment and cultural venues. These include national sporting facilities like the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre.

Tamworth's strong agricultural foundation are well serviced by rail, road and air networks. The manufacturing industry, retail and commercial services, aviation and tourism are also important economic generators. The Tamworth Country Music Festival attracts more than 50,000 festival goers each year.

Draft New England and North West Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018-2023

Vision

North West and New England is a healthy community with high participation in sport and active recreation through our quality infrastructure and services accessible to everyone.

This document represents the beginning of a collaborative approach across the region to the planning and delivery of sport and active recreation. The Office of Sport will provide the necessary coordination to enable the collaboration demonstrated during the workshop to continue into the future. As the region continues to evolve over the next few years, so will this plan.

Key Relevant Outcomes and Strategies

1. Increased participation
 - 1.1. Develop a multi-sport gala day
 - 1.2. Promote the Active Kids Voucher
 - 1.3. Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments
 - 1.4. Support Councils to strengthen sport and active recreation in their Community Strategic Plans
 - 1.5. Support State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) to develop a regional participation strategy
 - 1.6. Attract and retain new Volunteers
2. Improved access
 - 2.1. Develop modified sports
 - 2.2. Develop a digital platform that connects people with participation
 - 2.3. Explore a regional sport transport network
 - 2.4. Identify inclusion opportunities
 - 2.5. Provide support to under-represented groups
 - 2.6. Support sport and active recreation clubs to attract new participants
 - 2.7. Focus on people not currently participating
 - 2.8. Enhance and promote Sport and Recreation Centre at Lake Keepit
3. Integrated performance pathways
 - 3.1. Use technology to provide high quality coaching
 - 3.2. Embed the Foundation, Talent, Elite and Mastery (FTEM) pathway model
 - 3.3. Strengthen links between NIAS and sector partners
 - 3.4. Improve coaching and officiating standards
4. Fit-for-purpose facilities
 - 4.1. Establish Regional Sporting Hubs
 - 4.2. Continue developing the Northern Inland Centre of Sports Excellence (NICSE) as a regional sporting hub
 - 4.3. Explore opportunities to develop the University of New England campus in Armidale as a regionally significant sports facility and consider locations for other potential Regional Significant Sport Facilities (RSSFs)
 - 4.4. Develop model for shared use of facilities
 - 4.5. Develop new or upgrade existing infrastructure
 - 4.6. Plan for female friendly sporting facilities
 - 4.7. Determine optimal uses for Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre
 - 4.8. Gain access to school facilities
5. Valued regional sporting events
 - 5.1. "Big sky country, big sports country" (i.e. regional sports calendar)
 - 5.2. Seek to attract equestrian events
 - 5.3. Maintain hosting rights for team based national/state championships
 - 5.4. Work with key stakeholders on event activation and legacy planning
6. Effective collaboration
 - 6.1. Encourage volunteers
 - 6.2. Establish a regional sport and active recreation council
 - 6.3. Seek private investment in regional infrastructure
 - 6.4. Explore commercial partnerships

Local Documents

Keychange 2017–2027 Community Strategic Plan

Vision

A region of opportunity and prosperity, a place to call home

The Plan links the community's vision to key priorities and actions for Council, along with strategic objectives and goals.

C: A spirit of community

C1: Active healthy communities

- C1.1 Provide high-quality open spaces, parks and reserves accessible to all
- C1.2 Provide high-quality sporting facilities to meet the diverse community needs
- C1.3 Provide high-quality specialised sporting facilities to drive sporting excellence for the region and state
- C1.4 Meet social justice principles through the provision of accessible and inclusive high-quality, integrated community services

C2: Promote our heritage, character, culture

- C2.1 Preserve and celebrate the character, heritage and culture
- C2.2 Provide accessible, functional, multi-purpose facilities and spaces suitable for cultural, recreational, learning and information services and activities

C3: Safe places to live, work, play and visit

- C3.1 Create safe environments to live, work and play

P: A prosperous region

P1 A strong and diverse economic base

- P1.1 Support and facilitate economic development and employment

P2 Promote "Destination Tamworth" as a great place to visit a great place to live

- P2.1 Market as a destination for living, working and leisure

P3 Quality, affordable lifelong education and learning opportunities

- P3.1 Provide quality and choice in education and vocation pathways

P4 Make Tamworth the next major freight distribution centre in Regional NSW.

- P4.1 establish rail, air, land connections

A: An accessible region

A1 Safe and efficient transport network

- A1.1 Maintain the current levels of transport across the region

A2 Improve choice, availability and quality of transport options for our Region

- A2.2 Improve and expand the region's transport services

A3 Functional communications and technology

- A3.1 Facilitate access to state-of-the-art technology and communications

F: A region for the future

F1 Sound asset and land planning to facilitate future community needs

- F1.1 Sound asset management planning

F2 Promote sustainable living to protect and environment, heritage and resources.

- F2.2 Encourage efficient use of resources

L: A region of progressive leadership

L1 Community feel well informed, heard, valued and involved

- L1.2 Advocate community needs
- L1.3 Provide inclusive opportunities

L2 Our Region is well led and managed

- L2.1 Transparency and accountability
- L2.2 To be a leader in best practice

Tamworth Regional Council Blueprint 100
(Draft for Public Exhibition February 2020)

Vision

Key components of the Vision include a region focussed on:

- enhanced quality of life
- greater prosperity
- compassion for its people
- reverence for its culture
- respect for nature
- retention of more residents
- welcoming of new citizens
- generation of new jobs
- improved skill levels
- enhanced liveability
- affordability.

The Blueprint 100 is an overarching strategy that provides a roadmap to take the Tamworth region towards its vision of a prosperous economy and high living standards.

The background to Blueprint 100's origins are:

- In early 2018 the Deputy Premier and the Chief Planner for New South Wales encouraged both Wagga Wagga and Tamworth to aim to be regional cities with a population of 100,000 people.
- The NSW Government recognises in a number of its plans the status of both cities as the northern and southern key state inland cities respectively.
- Council has a need to connect and integrate its numerous other precinct plans, masterplans and strategic infrastructure plans and strategies.
- With the significant State and Federal funding available, the Council needs a single document that provides an overarching strategy with a common logic, robust strategies and compelling narrative. Otherwise Tamworth will miss out on its share of funding and will not fulfil the NSW Government's expectations.

Sport and Recreation Facilities

Investment in sport and recreation in Tamworth supports the retention of population in adjoining Shires.

The world class AELEC is a national and region-wide attraction and has strong links with the farming communities.

There is a significant opportunity to strengthen existing facilities and to support the new Aquatic Centre which will strengthen Tamworth as a regional leisure and sports destination.

Unlocking the Raw Water Supply

Investment in the increase of the raw water supply is imperative. A significant step in this process was the announcement of a new Dungowan Dam by the Australian Prime Minister to the value of \$480 million in late 2019.

Priority Themes and Key Relevant Strategies

1. Deliver durable water infrastructure
Durable water infrastructure that supports our vision and our economic and growth aspirations.
2. Facilitate smart growth housing choices.
 - Support services for equine uses at AELEC.
 - Tourism initiatives that strengthen links with the new aquatic centre.
 - Sports, recreation and community facilities that cope with accelerated growth.
3. Create a prosperous region
 - Establish an Aquatic Centre as a regional sport & recreation attraction.

Given Tamworth's weather variations, an all-weather aquatic centre will substantially increase the city's attractiveness as a destination, in addition to offering considerable local amenity.

4. Build resilient communities

- Improve the planning and development of sport and recreation facilities to take into account of accelerated population growth.

The Sports and Recreation Division is currently applying the Parks Hierarchy structure to all existing open space across the local government area's suburbs. This will identify areas deficient in open space, parks that require embellishment and areas that are surplus that could be rationalised.

- Investigate region-wide opportunities for recreational pursuits which can also attract major sporting events and visitation. Consider:
 - development of a Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre at NICSE
 - bushwalking and trail running
 - a wildlife park
 - an indoor high-performance centre
 - a regional stadium.
- Address issues of high capital costs and high maintenance/refurbishment costs. Consider:
 - increasing efficiencies and sustainability for whole of life maintenance of facilities, including site selection based on water security/rationalisation of parks and sports precincts; and
 - investigation of synthetic sports surfaces (currently for hockey and athletics).
- Identify opportunities in regional towns to improve liveability and health outcomes. Consider:
 - community Round Table
 - potential trials/models in Tamworth as part of the NICSE
 - ensuring equitable distribution of parks and open spaces across all urban areas of the region
 - a sports facilities booking system
 - developing a Tamworth Regional Council app for the community to check sport fields and aquatic availability.

- Enhance strategies and plans that factor in the needs of future population growth. Consider:

- developing a strategic road map
- developing a Sport and Recreation Plan
- carrying out reviews of the condition and quantity of current facilities
- utilising the current process of multiple sport operational meetings to consider needs and planning, including accelerated population growth, field usage, field lighting, field rotation (rest and restoration).

- Develop a recreational lake on the Peel River.

The Peel River currently offers mainly visual amenity for users of Bicentennial Park and other public spaces along the river. The opportunity is to create a small lake, possibly via building a weir to enable water related recreational activities such as swimming, canoeing, boating etc.

4.13.1 Investigate the possibility of using the Peel River through the Tamworth City Centre more intensively for recreational purposes. Consider:

- the potential building of a weir.
- the ecological consequences.
- potential business opportunities related to water-based recreation.

5. Connect our region and its citizens.

- Promote walking and cycling.

The current cycle network is fragmented.

- Promote Tamworth as a healthy and cycle-friendly town. Consider forming an Active Transport Group with NSW Government.
- Investigate and develop initiatives for promoting cycling.
- Investigate and develop a series of cycle routes or a cycle network for various types of users.

6. Design with nature

Protect and support our natural environment and resources through responsive initiatives and development practices.

- Ensure sustainable design of facilities, infrastructure and development.
- Incorporate energy efficiency design in all current and new facilities. Consider:
 - roof water capture,
 - ground water usage,
 - recycled water and
 - LED lighting.
- Achieve efficiencies and sustainability for whole of life maintenance of facilities, including site selection based on water security / rationalisation of parks and sports precincts.
- Require the quality of development designs submitted to the Council to be improved, including their sustainability aspects.
- Require the quality of infrastructure built, and accepted by, the Council to be robust, durable, sustainable, and low maintenance.
- Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.

7. Celebrate our culture and heritage.

Define, acknowledge, respect and celebrate our rich culture and heritage.

8. Strengthen our proud identity.

Whilst the Tamworth brand is strong, it could benefit from a broadened narrative that celebrates its innovation.

A new narrative that enhances and expands Tamworth's identity.

**Tamworth Tomorrow – Driving the
Tamworth Region's Economic Growth
2016-2021**

Vision

As a thriving regional centre, Tamworth embraces its lifestyle, fosters its competitive advantages, and works in unison with a "make it happen" spirit.

Tamworth Tomorrow is a guiding document for everyone that contributes to the economic development of Tamworth. The aim of the Strategy is to foster Tamworth's growth, by building new and strengthening the existing industry and service base that will drive the region's development as the leading regional centre in NSW.

About the Region

As the major centre for a catchment area of some 200,000 people, Tamworth is one of most progressive and innovative regions in NSW. The region has a strong reputation for its quality of life for its residents, supported environment for business and industry and economic opportunities for investors.

The Tamworth local government area covers a diverse economy fuelled by a growing population of over 60,000 residents. The towns of Manilla, Barraba, Nundle and Kootingal, along with another 17 localities offer an attractive lifestyle underpinned by a strong regional economy. Ideally situated on the main inland route between Victoria and Queensland for freight logistics, there are three major airlines providing daily flights to Sydney and Brisbane, along with daily train and bus services. From city living to country retreats the region boasts quality and diverse shopping, education, health services and sporting facilities in an affordable and supported community.

Alongside a vision and execution; partnerships and collaboration underpin the Tamworth region. The region's positive "can do" attitude is reflected in the continuous investment in large scale infrastructure projects, the diversity and quality services, and new residents moving to the region.

Population Profile

Tamworth has a population of over 60,000 residents and services a broader catchment area of some 200,000 people. With one of the highest projected population rates in regional NSW, the region is expected to grow to 68,000 in the coming 15 years.

Tamworth's current population growth (1.47%) is better in percentage terms than some major regional centres such Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Maitland, Newcastle, Wollongong and Toowoomba.

The region has a strong youth presence higher (0-15 years - 22.1%) than the NSW average with forecasts indicating a growing trend in families. The increased proportion of younger residents together with an ageing population indicate continued population growth and are key factors in driving investment in and around Tamworth.

Strengths

Infrastructure

Projects such as the Tamworth Regional Livestock Exchange, the AELEC and Chaffey Dam upgrade, demonstrate sound strategic planning and the region's commitment to increase the capacity and deliver large scale infrastructure projects.

Land Release and Zoning

Tamworth Regional Council has provided for future land release to accommodate increased economic opportunity and a growing population. In and around the urban area, 238 hectares of unconstrained residential zoned land is immediately available for development.

There are approximately 7 hectares of unconstrained commercial land available and moves are afoot to zone a further 35 hectares. Approximately 70 hectares of unconstrained industrial land can be developed, and Tamworth Regional Council has strategically planned to expand the industrial zone exponentially. Potential across all three zones also exists in the wider region.

Development

There is a significant and unspoken confidence in the Tamworth region as an economic powerhouse for the New England and North West regions. Over \$397.6 million of development has been approved in the previous two financial years, which is reflected in the thriving construction industry and contribution to the region's Gross Regional Product. These public and private sector developments extend across new tourism infrastructure, residential and industrial subdivisions, to major expansions of existing industrial and commercial premises.

Attitude

"Can do" and "Make it Happen" attitudes are being cemented as the cornerstone of the Tamworth region which will drive economic growth into the future. Tamworth Regional Council, a leader in economic development, is focused on harnessing the knowledge that exists in the region, facilitating development and investment and initiating collaboration on projects and initiatives that enable a high quality of living for its residents supported by robust infrastructure and support for industry; whilst strengthening and retaining the region's social fabric. The positive spirit of stakeholders to collaborate and execute on vision is a distinguishable feature that sets the region apart.

Event Opportunity

As identified by the Tamworth Capital of Country Destination Management Plan 2016, the region can be positioned as a centre for sporting events and cultural tourism with opportunities to extend length of stay and international visitation.

Tamworth Region Infrastructure Strategy (2014)

Overview

Tamworth Regional Council recognises that forward planning and funding provision will need to be provided for regionally significant infrastructure projects if the region is going to successfully and sustainably harness its growth potential.

Key Projects:

Full upgrade of infrastructure for Oxley Lookout Park Precinct

The continued works to fully upgrade the Oxley Lookout Park area involve a number of elements covering the broad area including the Lookout and Marsupial Park.

Priority: Short to Medium Term.

Triggers: The Lookout is a key tourism facility and its improvement is triggered by the need to support the tourism industry in the region. There is also a community expectation that the precinct will be improved due to its history as an iconic feature for the city.

OS6. River-walk and cycleway loop along Peel River near CBD

The potential for this project was introduced in the Bicentennial Park Master Plan and involves the development of a shared use bike/footpath loop to connect existing paths on the CBD levee with pathways on the opposite (western) side of the river. The project may extend to a path along Locks Lane to join Scott Road to complete the loop.

Priority: Long Term.

Triggers: Community demand for high quality recreational facilities both within and connecting to Bicentennial Park is one driver for the project.

S2. NICSE

Priority: Short to Medium Term
Details: Refer to Master Plan.

S3. Tamworth Aquatic Facilities

Description/Rationale: Due to the current condition of the two Tamworth aquatic facilities and current and planned provision of other aquatic facilities in Tamworth, Council has identified the need to consolidate and upgrade its facilities.

Note: Both Tamworth pools will be maintained to a high functional standard until if/when a new Tamworth Aquatic Centre is constructed and operational.

Priority: Short to Medium Term.

S4. Tamworth Regional Stadium

The project includes the proposed development of a multi-purpose outdoor sport and entertainment venue including main field, seating, lighting, secondary field, car parks etc. The ground would form a multipurpose role constructed to host a variety of sports and activities.

Note: This field will be oval to accommodate sports such as Australian football & cricket.

Priority: Long Term.

It is noted that development consent has been granted to the West Tamworth League Club to build a grandstand and enhanced sports field at Scully No.2, which will provide a level of service for sport events for an interim term.

Other Projects

A regional motorsport facility to significantly enhance the Oakburn Park facility is an identified priority. The concept will be developed for inclusion in future iterations of this Regional Infrastructure Strategy. The benefit of a multi-code bike park has been raised previously by stakeholders, as has been the upgrade of tennis facilities to a regional standard. The status of any plans may be considered for inclusion in future infrastructure plans. Council acknowledges that these ideas should receive further consideration at a later date.

Event Attraction Strategy (November 2018)

Vision

The Tamworth Region is recognised and acknowledged as a leading regional events destination in NSW, showcasing a diverse and vibrant calendar of events that offer experience rich benefits to visitors and positive economic outcomes for the city and region.

Mission

To increase the region's ability to attract, retain and grow the annual events calendar, by creating opportunity for business to capitalise on increased visitation to the region and fostering an inclusive community culture where residents become engaged and active ambassadors.

The city of Tamworth and the surrounding region has a growing reputation for hosting an envious calendar of events and festivals, of national and international significance.

The strategy focuses on:

- positioning Tamworth region as progressive, modern, dynamic
- building Tamworth's profile as a tourism and events destination
- enhancing our major event calendar by hosting a diverse combination of events
- continuing to foster and develop vibrancy and community pride
- promoting Tamworth as an attractive place to work, live, visit and invest
- growing job opportunities for residents
- increasing opportunities for the business sector to be involved in major events and support opportunities for community participation and social inclusion
- utilisation of existing assets and infrastructure, with the potential to further develop these assets.

The strategy will act as a guide for Council to determine the level of support/ investment events may receive, based on the event's economic impact, the social and cultural benefits, and the wider exposure the region would receive from a marketing and branding perspective.

The strategy is themed around four main goals:

Goal 1: Tourism and marketing

Actively target and support events which increase overnight visitation to the region, particularly during low visitation seasons.

Goal 2: Economy

Develop strategic partnerships and support events that provide maximum economic benefit to businesses and the region.

Action: Identify state, national and international conferences and sporting events.

Action: Work with venue operators/managers to identify suitable events within available calendar space.

Goal 3: Investment

Invest in events that align with the region's strengths and strategic goals.

Goals 4: Lifestyle

The Tamworth region benefits enormously from the vibrant and diverse calendar of events, which continually showcase the region as a highly desirable place to visit, live and invest.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021

Purpose

To set out the strategies and actions for Council and the community to deliver on, enabling people with a disability to have greater access to information, services and facilities throughout the Tamworth Regional Council area.

Background

In 2016 18.3% of Australians reported having a disability - a limitation/restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities.

The plan focuses on the following four key areas:

1. Promoting positive community attitudes and behaviours
2. Creating Liveable Communities.
3. Supporting access to meaningful employment
4. Improving access to services through better systems and processes.

Key Relevant Opportunities

- accessible infrastructure especially in the outlying villages
- development and planning of new and improvement of existing events, facilities and infrastructure within the community to make them more inclusive and accessible for members of the public with special needs
- there will be a real opportunity to have actions that come out of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) included as a part of the planning and development process of TRC infrastructure and facilities and implemented as part of the strategic plan as well as the DIAP.

Council's focus over the following four years will therefore be to increase access to community information, upgrade facilities and improve how services are delivered to remove barriers to access.

Aquatic Management Plan (November 2017)

Aim

To provide facilities which promote a healthy lifestyle and social interaction, for the residents and visitors of the region.

Council aims to provide the following services at their six aquatic facilities:

Barraba War Memorial Swimming Pool Complex

33 metre swimming pool; Toddler's pool; 1 metre springboard; Waterslide; Indoor hydrotherapy pool; BBQ facilities; Kiosk facility; Changeroom facilities; Shade structures; Club storage shed; Thermal pool blankets.

Kootingal-Moonbi & District War Memorial Pool

25 metre swimming pool; toddler's pool; shaded play area; BBQ facilities; kiosk facility; changeroom facilities; club room; thermal pool blankets; shade structures.

Manilla War Memorial Swimming Pool

50 metre swimming pool; toddler's pool; play equipment; BBQ facilities; kiosk facility; shade structures; changeroom facilities; club room.

Nundle Swimming Pool

25 metre swimming pool; toddler's pool; change room facilities; BBQ facilities; thermal pool blankets; shade structures.

South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool

50 metre swimming pool; play pool; toddler's pool; water slide; children's play equipment; BBQ facilities; kiosk facility; shade structures; thermal pool blankets; change room facilities; club room; heating capability.

Tamworth Olympics Swimming Pool

50 metre swimming pool; toddler's pool; BBQ facilities; play equipment; kiosk facility; change room facilities; club room; thermal pool blankets.

**The Precinct Master Plan and Northern
Inland Centre of Excellence Report
(December 2014)**

Overview

This document has been used to build a business case for the development of the Northern Inland Centre of Sport Excellence.

Benefits of a Regional Sports Precinct (RSP)

Whilst Council has a number of sporting facilities at various locations throughout its region, Council recognises that its community and the region as a whole would benefit from the development of a RSP.

By delivering a diverse sports facilities and activity opportunities that broaden community involvement in sport and recreation participation, a RSP ultimately contributes to the health, well-being and sense of belonging within the community.

A RSP enables an integrated and coordinated approach to the delivery of sport and recreation. A RSP also enables the strategic and co-ordinated management of sport and recreation facilities and spaces.

Sports benefit from improved facilities through increased members, economies of management and the potential for players to achieve higher standards of participation. A RSP can also support events and spectator based sport and recreation activities.

**Northern Inland Centre of Sporting
Excellence – Master Plan (2014)**

Overview

An overarching site plan for the continued development of the NICSE.

Refer following page for Figure 2.

Figure 2: NICSE Master Plan (2014)



Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE) Business Case

Overview

The Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence will see the strategic alignment of sport, health, and commercial sector delivering economic and social outcomes for the Northern Inland Region.

The Centre will provide a vibrant space with specialised sport and recreational facilities for schools, sporting clubs, community groups, organisations, businesses and the general public. It will assist in hosting national, state and local sporting competitions and will boost tourism, development and liveability in the region. It has been earmarked as key infrastructure to encourage future growth and community development in the Northern Inland Region. The integration of a range of facilities will optimise efficiency's and create valuable business synergies.

The key elements of the Project include:

- new Athletics Facility including an all-weather synthetic track with associated infrastructure and amenities
- extension to the existing Sports Dome to provide additional indoor multi use courts
- new outdoor equestrian arena with associated infrastructure and amenities to provide an international venue for equestrian events where it is mandatory that such event take place outdoors
- the Northern Inland NSW Cycling Centre. This comprises a velodrome, criterion track and associated infrastructure and amenities to be used by both junior and experienced cyclists
- upgrade of infrastructure including roads, carparks, stormwater management and street lighting to service the works and provide a 24 hour safe environment for users of the complex, given that the facilities include for late and overnight stays.

This Business Case outlines that the development of the NICSE will increase investment and economic activity in the region through the release of the land previously occupied by the aged Velodrome and Athletics field. The relocation of the Velodrome is anticipated to be a catalyst to revitalise the southern end of Tamworth's main street, allow further retail development and create valuable employment opportunities helping to address the region's high unemployment rates.

The relocation of the Athletics field was anticipated to create opportunities to address the shortage in tourism accommodation or to create further bulky goods development which is currently at capacity.

The Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NISCE) is a unique opportunity to increase economic activity in the region, meet growing commercial sector demand for land within the central business district, assist in revitalizing Tamworth's main street and a key piece of infrastructure for improving wellbeing in the Region. Through the co-location of sporting assets, the centre focuses on all aspects of recreation and sport from grass-root participation through to elite sport, ranging from little kids to older people and recognising the needs of the diverse communities and growing population. The centre will have the ability to attract, retain and assist with the training regimes of athletes who have previously had no other option than to move away to pursue sporting aspirations.

The development of the NICSE is evidence of Northern Inland region's sport and recreation sector working together to achieve a common vision of the region's residents more active, more often.

The Northern Inland Centre for Sporting Excellence will draw on the region's unique identity, provide facilities for the increasing population, employment opportunities and create a contemporary and vibrant sporting destination

Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre Business Case (February 2019)

Overview

The Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre (the Centre) is a major sporting and recreational infrastructure project for the Northern Inland Region and for the Tamworth community.

It will create an indoor, all-year-round aquatic sport and recreation facility of a standard that does not currently exist in the Northern Inland or North West Regions. It will service the aquatic needs of multiple generations and lead to greatly increased active participation - enhancing health, fitness, social engagement and will help to develop sporting opportunities, in an integrated community space.

This will be one of the largest infrastructure projects undertaken by the Tamworth Regional Council (TRC/Council) and brings significant funding and community engagement challenges.

Key Benefits

- employment opportunities
- complement existing facilities at the NICSE
- attraction of multiple representative-level aquatic sporting events
- act as a catalyst for sports bodies to expand and develop regional competitions; increase membership; strengthen development pathways and participation, as well as delivering improved health outcomes for the general community
- will contribute to the liveability of the Tamworth Region, increase opportunities in destination programming and contribute to a strong, sustained regional NSW
- cater for elite competition and training as well as meeting community leisure and active recreation needs.

Proposed Facility

The proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre will include:

- an indoor multi-activity aquatics hall,
- two 51.5 metre/50 metre FINA accredited competitive water bodies
- ability to configure the indoor/outdoor competition pools with moveable centre boom, to provide multiple training, short course and water polo event needs and non-structured community recreational usage
- retractable aquatics hall walls to cater for major events and seasonal weather preferences
- spectator stands for up to 500 people and provision to install additional seating for major events
- an indoor multiple flume adventure water slide zone and indoor wet play and splash area
- two warm water program pools catering for learn to swim and rehabilitation/therapy sessions
- café/lounge; child crèche facilities; community function and meeting rooms;
- gymnasium and wellness zones (first floor),
- centralised customer service, reception and merchandising zones; ample off-street parking
- integration with the existing Tamworth Indoor Sports Dome to create building and operational efficiencies.

The location preference is the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence, realising sporting and high-performance synergies, as well as enhancing the regional sporting hub.

Community Consultation

Council has actively engaged with the Tamworth community. Through those conversations, the concept of an aquatic and leisure centre has attracted strong community support as well as raising valid concerns.

Existing Aquatic Facilities in Tamworth City

The Business Case also reviews the existing aquatic facilities within Tamworth City. These two treasured but ageing complexes are approaching end of functional life and have limited contemporary aquatic and leisure appeal, without significant investment in refurbishment or redevelopment. The potential sale of these properties to offset costs for the new Centre is a polarising issue within the Tamworth community, necessitating informed debate.

Note: The business case details the consolidation of the two aquatic facilities in Tamworth City will not occur until the proposed Aquatics Centre is constructed and fully operational.

Tamworth Sports Field Lighting Development –Business Case (2018)

Overview

The Tamworth Sports Field Lighting Development Project provides infrastructure that will generate significant opportunities for the Tamworth Region.

The Project falls within The Precinct, Tamworth's main turf sport field destination. This site comprises of 24 hectares of quality turf sporting fields utilised year for structured and passive recreation by both locals and tourists alike. The Project proposes to light six full size sporting fields creating an additional 1,200 available time slots for lit field utilisation per annum.

The Gipps Street, Carter Street and Plain Street Sports Fields (The Precinct), managed by TRC, are located 800 metres south-west of the Tamworth CBD. The Precinct is home to:

- 24 Ha of turf playing fields
- 4 turf cricket wicket tables
- 2 synthetic wickets
- 4 synthetic practice cricket training nets
- 5 club houses
- 100% coverage automated bore irrigation
- 250,000 litres water tanks
- carparks totalling, 752 car spaces
- networking roads
- cycleways.

Benefits of the Project

- increase the utilisation capacity
- increase participation
- improve the quality of playing surface
- create opportunity to attract new events
- increase security during major events at The Precinct such as the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Through the provision of quality turf field infrastructure, the Project development ensures The Precinct complements TRC's Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE).

Tamworth Regional Astronomy and Science Centre Business Case (October 2017)

Overview

The Tamworth Regional Astronomy and Science Centre will see the development of a facility that will provide the first publicly assessable astro-science centre in the region where visitors of all ages can see, learn, use and undertake research using a variety of amateur and professional telescopes and instruments.

Unlike other astronomy facilities, this project offers the integration of observatories, a planetarium and a multipurpose science centre where students and visitors can have a hands-on astro-science experience. The Centre is supported by a very active Tamworth Regional Astronomy Club.

Key elements of the project include:

- a large observatory with a roll off roof to house multiple telescopes
- planetarium for presentations/lectures
- multi-functional space for the display of astronomical and science related instruments and educational instruction
- A second small observatory with roll off roof to house a single historic telescope
- Ancillary services such as an amenity building, car park and utility infrastructure.

The Tamworth Regional Astronomy and Science Centre will provide for a much-needed diversification of tourist and economic activity for Tamworth. Not just as a tourist facility, this Centre will attract and enable astro-science research collaboration between students, the TRAC and professional astronomers around the globe.

- Total Project Costs - \$1.99 million
- Funding request - \$1.80 million
- Annual Visitors - 12,000
- Economic benefit - \$422,000 annually
- Benefit Cost Ratio - 1.39.

Engineering Design Minimum Standards for Subdivisions and Developments (March 2019)

Objective

To outline Council's general procedures and practices in respect of the engineering design requirements for subdivision and development of land within the Council area.

Council uses a hierarchy to classify all its open space parks. This hierarchy gives clear guidance to the level of development and maintenance standards. Council staff will classify the park prior to any design work for a public reserve.

The hierarchy of open space provides for the following categories:

- Regional Parks
- District Parks
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Local Parks.

The hierarchy determines the level to which a parcel of open space can be developed and the desired standard of development within the categories. Detention and retention basins will not be accepted as Public Open Space for the purpose of recreation.

Tamworth Regional Council General Policy Register

Policies relevant to the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan are:

- 1.2 Asset Management Policy
- 5.5. Public Art Policy
- 14.6. Significant Sport Event Fee Subsidisation Policy
- 14.7. Outdoor Fitness Trainer Policy.

Shared Paths and Cycle Maps (2019)

The maps on the following pages outline the shared path and cycleway networks across the Council area.

Refer to following pages for Figure 4.

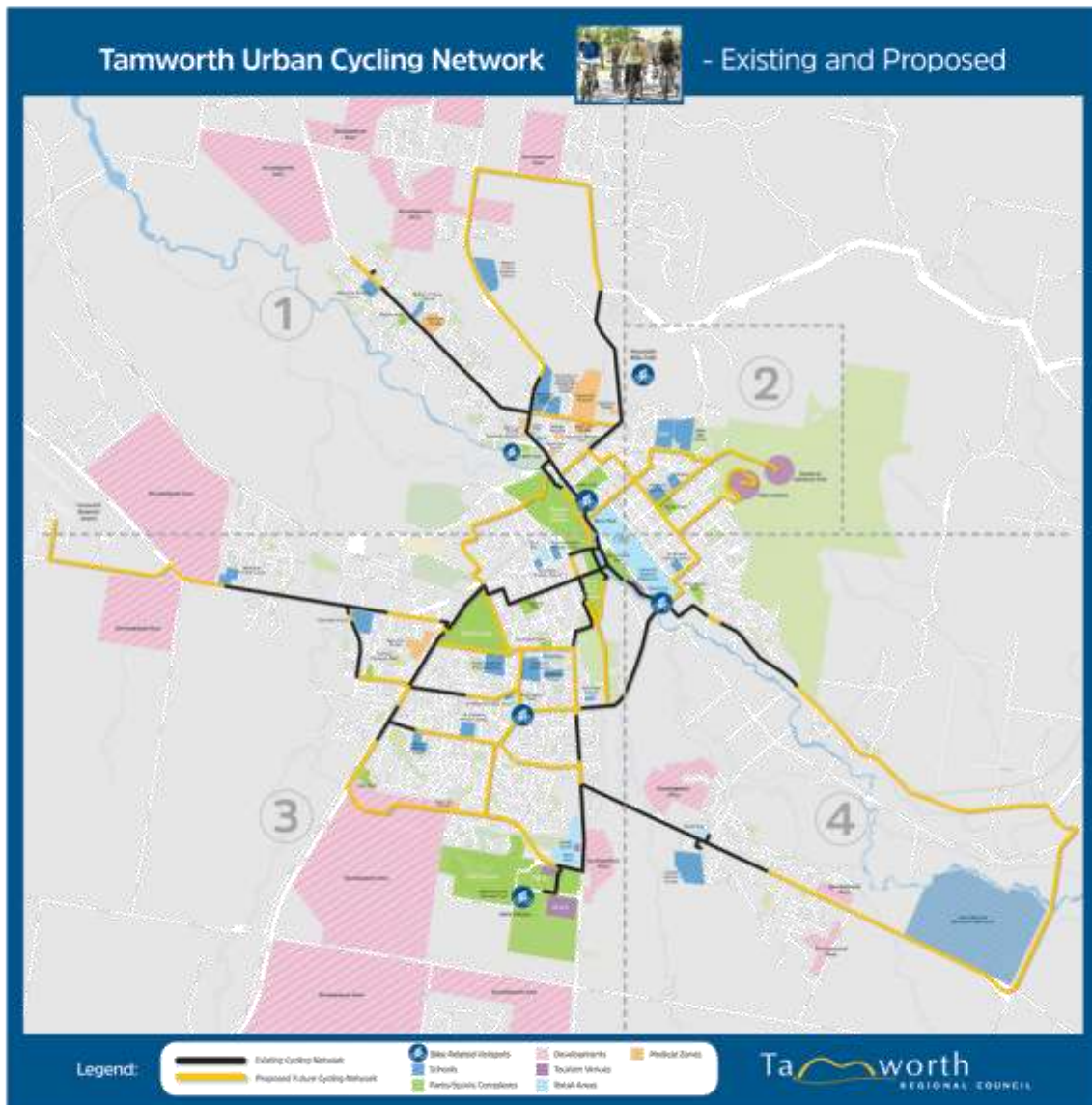
Figure 3: Tamworth Urban Cycling Network - Existing and Proposed

Refer to following pages for Figure 4.

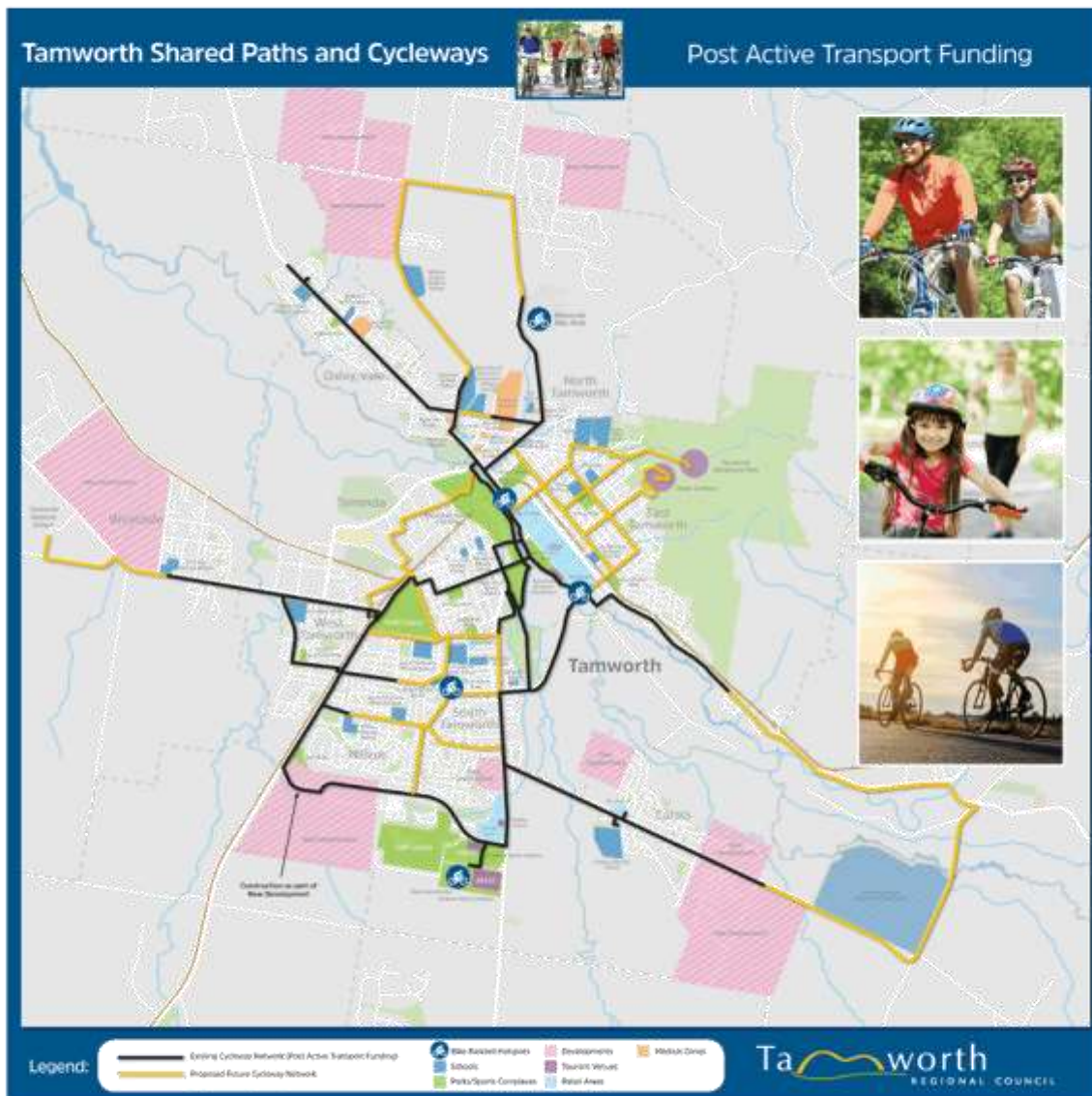
Figure 4: Tamworth Non-Urban On-Road Cycling Routes

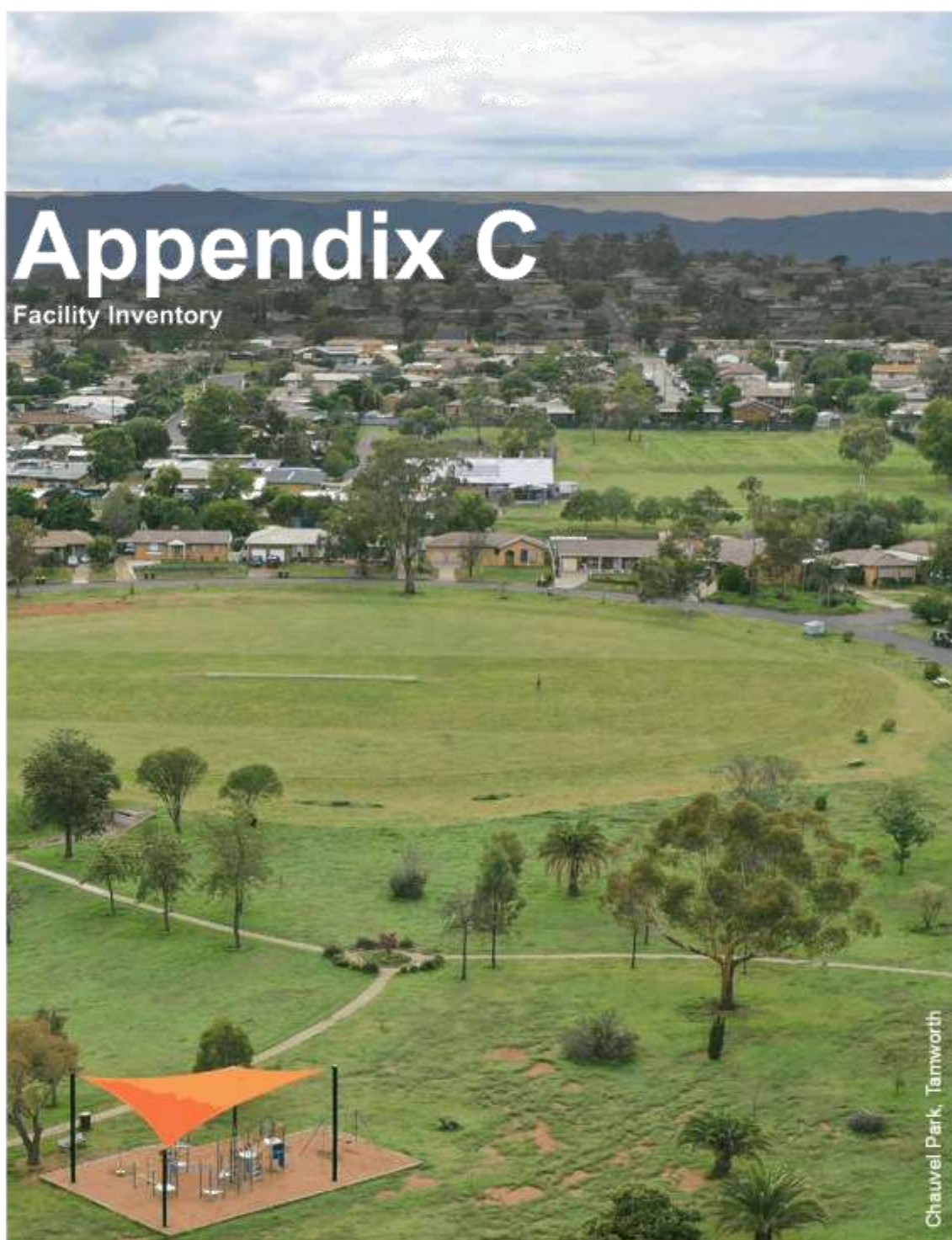
Refer to following pages for Figure 5.

Figure 5: Tamworth Shared Paths and Cycleways - Post Active Transport Funding









TREDWELL

Version No.	Date	Description	Editor
1	19.05.2020	Draft 1	Tredwell
2	28.07.2020	Draft 2 - Amended following Public Exhibition	Tredwell
3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

Acknowledgments

Tamworth Regional Council and Tredwell acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our region.

The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

All stakeholders and community members who have contributed through an online survey, workshop or interview are also thanked for their time and effort.

Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

Disclaimer

We make every reasonable effort to ensure the information we source for your report is true, correct and accurate and that we fully and properly represent our findings to you. We endeavor only to work with reputable and experienced partners to obtain information and prepare our findings. Despite these efforts, the content and information provided by any third party is outside of our control and we do not make any warranty, representation or guarantee that such information is true, correct and free from errors or omissions. We will take all reasonable steps to verify any information obtained by us from third parties however we are not liable, whether directly or indirectly, for any loss, cost, expense, claim or inconvenience arising as a result of your use of such information.

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TREDWELL

Background

To support comprehensive analysis of sport and recreation issues and opportunities across the region, 16 'precincts' have been used to categorise geographic areas.

These precincts are aligned with the precincts created by .id - the population experts which outline data for the region relating to population demographics, projected growth and economic indicators.

The precincts are outlined in the following table and maps with a unique reference letter.

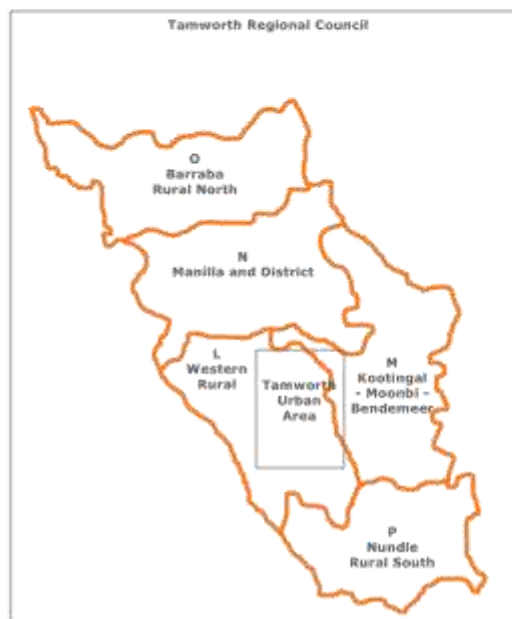
Precincts

Precinct Index

Ref	Precinct	Page
A	Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth	4
B	Hillvue	12
C	West Tamworth (Central)	17
D	West Tamworth (Coledale)	22
E	South Tamworth	25
F	Calala (Residential)	28
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K	Moore Creek - Daruka - Tintinhull - Hallsville	44
L	Western Rural	46
M	Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer	50
N	Manilla and District	55
O	Barraba - Rural North	61
P	Nundle - Rural South	67

Precinct Locations

Tamworth Regional Council Area



Tamworth Urban Area



Condition

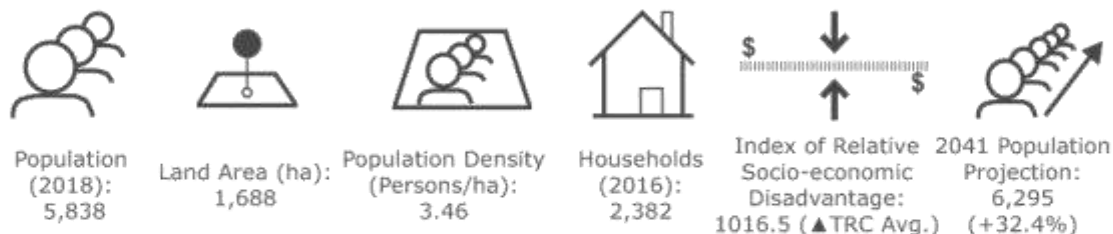
Assessment Rating System

The condition assessment ratings have used the system outlined in the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia's (IPWEA) Condition Assessment and Asset Performance Guidelines, as outlined below.

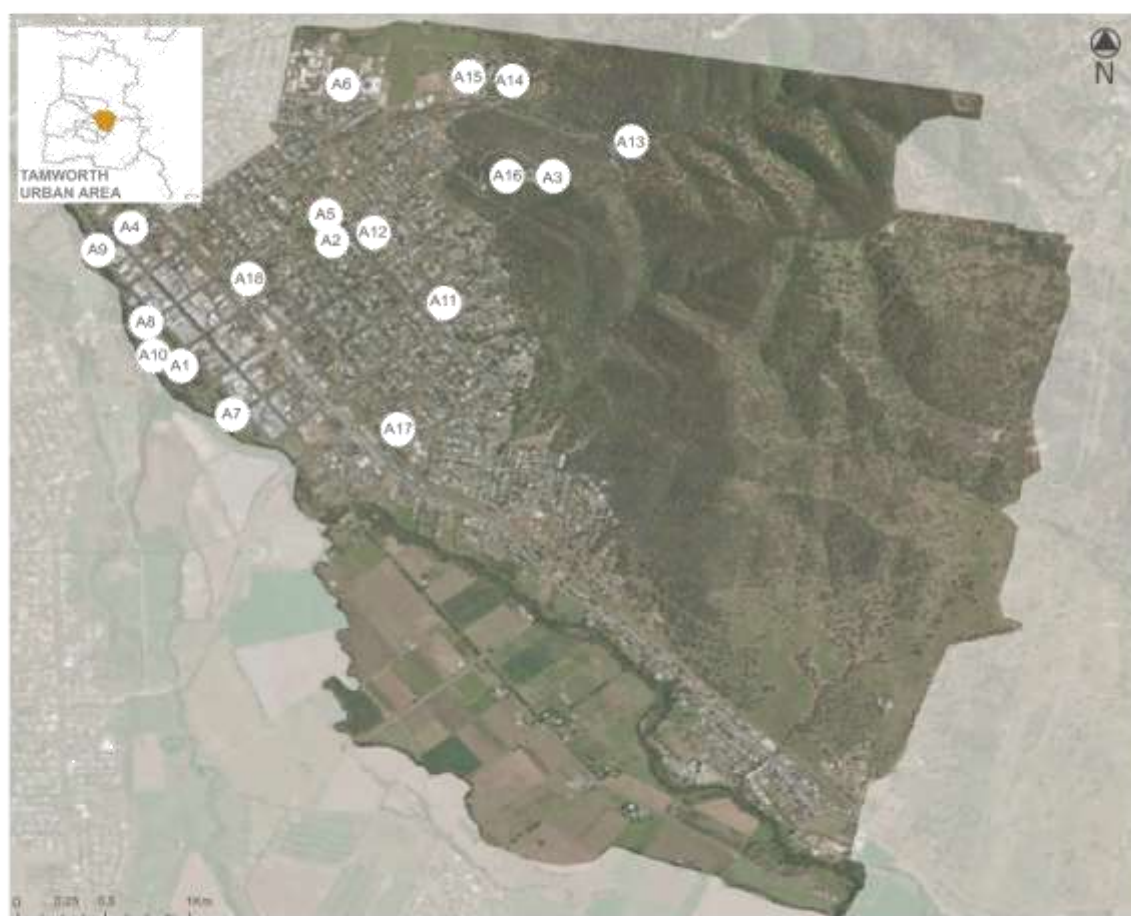
Rating	Description of Condition
1	Very Good Condition: Only normal maintenance required
2	Minor Defects Only: minor maintenance required (5%)
3	Maintenance Required: significant maintenance required (10 - 20%)
4	Requires Renewal: significant upgrade/renewal required (20 - 40%)
5	Asset unserviceable: over 50% of asset requires replacement

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



A1	Bicentennial Park - No. 1 Oval	A10	Peel River Levee Bank Track
A2	ANZAC Park	A11	Treloar Park
A3	Kamilaroi Walking Track	A12	Tamworth Croquet Court
A4	Tamworth PCYC	A13	Tamworth Marsupial Park
A5	Tamworth City Bowling Club	A14	Victoria Park - Tamworth Botanic Gardens
A6	Oxley Bowling Club	A15	Victoria Park - Tamworth Miniature Railway
A7	Bicentennial Park - Regional Playground	A16	Victoria Park - Oxley Lookout
A8	Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool	A17	Powerhouse Park
A9	Peel Picnic Spot	A18	Railway Park

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

Key Demographics:

- Low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively low proportion of population aged under 17 years (22.3%).
- Relatively high proportion of population aged over 60 (26.4%).
- Relatively low forecast population growth to 2041 (12.79%) compared to other parts of Tamworth Urban Area.

Consultation Themes:

- Desire for enhanced facilities at No. 1 Oval. Particularly larger change room facilities.
- Desire for provision of higher quality and quantity of formal walking and cycling opportunities (including bushwalking).
- Desire for enhanced access to the Peel River (e.g. for kayaking, canoeing, aesthetics).
- Desire for landscaping and improvements at Tamworth Botanic Gardens and Tamworth Miniature Railway.
- Desire for aquatic facilities to remain accessible from Tamworth CBD.
- Suggestions to maintain the Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool.
- Many community members supportive of the proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic Centre at NICSE.

A1 Bicentennial Park - No. 1 Oval



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Australian Football; Cricket
Key Facilities	1 x Oval
Key Support Facilities	Turf Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms); Grandstand
Key Usage	AFL NW; Tamworth Kangaroos Australian Football Club; Tamworth Swans Australian Football Club; Tamworth District Cricket Association
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition standard lighting for Cricket and Australian Football. • Oval not large enough for elite Australian Football or Cricket matches. • Built facilities aged and inadequate (particularly change rooms; canteen). • Turf requires excessive maintenance due to soil profile and Ground Pearl. • Turf wicket requires renewal. • Serviced with bore water. • Bicentennial Park Master Plan (2020) proposes improved infrastructure. 	

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

A2 ANZAC Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Play
Key Facilities	Play Equipment x 2
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Play equipment and support facilities have been progressively upgraded since 2008.
- Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) suggestion to develop site master plan.

A3 Kamilaroi Walking Track



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Bushwalking
Key Facilities	Recreational Walking Trail
Key Support Facilities	Trail Signage; Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Walking track links Oxley Scenic Lookout (trailhead location) to Marsupial Park and Flagstaff Mountain Lookout.
- Opportunity to enhance showcase of local Indigenous cultural values.
- Signage does not meet *Australian Standards for Bushwalking Track Tracks - Classification and Signage* (AS 2156.1).
- Walking track surface requiring maintenance.
- Opportunity to improve promotion of walking track.
- Well used as fitness route (e.g. morning walk/run route).
- Highly valued facility in community and key visitor destination.

A4 Tamworth PCYC



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Boxing; Gymnastics; Martial Arts; Yoga; Archery; Gym/Fitness
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Areas x 3; Gym
Key Support Facilities	Administration Area; Crèche
Key Usage	Tamworth PCYC; Community

Notes:

- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.
- Wide variety of sport, recreation and community programs facilitated at this venue.

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

A5 Tamworth City Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x 2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Tamworth City Bowling Club

Notes:

- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.
- Third green has been decommissioned.

A6 Oxley Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x 1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Oxley Bowling Club

Notes:

- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

A7 Bicentennial Park - Regional Playground



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Play; Water Play; Learn-to-ride; Outdoor Fitness
Key Facilities	Play Equipment; Splash Pad; Learn-to-ride Track; Outdoor Fitness Equipment
Key Support Facilities	Cafe; Picnic Facilities; Walking Paths
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Regional Playground constructed in 2015.
- Existing facility is incorporated into the Bicentennial Park Master Plan (2020).
- Opportunity to enhance promotion of Peel River Levee Bank Track and increase awareness of its connectivity to the Tamworth Regional Playground.

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

A8 Tamworth Olympic Swimming Pool



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Swimming; Water Polo
Key Facilities	Outdoor 50m Swimming Pool
Key Support Facilities	Toddlers Pool; BBQ/Picnic Facilities; Play Equipment; Built Facilities (Kiosk; Change rooms)
Key Usage	Tamworth Swimming Club; Tamworth and District Water Polo; Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly valued aquatic facility in Tamworth Centre. Aged facility with high operational costs. Bicentennial Park Masterplan (2020) details the pool will continue to be maintained as a functional community asset until if/when the proposed aquatics centre is built. 	

A9 Peel Picnic Spot



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Skate
Key Facilities	Skate Park
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for this facility replaced by the development of the Tamworth Regional Playground at nearby Viaduct Park. Plans for decommission of skate park. Alternate uses proposed for this site (e.g. heavy vehicle parking). 	

A10 Peel River Levee Bank Track



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Walk; Cycle
Key Facilities	Recreational Walking and Cycling Path
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Parkrun; Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared-use loop trail which incorporates: Levee bank along the eastern side of the Peel River; Jewry Street Bridge; Western bank of Peel River; Bicentennial Park footbridge Well used for fitness and connectivity across Tamworth. Opportunity to improve promotion of loop trail for residents and visitors. Opportunity to develop a trailhead with provision of trail information. Opportunity to improve connectivity with other facilities in line with Bicentennial Park Master Plan (2020). 	

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

A11 Treloar Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust/Leased
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x 11 (+2 planned)
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Tamworth Tennis Club; Northwest Tennis Academy

- Notes:**
- Recently taken over by Wests Entertainment Group 'The Courts @ East'.
 - Redevelopment plans in place for 2020 including significant building upgrades and a total of 13 courts (2 new courts + 11 existing courts resurfaced).
 - According to Tennis Australia's hierarchy of facilities - a 13-court facility is considered 'sub-regional'. (16 courts required for regional-level facility).

A12 Tamworth Croquet Court



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Croquet
Key Facilities	Croquet Court x 1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Tamworth Croquet Club

- Notes:**
- Aged facilities
 - Built facility is very basic.
 - Only croquet facility in the Tamworth Regional Council area.

A13 Tamworth Marsupial Park



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust/s355 Committee
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Play; Walk
Key Facilities	Play Equipment; Walking Trail
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Fauna Exhibits
Key Usage	Community

- Notes:**
- Home of Tamworth Adventure Playground.
 - Free community access.
 - Highly valued facility and key visitor destination.
 - Opportunity to improve promotion of walking trail within Marsupial Park.
 - Opportunity to improve promotion of Kamilaroi Walking Track linking Marsupial Park to Oxley Scenic Lookout and Flagstaff Mountain Lookout.
 - High quality picnic/BBQ facilities adjacent to Adventure Playground.
 - Consider options to enhance Tamworth Marsupial Park (A13) in line with Blueprint 100.

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

A14 Victoria Park -
Tamworth Botanic
Gardens



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	Crown - TRC Trust/s355 Committee
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Walk
Key Facilities	Walking Trail
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Flora Exhibits
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Free community access
- Highly valued facility and key visitor destination.
- Maintenance challenges associated with drought/low water availability.
- Upgrades of path and landscaping (2019)
- Opportunity to improve walking trail within Botanic Gardens and promotion of this.
- Opportunity to improve connectivity via walking trails between Oxley Park (Oxley Scenic Lookout and Marsupial Park) and Victoria Park (Botanic Gardens and Miniature Railway).
- Victoria Park Master Plan is planned to be reviewed.

A15 Victoria Park -
Tamworth Miniature
Railway, Observatory
and Men's Shed



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	Crown - TRC Trust/s355 Committee
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Workshop Activities; Observatory Activities
Key Facilities	Miniature Railway; Observatory; Men's Shed
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Workshop
Key Usage	Tamworth and District Model Engineers; Tamworth Regional Astronomy Club; Tamworth Community Mens Shed

Notes:

- Key visitor destination.
- Opportunity to improve aesthetics and features along railway experience.
- Opportunity to improve connectivity via trails to various destinations across Victoria Park
- Victoria Park Master Plan is planned to be reviewed.

A16 Victoria Park -
Oxley Lookout



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	Crown - TRC Trust/s355 Committee
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Walking
Key Facilities	Lookout, Walking Trails
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Key visitor destination.
- Opportunity to improve connectivity via trails to various destinations across Victoria Park
- Construction of public amenities block adjacent to the facility completed (2020)
- Victoria Park Master Plan is planned to be reviewed.

A: Tamworth CBD - East Tamworth

A17 Powerhouse Park



Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Play
Key Facilities	Play Equipment
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities
Key Usage	Community

A18 Railway Park



Hierarchy	Significant Landscape Area
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Memorial
Key Facilities	Memorial
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities
Key Usage	Community

B: Hillvue

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- B1 AELEC - Australian Equine Livestock and Events Centre
- B2 NICSE - Tamworth Cycling Centre
- B3 NICSE - Tamworth Athletics Centre
- B4 NICSE - Tamworth Sports Dome
- B5 NICSE - Tamworth Hockey Centre
- B6 Tamworth Gymnastics Centre
- B7 Chauvel Park
- B8 Longyard Golf Course

B: Hillvue

Key Demographics:

- Low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively high proportion of population aged under 17 years (25.2%).
- Relatively low proportion of population aged over 60 (23.8%).
- Very high forecast population growth to 2041 (53.27%).

B1 AELEC - Australian Equine Livestock and Events Centre



B2 NICSE - Tamworth Cycling Centre



Consultation Themes:

- High appreciation for AELEC as elite-level equestrian facility.
- Desire for provision of community-level facilities for equestrian sports (e.g. team roping).
- Support for 'big-sky thinking' and development of high-quality, regional-level facilities at NISCE (existing and future planned).
- Desire for additional support facilities at Tamworth Athletics Centre.
- Desire for accessible usage costs at Tamworth Athletics Centre and Tamworth Sports Dome.
- Generally, community support for regional-level Aquatics Centre at NISCE.
- Concerns for accessibility of facilities at NICSE from Tamworth CBD/suburbs, particularly for residents without cars (i.e. public transport).

Hierarchy	International
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Main Arena; Sales Arena; Campdraft Arena
Key Support Facilities	Stables; Warm-up Arenas; Food and Beverage Areas; Administration Area; Education Centre; Camp Grounds
Key Usage	Events

Notes:

- Opened in 2009.
- Key visitor attraction and economic driver.
- 2019/20 upgrades are part of Stage 2 of NICSE - covered warm up arenas.
- Hosts wide variety of events. Primary focus on equine and livestock events, however, multi-purpose facility.

Hierarchy	State
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	1 - Very Good Condition
Key Activities	Cycling
Key Facilities	Velodrome; Criterium Track
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Tamworth Cycling Club; Community

Notes:

- Opened in 2019.
- Accessible to community members - free of charge.
- Designed to cater for variety of skill levels.

B: Hillvue

B3 NICSE - Tamworth Athletics Centre



Hierarchy	State
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	1 - Very Good Condition
Key Activities	Athletics - Track and Field
Key Facilities	Synthetic Running Track; Field Athletics Facilities
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Tamworth Athletics Club; Tamworth Little Athletics; Community.

Notes:

- Opened in 2019.
- Community pays per use or via membership.
- The highest quality/standard athletics facility in northern NSW.
- Attracts athletes for training and competition across a broad catchment.
- Available for full day hire (e.g. School Sport).
- User groups desire enhanced support facilities.
- Desire for hire rates to be accessible for level events.

B4 NICSE - Tamworth Sports Dome



Hierarchy	State
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Basketball; Netball; Futsal; Fitness/Gym; Badminton; Volleyball; Table Tennis; Roller Derby (Training)
Key Facilities	Indoor: Basketball/Netball Courts x4; Multi-use Courts x3; Gym. Outdoor: Netball/Basketball Courts x18.
Key Support Facilities	Change rooms; Canteen; Administration Area; Amenities Block
Key Usage	Tamworth Basketball Assn; Tamworth Netball Assn; New England Roller Derby League; Northern Inland Football (Futsal)

Notes:

- Opened in 2009.
- Highly valued facility in the community.
- Basketball Association desires lower usage costs.
- Roller derby desires track marked for competition and access to court time.

B: Hillvue

B5 NICSE - Tamworth Hockey Centre



Hierarchy	National
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned
Venue Overall Condition	1 - Very Good Condition
Key Activities	Hockey
Key Facilities	Water-based Synthetic Hockey Field x3
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms)
Key Usage	Tamworth Hockey Club; Community

Notes:

- Opened in 2019.
- Third water-based synthetic field under construction (2020).
- Addition of third pitch enables facility to meet requirements for national-level competitions.
- Match standard lighting.

B6 Tamworth Gymnastics Centre



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Gymnastics
Key Facilities	Gymnastics Facility
Key Support Facilities	Administration Area
Key Usage	Tamworth Gymnastics Club

Notes:

- Facility opened in 2000.
- Full competition lighting.
- Uses Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (adjacent) as a temporary facility for large-scale events (e.g. the annual Country Capital Cup).
- Long-term lease has allowed club to invest in facility.

B7 Chauvel Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch; Amenities Block; Play Equipment
Key Usage	Tamworth District Cricket Association

Notes:

- Site is subject to frequent vandalism.
- 2 x cricket nets to be constructed in 2020.
- Amenities block in poor condition.

B: Hillvue

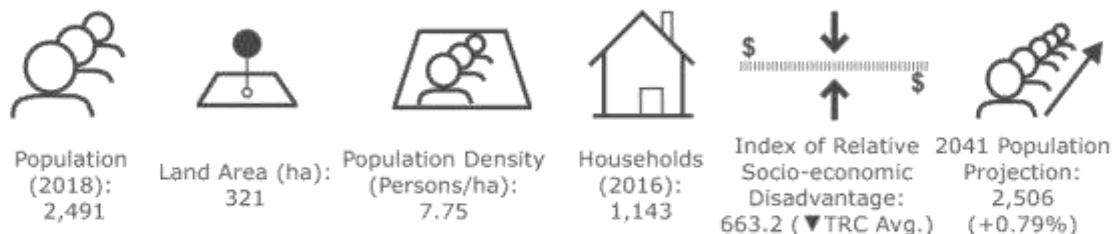
B8 Longyard Golf Course



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Golf
Key Facilities	Golf Course 18-holes
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Administration Area)
Key Usage	Longyard Golf Club; Events.
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamworth's premier golf facility. Facilities well-used and fit-for-purpose. 	

C: West Tamworth (Central)

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- C1 Belmore Park
- C2 West Tamworth Sports and Bowling Club
- C3 West Tamworth Tennis Club
- C4 South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool
- C5 Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct
- C6 Gipps Street Sports Complex
- C7 Tamworth Golf Course
- C8 Tamworth Bunkhouse
- C9 Cross Park

C: West Tamworth (Central)

Key Demographics:

- Precinct with the highest level of relative socio-economic disadvantage - within the 2nd percentile across Australia.
- Relatively low proportion of population aged under 17 years (17.9%).
- Relatively high population density compared to other parts of Tamworth Urban Area.
- Precinct with the lowest forecast population growth to 2041 (0.79%).
- West Tamworth (includes Precinct C and D) has the poorest health indicators, such as child and adult obesity, insufficient exercise and heart disease mortality (Heart Foundation, 2016).

Consultation Themes:

- Desire for aquatic facilities to remain accessible from South and West suburbs.
- Suggestions to maintain South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool.
- Many community members supportive of the proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic Centre at NICSE.
- Desire for a high-quality site to be 'home' of football (soccer) for the region. Requests for synthetic playing surface.
- Desire for improved amenities at Belmore Park.

C1 Belmore Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1
Key Support Facilities	Turf Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Pavilion); Cricket Nets; Play Equipment
Key Usage	Tamworth District Cricket Association

Notes:

- Built facilities in poor condition.
- Site is subject to frequent vandalism.
- Community requests for BBQ on site and improved amenities.

C2 West Tamworth Sports and Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Administration Area)
Key Usage	West Tamworth Sports and Bowling Club

Notes:

- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.
- Third green has been decommissioned.

C: West Tamworth (Central)

C3 West Tamworth Tennis Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Council Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x7
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Administration Area)
Key Usage	West Tamworth Tennis Club

Notes:

- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

C4 South and West Tamworth War Memorial Swimming Pool



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Swimming; Water Polo
Key Facilities	Outdoor 50m Swimming Pool; Children's Play Pool; Toddlers Pool; Water Slide
Key Support Facilities	Play Equipment; Picnic Facilities; Change rooms; Canteen
Key Usage	Tamworth Swimming Club; Tamworth and District Water Polo; Community

Notes:

- Highly valued aquatic facility in West Tamworth.
- Aged facility with high operational costs.
- Pool will continue to be maintained as a functional community asset until if/when the proposed Aquatics Centre is built.

C5 Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct



Hierarchy	National
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Rugby League; Rugby Union; Football (Soccer)
Key Facilities	Multi-use Rectangular Pitch x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Change rooms; Administration Area; Media Area; Food and Beverage Facilities); Grandstand
Key Usage	Wests Entertainment Group; Major Events: NRL; A-League Football; National Rugby Championships

Notes:

- Opened in 2015.
- Match standard lighting.
- Hosts finals for local leagues, as well as elite competitions.
- Fenced/Not accessible to the public.

C: West Tamworth (Central)

C6 Gipps Street Sports Complex



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Football (Soccer); Touch Football
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitches: Senior Soccer x8; Junior Soccer x10; Touch Football x16
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Pavilion; Change rooms; Canteen)
Key Usage	Northern Inland Football; Tamworth Touch Association
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match standard lighting on 5x Football (Soccer) and 7 Touch Football fields. Irrigation recently upgraded. Bore water accessible. Located on floodplain. Users requesting upgrades (e.g. change rooms; lifts). Canteen used and highly valued by Football (Soccer). 	

C7 Tamworth Golf Course



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Golf
Key Facilities	Golf Course 18-Hole
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Administration Area; Function Area)
Key Usage	Tamworth Golf Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose. 	

C8 Tamworth Bunkhouse



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	Privately Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Squash; Beach Volleyball
Key Facilities	Squash Courts x3; Beach Volleyball Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Change rooms; Spectator Viewing Area (Squash); Accommodation
Key Usage	Social Squash Competition
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squash Courts in 'reasonable condition' Beach Volleyball Courts in poor condition. Previously used by Tamworth Squash Racquet Club which is now an informal group. 	

C: West Tamworth (Central)

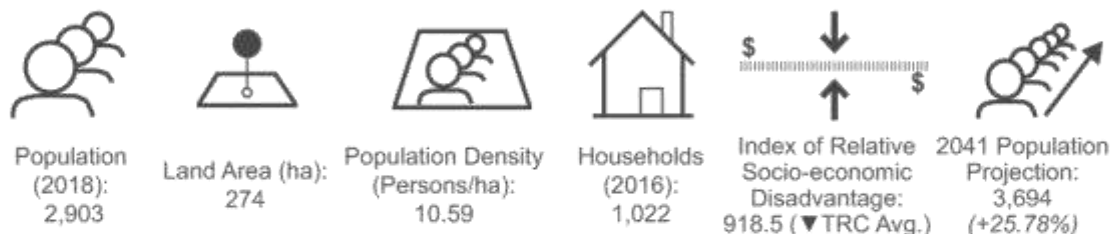
C9 Cross Park



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Football (Soccer)
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitches: Senior Soccer x1; Junior Soccer x2
Key Support Facilities	Sports Lighting
Key Usage	Northern Inland Football
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located on floodplain. 	

D: West Tamworth (Coledale)

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- D1 Tamworth Centenary Park
- D2 The Youthie - Tamworth Youth Centre
- D3 Granny Munro Park

D: West Tamworth (Coledale)

Key Demographics:

- High level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively high proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (6.6%) compared to other precincts.
- Precinct with the highest proportion of Indigenous population (30.7%).
- Precinct with the highest population density (10.59 persons/ha).
- Very high proportion of population aged under 17 years (17.9%) and low proportion of population aged over 60 (18.1%).
- High forecast population growth to 2041 (25.78%).
- West Tamworth (includes Precinct C and D) has the poorest health indicators, such as child and adult obesity, insufficient exercise and heart disease mortality (Heart Foundation, 2016).

Consultation Themes:

- Request to increase provision of sport and recreation facilities in communities with the poorest health indicators.
- Concern for accessibility to sport and recreation facilities (e.g. swimming pool) from West Tamworth if majority of facilities are located at NICSE.

D1 Tamworth Centenary Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Basketball; Netball; Futsal
Key Facilities	Multi-use/Recreational Outdoor Court x1; Kick-about Area x1
Key Support Facilities	Play Equipment; Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Youth space/recreation facilities constructed in 2019.

D2 The Youthie – Tamworth Youth Centre



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	8-Ball; Table Tennis
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Area; Pool Tables x4;
Key Support Facilities	Administration Area
Key Usage	Community (Youth); Tamworth Regional Youth Inter-agency.

Notes:

- Facility opened in 2015.
- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

D: West Tamworth (Coledale)

D3 Granny Munro Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Play
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Field; Play Equipment; Recreational Outdoor Court
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

--

E: South Tamworth

Precinct Overview:



Population
(2018):
6,728



Land Area (ha):
642



Population Density
(Persons/ha):
10.49



Households
(2016):
2,906

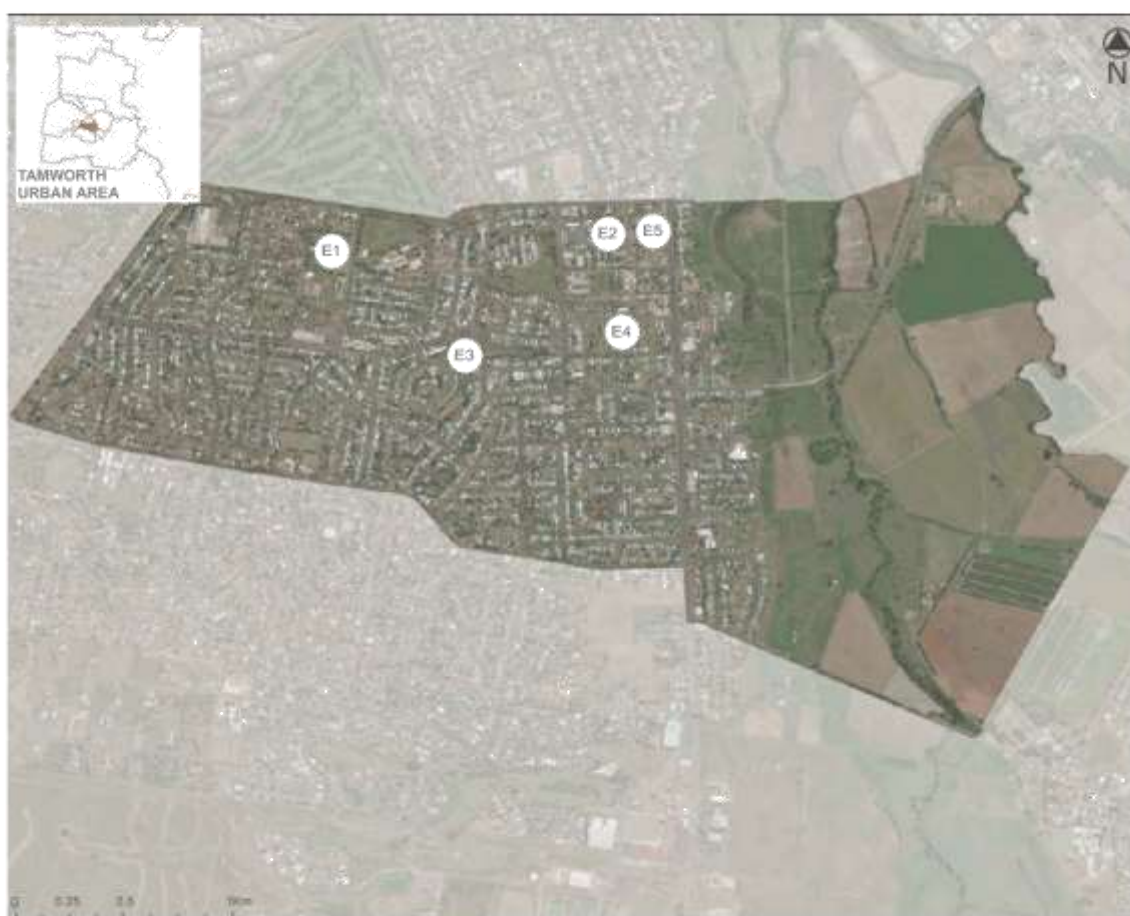


Index of Relative
Socio-economic
Disadvantage:
853.5 (▼ TRC Avg.)



2041 Population
Projection:
6,958
(+2.23%)

Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- E1 Chaffey Park Tamworth
- E2 Ken Chillingworth Oval
- E3 Hyman Park
- E4 South Tamworth Bowling Club
- E5 Freestule Bouldering Gym

E: South Tamworth

Key Demographics:

- High level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively low proportion of population aged under 17 years (22.3%) and high proportion of population aged over 60 (26.6%).
- Relatively high proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (6.4%).
- Relatively high proportion of Indigenous population (15.3%) compared to other precincts.
- Relatively high population density (10.49 persons/ha) compared to other precincts.
- Precinct with the lowest rate of forecast population growth to 2041 (2.23%).

Consultation Themes:

- Requests for improved cycle opportunities to allow for active commuting into Tamworth CBD.
- Request for improved toilet amenities at Chaffey Park.

E1 Chaffey Park Tamworth E2 Ken Chillingworth Oval



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms; Turf Wicket; Cricket Nets; Play Equipment.
Key Usage	Tamworth District Cricket Association
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket nets upgraded in 2019. • Built facilities in poor condition. • Site is subject to frequent vandalism. • Community requests for improved toilet amenities. 	

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Rugby Union
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch (Rugby Union) x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms; Canteen)
Key Usage	Pirates Rugby Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports lighting to competition standard for Rugby Union. • Fenced/not accessible to the public. 	

E: South Tamworth

E3 Hyman Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Learn-to-ride; Basketball; Netball; Futsal (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Outdoor Court x1; Learn-to-ride Track x1
Key Support Facilities	Shelter, Picnic Facilities; Play Equipment; Outdoor Gym Equipment
Key Usage	Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community request for BBQ on site. Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) identifies as a 'District-level' park. 	

E4 South Tamworth Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Administration Area)
Key Usage	South Tamworth Bowling Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose. 	

E5 Freestyle Bouldering Gym



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Bouldering
Key Facilities	Bouldering Wall
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility
Key Usage	Freestyle Bouldering Gym Members; Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility well established. Gym is registered not-for-profit. 	

F: Calala (Residential)

Precinct Overview:



Population
(2018):
2,792



Land Area (ha):
385



Population Density
(Persons/ha):
7.25



Households
(2016):
989

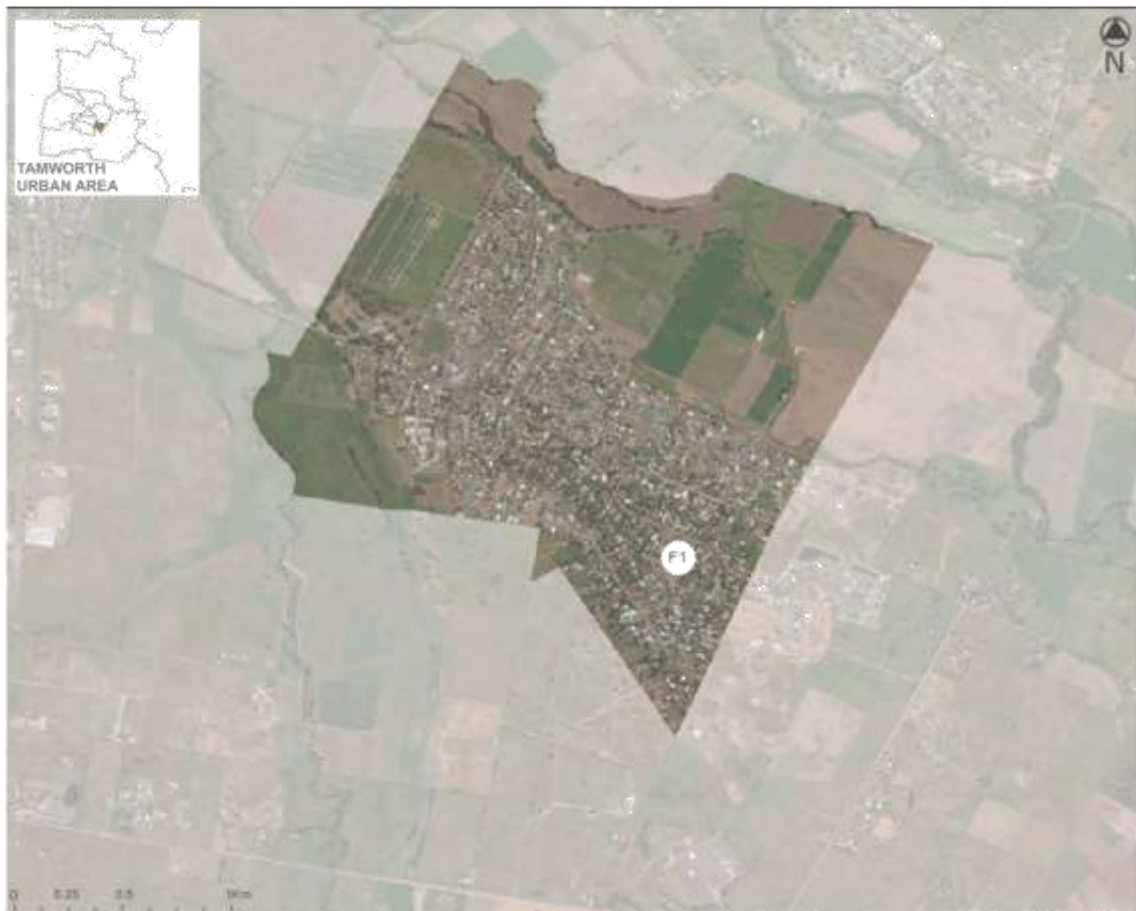


Index of Relative
Socio-economic
Disadvantage:
1024.5 (▲TRC Avg.)



2041 Population
Projection:
5,953
(+53.77%)

Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



F1 Monk Park

F: Calala (Residential)

Key Demographics:

- Low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively high proportion of population aged under 17 years (26.6%) and low proportion of population aged over 60 (22.2%).
- Very high forecast population growth to 2041 (53.77%).

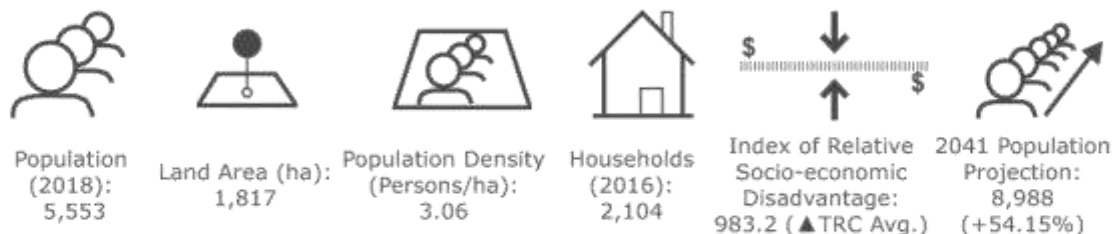
F1 Monk Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Basketball; Netball (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Outdoor Court x1
Key Support Facilities	Play Equipment; Picnic Facilities; Cricket Practice Net x1; Path/Trail
Key Usage	Community
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) identifies as a 'Local-level' park with suggestion to further develop to District status over time. 	

G: North Tamworth

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



G1	Viaduct Park - Tamworth Regional Skate Park	G6	North Recreation Reserve - Playing Fields
G2	Viaduct Park - Playing Fields	G7	North Recreation Reserve - BMX Track
G3	Tamworth Rugby Park	G8	Tamworth Mountain Bike Park
G4	Riding for the Disabled - Tamworth	G9	Tamworth Pistol Club
G5	Jack Woolaston Oval	G10	North Tamworth Bowling Club

G: North Tamworth

Key Demographics:

- Slightly lower level of relative socio-economic disadvantage compared to the Tamworth region's average.
- Relatively low proportion of population aged under 17 years (20.0%) and high proportion of population aged over 60 (28.3%).
- Precinct with the equal highest proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (9.8%). (Equal with Precinct O: Barraba - Rural North).
- Very high forecast population growth to 2041 (54.15%).

Consultation Themes:

- Tamworth Regional Skate Park and Mountain Bike Parks are highly valued community facility.
- A portion of the community dislike the exclusive use of some sports fields (e.g. leased rugby fields).

G1 Viaduct Park - Tamworth Regional Skate Park



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	1 - Very Good Condition
Key Activities	Skate and Ride
Key Facilities	Skate Park; Pump Track
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Play Equipment; Amenities Block
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Opened in May 2019.
- Lighting for night time use.
- Replaces requirement for skate park at Peel Picnic Spot (across road).
- Well utilised and highly valued facility by the community.
- Viaduct Park Master Plan scheduled for completion in 2020.

G2 Viaduct Park - Playing Fields



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Rugby Union
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Multi Sport Training Facility

Notes:

- Sports lighting to training standard
- Viaduct Park Master Plan scheduled for completion in 2020.

G: North Tamworth

G3 Tamworth Rugby Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Rugby Union
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms; Canteen)
Key Usage	Tamworth Rugby Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports lighting to training standard for Rugby Union. Fenced/not accessible to the public. 	

G4 Riding for the Disabled - Tamworth



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Arena
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Clubroom; Stables)
Key Usage	Riding for the Disabled - Tamworth
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides programs for people with disability with high social benefit. 	

G5 Jack Woolaston Oval



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Rugby League
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms; Canteen)
Key Usage	North Tamworth Bears Rugby League Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports lighting to competition standard for Rugby League Fenced/not accessible to the public. 	

G: North Tamworth

G6 North Recreation Reserve - Playing Fields



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Football (Soccer)
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Change rooms; Canteen)
Key Usage	North Companions Soccer Club

Notes:

- Sports lighting recently upgraded to competition standard
- Significant work required on irrigation.

G7 North Recreation Reserve - BMX Track



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - leased
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	BMX
Key Facilities	BMX Track
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Canteen)
Key Usage	Tamworth City BMX Club

Notes:

- Track requiring resurfacing/ maintenance
- Support facilities basic.
- Facility specifications are suitable to host State-level events
- Tamworth City BMX Club hopes to upgrade facilities to host national-level events in the future.

G8 Tamworth Mountain Bike Park



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Crown Owned - Club Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Mountain Biking; Bushwalking
Key Facilities	Mountain Bike Trail Network; Yuundu Warruni Cultural Trail
Key Support Facilities	Signage; Playground; Pump Track; Skills Park; Picnic Facilities; Canteen; Storage
Key Usage	Tamworth Mountain Bike Club; Community

Notes:

- Plans to continually expand and improve trails network and the walking trail (with cultural focus)
- Plans include trail enhancements to meet Adaptive Cycle Guidelines
- Club hopes to upgrade facilities to host national-level events in the future.

G: North Tamworth

G9 Tamworth Pistol Club



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Crown Owned - Club Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Shooting
Key Facilities	Firing Range (Indoor) x1; Firing Range (Outdoor) x1.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Storage)
Key Usage	Tamworth Pistol Club

Notes:

- New clubhouse constructed in 2009/10.
- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

G10 North Tamworth Bowling Club



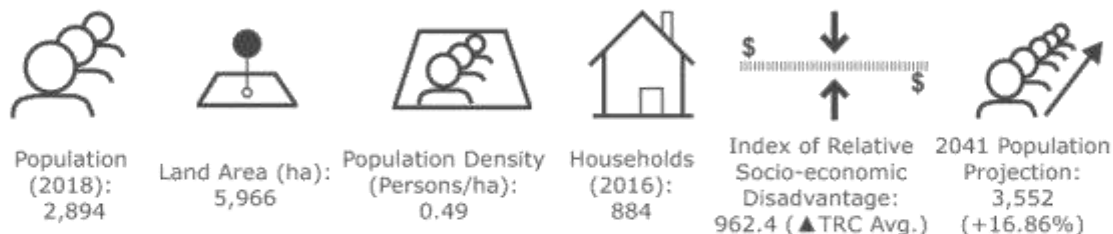
Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Administration Area)
Key Usage	North Tamworth Bowling Club

Notes:

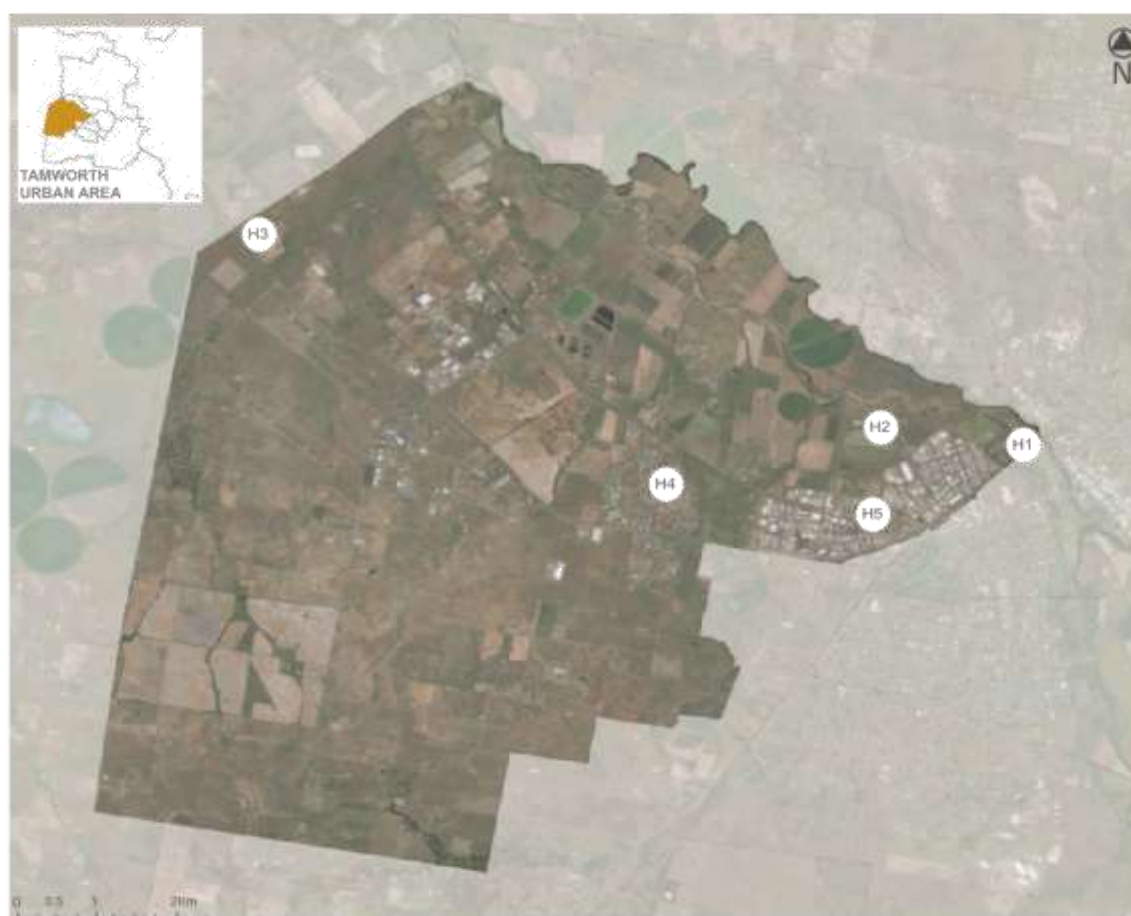
- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

H: Westdale - Taminda

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- H1 Riverside Sporting Complex
- H2 Tamworth Jockey Club
- H3 Oakburn Park Motor Sports Complex
- H4 Thomas Mitchell Park
- H5 Paceway Tamworth (Former Tamworth Showgrounds)

H: Westdale - Taminda

Key Demographics:

- Level of relative socio-economic disadvantage almost equal with the average across the Tamworth Region.
- Precinct with the highest proportion of population aged under 17 years (31.9%) and lowest proportion of population aged over 60 (12.5%).
- Relatively low forecast population growth to 2041 (16.86%) compared to the region's average.

H1 Riverside Sporting Complex



Consultation Themes:

- Riverside Sporting Complex has been used by the highest number of community survey respondents.
- Community requests for upgraded sports lighting and built facilities (clubrooms; change rooms; canteen) at Riverside Sports Complex.
- Plans in place for upgrades at Oakburn Park Motorsports Complex - seeking funding for implementation.

Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Football (Soccer); Baseball; Softball; Cricket; Australian Football; Rugby League; Rugby Union; Otago
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch (Football/Soccer) x8; Baseball Diamond x14; Softball Diamond x8; Cricket Oval x6; Australian Football Oval x1; Rugby League/Union Field x6; Rugby League Junior Field x7; Otago Field x28; Otago Junior Field x6. Note: Many playing fields are overlaid upon each other.
Key Support Facilities	4 Turf Cricket Pitches; 3 Synthetic Cricket Pitches; Built Facilities (Pavilion; Change rooms; Canteen); Cricket Nets; Batting Cages
Key Usage	Northern Inland Football (Overflow Facility); Tamworth Baseball Association; Tamworth Softball Association; Tamworth District Cricket Association; AFL North West; Tamworth and District Minor League; Tamworth Tri-colours Rugby Union; Tamworth Otago Association.
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Plain Street Playing Fields • Sports lighting on 2x Football (Soccer) pitches; 6x Rugby League/Union fields; 4x Junior Rugby League fields; 15x Otago fields. • Built facilities aged and inadequate to meet the needs of user groups (particularly change rooms; canteen). • Turf requires excessive maintenance due to soil profile. • Playing fields services with bore water. • Poor irrigation/drainage • Located on floodplain. • Location on floodplain requires specific building requirements (e.g. elevation). • Highly used and valued community sporting facility. 	

H: Westdale - Taminda

H2 Tamworth Jockey Club



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Horse Racing
Key Facilities	Racecourse
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Pavilion; Function Centre)
Key Usage	Tamworth Jockey Club

H3 Oakburn Park Motor Sports Complex



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Karting; Speedway; Motocross
Key Facilities	Kart Track; Motocross Track; Speedway.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Clubroom; Workshop; Storage)
Key Usage	Tamworth Motor Sports Association; (Inc. Kart Race Club; Sporting Car Club; Motorcycle Club)

Notes:

- Development Approval (DA) approved for proposed redevelopment.
- Proposal includes: new circuit racing track; drag strip; updated and improved spectator facilities and amenities.

H4 Thomas Mitchell Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Basketball; Netball (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Outdoor Court x1
Key Support Facilities	Play Equipment; Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) identifies as a 'Local-level' park with suggestion to further develop to District status over time.

H: Westdale - Taminda

H5 Paceway Tamworth (Former Tamworth Showgrounds)



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	Privately Owned
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Arena; Trotting Track
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Function Centre); Camping Facilities; Stables
Key Usage	Paceway Tamworth; Equestrian Events; Tamworth Harness Racing Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privately owned and operated, providing facilities and programs for various equestrian sports. Provides a 'home' facility to various historic user groups of Tamworth Showgrounds. Used as a camping ground during Tamworth Country Music Festival. 	

I: Oxley Vale

Precinct Overview:



Population
(2018):
4,044



Land Area (ha):
885



Population Density
(Persons/ha):
4.57



Households
(2016):
1,359

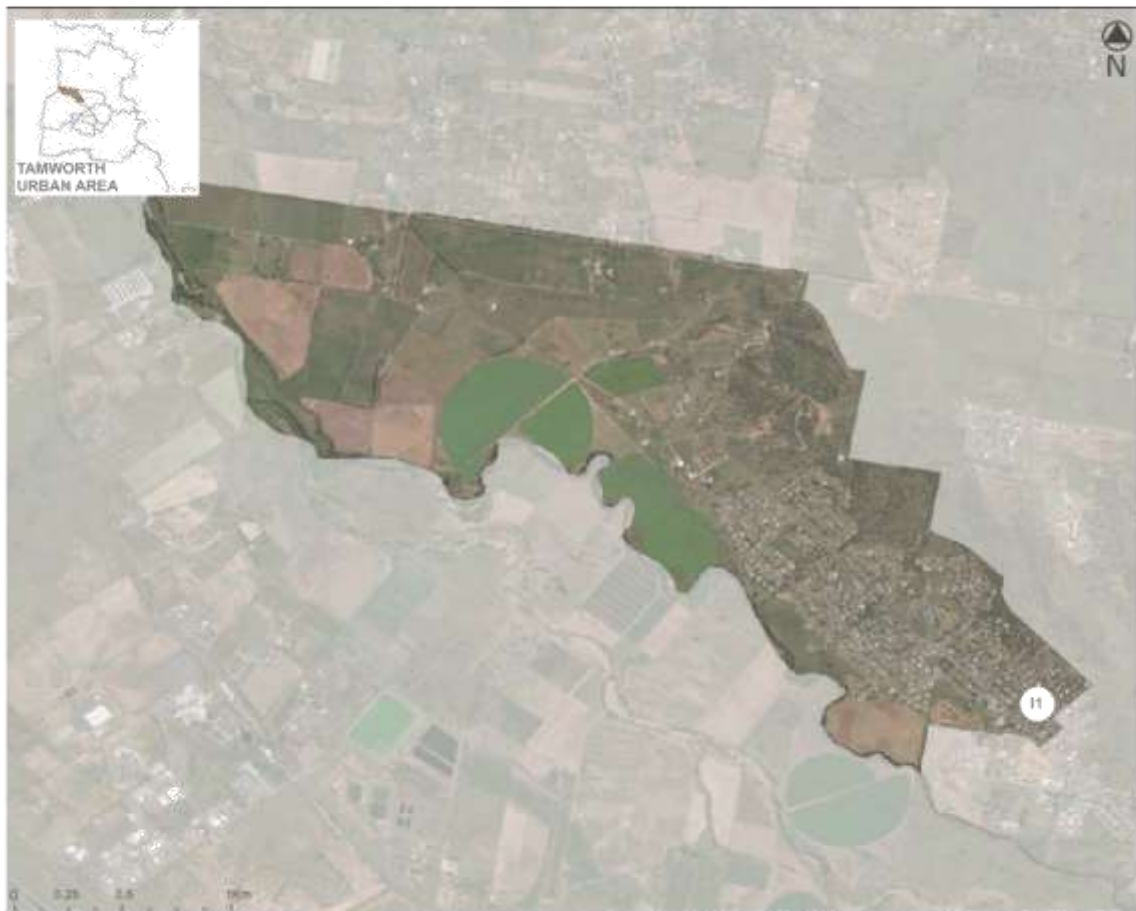


Index of Relative
Socio-economic
Disadvantage:
924.7 (▼TRC Avg.)



2041 Population
Projection:
4,756
(+18.84%)

Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



I1 Pages Park

I: Oxley Vale

Key Demographics:

- High level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively high proportion of population aged under 17 years (27.1%) and low proportion of population aged over 60 (20.5%).
- Relatively high proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (6.1%).
- Relatively high proportion of Indigenous population (15.7%) compared to other precincts.
- Relatively low forecast population growth to 2041 (18.84%) compared to the region's average.

I1 Pages Park



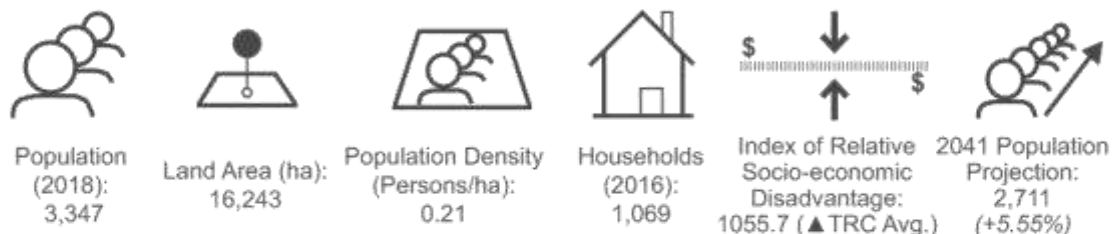
Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Basketball; Netball; Futsal (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Multi-purpose Recreational Outdoor Court x1
Key Support Facilities	Play Equipment
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

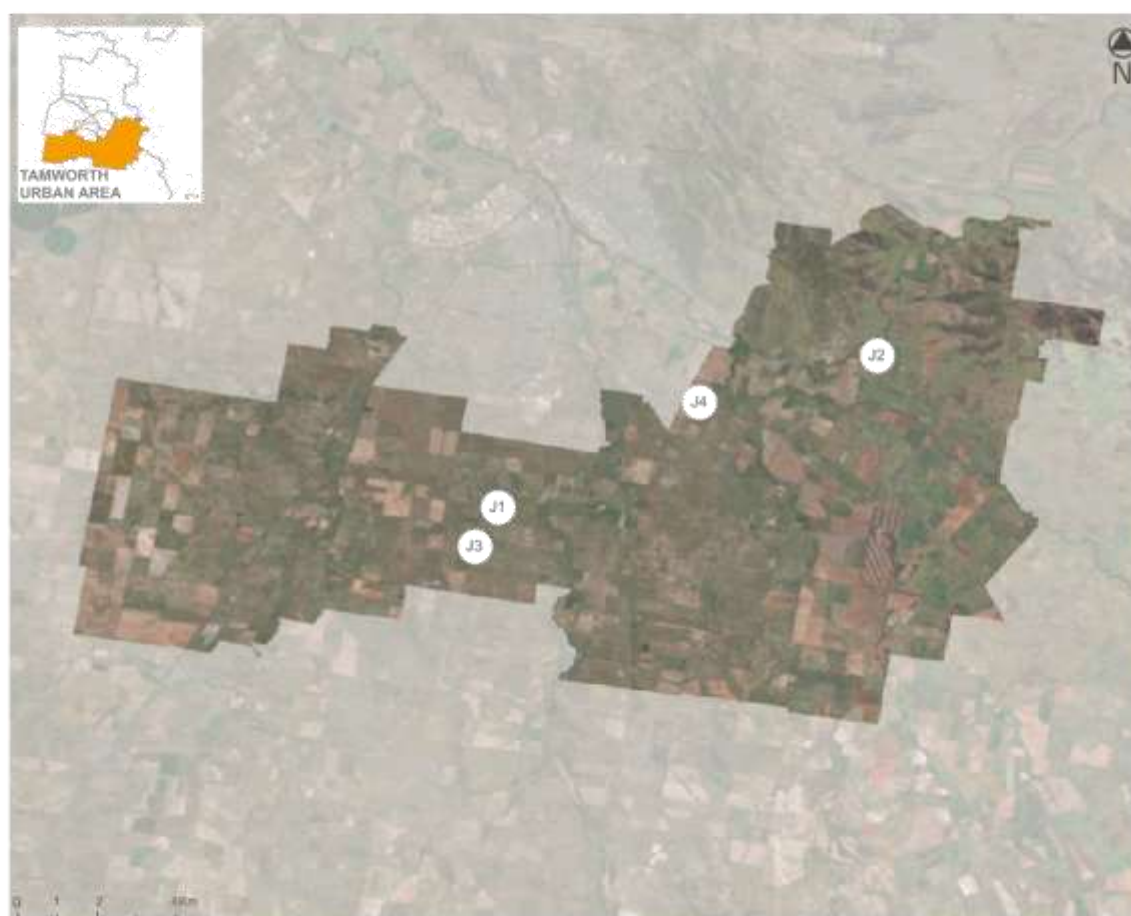
- Recreational Outdoor Court Constructed in 2019.
- Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) identifies as a local-level park.

J: Warral - Kingswood - Nemingha - Calala

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- J1 Kingswood Park
- J2 Nemingha Recreation Reserve
- J3 Koobah Equine Facility
- J4 Redbank Park

J: Warral - Kingswood - Nemingha - Calala

Key Demographics:

- Low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively high proportion of population aged under 17 years (27.2%) and low proportion of population aged over 60 (21.1%).
- Precinct with the lowest proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (3.3%). (Equal with Precinct L: Western Rural).
- Relatively very low forecast population growth to 2041 (5.55%) compared to the region's average.

Consultation Themes:

- Nemingha Hall used for Roller Derby despite being sub-standard facility for this activity.
- Requests for improved cycle opportunities to allow for active commuting into Tamworth CBD.

J1 Kingswood Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch;
Key Usage	Tamworth District Cricket Association; Peel Valley Bush Cricket.

Notes:

- Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) identifies as a local-level park.

J2 Nemingha Recreation Reserve



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Model Car Racing; Cricket; Roller Derby (Training)
Key Facilities	Modelsport Raceway; Cricket Oval; Community Hall;
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch;
Key Usage	New England Roller Derby League (Training); Tamworth Radio Control Car Racing Club

Notes:

- While not ideal due to size and location, the Nemingha Hall is used for Roller Derby training due to lack of other suitable/available facilities in the region.

J: Warral - Kingswood - Nemingha - Calala

J3 Koobah Equine Facility



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Privately Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Main Arena; Campdraft Arena
Key Support Facilities	Grandstand; Camping Area; Stables; Administration Area
Key Usage	Equine Events

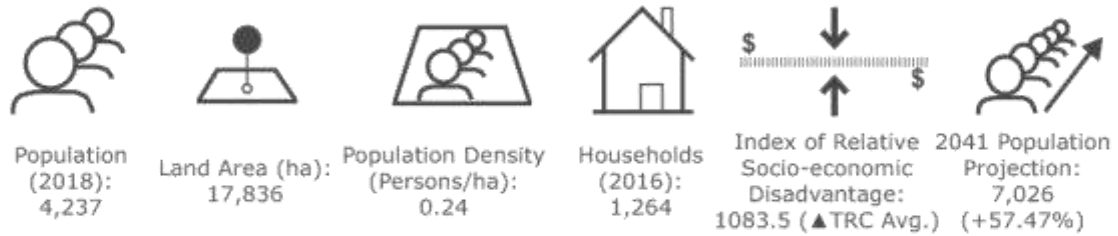
J4 Redbank Park



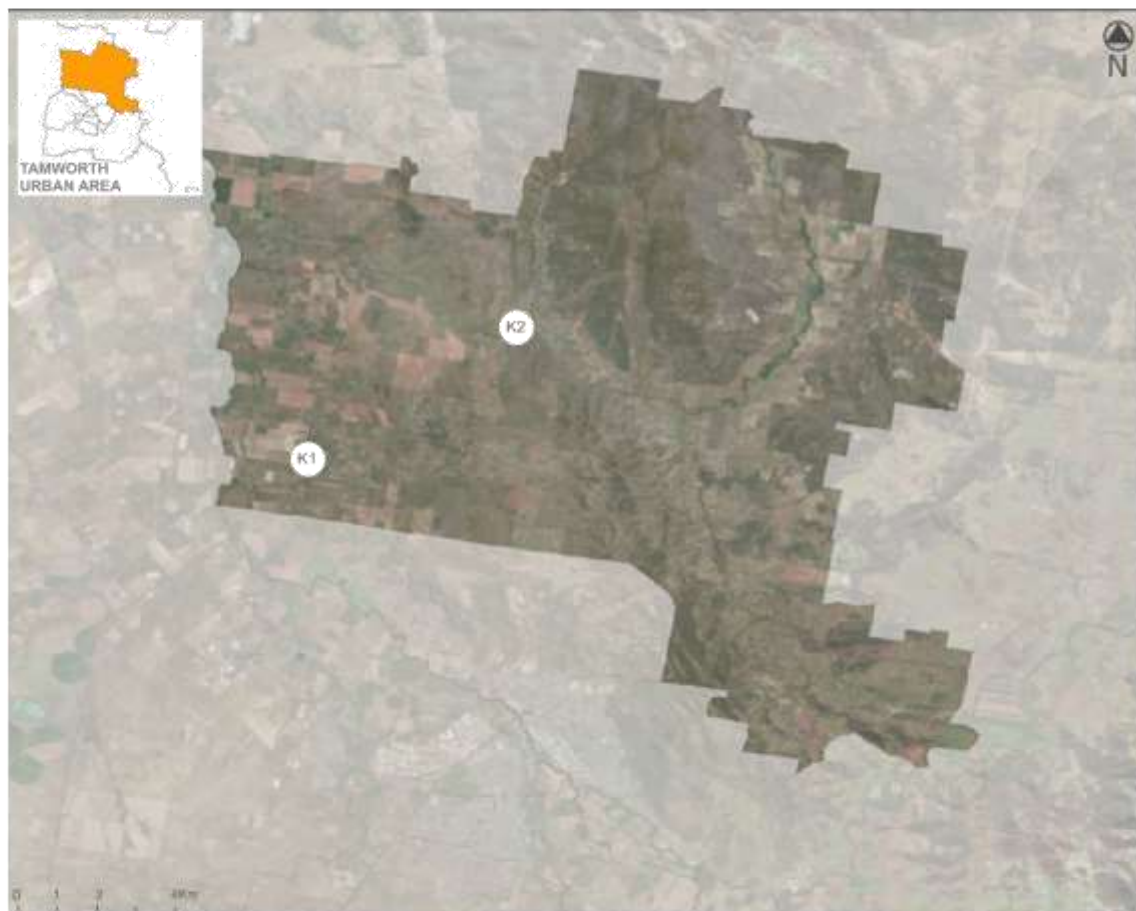
Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Play
Key Facilities	Play Equipment; Large undulated open space; walk/cycle path
Key Support Facilities	Amenities
Key Usage	Community

K: Moore Ck - Daruka - Tintinhull – Hallsville

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- K1 Tamworth Junior Riding Club
- K2 Moore Creek Recreation Reserve

K: Moore Ck - Daruka - Tintinhull - Hallsville

Key Demographics:

- Precinct with the lowest level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Relatively high proportion of population aged under 17 years (29.8%) and low proportion of population aged over 60 (19.5%).
- Precinct with the highest forecast population growth rate to 2041 (57.47%).

Consultation Themes:

- Plans in place for new indoor arena at Tamworth Junior Riding Club - seeking funds for implementation.

K1 Tamworth Junior Riding Club



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Arena
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Amenities; Storage); Stables
Key Usage	Tamworth Junior Riding Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Approval (DA) approved for proposed new indoor arena. 	

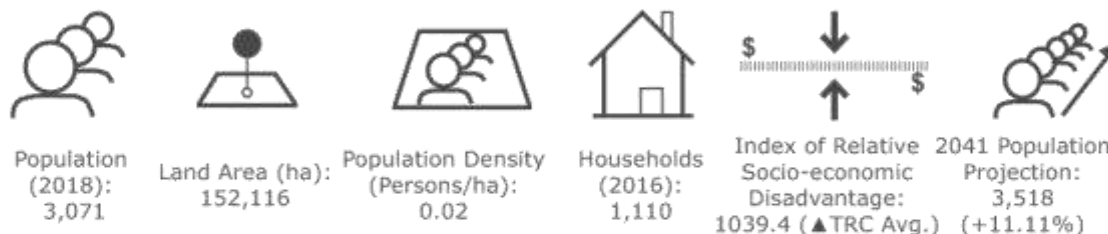
K2 Moore Creek Recreation Reserve



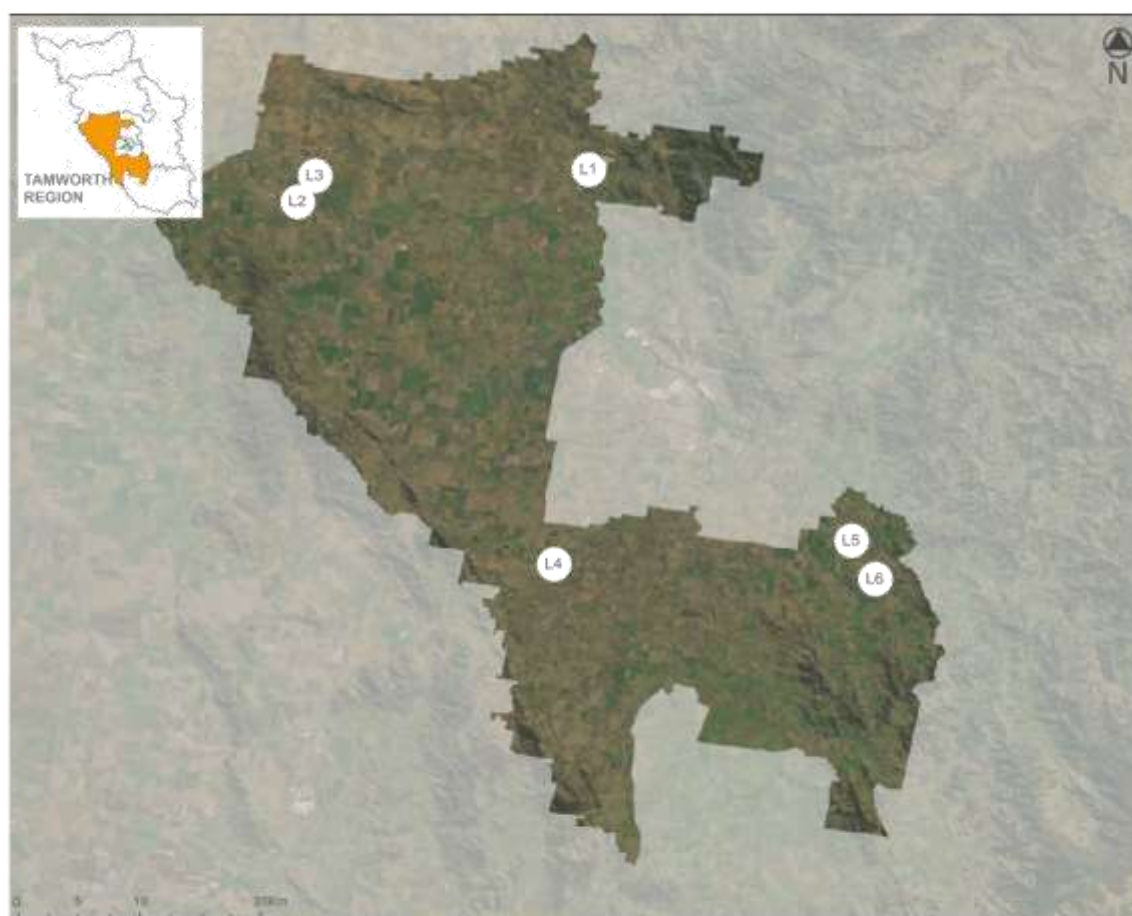
Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Tennis; Cricket
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x3; Cricket Oval x1
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch;
Key Usage	Moore Creek Tennis Club; Peel Valley Bush Cricket.
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilets/amenities require upgrade. • Tennis courts require resurface. 	

L: Western Rural

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- L1 Attunga Recreation Sports Ground
- L2 Somerton Flying Field
- L3 Somerton Recreation Ground
- L4 Duri Memorial Sports Ground
- L5 Tamworth Clay Target Club
- L6 Tamworth Peel Valley Rifle Club

L: Western Rural

Key Demographics:

- Relatively low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Very low population density.
- Age structure (population aged under 17 years and over 60 years) relatively reflective of average across the wider region.
- Precinct with the lowest proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (3.3%). (Equal with Precinct J: Warral - Kingswood - Nemingha - Calala).
- Precinct with the highest forecast population growth rate to 2041 (57.47%).

Consultation Themes:

- Request for upgrade of tennis courts at Somerton Recreation Ground.

L1 Attunga Recreation Sports Ground



Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - S355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket; Tennis
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1; Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms); Synthetic Wicket; Cricket Nets; Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts in very poor condition (Condition rating = 5 Asset Unserviceable). • Cricket nets functional (Condition rating = 3 Maintenance required). • Cricket Oval (Condition rating = 3 Maintenance required). • Built facilities well used and fit-for-purpose. 	

L2 Somerton Flying Field



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition Rating	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Aerosports
Key Facilities	Airstrip
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Tamworth Area Radio Model Aircraft Club
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty attracting young people to join the Aircraft Club. • Hosted NSW TARMAC Scale Rally in 2019. 	

L: Western Rural

L3 Somerton Recreation Ground



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - S355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket; Tennis
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1; Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Concrete Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	

Notes:

- Tennis courts and cricket oval in poor condition (Condition rating = 4 Requires Renewal).
- Built facilities aged and basic.
- Community request for upgrade to tennis courts.

L4 Duri Memorial Sports Ground



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - S355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Tennis; Equestrian Activities
Key Facilities	Recreation Area; Tennis Courts x3
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Duri War Memorial Tennis Club; Duri Progress Association (Gymkhana)

Notes:

- Recreation area used for equestrian activities.
- Tennis courts and recreation area in satisfactory condition (Condition rating = 3 Maintenance Required).
- Built facilities aged and basic.

L5 Tamworth Clay Target Club



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Clay Target Shooting
Key Facilities	Shooting Layouts x5
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Tamworth Clay Target Club

Notes:

- Primarily focus on skeet and down the line clay target shooting.
- Strong junior membership and competitions.
- Host various events such as district/regional level competitions.
- Plans to improve facility for hosting of larger regional-level competitions.

L: Western Rural

L6 Tamworth Peel Valley Rifle Club



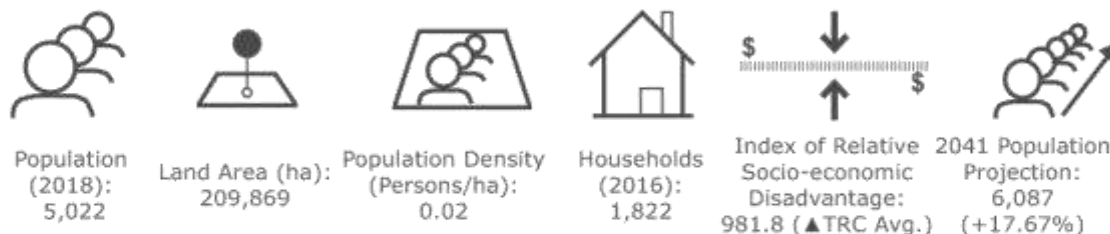
Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	Privately Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition Rating	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Rifle Shooting
Key Facilities	Rifle Range with Mounds at 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 500m and 600m.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Tamworth Peel Valley Rifle Club

Notes:

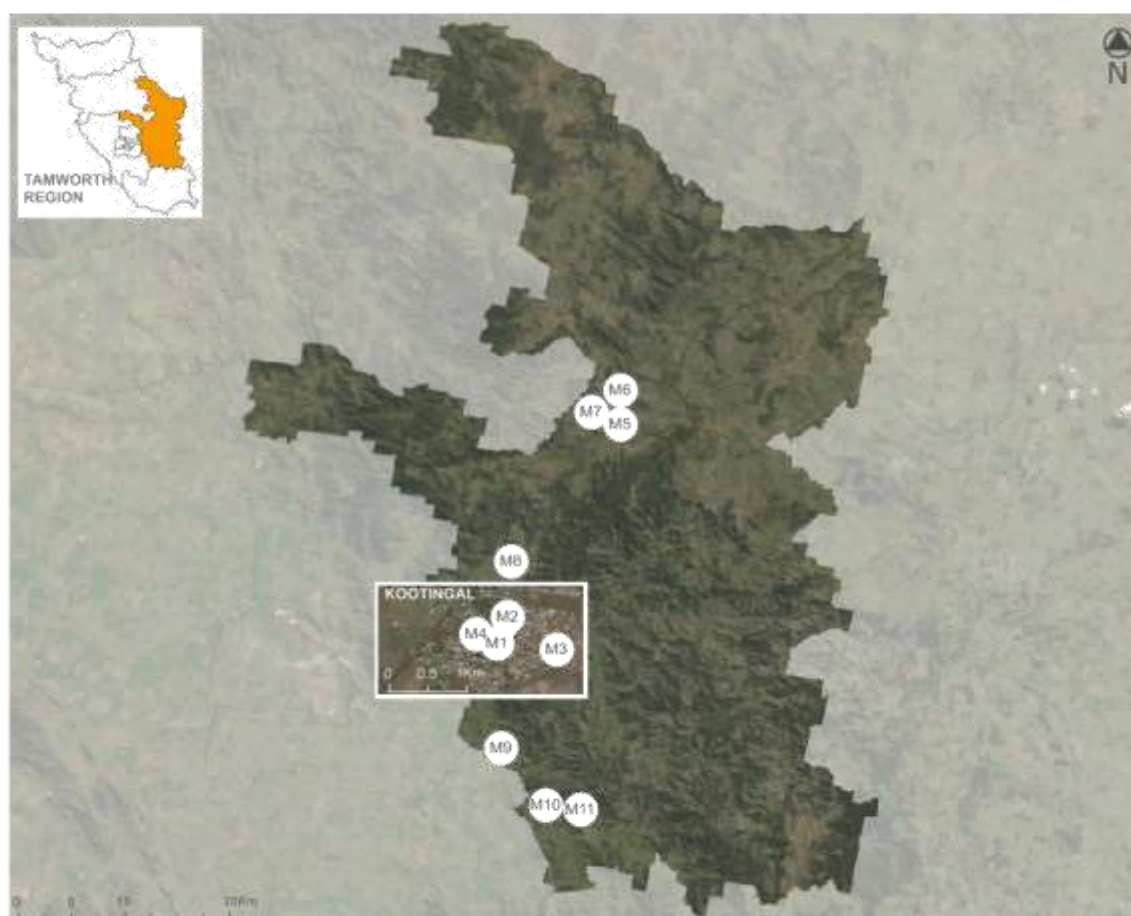
- Facility located on leased area of working farm and accessible only at specified times weekly.

M: Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| M1 Kootingal Recreation Reserve | M7 Bendemeer Bowling Club |
| M2 Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool | M8 Moonbi Showground and Racecourse |
| M3 Kootingal and District Bowling Club | M9 Piallamore Tennis Courts |
| M4 Chaffey Street Reserve | M10 Dungowan Sports Ground |
| M5 Bendemeer Showgrounds | M11 Dungowan Tennis Courts |
| M6 Bendemeer Football Ground | |

M: Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer

Key Demographics:

- Level of relative socio-economic disadvantage slightly lower than average across the region.
- Very low population density.
- Key population centre is Kootingal with population of 1,677 people (2016 Census).
- Relatively low proportion of population aged under 17 years (23.4%) and low proportion of population aged over 60 (28.7%).
- Highest forecast population growth rate to 2041 (17.67%) in Tamworth Non-urban Area.

Consultation Themes:

- Requests for upgrades to Kootingal Recreation Reserve. Potentially to include: 1 x tennis court; 1x multi-use court; upgraded change rooms; clubhouse.
- Desire to maintain swimming facility in Kootingal.
- Desire to maintain quality facilities for equestrian sports in the region (e.g. Moonbi Recreation Ground).

M1 Kootingal Recreation Reserve



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - S355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Rugby League; Tennis; Basketball (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Rugby League Field x1; Tennis Courts x2; Recreational Half Basketball Court x1.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Change rooms; Amenities)
Key Usage	Kootingal Moonbi Rugby League Football Club
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used for camping during Country Music Festival • Support facilities are aged/ in poor condition - no suitable clubrooms/change rooms. • Tennis court requiring renewal. Request for multi-use court + 1 tennis court. • Sand-based basketball court - requires renewal. 	

M2 Kootingal War Memorial Swimming Pool



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Swimming
Key Facilities	Outdoor 25m Swimming Pool
Key Support Facilities	Toddler's Pool; Play Equipment; BBQ Facilities; Built Facility (Amenities; Kiosk; Clubroom)
Key Usage	Kootingal Moonbi Swimming Club; Community
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly valued aquatic facility for the district. • Aged facility with high operational costs. • Strong swimming club memberships. 	

M: Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer

M3 Kootingal and District Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Kootingal and District Bowling Club

Notes:

- Key community venue.
- Provides 'home' atmosphere for various sports and community groups.
- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

M4 Chaffey Street Reserve



Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	Crown Owned - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Skate; Basketball (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Skate Park; Recreational Half Basketball Court x1.
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Skate park well used and highly valued community facility.
- Adjacent basketball court requiring maintenance (missing hoop).

M5 Bendemeer Showgrounds



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Arena
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Amenities); Stables
Key Usage	Bendemeer Rodeo and Campdraft

Notes:

- Used primarily for Rodeo and Campdraft event (annual in February).
- Facilities in poor condition.

M: Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer

M6 Bendemeer Football Ground



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	5 - Asset Unserviceable
Key Activities	Rugby League; Tennis
Key Facilities	Rugby League Field x1; Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Change rooms; Amenities)
Key Usage	
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disused due to recent folding of Bendemeer Rugby League Club. 	

M7 Bendemeer Bowling Club



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/ Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Bendemeer Bowling Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key community venue. 	

M8 Moonbi Recreation Ground



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Horse Racing; Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Racecourse x1; Arena x1.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities); Stables
Key Usage	Moonbi Magic Barrel Racing
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for upgraded/ additional amenities on site. 	

M: Kootingal - Moonbi - Bendemeer

M9 Piallmore Tennis Courts



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	5 - Asset Unserviceable
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Not useable condition

Notes:

- Courts and support facilities in poor condition.

M10 Dungowan Sports Ground



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Rugby League; Rugby Union; Equestrian Activities
Key Facilities	Rectangular Pitch x1; Recreation Area
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Amenities)
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Amenities and sports lighting in poor condition.

M11 Dungowan Tennis Courts



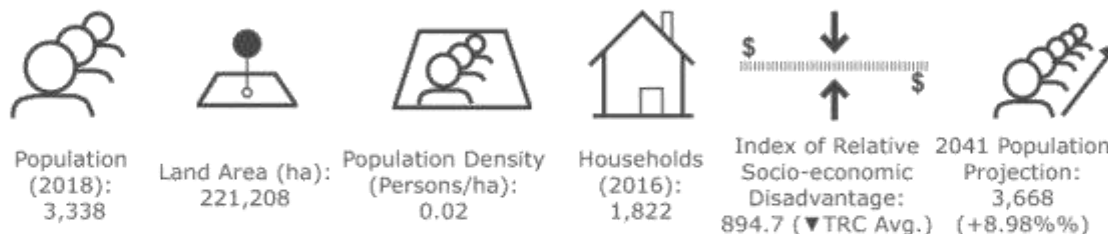
Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x5
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Amenities)
Key Usage	Dungowan Tennis Club

Notes:

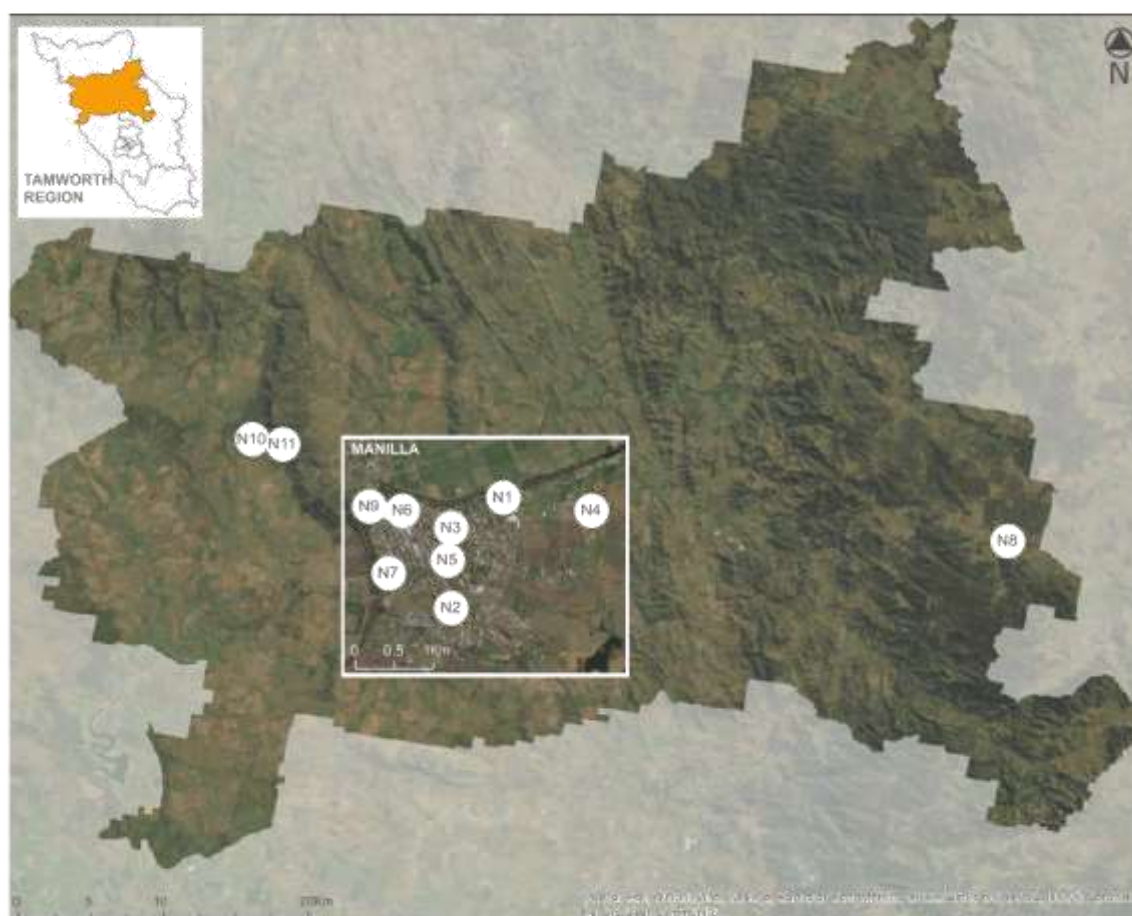
- Well used and highly valued facility.
- Strong local competition.
- Courts requiring maintenance.

N: Manilla and District

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| N1 Chaffey Park Manilla | N7 Manilla Show and Sports Complex |
| N2 Brady Park | N8 Watsons Creek Recreation Reserve |
| N3 Manilla Bowling Club | N9 Manilla River Walk |
| N4 Manilla Golf Course | N10 Mt Borah Launch Site |
| N5 Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool | N11 Mt Borah Mountain Bike Trails |
| N6 Manilla Tennis Courts | |

N: Manilla and District

Key Demographics:

- High level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Very low population density.
- Key population centre is Manilla with population of 2,106 people (2016 Census).
- Relatively low proportion of population aged under 17 years (22%) and high proportion of population aged over 60 (34.1%).
- High proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (7.7%).
- Relatively low forecast population growth rate to 2041 (8.98%) compared to the region's average.

Consultation Themes:

- Requests for upgrades to Chaffey Park Manilla.
- Desire to maintain swimming facility in Manilla.
- Desire for improved opportunities for walking and cycling in Manilla (e.g. Manilla River Walk).
- Acknowledgment of significant economic contribution to Manilla from privately owned facilities at Mt Borah.

N1 Chaffey Park Manilla



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown Owned - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Touch Football; Rugby League; Skate; Learn-to-Ride
Key Facilities	Football (Soccer) Pitch x1; Football (Soccer) Junior Pitch x1; Touch Football Field x3; Ovals x3 (1x turf wicket, 2x synthetic wickets); Skate Park x1; Learn-to-Ride Track x1.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facilities (Pavilion; Amenities); Play Equipment; Picnic Facilities.
Key Usage	Manilla Hornets Football Club; Manilla Tigers Rugby League Football Club; Manilla Minor Junior Rugby League Football Club; Manilla Touch Association; Manilla District Cricket Association; Community.
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very strong touch football competition. • Oval and support facilities requiring maintenance. • Skate Park and Learn-to-Ride Track established in 2009. • Precinct Masterplan completed in 2020. • Irrigation challenge: no access to bore water. • User group requests for improved sports lighting. • Cricket nets upgraded 2019. • Plans for extension to amenities building. 	

N: Manilla and District

N2 Brady Park



Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	Crown Owned - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1
Key Support Facilities	Turf Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Pavilion; Amenities)
Key Usage	Manilla District Cricket Association
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oval and support facilities in poor condition. 	

N3 Manilla Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Manilla Bowling Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose 	

N4 Manilla Golf Course



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Golf
Key Facilities	Golf Course 9-Hole
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Manilla Golf Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose. Maintenance challenge: drought/water availability. 	

N: Manilla and District

N5 Manilla Memorial Swimming Pool



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Swimming
Key Facilities	Outdoor 50m Swimming Pool
Key Support Facilities	Toddler's Pool; Play Equipment; BBQ Facilities; Built Facility (Amenities; Kiosk; Clubroom)
Key Usage	Manilla Swimming Club; Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly valued aquatic facility for the district. Aged facility with high operational costs. 	

N6 Manilla Tennis Courts



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - Leased
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x6
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom; Amenities; Canteen)
Key Usage	Manilla and District Tennis Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well used and highly valued facility. Strong local competition. Courts and support facilities requiring maintenance. Lease under review (2019/20). 	

N7 Manilla Show and Sports Complex



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports; Rugby League
Key Facilities	Arena x1; Rectangular Pitch x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Amenities); Stables/Sheds
Key Usage	Manilla Tigers Rugby League; Manilla Pony Club; Manilla Show Society.
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent upgrades included: New Team Penning arena; New shed building; New water storage tank installed. Pavilion roof requires replacement. Cattle sheds require structural work. Issues relating to spectator facilities (grandstand). Issues with co-location of Rugby League and Equestrian Sports. Plans to relocate Rugby League to Chaffey Park Manilla. 	

N: Manilla and District

N8 Watsons Creek Recreation Reserve



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket; Tennis
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1; Tennis Courts x2.
Key Support Facilities	Concrete Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Pavilion; Amenities)
Key Usage	
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong local desire to have cricket at this reserve. Oval, courts and amenities in poor condition. 	

N9 Manilla River Walk



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Walk
Key Facilities	Walking Trail (Informal)
Key Usage	Community
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing informal walking trail, 1km each way along river between two bridges. No current trail signage. Opportunity to formalise to support active lifestyles and to promote to visitors. Connects key community facilities such as Tennis Courts/Freedom Camping and Manilla Show and Sports Complex. Well used as fitness walk by local residents. 	

N10 Mt Borah Launch Site



Hierarchy	International
Land Tenure/Management	Privately Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Paragliding and Hang Gliding
Key Facilities	Launch Point x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Manilla Skysailors Club; Fly Manilla; Elite Flying/Gliding Events
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely known as a 'world-class flying site'. Used for courses/licencing and events/competitions. Influx of paragliders and hang gliders come to Manilla during February each year. 	

N: Manilla and District

N11 Mt Borah Mountain Bike Trails



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	Privately Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Mountain Bike Riding
Key Facilities	Mountain Bike Trails Network x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	North West Mountain Bikers

Notes:

- All-mountain and downhill style trails.
- Downhill trail descends from 900 metres down to 450 metres over 3.5 kilometres (Trailforks.com).
- Trail names: Snake Bite; Split Rock; Eagle Rock; Twist and Turns (Trailforks.com).

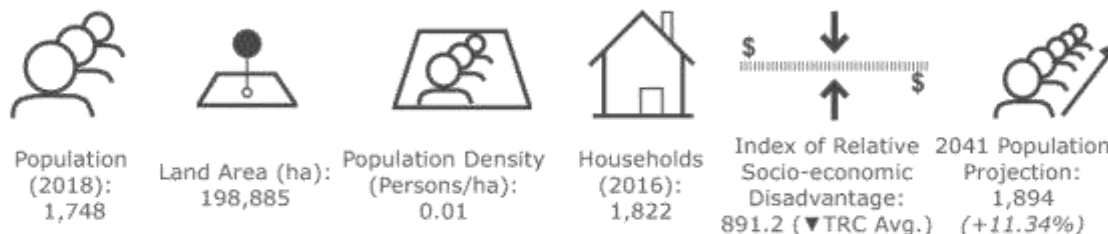
N12 Split Rock Dam



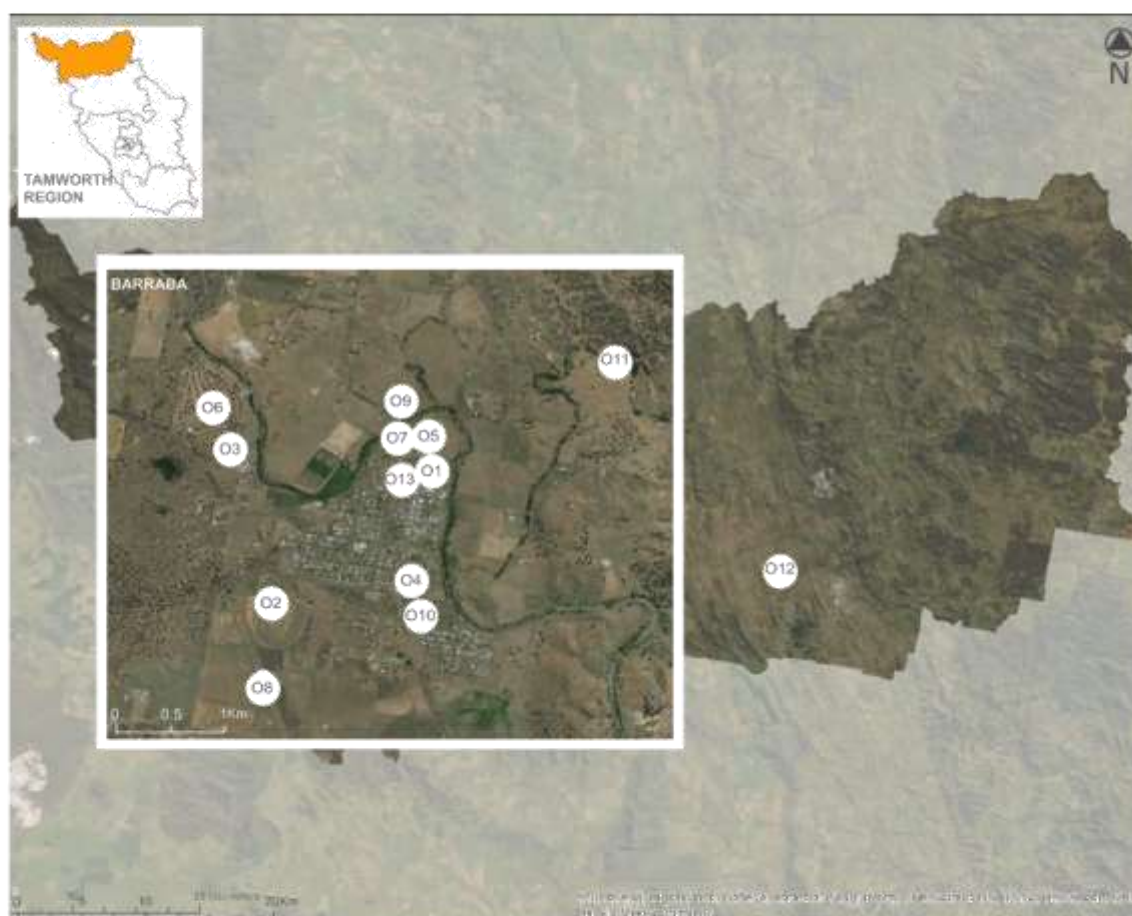
Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/ Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Fishing; Camping; Water Sports (skiing, sailing)
Key Facilities	Camp Ground; Boat Ramp
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities
Key Usage	Community

O: Barraba - Rural North

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| O1 | Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool | O7 | Barraba Bicentennial Community Centre |
| O2 | Barraba Showground | O8 | Barraba Air Strip |
| O3 | Barraba Sports Ground | O9 | Barraba Rugby League Ground |
| O4 | Barraba Tennis Courts | O10 | O'Meara Park |
| O5 | Barraba Bowling Green | O11 | Adams' Lookout, Barraba |
| O6 | Barraba Golf Course | O12 | Glenriddle Reserve |
| | | O13 | Rotary Park, Barraba |

O: Barraba - Rural North

Key Demographics:

- High level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Very low population density.
- Key population centre is Barraba with population of 1,126 people (2016 Census).
- Precinct with the lowest proportion of population aged under 17 years (17.3%) and highest proportion of population aged over 60 (42.1%).
- Precinct with the equal highest proportion of people with a need for assistance due to disability (9.8%). (Equal with Precinct G: North Tamworth)
- Relatively low forecast population growth rate to 2041 (11.34%) compared to the region's average.

Consultation Themes:

- Appreciation for variety and quality of facilities in Barraba.
- Acknowledgment of difficulty fielding teams for sports due to ageing population and low participation rates.
- Difficulty accessing facilities in Tamworth or having coaches travel to Barraba.
- Golf Club and Bowling Club are key community venues - provides 'home' atmosphere for various groups.
- Desire to maintain swimming facility in Barraba.

O1 Barraba Memorial Swimming Pool



Photo Credit: Peter Dwyer

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Swimming
Key Facilities	Outdoor 33m Swimming Pool; 12.5m Indoor Hydrotherapy Pool
Key Support Facilities	Toddler's Pool; 1m springboard; Waterslide; BBQ Facilities; Built Facility (Amenities; Kiosk; Storage)
Key Usage	Manilla Swimming Club; Community
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly valued aquatic facility for the district. • Aged facility with high operational costs. 	

O2 Barraba Showground



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust/s355 Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Equestrian Sports
Key Facilities	Arena x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Amenities); Stables/Sheds
Key Usage	Barraba Jockey Club; Barraba Campdraft and Rodeo Association
Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion floor requiring replacement. 	

O: Barraba - Rural North

03 Barraba Sports Ground



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust/s355 Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Rugby Union; Cricket
Key Facilities	Rugby Union Field x1; Cricket Oval x2.
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Pavilion; Amenities); Cricket Nets.
Key Usage	Barraba Rugby Union Football Club; Barraba Rugby Sports Club; Barraba Junior Cricket.
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly valued community facility. Recent upgrades included: New amenities building; New sports lighting; New Cricket Nets. 	

04 Barraba Tennis Courts



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x5
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	Barraba Town and District Tennis Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports lighting on courts Well used and highly valued facility. Strong local competition. Courts and support facilities requiring maintenance. Clubhouse in poor condition (asbestos). 	

05 Barraba Bowling Club



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Barraba Bowling Club
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key community venue. Provides 'home' atmosphere for various sports and community groups. Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose. 	

O: Barraba - Rural North

06 Barraba Golf Course



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Golf
Key Facilities	Golf Course 18-Hole (Sand Greens)
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Barraba Golf Club

Notes:

- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.
- High quality clubrooms used as key community function venue.
- Maintenance challenge: drought/water availability.

07 Barraba Bicentennial Community Centre



Photo credit: Peter Dwyer

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Basketball; Netball; Volleyball; Badminton
Key Facilities	Indoor Multi-use Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Amenities
Key Usage	Barraba Band; Barraba Central School

Notes:

- Recently painted.
- Toilets dated.
- Underutilised.

08 Barraba Air Strip



Photo credit: Peter Dwyer

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Aerosports
Key Facilities	Airstrip x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Amenities; Storage)
Key Usage	Barraba Aero Club

Notes:

- Requires additional maintenance.

O: Barraba - Rural North

09 Barraba Rugby League Ground



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Rugby League
Key Facilities	Rugby League Field x1
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion; Change rooms; Amenities)
Key Usage	Barraba Bulldogs Rugby League Football Club

Notes:

- Usually leased to Rugby League Club - under review.

O10 O'Meara Park



Photo credit: Phil Henry

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Skate; Basketball; Netball (Recreational)
Key Facilities	Skate Park; Outdoor Basketball/ Netball Court x1
Key Support Facilities	Play Equipment; Picnic Facilities; Built Facility (Amenities)
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Premier park in Barraba providing key recreational facilities.
- Draft Parks Hierarchy (2019) identifies as a Town Feature Park - classified as tourist due to stopover park on main road.

O11 Adams' Lookout, Barraba



Photo credit: Colin Young

Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Recreation; Tourism
Key Facilities	Lookout
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

O: Barraba - Rural North

O12 Glenriddle Reserve



Photo credit: Colin Young

O13 Rotary Park

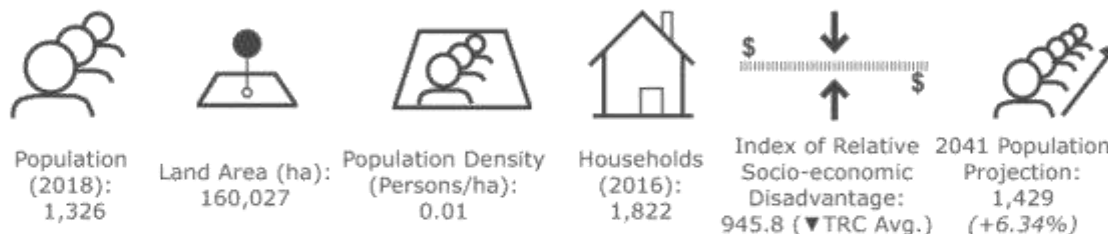


Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Fishing; Camping; Water Sports (skiing, sailing)
Key Facilities	Camp Ground; Boat Ramp
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities
Key Usage	Community

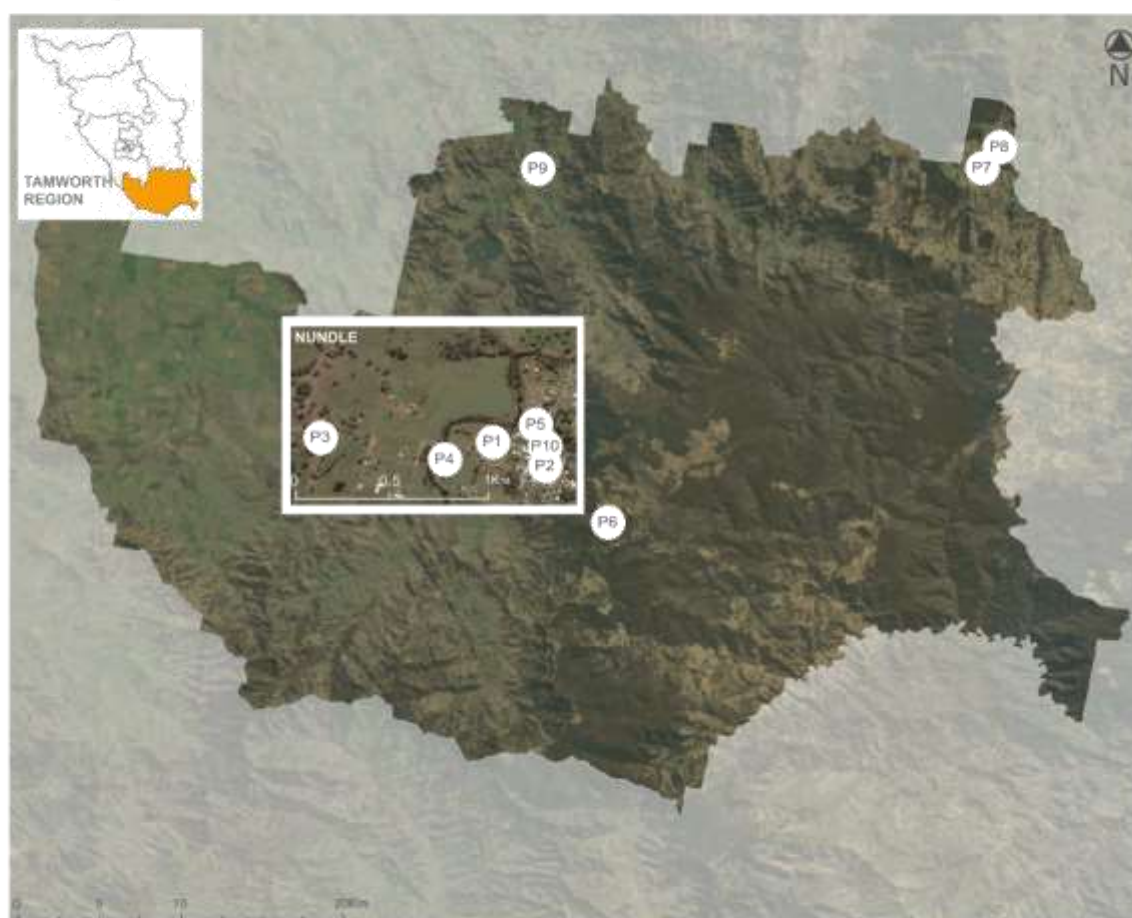
Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Play
Key Facilities	Play Equipment
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities
Key Usage	Community

P: Nundle - Rural South

Precinct Overview:



Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities:



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| P1 | Nundle Recreation Ground | P7 | Niangala Recreation Reserve |
| P2 | Nundle Swimming Pool | P8 | Niangala Tennis Courts |
| P3 | Nundle Sport and Recreation Club | P9 | Woolomin Recreation Ground |
| P4 | Nundle Recreational Trail | P10 | Captain Cook Park |
| P5 | Nundle Tennis Courts | | |
| P6 | Sheba Dams Camping Reserve | | |

P: Nundle - Rural South

Key Demographics:

- High level of relative socio-economic disadvantage.
- Very low population density.
- Key population centre is Nundle with population of 1,126 people (2016 Census).
- Low proportion of population aged under 17 years (21.6%) and high proportion of population aged over 60 (32%).
- Relatively low forecast population growth rate to 2041 (6.34%) compared to the average across Tamworth non-urban area.

Consultation Themes:

- Desire for improved opportunities for walking including bushwalking.
- Desire to maintain swimming facility in Nundle.

P1 Nundle Recreation Ground



Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1.
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Amenities; Kiosk); Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Peel Valley Bush Cricket; Nundle Cricket Club.

Notes:

- Fence requires renewal.
- Toilets and kiosk substandard.

P2 Nundle Swimming Pool



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Swimming
Key Facilities	Outdoor 25m Swimming Pool
Key Support Facilities	Toddler's Pool; Picnic Facilities; Built Facility (Amenities; Kiosk; Clubroom)
Key Usage	Nundle Amateur Swimming Club; Community

Notes:

- Highly valued aquatic facility for the district.
- Aged facility with high operational costs.
- Play Equipment and BBQ Facilities in adjacent Captain Cook Park.

P: Nundle - Rural South

P3 Nundle Sport and Recreation Club



Photo credit: Grahame Cookie

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	Club Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Lawn Bowls; Golf
Key Facilities	Bowling Green x1; Golf Course 9-Hole x1.
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Nundle Sport and Recreation Club

Notes:

- Key community venue.
- Provides 'home' atmosphere for various sports and community groups.
- Maintenance challenge: Drought/Water availability.
- Facilities well used and fit-for-purpose.

P4 Nundle Recreational Trail



Hierarchy	Local
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Walk; Cycle
Key Facilities	Recreational Trail
Key Support Facilities	Trail Signage; Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Existing semi-formal walk/cycle trail, 1km each way, some parts along river between Tourist Park and Nundle Library.
- No trailhead signage/trail information.
- Some existing waymarking signage, requiring review and upgrade.
- Opportunity to formalise to support active lifestyles and to promote to visitors.
- Potential to connects key community facilities such as Recreation Ground, Tourist Park, Swimming Pool, Library and River.
- Requests from local community for improvement to trails across Nundle and district.

P5 Nundle Tennis Courts



Hierarchy	Neighbourhood
Land Tenure/Management	Privately Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition	1 - Very Good Condition
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities
Key Usage	Caravan Park Patrons; Community

Notes:

- Sports lighting on courts.
- Facility is part of Nundle Fossicker's Tourist Park.

P: Nundle - Rural South

P6 Sheba Dams Camping Reserve



Hierarchy	Regional
Land Tenure/Management	Crown - TRC Trust
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Bushwalking; Camping
Key Facilities	Bushwalking Trails (Informal); Camp Ground
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; Amenities; Jetty
Key Usage	Community

Notes:

- Recent upgrades included: New toilets; New picnic tables/shelters; New interpretive signage (historical content).
- Jetty subject to ongoing maintenance
- Requirement for additional amenities (i.e. showers).

P7 Niangala Recreation Reserve

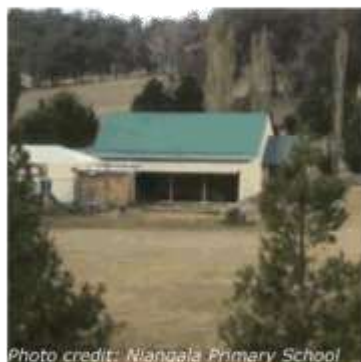


Photo credit: Niangala Primary School

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	4 - Requires Renewal
Key Activities	Cricket
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1;
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Pavilion)
Key Usage	

P8 Niangala Tennis Courts



Photo credit: Niangala Primary School

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Tennis
Key Facilities	Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Niangala Tennis Club

P: Nundle - Rural South

P9 Woolomin Recreation
Ground



P10 Captain Cook Park



Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	TRC Owned - s355 Committee Managed
Venue Overall Condition	3 - Maintenance Required
Key Activities	Cricket; Tennis
Key Facilities	Cricket Oval x1; Tennis Courts x2
Key Support Facilities	Synthetic Cricket Pitch; Built Facility (Clubroom)
Key Usage	Woolomin Cricket Club; Peel Valley Bush Cricket.

Hierarchy	District
Land Tenure/ Management	TRC Owned and Managed
Venue Overall Condition Rating	2 - Minor Defects Only
Key Activities	Play
Key Facilities	Play Equipment
Key Support Facilities	Picnic Facilities; BBQ
Key Usage	Community



Appendix D

Projected Facility Requirements



Tamworth Sports Dome



TREDWELL

Version No.	Date	Description	Editor
1	19.05.2020	Draft 1	Tredwell
2	28.07.2020	Draft 2 - Amended following Public Exhibition	Tredwell
3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

Acknowledgements

Tamworth Regional Council and Tredwell acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our region.

The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

All stakeholders and community members who have contributed through an online survey, workshop or interview are also thanked for their time and effort.

Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

Disclaimer

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Background

These projected facility requirements have been prepared as part of the Tamworth Regional Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (2020). The facility requirements per population have been determined specifically for the Tamworth region as a reference point to guide future development of sport and recreation facilities.

These projected requirements are specific to the projected future needs of the Tamworth regional community and Tamworth's broader role and function as the regional centre for Northern Inland NSW, which encompasses a growing population of more than 200,000 people.

The projected facility requirements have been determined to address community needs identified through the consultation for the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan, and to reflect the existing levels of infrastructure and specific opportunities identified.

Provision of facilities has been assessed and demand has been projected for the following key sport and recreation activities:

- athletics
- hockey
- cycling
- netball and Basketball
- swimming and water polo
- baseball and softball
- tennis
- rugby league
- rugby union
- football (soccer)
- Oztag and touch football
- cricket
- Australian football
- gymnastics
- skate
- BMX
- equestrian Sports
- motorsport
- lawn bowls
- golf
- recreational walking and cycling

It is important that facilities cater for multi-use and are inclusive of additional activities. For example, indoor courts identified for basketball and netball can also provide for a wide range of other indoor court activities such as volleyball, badminton, futsal and skate sports.

Distribution

Tamworth City

Tamworth is the primary hub for sport and recreation across Northern Inland NSW. The city has many high-quality facilities of international, national, state, regional and local significance. The Tamworth urban area is projected to experience significant levels of population growth over coming decades, growing by 32.4% (average annual growth of 1.4%).

While Tamworth City is the clear strategic location for many regional and national-level facilities, the urban area also requires a strategic distribution of district and local-level facilities.

Villages

It is imperative to note the important role of the villages such as Kootingal, Nundle, Barraba and Manilla in the facility network distribution. Each of these villages has at least one district-level sport and recreation precinct and a swimming pool, as well as a range of local-level facilities. The precincts encompassing each of these villages are projected to experience population growth between 2018 and 2041, which is contrary to the trend of population decline being experienced across villages generally in regional NSW.

Outlying Settlements

Outlying settlements across the region typically have a recreation ground catering for the local population. While no precinct in the Tamworth Regional Council area is projected to experience population decline between 2018 and 2041, it is likely that the populations within the small outlying settlements will not grow to the levels experienced in Tamworth and the region's villages.

Demand Factors

Specialist data analytics relating to the projected facility requirements of the Tamworth Region have been provided by specialists in this field, ActiveXchange through the SportsEye Network.



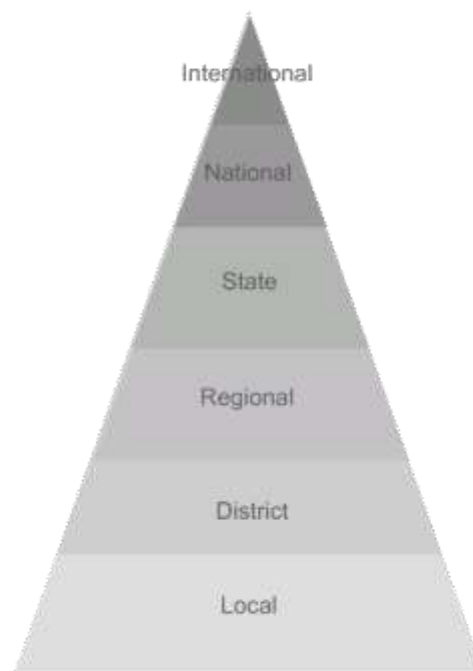
These analytics have provided the quantitative basis for the provision requirements. The SportsEye Network uses integrated membership databases and facility inventories from several partners including Sport NSW and various state sporting organisations (SSOs) and overlays these with the projected population structures and segmented lifestyles of the population. Where required, this information has been supplemented with local facility and membership information, and participation trends and demographic structures sourced from Sport Australia's AusPlay Participation Data (2019).

The following factors have informed the level of demand for specific facilities:

- up to date member numbers, distribution and participation rates
- population forecasts and age structures to 2041 (low: 79,000, high: 100,000)
- sport-specific demand modelling, based on mosaic population segmentations
- actual and projected future conversion of estimated demand into memberships
- benchmarking against facility provision and demand conversion in other LGAs
- sport and recreation participation trends
- drive-time decay (i.e. propensity to drive certain distances to access facilities)
- member deprivation scores (i.e. level of affluence)
- strategic directions of Council, the NSW Government and the NSW Government
- Council, club and community plans and aspirations for the facility network
- requirements of the broader population of Northern Inland NSW
- trends influencing sport and recreation
- best-practice facility provision which includes multi-use, adaptable and flexible spaces.

Facility Hierarchy

The hierarchy of sport and recreation facilities is detailed in the Tamworth Sport and Recreation Plan, and includes the international, national, state, regional, district and local levels, as illustrated below.



This hierarchy is based upon the highest level of competition which can be catered for at sport venues, and the catchment area which users are drawn from to utilise recreation facilities.

The hierarchy can be used to guide the strategic distribution of facilities and to ensure that service levels are appropriate to the intended level of usage and population catchment catered for.

Applying the Projected Facility Requirements

The projected facility requirements provide indicative trigger points for the projected sport and recreation facility needs of the Tamworth Regional Council area.

It has been prepared based on participation projection data (i.e. SportsEye Network, AusPlay and Population Segmentations/Projections), with consideration of the specific opportunities available and Tamworth's role as the regional centre for the broader catchment of Northern Inland NSW.

The tables over the following pages outline the existing level of provision for each activity, as well as a projection of the required level of facilities as the population grows.

The following population trigger points have been used for the facility requirements projections:

- 62,000 (2018 population estimate)
- 70,000
- 80,000
- 90,000
- 100,000 (Target for 2042)

The recommended key focus/direction for Tamworth Regional Council relating to each of these activities and their facility provision requirements is outlined in the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (Section 05 Supply and Demand Analysis).

The population trigger points should be used as an indicator to inform the overall assessment process for additional provision or redistribution of facilities. It is essential to validate the needs of each sport/activity on a case by case basis prior to making investment. This should be in close consultation with stakeholders such as state sporting organisations and community where appropriate.

Note: The provision of existing facilities identified does not include facilities on school property. Partnership arrangements may allow for community use of these facilities outside of school hours into the future.

Vision and Planning Principles

Planning for sport and recreation facilities in the Tamworth Regional Council area should be in line with the Vision and Planning Principles which are outlined in the Sport and Recreation Plan.

The Vision reflects the aspirations of the Tamworth Region community and the Planning Principles support this vision in line with best practice.

Vision

A balanced network of high-quality sport and recreation facilities, clubs/service providers, programs and events which ensures Tamworth is the hub of the Northern Inland NSW and meets the needs of the growing and diversifying population. Enabling sport and recreation to contribute significant social and economic benefit through maximising community participation, encouraging active lifestyles, attracting a wide range of events and offering pathways for sporting excellence.

Planning Principles

PRINCIPLE 1

Maximum Community Participation

PRINCIPLE 2

Shared Precincts and Community Hubs

PRINCIPLE 3

Sustainability

PRINCIPLE 4

Partnerships

PRINCIPLE 5

Working Together with Clubs and Community

PRINCIPLE 6





Maximised and Validated Community Benefit

PRINCIPLE 7





Effective Management and Maintenance

Facility Requirements by Activity



Athletics Track and Field, Hockey, Cycling (Competitive), Netball and Basketball

Facility Group	Activity's	Existing Venues, and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points		
				75,000	80,000	90,000
						100,000
Athletics	 Athletics Track and Field	1 x State NMCSE Tamworth Athletics Centre	1 x Track and Field	1 x Tamworth Athletics Centre (maintain existing at NMCSE)		
		Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional facilities to cater for population growth to 100,000. Focus/Directions: Focus on activating the existing NMCSE Tamworth Athletics Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.				
Hockey Pitch	 Hockey	1 x National NMCSE Tamworth Hockey Centre	3 x Synthetic Hockey Pitches	1 x Tamworth Hockey Centre (maintain existing at NMCSE)		
		Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional facilities to cater for population growth to 100,000. Focus/Directions: Focus on activating existing facility at NMCSE Tamworth Hockey Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.				
Cycling	 Cycling (Competitive)	1 x State NMCSE Tamworth Cycling Centre	1 x Velodrome 1 x Criterion Track	1 x Tamworth Cycling Centre (maintain existing at NMCSE)		
		Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional facilities to cater for population growth to 100,000. Focus/Directions: Focus on activating existing facility at NMCSE Tamworth Cycling Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.				
Multi-use Courts	 Netball and Basketball	1 x State NMCSE Tamworth Sports Dome	Netball 18 x Outdoor Netball Courts + 7 x Indoor Multi-use Courts (1 x Triple Sprung Timber + 3 x Double Sprung Timber + 3 x Synthetic) Basketball 7 x Indoor Multi-use Courts (1 x Triple Sprung Timber + 3 x Double Sprung Timber + 3 x Synthetic)	18 x outdoor courts (maintain existing at NMCSE) + 7 x multi-use indoor courts (maintain existing at NMCSE) Basketball 7 x multi-use indoor courts (maintain existing at NMCSE)	10 x multi-use indoor courts (maintain existing at NMCSE + 3 x additional at NMCSE)	
		Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional outdoor competition courts. Projected future requirement for basketball and netball access to additional multi-use indoor courts (at population 80,000 -100,000). Focus/Directions: Focus on maintaining existing high-quality netball and basketball facility with indoor and outdoor courts. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions Plan for development of three additional indoor courts when population of the Tamworth region reaches 80,000-100,000.				

Swimming and Water Polo, Baseball and Softball, Tennis



Facility Group	Activity/s	Existing Venues and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points			
				70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000
Aquatic Facility		6. x District Tarnworth Olympic South and West Tarnworth Barnby Moor Marnley Munsley	4 x District 50 metre Swimming Pools 2 x District 25 metre Swimming Pools	1 x Regional-level Aquatics and Leisure Centre (Proposed at MGCSE) 4 x District Swimming Centres (Barnby, Marnley, Munsley and Munsley)			
		Kodjigal					
Baseball and Softball		1. x Regional Riverside Sporting Complex	Baseball 2 x Dedicated Baseball Diamonds + 12 x Temporary Baseball Diamonds on Multi-use Playing Fields Softball 8 x Temporary Softball Diamonds on Multi-use Playing Fields	2 x Permanent Multi-use Diamonds (maintain and adapt existing at Riverside Sporting Complex) + maintain existing access to additional multi-use playing fields for set up of temporary diamonds for training, tournaments and events.			
		Projected Facility Requirements: Current requirement for consolidation of number of swimming centres, including provision of a regional-level aquatic and leisure centre. Focus/Directives: Focus on development of the Tarnworth Regional Aquatics and Leisure Centre at the MGCSE, and consolidation of the two aged district-level facilities in Tarnworth Urban Area – both to remain open until new centre is constructed and operational. Continued provision of district aquatic facilities in Barnby, Marnley, Kodjigal and Munsley.					
Diamonds		Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional baseball or softball facilities. Requirement for flexible diamonds catering for baseball, softball and modified formats (e.g. Tee-ball, Baseball, Fully Loaded Softball). Focus/Directives: Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities at Riverside Sports Complex. Ensure fields are multi-purpose where possible. Entrance facility to support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.					
		Projected Facility Requirements: No projected future requirement for additional tennis venues or courts. Focus/Directives: Focus on balancing the provision and distribution of tennis facilities across the region to support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions. Enhancements to include upgrades at Trebear Park Tennis Centre (13 courts), enhancements at facilities with five or more courts, and repurposing of disused courts in outlying settlements.					
Tennis Courts		5. x District 1 x 11 Court Trebear Park 1 x 7 Court West Tarnworth 1 x 6 Court Marnley 2 x 5 Court Barnby and Durgowan 11. x Local 2 x 3 Court Dun and Moore Creek 9 x 2 Court Althams, Bendemeer, Kodjigal, Marnley, Munsley, Pollimore, Somerton, Watsons Creek	58 x Courts	Distribution: 1 x 13 court facility (upgrade existing at Trebear Park Tennis Centre, Tarnworth) 1 x 7 court facility (maintain existing in West Tarnworth) 1 x 6 court facility (maintain existing in Marnley) 2 x 5 court facility (maintain existing in Barnby and Durgowan) 3 x 2 or 3 court facilities (consider consolidation/repurposing from existing). Locations of 2-3 court facilities to be maintained are dependent on demonstrated need/desire in outlying villages/settlements. Determine the most effective use to maximise community benefit at other existing local-level facilities. Community courts to be multi-use and community accessible where possible.			

Rugby League and Rugby Union, Football (Soccer)

Facility Group	Activity's	Venues and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points			
				70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000
 Rugby League and Rugby Union	Rugby League and Rugby Union 1 x National Scully Park 1 x Regional Riverside Sporting Complex 1 x District Vindict Park 1 x Local Dungeness Sports Ground Rugby League 5 x District Jack Woodston Oval Koolbidge Recreation Reserve Bentincker Football Ground Barraba Rugby League Ground Manilla ShowSports Complex Rugby Union 3 x District Ken Chillingworth Oval Tamworth Rugby Park Barraba Sports Ground	Rugby League and Rugby Union 10 x Pitches Rugby League 5 x Pitches Rugby Union 3 x Pitches	1 x National (mainland existing at Scully Park) 14 x Multi-use Rectangular Pitches catering for Rugby League, Rugby Union and other rectangular pitch sports	Maintain existing facilities at: Riverside Sporting Complex x 6 Jack Woodston Oval x 1 Ken Chillingworth Oval x 1 Tamworth Rugby Park x 1 Vindict Park x 2 Barraba Sports Ground x 1 Koolbidge Recreation Reserve x 1 relocated from Manilla Show and Sports Complex to Chaffey Park Manilla x 1 Determine the most effective use to maximise community benefit at: Dungeness Sports Ground x 1 Bentincker Football Ground x 1 Manilla Show and Sports Complex x 1 Barraba Rugby League Ground x 1			
	Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional venues or pitches for rugby league or rugby union. Pitches to be multi-use, catering for various fields sports with improved capacity to host tournaments events. Focus/Directons: Focus on optimising quality of existing facilities and enhancing community access, as well as developing Riverside Sports Complex with multi-use field capacity to host large tournaments/events as well as to support regular programs/competitions.						
 Football (Soccer)	Football (Soccer) 1 x National Scully Park 1 x Regional Gipsy Street Sports Complex 3 x District North Recreation Reserve Chaffey Park Manilla	14 x Pitches Full Size Equivalent (FSE) 14-18 x Natural Turf Pitches (FSE) 13 x maintain existing at Gipsy St Sports Complex + North Recreation Reserve + 1 x maintain existing in Manilla + 4 - 8 x additional multi-use playing fields in Tamworth OR 1 x Synthetic Pitch at NICSE + 14 - 15 x Turf Pitches (FSE)	16-20 x Natural Turf Pitches (FSE) 13 x maintain existing at Gipsy St Sports Complex + North Recreation Reserve + 1 x maintain existing in Manilla + 6 - 10 additional multi-use playing fields in Tamworth OR 1 x Synthetic Pitch at NICSE + 14 - 16 x Turf Pitches (FSE)	18-22 x Natural Turf Pitches (FSE) 13 x maintain existing at Gipsy St Sports Complex + North Recreation Reserve + 1 x maintain existing in Manilla + 8 - 12 additional multi-use playing fields in Tamworth OR 1 x Synthetic Pitch at NICSE + 15 - 17 x Turf Pitches (FSE)	20-24 x Natural Turf Pitches (FSE) 13 x maintain existing at Gipsy St Sports Complex + North Recreation Reserve + 1 x maintain existing in Manilla + 10 - 14 additional multi-use playing fields in Tamworth OR 1 x Synthetic Pitch at NICSE + 16 - 18 x Turf Pitches (FSE)		
	Projected Facility Requirements: Projected future requirement for additional pitches as population grows. Need for multi-use playing fields catering for various field sports. Balance of facility provision (i.e. number and surface type) to be informed by outcomes of the Synthetic Pitch Feasibility Study. Focus/Directons: Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities, as well as developing additional multi-use playing fields. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.						

Note: Many playing fields are overlaid upon each other. Playing fields to be multi-use and community accessible where possible.





OzTag and Touch Football, Cricket, Australian Football

Facility Group	Activity/s	Existing Venues, and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points					
				75,000	90,000	95,000	100,000		
Rectangular Playing Field (Small)	 OzTag and Touch Football	OzTag 1 x Regional Riverside Sporting Complex Touch Football 1 x Regional C6 Gipsy Street Sports Complex 1 x District Chaffey Park Manilla	OzTag 31 x Full Size Equivalent (29 Senior + 6 Junior Fields) Touch Football 18 x Playing Fields Gipsy Street Complex x 16 Chaffey Park Manilla x 3	OzTag 31 - 33 x Playing Fields (FSE) 31 x maintain existing + up to 2 additional at Riverside Sporting Complex Touch Football 18 - 21 x Playing Fields (FSE) 19 x maintain existing at Gipsy Street Sporting Complex + Chaffey Park Manilla + up to 2 additional at Riverside Sport Complex	OzTag 32 - 35 x Playing Fields (FSE) 31 x maintain existing + up to 4 additional at Riverside Sporting Complex Touch Football 19 - 22 x Playing Fields (FSE) 19 x maintain existing at Gipsy Street Sporting Complex + Chaffey Park Manilla + up to 3 additional at Riverside Sport Complex	OzTag 33 - 36 x Playing Fields (FSE) 31 x maintain existing + up to 5 additional at Riverside Sporting Complex Touch Football 20 - 23 x Playing Fields (FSE) 19 x maintain existing at Gipsy Street Sporting Complex + Chaffey Park Manilla + up to 4 additional at Riverside Sport Complex	OzTag 34 - 38 x Playing Fields (FSE) 31 x maintain existing + up to 7 additional at Riverside Sporting Complex Touch Football 21 - 24 x Playing Fields (FSE) 19 x maintain existing at Gipsy Street Sporting Complex + Chaffey Park Manilla + up to 5 additional at Riverside Sport Complex		
	Projected Facility Requirements: Projected future requirement for additional multi-use playing fields as population grows. Need for multi-use playing fields catering for various field sports. Focus/Directions: Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities, as well as developing new/additional multi-use playing fields. Support attraction/hosting of tournaments as well as regular programs.								
Oval Playing Field	 Cricket	6.3 venues with turf pitches: Riverside Sporting Complex (4) Mo. 1 Oval Beshmore Park Chaffey Park Tamworth Chaffey Park Manilla Brady Park Manilla 10 x venues with synthetic pitches: Atkins Recreation Ground Barra Sports Ground (2) Chaffey Park Manilla (2) Chauvel Park Kingswood Park Moore Cx Recreation Reserve Merrigra Recreation Reserve Munsla Recreation Ground Riverside Sporting Complex (3) Woolmen Recreation Ground 2 x venues with concrete pitches: Somerton Recreation Ground Watsons Cx Rec. Reserve	27 x Ovals Turf pitches x 9 Synthetic pitches x 16 Concrete pitches x 2	17 - 23 x Cricket Ovals, including: 1 x Additional regional/state turf wicket oval at NICSSE 8 x turf pitch ovals, primarily in Tamworth, or in Villages if need is demonstrated 8 - 12 x synthetic pitch ovals across the region					
Projected Facility Requirements: Projected future requirement for additional regional/state level venue in Tamworth to host elite-level games and training. No requirement for additional number of district/local cricket venues/ovals. Requirement to redistribute provision of cricket facilities to service areas with projected population growth (i.e. Tamworth). Focus/Directions: Focus on balancing the provision and distribution of cricket facilities across the region. Future provision to include development of state/regional-level venue at the NICSSE, enhancements at Riverside Sports Complex, and repurposing of disused ovals in outlying settlements. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.									




Facility Group	Activity's	Existing Venues and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points			
				70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000
 Australian Football		1 x District No. 1 Oval 1 x Local Riverside Sporting Complex	2 Ovals	3 x Australian Football Ovals 1 x additional Regional/State Australian Football Oval at NICSE 1 x District (existing at No. 1 Oval) 1 x Local (existing at Riverside Sporting Complex)			
				Projected Facility Requirements: Projected future requirement for a regional/state-level facility to host elite-level games. Requirement for 1 additional oval to cater for population of 100,000. Focus/Directions: Focus on developing state/regional-level venue at the NICSE, and enhancements at No. 1 Oval and Riverside Sports Complex. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.			

Note: Many playing fields are overlaid upon each other. Playing fields to be multi-use and community accessible where possible.



Gymnastics, Skate, BMX and Equestrian Sports

Facility Group	Activity's	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points				
	Venues and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	75,000	85,000	95,000	100,000
	Gymnastics					
	1 x Regional Tamworth Gymnastics Centre	1 x Gymnastics Facility	1 x Regional level (existing with upgrades/expansions as required) + access to additional space for events (e.g. existing space at Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TREC))			
Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional gymnastics facilities. Potential requirement to upgrade/expansion of existing facility. Focus/Directions: Focus on maintaining high quality regional-level gymnastics facility, with access to additional capacity at TREC to cater for large events.						
	Skate					
	1 x Regional Tamworth 3 x District Kooloan, Murrumbidgee Barraba	4 x Skate Parks/Youth Precincts	1 x Regional Existing in Tamworth 3 x District Existing in Kooloan, Murrumbidgee and Barraba	1 x Regional Existing in Tamworth 3 x District Existing in Kooloan, Murrumbidgee and Barraba + additional 1 x Local Additional in Murrumbidgee	1 x Regional Existing in Tamworth 3 x District Existing in Kooloan, Murrumbidgee and Barraba + additional 1 x District in Tamworth growth area + additional 1 x Local additional in Murrumbidgee	
Projected Facility Requirements: Projected future requirement for additional youth activity spaces to cater for population growth. May be co-located with recreational BMX facilities. Focus/Directions: Focus on progressive development of new youth activity spaces (including skate facilities) as the population grows.						
	BMX					
	1 x District Tamworth BMX Track	1 x BMX Track	1 x Regional (Upgraded existing District in Tamworth) 3 x District Additional in Kooloan, Murrumbidgee, Barraba	1 x Regional (Upgraded existing District in Tamworth) 4 x District Additional in Tamworth, Kooloan, Murrumbidgee, Barraba		
Projected Facility Requirements: Required upgrade of existing competitive BMX track to meet requirements of state-level competitions. Development of new recreational, community accessible BMX tracks. May be co-located with youth precincts/skate parks. Focus/Directions: Focus on upgrading existing competitive BMX facility to a state-level. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions. Progressively develop of new youth activity spaces (incorporating recreational skate and BMX facilities) as the population grows.						
	Equestrian Sports					
	1 x National AELEC 3 x Regional Kooloan Equine Facility Riding for the Disabled - Tamworth Tamworth Junior Riding Club 6 x District Bendemeer Showgrounds Murrumbidgee Showground and Racecourse Murrumbidgee Show and Sports Complex Barraba Showground Packerway Tamworth Durr Memorial Sports Ground	13 x Arenas	1 x National Existing at AELEC 3 x Regional Existing at Kooloan Equine Facility, Riding for the Disabled - Tamworth, Tamworth Junior Riding Club 5 x District Existing at Bendemeer Showgrounds, Murrumbidgee Showground and Racecourse, Murrumbidgee Show and Sports Complex, Barraba Showground, Packerway Tamworth, Durr Memorial Sports Ground			
Projected Facility Requirements: No projected future requirement for additional equestrian facilities. Focus/Directions: Focus on maintaining high quality national, regional and district level facilities, and continued attraction of equine events and regular programs. Ensure balance between elite and community level facilities and pathways for Tamworth to maintain its position as Australia's home of equine sports.						

Motorsport, Lawn Bowls and Golf

Activity's	Existing Venues and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points			
			70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000
 Motorsport	1. X District Oakburn Park Motorsport Complex	1 x Speedway Track 1 x Karting Track 1 x Motorcross Track	1 x State/Regional (existing with expansion/upgrade)			
	Projected Facility Requirements: Current requirement for upgrade/expansion of existing motorsport precinct to cater for population growth. Focus/Directions: Focus on developing state-level multi-use motorsport facility at Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct.					
 Lawn Bowls	6. X District (2 x greens) Tarnworth City Bowling Club West Tarnworth Sport/Bowling Club South Tarnworth Bowling Club North Tarnworth Bowling Club Koolhaig District Bowling Club Merrilee Bowling Club 4. X Local (1 x green) Orchard Bowling Club Bendemeer Bowling Club Barnaby Bowling Club Merrilee Sport and Recreation Club	16 Greens	Provision to be responsive to market demand. Facilities not owned or managed by Council. Demand likely to be influenced by population growth and ageing population structure.			
	Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional facilities for lawn bowls. Demand likely to be influenced by population growth and ageing population structure. Focus/Directions: Focus on supporting clubs to sustainably provide, high quality and highly valued facilities to the community. Support club/society owners to determine suitable redistribution and/or repurposing of facilities as required.					
 Golf	1. X Regional Longyear Tarnworth 4. X District Tarnworth Barnaby Merrilee Merrilee	3. X 18 Hole Longyear Tarnworth Tarnworth Barnaby 2. X 9 Hole Merrilee Merrilee	Provision to be responsive to market demand. Facilities not owned or managed by Council. Demand likely to be influenced by population growth and ageing population structure, noting overall downward trend in Golf participation rates in Australia and NSW. Modified terminals may be required to convert potential demand for the sport.			
	Projected Facility Requirements: No projected requirement for additional facilities for golf. Demand likely to be influenced by population growth and ageing population structure, noting overall downward trend in Golf participation rates in Australia and NSW. Focus/Directions: Focus on supporting clubs to sustainably provide, high quality and highly valued facilities to the community. Support club/society owners to determine suitable redistribution and/or repurposing of facilities as required.					

Mountain Bike Riding and Recreational Walking/Cycling

Activity/s	Existing Venues and Hierarchy	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities at LGA Population Trigger Points			
			(i) 70,000	(ii) 82,000	(iii) 90,000	(iv) 100,000
 Mountain Bike Riding	Mountain Bike Trail Networks: Tamworth Mountain Bike Park Mt Borel (Private)	Mountain Bike Trail Networks x 2	Enhancements/expansions at Tamworth Mountain Bike Park, with focus on access for all in line with Mountain Bicycles Australia's Adaptive Cycle Guidelines.			
Projected Facility Requirements: Expansion and enhancement of mountain-bike trails network. Focus/Directions: Focus on expanding and improving Tamworth Mountain Bike Park as a high quality regional-level facility. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs.						
 Recreational Walking and Cycling	Recreational Walking/Cycling Trails: Kamilaroi Walking Track Peel River Levee Bank Track Marilla River Walk Nurcote Recreational Trail Yuendumu Warumpi Cultural Trail (at Tamworth Mountain Bike Park) Trails within Tamworth Marcupai Park, Botanic Gardens and National Parks	Walking Trails x 6+	Requirement for formalisation of existing walking and cycling track networks and improved connectivity between locations.			
Projected Facility Requirements: Enhancement of existing trails and development of new trails. Focus/Directions: Focus on strategically planning for a well distributed and connected network of recreational trails across the region.						



Version No.	Date	Description	Editor
1	19.05.2020	Draft 1	Tredwell
2	28.07.2020	Draft 2 - Amended following Public Exhibition	Tredwell
3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

Acknowledgment

Tamworth Regional Council and Tredwell acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our region.

The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

All stakeholders and community members who have contributed

Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

Disclaimer

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TREDWELL

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01 Introduction

About these Guidelines

These Open Space Development Guidelines (the Guidelines) have been prepared to set consistent methods and standards for Council, developers and other parties to work collaboratively in the development of public open spaces that meet the collective needs of the Tamworth Regional Council community.

The Guidelines provide information about Council's expectations relating to the standards of open space and the associated infrastructure. Specifically, these Guidelines outline the key relevant documentation which should be referenced in the planning and development of open spaces. The Guidelines do not replace established processes or regulatory frameworks, but aim to ensure a quality network of open spaces into the future.

The Guidelines, and other relevant documents outlined, should be considered when developing concept plans and landscape designs for all public open spaces across the Tamworth Regional Council area, particularly those created as a part of land divisions with responsibilities which will ultimately be transferred to the Tamworth Regional Council.

Defining 'Open Space'

'Open space' refers to land which is reserved for public use and enjoyment. This includes land used for purposes such as:

- sport and active recreation
- active transport corridors (i.e. walking/cycling)
- waterway and riparian corridors
- biodiversity and fauna conservation and appreciation
- visual and landscape amenity.

About Tamworth Regional Council

The Tamworth Regional Council area is the regional centre for the NSW Northern Inland region, with an area which covers approximately 9,892 km². The estimated resident population in 2018 was 62,156 people. The Tamworth urban area makes up approximately three quarters (47,504 people) with the balance residing in the towns of Manilla, Barraba, Kootingal, and Nundle or rural localities across the region.

Open spaces in the Tamworth region are an integral part of the lifestyle on offer, providing the opportunity to establish a connection with the natural environment and the local community. The region's network of public open space provides for community events, sport and recreation, nature appreciation and to allow locals and visitors to experience the region's natural beauty.

It is projected that the Tamworth region will experience one of the highest projected population growth rates in regional NSW between 2016 and 2041. It is important that the roles of open space are acknowledged and catered for through periods of population change, ensuring ongoing provision of a quality and accessible network.

02 Importance of Open Space

Importance of Open Space

The NSW Government and Council is committed to promoting equity of access to high-quality open space to serve the needs of the growing population.

Planning, designing, managing and maintaining open space is a crucial responsibility of a wide range of government and professional organisations including:

- state government agencies
- local government
- community organisations
- industry professionals
- developers
- engineers and building professionals
- peak industry bodies
- businesses
- land and asset owners and managers.

The key challenge is ensuring the distribution of quality public open space to provide equitable access within reasonable distances of houses and workplaces.

Keychange 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan

Council's Community Strategic Plan identifies Council's vision and links this to strategies and actions for Council to undertake to 2027.

The community vision, the five key themes of the Plan, are outlined below. It is important for the development of open space within the Tamworth Regional Council to contribute to the achievement of this shared vision.



+ VISION

***"A region of opportunity
and prosperity, a place to
call home"***

A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

A PROSPEROUS REGION

AN ACCESSIBLE REGION

A REGION FOR THE FUTURE

A REGION OF PROGRESSIVE
LEADERSHIP

03 Local Contribution Plans



Local Infrastructure Contributions Policy

Contributions for local infrastructure, also known as developer contributions, are charged by councils when new development occurs. They are used to provide infrastructure to support development, including open space, community facilities, local roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage and traffic management.

There are two forms of local infrastructure contributions:

- **Section 7.11 Contributions**

Charged where there is a demonstrated link between the development and the infrastructure to be funded. Councils prepare contribution plans which specify what infrastructure will be provided and approximately how much it will cost. This is used to calculate a contribution rate, usually charged per dwelling or per square metre.

- **Section 7.12 Levies**

Charged as a percentage of the estimated cost of the development. The maximum percentage that can be charged in most areas is 1% although there are a small number of areas that charge a higher percentage.

The local infrastructure contributions system is administered by Tamworth Regional Council as Council is best placed to understand the needs of the community.

Refer: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Local-infrastructure-contributions-policy>

03 Local Contribution Plans

Tamworth Regional Council Contribution Plans

Under Division 7.1, Subdivision 3 (local infrastructure contributions) of the *Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979*, Council is able to recover the cost of infrastructure and facilities that are provided by Council to meet the demands of future development.

There are a range of public facilities identified under Council's Contribution Plans including acquisition and embellishment of open space, urban roads and car parking.

Council has three adopted contributions plans:

- *Tamworth Regional Section 94 (Direct) Contributions Plan* (updated 2018)
- *Tamworth Regional Council Section 94A (Indirect) Contributions Plan* (2013)
- *Arcadia Section 7.11 Development Contributions Plan* (2018).

Developer charges for water supply and sewerage derive from section 64 of the *Local Government Act 1993* by means of a cross-reference to Section 306 of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

Developer charges to be levied on development areas utilising Council's water supply and sewerage infrastructure are detailed in the following documents:

- *Development Servicing Plan for Water Supply* (June 2018)
- *Development Servicing Plan for Sewerage* (June 2018).

Refer: <https://www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/development-planning-controls/development-contribution-and-charges>



Tamworth Regional Council
Section 94 (Direct)
Development Contributions Plan 2018

Adopted by Council: 14 April 2018
Effective from: 1 July 2018
Version: 1.0



Tamworth Regional Council
Section 94A (Indirect) Development
Contributions Plan 2013

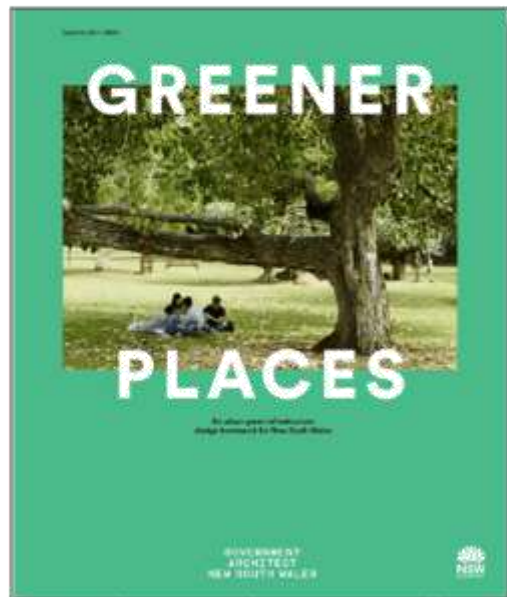
Adopted by Council: 14 April 2013
Effective from: 1 July 2013



Tamworth Regional Council
Arcadia Section 7.11
Development Contributions Plan 2018

Adopted by Council: 27 March 2018
Effective from: 1 April 2018

04 Best Practice



Open
Space for
Recreation

Urban Tree
Canopy

Bushland
and
Waterways

Greener Places: an urban green infrastructure design framework

Greener Places (2020) is a design framework produced by Government Architect NSW to guide the planning, design, and delivery of green infrastructure in urban areas across NSW. It aims to create a healthier, more liveable, and sustainable urban environment by improving community access to recreation and exercise, supporting walking and cycling connections, supporting and maintaining Aboriginal culture and heritage, and improving the resilience of urban areas.

The Greener Places Design Guide supports the green infrastructure design framework. The Design Guide includes information relating to:

- **Open Space for Recreation** - Green infrastructure for people
- **Urban Tree Canopy** - Green infrastructure for climate adaptation and resilience
- **Bushland and Waterways** - Green infrastructure for habitat and ecological health.

+ VISION

'A network of well-planned green infrastructure that will make NSW more attractive, better connected, healthier and more resilient'

Principle 1: Integration

Combine green infrastructure with urban development and grey infrastructure

Principle 2: Connectivity

Create an interconnected network of open space

Principle 3: Multi-functionality

Deliver multiple ecosystem services simultaneously

Principle 4: Participation

Involve stakeholders in development and implementation

04 Best Practice

The *Draft Open Space for Recreation Guide (2020)* sets out performance criteria and performance indicators that collectively provide the parameters for the identification of needs. Examples of performance indicators include:

Accessibility and connectivity

For a medium to low density neighbourhood <60 dwellings per hectare: 5 minutes walk / 400 metre walking distance to a local park (barrier free).

Distribution

Distance of open space from houses by size - local open spaces (0.3-2 hectares) 400 metres from most houses. For high-density areas, local open space (0.1-0.5 hectares) 200 metres from most houses.

Size and shape

Minimum size of a local park is 3,000 metres square in high density areas. Road frontage and visibility are key considerations. Sporting facilities have specific size and shape requirements.

Quantity

Quantity should be considered in the number of opportunities available.

Quality

Key influences on quality include visual and physical access, landscape setting, condition of facilities and equipment, maintenance, number of activations with in the space, size, shape and topography, adjacent land uses, vegetation, and biodiversity outcomes.

Diversity

Outdoor recreation opportunities are categorised as:

- local play for the very young
- local children's play
- older children's activity space
- youth recreation space
- local recreation spaces
- active recreation spaces
- large community outdoor recreation area
- fitness and exercise space
- trail and path-based recreation
- organised sport and recreation
- off-leash dog exercise areas.

Detailed planning considerations for each type of outdoor recreation are set out in the appendix. An example is provided below for open spaces providing for 'local play for very young people'.

Example: Local play for very young people

Suitable areas include:

- any park area,
- foreshores,
- linear open space or waterway corridors with useable space above top of bank that is a minimum 20 metres wide

Performance Criteria

- connected to active transport network and meets access standards
- quiet pram-friendly location, not adjacent to highways or main roads
- high degree of visibility and passive surveillance
- play areas should have different settings or themes from those immediately adjacent such as: nature-based; structured; landscape play sculpture
- natural or built shade to 50% of open space area
- play space to be predominantly shaded
- inclusive play space
- furniture (seating, tables)
- water station
- fenced if area adjacent to busy road
- the play feature should be greater than 50 metres square within a larger playground
- shape flexible
- no boundary to be less than 20 metres
- minimum 50% road frontage

Greener Places provides best-practice planning parameters for the provision and development of open space and should be regularly referred to in the planning of open space, particularly in new development areas.

05 Parks Hierarchy

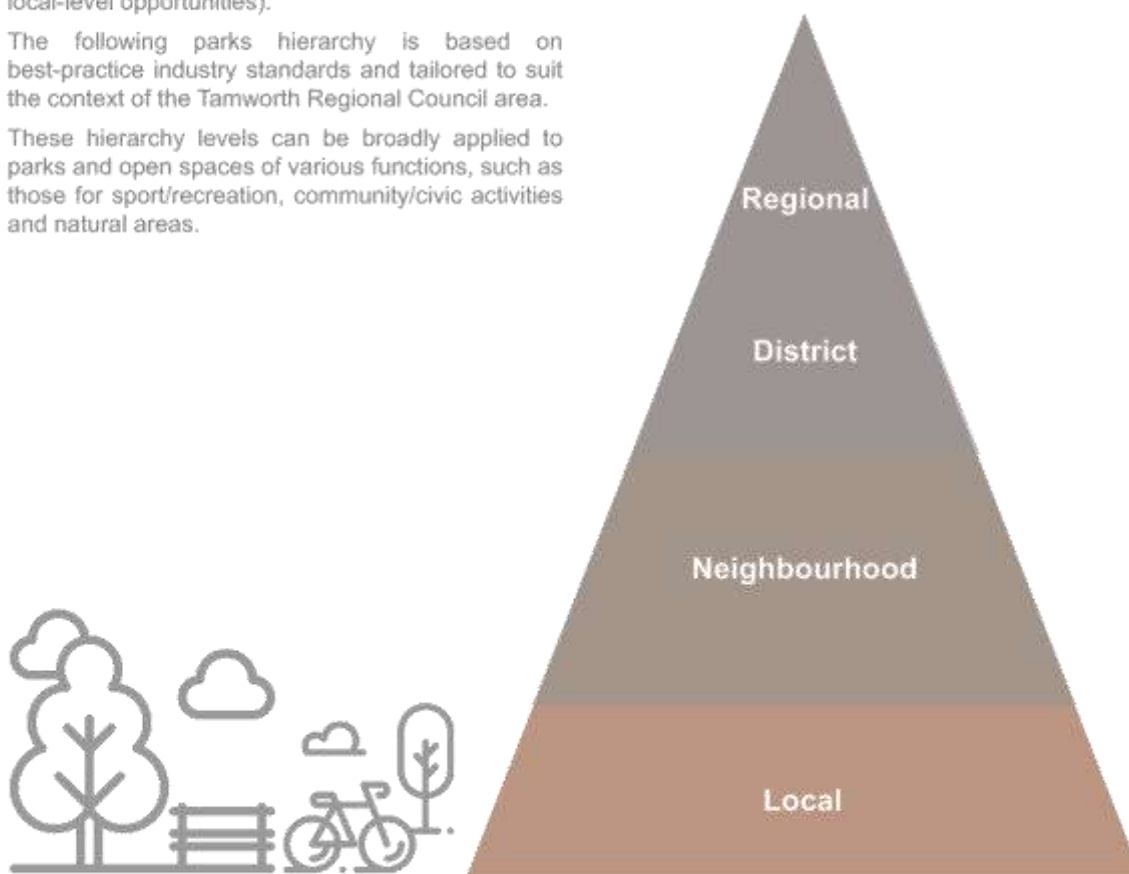
Background

The Parks Hierarchy provides the framework to strategically distribute parks and open spaces across the Tamworth region. Using the hierarchy ensures the level of embellishment and service levels are appropriate to the intended level of usage and population catchment. It also helps to ensure that all community members have access to appropriate levels of open space without unnecessary duplication.

Typically, the further up the hierarchy, the larger the park is and the more diverse the range of opportunities. Local parks will provide most of the local opportunities. Higher order parks will generally also fulfill lower order opportunities for the immediate neighbourhood (i.e. a district-level park also provides local-level opportunities).

The following parks hierarchy is based on best-practice industry standards and tailored to suit the context of the Tamworth Regional Council area.

These hierarchy levels can be broadly applied to parks and open spaces of various functions, such as those for sport/recreation, community/civic activities and natural areas.



05 Parks Hierarchy

Level	Description	Distribution	Embellishments*	Examples
Regional	A park located in a high-use and/or high-profile area of a regional centre and draws users from across the Council area, and beyond. Approximate area: 3 - 5 hectares.	3 - 4 across the Council area, with varying functions. Distance from most houses/workplaces (walkable catchment): 5-10 kilometres. Estimated suitable travel time for use: Up to 30 minute travel time via public transport or private vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on-site car parking public amenities substantial park furniture extensive shaded areas barbeque and picnic facilities lighting/power access significant play facilities suitable for all ages pedestrian/cycle paths significant landscaped features/gardens significant grassed area/s suitable for sport and/or recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicentennial Park, Tamworth Viaduct Park/ Tamworth Regional Skate Park Riverside Sporting Complex, Tamworth Victoria Park, Tamworth
District	A park located at a central location of a broader district and draws users from multiple neighbourhoods or rural settlements. Approximate area: 1 - 4 hectares but can be larger precincts.	1 - 2 per district or village. Distance from most houses/workplaces (walkable catchment): 2 - 3 kilometres. Estimated suitable travel time for use: Up to 30 minute drive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on-site car parking public amenities park furniture shaded areas barbeque and picnic facilities lighting/power access play facilities pedestrian/cycle paths landscaped features/ gardens large grassed area suitable for sport and/or recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANZAC Park, Tamworth Kootingal Recreation Ground O'Meara Park, Barraba Chaffey Park, Manilla
Neighbourhood	A park located in a residential area and draws users from the surrounding neighbourhood. Approximate area: 0.5 to 1 hectares.	1 - 3 per neighbourhood/ suburb. Distance from most houses/workplaces (walkable catchment): 500 metres - 1 kilometre. Estimated suitable travel time for use: Up to 15 minute walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> on-street car parking park seating shaded area basic play facilities informal recreation/activity area grassed recreation area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centenary Park, West Tamworth Hyman Park Thomas Mitchell Park Captain Cook Park, Nundle
Local	A park located in a residential area and draws users from the immediate surrounding areas. Approximate area: 0.25 to 0.5 hectares (Desired minimum 0.3 hectares).	1 per residential block. Distance from most houses/workplaces (walkable catchment): 400 metre. Estimated suitable travel time for use: Up to 5 minute walk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park seating Small grassed recreation area Basic landscape features such as low-maintenance tree plantings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryan Street Reserve, Tamworth Ernest Street Park, Oxley Park Garden Street Reserve, Kootingal Stoddard Street Park, Manilla

*Specific park embellishments to be appropriate to the identified intended function of the open space.

06 Minimum Standards

Engineering Design Minimum Standards for Subdivisions and Developments

Tamworth Regional Council's *Engineering Design Minimum Standards for Subdivision and Development* (2019) have been compiled to outline Council's general procedures and practices in respect of the engineering design requirements for subdivision and development of land within the Council area.

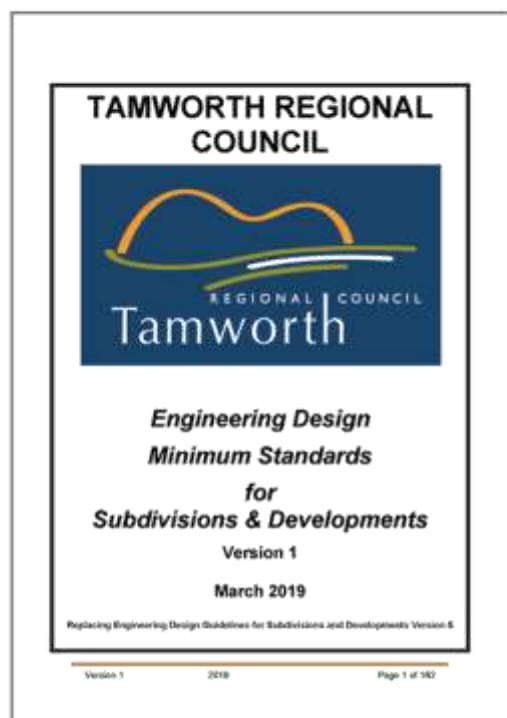
These standards facilitate the expedient processing of engineering plan submissions, issue of Construction Certificates and release of Subdivision Certificates. Applicants should be aware that each development is required to be treated on its merits and that approval is dependent on the overall impact of the development on the area and not solely in compliance with minimum engineering standards.

Council welcomes the submission of innovative design solutions and staff are available for initial consultation to discuss and assess the prospects for approval.

Any proposed departures from these standards are to be submitted to council prior to submitting non-conforming plans. Any application for a departure from these Minimum Standards is to include details of alternative options considered and reasons these alternatives are not suitable. Reduction in lot yield alone will not be sufficient reason for non-conformance with these Design Minimum Standards.

These standards state that detention and retention basins will not be accepted as Public Open Space for the purpose of recreation.

All applicants must ensure that all conditions of the Development Consent are addressed within the detailed engineering plans. Before development commences, a satisfactory engineering plan of the proposals should be submitted to and approved by the Council.



06 Minimum Standards

The engineering requirements and minimum standards are provided by topic in the following order:

Part 1: General Requirements

Part 2: Minimum Standards for Roads

Part 3: Minimum Standards for Stormwater Drainage Design

Part 4: Minimum Standards for Water Reticulation Design

Part 5: Minimum Standards for Sewerage Reticulation Design

Part 6: Minimum Standard for Landscaping Design

Section 6 of this document is of key relevance in the development of open space, and has been summarised over the following pages.

A current copy of the *Design Minimum Standards* is available at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au.



06 Minimum Standards

PART 6 - LANDSCAPING ELEMENTS

AMENITIES BUILDING

These structures shall meet the appropriate code. Be able to be locked and use an electronic locking system with back to base feature.

BARBEQUES

Barbeques shall be electric and be of a robust construction.

BOLLARDS

The perimeter of any public open space that has frontage to a public road shall be fenced with vandal proof bollards to prevent vehicular access. Posts shall be installed at maximum 1.5 metre centres. A gate or removable bollard shall be placed in a suitable location for vehicle access so that maintenance can be undertaken within the park.

BRIDGES

Bridges shall be designed and certified by an engineer. All products shall be durable and slip resistant during heavy frosts.

FURNITURE

Furniture shall be of a commercial design and durability and installed on concrete slabs which are 0.5 metres larger than the item of furniture to reduce maintenance issues. Accessible furniture may be incorporated into the design.

GARDENS

Gardens shall be designed with the climate in mind and the responsible use of water and the use of mulch to reduce evaporation and weed growth. All gardens are to have drip irrigation for watering purposes.

RUBBISH BINS

Parks which fit into either regional or district levels shall have at least 1 x 240 litre mobile garbage bin installed in an enclosure or on a bin stand.

IRRIGATION

Plans of the proposed irrigation system/s are to be submitted to the Director Regional Services prior to construction.

LIGHTING

All pathway or security lighting shall use LED.

LOCKS

Where locks are required, the Developer shall provide locks keyed alike to Council's Sports and Recreation Division's key system.

PATHWAYS

All pathways shall be either paved or concrete to allow for wheelchair accessibility and a minimum of 1.6 metres wide.

Shared paths (cycle and pedestrian) in Public Open Space shall be a minimum of 2.5 metres wide and be constructed to the same specifications as for paths constructed in road reserves.

PLAYGROUNDS

All play equipment and fall zones shall comply with all relevant Australian Standards. Evidence in the form of an independent playground audit is to be provided to Council prior to Practical Completion.

All playgrounds shall meet the current Australian Standard and use organic mulch as a soft-fall product with the appropriate certification. A copy of the certification certificate shall be supplied to Council. All playgrounds shall be either fully covered or have a minimum of 50 percent coverage using a shade structures with anti-climb devices at an appropriate height to stop climbing/rubbing on the play equipment.

POWER

Mains power shall be connected to parks if required to power amenities, irrigation, lighting or barbecues. The Developer shall be responsible for power costs until the park has been handed over to Council.

06 Minimum Standards

SHELTER

Shelters shall be of a commercial design and durability. To be incorporated into concrete slabs to reduce maintenance issues and shall be 0.5 metres larger than the shelter.

SIGNAGE

All parks shall have a park name sign including the remote supervision and prohibited activities (Council to provide information for the remote supervision and prohibited activities). All signage shall be consistent with Council's standard

TURF

Parks and reserves shall be sprigged or solid turfed with a warm season turf species and appropriately watered and mown to promote establishment during the growth season. Periodic spraying for weeds shall be undertaken as required.

WATER - POTABLE

Parks shall only be connected to potable water depending on the hierarchy of the park. The Developer shall be responsible for the water costs until such time as the park has been handed over to Council.

WORKS AS EXECUTED PLANS

Works as Executed (WAE) plans shall be submitted prior to handover of the assets to Council. Completion acceptance shall not occur until such time as WAE plans are submitted. All documentation relating to WAE shall meet the requirements of the Works as Executed document.

HANDOVER

Tamworth Regional Council shall only take handover of infrastructure if, at the time of handover, all integrated infrastructure works have been completed and are also due for handover.





Version No.	Date	Description	Editor
1	19.05.2020	Draft 1	Tredwell
2	28.07.2020	Draft 2 - Amended following Public Exhibition	Tredwell
3	18.08.2020	Final Report	Tredwell

Acknowledgements

Tamworth Regional Council and Tredwell acknowledge the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our region.

The Tamworth Regional Council Project Team who have significantly contributed to the development of this Strategic Plan:

- Samuel Eriksson, Strategic Projects Coordinator
- Paul Kelly, Manager Sports and Recreation

All stakeholders and community members who have contributed through an online survey, workshop or interview are also thanked for their time and effort.

Photographs have been provided by Tamworth Regional Council.

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01 Introduction

Project Overview

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) acknowledges the significant contribution that sport and recreation bring to the community. The planning and design of facilities needs to be carefully considered to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed now, and into the future. Council has worked with the specialist sport, recreation and open space planning firm, Tredwell, on the preparation of the Tamworth Region Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan.

The Plan provides a road map for planning and developing sport and recreation facilities (structured and unstructured) across the Tamworth region. This aligns with the planned growth identified in Tamworth's *Blueprint 100* (2020).

Regional Context

Tamworth City is the major centre for the broader catchment area of Northern Inland New South Wales (NSW) which has a growing population of more than 200,000 people and encompasses the other major towns of Inverell, Armidale and Gunnedah. Tamworth is the largest population centre in the New England North West planning region.

The Tamworth region covers a diverse geographic area with a growing population of over 60,000 residents. The towns of Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle, and another 17 localities, offer an attractive lifestyle underpinned by a strong regional economy.

Provision of high-quality sport and recreation facilities, clubs and programs are increasingly contributing to the attractiveness of the Tamworth region for lifestyle.

Methodology

The project's five stage methodology included:

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| STAGE 1 | ○ | Background Research and Trends Analysis
October / November 2019 |
| STAGE 2 | ○ | Audit and Consultation
November / December 2019 |
| STAGE 3 | ○ | Issues and Opportunities Identification
January / February 2020 |
| STAGE 4 | ○ | Draft Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan
March / April 2020 |
| | ● | Public Exhibition
June 2020 |
| STAGE 5 | ○ | Final Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan
August 2020 |



Council's Role

Local government plays a major role in the development of sport and recreation, particularly at the community level. Successful networks of sport and recreation facilities, clubs and programs are dependent on partnerships and ongoing cooperation between a wide range of organisations, including all levels of government, peak bodies, state sporting organisations (SSOs), clubs and associations, and the wider community. The NSW sport and recreation delivery framework is outlined below.



Council plays an important role in facilitating benefits and achieving positive outcomes for its community, through sport and active recreation provision. Key roles include:

- **Planning**
 - Strategic planning
 - Master planning
 - Policy development
- **Facility Management**
 - Asset management
 - Leasing and licensing
 - Compliance with legislation and standards
- **Partnerships and Advocacy**
 - Advocating on behalf of the community and clubs
 - Partnering with other Councils, State and Federal Government
 - Strengthening relationships with sporting clubs
- **Service Provision**
 - Club development and training
 - Information provision
 - Sports club liaison/engagement
 - Special events
 - Inclusive programs
- **Funding**
 - Grants
 - Capital investment
 - Accessing external funding

01

Key Developments

Since Council's previous *Recreation and Open Space Plan* was prepared in 2008, the Tamworth region has experienced significant developments relating to sport and recreation. Key infrastructure projects have included:

1. Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre
2. The Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE) which includes:
 - Tamworth Sports Dome (2011)
 - Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre (2019)
 - Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre (2019)
 - Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre (2020)
3. Tamworth Mountain Bike Park (2014)
4. Tamworth Regional Playground (2015)
5. Scully Park Regional Sporting Precinct (2015)
6. The Youthie (2015)
7. Tamworth Adventure Playground (2015)
8. Tamworth Regional Skate Park (2019)



02 Demand and Trends

Demographic Overview

Community sport and recreation needs are influenced by the demographic profile of the region. The Tamworth region has:

One of the highest projected population growth rates in regional NSW.

The NSW Government forecasts a population of up to

75,000 people
in 2036 (2016)



A high proportion of the population

< 18
> 60

under 18
and
over 60
years of age

A significantly higher proportion of

Indigenous Australians compared to other areas of regional NSW



A high rate of

volunteering
compared to other areas of regional NSW

Varied levels of

socio-economic disadvantage

across the region



Key Sport and Recreation Trends

A range of trends have been identified which will influence sport and recreation into the future, as outlined below.

Increasing popularity of
individualised activities



Increasing need for
active ageing

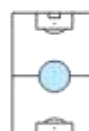
Increasing
female participation

in traditionally male dominated sports



Increasingly
busy lifestyles

Increasing participation in
informal recreation activities



Increasingly widespread use of
synthetic playing surfaces

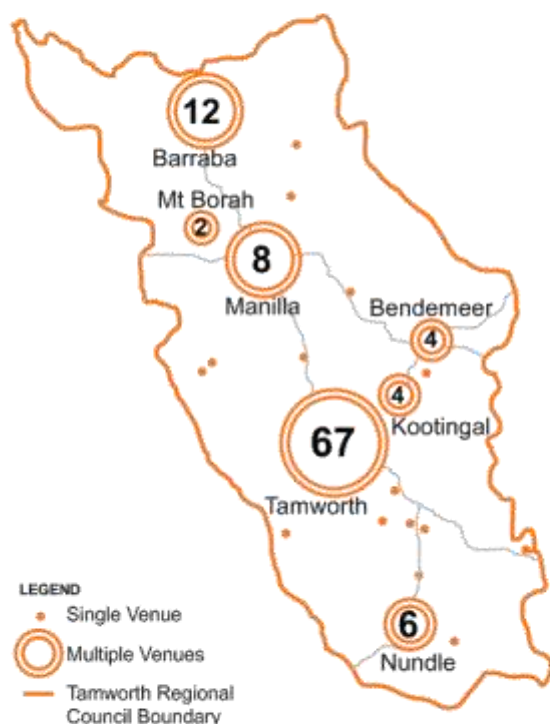
03 Facility Inventory

Facility Network Distribution

The facility inventory identifies 118 venues, across the Tamworth region, which provide facilities for sport and recreation. The high-level distribution of facilities is shown in the map below.

Tamworth is the primary hub for sport and recreation in the region's facility network, with many high-quality facilities of international, national, state, regional and local significance.

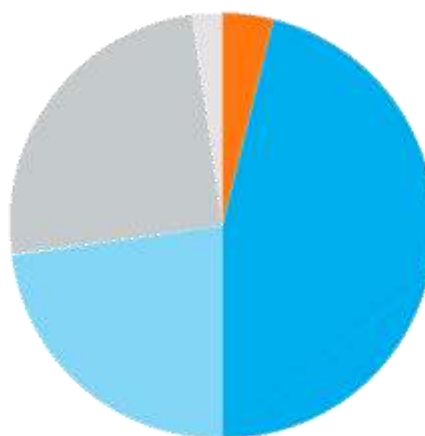
The network is also supported by the sport and recreation precincts in the villages of Kootingal, Nundle, Barraba and Manilla. Smaller, outlying settlements across the region typically have a recreation ground, managed under a Section 355 Committee, with a community hall, court(s), grass pitch or oval and associated amenities.



Facility Condition Ratings

The condition of venues and facilities across the region's network varies considerably. In outlying settlements, this is often dependent on population numbers and the availability of community members to use and maintain these facilities.

Each venue has been given a rating to reflect an assessment of its current condition, with the overall percentages outlined in the graph below.

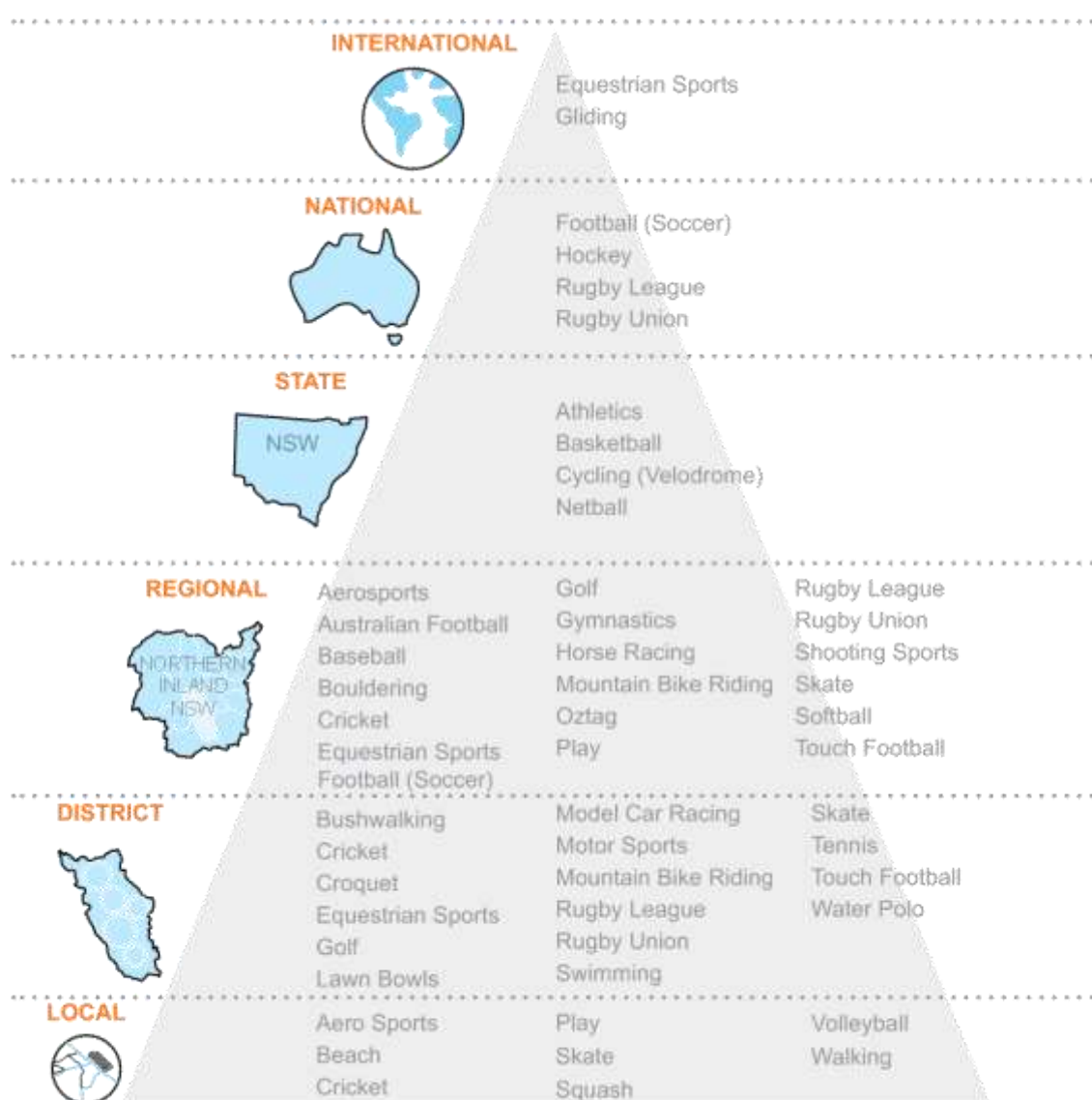


Facility Hierarchy

Establishing a hierarchy of sport and recreation facilities assists in the review of existing facilities, and the planning of new facilities.

This hierarchy can be used to guide the strategic distribution of facilities and ensures that service levels are appropriate to the intended level of usage and the population catchment which is being catered for.

Facility distribution across the hierarchy is outlined below.



04 Consultation

Consultation Mechanisms

The following consultation mechanisms were used during November 2019 to inform the development of the Strategic Plan:

- Six community workshops held in Kootingal, Nundle, Barraba, Manilla and Tamworth.
- Online community survey receiving 164 responses.
- Online club/user group survey receiving nine responses.
- Key stakeholder interviews

Key Themes

The themes which emerged from the consultation processes are outlined below, with regards to key positive feedback and key issues.

Key positive feedback related to:

-  Location of facilities
-  Facilities being generally well maintained and looked after
-  Facility provision at NICSE and AELEC
-  Low cost and affordable sport and recreation opportunities
-  Broad range of facilities
-  Council planning for the future
-  Community connectedness

Key issues raised related to:

-  Need for specific facility improvements and enhanced maintenance regimes
-  Facilities unavailable at times
-  High participation and facility use costs
-  Aged/basic aquatic facilities
-  Limited spectator facilities
-  Limited car parking
-  Facilities without disability access
-  Need for improved access and connectivity between facilities for active transport
-  Need for improved sports lighting
-  Need for improved changerooms

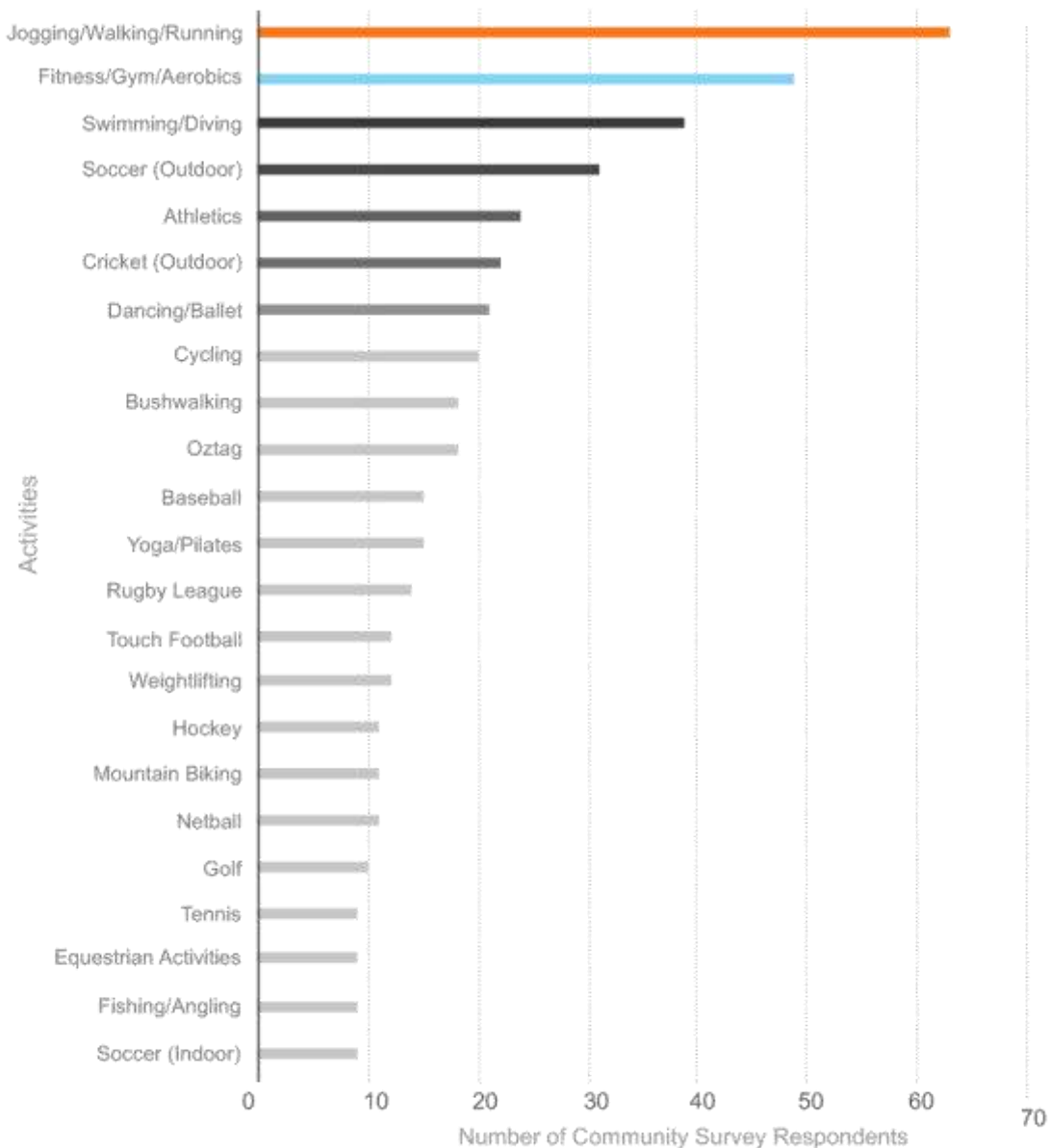
Local Participation

The following graph is based on community survey responses to the following question:

What sport and recreation activities do you participate in, and how regularly?

The 'number of responses' identifies those who indicated participation on at least a fortnightly basis.

Top Activities in the Tamworth Region (Community Survey Findings)



05 Supply and Demand Analysis

Activity-Specific Provision Needs

In order to assess the facility provision requirements needed to cater for anticipated population changes across the Tamworth region, supply and demand factors have been considered where possible across the following key sport and recreation activities:

- athletics
- hockey
- cycling
- netball & basketball
- swimming
- baseball & Softball
- tennis
- rugby league & union
- football (soccer)
- Oztog & touch football
- cricket
- Australian football
- gymnastics
- skate
- BMX
- equestrian sports
- motorsport
- lawn bowls
- golf
- mountain bike riding
- recreational walking & cycling.

The following table outlines the projected future facility requirements and the focus/directions for each of the key activities listed above.

This analysis and focus/directions are based on consideration of:

- supply and demand factors used by ActiveXchange data analytics
- requirements of the broader population of Northern Inland NSW
- facility inventory (including location, condition, usage, hierarchy)
- Council, club and community plans and aspirations for the facility network
- strategic directions of the Federal Government, NSW Government, Council, state sporting organisations, clubs and associations.
- population projections and trigger points
- trends influencing sport and recreation
- best-practice facility provision which includes multi-use, adaptable and flexible spaces.

Activity Focus/Directions

Athletics



Focus on activating the existing Tamworth Regional Athletics Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.

Hockey



Focus on activating the existing Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.

Cycling



Focus on activating the existing Tamworth Regional Cycling Centre through attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.









Netball and Basketball












Focus on maintaining existing high-quality indoor & outdoor courts at Tamworth Sports Dome.

Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.

Plan for three additional indoor courts when the population of the Tamworth region reaches 90,000-100,000.

Activity	Focus/Directions	Activity	Focus/Directions
Swimming 	<p>Focus on development of the Tamworth Regional Aquatics and Leisure Centre at the NICSE, and consolidation of the two aged district-level facilities in Tamworth urban area – both to remain open until new centre is constructed and operational.</p> <p>Continued provision of district aquatic facilities in Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal and Nundle.</p>	Football (Soccer) 	<p>Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities, as well as developing additional multi-use playing fields.</p> <p>Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p>
Baseball and Softball 	<p>Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities at Riverside Sports Complex.</p> <p>Ensure fields are multi-purpose where possible.</p> <p>Enhance the facility to attract and host tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p>	Oztag and Touch Football 	<p>Focus on optimising quality and usage of existing facilities, as well as developing new/additional multi-use playing fields.</p> <p>Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p>
Tennis 	<p>Focus on balancing the provision and distribution of tennis facilities across the region to support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p> <p>Enhancements to include upgrades at Treloar Park Tennis Centre (13 courts), enhancements at facilities with five or more courts, and repurposing of disused courts in outlying settlements.</p>	Cricket 	<p>Focus on balancing the provision and distribution of cricket facilities across the region.</p> <p>Future provision to include development of state/regional-level venue at the NICSE, enhancements at Riverside Sports Complex, and repurposing of disused ovals in outlying settlements.</p> <p>Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p>
Rugby League and Union 	<p>Focus on optimising quality of existing facilities.</p> <p>Enhance community access.</p> <p>Develop Riverside Sports Complex with multi-use field capacity to host large tournaments/events as well as to support regular programs/competitions.</p>	Australian Football 	<p>Focus on developing state/regional-level venue at the NICSE, and enhancements at No. 1 Oval and Riverside Sports Complex.</p> <p>Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs/competitions.</p>

05

Activity	Focus/Directions	Activity	Focus/Directions
Gymnastics 	Focus on maintaining a high quality regional-level gymnastics facility, with access to additional capacity at Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC) to cater for large events.	Motorsport 	Focus on developing state-level multi-use motorsport facility at Oakburn Park Motorsport Precinct.
Skate 	Focus on progressive development of new youth activity spaces (including skate facilities) as the population grows.	Lawn Bowls 	Focus on supporting clubs to sustainably provide, high quality and highly valued facilities to the community. Support clubs/facility owners to determine suitable redistribution and/or re-purposing of facilities, as required.
BMX 	Focus on upgrading existing competitive BMX facility to a state-level. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/ events as well as regular programs/ competitions. Progressively develop of new youth activity spaces (incorporating recreational skate and BMX facilities) as the population grows.	Golf 	Focus on supporting clubs to sustainably provide, high quality and highly valued facilities to the community. Support clubs/facility owners to determine suitable redistribution and/or re-purposing of facilities, as required.
Equestrian Sports 	Focus on maintaining high quality national, regional and district level facilities, and continued attraction of equine events and regular programs. Ensure balance between elite and community level facilities and pathways for Tamworth to maintain its position as 'Australia's Home of Equine Sports'. Consider opportunities for additional facility to cater for district-level requirements.	Mountain Bike Riding 	Focus on expanding and improving Tamworth Mountain Bike Park as a high quality regional-level facility. Support attraction and hosting of tournaments/events as well as regular programs.
		Recreational Walking and Cycling 	Focus on strategically planning for a well distributed and connected network of recreational trails across the region.

06 Challenges and Opportunities

Key Challenges and Opportunities

The following key challenges and opportunities have been identified for sport and recreation in the Tamworth region.

Key Challenges

	Water Security
	Regional Catchment
	Population Growth
	Balancing Provision
	Encouraging Active Lifestyles
	Finite Resources
	New Development Areas
	Maintaining Tamworth's reputation as 'Australia's Home of Equine Sports'
	Aged Aquatic Facilities
	Flood Prone Areas
	Playing Field Capacity
	Support Facilities

Key Opportunities

	Sporting Hub of Northern Inland NSW
	Maximising Usage and Attracting Events
	Resilient and Fit-for-purpose Facilities
	Effective Communication
	Inclusive Sport and Recreation
	Capacity Building and Community Empowerment
	Tamworth Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre
	Regional-level Oval
	Expansion of Riverside Sporting Complex
	Strategic Provision of Park-based Recreation Facilities
	Recreational Trails and Active Transport
	Enhanced Tamworth Mountain Bike Park
	Youth Activity Spaces
	Upgrade of Tamworth BMX Track
	Expansion of Oakburn Park Motor Sport Precinct
	Long-Term Development of Additional Indoor Courts

07 Vision and Principles

Vision

The following vision has been developed as a reflection of the aspirations of the Tamworth region community in relation to sport and recreation.



Our Vision is:

A balanced network of high-quality sport and recreation facilities, clubs/ service providers, programs and events which ensures Tamworth is the sporting hub of Northern Inland NSW and meets the needs of the growing and diversifying population.

A network which enables sport and recreation to contribute significant social and economic benefit through maximising community participation, encouraging active lifestyles, attracting a wide range of events and offering pathways for sporting excellence.

Key Components

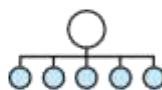
Planning for sport and recreation is multifaceted and interrelated. Consideration needs to be given to the following three major components of planning.

Facilities



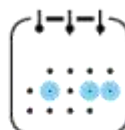
- planning (strategies, feasibility studies, master plans, reviews)
- delivery (upgrades, new facilities, re-purposing, co-location, multi-purpose, accessible)
- management (governance, occupancy agreements, programming, asset management, maintenance).

Clubs and Service Providers



- club development
- communication
- engagement
- accessibility
- volunteering
- partnerships
- training and development.

Programs and Events



- targeted population groups
- events, programs and services
- resourcing
- communication and marketing
- inclusion
- pathways

Planning Principles

The following planning principles have been developed, based on community aspirations and industry best-practice, to guide the development and management of sport and recreation across the Tamworth region.

Principle 1

Maximum Community Participation



- Facilities, clubs and programs offer a range of accessible recreational opportunities targeted to the needs of the community and deliver associated health benefits to all people, regardless of age, socio-economic status or ability.
- A balanced approach to the provision of facilities across community-level participation, as well as elite pathways, programs and events.
- A balanced approach to the provision of facilities which facilitate active lifestyles through informal recreation activities as well as through competitive sport.

Principle 2

Shared Precincts and Community Hubs



- Where appropriate and practical, facilities are clustered and co-located with compatible users to optimise use whilst maintaining organisational identity and individual needs through adaptable and flexible designs.

Principle 3

Sustainability



- Facilities, clubs and programs effectively integrate long and short-term economic, environmental, social and cultural considerations.
- Facility and program developments strategically align with Council strategies to meet current and future community needs and provide value-for-money.

Principle 4

Partnerships



- Collaborative approaches are used to plan, deliver and manage facilities, clubs and programs with the community, government, clubs, associations, educational institutions and the private sector.
- Partnerships are utilised to achieve community outcomes beyond sport and recreation.

Principle 5

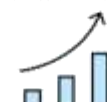
Working Together with Clubs and Community



- Clubs and the wider community are effectively engaged in the planning and design of sport and recreation facilities and programs.
- An inclusive culture of sport and recreation is achieved through club development programs, positive relationships and provision of facilities that support opportunities for all.

Principle 6

Maximised and Validated Community Benefit



- Community benefit is identified, validated and maximised through the investment of sport and recreation facilities.
- Investments which demonstrate the maximum local and regional community benefits are prioritised.

Principle 7

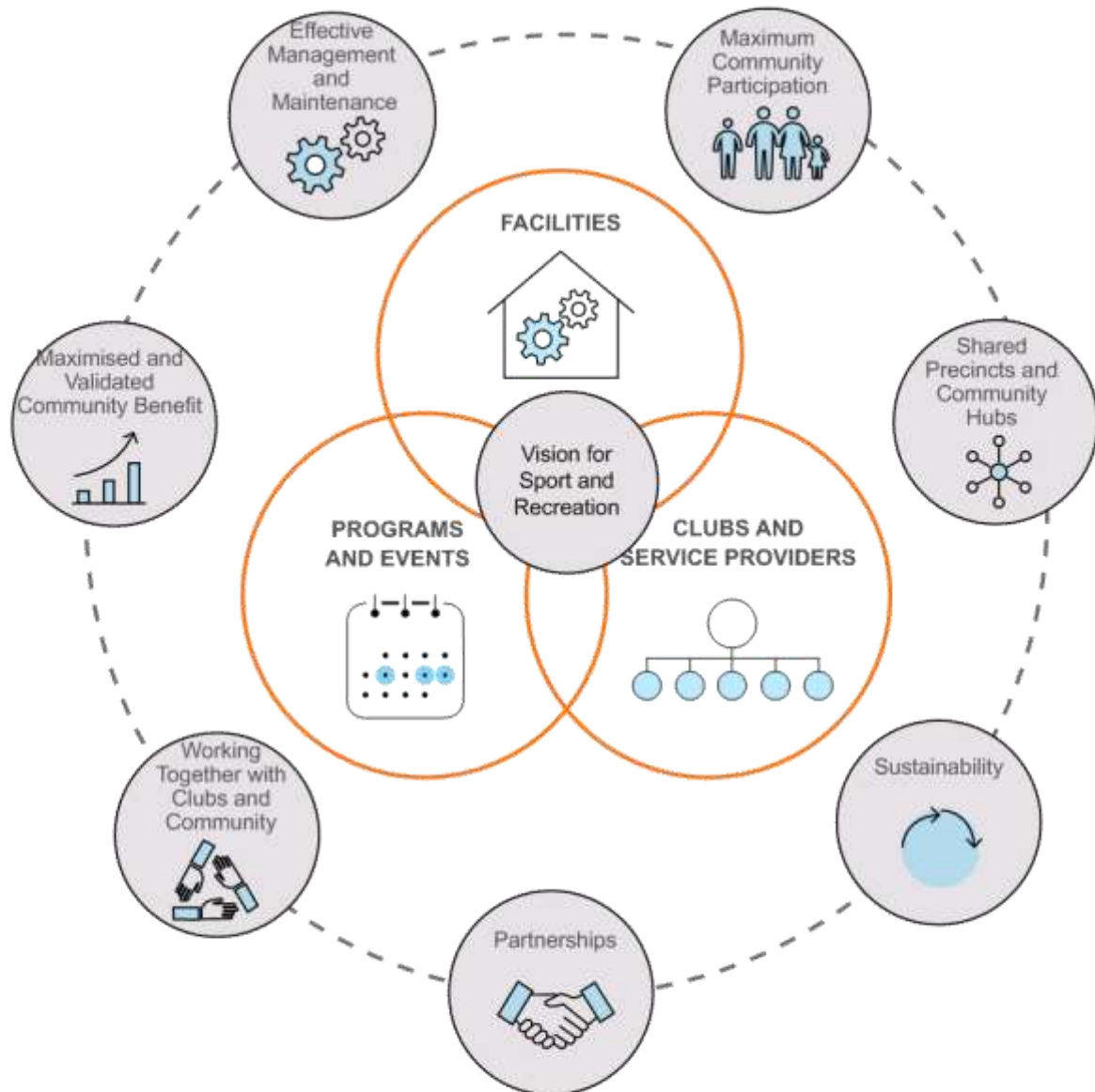
Effective Management and Maintenance



- Facilities are managed and maintained in a manner that promotes safe condition, minimises financial liability and complies with relevant legislation, policies and standards.

07

Interrelated Components of Sport and Recreation Planning



08 Action Plan

Strategy and Action Plan

Strategies and actions for developing sport and recreation across the Tamworth region have been categorised into the three key components of planning. The topics covered by each of the strategies are outlined below.

The complete Strategy and Action Plan with corresponding rationale, timeframes, partners and resource estimates is included in the comprehensive version of the *Tamworth Region Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan*.

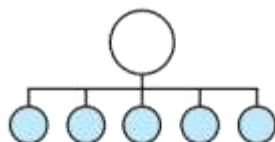
Strategies

Facilities



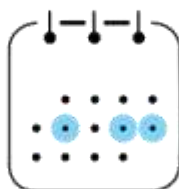
- 1 Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence (NICSE)
- 2 Council Owned and/or Managed Regional-Level Sport and Recreation Facilities
- 3 Tamworth Urban Area - Council Owned and/or Managed District/Local-Level Sport and Recreation Facilities
- 4 Towns and Rural Localities - Council Owned and/or Managed District/Local-Level Sport and Recreation Facilities
- 5 Non-Council Owned or Managed Sport and Recreation Facilities
- 6 New Developments
- 7 Facility Management and Operation
- 8 Research and Planning

Clubs and Service Providers



- 9 Governance, Training and Development
- 10 Volunteering
- 11 Partnerships

Programs and Events



- 12 Events
- 13 Communication
- 14 Resourcing
- 15 Inclusion and Access

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4

Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations - Drought Information) Bill 2020

Report 44

July 2020

4



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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

**Constitution Amendment
(Water Accountability and
Transparency) Bill 2020, Water
Management Amendment
(Transparency of Water
Rights) Bill 2020 and Water
Management Amendment
(Water Allocations - Drought
Information) Bill 2020**

Ordered to be printed 31 July 2020 according to Standing
Order 231

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020

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Groundwater—Law and legislation—New South Wales.

Water-supply—Law and legislation—New South Wales.

Water-supply—New South Wales—Management.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020

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Terms of reference

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry inquire and report on:
 - (a) the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020,
 - (b) the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, and
 - (c) the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020.
2. That the committee report by Friday 31 July 2020.

The terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 16 June 2020.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 June 2020, pp 1035-1036.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020

Committee details

Committee membership

The Hon. Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooter, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Sam Farraway MLC	The Nationals	
Mr Justin Field MLC*	Independent	
The Hon Trevor Khan MLC **	The Nationals	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* Mr Justin Field MLC replaced the Hon Emma Hurst MLC from 17 June 2020 for the duration of the inquiry

** The Hon Trevor Khan MLC replaced the Hon Lou Amato MLC from 9 July 2020 for the duration of the inquiry

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Chair's foreword

This inquiry differed from most in that it delved into the provisions of three water bills: the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020; the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020; and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations - Drought Information) Bill 2020.

Two of the bills looked specifically into water transparency and disclosure of water ownership by members of Parliament. The third looked at the incorporation of specific information with regards to creating water sharing plans.

The Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations - Drought Information) Bill 2020, tabled by the Opposition, differs from the other two. However, it was deemed prudent that all three bills be investigated together, given that potential stakeholders would be the same. In addition, given that a concurrent inquiry through the Regulation Committee is investigating other water management matters, stakeholder fatigue was considered a concern.

I want to thank the committee secretariat for their professionalism in managing an inquiry that differed from the norm. I also want to thank all committee members in how they conducted themselves during the inquiry.

This inquiry saw a wide range of opinions on the subject of water. Almost all participants supported a need to improve the level of transparency around water ownership, how that can be achieved, and the level of detail provided in that transparency.

It is worth noting that those that expressed concern towards the level of detail proposed in the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers' Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill used almost identical wording to that of the Government's critique of the bill. A question remains as to who was influencing who with regards to this.

Witnesses mentioned the National Water Initiative (NWI) from 2004, which states in explicit detail how a state water register should function, and noted that the current NSW water register does not remotely meet this standard. It is unclear, given 16 years have passed since the NWI, whether the agreement is binding or if it is just another example of an intergovernmental talkfest that contributes little towards water transparency and ownership in this state.

When investigating the Opposition's bill, many witnesses cited modelling completed on the drought of record that subsequently informed water sharing plans as a reason to oppose the bill. Two of these witnesses included former water ministers Katrina Hodgkinson and Kevin Humphries; however, neither could admit they had sighted this modelling, nor could they provide a copy – a situation that then extended to the current water minister and two of her most senior bureaucrats.

The inability of any of the former ministers or current minister to produce this modelling highlights why the public has concerns around the transparency of water management in this state – a fact accentuated by responses from former ministers that can best be described as 'word salad'.

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While such tactics may serve the interests of governing parties, it does not serve the interests of the people of this state nor do anything to alleviate people's concerns about the openness and transparency of government.

The public expects politicians to make decisions based on facts and evidence. I would urge the Minister to make this modelling available (if it exists) to all members before the Opposition bill is debated in the Legislative Council.



Hon Mark Banasiak MLC
Committee Chair

Recommendations

- Recommendation 1** 17
That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, and the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed during debate in the House.
- Recommendation 2** 17
That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, and the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed during debate in the House.
- Recommendation 3** 31
That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, and that the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed during debate in the House.

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Conduct of inquiry

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 16 June 2020.

The committee received 19 submissions and 1 supplementary submission. An online questionnaire was also conducted which received 29 responses.

The committee held two public hearings at Parliament House in Sydney.

Inquiry related documents are available on the committee's website, including submissions, hearing transcripts, and tabled documents.

Chapter 1 Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020

This chapter documents the background and purpose of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020. It then explores the key issues to emerge from the written and oral evidence gathered by the committee in respect of the two key elements of both bills: enhanced provisions for disclosure of water interests by members of Parliament; and enhancements to the public register of water holdings.

References

- 1.1 The Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 3 June 2020 by the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing.²
- 1.2 The Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 was introduced into the Legislative Council on 3 June 2020 by the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC, representing the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party.³ It was almost identical to that introduced into the Legislative Assembly by Ms Helen Dalton MP, Member for Murray.
- 1.3 On 16 June 2020, the Legislative Council resolved, on the recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee, that both bills be referred Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report by 31 July 2020.⁴
- 1.4 Hereafter the two bills are referred to as the Government bill and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers (SFF) bill, respectively.
- 1.5 A third bill, the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020 was referred by the Council to the committee on 17 June 2020.⁵ That bill is examined in the following chapter.

² *Votes and Proceedings*, NSW Legislative Assembly, 3 June 2020, p 665.

³ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 3 June 2020, p 999.

⁴ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 16 June 2020, pp 1035-1036. In respect of the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill, the reference pertained to the provisions of the Bill. Upon receipt of the message from the Legislative Assembly by the Legislative Council on 17 June 2020, the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill was referred to the committee. See *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 17 June 2020, p 1056.

⁵ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 17 June 2020, p 1063.

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Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020

Background and purpose of the bill

- 1.6 The Government bill seeks to amend the *Water Management Act 2000* with respect to public access to information recorded in the Water Access Licence Register, and the *Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983* to require members of Parliament to disclose certain water interests held by members and certain water trading activities by members.⁶
- 1.7 When introduced, the Government bill only included provisions in respect of disclosures by members of Parliament. It was amended by the Legislative Assembly, on the motion of the Minister, to include the provisions in respect of the Water Access License Register.⁷
- 1.8 In her second reading speech, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, stated that the bill will strengthen the transparency and accountability of parliamentary disclosure requirements by including water assets as a form of pecuniary interest requiring disclosure.⁸
- 1.9 The Minister observed that water is one of the state's most valuable assets and the NSW Government has a responsibility to ensure that it is managed equitably and with transparency. She noted that parliamentarians have a responsibility to the people of the state to report all pecuniary interests, consistent with the Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983. The Minister stated that by amending the regulation, the bill will clarify that members of Parliament are required to disclose their interest in water assets.^{9,10}

Overview of the bill's provisions

- 1.10 The objects of the Government bill, as set out in the explanatory note are:
- (a) to require Members of Parliament to publicly disclose their interests in water access licences, share components of water access licences and contractual rights to receive water from irrigation corporations,
 - (b) to require Members of Parliament to publicly lodge returns disclosing water trading activity within 14 days of becoming a party to the activity,
 - (c) to provide for the compilation and maintenance of registers of water trading returns by the Clerks of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly,

⁶ Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Second Print, p 1.

⁷ *Votes and Proceedings*, Legislative Assembly, 17 June 2020, pp 686-692.

⁸ Melinda Pavey, Second reading speech: Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency Bill) 2020, 3 June 2020.

⁹ Melinda Pavey, Second reading speech: Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency Bill) 2020, 3 June 2020.

¹⁰ Melinda Pavey, Second reading speech: Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency Bill) 2020, 3 June 2020.

(d) to make consequential amendments.¹¹

- 1.11** Specifically, the bill will require MPs to disclose licence number and share component of any water access licence, or a contractual right to receive water from an irrigation corporation, and the water entitlements associated with that right in which they had an interest at any time during the primary and/or ordinary return period, and the nature of the interest in the water licence.
- 1.12** The bill will further require that any relevant Australian Business Number (ABN) is to be attached to each water licence or right, and that members notify the Parliament via their pecuniary interest register within 14 days of trading water for any purpose, including any moneys made and the change to the net impact of their water holdings.¹²
- 1.13** Exclusions from the bill's requirements for declaration by MPs include:
- water rights held by a minister on behalf of the Crown
 - rights that are held only by a member acting in their capacity as the executor or administrator of a deceased estate where they are not the beneficiary under the will or intestacy
 - where a member is acting on their capacity as a trustee, where the member acquired the interest in the ordinary course of any occupation which is not related to his or her duties as a member.¹³
- 1.14** The amended bill's provisions in respect of the Water Access Licence Register would amend section 71H of the Water Management Act 2000 No 92, as follows:

71H Public access to information in Access Register

- (1) The Minister is to make the information recorded in the Access Register available to members of the public in accordance with this section.
- (2) The information is to be made available through an electronic search facility on a publicly accessible website.
- (3) The information is to be made available on payment of the fee (if any) approved by the Minister.
- (4) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to—
 - (a) the authentication of searches of the Access Register, and
 - (b) the certification of the results of those searches, and
 - (c) the restriction of access to personal information recorded in the Access Register for the purpose of protecting the privacy of that information.

¹¹ Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency Bill) 2020, First Print, Explanatory Note, p 1.

¹² Melinda Pavey, Second reading speech: Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency Bill) 2020, 3 June 2020.

¹³ Melinda Pavey, Second reading speech: Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency Bill) 2020, 3 June 2020.

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- (5) This section does not limit the application of Part 6 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 to the Access Register.¹⁴

Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020

Background and purpose of the bill

- 1.15 The SFF bill seeks to amend the *Water Management Act 2000* with respect to the provision, maintenance and accessibility of information relating to water access licences.¹⁵
- 1.16 In introducing the bill, the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC stated that its purpose is to 'end the secrecy around water ownership in this state', and address the 'many issues around registering and providing public transparency on water ownership'. He observed:
- In the current climate, water is a commodity. It is an asset to be traded. In times of drought it is arguably the most important asset, the demand of which can send prices skyrocketing. A lot of money can be made if you have water entitlements.¹⁶
- 1.17 Mr Banasiak suggested that within the context in which it is very easy to purchase water entitlements, safeguards are required. In addition transparency is needed to address the significant lack of trust in the integrity of the water market:
- The secrecy behind water ownership has contributed to much of the bad decision-making around water and now it also has exacerbated the impact of drought. For over 20 years there have been allegations of corruption, mismanagement, insider trading, conflicts of interest, market manipulation, misuse of environmental allocations, water theft and over-extraction.¹⁷
- 1.18 Mr Banasiak identified three key provisions in the bill that are intended to prevent exploitation of the water trading system, stating that the bill will:
- change the pecuniary interest form for members of the NSW Parliament to require them to declare any water they or their spouse may have owned over the past five years
 - amend the application process for gaining a water licence so that people are unable to hide their identity when they apply, including by requiring information such as the major shareholders and directors of companies who apply for a water licence

¹⁴ Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Second Print, Schedule 1, p 3.

¹⁵ Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, Explanatory Note, First Print p 1.

¹⁶ Mark Banasiak, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020.

¹⁷ Mark Banasiak, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020.

- alter the state's online water register to allow people to search for the water holdings of people, companies and government departments, rather than by licence number, as is currently the case.¹⁸

Overview of the bill's provisions

1.19 The objects of the bill, as set out in the explanatory note, are:

- (a) to facilitate public access to information relating to water access licences (within the meaning of the Act) and recorded in the Water Access Licence Register established by the Act (the Access Register),
- (b) to impose requirements relating to maintaining and updating the Access Register,
- (c) to provide for the independent audit of the Access Register,
- (d) to impose requirements relating to the information to be provided in applications for water access licences,
- (e) to require the public disclosure of interests in water access licences held by Members of Parliament and the spouses of Members of Parliament,
- (f) to make other consequential amendments,
- (g) to insert provisions of a transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act.¹⁹

1.20 Schedule 1 sets out six separate amendments to the Water Management Act 2000 in respect of the Water Access Register.

1.21 Schedule 2 makes three amendments to the Water Regulation in respect of water access licences. In addition, it makes two changes to legislation in respect of MPs disclosures:

Schedule 2.1[1] inserts proposed section 14A(1A) in the Constitution Act 1902. The proposed subsection clarifies that a regulation made under section 14A(1) of that Act may require the disclosure of pecuniary interests or other matters held by or relating to spouses of Members of either House of Parliament. **Schedule 2.1[2]** makes a consequential amendment.

Schedule 2.2[3] inserts proposed clause 8A in the Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983. The proposed clause requires a Member of Parliament to disclose, with limited exceptions, the water access licence number of each water access licence in which the Member or the Member's spouse (if any) has an interest (or had an interest at any time during the period of 5 years ending on the date on which the Member takes the pledge of loyalty) and the nature of that interest. **Schedule 2.2[1], [2] and [4]–[11]** make consequential amendments.²⁰

¹⁸ Mark Banasiak, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020.

¹⁹ Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, Explanatory Note, First Print, p 1.

²⁰ Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, Explanatory Note, First Print, p 2.

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Differences between the bills

- 1.22 While the amended Government bill and SFF bill have similar aims, their differences have been summarised as follows:
- The Government bill, as amended, deals with both the Water Access Licence Register under the *Water Management Act 2000* and the disclosure requirement for members under the Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983. Specifically in relation to the latter, it provides for the establishment of a new Register of Water Trading Returns of Members compiled and maintained by the Clerks of each House of Parliament, and makes explicit the disclosure requirements under the existing registers of interests in respect of water interests.
 - The SFF bill deals with the Water Access Licence Register established under the *Water Management Act 2000* as well as making explicit the disclosure requirements under the existing registers of interests in respect of water interests, but also requires the disclosure of such interests held by a member's spouse and including interests held at any time during the period of five years prior to a member taking the Pledge of Loyalty.²¹

Key issues

- 1.23 This section documents the key issues that the committee explored with inquiry participants in respect of the two bills. First it briefly notes stakeholders' views in respect of the underlying principle of transparency in water holdings. Next it documents participants' views in respect of enhanced disclosures by Members of Parliament. It then explores their views in respect of each bills' provisions regarding the Water Access Licence Register.

Transparency

- 1.24 There was widespread support among inquiry participants for greater transparency as a principle underpinning both bills. Examples of participants' views included:
- 'As a principle we are very supportive of more transparency; we think that is essential to good governance and trust. We know that confidence in information is fundamental to a functioning market and that there is wide distrust with regards to water management at both the State and Federal level ...'²²
 - 'Full transparency and disclosure of water interests ... are critical for public confidence in decisions ... [and] to re-establish public trust in government processes.'²³
 - '[The Australian Floodplain Association] is strongly in favour of greater transparency in all aspects of water management. It is our view that trust in governments' management of water is at a very low ebb and cannot be rebuilt without transparent decision-making processes being implemented across all levels of government.'²⁴

²¹ Submission 14, Clerk of the Parliaments, p 3.

²² Evidence, Ms Maryanne Slattery, Director, Slattery and Johnson, 13 July 2020, p 26.

²³ Submission 5a, Murray Valley Private Diverters, p 5; See also Ms Louise Burge, Executive Officer, Murray Valley Private Diverters, 14 July 2020, p 20.

²⁴ Submission 7, Australian Floodplain Association, p 2.

Disclosures by members of Parliament

1.25 Inquiry participants expressed unanimous support for members of Parliament being subject to the same disclosure requirements for their water holdings as for their other assets.²⁵ For example, the following views were expressed:

- 'Amendments ... that require MPs to declare water access licences they own or have interest in and to declare any water trading activity within 14 days seem fair and reasonable ...'²⁶
- 'Transparency is a key principle in decision making. Therefore, we support members of Parliament being subject to the same disclosure requirements for water holdings as for other forms of property.'²⁷
- 'The public expects that holders of public office at all tiers of government be accountable. Whenever policy or legislation is debated or new planning decisions are made, it is a vital function of our democracy that declaration of interests provides transparency. The community deserves certainty that decisions are being made in their best interests.'²⁸
- 'With water (its ownership, allocation and management) being such a vexed issue in rural communities, it is absolutely necessary that members of Parliament are completely transparent in their dealings with this valuable and limited resource.'²⁹
- 'Community expectation as outlined within the *Constitution Act 1902* and the subsequent *Constitution (Disclosure by Members) Regulation 1983* indicates that members of Parliament should declare interests that are either, perceived to or may affect their ability to make an unbiased decision in the best interests of New South Wales. For that reason, we support and recommend that improved clarity in this area as well as consistency in how declarations are made (as with other property interests) is adopted.'³⁰

1.26 Similarly, a respondent to the online questionnaire stated:

It is in the interests of Members of Parliament to have their water investments made public ... transparency concerning politicians' water holdings will improve public trust, currently at an all-time low concerning water matters.³¹

²⁵ See for example Evidence, Mr Tony Quigley, Chairman, Macquarie River Food and Fibre, 13 July 2020, p 32; Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 2; Submission 12, Namoi Water, p 1; Submission 3, Griffith City Council, p 1; Evidence, Ms Burge, 14 July 2020, p 20; Evidence, Cr John Dal Broi, Mayor, Griffith City Council, 14 July 2020, p 8; Submission 11, Christian Democratic Party, p 1; Submission 1, Mr Brian Stevens, p 1; Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, p 5; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Submission 13, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, p 2; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 5.

²⁶ Submission 2, Lachlan Shire Council, p 3.

²⁷ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

²⁸ Submission 15, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, p 3.

²⁹ Submission 13, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, p 2.

³⁰ Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 3.

³¹ Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, NSW Legislative Council, Report on the online questionnaire: *Inquiry into Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, the provisions of the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020*, 15 July 2020, p 2.

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- 1.27 Beyond such statements in favour of transparency, many stakeholders made no detailed comments on either bill's proposal in respect of member disclosures. However, there was some discussion at the margins of specific elements such as whether the declarations should apply to an MP's spouse as proposed by the SFF bill. The Nature Conservation Council supported inclusion of spouses and dependent children, as well as 'ABN and director details of any businesses that hold water access licences, allocation or the ability to trade in water.'³² Pauline Hanson's One Nation supported the SFF bill's inclusion of spouses,³³ as did the Christian Democratic Party, which further called for declaration requirements to include all family members up to at least five generations, that is, the member's grandparents, parents, spouse, children and grandchildren.³⁴
- 1.28 On the other hand, stakeholders such as Griffith City Council and the Gwyder Valley Irrigators Association opposed the inclusion of the member's spouse's water interests, consistent with existing disclosure requirements in respect of other financial interests.³⁵ Councillor John Dal Broi, Mayor of Griffith City Council, further objected on the basis of the personal and financial autonomy of the spouse or other family member:
- I would not support a spouse being involved. Certainly in today's age, a spouse has a right to have interests in businesses without having to declare it. I think the member of Parliament should have the interest, not the spouse, nor the sons and daughters. Surely they are individuals and should not be subjected to having to declare interests just because the ... member of Parliament is having to declare.³⁶
- 1.29 Those who explicitly supported the inclusion of trusts in members' declarations of water interests included Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager of Griffith City Council, again on the basis of consistency with their existing obligations.³⁷
- 1.30 There was apparent support for the 14 day timeframe for disclosures, with Councillor John Medcalf, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council explicitly endorsing this as reasonable.³⁸
- 1.31 On the issue of retrospectivity, few stakeholders addressed the SFF bill's provision for 5 years' retrospectivity; while the Murray Valley Private Diverters (MVPD) argued for it, in the interests of maximum transparency,³⁹ Councillor Dal Broi argued in principle against it.⁴⁰

The online questionnaire was not a statistically valid, random survey. Respondents were self-selected in choosing to participate (in the same way that submission authors are self-selected) and should not be considered a representative sample of the population.

³² Submission 15, Nature Conservation Council, p 3.

³³ Submission 13, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, p 2.

³⁴ Submission 11, Christian Democratic Party, p 1.

³⁵ Submission 3, Griffith City Council, p 1; Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 3.

³⁶ Evidence, Cr Dal Broi, 14 July 2020, p 9; see also p 14.

³⁷ Evidence, Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager, Griffith City Council, 14 July 2020, p 9; see also Submission 3, Griffith City Council, p 1.

³⁸ Evidence, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council, 14 July 2020, p 13; see also Submission 2, Lachlan Shire Council, p 3.

³⁹ Submission 5a, Murray Valley Private Diverters, p 5.

⁴⁰ Evidence, Cr Dal Broi, 14 July 2020, p 13.

Disclosures by government officials and contractors

- 1.32 Beyond members of Parliament, MVPD called for greater transparency in respect of both government officials and contractors in order to protect against 'process failures' and the 'inequitable application of policy', which Ms Burge expanded upon in her evidence.⁴¹ MVPD suggested that the Government bill may not go far enough in requiring transparency for all parties connected with decisions on water matters, calling for the bill to 'be extended to encompass all Government related entities and/or consultants involved in water related decisions' in the disclosure regime.⁴² The committee subsequently took up with the Minister and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment representatives the concern about the adequacy of the disclosure requirements on government officials and contractors, who explained the current requirements.⁴³

Administration of a new register

- 1.33 The Clerk of the Parliaments, who as noted above would be charged with responsibility for administering the Register of Water Trading Returns of Members proposed in the Government bill in respect of Members of the Legislative Council, drew three technical drafting issues to the attention of the committee:

- In relation to the Government bill there appears to be no new form to assist with preparation of disclosures under the new Register of Water Trading Returns, while there are detailed forms in both bills for the existing register including amendments to reflect the new disclosure requirements.
- Likewise, there is no indication in the Government bill as to whether the new Register of Water Trading Returns is to be tabled in the House.
- There may be scope for confusion as to whether income from water interests still needs to be disclosed as a source of income, and whether dispositions of property now defined to include water licences and rights are to be separately disclosed as dispositions.⁴⁴

- 1.34 In addition, the Clerk foreshadowed risks for individual members arising from the additional complexity flowing from the provisions in the Government bill, such that he would 'almost always' recommend that members seek independent legal advice on their disclosure requirements:

Moreover, due to the technical nature of the various definitions of water rights, I draw the attention of the Committee to the potential for the new disclosure requirements to add a level of additional complexity that could have the unintended consequence of resulting in a Member inadvertently failing to comply with the new disclosure requirements. Further, whilst as set out above I am always happy to try to assist

⁴¹ Submission 5a, Murray Valley Private Diverters, p 5; see also Evidence, Ms Burge, 14 July 2020, pp 24-25.

⁴² Submission 5a, Murray Valley Private Diverters, p 5.

⁴³ Evidence, Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and Mr Jim Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Water Sector and Deputy Secretary – Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 14 July 2020, pp 38-39.

⁴⁴ Submission 14, Clerk of the Parliaments, p 3.

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Members by giving my best possible advice in response to their questions about their disclosure requirements, I envisage that in relation to these new disclosure requirements I will almost always need to advise Members to seek their own legal advice.⁴⁵

- 1.35 The Clerk further noted that while both bills assumed the continuation of the current regime of primary, ordinary and supplementary pecuniary disclosures, they presented an opportunity for members to consider the simplification of disclosure requirements, as recommended by the Legislative Council Privileges Committee in its 2018 review of the Members Code of Conduct, to a process of an annual return by members, together with exception reporting required within 30 days.⁴⁶
- 1.36 Asked about the Clerk's concerns in the hearing, the Minister emphasised her confidence in the Government bill and that any technical issues could be addressed following discussion with the Clerk. She indicated that the bill's provisions in respect of water disclosures are intended to be administered in tandem with the current rules of disclosure.⁴⁷

Enhancements to the Water Access Register

- 1.37 Aside from the issue of disclosures by members of Parliament, some stakeholders expressed in principle support for greater transparency specifically in respect of water holders and trades, in the interests of building trust in the water market and ensuring its integrity. For example, the following views were expressed:
- '[The Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA)] supports the development of a public water trade register that provides timely information on temporary and permanent trade both within valleys and between valleys/zones ... This information could help inform future water policy decision making and provide water users and the broader public with confidence that the water market is not being manipulated by speculators.'⁴⁸
 - 'Also in the interests of public trust, there should be an up-to-date register of water ownership, readily accessible to the public. Why should water ownership be secret? Secrecy only breeds suspicion and rumour.'⁴⁹
- 1.38 Similar views were communicated via the committee's online questionnaire. One participant stated, for example:
- 'Making ownership of water transparent will assist through public pressure to identify who is profiting from water trade and who is genuinely using water to benefit agriculture.'⁵⁰
- 1.39 Two other respondents went further, stating:

⁴⁵ Submission 14, Clerk of the Parliaments, pp 3-4.

⁴⁶ Submission 14, Clerk of the Parliaments, p 4.

⁴⁷ Evidence, Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, 14 July 2020, p 33.

⁴⁸ Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc, p 2.

⁴⁹ Submission 1, Mr Brian Stevens, p 1.

⁵⁰ Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, NSW Legislative Council, Report on the online questionnaire: *Inquiry into Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, the provisions of the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020*, 15 July 2020, p 3.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 - INDUSTRY

'All licences held by non-farming entities [should] be rescinded.'

'The public needs to know which foreign entities own water rights in Australia with a view to making foreign ownership illegal.'⁵¹

- 1.40 Mr Clayton Barr MP, Shadow Minister for Water, observed that the concerns about lack of transparency in water holdings and trades sits against a background of broader concerns about water being traded for profit:

I think that there are a number of submissions ... that deal with the fact that there is a broader general concern about water trading at large, and regardless of who owns them, just whether or not water trading for the purpose of profit—not for growing food and fibre but simply for the purpose of profit—whether or not that is a good outcome, and I would agree wholeheartedly with that. It is my view that water should be used for the purpose of growing food and fibre and the productivity of our nation as a whole, as opposed to profit-making on a share trade scenario.⁵²

Enabling searches by name

- 1.41 Numerous participants explicitly supported the SFF bill's provision to enable searches of the Water Access Register by individual or company name.
- 1.42 The Speak Up Campaign, which is seeking a national water register and a royal commission on the Murray Darling Basin Plan, acknowledged the Government bill as a 'positive step forward' but saw the SFF bill as offering 'the protection, accountability and transparency attributes' that its petition signatories desire. In doing so, it highlighted the SFF bill's provisions in respect of the public register of water interests.⁵³
- 1.43 In the same vein, the Australian Floodplain Association preferred the SFF bill over that of the Government on the basis that the latter excludes personal information from the water register,⁵⁴ while Griffith City Council expressed support for a register that is searchable by name, not simply water licence number.⁵⁵ Similarly, Mr John Medcalf, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council, told the committee:

I think that transparency is a pretty important thing when it comes down to actually knowing exactly where the water is going and what area it is going into. We do definitely support that it is by name and anyone who is actually doing water trading and that sort of thing should be able to follow who is doing what.⁵⁶

- 1.44 The Environmental Defenders Office expressed support for the SFF Bill in the interests of transparency in water management, and specifically its 'proposal to improve the public's ability to access accurate information regarding ownership of water access licences ... and related

⁵¹ Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, NSW Legislative Council, Report on the online questionnaire: *Inquiry into Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, the provisions of the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020*, 15 July 2020, p 3.

⁵² Evidence, Mr Clayton Barr MP, Shadow Minister for Water, 13 July 2020, p 17.

⁵³ Submission 9, Speak Up Campaign Inc, pp 1-2.

⁵⁴ Submission 7, Australian Floodplain Association, p 2.

⁵⁵ Submission 3, Griffith City Council, p 2.

⁵⁶ Evidence, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council, p 8.

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matters ... and trading data.⁵⁷ Accordingly, it supported the provisions set out in Schedule 1 and 2 of the bill.⁵⁸

- 1.45 Mr Brian Stevens stated, '[A]ll of the owners of bulk water should be public information. At present it is easy for extremists to whip up fear and create rumours about the ownership of water in the Murray Darling Basin. This is very damaging to social cohesion and to trust in Government and the secrecy may be hiding some genuine corruption.'⁵⁹
- 1.46 Southern Riverina Irrigators (SRI) argued that the requirements of the 2004 National Water Initiative agreed by all jurisdictions and the subsequent Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* – which provided that water access entitlements be recorded in publicly accessible registers that state unambiguously who owns the entitlement, and include all entitlements and trades (both permanent and temporary) along with the prices of trades – have never been fully implemented in New South Wales.⁶⁰ Mr Darcy Hare, Vice Chair, contended that had this occurred, much of the mistrust among water users that currently exists could have been avoided.⁶¹
- 1.47 SRI further argued that the current water registry in New South Wales is 'deliberately opaque', citing the example of one licence holder with 1800 customers whose identity is not known.⁶² Asked whether the two step process of the current register satisfies the National Water Initiative principles in his mind, Mr Hare responded:

Not even remotely. You cannot get a WAL number and access without first of all having an account. You have got to pay for that information inquiry to start with. You have got to know the individual WAL number. To me, that does not foster any public confidence. It is ambiguous, not unambiguous.⁶³

- 1.48 Consistent with this view, SRI held that the Government bill's proposed changes to section 71H of the *Water Management Act* in respect of public access to information in the Access Register were also inconsistent with the National Water Initiative and *Water Act*, which it strongly advocated be fully implemented.⁶⁴ In his evidence, Mr Hare underscored that in his view, the SFF bill goes closest to achieving the objectives of a publicly accessible register as envisaged by the National Water Initiative.⁶⁵

Privacy of small holders

- 1.49 Protecting the privacy of smaller water holders emerged as a strong concern among numerous inquiry participants.
- 1.50 The NSW Irrigators' Council emphasised the fundamental difference between large and small holders, and the risk that having 'mums and dads' holders' information publicly available left

⁵⁷ Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, p 3.

⁵⁸ Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, pp 3-4.

⁵⁹ Submission 1, Mr Brian Stevens, p 2.

⁶⁰ National Water Initiative 2004 and Schedule 3, *Water Act 2007* (Cth), cited in Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, pp 4-6.

⁶¹ Evidence, Mr Darcy Hare, Vice Chair, Southern Riverina Irrigators, 14 July 2020, p 25.

⁶² Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 6.

⁶³ Evidence, Mr Hare, 14 July 2020, p 23.

⁶⁴ Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 6.

⁶⁵ Evidence, Mr Hare, 14 July 2020, p 24.

them open to inappropriate targeting by others in the market. Ms Claire Miller, Interim Chief Executive Officer, stated:

But there is a very material difference between very large operators that own relatively large volumes of water and just your mums and dads who are just getting by. They might be using it for superannuation purposes or are in fact using it for their family farm, obviously. The risk there is that they start getting letters and pressure in the mail from brokers and others wanting them to sell their water, as they are able to visibly see how much water they have, so starting to put pressure on them or holding back prices and things—there is a huge capacity for that ... as a principle we do not agree with anyone and everyone's details being out there.⁶⁶

- 1.51 Several participants including the NSW Irrigators' Council,⁶⁷ Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association (GVIA)⁶⁸ and NSW Farmers' Association⁶⁹ voiced a related concern that small holders, if identifiable, would be vulnerable to targeting by malicious actors, as occurred in the recent 'Aussie Farmers' events. NSW Farmers explained:

We do not support any element of a bill that violates the privacy of personal information, particularly where that violation may threaten the safety or well-being of individuals and their families, or put them at either a real or perceived risk of harm. The farming community is especially sensitive to these risks following 'Aussie Farms' publishing personal information online last year. This resulted in significant concerns in the farming community. Farmers were subjected to trespass, biosecurity breaches, damage to property, and faced fear and anxiety of possible attacks on their homes, property, family and livelihoods. NSW Farmers is concerned that the publication of personal information without appropriate privacy protections would expose irrigation farmers to similar circumstances.⁷⁰

- 1.52 The GVIA was similarly concerned that broadening the publicly available information via searches risked users 'going fishing' with malevolent intent.⁷¹ In its view the Government bill provides a greater level of protection of privacy, while 'transparency would be undermined rather than improved if the two search engines were combined and fees rendered, as we understand [the SFF] bill suggests.'⁷² Ms Zara Lowein, Executive Officer, further contended that numerous proposals in the SFF bill already exist and questioned its functionality.⁷³

- 1.53 Others who expressed concern about the privacy of small water holders were as follows:

- Mr Quigley of Macquarie River Food and Fibre: '[W]e do not agree that the public register should be made so open that it is searchable by individual names or individual Australian business numbers [ABNs]. Most of that information is available on the current water

⁶⁶ Evidence, Ms Claire Miller, Interim Chief Executive Officer, NSW Irrigators' Council, 13 July 2020, p 18.

⁶⁷ Evidence, Ms Christine Freak, A/Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators' Council, pp 24-25.

⁶⁸ Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 4.

⁶⁹ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

⁷⁰ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

⁷¹ Submission 14, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 4; see also Evidence, Ms Zara Lowein, Executive Officer, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, 13 July 2020, p 39.

⁷² Submission 14, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 3.

⁷³ Evidence, Ms Lowein, 13 July 2020, p 39; see also Submission 14, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 3.

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register now if people have a need to find it, but we think that from the point of view of our individual members they feel quite threatened by that breach of privacy, that anyone in the general public can search their own private financial details, including who their mortgage provider might be, which we think is probably a step further than any other asset class can be searched.⁷⁴

- The Ricegrowers Association: 'The RGA does not support the development of a register of water holdings that discloses individual water users' personal details or water holdings. This information is private and confidential, and all things taken into account, the RGA believes that the disclosure of this information would be detrimental to the many small to medium irrigation businesses we represent.'⁷⁵
- Lachlan Shire Council: 'Amendments that require greater visibility of information on the NSW Water Register [are] not necessary and could be used to the detriment of licence holders.'⁷⁶
- Ms Burge of the MVDP: 'But there is one aspect that I think the privacy of water should be maintained, and that is in relation to farmers holding a water licence entitlement and where there are government regulatory conditions that oversee individual water accounting and its use. This is important to avoid any personal harassment that may occur where the public can obtain incorrect data or make public nuisance with incorrect data and/or other commercial entities harass individual farmers. The point on that is the actual water accounting balance annually should remain private.'⁷⁷
- Namoi Water, who considered the current water register to be appropriate and highlighted the sensitivity of the information and the potential for perverse outcomes.⁷⁸

- 1.54 Minister Pavey also expressed a strong concern to protect the privacy of small holders in her evidence to the committee, whilst recognising the need for transparency in respect of foreign ownership and larger holders:

Small business-type family farmers are very private people; they do not want their neighbour, let alone someone 10 kilometres up the road or 100 kilometres across the river, knowing exactly what they have because that can create some peculiarities.

Even a survey by the Victorian Government showed that the small family farms do not want to be part of that. But I do agree that there is a component in relation to international interests that need to be declared and, quite similarly to the Australian Stock Exchange, if you have and own 5 per cent of shares in any Australian company you are registered ... But I will, and my party and our Government will defend the rights of the small family farm from having their names, their water allocations available to the general community and to the public because that is not what they want, but they do want some better water transparency for the bigger players and the corporations.⁷⁹

- 1.55 On the other hand, the Environmental Defenders Office explicitly objected to the Government bill's proposal to enable the Minister to restrict access to personal information recorded in the

⁷⁴ Evidence, Mr Quigley, 13 July 2020, p 32.

⁷⁵ Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 2.

⁷⁶ Submission 2, Lachlan Shire Council, p 3.

⁷⁷ Evidence, Ms Burge 14 July 2020, p 20.

⁷⁸ Submission 12, Namoi Water, p 2.

⁷⁹ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 37.

Access Register for the purpose of protecting the privacy of that information, on the basis that this 'could be used to reduce transparency (and because it is, in any case, inconsistent [with] clause 7(i) of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Regulation 2019*).'⁸⁰

- 1.56 Some participants expressed a preference for transparency at the valley level as a middle ground on transparency. For example, Ms Christine Freak, A/Policy Manager for the NSW Irrigators' Council, stated:

It is certainly the view among market participants that there does need to be improvements in transparency of both temporary and permanent trade, and that is why part of our submission was calling for the need for a public water trade register at a valley level to provide that information. We feel that having it at a valley level would address those transparency concerns but without making farmers vulnerable in the process. ... My understanding is that that would be aggregated at the valley scale and then that coupled with more information on trade being readily available and being brought together so it is more easily accessible.⁸¹

- 1.57 Similarly, Ms Rachel Kelly, Policy Manager for the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, told the committee:

We have long advocated for a public register of water trade and, in particular, the disclosure of information around water movement and trade across valleys and zones, including trade between zones that are not in New South Wales. We think this information is very important for future policy decision-making but also provides water users with a level footing in terms of making decisions about how to manage their water resource and the broader public with confidence about how the water market is operating and whether or not there are speculators within the system.⁸²

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission inquiry

- 1.58 Some inquiry participants noted that the issues intended to be addressed by a searchable register may be addressed in the forthcoming reports of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) inquiry into markets for tradeable water rights in the Murray-Darling Basin.⁸³ The ACCC was tasked with recommending options to enhance markets for tradeable water rights, including options to enhance their operations, transparency, regulation, competitiveness and efficiency. At the time of writing, its interim report is expected to be released imminently, and its final report is due to be handed down on 30 November 2020.⁸⁴ NSW Farmers noted that as part of its inquiry the ACCC is investigating:

- the availability to the public of information on water market activities and tradeable water right holdings

⁸⁰ Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, p 5.

⁸¹ Evidence, Ms Freak, 13 July 2020, p 25.

⁸² Evidence, Ms Rachel Kelly, Policy Manager, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, 14 July 2020, p 5.

⁸³ Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 5; Evidence, Ms Lowein, 13 July 2020, p 40; Evidence, Mr Jim Cush, Chair, NSW Irrigators' Council, 13 July 2020, p 23; Evidence, Ms Miller, 13 July 2020, p 23.

⁸⁴ Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, *Murray-Darling Basin water markets inquiry: project overview*, <https://www.accc.gov.au/focus-areas/inquiries-ongoing/murray-darling-basin-water-markets-inquiry>.

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- the timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of public information released on water market activities and tradeable water right holdings, including true trade price reporting and the types of trade (for example, immediate purchases, forward contracts, leases).⁸⁵

1.59 Accordingly, both NSW Farmers and the NSW Irrigators' Council called for policymakers to await the ACCC's final report before finalising the aspects of the bills relating to public information.⁸⁶

1.60 Minister Pavey advised the committee that the Government bill 'has the capacity to adopt some more flexibility around what we have in a public register' and that the Government was intending to incorporate changes informed by the ACCC, which it was expecting to hear back from by the end of July. She further pointed to the value of a national approach across all States and jurisdictions to these issues.⁸⁷ The Minister suggested that, '[W]e need to include a register that has information relevant to Victoria, South Australia and Queensland and for whatever the ACT may trade. That is important to a register that has the confidence of the Australian community. It needs to be all in and in that way we get a register that tells the whole truth.'⁸⁸

Thresholds

1.61 Like the Minister, some stakeholders pointed to thresholds in respect of the size of trades as an alternative means to enhance transparency. Ms Kelly of the RGA told the committee:

[W]e have discussed, and we would consider, some requirement for larger trades to be disclosed, similar to what happens with the Australian Stock Exchange. If an individual or organisation purchases more than a particular percentage holding in a company, then there is a requirement that they be disclosed. We would consider provisions similar to that, so if someone holds or trades more than 5 per cent or 10 per cent of entitlement or allocation in a particular zone or valley, then possibly they should be subject to particular disclosure requirements. So that kind of thing we would be willing to consider.⁸⁹

Foreign ownership and larger corporations

1.62 Minister Pavey acknowledged concerns about foreign ownership whilst noting that water, as with agriculture, is part of the international marketplace:

We do play within the international markets; that is a hallmark of the foundation of our economy—70 per cent of what we grow on our farms is exported. We do need to be able to participate in the international marketplace, but our communities are demanding some more transparency around who owns that water and how it is traded and we will be happy to participate in that but also keep the privacy of our small family farm operations just that—private.⁹⁰

⁸⁵ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

⁸⁶ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 3; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 5; see also Evidence, Ms Lowein, 13 July 2020, p 40.

⁸⁷ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 36.

⁸⁸ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 37.

⁸⁹ Evidence, Ms Kelly, 14 July, p 5; see also p 6.

⁹⁰ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 37.

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- 1.63 In respect of larger corporate and international interests, Minister Pavey indicated that she considered it important to introduce greater transparency stating, 'my bill leaves provision for that to happen when we can take a national approach for that.'⁹¹

Committee comment

- 1.64 The committee notes broad support among inquiry participants for greater transparency in respect of water ownership and trades, both for members of Parliament as well as in the information able to be obtained from the Water Access Licence Register.
- 1.65 There was unanimous agreement that in principle, members of Parliament should disclose their water interests, consistent with their other pecuniary interest disclosures. There was some discussion at the margins with respect to spouses, trusts and retrospectivity as provided under the SFF bill.
- 1.66 The committee notes the concerns of the Clerk of the Parliaments with regard to administration of the new register proposed under the Government bill. It will be important for the Parliament to consider these concerns order to address the risk that members inadvertently fail to adequately disclose their interests, and also to prevent the situation where members routinely require independent legal advice regarding their disclosures.
- 1.67 The committee acknowledges the tension between transparency and privacy that emerged in the evidence on enhancements to the Public Access Register. While numerous participants supported the SFF bill's proposal to enable searches by individual and company name, protecting the privacy of small holders was a significant concern for others, who consequently preferred the Government bill. Ultimately it will be up to the Parliament to determine how the privacy issue is to be managed. We acknowledge that the forthcoming ACCC interim and final reports on its inquiry into markets for tradeable water rights in the Murray-Darling Basin will be important to informing the way forward.
- 1.68 The committee recommends that debate on both the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 proceed taking into account the committee comments documented in this report and the concerns raised by stakeholders during this inquiry.

Recommendation 1

That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, and the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed during debate in the House.

Recommendation 2

That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, and the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed during debate in the House.

⁹¹ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 37.

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Chapter 2 **Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020**

This chapter outlines the background and purpose of the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, and provides an overview of the bill's provisions. It then explores the key issues to emerge from the written and oral evidence: whether the proposed inclusion of the 'drought of record' in water sharing plans would address water security issues, or whether it would lead to potential impacts and/or unintended consequences.

Reference

- 2.1 The Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, was introduced into the Legislative Council on 3 June 2020 by the Hon Mick Veitch MLC, representing the Australian Labor Party.⁹²
- 2.2 On 17 June 2020, during the second reading debate, the Legislative Council resolved on the motion of the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to refer the bill to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report by 31 July 2020.⁹³

Background and purpose of the bill

- 2.3 The Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020 seeks to include data on the period of lowest inflows into a water source (known as the 'drought of record') at any given time in history within water sharing plans.⁹⁴
- 2.4 The Hon Mick Veitch MLC, in his second reading speech, said '[i]t is absolutely critical that we plan for water with all of the available evidence and science factored in. At the moment we do not.'⁹⁵ He added that:

Any plan on how we use our water, how we allocate our water, what is available for use on any given day and what needs to be held back for the tomorrows needs to be based on the long-term averages of rain, river flows and climate. These long-term averages need to be based on the facts, the data.⁹⁶

⁹² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 3 June 2020, p 1000.

⁹³ *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Council, 17 June 2020, p 62.

⁹⁴ See Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, Explanatory Note, First Print, p 1; Mick Veitch, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020, pp 9-11.

⁹⁵ Mick Veitch, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020, p 10.

⁹⁶ Mick Veitch, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020, p 9.

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- 2.5 Mr Veitch stated that in 2014, the NSW Parliament passed amendments to 13 water sharing plans to prevent the inclusion of 'any data [regarding the worst period of inflows] beyond when the first water sharing plans were made – generally between 2002 and 2004 for some of the most contentious river systems'.⁹⁷
- 2.6 As a result, Mr Veitch explained that 'the drought of record became a fixed drought that needed to be pre-2002 to 2004. No new realities of drought events after 2002 to 2004, which were painfully experienced by the people of New South Wales ... could be considered in how we would plan for and share our water going forward'.⁹⁸
- 2.7 Mr Veitch expressed the view that the bill would '...correct a very, very obvious error of legislation'.⁹⁹

Overview of the bill's provisions

- 2.8 The object of the bill, as set out in the explanatory note, is to provide that the determination of the lowest inflows into a water source under a management plan made under the *Water Management Act 2000* is to refer to all flow information held by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and not merely flow information held by the Department on the making of the management plan (or at any other particular time).¹⁰⁰
- 2.9 Schedule 2 to the *Water Management Amendment Act 2014* made amendments to the provisions of several management plans to limit the information to which reference could be made in such a determination, and this bill reverses the effect of those amendments.¹⁰¹

Key issues

- 2.10 This section examines the varying viewpoints put forward by stakeholders on the bill. Stakeholders questioned whether the proposed inclusion of a single drought of record in water sharing plans is an effective means to address water security issues in valleys across the state, and outlined potential impacts and/or unintended consequences of the bill. Other stakeholders, however, contended that including the drought of record in water sharing plans would improve water management by enabling decisions to be based on the best available evidence.

⁹⁷ Mick Veitch, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020, p 10.

⁹⁸ Mick Veitch, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020, p 10.

⁹⁹ Mick Veitch, Second reading speech: Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, 3 June 2020, p 11.

¹⁰⁰ Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, Explanatory Note, First Print, p 1.

¹⁰¹ Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, Explanatory Note, First Print, p 1.

Is the bill an effective means to address water security in valleys across the state?

- 2.11** A number of inquiry participants did not support the bill arguing it was a 'blanket'¹⁰² proposal, and a 'one-size-fits-all approach',¹⁰³ that would negatively impact water management for most valleys across the state.¹⁰⁴ For example, the following views were expressed:
- 'the landscape, rainfall intensity, rules for take, storages and population vary heavily from region to region and indicate a more "individual" regional approach is required'.¹⁰⁵
 - '[the] ... bill is seeking to solve an important but very complex problem, across of range of different water sources and unknown scenarios with a single solution. Its implementation is likely to have perverse outcomes in some regions and not address the problem in others ...'.¹⁰⁶
 - 'The current proposed bill demonstrates insufficient understanding of the differences between water management in the Northern Basin and those that occur in the regulated Southern Basin'.¹⁰⁷
 - '... it is only going to help some communities. It will probably have a perverse outcome in those where it is not required, yet it is a blanket approach for all of New South Wales'.¹⁰⁸
- 2.12** Both the Ricegrowers Association of Australia and NSW Farmers' Association claimed the bill did not understand or consider the 'complex nature of water policy and the unique characteristics'¹⁰⁹ of each valley, with similar sentiments shared by a number of stakeholders.¹¹⁰

¹⁰² See Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 7; Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 2; Submission 9, Speak Up Campaign, p 4; Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 3; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 1; Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 6; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 6; Evidence, Ms Zara Lowien, Executive Officer, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, 13 July 2020, p 34; Evidence, Mr Darcy Hare, Vice Chair, Southern Riverina Irrigators, 14 July 2020, pp 20-21.

¹⁰³ Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8; Evidence, Ms Claire Miller, Interim Chief Executive Officer, NSW Irrigators' Council, 13 July 2020, p 19.

¹⁰⁴ Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 7; Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 2; Submission 9, Speak Up Campaign, p 4; Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 3; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 1; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8.

¹⁰⁵ Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 7.

¹⁰⁶ Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 6.

¹⁰⁷ Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 5.

¹⁰⁸ Evidence, Ms Lowien, 13 July 2020, p 34.

¹⁰⁹ Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 3; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 1.

¹¹⁰ Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 5; Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 5; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 19; Evidence, Ms Christine Freak, Acting Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators' Council, 13 July 2020, pp 18 and 21.

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- 2.13** On a related issue, some inquiry participants contended that the purpose of the bill was to address a specific issue in one region of the state that was not similarly experienced by other regions.¹¹¹ For example:
- '[the bill is] ... reactionary to a Northern Basin town water supply issue, but is attempting to make blanket and unnecessary additional "drought" measures in the Southern Basin regulated system'.¹¹²
 - 'this Bill will not deliver its objective to improve the security of town water supplies, because critical human need is already the highest priority in the legislated water access hierarchy'.¹¹³
 - 'this Bill is misinformed and appears to be based on a misunderstanding of the water management framework ... The New South Wales Government has already acted to improve town water security through additional augmentation projects in response to the extreme drought'.¹¹⁴
 - '[there is] ... no evidence to support that the amendment of the drought of record to "reference all flow information" will provide more water for any of the towns who most recently ran out of water ... mostly because the headwater dams that this bill relates, do not supply many of the towns that were at risk of running out of water'.¹¹⁵
- 2.14** The NSW Farmers' Association concluded that '... introducing new drought of record figures is unlikely to address the issues with water security that some towns such as Tamworth and Dubbo experienced through the recent drought period'.¹¹⁶
- 2.15** As former Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson observed, 'every change that you make prescriptively through legislation has a different impact on the different communities'.¹¹⁷
- 2.16** Asked what the NSW Government would do without the provisions of the bill in place should a worse drought occur (using the example of Dubbo's water supply needs), the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water offered alternative measures:

We suspend water sharing plans completely if we are at risk. We can build extra infrastructure, which is what we have done on Burrendong Dam so we have got a deeper outlet to be able to get water. We deal with council and council has taken some of Dubbo's recycled water to put on pasture and property. Some of the farmers have given back to Dubbo city council water that was good for drinking, and they've swapped

¹¹¹ See Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 3; Submission 9, Speak Up Campaign, p 4; Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 2; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 6; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

¹¹² Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 2.

¹¹³ Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 6.

¹¹⁴ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

¹¹⁵ Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 6.

¹¹⁶ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

¹¹⁷ Evidence, Ms Katrina Hodgkinson, former Minister for Primary Industries, 13 July 2020, p 2.

those around. They are some of the measures we can take into account in an emergency situation, which we've done.¹¹⁸

- 2.17 In response, Mr Clayton Barr MP – who in his submission to the inquiry noted that the bill had been introduced on his behalf and was in essence "his bill" – countered the bill was an instrument to establish 'a set of rules, which can then be used and interpreted and enacted by the individual water sharing plans in a way that they deem fit ... as it applies to their valley. They do not all have to deal with it in the same way'.¹¹⁹

Drought of record – an appropriate measure?

- 2.18 During the inquiry, a number of participants questioned if the drought of record was an appropriate measure to be included in all water sharing plans.
- 2.19 For example, Ms Claire Miller, Interim Chief Executive Officer, NSW Irrigators' Council, explained that the drought of record 'would have the effect of every single year, water would be held aside in reserve just in case in the next year we are straight into the worst possible drought of record'.¹²⁰
- 2.20 In his evidence, Mr Tony Quigley, Chairman, Macquarie River Food and Fibre objected to the proposition that one single drought of record was the best way to identify risk in relation to water allocation:

To suggest that the one outlier or the worst one should be the one picked that we take the risk profile from, we are better informed by a group of trend lines than one—that is, singling out the absolute worst. Going forward, there needs to be some objective information about how an amalgamation of those lines gives us a better picture about what may happen.¹²¹

- 2.21 A respondent to the online questionnaire questioned the inclusion of the drought of record in determining water sharing plans, instead advocating risk management strategies as a better management tool:

We don't plan for a health pandemic every month, so why plan for a record drought every month? Better to have risk management strategies, policies and infrastructure in place that help reduce and manage the risk if and when it is realised.¹²²

¹¹⁸ Evidence, Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, 14 July 2020, p 39.

¹¹⁹ Evidence, Mr Clayton Barr MP, Member for Cessnock, Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education, Shadow Minister for the Hunter, 13 July 2020, pp 11-12; Submission 8, Mr Clayton Barr MP, p 1.

¹²⁰ Evidence, Ms Miller, 13 July 2020, p 19.

¹²¹ Evidence, Mr Tony Quigley, Chairman, Macquarie River Food and Fibre, 13 July 2020, p 38.

¹²² Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, NSW Legislative Council, Report on the online questionnaire: *Inquiry into Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020*, 15 July 2020, p 5.

The online questionnaire was not a statistically valid, random survey. Respondents were self-selected in choosing to participate (in the same way that submission authors are self-selected) and should not be considered a representative sample of the population.

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- 2.22** Some evidence presented to the committee supported drought of record as an appropriate measure. The Environmental Defenders Office submission indicated that 'good water governance and risk management require drought reserves to be based on best available evidence regarding lowest inflows'.¹²³
- 2.23** Mr Bill Johnson, Director, Slattery and Johnson gave evidence to the committee cynically responding to the 2014 changes to the drought of record:
- The drought of record was appropriate until there was a worse one and all of a sudden it was no longer appropriate to use it. In essence we are running our rivers based on our memories of a wetter time and those times have been past for 20 years. If we continue doing that, the events that we have had in the last 10 years will keep recurring. You cannot escape your responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. It will come eventually.¹²⁴
- 2.24** Mr Bruce Logan, Director—Water and Waste, Tamworth Regional Council supported the bill and gave evidence at the hearing that council had requested the NSW Water Minister update the relevant water sharing plan to update the drought of record, effectively implementing the measures in the bill in the Peel Valley. Under questioning, Mr Logan confirmed that the NSW Government had not agreed to making those changes. Mr Logan explained the consequences of that decision:
- this decision means that, according to the Government, the inflow into Chaffey over the last three years or lack thereof never happened, it will not happen again and if it did then applying exactly the same rules would somehow see a different result. I do not believe any of these arguments can be reasonably sustained and, what happens if there is a worse level of inflow for the city of Tamworth?¹²⁵
- 2.25** Other stakeholders acknowledged that a drought of record provision exists within current water sharing plans even if they didn't support the provision of the bill to consider more recent droughts. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledged that 2014 bill changes did not remove drought of record provisions but backdated them.
- 2.26** Mr Isaacs from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment indicated that:
- Prior to the amendments in 2014 the water sharing plans required the calculation for the purpose of setting available water determinations to be "the worst period of low inflows" from historical "flow information held by the department". The addition to the water sharing plans made in 2014 was to add "when this plan commenced" at the end of that statement.¹²⁶
- 2.27** Under questioning, the Southern Riverina Irrigators and Rice Growers Association of Australia acknowledged current water sharing plans included drought of record provisions but indicated

¹²³ Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, p 2.

¹²⁴ Evidence, Mr Bill Johnson, Director, Slattery and Johnson, 13 July 2020, p 29.

¹²⁵ Evidence, Mr Bruce Logan, Director—Water and Waste, Tamworth Regional Council, 14 July 2020, p 15.

¹²⁶ Evidence, Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 14 July 2020, p 28.

that alternative arrangements were also in place in southern valleys to address town water security needs.¹²⁷

- 2.28 A document tabled by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment stated that the current arrangements strike 'the appropriate balance between productive use of water and drought security ... [by] lock[ing] in the allocation risk as that taken at the start of the first water sharing plans, rather than moving to a new drought of record'.¹²⁸
- 2.29 Other inquiry participants referred to the 2014 Department of Primary Industries – Water assessment of the Lachlan Valley as a case study of the effect of changing the drought of record following the Millennium drought.¹²⁹ It was noted that in 2014 the Millennium drought was a new drought of record for the southern valleys only.¹³⁰ For these participants, the findings of the case study confirmed that caution should be shown towards consideration of including a drought of record in water sharing plans.¹³¹ Witnesses were unable to quantify the impact for each valley.
- 2.30 According to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the modelling from the Lachlan Valley case study indicated that:
- ... using the Millennium drought as the drought of record would require a significant increase in storage reserves to continue to guarantee high-priority licenses and demands in severe drought years. This in turn would significantly reduce the water allocations for general security licenses in all years.¹³²
- 2.31 It is unfortunate that the Department failed to provide the Lachlan Valley case study despite requests from the committee.
- 2.32 Further, some inquiry participants suggested that elements of the bill be considered as part of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's regional water strategies process.¹³³ This suggestion was based on the rationale that the regional water strategies would offer a

¹²⁷ Evidence, Ms Rachel Kelly, Policy Manager, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, 14 July 2020, pp 3-4; Evidence, Mr Hare, 14 July 2020, p 21.

¹²⁸ Tabled document, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, *Water sharing plans and water resource plans: Community consultation – what we heard*, July 2020, pp 14-15.

¹²⁹ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Submission 12, Namoi Water, pp 2-3; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8; Evidence, Ms Freak, 13 July 2020, pp 18 and 20; Evidence, Ms Lowien, 13 July 2020, p 35.

¹³⁰ Submission 12, Namoi Water, p 2; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 6.

¹³¹ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Submission 12, Namoi Water, pp 2-3; Evidence, Ms Freak, 13 July 2020, p 20; Evidence, Ms Lowien, 13 July 2020, p 35.

¹³² Tabled document, *Water sharing plans and water resource plans: Community consultation – what we heard*, July 2020, p 15.

¹³³ Submission 12, Namoi Water, p 3; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Evidence, Ms Lowien, 13 July 2020, p 37; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, pp 5 and 9; Evidence, Ms Miller, 13 July 2020, p 20.

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thorough assessment of water supply issues in each valley and provide an understanding of the impacts.¹³⁴

- 2.33 On this point, Ms Christine Freak, Acting Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators' Council commented that the issues the bill was trying to address were actually 'being dealt with through the development of regional water strategies' currently underway. Ms Freak expressed the view that because the strategies 'incorporat[ed] 10,000 years of paleoclimatic data into our water management framework' this was a 'much more robust and evidence-based way of updating our water management framework for drought conditions' than the bill.¹³⁵
- 2.34 In his evidence, Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment confirmed that the regional water strategies would 'include more detailed analysis of drought and water security risks and include modelling to examine the severity and duration of drought beyond the current period of record'.¹³⁶
- 2.35 The Department and the Minister advised that they hoped to have three more regional water strategies for the Lachlan, the Macquarie and the Gwydir finalised by the end of 2020 for the second stage of public engagement.¹³⁷
- 2.36 However, the Department and Minister acknowledged that the regional water strategies would be advisory only and any changes would need to be made through amendments to water sharing plans.
- 2.37 Minister Pavey indicated, in regard to the regional water strategies, that:

They will sit as another important piece of information that will give us historical context and future context around water. Water sharing plans can be amended. If we do get data and information that points to changes that need to be made we will take those under advisement and consideration, as we would do.¹³⁸

Committee comment

- 2.38 No evidence was provided to the committee as to how often a region comes close to the drought of record, without exceeding it. While testimony was given by Mr Jim Cush of the NSW Irrigators' Council that '[t]he drought of record ... is a one-in-a-hundred-year event, very similar to this coronavirus that we are suffering at the moment',¹³⁹ the committee was not informed of how frequently a certain valley or region came close to the drought of record during any given time span. For example in a period such as 100 years it may well be that a region was within 10 per cent of the drought of record on 15 or 20 occasions. During events like these 15 or 20

¹³⁴ Evidence, Ms Miller, 13 July 2020, p 20; Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 6; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 5.

¹³⁵ Evidence, Ms Freak, 13 July 2020, p 18.

¹³⁶ Evidence, Mr Isaacs, 14 July 2020, p 27.

¹³⁷ Evidence, Mr Jim Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Water Sector and Deputy Secretary—Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 14 July 2020, p 29; Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 33.

¹³⁸ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 30.

¹³⁹ Evidence, Mr Jim Cush, Chair, NSW Irrigators' Council, 13 July 2020, p 18.

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instances it would be crucial for that valley to be holding sufficient water for critical human need as they went through these extreme droughts that went close, but did not exceed, the drought of record.

- 2.39 The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment did not table evidence that gives effect to this statement noted in 2.28. When asked for any such modelling the Department was unable to be precise about its whereabouts or accessibility. When directly asked by the committee to provide a copy of the 2014 modelling of the Lachlan River, a report that allegedly already exists, both the Minister and the CEO of NSW Water Sector were unable to provide any such copy during their 75 minute testimony, however at the end of the hearing Minister Pavey did say that she would provide a copy. Such a copy has not been forthcoming.
- 2.40 Written evidence and testimony were given by various stakeholders that they had not seen, could not access and did not have a copy of the alleged 2014 Lachlan River modelling of impacts of using up to date records of drought.¹⁴⁰
- 2.41 The existence of a Lachlan River modelling study remains uncertain. It may well not exist. The current legislation in New South Wales is underpinned by this alleged document that remains unsighted.
- 2.42 Therefore it remains unclear on what grounds the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment would claim to have struck "the appropriate balance" referred to in 2.28. It also remains unclear on what grounds Minister Humphries, in his 2014 amendment, claimed that updating drought of record data would have an impact on water availability for irrigators. And finally, it remains unclear on what grounds Minister Pavey declared to the committee, in her testimony, that the impact of using up to date drought of record information would result in '5 per cent less general security water.'¹⁴¹

Potential impacts and/or unintended consequences of the bill

- 2.43 Concerns were raised about the potential impacts and in turn, unintended consequences of the bill.¹⁴² For example, stakeholders told the committee:
- '[it is] ... highly inappropriate for this Bill to even be considered without the appropriate information on the actual impacts (intended and unintended) on all valleys. No two river valleys are the same in terms of their climate and inflows catchment, and what might make sense in one valley will have unintended, perverse impacts if applied in another'.¹⁴³
 - '[the bill would result in] ... a much more conservative approach to water distribution in the future, compounding an already conservative method, along with a significant

¹⁴⁰ Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8; Evidence, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council, 14 July 2020, p 14.

¹⁴¹ Evidence, Minister Pavey, 14 July 2020, p 31.

¹⁴² Submission 2, Lachlan Shire Council, pp 1-2; Submission 18, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association, p 6; Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 3; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, pp 5-6; Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 6; Evidence, Ms Miller, 13 July 2020, p 21; Evidence, Ms Freak, 13 July 2020, p 21; Evidence, Mr Isaacs, 14 July 2020, pp 26-27.

¹⁴³ Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8.

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negative financial impact on our farming community, who rely on early allocations to make important farming decisions for the season ahead'.¹⁴⁴

- 2.44 In response to stakeholder concerns, Mr Clayton Barr MP admitted that '[i]t is not currently known what impact, if any, using drought of record information would have on WSP's [water sharing plans] ...'.¹⁴⁵
- 2.45 A key cause for concern was that the bill would impact general security water license holders by further reducing their water allocations.¹⁴⁶ For example, the following views were expressed:
- '[the bill] ... would result in permanent reductions of total general security water availability and delay allocation announcements necessary for farm management decisions (e.g. sowing a summer crop) ... For the New South Wales economy, this would mean a significant loss in the value of irrigated agricultural production'.¹⁴⁷
 - 'As the last water to be allocated, the more conservative inflow position proposed in this Bill will mean reduced allocations for general-security farmers in every year, for the purpose of setting aside larger reserves for the one year where inflows are worse than experienced before 2004'.¹⁴⁸
 - 'So we are going to get high-security users much higher security than they have now and those on general security, which are the irrigation farmers and the environment, will take less security. So there is one winner and one loser here, I guess'.¹⁴⁹
- 2.46 Witnesses were unable to quantify the likelihood or otherwise of these concerns.
- 2.47 In his evidence, Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, indicated that the bill would 'immediately make a significant reduction in allocations made to general security licence holders in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan valleys'.¹⁵⁰ The Department was unable to quantify the precise impact on general security licence holders.
- 2.48 This was supported by Lachlan Shire Council, whose submission stated that if the worst-ever drought up to 2020 was used, it would mean managing for a longer drought (around three years) and that:

¹⁴⁴ Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 7.

¹⁴⁵ Submission 8, Mr Clayton Barr MP, p 2.

¹⁴⁶ See Submission 5, Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc), p 3; Submission 16, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, p 4; Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2; Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 5; Evidence, Ms Kelly, 14 July 2020, p 3; Evidence, Mr Hare, 14 July 2020, p 20; Evidence, Mr Joe Martin, Board Member, Namoi Water, 13 July 2020, p 36; Evidence, Ms Lowien, 13 July 2020, p 36.

¹⁴⁷ Submission 17, NSW Farmers' Association, p 2.

¹⁴⁸ Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8.

¹⁴⁹ Evidence, Mr Quigley, 13 July 2020, p 33.

¹⁵⁰ Evidence, Mr Isaacs, 14 July 2020, p 27.

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more storage reserve was required and therefore GS [General Security] licenses would have less access to water and lower reliability. This would have a flow-on effect for the valley in terms of less production, less economic benefit to the wider community.¹⁵¹

- 2.49 When questioned as to how the bill would impact on each valley in terms of changes to general security allocations, Mr Clayton Barr MP responded: 'No, I do not and, as I talk to stakeholders, the stakeholders do not know either'.¹⁵²
- 2.50 However, it was noted by stakeholders that in the southern valleys alternative strategies to ensure security of town water supplies had already been put in place that effectively take into account the worst drought of record and have already reduced general security allocations.
- 2.51 The submission from the Southern Riverina Irrigators indicates:

Allocation determinations and a tiered approach go above and beyond millennium drought factors which are already included in the Murray Rivers resource assessments. These minimum inflow determinations were introduced in 2007 and have delivered 100 percent allocation to conveyance, critical human needs all the way from Dartmouth to Lake Alexandrina before allocations move off zero.¹⁵³

Does the bill provide for the inclusion of the best available information?

- 2.52 The committee also received evidence in support of the bill which contended that it provides for inclusion of the best available information in water sharing plans. Environmental advocacy groups told the committee:
- 'good water governance and risk management require drought reserves to be based on best available evidence regarding lowest inflows. Deliberately omitting this information from water sharing plans in order to maintain historic levels of reliability for certain licences is not sustainable, and invariably diminishes the volume of water set aside for use during periods of drought'.¹⁵⁴
 - '[r]ecent events have underscored the need for transparent rules underpinning an open, accountable and evidence-based process to determine an appropriate drought reserve allocation'.¹⁵⁵
 - 'This Bill will allow the most current, up-to-date data to be utilised in water management ... Up-to-date data can be used to model projections more reliably and based on best available science'.¹⁵⁶
- 2.53 A respondent to the online questionnaire rejected concerns about general security licence

¹⁵¹ Submission 2, Lachlan Shire Council, p 2.

¹⁵² Evidence, Mr Clayton Barr MP, 13 July 2020, p 9.

¹⁵³ Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 8.

¹⁵⁴ Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, p 2.

¹⁵⁵ Submission 7, Australian Floodplain Association, p 1.

¹⁵⁶ Submission 15, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, pp 2-3.

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holders receiving less water, asserting that:

If general security (licence) holders get less water, that is because there is less water ... if general security users are the priority, do something to redress the balance, but do not pretend that the droughts between 2004 and 2020 did not happen.¹⁵⁷

- 2.54** Tamworth Regional Council also supported the bill in seeking to update the drought of record information in water sharing plans across the State.¹⁵⁸
- 2.55** Mr Bruce Logan, Director—Water and Waste, Tamworth Regional Council, told the committee that the council had asked the government 'to consider [changing] the arbitrary decision to only consider historical inflow records, in the case of the Peel water sharing plan prior to 30 June 2010. The Government, at this stage, has not agreed to change that'.¹⁵⁹
- 2.56** Mr Logan explained that without this change, the water sharing plans for the Peel and Namoi will exclude all inflows or lack thereof after 30 June 2004, meaning the effects of the Millennium drought and the current drought were not considered.¹⁶⁰

Committee comment

- 2.57** The committee notes that it remains unclear how the drought of record arrangements introduced in 2014 impacted town water security or altered general security water allocations in the recent drought as no modelling seems to be available.
- 2.58** We acknowledge the cautious views of some inquiry participants towards the proposal to include a drought of record in water sharing plans. Alternative suggestions put forward to the committee included drawing upon a collection of drought data to make determinations regarding water allocation rather than relying on a single 'outlier' drought, and relying on the government's regional water strategies process to consider aspects of what is proposed in the bill.
- 2.59** The committee acknowledges that the government is currently conducting historical modelling work as part of its regional water strategies. This process may go some way in identifying what are alternative measures for considering the impact of climate change in the determination of water allocations in each region.
- 2.60** The committee recognises the fears of general security license holders who could be affected by reductions in water allocations as a result of using the most up to date drought of record in water sharing plans.

¹⁵⁷ Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry, NSW Legislative Council, Report on the online questionnaire: *Inquiry into Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, the provisions of the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020*, 15 July 2020, p 4.

¹⁵⁸ Evidence, Mr Logan, 14 July 2020, p 15.

¹⁵⁹ Evidence, Mr Logan, 14 July 2020, p 15.

¹⁶⁰ Evidence, Mr Logan, 14 July 2020, p 15.

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- 2.61** The committee also recognises the concerns of some stakeholders who consider using out of date drought data as problematic.
- 2.62** Based on the evidence received, the committee is concerned that the potential impacts of the bill – economic, environmental or social – have not been fully investigated. We do, however, acknowledge that some inquiry participants supported the bill on the basis that it would provide appropriate determinations for drought reserves.
- 2.63** The committee recommends that debate on the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020 proceed taking into account the committee comments documented in this report and the concerns raised by stakeholders during this inquiry.

Recommendation 3

That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020, and that the committee comments and concerns identified by stakeholders as set out in this report be addressed during debate in the House.

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Appendix 1 Submissions

No.	Author
1	Mr Brian Stevens
2	Lachlan Shire Council
3	Griffith City Council
4	Southern Riverina Irrigators
5	Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc)
5a	Murray Valley Private Diverters (Inc)
6	Environmental Defenders Office
7	Australian Floodplain Association
8	Mr Clayton Barr MP
9	Speak Up Campaign Inc
10	Confidential
11	Christian Democratic Party (CDP)
12	Namoi Water
13	Pauline Hanson's One Nation NSW
14	Clerk of the Parliaments
15	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
16	Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc
17	NSW Farmers' Association
18	Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association (GVIA)
19	NSW Irrigators' Council (NSWIC)

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Appendix 2 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Monday 13 July 2020 Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney	Hon Katrina Hodgkinson	Former Minister for Primary Industries
	Mr Jim Cush <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Chair, NSW Irrigators' Council
	Ms Claire Miller <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Interim CEO, NSW Irrigators' Council
	Ms Christine Freak <i>(via teleconference)</i>	A/Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators' Council
	Ms Maryanne Slattery <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Director, Slattery and Johnson
	Mr Bill Johnson <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Director, Slattery and Johnson
	Ms Zara Lowien <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Executive Officer, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association
	Mr Joe Martin <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Board Member, Namoi Water
	Mr Tony Quigley <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Chairman, Macquarie River Food and Fibre
	Hon Kevin Humphries	Former Minister for Water
Tuesday 14 July 2020 Preston Stanley Room Parliament House, Sydney	Ms Rachel Kelly <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Policy Manager, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia
	Cr John Medcalf <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council
	Cr John Dal Broi <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Mayor, Griffith City Council
	Mr Brett Stonestreet <i>(via teleconference)</i>	General Manager, Griffith City Council
	Mr Bruce Logan <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Director - Water and Waste, Tamworth Regional Council
	Mr Darcy Hare <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Vice Chair, Southern Riverina Irrigators
	Ms Louise Burge <i>(via teleconference)</i>	Executive Officer, Murray Valley Private Diversers

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Date	Name	Position and Organisation
	Hon Melinda Pavey MP	Minister for Water
	Mr Jim Bentley	Chief Executive Officer, NSW Water Sector and Deputy Secretary – Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
	Mr Mitchell Isaacs	Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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Appendix 3 Minutes

Minutes no. 23

Thursday 18 June 2020

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

Room 1136, Parliament House, Sydney at 1.35 pm

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*

Mr Amato

Ms Cusack

Mr Farraway

Mr Field (substituting for Ms Hurst for the water bills inquiry, until 1.52 pm)

Mr Primrose

Mr Veitch

2. Apologies

Ms Hurst

3. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 17 June 2020 – Email from the Office of the Hon. Emma Hurst MLC, to the secretariat, advising that Mr Justin Field MLC will substitute for the duration of the inquiry into the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020.

4. Inquiry into the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020

4.1 Terms of reference

The committee noted the referral on 16 June 2020 of the following terms of reference:

That:

- (a) the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020 be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report,
- (b) the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020 be referred to the committee upon receipt of the message from the Legislative Assembly,
- (c) the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report,
- (d) the resumption of the second reading debate on the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 not proceed until the tabling of the committee report,
- (e) the committee report by Friday 31 July 2020, and
- (f) on the report being tabled a motion may be moved immediately for the first reading and printing of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020.

The committee noted the referral on 17 June 2020 of the following terms of reference: That the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020 be referred to Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry for inquiry and report by Friday 31 July 2020.

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Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That all three bills be examined concurrently with one report, and that the terms of reference be incorporated into one, as follows:

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry inquire and report on:
 - (a) the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020,
 - (b) the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020, and
 - (c) the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020.
2. That the committee report by Friday 31 July 2020.

4.2 Proposed timeline

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That the committee adopt the following timeline for the administration of the inquiry:

- Sunday 5 July 2020 – closing date for submissions and online questionnaire (2 weeks)
- Monday 13 July and Tuesday 14 July – 2 hearings
- Friday 24 July – circulation of chair's draft report (Note: this will allow less than seven days to consider the chair's draft report, in variance to the sessional order)
- Wednesday 29 July – report deliberative
- Friday 31 July – report tabled.

4.3 Physically distanced hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Faraway: That the committee hold a physically distanced hearing.

4.4 Submissions, online questionnaire and proformas

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch:

- That the committee accept submissions from nominated stakeholders and organisations/experts in the field who apply to make a submission and are approved by the chair.
- That the committee not issue an open call for submissions through the website.
- That the committee not accept any proformas.
- That the committee conduct an online questionnaire to close on the same date as submissions.
- That the wording for the website be as follows:

Submissions

- Individuals are invited to submit their comments on the bill/s here [hyperlink to online questionnaire]. This is a new way for individuals to participate in inquiries and it means we will no longer accept proformas.
- If you are an organisation or have specialist knowledge in the field and you would like to make a more detailed submission, please contact the secretariat before [submission closing date].

4.5 Online questionnaire and summary report

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the questions for the online questionnaire be as follows:

- What is your position on the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020? Select one of these options: support, oppose, neutral/undecided
- What is your position on the Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020? Select one of these options: support, oppose, neutral/undecided
- What is your position on the Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020? Select one of these options: support, oppose, neutral/undecided
- In relation to the previous question, please explain your position on the bill/s (500 word text box)
- Do you have any other comments on the bill/s? (250 word text box)

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Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the secretariat prepare a summary report of responses to the online questionnaire for publication on the website and use in the report, and that:

- the committee agree to publication of the report via email, unless a member raises any concerns
- individual responses be kept confidential on tabling.

4.6 Submission invitations

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farraway: That the following stakeholders be invited to make a submission, and members be given 24 hours to nominate additional stakeholders:

- Political parties represented in the NSW Parliament, independent members of NSW Parliament
- Minister for Water, Hon Melinda Pavey MP
- Former Water Ministers Blair, Humphries and Hodgkinson
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water
- Murray Darling Basin Authority
- National Resources Access Regulator
- Farmer/irrigator bodies – NSW Farmers' Association, NSW Irrigators Council, Namoi Water, Gwydir Valley Irrigators' Association, Border Rivers Food and Fibre, Southern Riverina Irrigators, Speak Up 4 Water
- Environmental groups – Environmental Defenders Office, Inland Rivers Network, Australian Floodplain Association
- Clerks of NSW Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council
- Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Parliamentary Ethics Advisor.

4.7 Witness list

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farraway: That the following stakeholders be invited to appear as witnesses, with consideration given to additional witnesses from among the stakeholders nominated by members:

- Political parties represented in the NSW Parliament
- Minister for Water, Hon Melinda Pavey MP
- Former Water Ministers Blair, Humphries and Hodgkinson
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water
- NSW Farmers' Association
- NSW Irrigators Council
- Speak up 4 Water.

4.8 Questions on notice and supplementary questions

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That there be no questions taken on notice at the public hearing or supplementary questions from members.

4.9 Advertising

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Cusack: That in addition to the inquiry being advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales, the secretariat investigate the costs of advertising the inquiry in regional newspapers and advise the committee.

Mr Field left the meeting.

5. ***

6. ***

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 1.57 pm until Monday 13 July 2020.

Madeleine Foley
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 24

Monday 13 July 2020
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry
Macquarie Room, Parliament House, Sydney at 9.22 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*
Ms Cusack (*via teleconference*) (*until 10.54 pm, and from 11.46 am until 1.00 pm*)
Mr Farraway
Mr Field
Mr Khan
Mr Mookhey (*until 9.25 am*)
Mr Primrose

2. Election of Deputy Chair for duration of public hearings for inquiry into the water bills

The Chair called for nominations for the Deputy Chair for the duration of public hearings for the inquiry into the water bills.

Mr Mookhey moved: That the Hon Peter Primrose MLC be elected Deputy Chair.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Mr Primrose elected Deputy Chair for the duration of public hearings for the inquiry into the water bills.

3. Minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Farraway: That draft minutes no. 23 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 22 June 2020 – Email from the office of the Opposition Whip advising that the Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC will be substituting for the Hon Mick Veitch MLC for the water bills inquiry hearings on 13 and 14 July 2020
- 25 June 2020 – Email from Ms Tess Vickery for Mr Pearson advising that Hon Mark Pearson will be substituting for Hon Emma Hurst for the duration of the inquiry into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restrictions on Stock Animal Procedures) Bill 2019
- 27 June 2020 – Email from Mrs Jan Koperberg, to Chair, advising on behalf of Mr Phil Koperberg, that he is not well enough to make a contribution to the inquiry
- 30 June 2020 – Email from the Hon Niall Blair to secretariat, declining the invitation to give evidence to the inquiry
- 1 July 2020 – Email from Hon Katrina Hodgkinson to secretariat, advising she is unavailable to attend on either hearing date
- 1 July 2020 – Email from Louise Ward, Director, Animal Justice Party NSW branch to secretariat, declining invitation to give evidence to the inquiry
- 3 July 2020 – Email from Mr Chris Stone, NSW Liberal Party to secretariat, declining invitation to give evidence or make a submission to the water bills inquiry.

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- 3 July 2020 – Email from Ms Cate Fachrmann, NSW Greens to secretariat, declining invitation to give evidence or make a submission
- 6 July 2020 – Email from Senada Bjelic, Shooters Fishers and Farmer Party to secretariat, declining invitation to give evidence or make a submission
- 6 July 2020 – Email from Kate Schouten, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, to secretariat, advising that One Nation will make a submission
- 6 July 2020 – Email from Courtney Dillon, NSW Farmers, to secretariat, advising NSW Farmers will not participate in a hearing but will make a submission
- 7 July 2020 – Email from Dr Emma Carmody, Environmental Defenders Office to secretariat, advising that representatives are unavailable to attend on either hearing date
- 8 July 2020 – Email from Hon Niall Blair to committee, declining second invitation to give evidence to the inquiry and reasons for declining
- 8 July 2020 – Text message from Shelley Scoullar, Speak Up Campaign, to secretariat, advising that representatives are unavailable on the hearing dates
- 9 July 2020 – Email from Mary McDermott, Administration Officer – CEO, Dubbo Regional Council to secretariat, advising that Dubbo Regional Council will not be attending the hearing on 14 July 2020
- 9 July 2020 – Letter from Hon Natasha MacLaren-Jones MLC, Government Whip to secretariat, advising that Hon Trevor Khan MLC will be substituting for Hon Lou Amato MLC for the duration of the inquiry.

Sent:

- 6 July 2020 – Letter from Chair, to Hon Niall Blair, asking that he reconsider the invitation to give evidence at a hearing
- 6 July 2020 – Letter from Chair, to the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, asking that she reconsider the invitation to give evidence at a hearing.

5. Inquiry into the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020

5.1 Public submissions

The committee noted that the following submissions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee: submission nos. 1-9 and 11-15.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That the committee authorise the publication of submission nos. 5a and 16-19.

5.2 Confidential submissions

Resolved on the motion of Mr Khan: That the committee keep submission no. 10 confidential, as per the request of the author.

5.3 Online questionnaire and summary report

The committee noted that it had previously agreed via email to reopen the online questionnaire with a new closing date of 9 July 2020.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the committee authorise the publication of the online questionnaire report.

5.4 Publication of hearing footage

The committee noted that it was previously agreed via email to publish the hearing footage on the inquiry website, following the hearing.

5.5 Camera operator arrangements for committee hearings

Members noted that the new three-year funding from Treasury has enabled the Parliament to extend its existing camera operator arrangements to cover committee hearings. Since 2018 the Parliament has had the equipment necessary to operate the cameras in the Jubilee and Macquarie Rooms from the broadcast control room on Level 6, but has been unable to utilise the capacity due to funding constraints.

The new arrangements mean that the footage will now provide for a wide shot of members when questions are being asked, and then revert to a wide shot of the witness table during answers. Camera operators will make adjustments for each group of witnesses. The existing Broadcast Guidelines for the filming of committee hearings will continue to apply.

The committee secretariat present in the hearing room will continue to control the broadcast modes of 'Broadcast', 'Off', 'Deliberative' and 'In Camera'.

5.6 Declaration

Mr Khan declared a potential conflict of interest in that his wife is a part owner of a farm machinery business.

5.7 Public hearing

The committee noted that it had previously resolved that there will be no questions taken on notice or supplementary questions.

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters. The Chair noted that members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The following witness was sworn and examined via teleconference:

- The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson, former Minister for Primary Industries.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The following witness was examined:

- Mr Clayton Barr MP, Shadow Minister for Water.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Mr Jim Cush, Chair, NSW Irrigators' Council
- Ms Claire Miller, Interim CEO, NSW Irrigators' Council
- Ms Christine Freak, A/Policy Manager, NSW Irrigators' Council.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Ms Maryanne Slattery, Director, Slattery and Johnson
- Mr Bill Johnson, Director, Slattery and Johnson.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Ms Zara Lowien, Executive Officer, Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association
- Mr Joe Martin, Board Member, Namoi Water
- Mr Tony Quigley, Chairman, Macquarie River Food and Fibre.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Mr Kevin Humphries, former Minister for Water.

Mr Humphries tendered the following documents:

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- Opening statement
- Water in New South Wales: Regional water strategies, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 4.15 pm.

5.8 Tendered documents

Resolved on the motion of Mr Khan: That the committee accept and publish the following documents tendered during the public hearing:

- Opening statement, tendered by Mr Kevin Humphries, former Minister for Water.
- Water in New South Wales: Regional water strategies, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, tendered by Mr Kevin Humphries, former Minister for Water.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.22 pm until Tuesday 14 July 2020, 9.45 am, Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House (public hearing).

Merrin Thompson
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 25

Tuesday 14 July 2020
Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry
Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, 9.45 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*
Mr Khan
Ms Cusack (*via teleconference*)
Mr Farraway
Mr Field
Mr Primrose

2. Inquiry into the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020

2.1 Public hearing

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

The following witness was sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Ms Rachel Kelly, Policy Manager, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Cr John Medcalf, Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council
- Cr John Dal Broi, Mayor, Griffith City Council

- Mr Brett Stonestreet, General Manager, Griffith City Council.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witness was sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Mr Bruce Logan, Director – Water and Waste, Tamworth Regional Council.

Mr Khan declared that he is a resident of Tamworth and knows Mr Logan personally.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined via teleconference:

- Mr Darcy Hare, Vice Chair, Southern Riverina Irrigators
- Ms Louise Burge, Executive Officer, Murray Valley Private Diverters.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The Chair noted that Members of Parliament swear an oath to their office, and therefore do not need to be sworn prior to giving evidence before a committee.

The Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water was admitted and examined.

The following witnesses were sworn and examined:

- Mr Jim Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, NSW Water Sector and Deputy Secretary – Water, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Mr Isaacs tendered the following document:

- Water sharing plans and water resource plans, Community consultation - What we heard July 2020.

The evidence concluded and the witnesses withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 3.46 pm.

2.2 Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Faraway: That the committee accept and publish the following document tendered during the public hearing:

- Water sharing plans and water resource plans, Community consultation - What we heard July 2020, tendered by Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

3. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3.50 pm, until Wednesday 29 July 2020, 10.00am, McKell Room, Parliament House (report deliberative water bills inquiry).

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk

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Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management (Water Allocations – Drought Information) Bill 2020

Minutes no. 26

Wednesday 29 July 2020

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

Preston Stanley Room, Parliament House, 10.05 am

1. Members present

Mr Banasiak, *Chair*
Ms Cusack (*via Webex*)
Mr Farraway
Mr Field (*via Webex*)
Mr Khan
Mr Primrose
Mr Veitch

2. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Khan: That draft minutes nos. 24 and 25 be confirmed.

3. Electronic participation

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Primrose: That the draft minutes for meeting no. 26 be circulated to members electronically and be confirmed by members 24 hours after receipt of the draft minutes by agreement via email.

4. ***

5. Inquiry into the provisions of the Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020

5.1 Consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair submitted his draft report entitled *Constitution Amendment (Water Accountability and Transparency) Bill 2020, Water Management Amendment (Transparency of Water Rights) Bill 2020 and Water Management Amendment (Water Allocations—Drought Information) Bill 2020*, which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.15:

'Asked what the NSW Government would do without the provisions of the bill in place should a worse drought occur (using the example of Dubbo's water supply needs), the Minister offered alternative measures:

"We suspend water sharing plans completely if we are at risk. We can build extra infrastructure, which is what we have done on Burrendong Dam so we have got a deeper outlet to be able to get water. We deal with council and council has taken some of Dubbo's recycled water to put on pasture and property. Some of the farmers have given back to Dubbo city council water that was good for drinking, and they've swapped those around. They are some of the measures we can take into account in an emergency situation, which we've done." [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, 14 July 2020, p 39.]

Resolved, on the motion Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.20:

'Some evidence presented to the committee supported drought of record as an appropriate measure. The Environmental Defenders Office submission indicated that "good water governance and risk management require drought reserves to be based on best available evidence regarding lowest inflows." [FOOTNOTE: Submission 6, Environmental Defenders Office, p 2.]

Mr Bill Johnson gave evidence to the committee cynically responding to the 2014 changes to the drought of record:

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"The drought of record was appropriate until there was a worse one and all of a sudden it was no longer appropriate to use it. In essence we are running our rivers based on our memories of a wetter time and those times have been past for 20 years. If we continue doing that, the events that we have had in the last 10 years will keep recurring. You cannot escape your responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. It will come eventually." [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Mr Bill Johnson, Director, Slattery and Johnson, 13 July 2020, p 29.]

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.20:
'Mr Logan from Tamworth City Council supported the bill and gave evidence at the hearing that council had requested the NSW Water Minister update the relevant water sharing plan to update the drought of record, effectively implementing the measures in the bill in the Peel Valley. Under questioning, Mr Logan confirmed that the NSW Government had not agreed to making those changes. Mr Logan explained the consequences of that decision:
"this decision means that, according to the Government, the inflow into Chaffey over the last three years or lack thereof never happened, it will not happen again and if it did then applying exactly the same rules would somehow see a different result. I do not believe any of these arguments can be reasonably sustained and, what happens if there is a worse level of inflow for the city of Tamworth?" [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Mr Bruce Logan, Director—Water and Waste, Tamworth Regional Council, 14 July 2020, p 15.]

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.20:
'Other stakeholders acknowledged that a drought of record provision exists within current water sharing plans even if they didn't support the provision of the bill to consider more recent droughts. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledged that 2014 bill changes did not remove drought of record provisions but backdated them.

Mr Isaacs from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment indicated that:
"Prior to the amendments in 2014 the water sharing plans required the calculation for the purpose of setting available water determinations to be "the worst period of low inflows" from historical "flow information held by the department". The addition to the water sharing plans made in 2014 was to add "when this plan commenced" at the end of that statement". [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, 14 July 2020, p 28.]

Under questioning, the Southern Riverina Irrigators and Rice Growers Association of Australia acknowledged current water sharing plans included drought of record provisions but indicated that alternative arrangements were also in place in southern valleys to address town water security needs.' [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Ms Rachel Kelly, Policy Manager, Ricegrowers' Association of Australia, 14 July 2020, pp 3-4; Evidence, Mr Darcy Hare, Vice Chair, Southern Riverina Irrigators, 14 July 2020, p 21.]

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That paragraph 2.22 be amended by inserting at the end: 'Witnesses were unable to quantify the impact for each valley'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.23:
'It is unfortunate that the Department failed to provide the Lachlan Valley case study despite requests from the committee'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.27:
'However, the Department and Minister acknowledged that the regional water strategies would be advisory only and any changes would need to be made through amendments to water sharing plans.

Minister Pavey indicated, in regard to the regional water strategies, that:
"They will sit as another important piece of information that will give us historical context and future context around water. Water sharing plans can be amended. If we do get data and information that points to changes that need to be made we will take those under advisement and consideration, as we would do."

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[FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, 14 July 2020, p 30.]

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the following new committee comment be inserted after paragraph 2.27:

'Committee comment

No evidence was provided to the committee as to how often a region comes close to the drought of record, without exceeding it. While testimony was given by Mr Jim Cush of the NSW Irrigators' Council that "[t]he drought of record ... is a one-in-a-hundred-year event, very similar to this coronavirus that we are suffering at the moment", the committee was not informed of how frequently a certain valley or region came close to the drought of record during any given time span. For example in a period such as 100 years it may well be that a region was within 10 per cent of the drought of record on 15 or 20 occasions. During events like these 15 or 20 instances it would be crucial for that valley to be holding sufficient water for critical human need as they went through these extreme droughts that went close, but did not exceed, the drought of record.' [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Mr Jim Cush, Chair, NSW Irrigators' Council, 13 July 2020, p 18.]

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the following new committee comment be inserted after paragraph 2.27:

'Committee comment

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment did not table evidence that gives effect to this statement noted in 2.21. When asked for any such modelling the Department was unable to be precise about its whereabouts or accessibility. When directly asked by the committee to provide a copy of the 2014 modelling of the Lachlan River, a report that allegedly already exists, both the Minister and the CEO of NSW Water Sector were unable to provide any such copy during their 75 minute testimony, however at the end of the hearing Minister Pavey did say that she would provide a copy. Such a copy has not been forthcoming.

Written evidence and testimony were given by various stakeholders that they had not seen, could not access and did not have a copy of the alleged 2014 Lachlan River modelling of impacts of using up to date records of drought. [FOOTNOTE: Submission 19, NSW Irrigators' Council, p 8; Evidence, Cr John Medcalf, Mayor, Lachlan Shire Council, 14 July 2020, p 14.]

The existence of a Lachlan River modelling study remains uncertain. It may well not exist. The current legislation in New South Wales is underpinned by this alleged document that remains unsighted.

Therefore it remains unclear on what grounds the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment would claim to have struck "the appropriate balance" referred to in 2.21. It also remains unclear on what grounds Minister Humphries, in his 2014 amendment, claimed that updating drought of record data would have an impact on water availability for irrigators. And finally, it remains unclear on what grounds Minister Pavey declared to the committee, in her testimony, that the impact of using up to date drought of record information would result in "5 per cent less general security water" [FOOTNOTE: Evidence, Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, 14 July 2020, p 31.]

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That paragraph 2.30 be amended by omitting 'significantly' before 'impact general security water license holders'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.30: 'Witnesses were unable to quantify the likelihood or otherwise of these concerns'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Veitch: That paragraph 2.31 be amended by inserting at the end: 'The Department was unable to quantify the precise impact on general security licence holders'.

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Mr Veitch moved: That paragraph 2.32 be amended by inserting at the end: 'The committee was provided with no evidence however that supported this claim'.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Field, Mr Primrose, Mr Veitch.

Noes: Mr Banasiak, Ms Cusack, Mr Farraway, Mr Khan.

Question resolved in the negative.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.33: 'However, it was noted by stakeholders that in the southern valleys alternative strategies to ensure security of town water supplies had already been put in place that effectively take into account the worst drought of record and have already reduced general security allocations.

The submission from the Southern Riverina Irrigators indicates:

"Allocation determinations and a tiered approach go above and beyond millennium drought factors which are already included in the Murray Rivers resource assessments. These minimum inflow determinations were introduced in 2007 and have delivered 100 percent allocation to conveyance, critical human needs all the way from Dartmouth to Lake Alexandrina before allocations move off zero." [FOOTNOTE: Submission 4, Southern Riverina Irrigators, p 8.]

Mr Field moved: That the following paragraph 2.39 be omitted: 'The committee notes the reasoning put forward by a number of stakeholders as to why they view the bill as a blanket proposal or one-size-fits-all approach, without consideration of the unique characteristics of valleys across the state and the differences in water management in the Northern and Southern basins' and the following new paragraph be inserted instead:

'The committee notes that it remains unclear how the drought of record arrangements introduced in 2014 impacted town water security or altered general security water allocations in the recent drought as no modelling seems to be available.'

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Banasiak, Mr Field, Mr Primrose, Mr Veitch.

Noes: Ms Cusack, Mr Farraway, Mr Khan.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following paragraph 2.41 be omitted: 'The committee acknowledges that the government is currently conducting modelling work as part of its regional water strategies. This process will go some way in identifying what is the most appropriate measure for the determination of water allocations in each region', and the following new paragraph be inserted instead:

'The committee acknowledges that the government is currently conducting historical modelling work as part of its regional water strategies. This process may go some way in identifying what are alternative measures for considering the impact of climate change in the determination of water allocations in each region.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That paragraph 2.42 be amended by:

- a) omitting 'also' after 'The committee'
- b) omitting 'the inclusion of the' before 'drought of record in water sharing plans' and
- c) inserting instead 'using the most up to date'.

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Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.42:

'Committee comment

The committee also recognises the concerns of some stakeholders who consider using out of date drought data as problematic.'

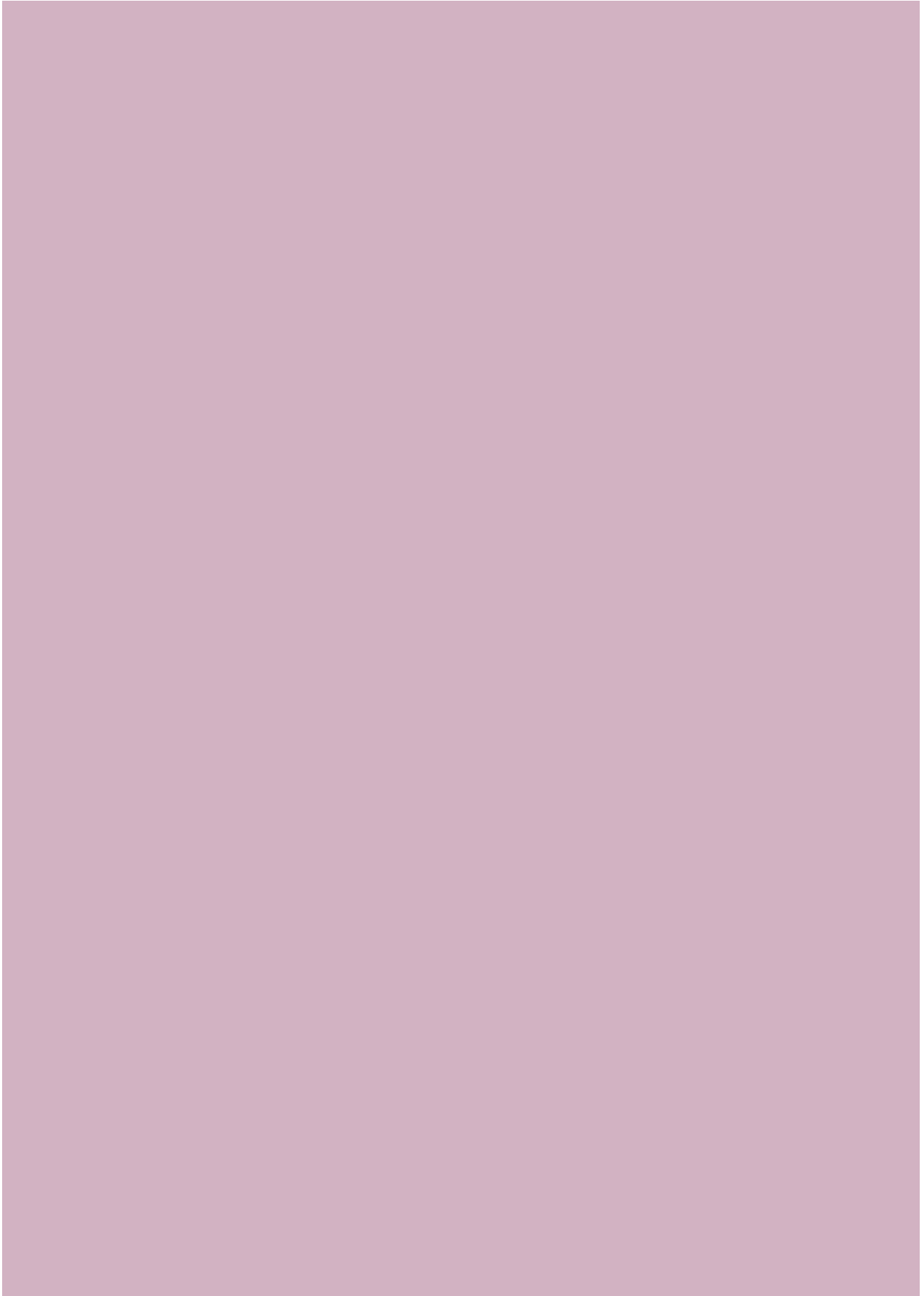
Resolved, on the motion of Mr Field: That:

- a) the draft report as amended be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- b) the transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, responses to the online questionnaire and summary report of these responses, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- c) upon tabling, all unpublished attachments to submissions be kept confidential by the committee;
- d) upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, responses to the online questionnaire and summary report of these responses, and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;
- e) the committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- f) the committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;
- g) dissenting statements be provided to the secretariat by 4.00 pm, Thursday 30 July 2020;
- h) the secretariat is tabling the report at 12 pm, Friday 31 July 2020;
- i) the Chair to advise the secretariat and members if they intend to hold a press conference, and if so, the date and time.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.53 am, until Tuesday 11 August 2020, TBC, Macquarie Room, Parliament House (public hearing - Mulesing inquiry).

Emma Rogerson
Committee Clerk



Executive summary

The Natural Resources Commission (the Commission) has reviewed the *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010* (the Plan) in line with its statutory responsibility under the *Water Management Act 2000* (the Act).¹

The Commission has assessed the extent to which the provisions of the Plan have contributed to the achievement of environmental, social and economic outcomes, and recommended where changes to the Plan provisions are warranted.

The Commission has concerns about the current Plan's ability to manage severe drought and to secure Tamworth's water supply. The Peel Valley is currently experiencing the worst drought on record. The latest three-year rolling total average rainfall is the lowest since records began in 1878 and inflows to Chaffey Dam over the two years to March 2020 are less than half that of the previous worst two-year drought on record (6 gigalitres (GL) compared to 13 GL in 1964-66). The current drought has had a significant impact on communities, the environment and water users, and has highlighted a range of issues with the Plan.

The NSW Government is undertaking a series of actions, including infrastructure upgrades and development of the *Namoi Regional Water Strategy* to improve water security in the region. Strategic planning and investment are welcome but do not address some fundamental issues in the Plan regarding its knowledge base, environmental protections, risk management, town water security and transparency for water users.

Advice on Plan replacement and amendment

Following a comprehensive analysis of available evidence and public consultation, the Commission has identified a range of issues that justify replacing the Plan in a staged manner. Addressing these issues will improve the health of the water sources, provide greater water security for Tamworth and its regional industries, and enable best practice water management.

The Commission's review has identified a range of issues that justify significant amendments to the replacement water sharing plans, as these plans in their current draft form largely retain issues identified in the current Plan. Major areas of concern include:

- A lack of transparency around the development and implementation of key Plan provisions. For example, the long-term average annual extraction limit (LTAAEL) for the unregulated water sources is not quantified numerically and the modelling for the regulated rivers LTAAEL is disputed by water users. Further, the Plan spreads the risk of increased extraction in the Peel Unregulated River and Alluvium water sources, and the waterways providing utility water supply to Tamworth, across other stakeholders in the Peel and Namoi valleys. These issues create uncertainty around future water availability for businesses and local water utilities and erode confidence in water management in the Peel Valley (**recommendations 2-9**).
- Limited knowledge of environmental water requirements when the Plan was developed. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Energy, Environment and Science's (DPIE-EES) recently finalised *Namoi Long Term Water Plan* addresses these

¹ Parliament of NSW (2009) *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2010/134/full>.

knowledge gaps and should inform the replacement water sharing plans (**Recommendation 10**).

- Some Plan provisions do not sufficiently protect water sources and their water dependent ecosystems. For example, the Plan does not adequately protect the environmental contingency allowance (ECA), which is intended to reinstate natural flow variability, from extraction. This limits the effectiveness of this provision to deliver environmental outcomes (**Recommendation 11**).
- The Plan has a high level of entitlement and cannot adequately respond to risks such as those from prolonged drought, changes in water user behaviour, population growth or climate change. It does not proactively secure access to water for users in line with the priorities of the Act (**recommendations 14-18**). For example, the Plan does not have adequate mechanisms to protect critical needs or the local water utility supply considering natural variability in rainfall and inflows.
- There are conflicting views around the extent and variability of connectivity in alluvial water sources due to knowledge gaps. Contention will continue until the NSW Government's groundwater studies and modelling are completed and reviewed, risking compromising Plan outcomes and community trust in water management (**recommendations 19-22**).

As part of the water resource planning process required under the Commonwealth *Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2012* (*Basin Plan*), DPIE-Water proposes to split the Plan's water sources across four water sharing plans (separating the regulated, unregulated, alluvial and fractured rock water sources) to align them with the water resource plan areas set by the *Basin Plan*. The water sharing plans are currently in draft form and are expected to commence on 1 July 2020.² As part of this, DPIE-Water intends to include the regulated, alluvial and fractured rock water sources in new water sharing plans and amend an existing Namoi plan to include the Peel unregulated rivers, forming the *Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated Rivers Water Sources 2012*. This plan will expire in 2023 but, like the new plans, does not address the particular issues with the Peel Plan identified in this report.

The timeline and process for splitting the Plan may limit opportunities to address some issues identified in this review. Splitting the Plan risks fragmenting management if appropriate links are not included between the four water sharing plans to support effective management of the connected water sources.

Given the severe drought, development of the *Namoi Regional Water Strategy* and uncertainties around infrastructure changes, the Commission recommends a staged approach to address the issues identified in this review:

- by 1 July 2020**, address priority issues carried over from the current Plan to the draft *Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River 2020* (**recommendations 3, 10, 11 and 19**)
- by July 2022**, address other issues identified in this review that are carried across from the current Plan to the four replacement water sharing plans. This will provide adequate time for additional studies and consultation, alignment with the *Namoi Regional Water Strategy*, which is due to be released in 2021, and replacement of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated Water Sources 2012* in 2023.

Table 1 provides an overview of the review findings and recommendations.

² Minister Pavey at NSW Budget Estimates on 10 March 2020, pg. 10-11. Available at: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/pages/budget-estimates.aspx>
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Findings and recommendations

Table 1: Overview of findings, recommendations and suggested actions

(* denotes initiatives that should be undertaken across NSW to support outcomes in all water sharing plans)

Overall advice on Plan replacement	
Recommendation 1	<p>DPIE-Water should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> by 1 July 2020, address priority issues carried over from the current Plan to the draft <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River 2020</i> (recommendations 3, 10, 11 and 19) by July 2022, address other issues identified in this review that are carried across from the current Plan to the four replacement water sharing plans. This will provide adequate time for additional studies and consultation, alignment with the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i> to be released in 2021 and replacement of the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated Water Sources 2012</i> in 2023.
Manage available water determinations, extraction and variability	
Finding	<p>Stakeholders raised concerns with DPIE-Water and the Commission over the accuracy of the Integrated Quantity/Quality Model (IQQM), which models the operation of the dams and tributaries to meet water needs in the Peel River from Chaffey Dam to Carroll Gap. DPIE-Water updated the IQQM in 2017, including a recalibration, but did not produce a calibration report and stakeholders have been critical of the model inputs. DPIE-Water is currently replacing the IQQM in the Peel with an eWater Source model.</p>
Recommendation 2	<p>By 1 July 2020, commit to commissioning an independent review of the Peel eWater Source model, and complete and publish the findings by 1 July 2022 to improve transparency and build community trust.</p>
Finding	<p>There is a unique two-step process to assess if there has been growth in water extraction and determine compliance with the Peel Regulated River Water Source LTAAEL. The assessment generally used across NSW Basin plans is only triggered in the Peel Regulated River Water Source if an initial comparison of the observed and simulated extractions over the preceding 10 years of LTAAEL compliance assessment is over 120 percent of the modelled 10-year average extraction. This is a reactive, blunt test that delays the implementation of mitigation measures if growth in water use occurs.</p>
Recommendation 3 (priority)	<p>By 1 July 2020, include an enabling provision to bring the Peel Regulated River Water Source LTAAEL assessment process in line with other NSW Murray-Darling Basin water sharing plans by removing the 10-year rolling average comparison from the LTAAEL assessment measures.</p>
Finding	<p>The Peel unregulated river water sources do not have a numeric LTAAEL and are managed under an LTAAEL for the Namoi Unregulated Rivers Extraction Management Unit. This does not allow for transparent or targeted management of the Peel unregulated rivers. Further, the Namoi Unregulated Rivers Extraction Management Unit LTAAEL was based on licensee surveys undertaken in 2002 for the years 1993-99 for the purpose of volumetric conversions, which have not been revisited. LTAAEL compliance has not been assessed during the Plan period and DPIE-Water has not completed a documented risk assessment to justify this inaction. The NSW metering reforms will only require around a third of licensees in the unregulated water sources to be metered over the coming years. Depending on the relative</p>

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volume of allocation held by these licensees, future unregulated river LTAAEL compliance may be unable to rely solely on metering results.

Recommendation 4	<p>By 1 July 2020, commit to reviewing the historic licence conversion surveys at the water source scale, and compile a follow up survey and risk assessment by 1 July 2022 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) estimate historic and current extraction at a water source scale, and therefore the potential for activation of sleeper licences b) examine and engage with stakeholders, and publish the benefits and impacts of having a separate numeric LTAAEL for the Peel unregulated rivers, and implement any resulting recommendations c) enable transparent management with annual LTAAEL compliance reports.
Recommendation 5	<p>By 1 July 2022, publish and implement a method of assessing extraction and LTAAEL compliance in unregulated water sources.</p>

Finding

The boundaries of the Peel Alluvium Water Source defined by the Plan map do not include alluvial sediments along the minor tributaries. As such, any bores in alluvial aquifers on these tributaries would be assigned to the Peel Fractured Rock Water Source, reducing the ability to manage extraction risks. This also prevents licensees from accessing more flexible account management rules under the Peel Alluvium Water Source.

Recommendation 6	<p>By 1 July 2022, complete the following actions, incorporating stakeholder engagement, and amend the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Sources 2020</i> to accommodate potential changes due to recommendations (b) to (d):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review bore logs to determine if any licences in the Peel Fractured Rock Water Source are extracting from an alluvial aquifer rather than fractured rock b) assess the potential volumes of alluvial extraction relative to fractured rock extraction c) publish the results and, if extraction potential from alluvial aquifers under the Peel Fractured Rock Water Source is significant, outline and consult on steps to manage risks d) if (a)-(c) are addressed, include carryover provisions for the Peel Fractured Rock Water Source under the amendment clause.
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Finding

The ratio of entitlements to the regulated and alluvial LTAAELs in the Peel Valley is high, which presents a risk to water management in the region. The Plan's unique LTAAEL assessment process cannot identify and respond to growth in extraction within acceptable timeframes, exposing the valley to environmental, social and economic impacts from decreased flows resulting from the potential rapid activation of previously unused 'sleeper' entitlement. This means that the Plan and its management currently rely on water licensee behaviour remaining relatively consistent.

Recommendation 7	<p>By 1 July 2020, commit to undertaking the following actions over the following two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) model the potential for LTAAEL exceedance for all water sources under various scenarios, including full activation of sleeper licences. This modelling should be publicly reported and accompanied by a
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	<p>description of the potential environmental, social and economic risks, and mitigation strategies for those risks</p> <p>b) proactively and transparently manage the risk of sleeper licences activating and report publicly on this management</p> <p>c) as part of the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i>, investigate licence activation risks, consider economic scenarios (over the 30- to 50-year timeframe) and propose options to manage risks using Plan amendments or broader structural adjustment (such as buybacks or retiring licences as occurred in the major inland groundwater systems)</p> <p>d) engage with water users and the wider community on actions (a)-(c) and make any recommended plan amendments by 1 July 2022.</p>
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Finding To limit local impacts of growth in extraction against the regulated and unregulated river LTAAELs on specific water user groups, the Plan requires the available water determinations (AWDs) to be reduced across a broad group of disconnected water users. This has the potential to penalise water users in disconnected catchments.

Recommendation 8	<p>By 1 July 2022:</p> <p>a) support any provisions in water sharing plans that distribute impacts to other water sources or water sharing plans with clear objectives</p> <p>b) publish targeted, local mechanisms to address LTAAEL exceedance and resulting local impacts</p> <p>c) to complement this, by 31 December 2020, publish measures to manage and report on all relevant LTAAELs at a water source or Peel Valley scale.</p>
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Finding The Plan does not have the mechanisms to adequately protect critical water needs considering natural variability or climate change. The current AWD process is not transparent and has limited capacity to manage dry periods, as it cannot effectively limit extraction without disproportionately impacting active licensees because of the high level of entitlement.

Recommendation 9	<p>By 1 July 2022, incorporate the results of the following actions into the water sharing plans:</p> <p>a) transparently model and publish the Peel Valley's reliability of supply for each licence category and the volumes of water remaining in-stream in a range of climatic conditions at a time-scale appropriate to show short- and long-term effects of variability and various needs of licensees and the environment</p> <p>b) consult with stakeholders and develop Plan provisions and incident response plans to reduce the risks to environmental requirements, town water supply, basic landholder rights and domestic and stock needs, and provide greater certainty to licensees to support economic outcomes</p> <p>c) if results from (a) show reliability is inadequate, use inputs from (b) to propose mechanisms to resolve this through the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i>, considering mechanisms within and external to the Plan</p> <p>d) document rules for setting AWDs to allow for proactive and transparent management of water shortages under a greater range of</p>
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	scenarios and climatic conditions modelled as part of the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i> .
Deliver environmental outcomes	
Finding	<p>When drafted over ten years ago, the Plan lacked sound knowledge of environmental water requirements. The development of the <i>Namoi Long Term Water Plan</i> largely fills this critical gap. It sets out what is required to maintain or improve environmental outcomes in the Peel and broader Namoi River Valley and can be used to underpin environmental water provisions.</p> <p>Plan provisions do not adequately provide for base flows in the Peel Regulated River which are important for providing connectivity between pools and riffles and supporting fish movement, or small freshes important for longitudinal connectivity. Plan provisions also do not adequately provide for low flows in several of the unregulated tributaries.</p>
Recommendation 10 (priority)	<p>By 1 July 2020, recognise the need to align environmental water provisions in the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2020</i> and <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated River Water Sources 2012</i> with the recently finalised <i>Namoi Long Term Water Plan</i>. Include amendment provisions in these plans that enable alignment to occur and set a timeframe for alignment by 1 July 2022.</p>
Finding	<p>Plan provisions do not adequately prioritise or protect the Plan's ECA in line with the Act, potentially constraining its delivery of environmental outcomes. For instance, the ECA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) can be extracted under certain conditions for direct irrigation posing a risk to its effectiveness in reinstating natural flow variability and achieving environmental outcomes b) has releases that take lower priority than access licence water orders where the capacity to release water from Chaffey Dam is insufficient to meet both purposes on the same day c) is subject to the general security AWD, which constrains the amount of ECA to potentially less than the entitlement of 5,000 megalitres (ML) per water year d) cannot be carried over from one year to the next, which means any unused water is forfeited, limiting its strategic use to achieve environmental outcomes. <p>Note: In relation to (b) the Commission acknowledges that the draft <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2020</i> provides for channel capacity sharing between the environmental water allowance (currently known as the ECA) and water access licence orders. This is an improvement upon the arrangements in the current Plan, but the Commission believes it still does not adequately meet the requirements of the Act and may still impact the effectiveness of the ECA in meeting specific environmental objectives.</p>
Recommendation 11 (priority)	<p>By 1 July 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) update the draft <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2020</i> to include an amendment clause that allows for changes to planned environmental water provisions (for example, based on environmental water requirements in the <i>Namoi Long Term Water Plan</i> or potential for carryover of the ECA).

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	<p>By 1 July 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) transition from shared channel capacity arrangement to prioritise release of the ECA. The Namoi-Peel Environmental Water Advisory Group should engage with stakeholders in planning for environmental releases. <p>By 1 July 2022, ideally as part of development and consultation on the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i>, conduct studies into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) removal of clauses 41(4) and 41(5) from the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2020</i> (Clause 62 in the current Plan), with changes to plan provisions within one year of completion of the study d) the potential for carryover of the environmental water allowance (currently known as the ECA) to provide for more strategic use of environmental water over multiple years and amend the plan within one year of completion of this study, if warranted.
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Finding

Delays in implementing access rules are potentially impacting surface water flows and pose a risk to groundwater dependent ecosystems and instream ecological values. Access rules for the unregulated rivers do not effectively protect parts of the flow regime, including very low flows. Visible flow rules for unregulated river reaches are ambiguous around when water can be taken, and thresholds based on river height and gauges to measure this are not accurate. Access rules should be updated to reflect improved understanding of environmental water requirements from development of the *Namoi Long Term Water Plan*.

<p>Recommendation 12</p>	<p>By 1 July 2022, review access rules (commence and cease to pump thresholds) in the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated River Water Sources 2012</i> based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) improved understanding of environmental water requirements from the development of the <i>Namoi Long Term Water Plan</i> b) mapping of instream values based on the High Ecological Value Aquatic Ecosystem framework c) local knowledge of the water needs of landholders. <p>Note: the review of access rules, including social and economic impacts and consultation with water users could occur as part of the development of the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i> and must be completed in time to inform replacement of the <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Namoi and Peel Unregulated Water Sources 2012</i>.</p>
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Finding

Except for high priority groundwater dependent ecosystems listed in Schedule 4, the Plan does not clearly identify the ecological values and assets it seeks to protect or the components of the flow regime that maintain these assets and values.

<p>Recommendation 13</p>	<p>By 1 July 2022, address knowledge gaps regarding the location, needs and values of water dependent ecosystems (instream and groundwater dependent ecosystems) that the new water sharing plans seek to protect. This should include mapping of key habitat features, where practical. DPIE-Water should also include mapping of instream values developed from application of the High Ecological Value Aquatic Ecosystem framework as schedules in the water sharing plans. This would improve transparency and clarity about the values that the plan seeks to maintain and protect.</p>
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Meet the needs of water users

Finding The Plan does not explicitly protect basic landholder rights on the regulated river, despite the Act requiring water sharing to protect basic landholder rights as a second priority to protecting the water source and its dependent ecosystems.

Recommendation 14* By 1 July 2022:
a) include provisions to better protect stock and domestic basic landholder rights throughout the Plan area
b) set aside a defined volume of water to maintain ongoing supply for basic landholder rights, domestic and stock, and local water utility licences, considering the findings of the *Namoi Regional Water Strategy*.

Suggested action A* Recommence processes to develop the *Reasonable Use Guidelines* for basic landholder rights by 31 December 2020. The agreed standards should be reflected in amendments to the replacement water sharing plans.

Finding The basic landholder rights for native title are not adequately supported with amendment provisions to ensure they are implemented following native title determinations and other land or water use agreements.

Recommendation 15* By 1 July 2020, amend the replacement plans to include a provision to amend native title rights, with a timeframe of three months to undertake initial amendments of the new plans following native title determinations and other land or water use agreements, and enough time to undertake the detailed engagement, final amendment and entitlement process.

Finding Current and future drought conditions, climate change and population growth predictions are key risks to town water supply in the Plan area. Stakeholders are calling for increased transparency and certainty beyond the existing *NSW Extreme Events Policy*, *Incident Response Guidelines* and the use of temporary water restrictions under Section 324 of the Act (see also **Recommendation 26**).

Finding Water resource planning should include the best available evidence which would include the current drought, paleoclimatic records and climate change projections. The Plan does not provide a transparent mechanism to ration extraction across the Plan area in drought and has an inadequate mechanism to allow Tamworth Regional Council to proactively manage their risks. AWDs could be used to transparently manage water use in drought throughout the Plan area.

Recommendation 16 Complete the following actions, incorporating stakeholder engagement, by 1 July 2022:
a) as part of the *Namoi Regional Water Strategy*, model how Plan provisions function under a range of modelled climate scenarios, drawing upon paleoclimatic studies, assessment of risks from the current drought period, and projected changes to inflows and groundwater recharge under climate change
b) based on the results from (a), develop mechanisms to ensure water will be managed to protect the water source, its dependent ecosystems and basic landholder rights, and be shared equitably among all other users, in that order, if scarcity and demand increases

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) amend the Plan to address Plan-related risks to town water supply identified in (a), noting that amendments should allow Tamworth Regional Council to proactively manage its risks d) expand rules for setting AWDs, allowing for more certainty and proactive management of water shortages based on results from (a) (see also Recommendation 26 on clear, defined triggers) e) use AWDs in conjunction with cease to pump thresholds to manage extraction during drought, including under predicted climate change.
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Finding

The Plan includes a general objective to acknowledge the importance of Aboriginal water values and provides mechanisms for Aboriginal water use. However, the integration of Aboriginal values, engagement with Aboriginal peoples and ability of Aboriginal peoples to use water have been inadequately supported.

Recommendation 17*	By 1 July 2022 amend the replacement plans to include Aboriginal values and uses, clearly linked objectives and outcomes, and flow entitlement in the Plan area, using a strengthened NSW Aboriginal Water Framework (see Suggested action B).
Recommendation 18*	Co-design licences or other water access options with Aboriginal stakeholders that meet identified needs (for a range of cultural, environmental, social and economic uses) and include these in the new plans by 1 July 2022, using a strengthened NSW Aboriginal Water framework (see Suggested action B).
Suggested action B*	<p>Continue development of a NSW Aboriginal Water Framework by 31 December 2020 to provide consistent and transparent guidelines and resourcing for Aboriginal involvement in water planning and management.</p> <p>At a minimum, the framework should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) relevant guidelines and legislation, including any need for legislative reforms b) Aboriginal water values and its uses c) processes for allocating water for Aboriginal interests including cultural, environmental, social and economic purposes d) processes for improving Aboriginal water access and use, through simplified licencing or other identified mechanisms e) clear requirements for including native title determinations and proactive processes for undertaking other land/water use agreements f) strengthened Aboriginal engagement processes across the state to expand on the Murray-Darling Basin engagement process, broaden the stakeholder base (to include Traditional Owners, Nations, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other relevant groups), and increase Aboriginal staff with capacity to lead and maintain engagement g) appropriate Aboriginal-led governance and decision-making arrangements, such as an Aboriginal Water Holder h) adequate resources including dedicated Aboriginal staff with capability in water planning and management, and funding, such as an Aboriginal Water Trust.

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Manage the Peel as a connected system

Finding Splitting the Plan into four water sharing plans as part of the water resource planning process poses a significant risk to the effectiveness of future management of the connected Peel Valley water sources

Recommendation 19 (priority) By 1 July 2020, ensure relevant settings are cross-referenced in the water sharing plans and there is ongoing monitoring of these connected water sources to determine if provisions to provide for and protect connectivity are effective.

Finding The Plan was designed to account for the interrelated water sources of the Peel Valley, recognising that some water sources are more connected than others. However, delays in implementing access rules and alluvial extraction in some highly connected areas of the Peel Valley is potentially impacting surface water flows, with localised drawdown posing a risk to groundwater dependent ecosystems and instream (ecological) values.

Understanding of these impacts is limited by knowledge gaps around the extent and variability of connectivity and sustainability of groundwater extraction. The Commission acknowledges that work is underway to address these knowledge gaps. DPIE-Water is developing a groundwater model for the Peel Alluvium and conducting studies to inform review of access rules.

Recommendation 20 By 1 July 2022 amend the water sharing plans to:

- a) include definitions for groundwater terms, including connectivity, ecological value, potential and type. Connectivity should include both discharge of groundwater to surface water and surface water to groundwater systems.
- b) provide greater clarity regarding variability in surface water-groundwater interactions in the plans by including schedules and maps and acknowledge this in any trading rules. Make these publicly available to improve transparency.

Recommendation 21 By 1 July 2022:

- a) undertake targeted monitoring to assess the adequacy of access rules that link groundwater access in the Cockburn River Alluvium Management Zone and Goonoo Goonoo Creek Alluvium Management Zone to associated unregulated streams
- b) map areas of surface water recharge and discharge to alluvial and other shallow groundwater systems, dependent on climatic conditions and improve knowledge on the degree of groundwater – surface connections in the Plan area
- c) where applicable, link AWDs between surface water and alluvium to reflect connectivity of these water sources.

Finding Differing perspectives on the extent of surface-ground water connectivity in the Cockburn River have delayed implementation of groundwater access rules that link to surface water flows, potentially risking the health of these water sources and dependent ecosystems. DPIE-Water is currently undertaking a study to resolve this issue.

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Recommendation 22	Complete the current study of connectivity in the Cockburn River and report findings to stakeholders as soon as practical. Amend access rules based on the findings of this study and identify any areas that require further research or community consultation.
Finding	The Plan does not currently recognise the role and value of lateral and longitudinal connectivity, including connectivity in the Peel River and to the Namoi River. There is a need to formally recognise and support the management of river connectivity to improve ecological outcomes in the Peel and broader Namoi Valley. The Commission acknowledges that the draft <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2020</i> includes an ecological objective that recognises the importance of lateral and longitudinal connectivity. Recommendation 11 which seeks to improve the protection of environmental water, would support connectivity.
Recommendation 23	Commission studies to provide for lateral and longitudinal connectivity between the Peel and Namoi rivers and improve environmental outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) investigate end-of-system flow options and scenario modelling to improve connectivity with the Namoi River, implementing any plan amendments by 1 July 2022 b) identify complementary actions outside of the Plan (see Suggested action G) to facilitate connectivity by 1 July 2021, including improving fish passage through removal of barriers.
Suggested action C*	By 1 July 2022, examine the most effective way of protecting environmental water between regulated rivers (including Peel and Namoi) – expanding <i>Prerequisite Policy Measures from the Southern Basin</i> or the draft <i>Active Management Policy</i> .
Provide economic outcomes and trade opportunities	
Finding	The Plan provides for trade, but trading activities may have been limited by drought impacts on AWDs, high water prices and the high level of entitlement. Some stakeholders have expressed interest in reinstating intervalley trading between the Peel and Lower Namoi valleys, which was previously trialled but discontinued. While intervalley trading in some form could increase trade flexibility, conversion factors used in the trials may not align with <i>Basin Plan</i> requirements. Revised pricing structures may impact on attempts to increase trade flexibility, as water in the Peel is relatively expensive compared with other valleys in the Murray Darling Basin.
Suggested action D	By 31 December 2020, engage with Peel Valley stakeholders to outline the reasons behind the removal of temporary intervalley trading between the Peel Valley and the Lower Namoi, with findings made publicly available.
Finding	The draft <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel River Regulated Water Source 2020</i> includes an amendment provision (Clause 67(1)(d)) to allow conversion of high security licences in the regulated river system to access licences in connected upstream unregulated water sources. These water sources are already at risk of insufficient flows due to current access and have a high level of entitlement compared to their LTAAEL. Any future amendments under this clause may have unintended impacts, including on water dependent ecosystems and connectivity between unregulated and regulated systems.

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Recommendation 24	By 1 July 2020, publish guidance that the provision in the draft <i>Water Sharing Plan for the Peel Regulated River Water Source 2020</i> would only be implemented based on detailed modelling and assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits of proposed changes, and with broad stakeholder consultation.
Finding	Water restrictions during the Plan period have impacted industries and communities. These impacts are not currently considered in the Plan or its economic and social outcomes.
Recommendation 25	As part of the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i> and the environmental assessment, design and operation of the replacement Dungowan Dam, assess the full range of economic benefits and impacts of both the extraction of water and presence in-stream, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) benefits and impacts of secure water supply and time on water restrictions for town water supplies including residential and industrial uses b) benefits and impacts of flow and water quality on industries and water uses such as tourism, recreational fisheries, ecosystem services and community activities.
Improve Plan development and implementation	
Finding	Stakeholders are seeking improved engagement in Plan development, implementation and remakes; greater transparency in water allocation and management; and clear processes and oversight of the Plan. Further, it is critical that water sharing plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) have clear governance arrangements to provide accountability and clarity.
Suggested action E*	Continue to engage with the Stakeholder Advisory Panel and the broader community throughout Plan implementation and on subsequent water sharing plan reviews. In parallel, by 31 December 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the existing stakeholder engagement strategy and opportunities to align stakeholder engagement with the development and implementation of the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i> b) expand membership of the Stakeholder Advisory Panel to be more representative of stakeholder groups, including environmental interests, Aboriginal communities and a representative spread of industry c) establish and develop terms of reference for a Namoi-Peel Environmental Water Advisory Group, including the role of this group in enhancing stakeholder engagement and improving understanding and awareness of the value of water for the environment d) map out touchpoints for engaging with the community to ensure that stakeholders are regularly informed of key aspects of plan implementation and adaptive management e) develop explanatory material to improve understanding of Plan provisions and their implementation.

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Suggested action F*	By 1 July 2021, define and implement clear and consistent governance processes, roles and responsibilities, and timelines across the water sharing plans as part of the MER framework, adaptive management and stakeholder engagement activities (see Recommendation 27).
Finding	There are opportunities to improve Plan outcomes by taking a wider, integrated catchment management approach to support water sharing plan development and implementation. This will increase overall resilience at the landscape scale, which is particularly important as climate change places additional pressures on environmental, social and economic outcomes. Key issues include the impacts of cold water pollution, including the effectiveness of Chaffey Dam's multi-level offtake and the need to identify measures to mitigate the impacts of cold water pollution on aquatic biota.
Suggested action G*	By 1 July 2021, use the principles of integrated catchment management to consider risks and identify complementary measures in addition to Plan provisions that will help to meet Plan objectives and outcomes. Identify areas for collaboration or additional funding.
Finding	Stakeholders have called for more transparent rules and specific triggers within the Plan (rather than external policies and documents) to clearly and effectively manage the water sources under a wider range of climate conditions. This is to provide clarity around access priorities under different climatic scenarios and help licensees to manage their own risks under different circumstances. The Plan must account for the planned enlargement of Dungowan Dam and its impacts on the water sharing plan and its outcomes.
Recommendation 26	<p>By 1 July 2020, commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) investigate significant plan amendments due to the current drought works, proposed expansion of Dungowan Dam and recommendations from the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i>, by 1 July 2022 b) include triggers and rules for water sharing in a wider range of conditions, relating to water availability (in both Chaffey and Dungowan dams) using findings from the <i>Namoi Regional Water Strategy</i> by 1 July 2022. <p>To complement this, by 31 December 2020, publish the current method for the AWD calculations and basis of recommendations, and update this as required.</p>
Increase monitoring, evaluation and reporting	
Finding	<p>MER is a key component of adaptive management. The Plan lacks a plan-specific MER framework and there has been limited MER of performance indicators to date. As a result, it is difficult to determine whether the plan provisions have been providing intended outcomes.</p> <p>DPIE-Water has developed environmental MER plans for the Namoi groundwater and surface water resources that can be used to guide MER activities under the new water sharing plans. However, the Peel Valley is not represented in all metrics of the MER plans, meaning that some proposed monitoring activities may give limited information for reporting against objectives for Peel Valley water sources.</p>

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	<p>DPIE-Water also intends to develop MER frameworks for cultural and socioeconomic outcomes. The draft water sharing plans include improved and aligned objectives, strategies and performance indicators.</p> <p>Commitment to, and adequate resourcing of MER activities is critical to assessing the effectiveness of Plan provisions in achieving Plan objectives and adaptive management. New information generated during Plan implementation should support strategic adaptive management rather than waiting for Plan review. For example, the current study into the relationship between groundwater extraction and pools along the Cockburn River should inform adaptive management by 2022.</p>
Recommendation 27	<p>Define a MER framework for the replacement water sharing plans, supported by adequate resources and building on the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) strengthen, finalise and implement the <i>Namoi Surface Water Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan</i> and <i>NSW Groundwater Environmental Water Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan</i> following accreditation of water resource plans. b) by 31 December 2020, establish an interagency group to identify resourcing requirements, opportunities for collaboration across government agencies and use of technology to efficiently implement the MER plans c) develop NSW Murray-Darling Basin-wide cultural, social and economic MER plans by 1 July 2022 d) identify and address critical knowledge gaps including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) river blackfish distribution and abundance, and population trends ii) drought refugia persistence and condition iii) impacts of cold water pollution. e) allow for periodic assessment of knowledge gaps for adaptive management and inclusion in future water sharing plans reviews.
Finding	<p>Extraction in the unregulated river is unmetered and has not been monitored each year of the Plan. The Commission understands only about a third of licences in the unregulated rivers will be required to be metered under NSW's <i>Non-Urban Water Metering Policy</i>. It will be important to understand if the level of use associated with unmetered works may impact on connected water sources and to track the likelihood of activation of sleeper licences. Increasing monitoring of extraction would enable compliance with the LTAAEL to be tracked more effectively and potential risks identified.</p>
Recommendation 28	<p>By 1 July 2021 consider listing the Peel Unregulated River water sources as at-risk water sources, requiring metering of all licenced extraction. It will also be important to monitor active use and any growth during Plan implementation.</p>

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