

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

PARKS STRATEGY 2016



Contents

Executive Summary	4
Vision.....	4
Value of Parks	4
Current Provision.....	4
Conclusion.....	5
Strategic direction.....	5
Park acquisition.....	6
Land disposal.....	6
1.0 Context 8	
1.1 Purpose of the Parks Strategy	8
1.2 Methodology	8
1.3 How Parks Contribute to the Delivery of Community Outcomes	9
1.4 Vision and Planning Principals.....	10
1.5 Parks Purpose	10
1.6 The Local Government Act 1993	10
1.7 Asset Management Plan	11
1.8 Parks Covered by Strategy	12
1.9 Structure of Strategy	12
1.10 Future Provision and Development.....	13
2.0 Parks Categories and Levels of Service.....	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.2 Application of Levels of Service	16
2.3 Bushland Reserves.....	17
2.3.1 Description.....	17
2.3.2 Provision	18
2.3.3 Development Standards.....	19
2.4 Community Parks.....	22
2.4.1 Description.....	22
2.4.2 Provision	23
2.4.3 Development Standards.....	24
2.5 Linear Parks.....	27
2.5.1 Description.....	27
2.5.2 Provision	27
2.5.3 Development Standards.....	29
2.6 Premier Parks	30
2.6.1 Description.....	30
2.6.2 Provision	31
2.6.3 Development Standards.....	32
2.7 Sports Parks	34
2.7.1 Description.....	34
2.7.2 Provision	35
2.7.3 Development Standards.....	36
2.8 Network Design.....	38
2.8.1 Park Distribution.....	38
2.8.2 Playground Distribution	38
2.8.3 Park Character.....	38
2.9 Target Provision Levels of Service.....	39

3.0 Current Provision Analysis	41
3.1 Overall Shire Park Provision	41
3.1.1 Park Provision by Park Category	43
3.1.2 Overall Shire Park Provision Summary	44
3.2 Main Towns Park Provision.....	45
3.2.1 Bowral.....	45
3.2.2 Mittagong.....	45
3.2.3 Moss Vale	46
3.2.4 Township Summary and Recommendations	46
4.0 Appendices.....	50
4.1 Parks List	50
4.1.1 Bushland Reserves.....	50
4.1.2 Community Parks.....	51
4.1.3 Linear Parks.....	52
4.1.4 Premier Parks	53
4.1.5 Sports Parks	53
4.1.6 Special Purpose Sites.....	53
4.1.7 Leased Properties.....	53

Prepared by Xyst Australia Pty Ltd for Wingecarribee Shire Council, 2016

Authors:

- Jayson Kelly, Director, Xyst
- Reviewed by Chris Rutherford, Director, Xyst Client
- Peter Byrne, Parks Assets Co-ordinator, Wingecarribee Shire Council



Executive Summary

Vision

The needs of the community for parks and recreation opportunities are met through the provision of a hierarchy of parks based on the following objectives:

Provision of accessible outdoor sports grounds and facilities throughout the Shire, that cater for participation in active recreation pursuits

Provision of parks that provide for local play, passive recreation, walking/cycle linkages and general open space and urban beautification, within easy access of urban residents and visitors

Protection and enhancement of bushland areas, providing a valuable educational and recreational resource without compromising intrinsic conservation values

Value of Parks

Parks and open spaces improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, increase property values, provide refuges and habitat for biodiversity, help create a healthy ecosystem and make our towns and villages attractive places to live and work.

Parks are highly valued by the community and many of the Shire's best parks have significant history associated with them. Many of the parks are protected through legislation, their ownership status, and previous Council policies.

Current Provision

Council's parks network comprises a total of **3,036 hectares** of land, which equates to just over **68 hectares per 1,000 residents**.¹

Most of this area is Bushland Reserve, which has relatively low asset development and maintenance requirements. The area of actively maintained parkland (predominately urban parks) is substantially lower at a total of **299 hectares**, which equates to just under **7 ha/1,000 residents**.

The network is further broken into the following types of parks:

Park Category	Hectares	Ha per 1,000 Residents
Sports Parks	105.2	2.4
Community Parks	64.3	1.4
Linear Parks	127.4	2.9
Premier Parks	2.1	0.1
Bushland Reserves	2,736.9	61.6

¹ 2011 Census

Conclusion

Wingecaribbee Shire Council has a very high provision of Bushland Reserves, which significantly adds to the character of the area.

Sports Park provision is fairly typical of many Council areas.

While Linear Park provision is relatively high, and the future target provision higher again, having a continuous integrated network of cycle and walking trails through Linear Parks will work well with the abundance of natural areas. If promoted appropriately, this 'lifestyle' feature of the network will attract both weekend visitors from Sydney, and permanent residents wanting to experience the unique character of the Southern Highlands.

Further, having an increased provision of Linear Parks will help establish "green belts" around each of the three urban centres of Mittagong, Bowral, and Moss Vale, which will become particularly important in future years when urban development threatens to create one contiguous urban strip from Mittagong to Moss Vale.

Given the current population of Wingecaribbee Shire, there is a low provision of Premier Parks, and there is an opportunity to invest in a single main Premier Park with features and characteristics that could attract residents from all over the Shire, as well as visitors from outside of the region. Hand in hand with this is the Shire's unique cool climate plants, adding to the potential to establish a highly ornamental garden with exotic plants not generally seen in most Australian public or private gardens.

Strategic direction

The following are the target levels of service for planning future land provision of parks in Wingecaribbee Shire. They have provided a base guideline for:

- Calculating and determining park provision in growth areas
- Providing indicators for long term planning purposes
- Supporting actions to fill significant gaps in levels of service
- Maintaining provision levels of service consistent with national benchmarks and good practice

Category	Wingecaribbee Shire Level of Service Target Ha/1,000 Residents	Change
Active Recreation		
Sports Parks	2.4 Hectares/1,000 residents	No change
Sub-Total	2.4/1,000 residents	
Passive Recreation		
Community Parks	1.0 Hectare/1,000 residents	Decrease
Linear Parks	4.0 Hectares/1,000 residents	Increase
Premier Parks	0.4 Hectares/1,000 residents	Increase
Sub-Total	5.4 Hectares/1,000 residents	
Conservation		
Bushland Reserves	No Target	-

No provision targets have been set for Bushland Reserves. The Shire is already extremely well endowed with Bushland Reserves, and no new Bushland Reserves should be acquired unless they have outstanding natural, cultural or scenic values.

Extensions to existing bushland reserves through the acquisition of additional parcels can be considered if they:

- a) Are already earmarked for acquisition under Council's section 94 plan; or
- b) Assist in consolidation of existing bushland reserves without creating a significant additional financial burden on Council to manage.

Park acquisition

It is recommended that Council actively look to acquire Linear Parks, to form an integrated walking and cycling network.

Council should also consider investing in Lake Alexandra as a Premier Park. While Council will need to invest capital (and operating) funding to bring Lake Alexander up to the required standard, it will help address both the oversupply of Community Parks (which Lake Alexandra currently is categorised as) and increase the relative under provision of Premier Parks. Some existing Premier Parks could be downgraded to a lower level of service to help make developing and maintaining Lake Alexandra affordable.

Land disposal

No parks were identified for disposal as a part of the development of this strategy.

When considering park land for disposal, Council should take guidance from the provision levels of service defined in this strategy.

As a general rule, caution should be exercised when considering disposal of parks within the urban fringe – once lost, these open spaces are rarely replaced. As population grows, these parks become more critical to the community.

Parks (excluding bushland reserves) located on the peri-urban fringe, however, can be replaced as population grows through the development contribution process.

SECTION 1:

CONTEXT



1.0 Context

1.1 Purpose of the Parks Strategy

Wingecarribee Shire Council has developed this Parks Strategy as a high level document to:

- Identify existing land resources
- Identify the need for additional park land to meet future demographic changes
- Set levels of service
- Support requirements for developer contributions
- Identify areas for special purpose recreational activities eg: off leash dog parks

The Parks Strategy is not a statutory document, but will be used to advise other plans and strategies that the Council is required to develop, such as the Council's Parks Asset Management Plan, Plans of Management etc.

The strategy has also collated information available about the quantity of park land.

The Parks Strategy is a vision for parks in Wingecarribee Shire that, while not binding, provides guidance for Council's future provision, development and maintenance of park land.

The methodology is based on an analysis of current provision, future population growth needs and the determination of appropriate levels of service for the provision, development and maintenance of the parks network.

The Parks Strategy will be used to:

- Provide an overall framework for park management plans to be prepared
- Provide general development standard guidelines for each park category
- Analyse current and future demand for parks
- Identify current deficiencies and future needs for each type of park category
- Provide the context and framework for development contribution requirements
- Establish provision and development levels of service for each park category
- Articulate a vision for the future look and feel of the parks network

It is intended to cover a planning period of ten years (to 2026), with a review to reflect actual growth and community needs/expectations in five years (2021).

1.2 Methodology

The strategy is based on two main components:

- i) Categorisation and levels of service

Categorising the parks into five categories and then defining the desired levels of service that the council will aim to deliver in relation to the quantity, distribution and quality of parks and associated services and facilities.

To effectively define the levels of service to ensure that all aspects are covered, the framework is structured into three areas:

Provision – Deals with the number, location, accessibility, size and type of parks provided. Provision levels of service drive park land acquisition and disposal strategies, as well as inform development guidelines for developers.

Development – The degree to which parks are developed, what facilities and assets are provided and to what standard. Development levels of service drive new capital programs, depreciation schedules, renewal capital programs and inform development guidelines for developers.

- Operations** – The standard to which parks and facilities are maintained and operated e.g. grass mowing, weed control, bin servicing (service standard or specification).
- ii) Assessment of current provision

An analysis of the Shire's existing provision has been undertaken and compared against national benchmarks to assess the adequacy of current provision. This involves identifying the areas of land that Wingecarribee Shire actually manages as parks, and compiling a schedule of these areas, together with applying the appropriate category and level of service.

Following the adoption of the Parks Strategy, it is intended that the next stage is the development of an Implementation Plan. This will involve the detailed assessment of current parks levels of development against the levels of service, and identification of a works program to address any variations from the desired level of service to ensure the standard of parks is consistent across the Shire, and appropriate for the category of park and its principle purpose.

1.3 How Parks Contribute to the Delivery of Community Outcomes

Parks provision is an essential component of achieving the well-being of the community as identified in Council's Annual Report. Specific outcomes and how parks contribute include:

PEOPLE - a vibrant and diverse community living harmoniously, supported by innovative services and effective communication within council

- Parks, sports fields, playgrounds and walkways are important venues for encouraging recreation pursuits and healthy living
- Parks provide meeting places for the community to socialise and integrate

PLACES - Places that are safe, maintained, accessible, sympathetic to the built and natural environment, that support the needs of the community

- Parks contribute significantly to the Shire's landscape, mitigating the adverse visual effects of urban development
- Parks are well maintained, and distributed through the Shire
- Parks contribute to the perception about a community and its general appearance

ENVIRONMENT – A community that values and protects the natural environment enhancing its health and diversity

- Parks provide "green lungs" and help protect waterways and indigenous bio-diversity
- Bushland Reserves conserve large tracts of land

ECONOMY – A strong economy that encourages and provides employment, business opportunities and tourism

- Parks, lakes and river margins and sports facilities are an important component in enhancing property values and attracting residents, businesses, events and visitors to the Shire

1.4 Vision and Planning Principals

The following specific vision for parks provision in Wingecarribee Shire has been developed for this strategy.

The needs of the community for parks and recreation opportunities are met through the provision of a network of quality parks based on the following objectives:

- Provision of accessible outdoor sports grounds and facilities at major townships throughout the Shire, to provide for participation in active recreation pursuits
- Provision of parks that provide for local play, passive recreation, walking/cycle linkages and general open space and urban beautification within easy access of urban residential properties
- Protection and enhancement of the environment, which also provide a valuable educational and recreational resource without compromising their conservation value.

1.5 Parks Purpose

Parks, recreational facilities and open space improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, provide refuges and habitat for biodiversity, help create a healthy ecosystem and make our towns and neighbourhoods more attractive places to live and work.

Parks are highly valued by the community and many of the Shire's major parks have significant history associated with them. Many of the parks are protected through legislation, their ownership status and previous Council policies.

1.6 The Local Government Act 1993

The Local Government Act 1993 is the principal guiding legislation for the management of community land/parks.

SECTION 36F - Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are:

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

SECTION 36G - Core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are:

- (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and
- (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and
- (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

SECTION 36J - Core objectives for management of community land categorised as bushland

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as Natural Area - bushland are:

- (a) to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and

- (b) to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and
- (c) to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and
- (d) to restore degraded bushland, and
- (e) to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and
- (f) to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and
- (g) to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

SECTION 47E - Development of community land

- (1) No power of a council under an environmental planning instrument to consent to the carrying out of development on community land may be delegated by the council, if:
 - (a) the development involves the erection, rebuilding or replacement of a building (other than a building exempted by or under subsection (2) from the operation of this paragraph), or
 - (b) the development involves extensions to an existing building that would occupy more than 10 per cent of its existing area, or
 - (c) the development involves intensification, by more than 10 per cent, of the use of the land or any building on the land, or
 - (d) the location of the development has not been specified in the plan of management applying to the land and the development is likely, in the opinion of the council, to be unduly intrusive to nearby residents.
- (2) The following buildings are exempt from the operation of subsection (1) (a):
 - (a) toilet facilities,
 - (b) small refreshment kiosks,
 - (c) shelters for persons from the sun and weather,
 - (d) picnic facilities,
 - (e) structures (other than accommodations for spectators) required for the playing of games or sports,
 - (f) playground structures,
 - (g) work sheds or storage sheds,
 - (h) buildings of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

1.7 Asset Management Plan

The parks land asset is the fundamental building block for the delivery of parks and recreation services. Therefore, an accurate knowledge of the land asset, organised into practical groupings, is essential to enable good asset management planning and provision.

The Parks Strategy provides a structure for grouping of parks into practical groupings (categories) and updates the land ownership knowledge to provide an accurate land asset register which can be more easily kept up to date in the future. This exercise enables easier and more consistent reporting about the land provided.

The categories provide a basis for developing clear levels of service associated with the purpose of the park land. The Parks Strategy provides an outline of the levels of service to be provided with each land category adopted.

Financial budgets should be structured to match the categories in this strategy, so that any changes to budget or levels of service can enable costs to be directly linked.

The strategy identifies future likely park requirements (surplus/additions), which can be used in turn to identify new capital programs, depreciation schedules and to project changes in operating costs associated with additional park land acquisition.

Future revisions of the Parks Asset Management Plan will need to be based on, and directly linked to, the Parks Strategy.

1.8 Parks Covered by Strategy

The Parks Strategy covers all land that is owned or administered by the Wingecarribee Shire Council as a part of the parks network.

The definition of parks land for the purpose of this strategy only includes land that is publicly accessible for general recreation use and natural/conservation areas. It excludes areas leased or used for specific purposes such as golf courses and pony clubs, as these areas are unlikely to ever be available for general parks use. Also, inclusion of large areas such as golf courses distorts park provision comparison analysis. It also does not include areas that may be maintained as part of the parks activity, that are not required as park. Such areas include roadsides, nature strips, utility sites and drainage areas.

Other land, e.g. schools, may provide some open space values and public recreation access, but access to and provision of these areas is not guaranteed, and these areas are not included in park provision calculations.

Historically, parks have been acquired in a variety of ways for a wide range of purposes. Much of it was originally acquired by government. In more recent times, parks are most commonly provided through subdivisional development. In some cases, council will buy land directly for specific purposes. Parks are also occasionally acquired through gifting by private owners wishing to protect valued ecological areas or for other altruistic reasons.

1.9 Structure of Strategy

All parks in the Shire have been placed into one of the following park categories:

- Bushland Reserve
- Community Park
- Linear Park
- Premier Park
- Sports Park
- Special Purpose²

In addition to the parks categories, three development levels of service are also identified.

Level of Service 1: This category of park has the highest level of asset provision, using quality materials and designs.

Level of Service 2: This category of park has a moderate level of asset provision, using robust materials and quality designs.

Level of Service 3: This category of park has the lowest level of asset provision, using robust materials and simple designs.

Note that some park categories will have all three levels of service applied, while others may only have a single, or a couple of levels of service applicable to them.

² Special Purpose Parks are excluded from this strategy.

1.10 Future Provision and Development

The specific location and development of future parks, as a result of growth, will be identified through planning work in line with the framework and standards identified in this strategy. In the absence of structure maps, assessments of individual subdivision proposals will be assessed in line with this strategy and taking into account the existing provision of parks in the surrounding area.

The development of individual parks will be identified through Park Management Plans or other planning processes, and will align with the development levels of service provided in this strategy.



SECTION 2:

PARK CATEGORIES AND LEVELS OF SERVICE



2.0 Parks Categories and Levels of Service

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of levels of service is to define what it is that Wingecarribee Shire Council is striving to deliver for its park visitors and wider community. For example:

- How accessible will parks be?
- What standard of park is to be provided?
- What service and facilities can a park visitor expect?

From these levels of service, we then have the ability to objectively and effectively measure our performance.

Levels of service drive everything we do as an organisation: planning, development and delivery. We have therefore applied a framework that comprehensively covers the range of parks and services involved, from planning through to delivery.

The parks levels of service framework covers the three areas that impact on the services delivered and the customer's experience. These are:

- **Provision** – Deals with the number, location, accessibility, size and type of parks provided. Provision levels of service drive park land acquisition and disposal strategies, as well as inform development guidelines for developers.
- **Development** – The degree to which parks are developed, what facilities and assets are provided and to what standard. Development levels of service drive new capital Programs, depreciation schedules, renewal capital Programs and inform development guidelines for developers.
- **Operation** – The standard to which parks and facilities are maintained and operated e.g. grass mowing, weed control, bin servicing (service standard or specification).

Function	Purpose
Set minimum standards for parks provided as part of subdivisional development.	To ensure park land and assets are provided to meet a standard that is fit for the intended purpose.
Set maximum standards for parks provided as part of subdivisional development.	To ensure assets are not provided at a significantly higher standard or quantity than has been agreed as appropriate and sustainable (affordable).
Plan future park land requirements in terms of purpose, location, distribution and size.	To provide a planning tool to calculate and identify future park land requirements, and possible disposals.
Guide the preparation of park management plans, based on park categories.	To provide a consistent and strategic framework for the development and management of parks across the Shire.
Inform the community about the standard of park development and service they can expect.	To provide a consistent guide on facility and asset development and the maintenance standards for parks service delivery.

Inform the community and council about what developments and assets are appropriate for a given park category.	To provide a consistent guide to manage responses for development of individual services and facilities.
Establish meaningful key performance indicators of performance.	To provide a framework upon which to monitor and report on the success of Council in delivering the agreed levels of service.
Standardise and rationalise the quality and provision of assets and services across the parks network.	To provide equity of development and servicing across the community, and to assist with making decisions about increasing or decreasing levels of service in response to financial changes.

For the effective implementation of levels of service for parks we use park categories to organise and manage parks services..

The parks category structure provides the framework to describe our levels of service and provides the link for all the functions and tasks involved in the delivery of a parks service.

2.2 Application of Levels of Service

The parks categories and levels of service will be used in the following ways:

Level of Service	Bushland Reserve	Community Park	Linear Park	Premier Park	Sports Park
	Often large areas, but sometimes just small pocket sized parcels of land, Bushland Reserves are managed for their environmental and ecological values.	Used for a range of informal recreation activities particularly children's play and family based activities.	Long, narrow parks, often associated with waterways, that predominately cater for walking and cycling activities.	A unique site with many values, features and facilities that attract large numbers of people to use it.	Larger sites used for organised sport and competition play.
1	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

2.3 Bushland Reserves



2.3.1 Description

The primary purpose of Bushland Reserves is to provide opportunities for people to experience, or protect, the natural environment and to provide habitat for flora and fauna. Typically, areas of indigenous bush, escarpments or other natural landscapes are considered Bushland Reserves. They may include walking tracks, low impact recreational activities, picnic areas and facilities to support and service these activities.

The values and attributes of Bushland Reserves include:

- Low impact recreation activity
- Intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems
- Unique, significant or threatened indigenous flora and fauna
- Outstanding natural features and landscapes including geological features

Examples include Mount Gibraltar Reserve, River Bend Reserve and Goanna Falls.

2.3.2 Provision

Bushland Reserves contain natural features that are being restored or conserved. They can significantly add to open space and visual landscape values.

Some sites may have been acquired and managed as Bushland Reserves that do not have existing strong values, but where their management as areas of native vegetation is considered the most appropriate land use.

Bushland Reserves can be quite large.

For planning purposes no minimum size is identified, although it is desired that sites will be no smaller than 1 hectare (urban areas), and 10 hectares (rural areas).

Land may be located anywhere in the Shire where a site has specific values that warrants its acquisition. The values identified in 2.3.1 will be used to assess value for acquisition and classification as a Bushland Reserve.

No target for acquisition has been set, as generally the Shire is very well provided with Bushland Reserves. Only the best sites should be considered for acquisition as a new Bushland Reserve. Extensions to existing bushland reserves through the acquisition of additional parcels can be considered if they:

- a) Are already earmarked for acquisition under Council's section 94 plan; or
- b) Assist in consolidation of existing bushland reserves without creating a significant additional financial burden on Council to manage.

2.3.3 Development Standards

A low level of development is envisaged for Bushland Reserves with the objective being to provide a “natural” outdoor experience. Development will be limited to low impact activities such as walking. Higher use sites may require ancillary visitor facilities such as car parking, signage and toilets.

Level of Service 1

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads	Access roads only permitted to gain access to natural features on the site where this can be achieved without compromising any ecological values of the site - sealed surface only	✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs	2 BBQ's per site	
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor	Architecturally design using high quality materials	
Car Parking Onsite	Permitted - sealed only	
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	High quality sign on main entrance, standard quality signs on other entrances	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Rural style fencing only.	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using high quality materials	
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs	Permitted where appropriate, using high quality materials	
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Permitted where appropriate. Sealed paths within and immediately adjacent to other infrastructure, otherwise gravel.	
Playgrounds		✗
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets	1 unisex facility	
Rubbish bins	Up to 4 bins in association with picnic facilities	
Seats	High quality, only in association with picnic facilities	
Shelters	High quality, only in association with picnic facilities	
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting	High quality, only in association with picnic facilities	
Trees		✗
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms	Permitted where appropriate. High quality materials	
Water Body	Natural water features only	
Water Points	1 water point in association with picnic facilities	

BUSHLAND RESERVES

Level of Service 2

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads		✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite	Permitted where appropriate - unsealed only	
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance only	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Rural style fencing only.	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Permitted where appropriate. Un-sealed only	
Playgrounds		✗
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets		✗
Rubbish bins		✗
Seats		✗
Shelters		✗
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting		✗
Trees		✗
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms	Permitted where appropriate. Standard quality materials	
Water Body	Natural water features only	
Water Points		✗

BUSHLAND RESERVES

Level of Service 3

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads		✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance only	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Rural style fencing only	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs	Permitted only for interpretation of unique or local very significant values in the park, using standard quality materials.	
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Permitted where appropriate. Un-sealed only	
Playgrounds		✗
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets		✗
Rubbish bins		✗
Seats		✗
Shelters		✗
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting		✗
Trees		✗
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms	Permitted where appropriate. Standard quality materials	
Water Body	Natural water features only	
Water Points		✗

2.4 Community Parks



2.4.1 Description

A developed urban park designed for passive recreation use by the community. There can be a wide range of sizes for Community Parks, from small local parks to larger parks designed as hubs for the wider community.

The Community Park should be easily accessible, with at least one road frontage along the entire length of one side of the park, and ideally from more than one road frontage. The Community Park will be; well maintained, be free draining, have flat or gently undulating grassed areas, be safe and provide an attractive welcoming ambience.

Community Parks are provided to “fill in” any gaps in the parks network to provide full distribution and access to parkland in urban residential areas.

Community Parks should provide an open grass area suitable for small-scale ball play, children’s play equipment, seating, paths and attractive tree planting. Larger parks may accommodate small community buildings and small-scale informal sports facilities such as basketball half courts and hit up walls.

Examples include Seymour Park, Acacia Park and Colo Street Park.

2.4.2 Provision

The level of service target is to provide access to an open space park area within a 10 minute walk of any residential property in urban areas. This means parks should be distributed so that there is no greater distance than 800 metres from an urban residential property to a park. Other parks, for example Sports and Premier Parks, may also meet this need and duplication is not necessary.

Community Parks should have at least 50% of their area comprising usable flat land.

Level of Service 1 Community Parks will generally attract visitors shire wide. They should be relatively large and ideally be between 1 and 5 hectares in size.

Level of Service 2 Community Parks will generally attract visitors from the adjacent town or village and should be between 1 and 2 hectares in size.

Level of Service 3 Community Parks attract visitors within surrounding neighbourhoods and should be a minimum of 2,000m² with a preferred provision of up to 5,000m².

These sizes are larger than many existing or traditional community parks, but it allows for a reasonable mix of activities including a large ball play space, basketball half court, playgrounds (both junior and senior), gardens and “quiet” spaces. It is also important to be able to provide a reasonable separation for adjoining residential properties from the active/noisy activities.

As well as an open frontage, Community Parks should ideally have pedestrian/cycle access to other streets, to maximise linkages to as many parts of the Community as possible.

Suitable land for Community Parks will generally be acquired at the time of planning new subdivisions.



COMMUNITY PARKS

2.4.3 Development Standards

The aim is to provide an attractive area for children's play, relaxation and to enhance the local amenity value. Smaller local parks will have a small amount of development, but larger Community Parks catering for larger groups and families may be relatively highly developed.

Level of Service 1

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads		✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs	2 BBQ's per site	
Bike Racks	Standard quality where appropriate	
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area	Permitted where appropriate. Associated infrastructure to be determined on a case by case basis	
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance only	
Exercise Equipment	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fencing and Barriers	Urban fencing only	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fountains	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs		✗
Irrigation - Turf	Feature turf only	
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power	Permitted where appropriate	
Paths	Permitted where appropriate - sealed only	
Playgrounds	High quality, large playground - on sites larger than 1 hectare. No artificial shade structures over playgrounds except at Lake Alexandra only	
Public Art	Permitted where appropriate	
Public Toilets	1 unisex facility	
Rubbish bins	Standard quality bin at 1 bin per 5,000 m2, up to a maximum of 5 bins per site	
Seats	Standard quality seat at 1 seat per 1,500 m2, up to a maximum of 8 seats per site	
Shelters	Permitted where appropriate. High quality ornamental design. Size of shelter to match scale of park	
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting	High quality picnic setting, where appropriate. To a maximum of 6 settings per site pending patronage	
Trees	Minimum of 25% of site covered by tree canopy	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms	Permitted where appropriate. High quality materials	
Water Body	Natural water features only	
Water Points	Where appropriate, in association with BBQ's	

COMMUNITY PARKS

Level of Service 2

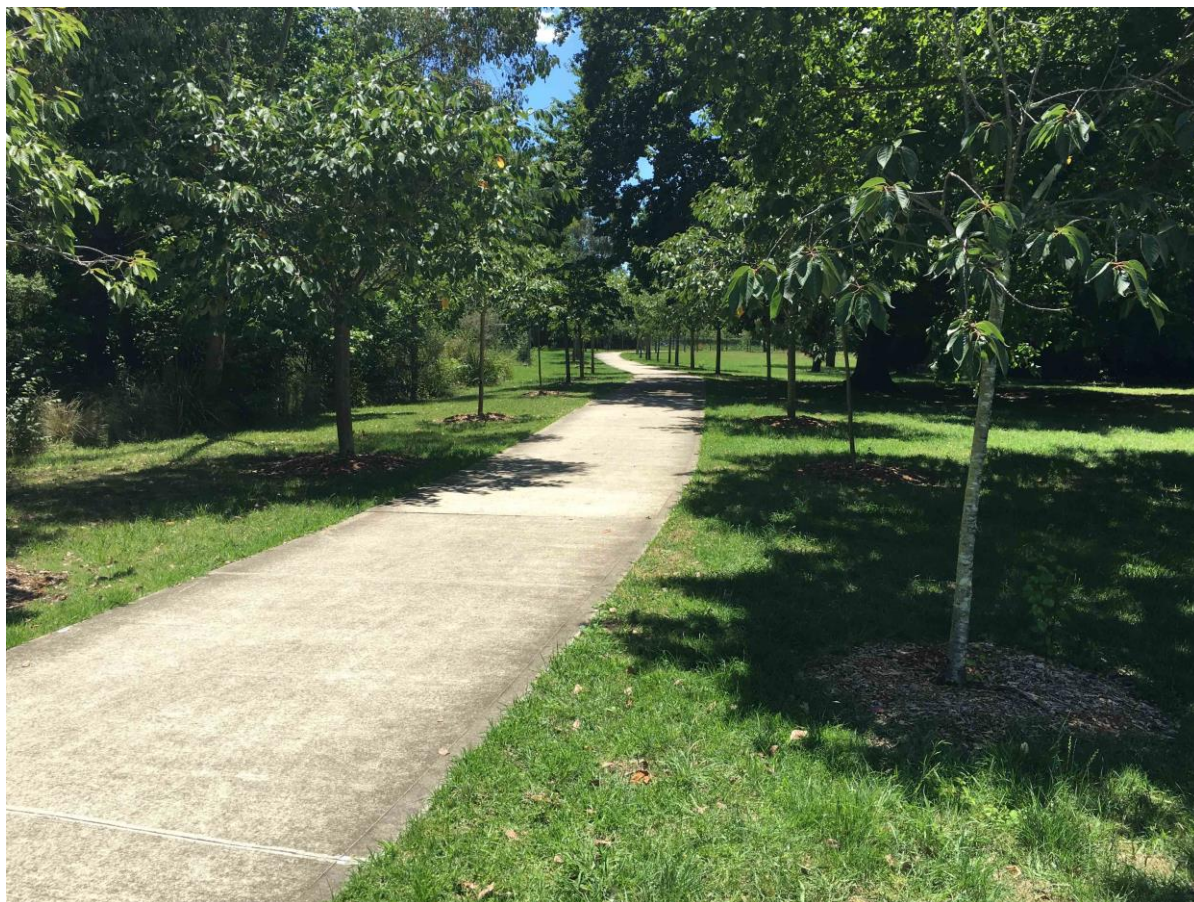
Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads		✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area	Permitted where appropriate, Associated infrastructure to be determined on a case by case basis	
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance only	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Urban fencing only	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs		✗
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Permitted where appropriate - sealed only	
Playgrounds	Standard quality, medium playground - on sites larger than 1 hectare. No artificial shade structures over playgrounds. Provided where no other playground is within 800m	
Public Art	Permitted where appropriate	
Public Toilets		✗
Rubbish bins	Standard quality bin at 1 bin per hectare, up to a maximum of 5 bins per site	
Seats	Standard quality seat at 1 seat per 5,000 m2, up to a maximum of 6 seats per site	
Shelters		✗
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting	One standard quality picnic setting, where appropriate. To a maximum of 4 settings per site pending patronage	
Trees	Minimum of 25% of site covered by tree canopy	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms		✗
Water Body	Natural water features only	
Water Points		✗

COMMUNITY PARKS

Level of Service 3

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads		✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance only	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Urban fencing only	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs		✗
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Permitted where appropriate - unsealed only	
Playgrounds	Standard quality, small playground. No artificial shade structures over playgrounds. Provided where no other playground is within 800m	
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets		✗
Rubbish bins		✗
Seats	Standard quality seat at 1 seat per hectare, up to a maximum of 2 seats per site	
Shelters		✗
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting	One standard quality picnic setting, where appropriate. To a maximum of 2 settings per site pending patronage	
Trees	Minimum of 25% of site covered by tree canopy	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms		✗
Water Body	Natural water features only	☐
Water Points		✗

2.5 Linear Parks



2.5.1 Description

Linear Parks are typically long and narrow, often associated with watercourses, and almost always incorporating a walking or cycling path.

Generally, Linear Parks will have a low level of development, except where usage and demand warrants it. This may include formalising accessways, tracks, park furniture and signage.

Examples include Bowral Bike Track, Cherry Tree Walk, and Rivulet Park.

2.5.2 Provision

Linear Parks can be land that need not be fully accessible, but ideally they should have road access at both ends, and ideally also along the length of the park.

Minimum parcel size of land is not a specific requirement, but in general terms they should be wider than 10m, or wider where a river course is involved to allow for access for maintenance.

Location of Linear Parks will generally be related to geographic features and dispersed throughout the urban areas of the Shire providing corridors of “green”, possibly linking parks via walkway systems.

LINEAR PARKS

The following criteria should be applied when considering acquisition:

- Creates effective linkage between existing parks or access points
- Protects waterways
- Creates future opportunity for linkages to be created
- Is located in an area that will provide value in terms of walking and cycling
- Offers opportunity to add value to other Linear Parks, by creating a semi or continuous track network

On a shirewide basis, an increase in the level of provision of linear parks is proposed.

Where a new linear park is created along a watercourse, it is essential that additional funding accompanies the establishment of the park to ensure that stream stability and weeds can be managed

LINEAR PARKS

2.5.3 Development Standards

Level of Service 2

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads		✗
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality entrance sign at main entrances	
Exercise Equipment	Permissible where appropriate. Located in one area	
Fencing and Barriers	Urban or rural style depending on location	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Permitted where appropriate, using standard quality materials	
Fountains		✗
Gardens	Revegetation garden beds only. Where appropriate	
Interpretive Signs		✗
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Sealed urban paths, unsealed rural paths	
Playgrounds		✗
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets		✗
Rubbish bins		✗
Seats	Seat per 800m on sites over 1 hectare in size	
Shelters		✗
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting		✗
Trees	Minimum of 25% of site covered by tree canopy	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms		✗
Water Body	Natural water features only	☐
Water Points		✗

2.6 Premier Parks



2.6.1 Description

Premier Parks include parks that are of significance to the Shire, often with an emphasis on horticultural displays.

The primary focus for Premier Parks is to create a place of beauty and tranquility through high quality horticultural design and maintenance and other features as appropriate to the park's character. They also may contain heritage values. Acquisition could be a result of gifting of large privately developed gardens, or through deliberate acquisition and design.

Premier Parks will generally exhibit one or more of the following values and attributes:

- Peace and tranquility
- Horticultural excellence and diversity
- Tourist destination
- Particular unique feature or character
- Historic, artistic or cultural values
- Horticultural and/or environmental education.

Premier Parks will be developed and maintained to the highest standard.

Examples include Corbett Gardens, Leighton Gardens and Winifred West Park.

2.6.2 Provision

Creation/acquisition of additional Premier Parks will be based on the opportunity to acquire or develop an existing site that has specific special characteristics that warrant its acquisition or development. Any site identified will then need to be developed to a high standard to ensure that the benefits from the acquisition are maximised.

Generally there will be one main Premier Park, and sometimes a small number of lesser parks located in different urban centres.

For planning purposes, it is expected sites will be no smaller than 1 hectare, and as large as 20 hectares.



2.6.3 Development Standards

Facilities and amenities provided to a high standard as appropriate to its purpose, that clearly identifies that these parks are of a “special” high value.

Level of Service 1

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads	Where appropriate. Kept to a minimum. Sealed	
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks	High quality, where appropriate	
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings	Where appropriate. High quality visitor pavilion, architecturally designed	
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage	Permitted in all areas, where appropriate	
Drinking Fountains	High quality drinking fountain at 1 unit per 2.5 hectares of park land	
Entrance Sign	High quality, ornamental and decorative entrance sign. High quality signs at other entrances	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Where appropriate. High quality and ornamental	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Where appropriate. High quality, ornamental and decorative	
Fountains	Where appropriate. High quality, ornamental and decorative	
Gardens	High quality shrub, perennial and annual gardens	
Interpretive Signs	Where appropriate. High quality	
Irrigation - Turf	Permitted in all areas, where appropriate	
Lighting	Where appropriate. High quality, ornamental and functional lighting	
Public Use Mains Power	Where appropriate. 3-phase	
Paths	Where appropriate. Kept to a minimum. High quality surface appropriate for setting	
Playgrounds		✗
Public Art	Where appropriate. High quality art installations	
Public Toilets	Where appropriate. Minimum of 1 high quality toilet facility per site	
Rubbish bins	High quality, ornamental bins at no more than 1.5 units per hectare, only on main thoroughfares and meeting points	
Seats	High quality, ornamental seats where appropriate, associated with meeting points and vistas	
Shelters	Where appropriate. Located near suitable vistas and congregation points. High quality, ornamental and decorative	
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices	Permitted where appropriate	
Picnic Setting	High quality, ornamental, and associated with congregation points and vistas	
Trees	Minimum of 25% of site covered by tree canopy	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms	Where appropriate. High quality and ornamental	
Water Body	Where appropriate as a part of the landscape design - formal and/or informal	
Water Points		✗

PREMIER PARKS

Level of Service 2

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads	Where appropriate. Kept to a minimum. Sealed	
Ancillary Sports Structures		✗
Artificial Cricket Strip		✗
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks		✗
Buildings - Community		✗
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite		✗
Dog Exercise Area		✗
Drainage	Permitted in all areas, where appropriate	
Drinking Fountains	High quality drinking fountain at 1 unit per 2.5 hectares of park land	
Entrance Sign	High quality entrance sign. Standard quality signs at other entrances	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Where appropriate. High quality	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges	Where appropriate. High quality	
Fountains		✗
Gardens	High quality shrub and annual gardens	
Interpretive Signs	Where appropriate. High quality	
Irrigation - Turf	Permitted in all areas, where appropriate	
Lighting	Where appropriate. High quality, ornamental and functional lighting	
Public Use Mains Power	Where appropriate. 3-phase	
Paths	Where appropriate. Kept to a minimum. High quality surface appropriate for setting	
Playgrounds	Where appropriate. Large to medium size, high quality playgrounds	
Public Art	Where appropriate. High quality art installations	
Public Toilets	Where appropriate. Minimum of 1 high quality toilet facility per site, providing no other public toilet within 800m	
Rubbish bins	High quality bins at no more than 1.5 units per hectare, only on main thoroughfares and meeting points	
Seats	High quality seats where appropriate, associated with playgrounds, meeting points and vistas	
Shelters	Where appropriate. Located near suitable vistas and congregation points. High quality materials and construction	
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices	Permitted where appropriate	
Picnic Setting	High quality, and associated with congregation points and playgrounds	
Trees	Minimum of 25% of site covered by tree canopy	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms	Where appropriate. High quality materials and construction	
Water Body		✗
Water Points		✗

2.7 Sports Parks



2.7.1 Description

Sports Parks are designed and used for both organised sport and informal recreation, and are often multi use, providing for a range of community activities and facilities, particularly in smaller townships.

They are likely to have formally maintained sports turf for a mixture of winter and/or summer sport. The sports turf areas are maintained to an appropriate standard for the sports code use. It may accommodate hard court and built recreation facilities.

Toilets, sports training lights, changing facilities and car parking are likely to be available and some may have resident club facilities.

Some parks may have recreation facilities such as playgrounds, and other facilities serving a local community function, creating a multi purpose park with a wide range of activities occurring. Some parks may be entirely leased for sports or recreation activity.

Examples include Eridge Park, Ferndale Reserve and Bill O'Reilly Oval.

2.7.2 Provision

Sports Parks are located throughout the Shire, based in both smaller communities that have a multipurpose park as their hub e.g. Exeter Oval, and also on large sites in the larger towns of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale. They are designed to meet local community needs for sports fields and facilities. Access to more specialised facilities and higher levels of competition are generally provided in large urban centres such as Wollongong and Sydney.

Sports Parks should be of a size that accommodates at least two full size winter fields (approximate dimension 130m x 80m each, equal to approximately one hectare per winter field) and also provide suitable land for on-site car parking, facility development and an off-field training ground.

This equates to a minimum parcel of land of five hectares and up to 15 hectares to cater for multi-use activities where a centralised sports hub is created.

Planning for relatively large areas of land for future Sports Parks will enable multi-use activity to cater for a number of sports and recreation activities.

Land provided will need to be flat, be well-drained, on good quality soils.

They will be located centrally to the community, with good road access and visibility. They will ideally be located adjacent to, or near schools, to encourage opportunities for shared facilities and use.



SPORTS PARKS

2.7.3 Development Standards

Development requirements for Sports Parks are primarily driven by the needs of the particular sport and recreation activities planned for the park, together with enhancing the amenity of the area through tree planting and allowing for casual use.

Level of Service 2

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads	Access roads permitted where appropriate - sealed	
Ancillary Sports Structures	Permitted to meet requirements of code. Standard quality materials and design	
Artificial Cricket Strip	Use of artificial cricket blocks/strips permitted. Where more than one field exists, cricket strips shall be located in-between fields	
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks	Standard quality, where appropriate	
BMX Tracks	Permitted where demand supports development of BMX track	
Buildings - Community	Community buildings permitted to support club activity	
Car Parking Onsite	Car parking permitted where appropriate - sealed	
Dog Exercise Area	Permitted where appropriate. Usually on a time restricted basis	
Drainage	Field drainage on No. 1 field only, where appropriate	
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance, standard quality signs on other entrances	
Exercise Equipment	Where appropriate	
Fencing and Barriers	Urban and rural fencing only	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges		✗
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs		✗
Irrigation - Turf	Irrigate no. 1 field	
Lighting	Lighting on dedicated practice fields, and on sports parks with only one multi use field	
Public Use Mains Power	Where appropriate	
Paths	Where appropriate - sealed, and around the perimeter of sports park only	
Playgrounds	Standard quality, medium playground - on sites larger than 1 hectare. No artificial shade structures over playgrounds. Only provided where no other playground is within 800m	
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets	Where appropriate - where no other public toilets are within 800m	
Rubbish bins		✗
Seats	Standard quality seat at 2 seats per playing field, up to a maximum of 6 seats per site	
Shelters	Where appropriate up to a maximum of 2 per site	
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices	Where appropriate, and where no sports field infrastructure (drainage, irrigation or light) exists	
Picnic Setting	Standard quality picnic setting, where appropriate. To a maximum of 2 settings per site pending patronage	
Trees	Around perimeter of sports parks only. Maximise shade where possible	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms		✗
Water Body		✗
Water Pints		✗

SPORTS PARKS

Level of Service 3

Asset	Include	Exclude
Access Roads	Access roads permitted where appropriate - unsealed	
Ancillary Sports Structures	Permitted to meet requirements of code. Standard quality materials and design	
Artificial Cricket Strip	Use of artificial cricket blocks/strips permitted. Where more than one field exists, cricket strips shall be located in-between fields	
BBQs		✗
Bike Racks		✗
BMX Tracks	Permitted where demand supports development of BMX track	
Buildings - Community	Community buildings permitted to support club activity	
Buildings - Visitor		✗
Car Parking Onsite	Car parking permitted where appropriate - unsealed	
Dog Exercise Area	Permitted where appropriate. Usually on a time restricted basis	
Drainage		✗
Drinking Fountains		✗
Entrance Sign	Standard quality sign on main entrance only	
Exercise Equipment		✗
Fencing and Barriers	Urban and rural fencing only	
Flagpoles		✗
Footbridges		✗
Fountains		✗
Gardens		✗
Interpretive Signs		✗
Irrigation - Turf		✗
Lighting		✗
Public Use Mains Power		✗
Paths	Where appropriate - unsealed, and around the perimeter of sports park only	
Playgrounds	Standard quality, medium playground - on sites larger than 1 hectare. No artificial shade structures over playgrounds. Only provided where no other playground is within 800m	
Public Art		✗
Public Toilets	Where appropriate - where no other public toilets are within 1 km	
Rubbish bins		✗
Seats	Standard quality seat at 2 seat per playing field, up to a maximum of 4 seats per site	
Shelters		✗
Skate Parks		✗
Stormwater Devices		✗
Picnic Setting	Standard quality picnic setting, where appropriate. To a maximum of 2 settings per site pending patronage	
Trees	Around perimeter of sports parks only. Maximise shade where possible	
Turf Wicket Table		✗
Viewing Platforms		✗
Water Body		✗
Water Points		✗

2.8 Network Design

2.8.1 Park Distribution

While total provision of parks across a community provides an indicator of the adequacy or otherwise of parks for a given population, an equally important factor is the distribution of particular types of parks across the urban environment.

Well-balanced provision of the different types of park land throughout the urban environment is critical to ensuring people have good access to a variety of recreational experiences.

Good distribution of parks is also critical in enhancing the landscape values of an urban area. The distribution of parks of varying size and style and the linking of these with corridors of green space provides an attractive environment and a greater sense of “liveability”.

Distribution of future parks will be based on the following guidelines:

- Bushland Reserves will be provided to protect natural areas of significance and to provide recreation opportunities consistent with their character.
- Community Parks will be located throughout the urban areas designed to provide an area of open green play space within easy walking distance of any home in a residential zone, and to create or enhance urban connectivity.
- Linear Parks will be provided to create pedestrian/cycle linkages between parks, and to enhance off-road transportation routes. Where natural topographical features occur, such as waterway or drainage routes, then these are likely to be provided as parks as part of subdivision development. However, it is important that these linkages are provided even where these natural opportunities are not present.
- Where possible, parks will be joined to form ‘green belts’ around the main towns of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale.
- Sports Parks are spread throughout the Shire and not just located around the three main residential centres of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale. Any new Sports Parks developed will be located in a central position as part of a sports hub containing several playing fields and associated facilities.
- Every small township over 600 residents shall have access to at least one multipurpose park.

2.8.2 Playground Distribution

Playgrounds will only be provided at Community, Premier and Sports Parks.

As a general guide, priority will be given to developing larger, more varied playgrounds in larger parks, compared to smaller playgrounds in local parks.

Playgrounds will be provided (approximately) every 800m.

2.8.3 Park Character

While the Shire is rich in natural areas such as bushland, it is also unique in providing a microclimate suitable for growing many exotic ornamental trees and shrubs. The autumn colours are like nowhere else in mainland Australia, and the Shire is famous for its spring flower displays. The contrast between natural bushland, and manicured old world parks in the towns, only adds interest to the attractive character of the Shire.

Building on this backbone, master plans and landscape designs should give due consideration to strengthening the exotic flavour of the towns.

2.9 Target Provision Levels of Service

The following are the target levels of service for planning future provision of parks in the Wingecarribee Shire based on current levels of service and national benchmarks.

These targets are provided as a guide only. They will provide a base guideline for:

- Calculating and determining park land provision in growth areas
- Providing indicators for long term planning purposes
- Supporting actions to fill significant gaps in levels of service
- Maintaining levels of service consistent with national benchmarks

Park Category	Level of Service Target Ha/1,000 residents	Current Provision (Hectares)	Current Provision (Ha/1000 residents)
Bushland Reserves	No target	2,736.9	61.6
Community Parks	1.0	64.3	1.4*
Linear Parks	4.0	127.4	2.9*
Premier Parks	0.4	2.1	0.05
Sports Parks	2.4	105.2	2.4

* No comparative figure exists for Australian councils. This figure is for New Zealand Councils.



SECTION 3:

CURRENT PROVISION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS



3.0 Current Provision Analysis

3.1 Overall Shire Park Provision

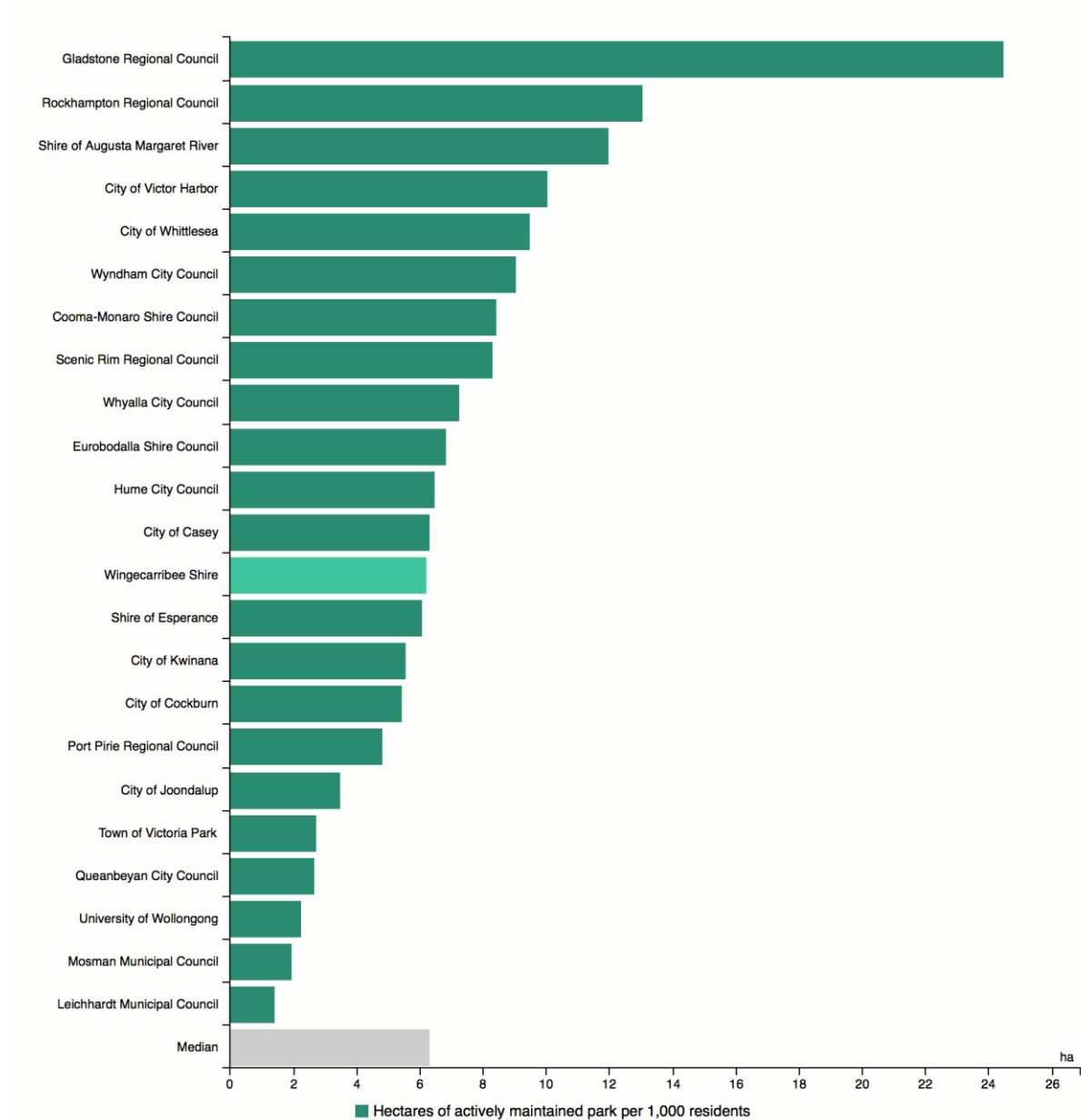
The following comparative information has been obtained from the 2015 Yardstick Report from 27 participating local government parks departments. The comparison of land against population is based on the 2011 Census (a consistent baseline against all organisations).

Wingecarribee Shire's provision of publically accessible parks is 3,036 hectares. This equates to a provision of 68.4 ha/1,000 residents. The median in Australia is 10.6 hectares. Wingecarribee's result is greatly influenced by its large provision of Bushland Reserves.

For more accurate comparison purposes the parks are split between:

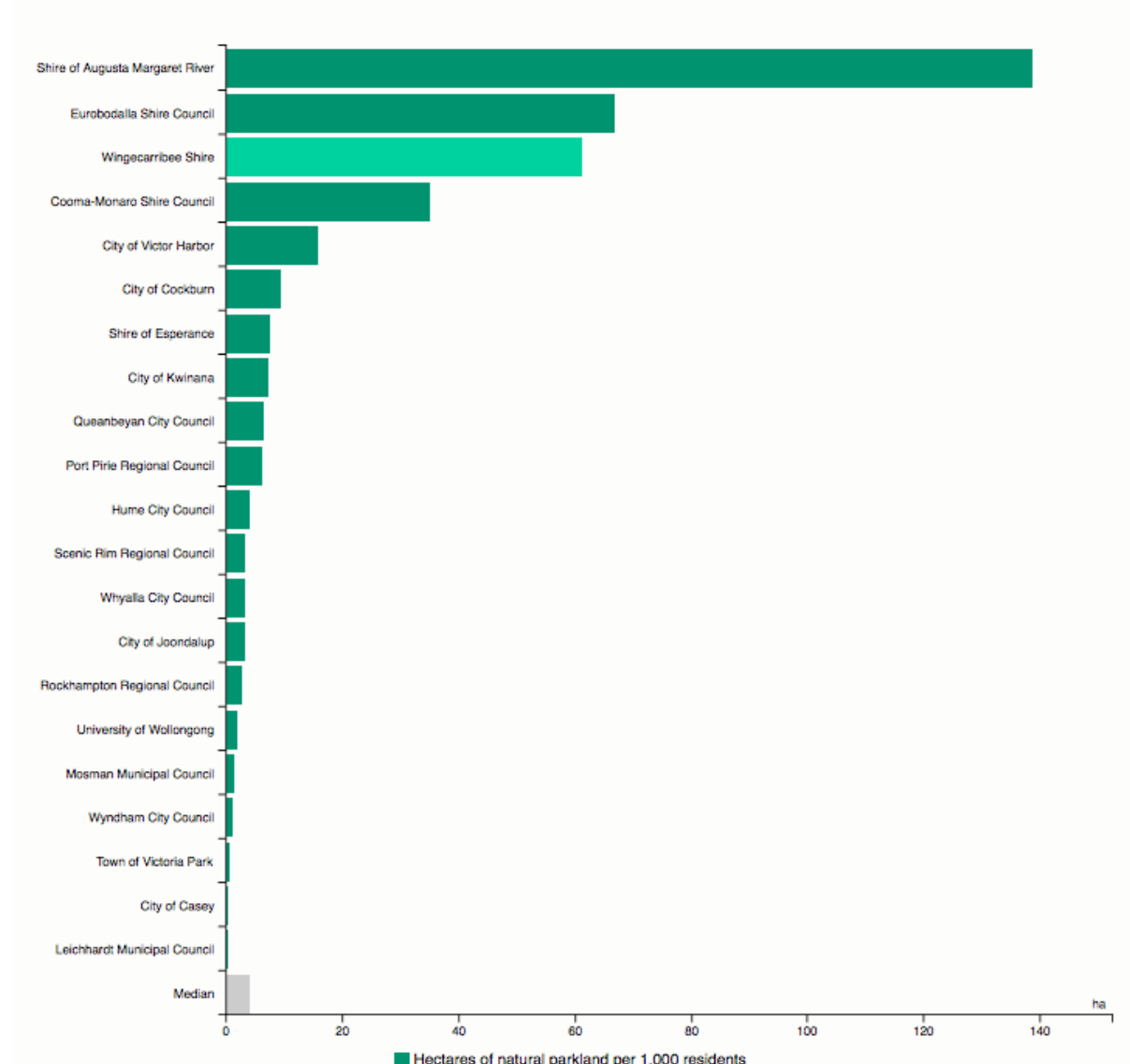
A - Actively Maintained (Predominately Urban) Parkland - 299 hectares at 6.7 hectares per 1,000 residents compared to the national median of 6.3 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Provision of maintained park land per 1,000 residents



B – Bushland Reserve/Natural Parkland – 2,737 hectares at 61.6 hectares per 1,000 residents compared to Yardstick national median of 5.0 hectares per 1,000 residents.*

Provision of natural park land per 1,000 residents



*Note that the above chart excludes Gladstone Regional Council's 36,670 hectares of natural area for purposes of making the scale of the chart clearer.

For maintained /urban parks, Wingecarribee Shire is slightly above the median national benchmark. For natural areas, Wingecarribee Shire has the third highest provision, and is significantly above the median national benchmark.

3.1.1 Park Provision by Park Category

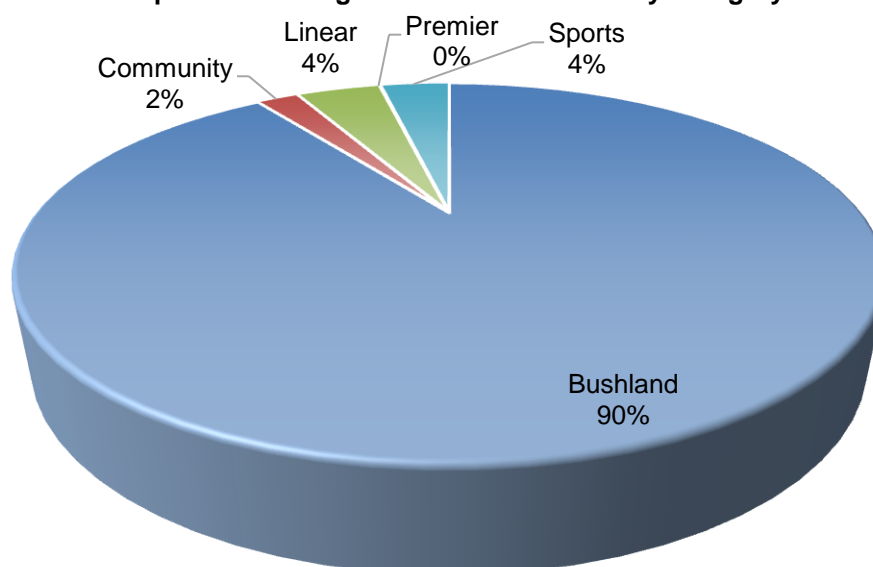
The following comparisons, against each of the parks categories, use the Council's land information with the 2015 Yardstick data.

Park Category	Wingecarribee Shire Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Yardstick Median Provision Ha/1,000 Residents
Bushland Reserve	61.6	5.0
Community Park	1.4	0.8*
Linear Park	2.9	4.2*
Premier Park	0.05	0.4
Sports Park	2.4	1.3

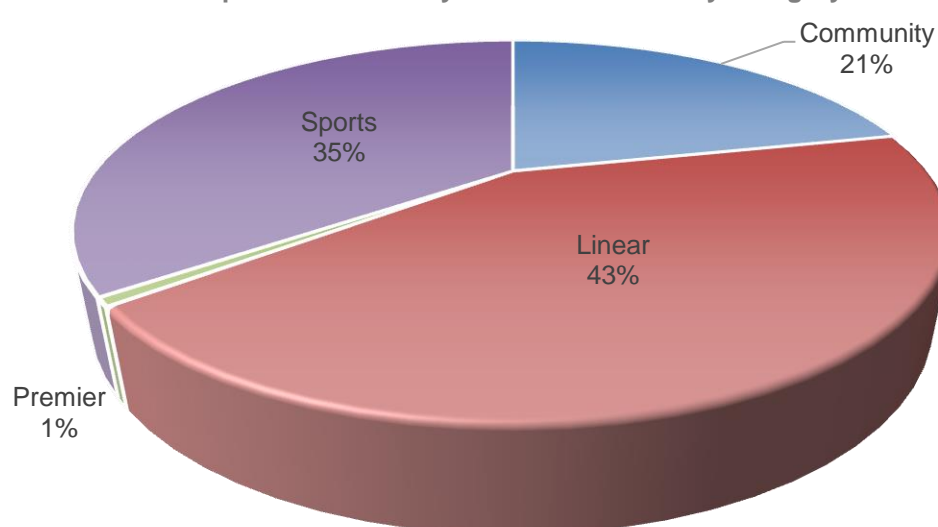
*No comparative figure exists for Australian councils. This figure is for New Zealand Councils.

The following two pie charts show the proportions of park types that make up the Shire's park network.

Proportion of Wingecarribee Shire Parks by Category



Proportion of Actively Maintained Parks by Category



3.1.2 Overall Shire Park Provision Summary

In summary, Wingecarribee Shire has an overall high provision of park land, primarily due to a very high provision of Bushland Reserve areas.

Maintained/urban parks provision is similar to the national benchmark.

Sports Park land provision is comparatively high, especially in rural areas. This is partially due to sports parks often being the only park in a small village, fulfilling an important multi-purpose community function.

Premier Park provision is low.

An analysis of park distribution in the urban areas, based on a level of service providing a park within 800m of all residential properties, indicates that areas of East and West Burradoo are not adequately provided for. Likewise, South Mittagong. At present the properties have reasonably large sections, easing pressure on the need for a park. If planning conditions change, and these areas begin to be intensified, park land will need to be acquired.

Moss Vale is adequately supplied with parks, and no new parks need to be acquired, except in response to population growth.



3.2 Main Towns Park Provision

This section examines the provision of actively maintained (urban) parks in Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale. It excludes the Bushland Reserves, as it is the availability of urban park land, which is being assessed.

3.2.1 Bowral

The 2011 Census recorded a population of 8,022 people living in Bowral (State Suburb Statistical Area).

Provision

Park Category	Bowral Provision Hectares	Bowral Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Yardstick Median Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Level of Service Target Provision Ha/1,000 Residents
Community Park	6.4	0.8	0.8*	1.0
Linear Park	15.6	1.9	4.2*	4.0
Premier Park	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.4
Sports Park	14.9	1.9	1.3	2.4
TOTAL	37.8	4.7	6.7	6.8

*No comparative figure exists for Australian councils. This figure is for New Zealand Councils.

Summary

Bowral has a low provision of urban maintained parkland.

In particular, Linear Park and Premier Park land is below national benchmarks. Sports Parks are slightly higher than the national benchmark, and well below the target provision.

3.2.2 Mittagong

The 2011 Census recorded a population of 5,722 people living in Mittagong (State Suburb Statistical Area).

Provision

Park Category	Mittagong Provision Hectares	Mittagong Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Yardstick Median Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Level of Service Target Provision Ha/1,000 Residents
Community Park	15.4	2.7	0.8*	1.0
Linear Park	0.9	0.2	4.2*	4.0
Premier Park	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.4
Sports Park	7.5	1.3	1.3	2.4
TOTAL	24.5	4.3	6.7	6.8

*No comparative figure exists for Australian councils. This figure is for New Zealand Councils.

In Summary

Mittagong has a low provision of urban maintained parkland, and has the lowest provision of the three main urban centres.

Linear and Premier Park provision is particularly low compared to national benchmarks.

Sports Park provision is the same as the national benchmark, but well below the target provision.

Community Park provision is particularly high.

3.2.3 Moss Vale

The 2011 Census recorded a population of 7,792 people living in Moss Vale (State Suburb Statistical Area).

Provision

Park Category	Moss Vale Provision Hectares	Moss Vale Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Yardstick Median Provision Ha/1,000 Residents	Level of Service Target Provision Ha/1,000 Residents
Community Park	23.1	3.0	0.8*	1.0
Linear Park	4.2	0.5	4.2*	4.0
Premier Park	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.4
Sports Park	15.4	2.0	1.3	2.4
TOTAL	43.3	5.6	6.7	6.8

*No comparative figure exists for Australian councils. This figure is for New Zealand Councils.

Summary

Moss Vale has a low provision of urban maintained parkland, but has a higher provision than Bowral and Mittagong.

Community Park provision is very high, compared to both the national benchmark and the target provision.

Sports Park provision falls between the national benchmark and the target provision.

Both Linear and Premier Park provision is well below the national benchmarks and target provision figures.

3.2.4 Township Summary and Recommendations

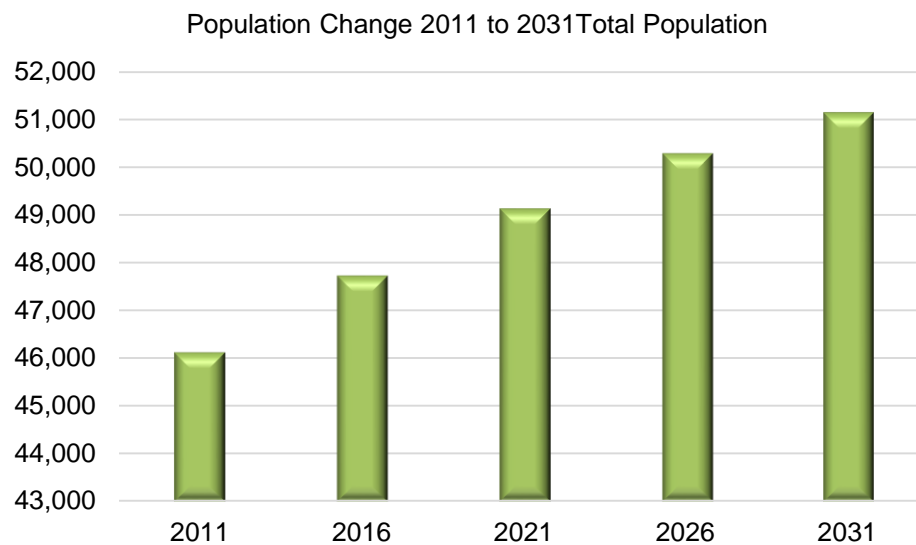
Park provision in the three main urban centres is low, and these areas should increase their provision in preference to more rural townships and locations.

Community Park provision is particularly high in Mittagong and Bowral, while Premier Park Provision is low in all three towns. Consideration should be given to identifying a suitable (ideally single) Community Park (for example Lake Alexandra), and upgrading it to become the Shire's main Premier Park.

Linear Park provision is also low across all three towns, but particularly in Mittagong and Moss Vale. Acquisition of new Linear Parks should therefore be acquired in Mittagong and Moss Vale ahead of Bowral, and to a similar provision as for Bowral. Consideration should also be given to reaching the target provision by providing a Linear Park network that connects all three towns, so that the community can walk or cycle from Mittagong to Moss Vale via Bowral, and vice versa, and through creating 'green belts' around each town.

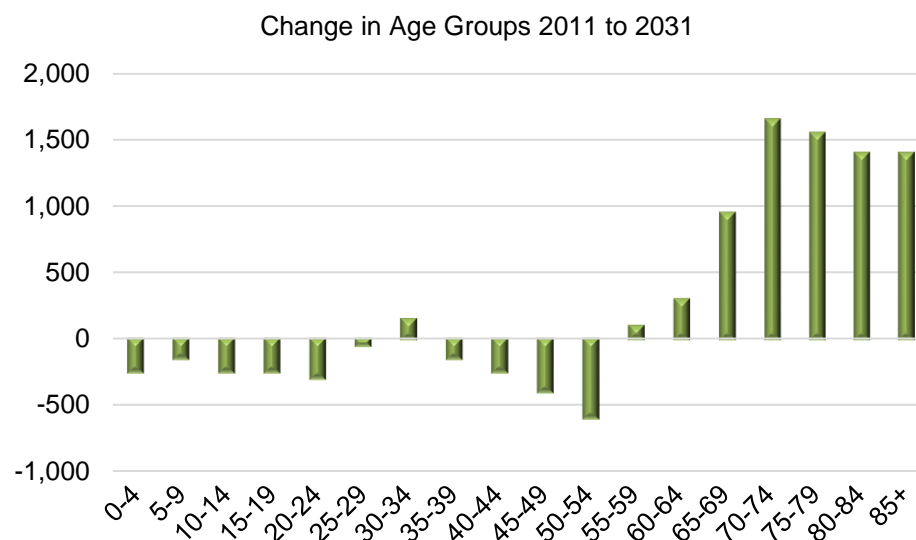
Sports Park provision in all three towns is low when compared to the overall Shire provision. This indicates that there is a reasonably large provision of Sports Parks found outside of the main towns. No further Sports Parks provision should be developed outside of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale. Based on a needs analysis and as population and demand increases, a single site should be identified in one of the towns to accommodate a large, multi-purpose Sports Park hub containing multiple sportsfields, car parking and ancillary features and buildings. This will become the Shire's main Sports Park that caters for the widest possible use for organised/competition sport. The provision of a multi-purpose Sports Park hub may facilitate the rationalization of existing Sports Parks.

Based on population projections from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the Wingecarribee Shire population is projected to increase by approximately 5,000 to 51,150 by 2031. This is an increase of just under 10% from 2011 to 2031.



The majority of this growth will occur in Mittagong Nth, NE of Bowral, and the South side of Moss Vale.

With regards to changing age demographics from 2011 to 2031, people aged under 54 will decline in number, while those 55 and over will increase, significantly altering the age profile towards an older population.



Active Recreational Facilities

The implications of projected population changes for sports and recreation most likely indicate a decreasing demand for facilities for children and youth and perhaps less emphasis on competitive sports. However, there is no evidence yet of any decline in overall demand for provision for sports areas or for youth facilities. This may be because of the diversity in codes played and because relatively informal sports have shown growth nationwide.

Rugby, Rugby League and Soccer continue to be the dominant senior sports actively played in the Shire. Soccer is increasingly popular, especially with junior players.

The trend to an aging population increase could result in a demand for rationalisation of existing facilities through amalgamation of centres of recreation or modification of sports facilities to serve the increased aging population. This is not expected to amount to a decrease in overall demand.

In summary, there is likely to be some increased demand for a range of active facilities, particularly combined centralised facilities, and there is a need overall for maintaining the existing Sports Park provision.

Passive Recreation

The demographic information indicates an aging population for the Shire and consequently a higher requirement for passive recreational facilities. Facilities such as Linear Parks, Walkways and Cycleways are expected to have an increased emphasis.

The provision of exercise equipment will enhance the informal nature of recreational activities within the parks network. The health and social benefits associated with this type of equipment is acknowledged and future provision will be based on community consultation and frequency visitation rates.

Dog Exercise Areas

Off Leash areas provide a safe and controlled environment for exercising and socialising for the benefit of both owners and their dogs. Access to these parks encourages social interaction, healthy exercise and services a large proportion of the community.

Generally, the provision of these facilities will be:

- One fenced dog off leash area in Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale and East Bowral.
- Dog off leash areas for each of the Villages. This may be an authorised activity within existing open space during set times.
- Provide infrastructure in off leash areas that meets the needs of dog owners and park users.



SECTION 4:

APPENDICES



4.0 Appendices

4.1 Parks List

4.1.1 Bushland Reserves

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Level of Service
Mt Gibraltar Reserve	Bowral	123.4056	1
Berrima Weir Reserve	Berrima	43.0712	2
Hammock Hill Reserve	East Bowral	12.2701	2
Mansfield Reserve	East Bowral	34.4071	2
Mt Alexandra Reserve	Mittagong	1,897.5011	2
River Bend Reserve	Berrima	35.8799	2
Rotary Park, Mittagong	Mittagong	1.7007	2
Stone Quarry Walk Berrima	Berrima	1.2434	2
Apple Street Reserve	Moss Vale	2.5921	3
Balmoral Reserve	Balmoral	1.7278	3
Bill O'Reilly Oval Bushland Reserve	Wingello	1.8830	3
Boronia Park Reserve	Hill Top	6.7438	3
Bundanoon Oval Bushland Reserve	Bundanoon	3.4913	3
Crown Reserve 188, Berrima (Bryan Street)	Berrima	0.1012	3
Crown Reserve 190, Berrima (opp Stone Quarry Walk)	Berrima	0.4000	3
Crown Reserve 253, Welby (Bowral St)	Welby	2.2080	3
Crown Reserve 560062, Berrima (Odessa St)	Berrima	4.1861	3
Garland Street Reserve (Glowworm Glen)	Bundanoon	3.4076	3
Gibbergunyah Reserve	Mittagong	189.9039	3
Goanna Falls	Berrima	5.1022	3
Goodmans Ford	Goodmans Ford	0.0000	3
Ironmines Oval - Bushland Reserve	Mittagong	5.8277	3
Leaver Park	Bundanoon	4.6760	3
Medway Reserve	Medway	130.0823	3
Oxley St, Berrima Open Space	Berrima	0.3778	3
Paddy's River Reserve Murrimba Rd	Wingello	81.3236	3
Penrose Rubbish Depot	Penrose	18.8696	3
Quiggs Reserve	Canyonleigh	30.3379	3
Rockleigh Rd Reserve	Exeter	9.5383	3
Tugalong Road Reserve	Canyonleigh	14.0043	3
Welby Weir (Cnr Wombeyan Caves & Old Hume Hwy)	Welby	15.1110	3
Wingecarribee River Reserve (2 parcels of land)	Moss Vale	5.7965	3
Wingello Recreational Reserve	Wingello	15.6869	3
Yerrinbool Park	Yerrinbool	4.5153	3
Yerrinbool Reserve	Yerrinbool	29.4943	3

4.1.2 Community Parks

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Level of Service
Alexandra Square	Mittagong	1.3606	1
Berrima Market Place	Berrima	1.0744	1
Bowral Memorial Park	Bowral	0.0788	1
Casburn Park	Wingello	6.9025	1
Glebe Park	Bowral	0.9349	1
Lake Alexandra	Mittagong	7.0057	1
Lions Park, Bowral	Bowral	0.4349	1
Maynard Park	Bowral	0.0635	1
Mirren Nunguna Gulla Park	Renwick	0.1050	1
Acacia Park	Moss Vale	1.1276	2
Apex Park, Burradoo	Burradoo	1.7316	2
Berrima River Reserve (Camping Grounds)	Berrima	3.0691	2
Broulee Park	Moss Vale	1.3364	2
Centennial Park- Off leash dog and Park	Bowral	2.1554	2
Henderson Park	Moss Vale	1.3818	2
Hoddle Street Park	Robertson	0.1443	2
Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park	Bundanoon	0.0919	2
Queen St Precinct Mittagong	Mittagong	0.3036	2
RSL Memorial Park Mittagong (Old Hume Hwy)	Mittagong	0.4586	2
Rotherwood Park	Renwick	0.4318	2
Seymour Park	Moss Vale	6.4678	2
Waratah Park	Hill Top	0.7813	2
Anembo Street Park	Moss Vale	3.4491	3
Apex Park, Bowral	Bowral	0.3923	3
Apex Park, Moss Vale (opp Primary School)	Moss Vale	0.1253	3
Apple Gate Close Reserve	Welby	0.1634	3
Aylmerton Reserve	Aylmerton	0.4590	3
Berrima Bridge Park	Berrima	0.3729	3
Ben Nevis Circuit	Bundanoon	3.7694	3
Boswell Park (adjacent Mittagong Pool)	Mittagong	0.3043	3
Broughton Park	Bundanoon	0.2972	3
Burgess Street Park	Bundanoon	1.2010	3
Cherry Tree Close Reserve	Moss Vale	0.1786	3
Colo Street Park	Mittagong	0.6063	3
Cook Street Park	Mittagong	1.7979	3
Corlette Park	Moss Vale	0.7214	3
Coromandle Reserve	Moss Vale	0.1600	3
Cosgrove Park	Moss Vale	2.2342	3
Cosh Park	Sutton Forest	0.8566	3
Cunningham Park	Exeter	0.8789	3
Dengate Crescent Park	Moss Vale	0.0868	3
Goode Park	Moss Vale	1.2253	3
Gun Park Moss Vale	Moss Vale	0.1481	3
Holly Park	Burradoo	0.4427	3
Isabella Way Park	Bowral	0.1210	3
Jasmine Street Park	Colo Vale	0.2013	3
Jensen Park	Exeter	0.3299	3
Jordans Crossing	Bundanoon	3.6196	3
Kell Crescent Park	Welby	0.0633	3
M.F. Vickers Park	Yerrinbool	0.0653	3
Mimosa Gardens	Fitzroy Falls	0.1599	3
Mineral Springs	Bundanoon	1.5931	3
New Berrima Community Centre	New Berrima	0.0689	3
Orient Street Reserve	Willow Vale	0.2791	3
Pinkwood Park	Robertson	0.0513	3

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Level of Service
Railway Park Colo Vale	Colo Vale	0.9287	3
Railway Park Mittagong (Oxford & Railway Pde)	Mittagong	0.5125	3
Railway Park, Hill Top	Hill Top	0.3191	3
Richard Street Park	Mittagong	0.1349	3
Ritchie Park	Moss Vale	0.8277	3
Robinia Drive Park	East Bowral	1.9191	3
Rotaract Park	Moss Vale	0.2147	3
Strode Park	Moss Vale	0.2937	3
Sunrise Road Park	Yerrinbool	0.0778	3
Thwaites Park	Moss Vale	0.8918	3
Top Park - Berrima	Berrima	0.4544	3
Walton Park	Moss Vale	0.8397	3
Webb Street Park	Mittagong	1.3327	3
Westwood Park	Bowral	2.2327	3
Willow Drive Reserve	Moss Vale	0.2812	3
Yarrawa Road Drainage Reserve	Moss Vale	0.8159	3
Yeo Park	Moss Vale	0.3466	3

4.1.3 Linear Parks

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Level of Service
Alice Avenue Park	East Bowral	1.9191	2
Anulka Street Reserve	Moss Vale	0.1198	2
Bong Bong Common	Moss Vale/Burradoo	87.2115	2
Bowral Bike Track	Bowral	3.8412	2
Cherry Tree Walk (Rose to Merrigang St)	Bowral	1.8718	2
Cherry Tree Walk (Shepherd to Bowral St)	Bowral	0.9481	2
Corbett Walkway	Moss Vale	0.6432	2
David Wood Playing Fields Linear Park	East Bowral	0.0000	2
East Bowral Open Space - NEI Green Areas	East Bowral	16.2317	2
Eridge Park Cnr - Road Reserve	Burradoo	1.2702	2
Farnborough Drive Reserve	Moss Vale	1.2700	2
Foley Park	Bowral	1.0998	2
Mittagong Road Reserve (Cnr Kirkham Rd)	Mittagong	0.9711	2
Moss Vale Road Reserve (opp Links Rd)	Moss Vale	0.2703	2
Purcell Street Reserve	Bowral	0.7010	2
Railway Reserve, Bowral	Bowral	0.7841	2
Rivulet Park	Bowral	0.5352	2
Settlers Park	Bowral	1.9678	2
Stanley Park	Bowral	1.6433	2
Venables Park	Bowral	2.1823	2
Whites Creek / Gibbons Road Reserve	Moss Vale	0.4097	2
Whites Creek Reserve	Moss Vale	1.5488	2

4.1.4 Premier Parks

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Level of Service
Corbett Gardens	Bowral	0.8519	1
Diamond Jubilee Park	Moss Vale	0.0482	1
Leighton Gardens	Moss Vale	0.5366	1
Winifred West Park	Mittagong	0.7065	2

4.1.5 Sports Parks

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)	Level of Service
Boronia Park Sportsground	Hill Top	3.4414	2
Bundanoon Oval	Bundanoon	5.5948	2
Church Road Oval	Moss Vale	4.2902	2
Community Oval	Moss Vale	4.9934	2
David Wood Playing Fields	East Bowral	2.8327	2
Eridge Park	Burradoo	11.4969	2
Ferndale Reserve	Bundanoon	3.8921	2
Hampden Park	Robertson	6.6953	2
Ironmines Oval	Mittagong	4.1262	2
Lackey Park	Moss Vale	6.0792	2
Loseby Park	Bowral	5.1017	2
Mittagong Oval	Mittagong	3.3801	2
Stephens Park	Bowral	4.7471	2
Welby Oval	Welby	2.1452	2
Yerrinbool Oval	Yerrinbool	5.8898	2
Bill O'Reilly Oval	Wingello	2.1663	3
Burrawang Oval	Burrawang	2.5250	3
Centennial Oval	Bowral	2.6235	3
Exeter Oval	Exeter	6.4888	3
Jurd Park Sportsground	Colo Vale	4.0481	3
Penrose Oval	Penrose	1.2762	3
Tourist Rd Oval Sportsfield and Tennis Courts	Kangaloon	4.0910	3

4.1.6 Special Purpose Sites

Facility	Town/Village	Area (Hectares)
Berrima and District Pony club	Burradoo	7.0656
Bundanoon Pony and Carriage Club	Bundanoon	7.5328
Loop Line Pony Club	Colo Vale	1.8928
Memorial Park (adj Bundanoon Hall)	Bundanoon	0.0171

4.1.7 Leased Properties

Facility	Town/Village
Bradman Oval	Bowral
Welby Heights Oval	Welby
Highlands Golf Club	Mittagong
Gibraltar Country Golf Club	Bowral
Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens	East Bowral

**This Page Intentionally
Left Blank**