

Recreation

STRATEGY 2018

Background and information



PORT STEPHENS
COUNCIL

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Acknowledgment

Port Stephens Council acknowledges the Worimi who are the traditional custodians of the land of Port Stephens.

We also pay our respect to Aboriginal Elders past, present and future.

Issue name	Issue date	Purpose
For exhibition	JUNE 2018	Public exhibition
For adoption	13 NOVEMBER 2018	Adopted at the Council Meeting 13 November 2018

Introduction

The Port Stephens Recreation Strategy Volume 2 – Background and Information document contains the supporting information that was used to prepare the Port Stephens Recreation Strategy (the Strategy).

This document provides detailed information on the resources and methodologies used to inform the development of the Strategy. The background and information document is set out as follows:

Planning Context – a document review of State, Regional and Local planning strategies and policies relevant to recreation in Port Stephens.

Participation Trends – a summary of the key findings of national, state and local studies on how people recreate and why.

Categorisation of Recreation Land – provides a definition of Council's recreational land impacted by the recommendations of the Strategy.

Planning Profiles – a summary of the key demographical characteristics of the Port Stephens LGA and subsequent Planning Districts. Also lists details of each site located within each Planning District.

Recreation Land and Facility Gap Analysis – provides a quantified assessment of recreation facilities required to meet anticipate demand by 2036.

Community Engagement – a summary of the methodology and results of community engagement undertaken during the development of the Strategy.





PLANNING CONTEXT





Planning context

The development of the Strategy has involved the consideration of a number of preceding documents that impact the way in which recreation facilities are managed. The Strategy has been developed to align with State and Regional strategic plans and Port Stephens Council's Community Strategic Plan to ensure a clear line of sight from all levels of government. Local planning documents relating to recreation facilities have also been reviewed as a benchmarking exercise to ensure that Port Stephens Council's current and future management actions are consistent with that of the Hunter and greater NSW. Below is a brief summary of key strategic documents.

State

State Infrastructure Strategy

Established by the Infrastructure NSW Act 2011 (the Act), Infrastructure NSW is tasked with preparing the 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy (the SIS) for the Premier. The Act States that the SIS must assess the current state of infrastructure in NSW and the strategic priorities for infrastructure over 20 years. The SIS is Infrastructure NSW's independent advice to Government on the specific infrastructure investments and reforms needed in NSW.

The SIS is largely silent on recreational matters in the Hunter Region, however it does identify inefficiencies within the

education system and recommends the State Government work with Councils to promote the sharing of open space and increase the accessibility of schools outside of school hours.

Draft Greener Place Policy

The Department of Planning and Environment have drafted a policy to guide the planning, design and delivery of Green Infrastructure in urban areas across NSW. It aims to create a healthy, liveable and sustainable urban environment by improving community access to recreation and exercise, supporting walking and cycling connections and improving the resilience of urban areas.

Regional

Hunter Regional Plan 2036

The Hunter Regional Plan is a strategic land use plan to guide development within the Hunter over 20 years to 2036. The Plan replaced the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy, the mid North Coast Regional Strategy and the Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan.

Raymond Terrace and Nelson Bay are identified as strategic centres with Raymond Terrace also included in the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Area. Salamander Bay, Anna Bay, Medowie, Karuah, Tanilba Bay, Lemon Tree Passage, Fern Bay, Hinton, Woodville and Seaham are noted as centres of local significance.

The Plan identifies regional priorities to assist in implementing a number of strategic directions and actions for the Hunter. The regional priorities relevant to recreation in Port Stephens include: Investigate increasing social, transport and economic connections in Raymond Terrace to surrounding communities and centres across the Greater Newcastle Area; maintain Nelson Bay as one of the primary tourist centres for the region and a hub for the Tomaree Peninsula; investigate opportunities in Nelson Bay for high-density development that maintains and enhances the tourist, recreational and residential appeal of the centre.

Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036

The draft Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan aligns with the vision and goals of the Hunter Regional Plan 2036, and delivers on the priority action to prepare a Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.

In addition to identifying King Park as a Metropolitan Sport Facility, the Draft Plan identifies the following objectives and subsequent actions relevant to recreation in Port Stephens:

2.1 Create better buildings and great places.

- improve amenity of centres and urban renewal corridors through placemaking initiatives that strengthen the connection between people and the places they share.

2.2 Create more great public spaces where people come together.

- create and activate public spaces in the strategic centres that are suitable for community events like markets, festivals, commemorations and assemblies.
- promote public lookout places to maintain views to iconic buildings and vistas.
- protect and enhance waterfront parkland areas.
- identify, protect and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage.

2.3 Enhance the Blue and Green Grid and the urban tree canopy.

- improve local access to open space, recreation areas and waterways so that 90 per cent of houses are within a 10-minute walk of open space.
- make a cooler Greater Newcastle by greening urban areas, buildings, transport corridors and open space to enhance the urban forest.
- the NSW Office of Sport will develop a Greater Newcastle sport and recreation facilities plan.

2.4 Protect rural amenity outside urban areas.

- encourage niche commercial, tourist and recreation activities that compliment and promote a stronger agricultural sector, and build the sector's capacity to adapt to changing circumstance.

2.5 Improve the resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

- ensure coastal dependant development mitigates natural hazards and incorporates resilience measures that have triple bottom line benefits.

Local

The Strategy forms part of the *Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R)* framework developed for NSW local government. The IP&R framework allows Councils to build plans of an appropriate size, scale and content for their community. The Strategy sits within 'supporting local strategies and plans' as illustrated in the figure below. The Strategy has been developed to recognise the recreational needs of the community expressed in the Community Strategic Plan and guide matters relevant to recreation in the development and implementation of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.



The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) represents the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by Council, outlining the main priorities and 10 year vision of the local community. The plan identifies objectives to achieve community ambitions and sets out what Council can do to respond to these aspirations. The Strategy will be influential in delivering the Community Strategic Plan objectives.

Other local strategic documents relating to Council's open space network that have been considered are:

Anna Bay Strategy and Town Plan adopted by Council on 16 December 2008. This strategy had a number of recommendations relating to recreation and community facilities. Recommendations included:

- Pursue a multipurpose community space close to the town centre
- Locate an additional skate park in the area or enlarge the existing facility
- Include interpretation of Aboriginal heritage in coastline landscape works
- Upgrade Ocean Ave Reserve
- Provide a new picnic and interpretation area at end of Morna Point Road
- Improve pedestrian connections
- Provide an alternative carpark to cater for tourist buses and 4WD operators

Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan finalised 2009. The plan contains treatment actions/responses for the predicted impacts of climate change.

Karuah Growth Strategy adopted by Council on 20 December 2011. Key recommendations of this strategy relating to Open Space include:

- Short to medium term – Improve and maintain local community facilities such as oval, parks, BMX track, entrance to wetlands and public amenities.
- Short to long term – Develop links between town, Riverside Park and the wetlands. Improve the foreshore and develop playgrounds in Memorial and Longworth Park.
- Long-term – Identification of an alternate sports ground site once population exceeds Lionel Morten capacity.

Medowie Planning Strategy adopted by Council on the 13 December 2017. This strategy discussed improving existing open spaces, reviewing the demand for additional tennis courts and considering local scale parks in new urban release areas. Key recommendations of the study include:

- Short term – Implementation of the Ferodale Master Plan
- Medium term – Monitor population growth against the standard provisions of sporting fields



- Medium to long term – Plan for a high quality public open space in the town centre commercial area and include public amenities

Nelson Bay Town Centre and Foreshore Strategy 2012 adopted by Council on 24 April 2012. This strategy is currently under review and recommends the following for recreation facilities:

- Provision of wayfinding signage throughout the town centre and foreshore.
- Preparation of a Masterplan for Apex Park. This plan is now completed.
- Public art opportunities should be identified.

Port Stephens Ageing Strategy adopted by Council in 2016. The strategy outlines proposed key priorities that achieve positive and practical outcomes for the ageing population in Port Stephens and informs actions in both Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Port Stephens Council Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management approved by the Department of Planning in 2002. This document aims to conserve and manage koala habitat to reverse the current trend of population decline. The document provides guidance for strategic and development planning decision making.

Port Stephens Cultural Plan 2015 – 2018 adopted by Council on the 10 February 2015. The document recognises and values the role that culture plays in helping to create vibrant and healthy communities. Actions relevant to the Recreation Strategy include supporting place based cultural events/celebration/festivals; establishment of a public art policy and the integration of cultural tourism opportunities into tourism planning and delivery.

Port Stephens Disability Inclusion Action Plan adopted by Council in 2017. The document focuses on enriching Council's commitment to creating a place that is more inclusive, accessible, and provides opportunities for all abilities and backgrounds. Key actions relating to recreation facilities include:

- Implement a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan to determine a prioritised approach to upgrading and constructing new footpath infrastructure.
- Review and audit Council managed outdoor spaces, toilet blocks and buildings to determine areas where work is required.
- Implement two liberty swings.
- Increase compliant disability parking.



Port Stephens Pathways Plan adopted by Council in May 2016. This plan was a series of maps showing existing pathways and identified locations for future pathway construction.

Port Stephens Planning Strategy 2011-2036 was adopted by Council on 20 December 2011. It aims to provide high level strategic direction for spatial planning in the Port Stephens Local Government Area. The strategy analyses the profile of the population and describes Council's strategy for residential, commercial and industrial development in Port Stephens. The forecasting in this strategy is currently under review.

Raymond Terrace and Heatherbrae Strategy 2015-2031 adopted by Council on the 24 November 2015. Key actions of the strategy relating to recreation facilities include:

- Medium term – Improve the quality of the existing public open space through implementing the Boomerang Park Masterplan; explore activation of undeveloped sites; produce a Street Design Guideline.
- Long term – Look to secure a passive civic open space.

Youth Strategy 2015-2018 adopted by Council 2015. A key action of this strategy relating to open space was the involvement of young people in the development of open and public space planning.

Plans of Management and Masterplans- The Local Government Act 1993 requires all public land that is classified as 'community' to be managed and used in accordance with a council adopted Plan of Management. Port Stephens Council has site specific and generic Plans of Managements. Masterplans aim to guide development by graphically presenting the vision for the reserve.

The following Plans of Management and Masterplans apply to land and facilities addressed in this Strategy:

- Boomerang Park Plan of Management
- Ferodale Sports Complex Masterplan
- Keel Street Reserve Plan of Management
- Mallabula Sports and Recreation Complex Masterplan
- Soldiers Point Aboriginal Place Plan of Management
- Apex Park Masterplan
- Urban Parks, Foreshores, Sportsgrounds and Natural Area Generic Plan of Management.

The recommendations and outcomes of each of the planning documents have been considered in the development of the Strategy.

Tennis Facility Strategy 2003 was adopted to direct tennis facility provision throughout the Port Stephens LGA. The 2003 strategy recommends the following for each of the planning districts:

Rural West

- Investigate a centralised neighbourhood tennis facility at Seaham comprising 3-4 courts.

Raymond Terrace

- Expand the existing tennis facility to a 9-10 court district facility.

Medowie

- Continue to improve existing facility as a neighbourhood level facility comprising 5-6 courts.

Karuah/Swan Bay

- Continue to maintain tennis facility at Karuah as a neighbourhood facility. No further expansion proposed.

Tilligerry

- Continue to maintain tennis facility at Mallabula as a neighbourhood facility comprising 4-5 courts.

Tomaree Peninsula

- The area requires a centrally located

district tennis facility and three strategically located neighbourhood facilities.

- Future sustainable court provision is between 17-18 courts.
- Further investigation on a combined Anna Bay / Boat Harbour complex should be undertaken.

Fern Bay

- Maintain existing tennis facility as a 2 court neighbourhood facility with no further expansion proposed.

Rural East

- No expansion required.
- Investigate relocating to centralised facilities at Mallabula or Medowie.

Local Infrastructure Contributions

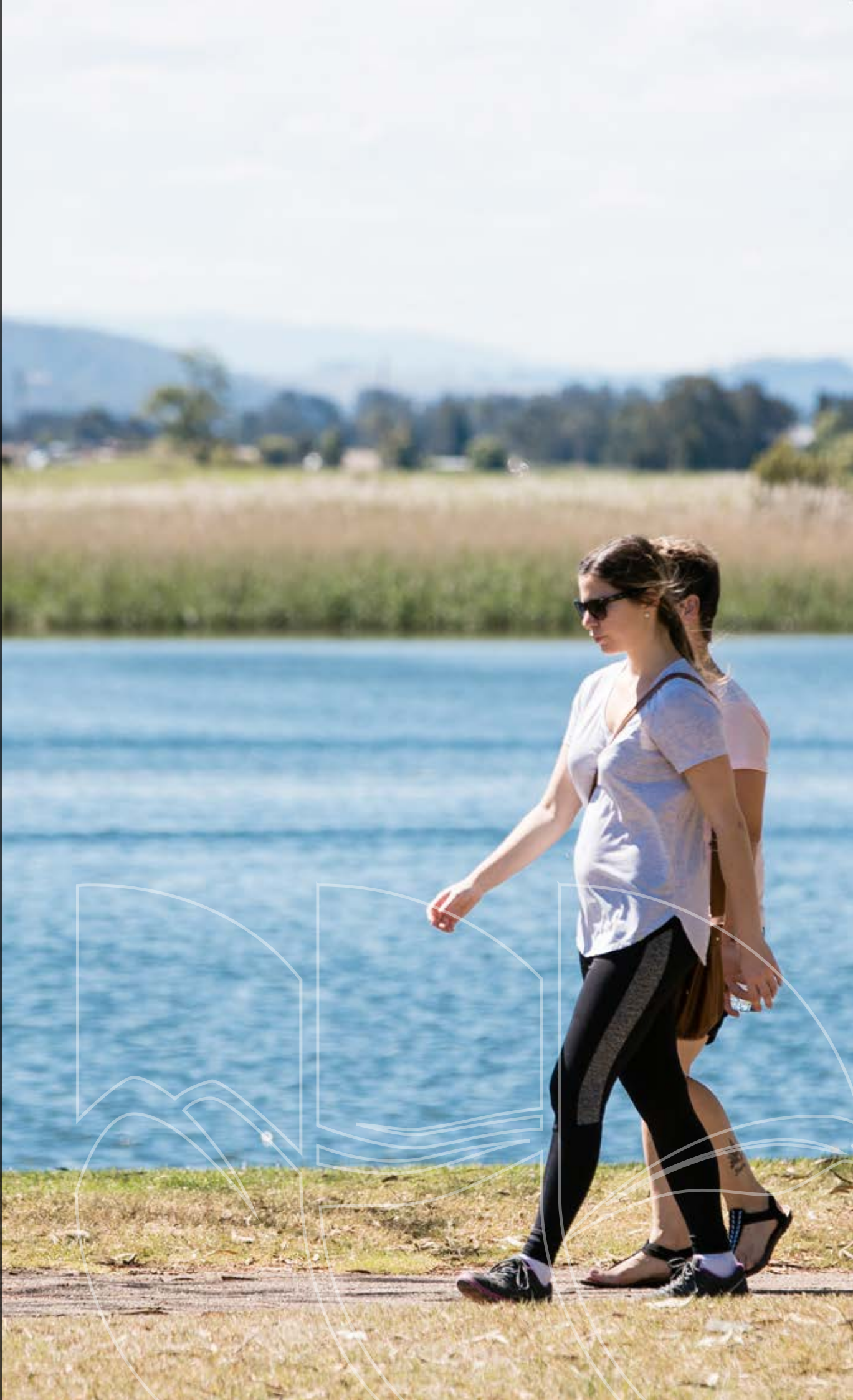
Council is able to collect contributions for the provision of local infrastructure and facilities under section 7.11 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. This generally occurs through the development assessment process whereby Council can place conditions on certain types of development to require the levy of these contributions.

Contributions enables Councils to seek funds from developers towards the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and services. It is an essential service to ensure adequate provision of infrastructure to serve the needs of our growing population.

Councils Development Contribution Plan's work schedules are currently under review to determine their suitability to be funded by local infrastructure contributions. The outcomes of this review will be considered to determine the impact additional facilities would have on the future provision of recreation facilities.



PARTICIPATION TRENDS



Participation in Sport

Australian Sports Commission

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) leads a national population survey called AusPlay to monitor and track trends in sport and recreation participation.

Key findings released in November 2017 for data collected July 2016 – June 2017 found:

- 61.8% of Australians aged over 15 years participated in sport and physical activity 3 or more times per week.
- 23.3% of Australian children participate in organised sport or physical activity outside school hours 3 or more times per week
- Sporting clubs are the primary avenue for children to be active. While sport remains an important activity throughout life, sport clubs are not the main choice for participation as people age. Non-sport related physical activity becomes more important.
- Barriers to participation vary depending on the life-stage of the person. The main barrier for young children's participation in organised sport or physical activity, outside of school hours, is parent's perception that they are too young or they are the wrong age to play. The primary barrier for middle age adults is lack of time and as they age, poor health and injury.

The table below demonstrates the top 10 sports and physical activities undertaken by children and adults in NSW (Ausplay November 2017 State and Territory Results).

Top 10 NSW Children (under 15 years) Sport and Physical Activities		Participation Rates
1	Swimming	33.5%
2	Football/soccer	21.7%
3	Dancing (recreational)	10.9%
4	Gymnastics	8.7%
5	Netball	5.7%
6	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	5.1%
7	Rugby league	4.4%
8	Basketball	4.3%
9	Tennis	4.2%
10	Cricket	4.1%



**Top 3 – Male Children – Under 15 years
All sport and physical activity**

Football (soccer)	33.9%
Swimming	31.1%
Rugby League)	7.9%

**Top 3 – Female Children – Under 15 years
All sport and physical activity**

Swimming	35.9%
Dancing (recreational)	18.9%
Gymnastics	12.9%

**Top 10 NSW Adult
Sport and Physical Activities**

**Participation
Rates**

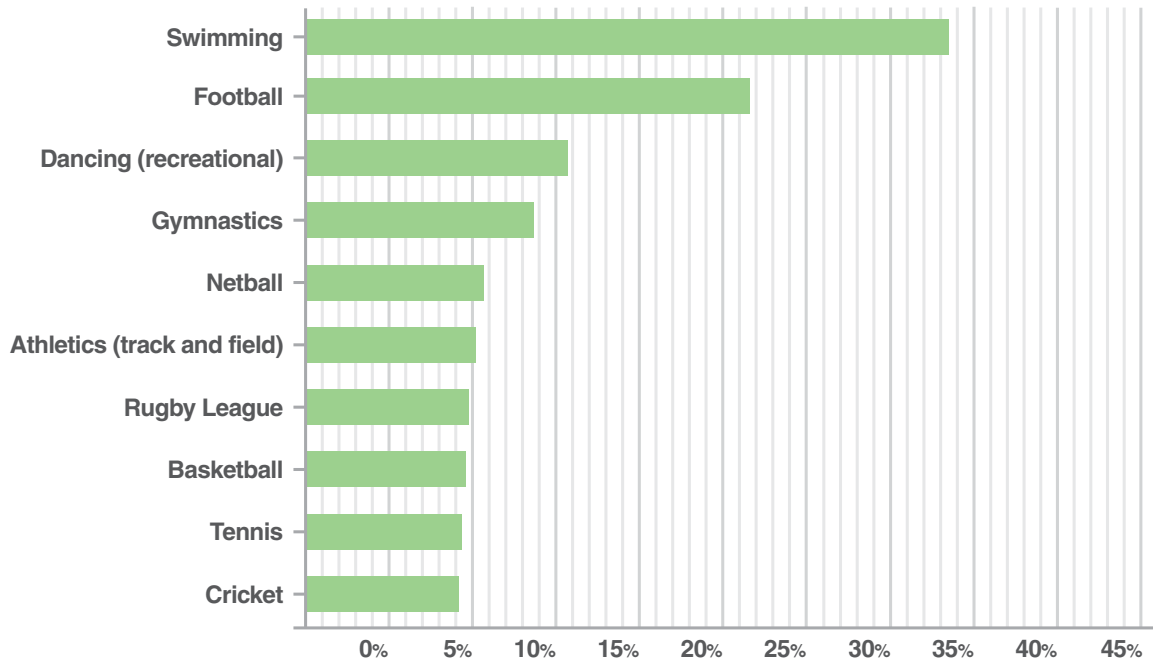
1	Walking (Recreational)	42.5%
2	Fitness/Gym	33.5%
3	Swimming	16.8%
4	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	14.9%
5	Cycling	9.8%
6	Football/soccer	7.0%
7	Bush walking	6.4%
8	Golf	5.5%
9	Yoga	5.0%
10	Tennis	5.0%

**Top 3 – Male Adults
All sport and physical activity**

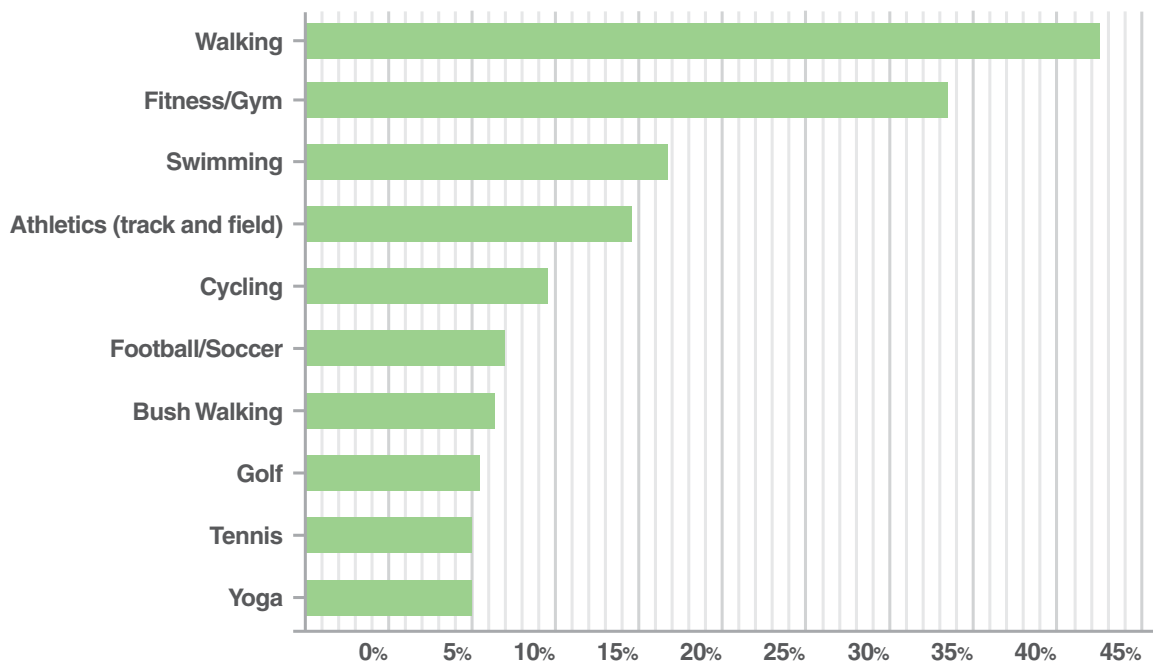
**Top 3 – Female Adults
All sport and physical activity**

Walking	33.4%	Walking	51.4%
Fitness/Gym	30.9%	Fitness / Gym	36.1%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	16.0%	Swimming	18.3%

Children – NSW Top 10 Sports and Physical Activities



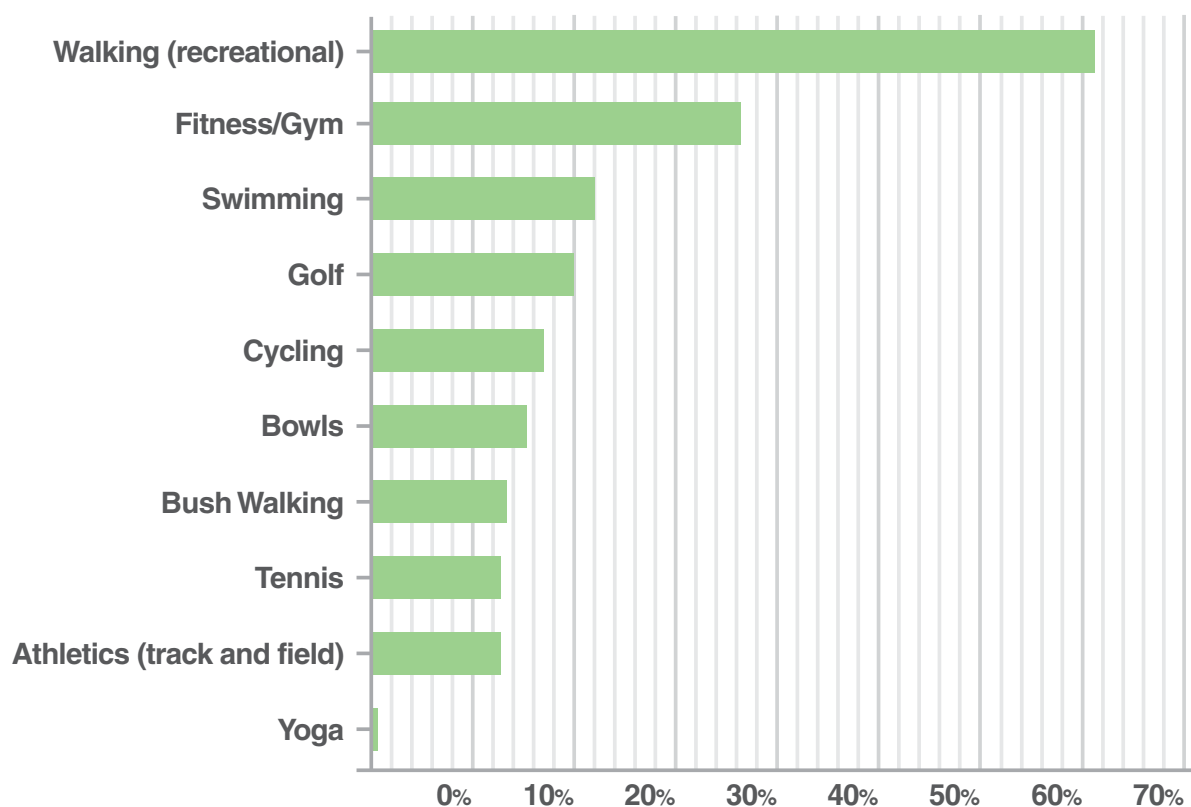
Adult – NSW Top 10 Sports and Physical Activities



The survey found the preferred form of activity for people aged over 65 years in Australia was recreational walking. The below identifies the top 10 sport and physical activities undertaken by people aged 65 years and over.

Top 10 +65 Years Sport and Physical Activities		Participation Rates
1	Walking (recreational)	61.7%
2	Fitness/Gym	26.2%
3	Swimming	11.5%
4	Golf	10%
5	Cycling	6.7%
6	Bowls	4.9%
7	Bush walking	3.9%
8	Tennis	3.5%
9	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	2.4%
10	Yoga	2.3%

+65 Years Australian Top 10 Sports and Physical Activity



Implications for recreation facility provision:

- A rise in individual physical activity in adults should be supported through the provision of pathway networks and infrastructure such as outdoor exercise equipment or water bubblers.
- Sporting facilities should be multi-purpose to ensure they are adaptable to changes in sport popularity.
- To encourage participation of time-poor adults, sports are changing their formats to shorter playing times, requiring smaller fields. This may impact field layouts and surface requirements. Examples include 6 a side football (soccer).

Port Stephens Participation Data

Registered player numbers across Port Stephens in 2016 were collected to inform this Strategy. A total of 7,400 people participated in registered club sport in the winter and summer 2016 season at Port Stephens facilities. This consisted of 4,876 junior players and 2,524 adult players. Please note that some people may participate in both winter and summer sports and this will elevate total numbers. For sporting codes that operate in both seasons, the registered player numbers from their principal season were used. Data on tennis court usage was not available.

Key observations from analysing club data include:

- The Tomaree Peninsula offers the greatest choice in sporting codes.
- Traditional male dominated sport, Football, AFL and rugby league, reported an increase in female membership.

Top 3 Junior Sports Across Port Stephens

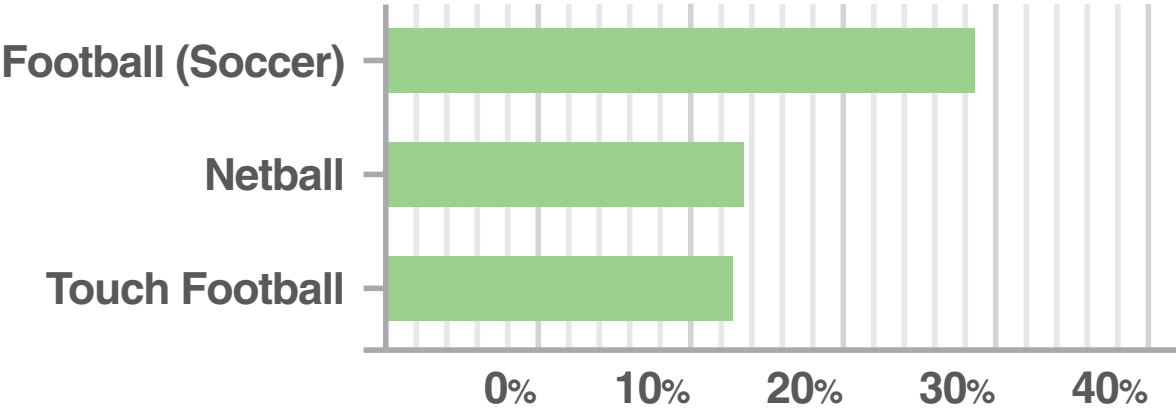
Football (soccer)	28.32%
Netball	13.86%
Touch Football	13.25%

Top 3 Adult Sports Across Port Stephens

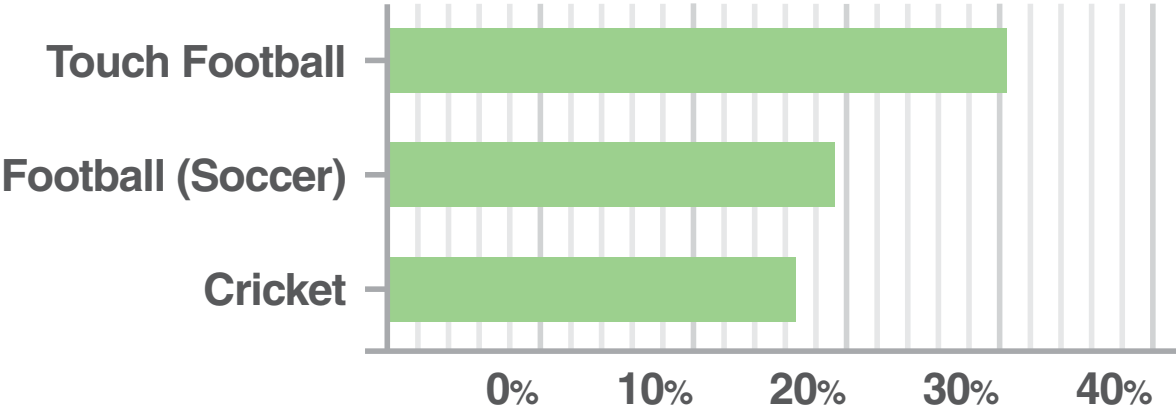
Touch Football	30.19%
Football (soccer)	19.57%
Cricket	16.28%



Top 3 Junior Sports Across Port Stephens



Top 3 Adult Sports Across Port Stephens





2016 participation numbers across Port Stephens based on primary sport season

Junior Sporting Codes	Jnr Numbers		Adult Sporting Codes	Snr Numbers	
Football (soccer)	1381	28.32%	Touch Football	762	30.19%
Netball	676	13.86%	Football (soccer)	494	19.57%
Touch Football	646	13.25%	Cricket	411	16.28%
Athletics	563	11.55%	Netball	299	11.85%
Rugby League	532	10.91%	OZ Tag	150	5.94%
Rugby Union	294	6.03%	AFL	105	4.16%
Cricket	286	5.87%	Rugby League	104	4.12%
AFL	213	4.37%	Croquet	86	3.41%
Hockey	154	3.16%	Rugby Union	72	2.85%
OZ Tag	130	2.67	Athletics	49	1.94%
Baseball	1	0.02%	Baseball	48	1.90%
			Hockey	30	1.19%
Total	4876		Total	2524	

Source: The registered player number data provided by clubs to Sports Council or directly to Council.



Women and girls participation and rise of women's sport

In November 2017 the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) released a focused report on women and girls participation in sport and physical activity based on Ausplay survey data. The report found that women and girls are just as active as boys and men however active sessions for women were of shorter duration than men. The data identified that women and girls are more likely to take part in non-sport related physical activities, with women seldom participating in team sports.

Conversely, the Office of Sport 2016-2017 Annual Report identified a rise in women's sport. They recognise public exposure of women's national competition has grown substantially in the past year with high profile televised games and record crowds especially in netball, AFL and cricket. There are increasing opportunities for female athletes to become professional sports people.

This rise in professional women's sport promotes participation in sport and physical activity to women and girls. Clubs across Port Stephens have reported a greater interest for female teams in sports such as AFL, rugby league and football (soccer).

Implications for recreation Provision:

- Open spaces need to support a variety of physical activities to encourage participation.
- Sports facilities in Port Stephens need to be supportive and welcoming for female participants, volunteers and officials. For example change rooms that provide privacy.
- Sports grounds should support modified formats for clubs that are changing structures to attract increased women's participation.

CSIRO – 'The Future of Australian Sport'

In April 2013 the CSIRO released a report for the Australian Sports Commission called 'The Future of Australian Sport'. The report identifies 'megatrends' defined as important patterns of social, economic and environmental change likely to shape the Australian Sports industry over the next 30 years. Key trends are:

Rise in individual sports and fitness

activities: This includes aerobics, running, walking and gym memberships, which have all raised sharply over the past decade, while participation rates for many organised sports have held constant or declined. It is reported that people are fitting sport into their increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles to achieve personal health objectives. Individual sport and fitness activities allow flexibility, rather than commit to a regular organised sporting event.

This trend is evidenced by the above top 5 activities undertaken by NSW adults—walking, fitness/gym, swimming, athletics (jogging/running) and cycling. In an effort to increase membership, sporting clubs are modifying their game formats to attract time poor community members. This is reflected in the increasing popularity of competitions such as 20/20 cricket, hot shot tennis and 6 a side soccer.

Implications for recreation Provision:

- The rise of non-organised physical activity means linkages and pedestrian and cycleway networks are important to recreation provision.
- Greater demand for commercial operators such as personal trainers to utilise public recreation facilities. Port Stephens already has a number of commercial operators working from parks and sports grounds.
- Short sporting game formats require flexibility in surface and court layouts.

Rise in extreme sports:

Adventure and alternative lifestyle sports, such as skateboarding, are attracting more participants, particularly in the younger generations. Social media and sites such as YouTube are exposing people to a wider range of sports that offer self-expression.

Implications for recreation Provision:

- Skateboard, court facilities and alternate recreational activities are important for young people.
- Spaces for young people to socialise need to be provided.

Changing cultural make-up of Australia:

With an aging population and an increasingly multi-cultural society, the types of sports played and how we play them need to evolve to cater for the changing demographics. CSIRO found that there is an increasing participation amongst older people, multicultural groups and people with a disability. In future, traditional sporting organisations may find it be challenging to capture interest and involvement with these groups.

Implications for recreation Provision:

Port Stephens needs to provide sport and recreation opportunities that attract a broader range of ages, abilities and cultural groups. Facilities need to be accessible and welcoming to these groups.

CATEGORISATION OF RECREATION LAND



Categorisation of recreation land

Open space in Port Stephens ranges from the natural areas including the wetlands, bushland and environmental reserves through to the more developed spaces such as parks, foreshore reserves, urban public spaces and sportsgrounds.

Recreation Land Categories

For the purposes of this Strategy the focus will be on two recreation land categories, as defined below:

Category	Definition
Park	Open space which has been physically modified to support various informal recreation and community events. This includes urban parks, foreshore reserves maintained as parks, formal gardens, community gardens, play facilities and informal lawns.
Sportsground	Outdoor open space or venue designed to support sporting activities and could include fields, ovals, courts and other defined sporting areas. These areas also typically include clubhouses, change rooms, and equipment storage facilities.

The focus of the strategy is land primarily used by the community for recreation.

It does not specifically plan for other open space types such as natural areas, wetlands, cemeteries, community halls, aquatic centres, linear corridors, drainage/detention basins and civic spaces. These land categories have been considered in the development of the strategy as they are highly valued and contribute to the broader recreation network, however they are not the focus of this document.

Recreation Land Hierarchy

A 'hierarchy' approach is proposed by this Strategy to determine the appropriate level of development and management of Council's recreation network; it is recognised that not all facilities are able to be developed and managed to the same level or standard.

The suggested hierarchy levels are consistent with the framework widely adopted and applied across the industry. The three levels proposed are: **Regional, District and Local.**

In principle the hierarchy level allocated for each open space parcel of land has been determined through consideration of a number of factors including location, size, quality, accessibility, existing infrastructure, uniqueness, visitor appeal (including the geographical catchment of people attracted), flexibility or type and capacity for activity offered.

Generally regional and district recreation facilities will be higher quality and have the potential to cater for a wider catchment of people. Local spaces will typically cater for local communities, be less developed and have a lower profile.

This hierarchy level can be changed for each parcel of recreation land to reflect the changing community needs, although generally improvements should be consistent with the hierarchy level allocated through this Strategy.

The 'hierarchy' of recreation land within the network has been defined as follows:

Regional
Regional recreation space has the capacity to attract people from the wider Port Stephens area and beyond.



District
District recreation spaces typically have the capacity to draw people from more than one Planning Precinct area.



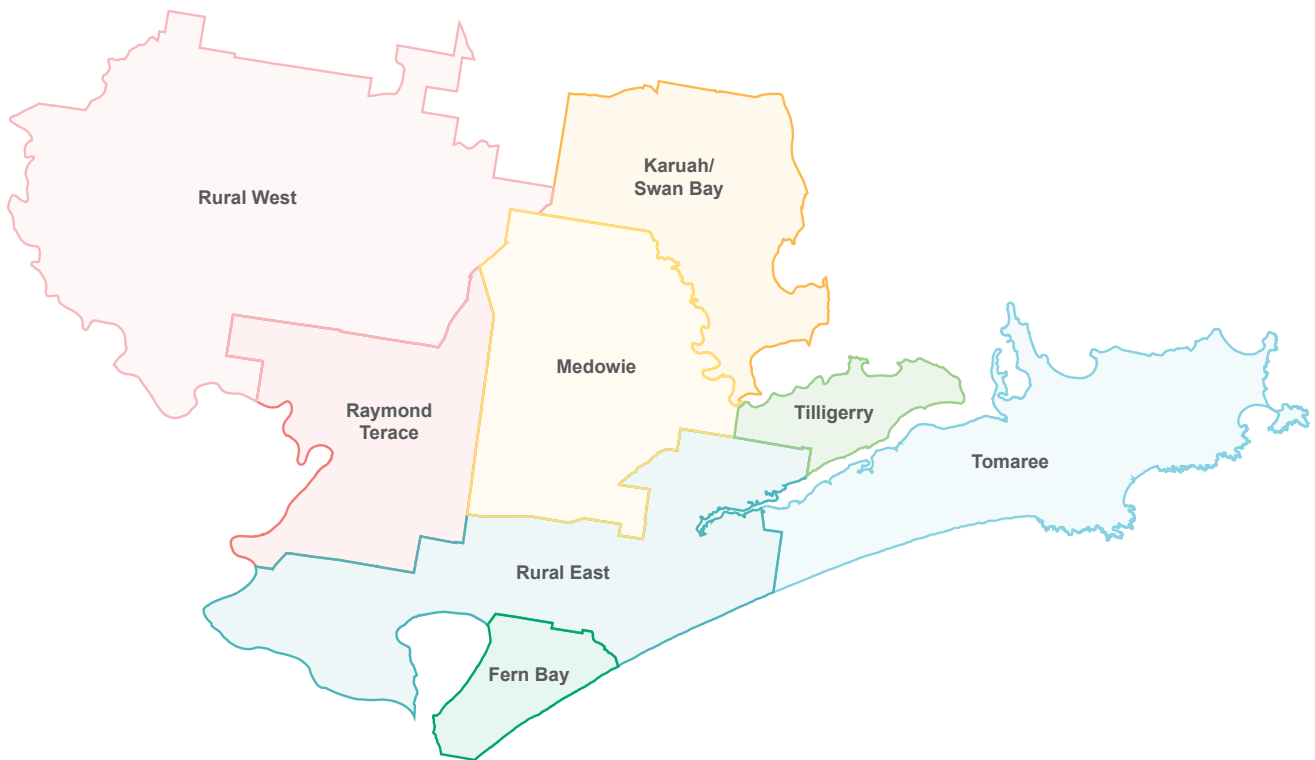
Local
Local recreation spaces will generally cater for people within the local area within one or two suburbs.





PORT STEPHENS PLANNING PROFILES





Planning profiles

Consideration of the key geographical and demographic characteristics and their implications for recreation in Port Stephens are considered below.

Port Stephens Character

Port Stephens Council is located in the Hunter Region of New South Wales about 200 kilometres north of Sydney. The Worimi people are the traditional owners of the Port Stephens area and it remains an important meeting place for celebrations and events of educational, sporting, social and cultural significance. European settlement can be dated back from 1812 when cedar getters arrived in the area and farms were established. Today the area is predominantly rural in character, with a mixture of urban, commercial, industrial and military land uses.

Geographic Character

The Council area encompasses some 1,000 square kilometres of which a significant proportion is National Park, State Forest and nature reserves. The

expansive bushland and its marine surroundings are synonymous with the character of Port Stephens. This natural setting and treasured environment are what encourages people to settle here and visitors to travel from afar to experience Port Stephens.

Demographic Character

This section of the Strategy provides an overview of the characteristics and trends in the current and projected resident population of Port Stephens. This information has been sourced from the following studies:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics: Census of Population 2016 (REMPAN)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics: Census of Population 2011 (REMPAN)-SEIFA Data
- Port Stephens Tourism Monitor 2015-16

LGA Profile 2016

Total Population: 69,537 people (2016 ABS Census)

Population Density: 0.81 persons /ha

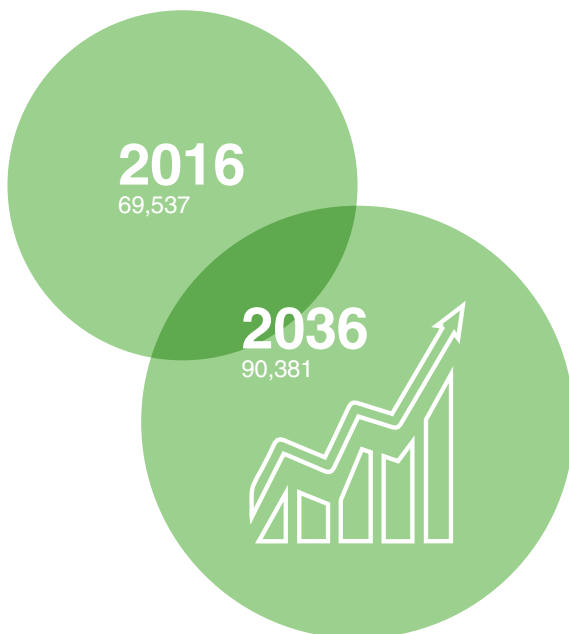
Median Age: 45 years

Average Household Size: 2.5 persons

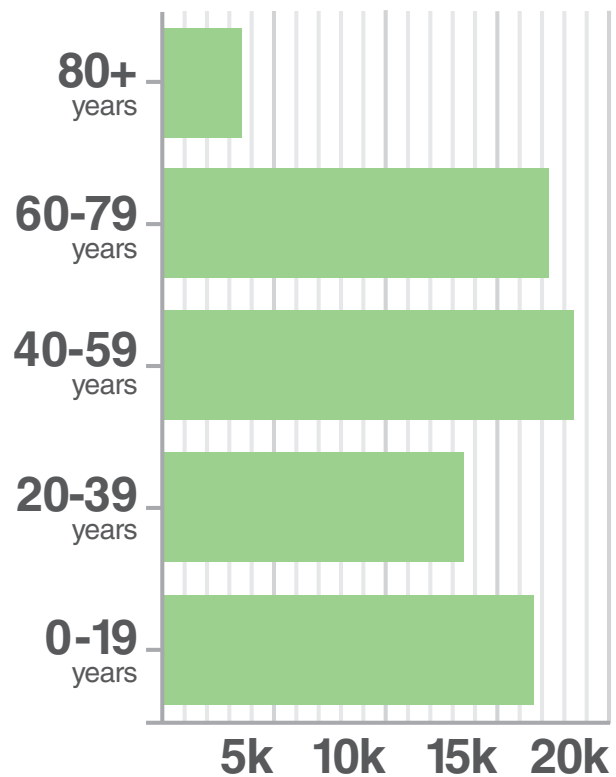
Average Number of Children Per Household: 1.9 children

Interesting characteristics of Port Stephens

- 81% of Port Stephens residents were born in Australia compared to 65.5% in NSW.
- 4.8% of the population identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is unique; in NSW and Australia the proportion is 2.9% and 2.8% respectfully.
- The median age of residents is 45, higher than the NSW and Australian median age of 38 years. The median age of people who identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is 21 years.
- The number of people who have a Need for Assistance has grown to 6.41% in 2016. This has increased from 5.50% of the population in 2011.
- The average Port Stephens household in 2016 earned \$1,180 weekly. 23.2% of Port Stephens households earned less than \$650 a week; this was higher than the NSW proportion of 19.7%. Only 10% of households in Port Stephens earned more than \$3000 a week, this is lower than the NSW 18.7%.



Port Stephens Population Projection



Port Stephens Population - Age



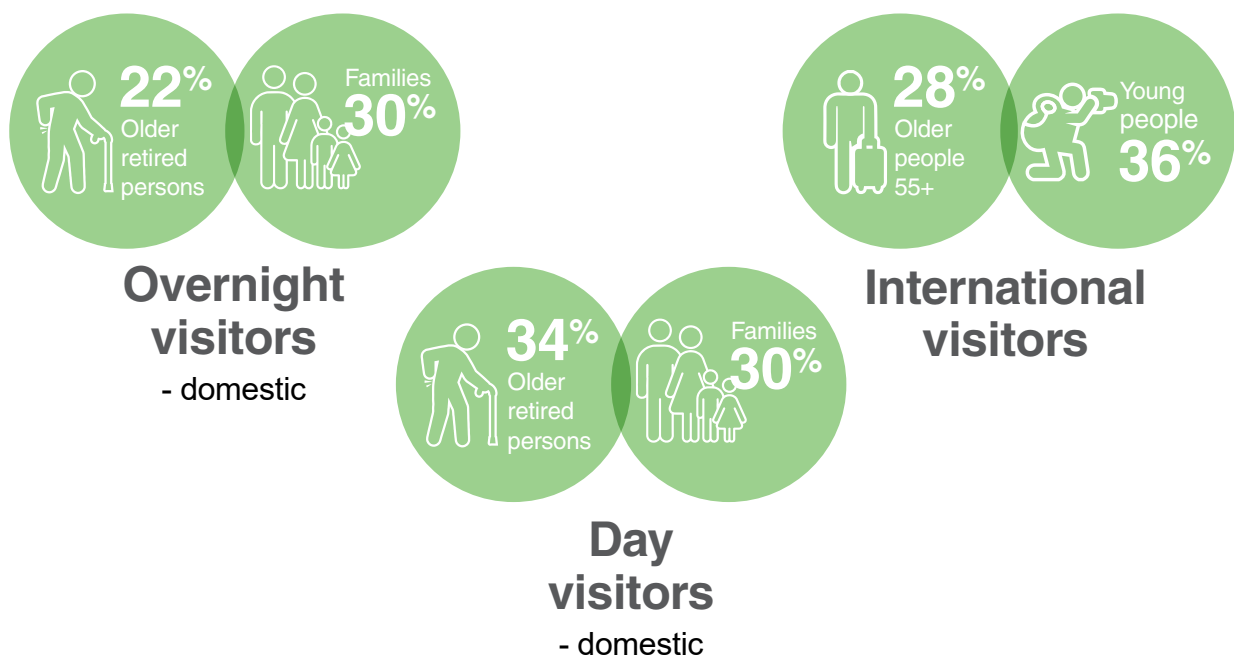
Tourism/visitor profile

Port Stephens, particularly the Tomaree Peninsula, is a popular destination for both the domestic and international tourist market. Visitor numbers fluctuate throughout the year with visitation numbers peaking in the January to March quarter. This puts additional demand on the provision and quality of Council’s recreation network.

Below is a summary of visitation rates in the 2015/16 financial year:

- Domestic overnight markets provided 618,996 visitors for 2.1 million nights.
- Domestic day trips provided 750,840 visitors per year.
- International markets provided 26,345 visitors per year.
- The three markets totaled 1.39 million visitors to Port Stephens per financial year.

The following is a profile of the key visitor segments from the 2015/16 financial year:

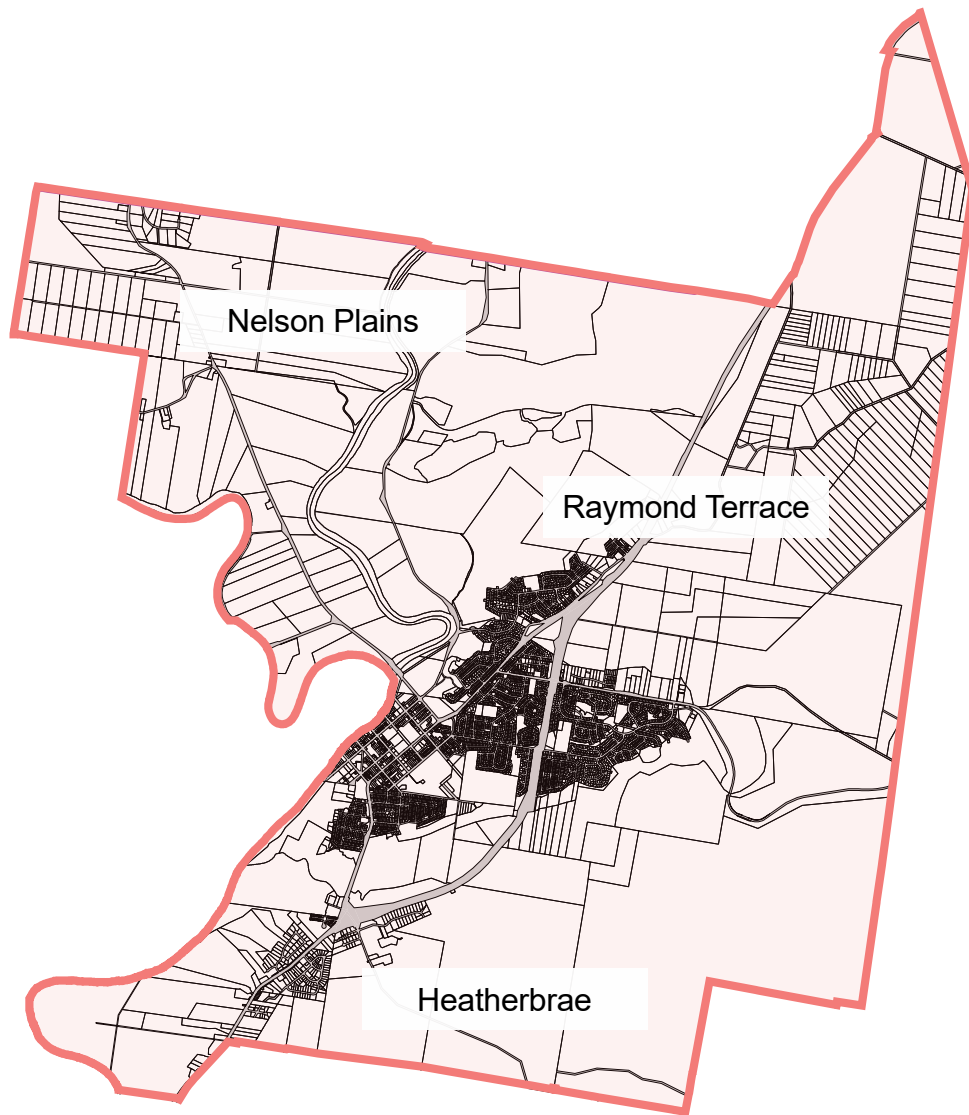




Planning districts

The LGA has been further divided into 8 Planning District to better understand the geographical and demographic characteristics within Port Stephens LGA. These Planning Districts are:

1. Raymond Terrace
2. Rural West
3. Meadowie
4. Tilligerry Peninsula
5. Tomaree Peninsula
6. Rural East
7. Fern Bay
8. Karuah / Swan Bay



Raymond Terrace

Raymond Terrace | Nelson Plains | Heatherbrae

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 13,654
- Projected population (2036): 17,695

Geographical characteristics

- European settlement of the area dates from the late 1830's when the township of Raymond Terrace was established as a river port.
- Raymond Terrace is a recognised and evolving regional centre, with a diverse mix of residential precincts, retail, commercial, airport, RAAF defence land and the highway/industrial character of Heatherbrae.
- Each residential precinct has its own identity which collectively contributes to the distinctive riverside character of Raymond Terrace.
- Residential settlements range from low density separate detached dwellings to higher density residential flat buildings.

- Major features of the area include the Hunter River, Grahamstown Dam, Hunter Regional Botanic Gardens, Muree Golf Course, Boomerang Park, King Park Sports Complex and a number of schools.
- Predominantly low density housing with future planned medium density.

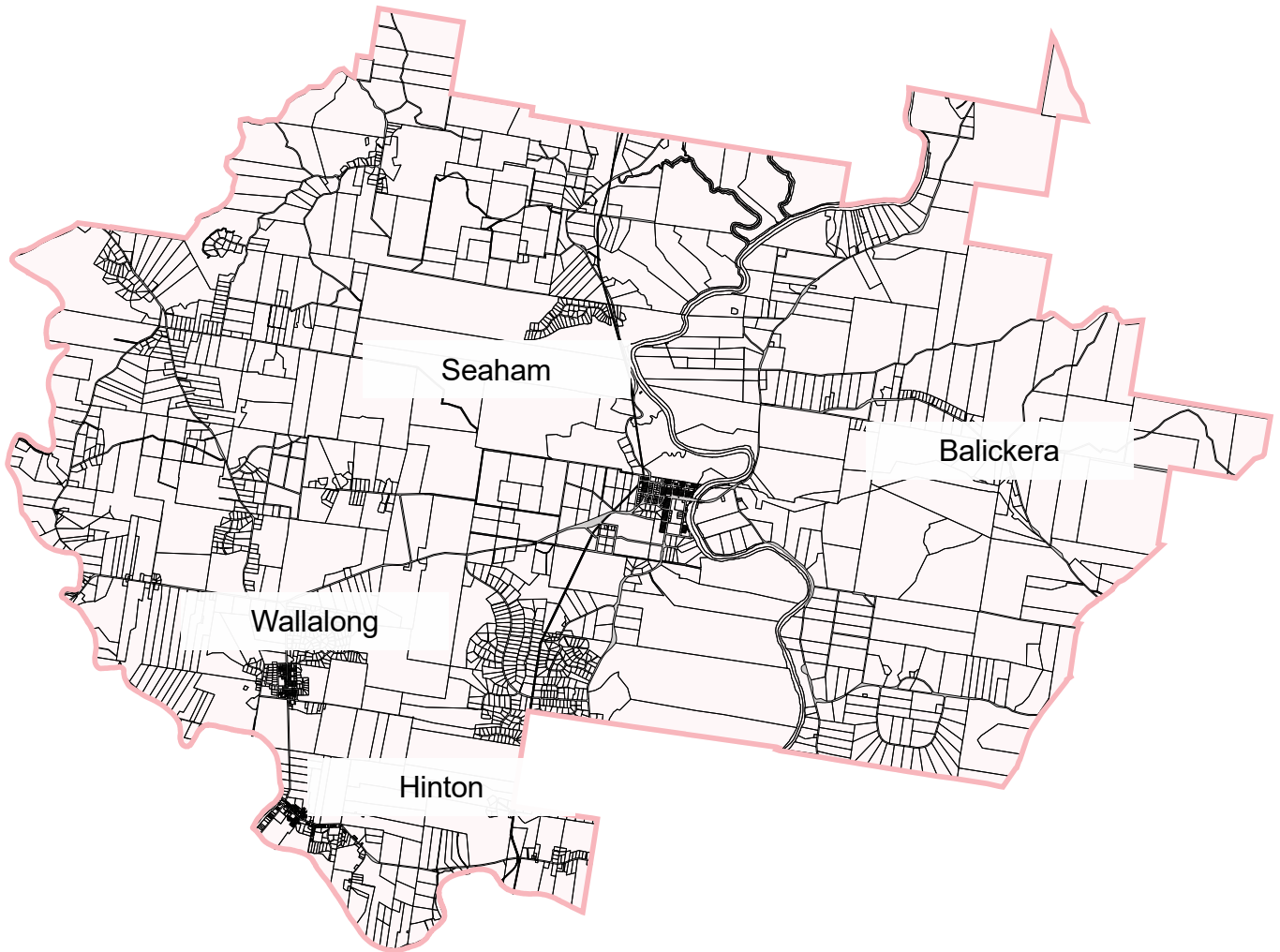
Demographic summary

- Raymond Terrace and its neighbouring centre of Heatherbrae are home to 13,654 people and is predicted to grow by 4,041 people (29.6%) over the next 20 years, reaching 17,695.
- New urban release areas, such as Kings Hill are forecast catalysts for further growth and diversification. The Kings Hill urban release area is forecast to contribute to over 2,500 of predicted growth in the district.
- This district is currently the second most disadvantaged in the LGA (SEIFA, 2011).

Raymond Terrace recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Boomerang Park	Community Land	Regional Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	17G Irrawang Street	Raymond Terrace	22.07
Riverside Park	Crown Trustee	District Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	4 Hunter Street	Raymond Terrace	0.97
Lakeside Reserve No.2	Community Land	District Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	66 Benjamin Lee Drive	Raymond Terrace	3.31
Vogele Pl Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	22 Vogele Place	Raymond Terrace	0.59
Roslyn Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	10A Alton Close	Raymond Terrace	2.87
Lakeside Reserve No.3	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	2A Bilmark Drive	Raymond Terrace	2.45
Alton Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	75A Alton Road	Raymond Terrace	1.29
Anseline Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	31 Gwen Parade	Raymond Terrace	0.6

Anzac Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	2A Jacaranda Avenue	Raymond Terrace	0.15
Bettles Park	Community/ Operational Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	1 Sketchley Street	Raymond Terrace	0.72
Bourke St Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	2 Peter Dron Street	Raymond Terrace	1.64
Brown Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	17 Brown Street	Raymond Terrace	0.16
Edstein Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	8A Roslyn Street	Raymond Terrace	0.23
Elkin Ave Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	8A Elkin Avenue	Heatherbrae	0.2
Feeney Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	1A Morgan Crescent	Raymond Terrace	0.2
Jaycees Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	249A Adelaide Street	Raymond Terrace	0.29
Jimmy Scott Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	16 Adastra Close	Raymond Terrace	1.32
Kia-Ora Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	2A Phillip Street	Raymond Terrace	1.56
King Park-Foreshore	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	23 Newline Road	Raymond Terrace	3.3
Kinross Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	29 Kinross Street	Raymond Terrace	0.09
Kittyhawk Park	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	93 Dawson Road	Raymond Terrace	3.19
Lakeside Reserve No.1	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	18 Macquarie Close	Raymond Terrace	2.45
Old Dairy Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	RAYMOND TERRACE	45 Dairyman Drive	Raymond Terrace	0.32
King Park Sports Complex Vi Barnett Tennis Netball	Community Land	Regional Sportsground	RAYMOND TERRACE	23 Newline Road	Raymond Terrace	22.93
Lakeside Sports Complex	Community Land	District Sportsground	RAYMOND TERRACE	Leisure Way	Raymond Terrace	17.06
Jack Johnson Trotting Club	Community Land	Local Sportsground	RAYMOND TERRACE	22 Newline Road	Raymond Terrace	3.56



Rural West

Balickera | Brandy Hill | Butterwick | Duns Creek | Eagleton | East Seaham
Glen Oak | Hinton | Osterley | Seaham | Woodville | Wallalong

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 5,293
- Projected population (2036): 8,766

Geographical characteristics

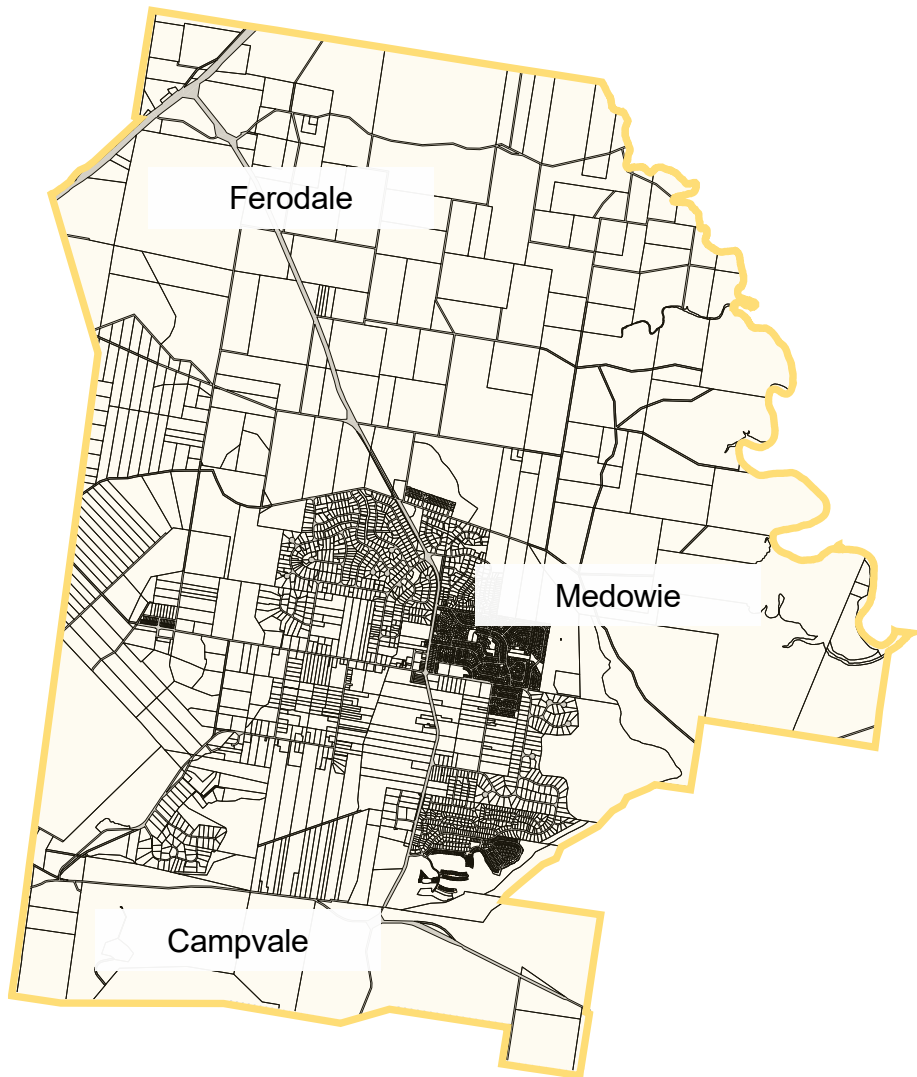
- Rural West is the largest area comprising 24,643 ha.
- The area is characterised by rural landscapes and low density dispersed residential settlements with large amounts of private open space.
- Settlement of the area dates from the 1820s, with land used mainly for farming. The most significant development occurred in the post-war years.
- Rural land uses include dairy, horticulture and poultry farming.
- Major features of the area include the Williams River, Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve, Wallaroo Nature Reserve, Hinton Foreshore, Bowthorne Park and a number of schools.

Demographic summary

- 5,293 people with future planned residential development within the district forecast to result in anticipated growth of 65.6% (8,766) by 2036.
- This planning district is predicted to experience the second largest increase in the proportion of the population 55 years and over (10.9%) and the second largest decrease in the proportion of the population under 25 years of age (-9.7%) in the LGA.
- Predominantly characterised by middle-aged couples living in separate houses;
- Above average income area.
- The area is the least disadvantaged in the LGA (SEIFA, 2011).

Rural West recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Hinton Foreshore	Com/Operational Land	District Park	RURAL WEST	2C Paterson Street	Hinton	1.04
Seaham Park	Community Land	District Park	RURAL WEST	55 Warren Street	Seaham	3.68
Seaham Boat Ramp Picnic Area	Road Reserve	Local Park	RURAL WEST	East Seaham Road	Seaham	0.2
Bowthorne Park	Community Land	District Sportsground	RURAL WEST	19 Morpeth Street	Wallalong	3.95
Brandon Park	Community Land	Local Sportsground	RURAL WEST	1016 Seaham Road	Seaham	3.75
Green Wattle Creek Rd Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Sportsground	RURAL WEST	7 Green Wattle Creek Road	Butterwick	7.77
Stuart Park	Crown Trustee	Local Sportsground	RURAL WEST	17 Swan Street	Hinton	3.04



Medowie

Medowie | Ferodale | Campvale

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 9,684
- Projected population (2036): 16,495

Geographical characteristics

- District 3 is characterised by rural landscapes and residential precincts.
- Medowie town centre is a growing precinct with future plans for a mix of housing types.
- Rural land is predominantly used for market gardening, poultry farming and koala habitat corridors.
- Major features of the area include Medowie State Conservation Area, Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve,

Grahamstown Lake, Pacific Dunes Golf Course, Ferodale Sports Complex and two schools.

- Medowie is thought to be named from an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of tall trees'.

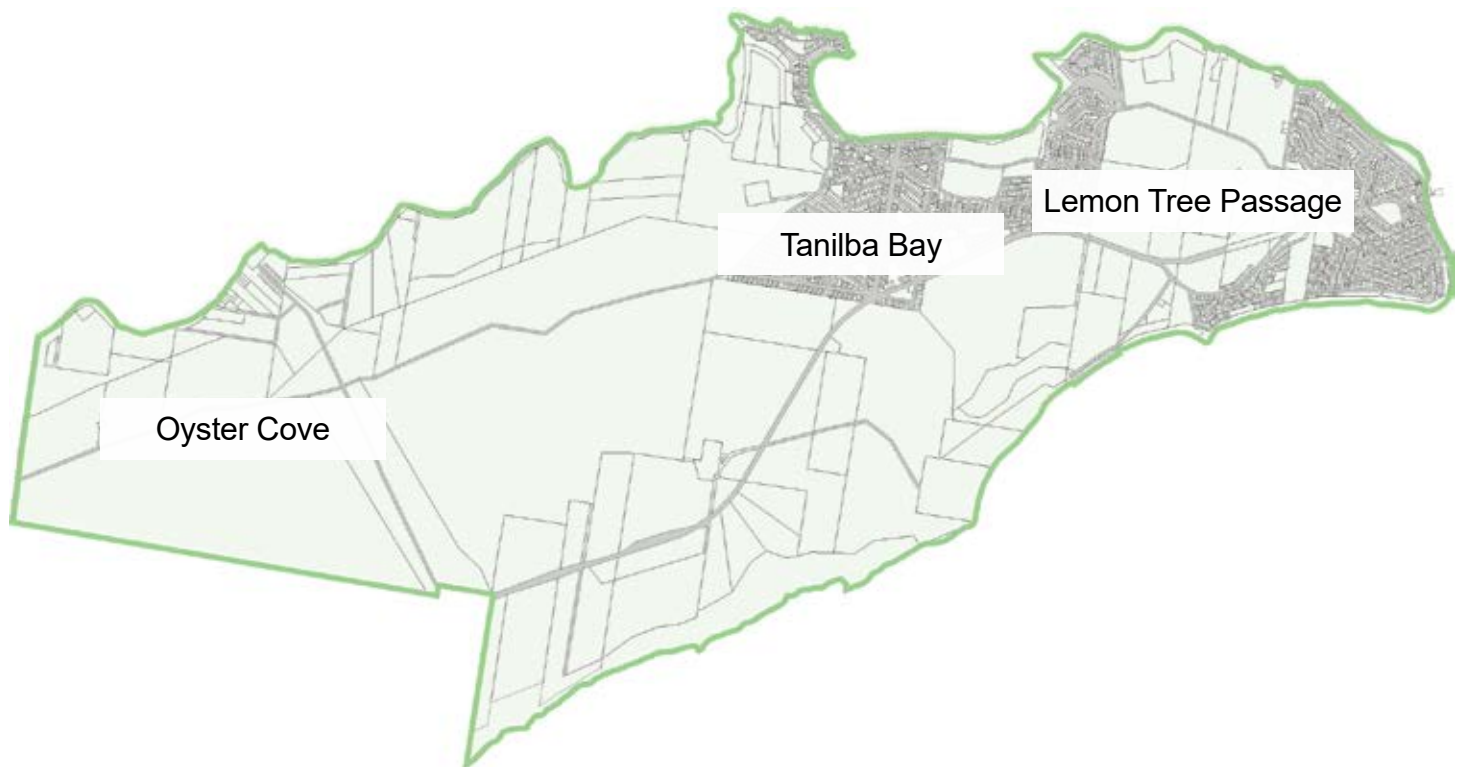
Demographic summary

- 9,684 people and it is predicted to continue to experience high growth (70.3%) increase by 2036.
- Currently this district demographic is predominantly characterised by middle aged couples with children.

- The greatest growth (18.5%) is forecast to be experienced in the 55 years and over cohort, growing from 22.6% to 41.1% of all people living in the district, making it the fastest growing ageing community in the LGA.
- Above average income area.
- Area is the second most advantaged in the LGA (SEIFA, 2011).

Medowie recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Medowie Community Centre Playground/ Public Toilet	Operational Land	District Park	MEDOWIE	42 Ferodale Road	Medowie	0.33
Coachwood Dr Reserve 2	Community Land	Local Park	MEDOWIE	36 Coachwood Drive	Medowie	2.03
Coolabah Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	MEDOWIE	8 Casuarina Avenue	Medowie	2.02
Creighton Dr Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	MEDOWIE	16 Creighton Drive	Medowie	0.17
Ferodale Sports Complex	Operational Land	District Sportsground	MEDOWIE	36 Ferodale Road	Medowie	9.86
Boyd Oval	Community Land	Local Sportsground	MEDOWIE	26 Grey Gum Street	Medowie	2.46
Elaine Hurst Oval	Community Land	Local Sportsground	MEDOWIE	28 Grey Gum Street	Medowie	2.93
Grahamstown Aquatic Club	Trustee (other)	Local Sportsground	MEDOWIE	3 Grahamstown Road	Ferodale	3.96
Kindlebark Oval	Community Land	Local Sportsground	MEDOWIE	6 Agonis Place	Medowie	3.31
Medowie Tennis Courts	Community Land	Local Sportsground	MEDOWIE	26 Grey Gum Street	Medowie	0.49
Yulong Park	Community Land	Local Sportsground	MEDOWIE	6 Kirrang Drive	Medowie	4.7



Tilligerry Peninsula

Lemon Tree Passage | Mallabula | Tanilba Bay | Oyster Cove

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 6,767
- Projected population (2036): 7,179

Geographical characteristics

- Tilligerry Peninsula is bounded by the Karuah River to the north and Tilligerry Creek to the south.
- Characterised by a rich historic setting with pockets of hamlet settlements within large areas of national park.
- European settlement of the area dates from the 1820s, when farms were established by the Australian Agricultural Company.
- Major features of the area include the Tanilba Bay Golf Course, Tanilba (historic) house, one school and extensive foreshore reserves.

Demographic summary

- 6,767 people with growth predicted to be minimal (6.1%), increasing to 7,179 by 2036.

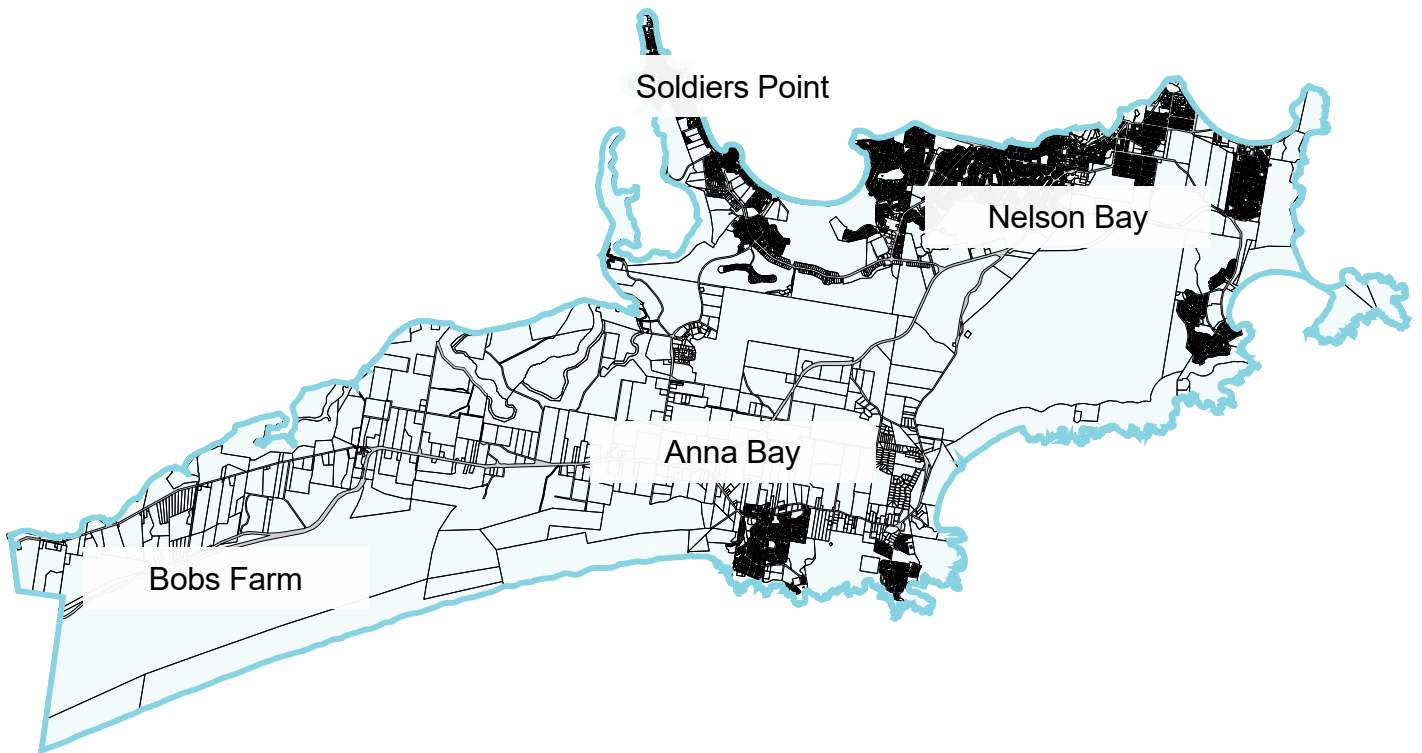
- Tilligerry has a high proportion (42.3%) of residents 55 years and older. The majority of age cohorts within the Tilligerry population are predicted to remain stable.

Tilligerry Peninsula recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Caswell Reserve	Crown Trustee/ Community	District Park	TILLIGERRY	4 Bay Street	Mallabula	1.01
Henderson Park	Community Land	District Park	TILLIGERRY	52 Cook Parade	Lemon Tree Passage	0.4
Peace Park	Crown Trustee	District Park	TILLIGERRY	1A Peace Parade	Tanilba Bay	2.15
Tanilba Park	Community Land	District Park	TILLIGERRY	18A Tanilba Avenue	Tanilba Bay	1.07
Centennial Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	5 Beatty Boulevard	Tanilba Bay	0.97
Diggers Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	21A Diggers Drive	Tanilba Bay	0.29
Foster Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	1A Peace Parade	Tanilba Bay	1.43
Gibber Point Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	18 Gibbers Drive	Lemon Tree Passage	3.51
Gula Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	1 Ability Avenue	Tanilba Bay	1.94
Halloran Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	27A Poilus Parade	Tanilba Bay	0.56
Hartree Reserve	Road Reserve	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	Stephens Street	Mallabula	0.76
John Pde Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	57 John Parade	Lemon Tree Passage	6.2
King Albert Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	42A King Albert Avenue	Tanilba Bay	0.31
Koala Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	2B Cook Parade	Lemon Tree Passage	0.98
Koindah Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	54 Cook Parade	Lemon Tree Passage	3.59
Malvern Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	11 Malvern Road	Lemon Tree Passage	1.5
McCann Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	13 Meredith Avenue	Lemon Tree Passage	2.33



Meridian Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	37A Caswell Crescent	Tanilba Bay	0.87
Nyrang Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	1 Beach Road	Lemon Tree Passage	2.52
RAF Park	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	1 Success Street	Tanilba Bay	0.97
Rudd Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	64 Cook Parade	Lemon Tree Passage	2.84
Sunset Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	2B Caswell Crescent	Tanilba Bay	1.04
Swan Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TILLIGERRY	7B Swan Street	Tanilba Bay	0.19
Mallabula Sports Complex	Crown Trustee	District Sports-ground	TILLIGERRY	1195 Lemon Tree Passage Road	Mallabula	19.01
Tanilba Golf Club	Crown Trustee	District Sports-ground	TILLIGERRY	11 Road 564	Tanilba Bay	NA



Tomaree Peninsula

Anna Bay | Boat Harbour | Bobs Farm | Corlette | Fingal Bay | Fishermans Bay
 Nelson Bay | One Mile | Salamander Bay | Shoal Bay | Soldiers Point | Taylors Beach

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 26,737
- Projected population (2036): 30,104

Geographical characteristics

- Tomaree Peninsula is bounded by Port Stephens in the north, the Tasman Sea in the east and south.
- The area is a popular tourist destination because of its coastal frontage and unique environmental values.
- Density varies across the District with a mix of both low, medium and high density housing including separate detached dwellings, duplex, townhouses and residential flat buildings.
- A popular domestic and international tourist destination.
- Major features of the area include the Tomaree National Park, Soldiers Point and Birubi Point Aboriginal Place, Tomaree Sports Complex, Nelson Bay Foreshore, Fly Point Aquatic Reserve, Tilligerry Nature Reserve, various beaches and numerous schools.

Demographic summary

- 26,737 people with the District's population predicted to grow to approximately 30,104 (12.6%) by 2036.
- Currently, Tomaree has the second largest proportion (44.3%) of residents 55 years and older and this is predicted to increase to 47.5% by 2036.
- Predominantly characterised by middle aged couples and retirees living in separate houses.
- Average income area.
- Area is the third most advantaged in the LGA and the fourth lowest proportion of residents having a need for assistance (SEIFA, 2011).

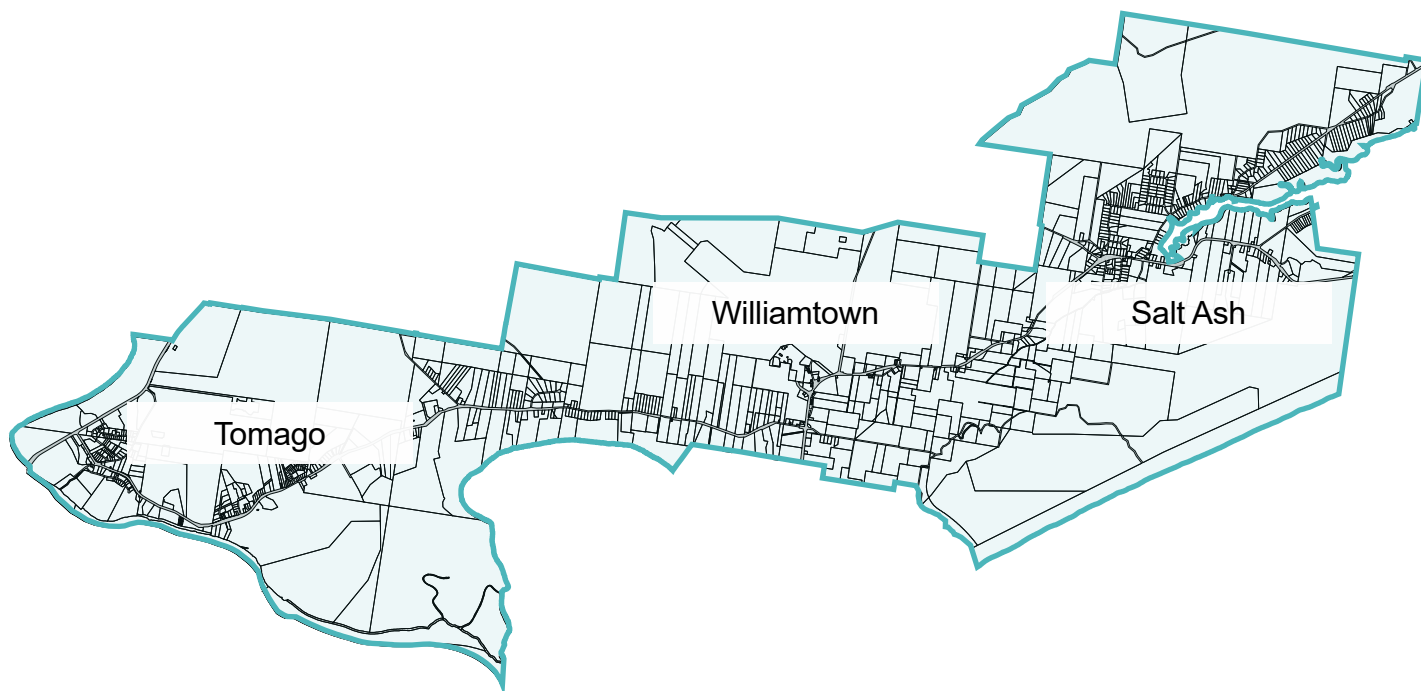
Tomaree Peninsula recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Apex Park	Crown Trustee	Regional Park	TOMAREE	6 Laman Street	Nelson Bay	1.28
Nelson Bay Foreshore Reserve	Crown Trustee	Regional Park	TOMAREE	54 Victoria Parade	Nelson Bay	2.15
Bagnalls Beach Reserve (East)	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	150 Government Road	Corlette	2.83
Barry Park	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	96 Marine Drive	Fingal Bay	0.13
Birubi Beach Reserve Robinson Reserve Ocean Ave Reserve	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	73 James Paterson Street	Anna Bay	16.22
Boat Harbour Beach Bangalee Reserve North Headland	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	1A Ocean Parade	Boat Harbour	2.42
Bob Cairns Reserve	Community Land	District Park	TOMAREE	2 Cook Street	Salamander Bay	0.21
Conroy Park	Community Land	District Park	TOMAREE	70B Sandy Point Road	Corlette	0.46
Corlette Point Park	Community land	District Park	TOMAREE	Corlette Point Road	Corlette	0.18
Dutchmans Beach Reserve	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	1A Burbong Street	Nelson Bay	2.14
Everitt Park	Community/ Operational Land	District Park	TOMAREE	9 Mitchell Street	Soldiers Point	2.91
Fingal Bay Foreshore Reserve	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	7 Marine Drive	Fingal Bay	11.09

Fly Point Park Neil Carroll Park	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	98 Shoal Bay Road	Nelson Bay	2.92
George Reserve	Community Land	District Park	TOMAREE	173A Soldiers Point Road	Salamander Bay	0.28
Little Beach Reserve	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	Beach Road	Nelson Bay	0.78
Roy Wood Reserve	Community Land	District Park	TOMAREE	160A Sandy Point Road	Corlette	1.14
Shoal Bay Foreshore Reserve Murrungbangba Reserve	Crown Trustee	District Park	TOMAREE	Shoal Bay Road	Shoal Bay	13.86
Spencer Park	Community Land	District Park	TOMAREE	2A Soldiers Point Road	Soldiers Point	0.3
Taylor's Beach Foreshore Reserve	Community Land	District Park	TOMAREE	36A Albert Street	Taylor's Beach	0.79
Angophora Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	32 Bagnall Beach Road	Corlette	1.62
Bagnall Beach Rd Detention Basin	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	51A Bagnalls Beach Road	Corlette	1.22
Bagnalls Beach Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	150 Government Road	Corlette	7.45
Bernie Thompson Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TOMAREE	6 Government Road	Shoal Bay	0.53
Birubi Sands Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	7 Anglers Drive	Anna Bay	1.55
Bob Cairns Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	29 Foreshore Drive	Salamander Bay	0.76
Bonito St Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	62 Bonito Street	Corlette	0.31
Boronia Gardens	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	38 Boronia Drive	Salamander Bay	0.58
Central Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	1F Gowrie Avenue	Nelson Bay	0.64
Compass Cl Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	11 Compass Close	Salamander Bay	0.23
Corlette Foreshore	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	70B Sandy Point Road	Corlette	0.68
Dunmore Ave Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	3A Blake Parade	Anna Bay	1.44
Fishermans Bay Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	2 Park Street	Fishermans Bay	1.42

Garden PI Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	5A Garden Place	Shoal Bay	0.11
George Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	173A Soldiers Point Road	Salamander Bay	1.12
Iluka Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TOMAREE	5 Noamunga Street	Boat Harbour	19.48
Joe Redman Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	Foreshore Drive	Salamander Bay	0.51
John Eckersley Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	124 Soldiers Point Road	Soldiers Point	0.9
Kangaroo Point Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	123A Soldiers Point Road	Soldiers Point	0.2
Karralika Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	10 Pantowora Street	Corlette	0.33
Laidler Walk Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TOMAREE	65 Victoria Parade	Nelson Bay	1.1
Lancaster Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	30A Soldiers Point Road	Soldiers Point	0.33
Lorikeet Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	50 Spinnaker Way	Corlette	1.04
Mur - Rang Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TOMAREE	1 Tuncurry Close	Nelson Bay	0.21
Ngoika Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	12 Dixon Drive	Nelson Bay	1.2
Noamunga Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TOMAREE	Noamunga Street	Boat Harbour	0.37
One Mile Beach Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park		10 Hannah Parade	One Mile	2.24
Passchendaele Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	111A Government Road	Shoal Bay	0.62
Pearson Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	85A Bay View Street	Soldiers Point	2.84
Pirralea Gardens	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	16 Primary Crescent	Nelson Bay	0.57
Port Stephens Native Garden East Wing	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	12 Dixon Drive	Nelson Bay	1.72
Pozieres Park	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	13 Messines Street	Shoal Bay	0.47
Sergeant Baker Dr Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	97 Sergeant Baker Drive	Corlette	0.72
Sun Patch Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	72 Ronald Avenue	Shoal Bay	0.42
Taylors Beach Road Reserve 2	Road Reserve	Local Park	TOMAREE	Albert Street	Taylors Beach	0.17

Trumpeter Cct Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	TOMAREE	1 Trumpeter Circuit	Corlette	1.93
Victoria Pde Reserve	Crown Trustee	Local Park	TOMAREE	69 Victoria Parade	Nelson Bay	0.77
Tomaree Sports Complex	Community Land/Crown Trustee	Regional Sports-ground	TOMAREE	20 Aquatic Close	Nelson Bay	30.4
Nelson Bay Tennis Courts	Crown Trustee	District Sports-ground	TOMAREE	5B Tallean Road	Nelson Bay	1.66
Salamander Bay Sports Complex	Community Land	District Sports-ground	TOMAREE	9 Tarrant Road	Salamander Bay	15.63
Anna Bay Recreation	Crown Trustee	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	6 Fishermans Bay Road	Anna Bay	0.44
Bill Strong Oval	Crown Trustee	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	98 Shoal Bay Road	Nelson Bay	1.68
Boat Harbour Tennis Courts	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	35A Blanch Street	Boat Harbour	0.29
Fingal Bay Oval	Crown Trustee	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	50 Marine Drive	Fingal Bay	4.44
Fingal Bay Tennis Courts	Crown Trustee	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	Farm Road	Fingal Bay	0.68
Korora Oval	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	285 Soldiers Point Road	Salamander Bay	2.81
Nelson Bay Pony Club	Crown Trustee	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	4290 Nelson Bay Road	Anna Bay	0.06
Shoal Bay Tennis Courts	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	13 Messines Street	Shoal Bay	0.16
Soldiers Point Tennis Courts	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	2A Soldiers Point Road	Soldiers Point	0.18
Tom O'Dwyer Memorial Oval	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	TOMAREE	5 Austral Street	Nelson Bay	1.65



Rural East

Salt Ash | Tomago | Williamtown

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 2,296
- Projected population (2036): 2,512

Geographical characteristics

- This District has strong connections with Aboriginal heritage and connection to country for the local Worimi people. The built environment is an evolving and innovative hub of commercial and industrial land uses, including aviation and military land uses.
- Small pockets of residential dwellings, including some rural residential development.
- Major features of the District include the Williamtown Aerospace Centre, Newcastle Airport, Williamtown RAAF Base, Kooragang Nature Reserve, Oakvale Farm, Tomago (historic) House, Worimi Conservation Lands, including the Stockton Sand Dunes and a number of schools.

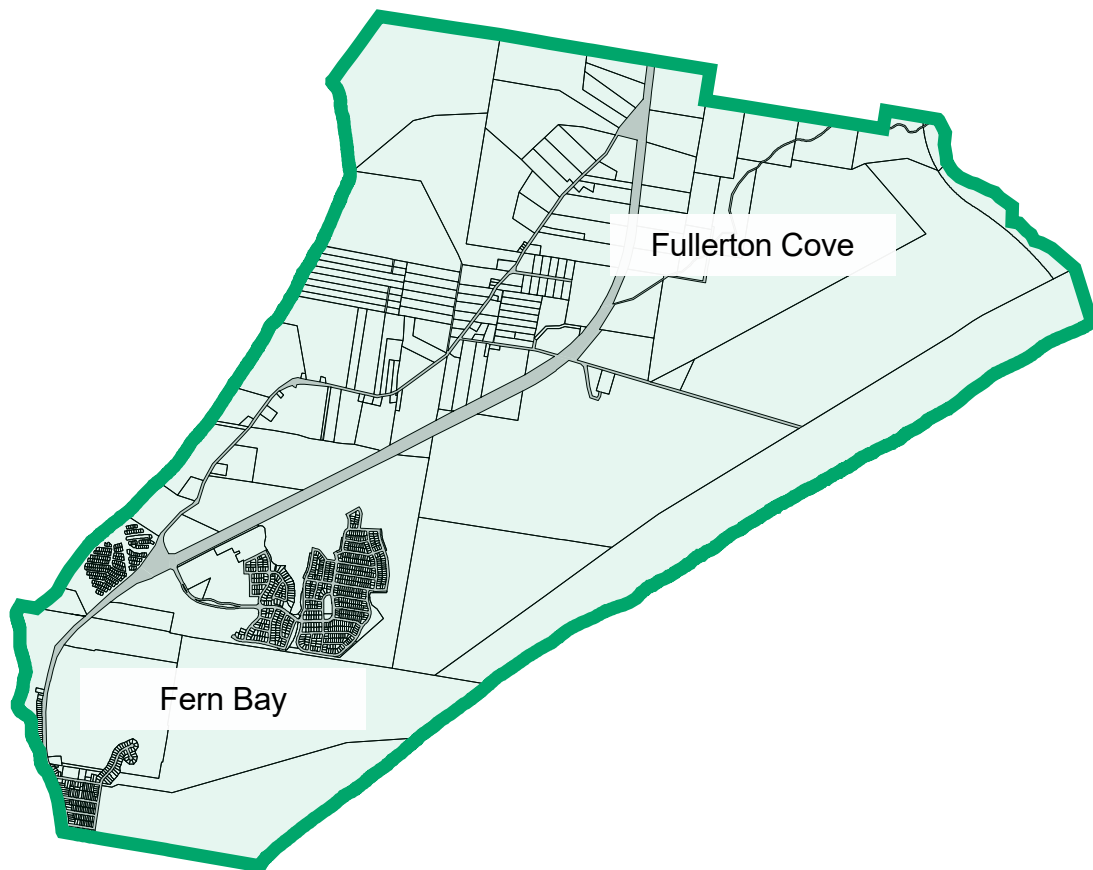


Demographic summary

- 2,296 people with minimal predicted growth (9.4%) to 2,512 in 2036.
- The number of people aged less than 25 years is forecast to slightly decline by 3.7% to 22.2% of the population in 2036.
- The only cohort forecast to increase by 2036 is the over 75 year old plus age group.

Rural East recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Lee Thompson Park	Community Land	District Park	RURAL EAST	1 Michael Drive	Salt Ash	1.23
Old Wharf Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	RURAL EAST	224 Lemon Tree Passage Road	Salt Ash	0.34
Tomago Boat Ramp	Community Land	Local Park	RURAL EAST	527 Tomago Road	Tomago	1.72
Salt Ash Sportsground	Crown Trustee	District Sports-ground	RURAL EAST	1445 Richardson Road	Salt Ash	13.98
Salt Ash Tennis Courts	Crown Trustee	Local Sports-ground	RURAL EAST	224 Lemon Tree Passage Road	Salt Ash	0.19



Fern Bay

Fern Bay | Fullerton Cove

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 3,330
- Projected population (2036) 4,729

Geographical characteristics

- This District is predominantly rural, with Fern Bay historically concentrated around a small village centre.
- Planned urban release areas are likely catalysts for further growth and diversification.
- The addition of medium density dwelling development is likely to add to the changing nature of the area.
- Existing pockets of residential development, including low density housing single detached dwellings and a number of gated mature aged community developments are



surrounded by large areas of high environmental value land and state/national park.

- Major features of the area include Newcastle Golf Club, centrally located park and community hall precinct, a primary school, the Tasman Sea bounding the area to the east and south and Hunter Wetlands to the west.

Demographic summary

- 3,330 people with a predicted 42% population growth to 4,729 by 2036.
- The proportion of the population under 25 years of age is predicted to grow from 20.3% to 28.7% by 2036.
- Population projections indicate a decline in the proportion of population 55 years and over from 50.7% in 2016 to 40.5% by 2036.

Fern Bay recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Fern Bay Reserve	Community Land	District Park	FERN BAY	10 Vardon Road	Fern Bay	0.67
Fern Bay Community Centre and Tennis Courts	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	FERN BAY	8 Vardon Road	Fern Bay	0.27



Karuah and Swan Bay

Karuah | Swan Bay | Twelve Mile Creek

Forecast in Population Change

- Actual Population (2016): 1,776
- Projected population (2036): 2,907

Geographical characteristics

- This District is a predominantly rural area, characterised by its strong connections with the river and natural environment. Industries such as forestry and oyster leases have largely influenced the Karuah township and the smaller outerlying hamlets.
- Low density housing, predominantly single detached dwellings supported by a small range of local services and activities.
- The District is bound by the Karuah River in the east and Twelve Mile Creek in the south.

Demographic summary

- 1,776 people with minimal population growth (63.7%) expected by 2036.
- Largest growth and proportion of population is the 55 years and over age group, expected to grow from 43.2% to 47% in 2036.
- District has the highest levels of disadvantage in the LGA.

Karuah recreation inventory

Reserve	Land Owner	Open Space Type	Planning District	Address	Suburb	Area (ha)
Aliceton Reserve	Operational Land	District Park	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	2 Engel Avenue	Karuah	4.04
Longworth Park	Crown Trustee	District Park	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	7 Barclay Street	Karuah	1.15
Carlisle Cr Reserve	Community Land	Local Park	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	2 Carlisle Crescent	Karuah	0.99
Karuah boat ramp	Crown Trustee	Local Park	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	1C Memorial Drive	Karuah	0.03
Memorial Park	Crown Trustee	Local Park	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	1A Memorial Drive	Karuah	1.02
Karuah Tennis Courts	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	7 Wattle Street	Karuah	0.81
Lionel Morten Oval	Community Land	Local Sports-ground	KARUAH/ SWAN BAY	1A Mustons Road	Karuah	2.91

RECREATION LAND AND FACILITY GAP ANALYSIS



Provision standards for recreation facilities

The following provision standards have been identified to assist Council in identifying where there are notable gaps in the current and future provision of open space. Provisions standards for Local Sportsgrounds are not proposed to encourage development of centralised multi-use District and Regional sporting facilities. Where justified, existing Local Sportsgrounds would be retained to support district and regional facilities.

The standards have been developed with consideration to the Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines (NSW Government, 2009), the Review of Standards Guiding the Provision of Council's Community and Recreational Facilities (AEC, 2013), the Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government (NSW Government, 2010) local participation rates and trends and provision standards adopted by other local government areas.

- Local Parks – 0.4ha per 1,000 persons
- District Parks – 0.6ha per 1,000 persons
- Regional Parks – 0.25ha per 1,000 persons
- Local Sportsgrounds – N/A
- District Sportsgrounds – 0.6ha per 1,000 persons
- Regional Sportsgrounds – 0.95ha per 1,000 persons
- Equestrian centre – 1 per 42,000 persons
- Football (soccer) – 1 field per 5,000 persons
- Golf – 1 course per 30,000 persons
- Hockey – 1 turf pitch per 25,000 persons / 1 synthetic pitch per 100,000 persons
- Netball Facilities – 1 court per 3,000 persons
- Playground – 1 per 1,700 persons
- Rugby League – 1 field per 5,000 persons
- Rugby Union – 1 field per 25,000 persons
- Skate/BMX parks – 1 facility per 4,000 persons aged 5-24 years
- Softball/Baseball 1 field per 23,500 persons
- Sport/Leisure Centre – 1 facility per 17,500 persons
- Tennis Courts – 1 court per 1,800 persons

The following provisions standards apply to sport facilities.

- AFL – 1 field per 50,000 persons
- Athletics – 1 grass field per 25,000 persons / 1 synthetic field per 100,000 persons
- Basketball – 1 court per 4,000 persons
- Cricket – 1 field per 4,000 persons
- Croquet Courts – 1 court per 40,000 persons



Location standards for recreation facilities

The Australian Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) prepared an analysis of the proximity of residences to greenspace in the Lower Hunter Local Government Areas of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland and Cessnock. The analysis found that Port Stephens had a well-represented percentage of residents within a 'direct distance' and 'network distance' of 400m (UK Standard) and 800m (US Standard) when compared to the other LGAs in the Lower Hunter. In terms of average distance, Port Stephens registered an average direct distance of less than 400m and an average network distance of just over 600m. This indicates that on average, Port Stephens residents are within reasonable proximity to green space.

Not all greenspace however is suitable for recreation and consideration must be given to the proximity of Council's core recreation network to local residents. On average, the network distance to greenspace is approximately 55 percent further than the direct distance. Therefore the following catchments are proposed for council's core recreation facilities.

Facility	Direct distance	Est network distance	Est time
Local Park	500m	775m	Up to 10min walk
District Park	10km	15.5km	Up to 20min drive
Regional Park	LGA Wide	LGA Wide	Up to 45min drive
Local Sportsground	N/A	N/A	N/A
District Sportsground	10km	15.5km	Up to 20min drive
Regional Sportsground	LGA Wide	LGA Wide	Up to 45min drive



The location of recreation facilities is important to the sustainability and utilisation of these areas. The provision of recreation facilities needs to consider proximity to residents as well as Council's ability to fund construction and maintenance of facilities. The following principles are identified to assist in the appropriate locating of recreation facilities:

- District and Regional facilities should be co-located with other compatible land uses such as schools and community halls.
- Facilities should be located to maximise street frontage and avoid having back and side fences facing onto reserves.
- Local Parks should be located to front low traffic volume streets.
- Recreation facilities should be provided along existing or proposed public transport routes and/or cycleway connections.

Recreation facilities should be situated with consideration to supporting services and local demand. For example, a Regional facility that may attract users from throughout the LGA and beyond should be located close to key transport links and large commercial areas offering supporting services such as accommodation and restaurants/supermarkets/food premises.

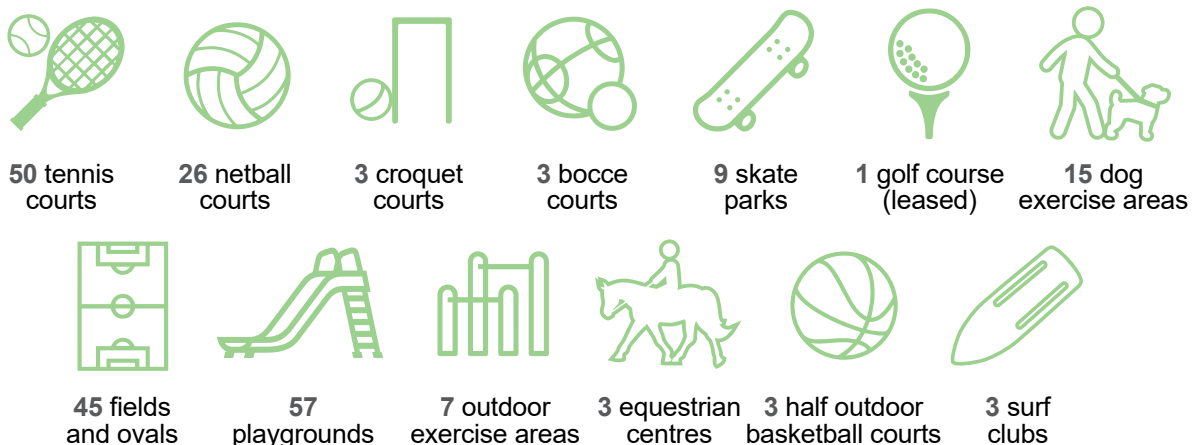


Port Stephens LGA

Existing recreation facilities

Across the local government area, Port Stephens Council is responsible for managing approximately 415ha of parks and sportsground land, which is the focus of this Strategy. Not all open space managed by Council is Council owned. Of the land subject to this strategy, Council is trustee to over a quarter. An example of council managed land is Crown Land Trust.

Upon this land, Council is responsible for managing a wide range of assets including:



This analysis has involved categorising each parcel of public open space into an 'open space type' and a further assessment of the network provision by allocating a 'hierarchy' level.

Other recreation facility providers

The Strategy also recognises that there is a number of other ‘open space types’ which are highly valued and contribute to the broader recreation network. Whilst the Strategy does not specifically plan for these spaces, their roles have been considered as part of the network and are defined below:

Type	Definition
Community Buildings	Land that primarily supports community buildings, like community halls or centres and indoor aquatic centres. Council operates 16 halls and community centres. Council owns 3 aquatic centres, currently managed by an external contractor.
Cultural Significance	Land that has deep cultural significance and is managed by Council according to that specific purpose, including cemeteries.
General Community Use	Drainage / detention basin.
Linear and Linkage	Linear and linkages include land that is part of a linear corridor or connection which supports walking and bike riding.
Natural Area	Land for which the predominant distinguishing characteristics have arisen naturally and without planning or physical modification. This includes wetlands, bush corridors, unmodified foreshores and watercourses.
Urban Public Spaces	Urban public spaces include street and road reserves, lanes and town plazas and squares which accommodate walking, cycling, social gatherings or outdoor dining.

National Parks, Beaches, Rivers and Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Park

Within Port Stephens there is approximately 25,839 hectares of Crown Land Estate, National Park and State Park land in the Port Stephens Council area. This comprises of approximately 3,053ha of Crown Land Estate, 19,318ha of National Parks and 3,468ha of State Park. Council is trustee for a proportion of the Crown Land Estate and this has been included in recreation facilities inventory as Council managed land.

Crown Land Estate, National Parks and State Parks land provides significant recreational opportunities to the local community and visitors. Infrastructure supporting recreation on this land includes walking trails, beach access points and interpretative signage. Activities include bushwalking, mountain bike riding, picnicking and open space for relaxation.

The Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park is approximately 980 km². The marine park contains a diverse range of habitats, including beaches, seagrass beds, mangroves, saltmarsh and open waters. The Marine Park provides a vast array of recreational opportunities such as recreational boating, kayaking, sailing, surfing and stand up paddle boarding. The conservation zoning of the Marine Park may limit activities in some zones such as fishing.

Privately Owned Recreational Facilities

There are a number of privately owned facilities providing recreational opportunities to the local community and visitors to the area, including:

- **Golf courses** – There are 7 privately owned golf courses located in the Raymond Terrace, Karuah, Fern Bay, Medowie and Tomaree planning district catchments.

- **Bowling greens** – There are 7 privately owned bowling greens located in Port Stephens.
- **Indoor recreational facilities** – The Nelson Bay PCYC is an indoor facility offering indoor basketball, dancing, Parkour, over 55s fitness, karate, gymnastics, futsal, boxing and archery.
- **Raymond Terrace PCYC** offers gym, kindergym, boxing, and gymnastics. Other privately owned indoor recreation facilities include squash courts in Medowie and Raymond Terrace and indoor rock climbing at Tomaree.
- **Pistol clubs and Rifle Range** – Within the Port Stephens LGA there is a pistol club at Nelson Bay (Crown Land) and a rifle range at East Seaham (private land).
- **Fitness centres** – Numerous privately owned gyms operate across the LGA.
- **Marinas** – Privately owned marinas such as Soldiers Point Marina and d'Albora Marinas Nelson Bay offer recreational boating opportunities to the local community and visitors to the area.
- **Outdoor recreation** – A number of outdoor recreation opportunities are provided across the LGA including putt putt golf, 4WD sand dune adventures, horse riding tours, surf schools, kayak and stand-up paddle board providers.
- **Gated communities** – Port Stephens has a number of gated communities with private recreational facilities exclusively used by their residents. This community is less reliant on public open space and this can decrease the provision requirements. Examples of gated community infrastructure can be found at a number of Fern Bay and Fullerton Cove mature age lifestyle villages. Council does not own or manage these recreation facilities.

Surrounding Local Government Areas

Bordering local government areas Newcastle, Maitland, MidCoast and Dungog offer active and passive recreational opportunities to Port Stephens residents. Maitland and Newcastle Councils have regional facilities that attract sportspersons from across the Hunter region.

• Maitland Council

- Maitland Park is a regional facility offering a number of recreational experiences including an equal access regional playground, sporting fields, indoor/outdoor swimming pool with splash pad.
- Maitland Sportsground Complex is currently being developed into a regional sports facility. The Athletics Centre will be constructed to a regional standard and include a synthetic running track.

• Newcastle City Council

- Fern Bay and Tomago Planning Districts border the Newcastle Council Local Government Area. Fern Bay residents are in close proximity to Stockton's sportsgrounds and open spaces.
- Newcastle hosts large scale sporting events and high grade sporting clubs. These clubs attract players from across the Hunter.
- In NSW State Government announced in July 2017 a plan to revitalise Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct at Broadmeadow, Newcastle. It is intended that the sporting facility will be a high performance sporting centre that will develop elite sportspeople from across the Hunter Region.

Recreation land and facility gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks (ha)								
Local	122.74	0.0004	69537	27.81	94.93	90387	36.15	86.59
District	79.71	0.0006	69537	41.72	37.99	90387	54.23	25.48
Regional	25.5	0.00025	69537	17.38	8.12	90387	22.60	2.90
Sportsgrounds (ha)								
Local	52.54	0	69537	0	52.54	90387	0	52.54
District	81.15	0.0006	69537	41.72	39.43	90387	54.23	26.92
Regional	53.33	0.00095	69537	66.05	-12.72	90387	85.87	-32.54
Facilities (units)								
AFL	2	1/50000	69537	1	1	90387	1	1
Athletics (Grass)	4	1/25000	69537	2	2	90387	3	1
Athletics (Synthetic)	0	1/100000	69537	0	0	90387	0	0
Basketball	3	1/4000	69537	17	-14	90387	22	-19
Cricket	25	1/4000	69537	17	8	90387	22	3
Croquet Courts	3	1/40000	69537	1	2	90387	2	1
Equestrian	3	1/42000	69537	1	2	90387	2	1
Football	17	1/5000	69537	13	4	90387	18	-1
Golf	1	1/30000	69537	2	-1	90387	3	-2
Hockey (Turf)	2	1/25000	69537	2	0	90387	3	-1
Hockey (Synthetic)	0	1/100000	69537	0	0	90387	0	0
Netball	26	1/3000	69537	23	3	90387	30	-4
Playground	57	1/1700	69537	40	17	90387	53	4
Rugby League	12	1/5000	69537	13	-1	90387	18	-6
Rugby Union	3	1/25000	69537	2	1	90387	3	0
Skatepark	9	1/4000	16296	4	5	18617	4	5
Softball/ Baseball	2	1/23500	69537	2	0	90387	3	-1
Sport/Leisure/ Aquatic Centre	3	1/17500	69537	3	0	90387	5	-2
Tennis	48	1/1800	69537	38	10	90387	50	-2

- There is sufficient land allocated to recreation to 2036.
- There are notable surpluses in Local and District Parks and Sportsgrounds.
- Notable gap in the provision of basketball courts and Regional Sportsgrounds.
- Continue to monitor local participation rates and trends to ensure sufficient provision of facilities.
- Regional level facilities are suitably located close to large town centres.



Raymond Terrace

Raymond Terrace | Nelson Plains | Heatherbrae

Existing recreation facilities

- The suburb of Raymond Terrace has an existing network of recreation facilities distributed across the suburb. Nelson Plains does not have any public open space however the larger lot sizes and a lower population density satisfies the demand. Heatherbrae consists of lower density housing and commercial properties and Elkin Ave Reserve provides public recreation space to residents and school children.
- This Planning District contains the regional facilities of Boomerang Park and King Park Sports Complex.
- A variety of recreational opportunities are available to the community ranging from playgrounds, skateparks, sportsgrounds, courts, riverside foreshore picnics areas and an indoor/outdoor swimming pool.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks	(ha)							
Local	23.62	0.0004	13654	5.46	18.16	17695	7.08	16.54
District	4.28	0.0006	13654	8.19	-3.91	17695	10.62	-6.34
Sportsgrounds	(ha)							
Local	3.56	0	13654	0.00	3.56	17695	0	3.56
District	17.06	0.0006	13654	8.19	8.87	17695	10.62	6.44

- There is sufficient land allocated to recreation in Raymond Terrace Planning District.
- There are notable surpluses in Local Parks projected by 2036.
- Focus for the Raymond Planning District should be centred on improving existing recreation facilities and reducing the overlap of facility catchments.



Rural West

Balickera | Brandy Hill | Butterwick | Duns Creek | Eagleton | East Seaham
Glen Oak | Hinton | Osterley | Seaham | Woodville | Wallalong

Existing recreation facilities

- The district is predominately rural with large amounts of private open space. This indicates that residents have reduced reliance on public open space.
- Community land categorised as predominantly sportsgrounds also have play equipment and function secondly as a park e.g. Bowthorne Park and Stuart Park.
- For regional parks and sports facilities, residents typically travel to Raymond Terrace and Maitland Council LGA.
- Parks, playgrounds and sports facilities are located in the three larger suburbs of Seaham, Wallalong and Hinton.
- Due to the rural nature of the district, it is not feasible for all residents to be within walking distance of recreation facilities.
- Due to the low population density of the district, residents outside of the Hinton, Wallalong and Seaham towns must travel by car to utilise public parks and sports facilities.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks	(ha)							
Local	0.2	0.0004	5293	2.12	-1.92	8766	3.51	-3.31
District	4.72	0.0006	5293	3.18	1.54	8766	5.26	-0.54
Sportsgrounds	(ha)							
Local	14.56	0	5293	0	14.56	8766	0	14.56
District	3.95	0.0006	5293	3.18	0.77	8766	5.26	-1.31

- There is a notable surplus of Local Sportsgrounds by 2036.
- There is a notable deficit of Local Parks by 2036 however due to the larger lot sizes in this district, residents have greater access to private open space.
- Focus in the Rural West Planning District should be centred on consolidating local sporting facilities into higher quality, multi-use district facilities and increasing recreational opportunities suitable for an ageing population.



Medowie

Medowie | Ferodale | Campvale

Existing recreation facilities

- Residents can access regional sporting facilities at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree.
- A number of sportsgrounds have play equipment and function secondly as a park e.g. Kindlebark Oval playground and Boyd Oval skatepark.
- The shared path linking Medowie along Grahamstown Dam to Raymond Terrace provides a good linkage to Raymond Terrace facilities.
- Other recreation opportunities- Medowie is bounded by National Park to the north and it provides mountain bike and bush walking opportunities to the community.
- Medowie has a range of lot sizes and population density. Currently open space is centred in the higher population density areas of Medowie. Areas with larger lot sizes do not have parks within short walking distances. They do however have larger amounts of private open space.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks	(ha)							
Local	4.22	0.0004	9684	3.87	0.35	16495	6.60	-2.38
District	0.33	0.0006	9684	5.81	-5.48	16495	9.90	-9.57
Sportsgrounds	(ha)							
Local	17.85	0	9684	0	17.85	16495	0	17.85
District	9.86	0.0006	9684	5.81	4.05	16495	9.90	-0.04

- There is a projected deficit of all tiers of Parks by 2036.
- There is a notable surplus of Local Sportsgrounds by 2036.
- Focus in the Medowie Planning District should be centred on providing more parkland including a large-scale, centrally located park and consolidating local sportsgrounds into higher quality, multi-use district facilities.



Tilligerry Peninsula

Lemon Tree Passage | Mallabula | Tanilba Bay | Oyster Cove

Existing recreation facilities

- Large amounts of natural bushland area and foreshore areas maintained as parks offer recreational opportunities for walking and passive recreation. The district has numerous boat launching facilities providing access to the Port.
- The Mallabula Sports Complex is centrally located between Tanilba Bay and Lemon Tree Passage.
- District parks are located along the foreshores.
- Residents of Oyster Cove do not have public open space within walking distance.
- Residents have access to regional sporting facilities at Raymond Terrace and Tomaree.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks	(ha)							
Local	32.8	0.0004	6767	2.71	30.09	7179	2.87	29.93
District	4.63	0.0006	6767	4.06	0.57	7179	4.31	0.32
Sportsgrounds	(ha)							
Local	0	0	6767	0	0	7179	0	0
District	19.01	0.0006	6767	4.06	14.95	7179	4.31	14.70

- There is a notable surplus of Local Parks by 2036.
- There is a notable surplus of District Sportsgrounds by 2036.
- Focus of this district should be to investigate the rationalisation/consolidation of local parks to improve the quality of recreation facilities that offer the greatest benefit to local residents and visitors.



Tomaree Peninsula

Anna Bay | Boat Harbour | Bobs Farm | Corlette | Fingal Bay | Fishermans Bay
Nelson Bay | One Mile | Salamander Bay | Shoal Bay | Soldiers Point | Taylors Beach

Existing recreation facilities

- Residents and visitors have access to large parcels of Crown Land Estate and National Parks. This land provides passive recreation, bush walking, picnic facilities and mountain bike recreational opportunities and is a key tourist attraction.
- The suburbs of the Tomaree planning district are located along foreshores, providing residents with access to beaches and waterways. The district has a number of public boat launching facilities that provide access to the Port and off-shore beaches.
- Regionally classified, Tomaree Sports Complex is centrally located in the planning district.
- Many of the Tomaree parks located on foreshores are classified as district due to their high profile and usage. These parks have high levels of use during peak tourism season and contribute to the Port Stephens tourism branding of beautiful beaches and its natural landscape.
- Asset renewals in this planning district occur more regularly due to harsh coastal conditions.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks	(ha)							
Local	57.8	0.0004	26737	10.69	47.11	30104	12.04	45.76
District	58.66	0.0006	26737	16.04	42.62	30104	18.06	40.60
Sportsgrounds	(ha)							
Local	12.39	0	26737	0	12.39	30104	0	12.39
District	17.29	0.0006	26737	16.04	1.25	30104	18.06	-0.77

- There are notable surpluses of Local and District Parks to 2036.
- There are notable surpluses of local Sportsgrounds to 2036.
- Focus of this district should be to investigate the rationalisation/consolidation of district and local parks and local sportsgrounds to improve the quality of recreation facilities that offer the greatest benefit to local residents and visitors.



Rural East

Salt Ash | Tomago | Williamstown

Existing recreation facilities

- The district is predominately rural with large amounts of private open space. This indicates that residents have reduced reliance on public open space.
- Salt Ash Sports Grounds – High quality equestrian centre hosting a number of clubs and high profile equestrian events.
- Rural East residents can utilise open space in neighbouring catchments. For example Salt Ash residents can access district sportsgrounds at Mallabula or Medowie and regional facilities in Raymond Terrace and Tomaree.
- Key recreation facilities are the Salt Ash Community Hall playground and park and Salt Ash Sportsground.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks (ha)								
Local	2.06	0.0004	2296	0.92	1.14	2512	1.00	1.06
District	1.23	0.0006	2296	1.38	-0.15	2512	1.51	-0.28
Sportsgrounds (ha)								
Local	0.19	0	2296	0	0.19	2512	0	0.19
District	13.98	0.0006	2296	1.38	12.60	2512	1.51	12.4

- There is a notable surplus of District Sportsgrounds to 2036 however this is due to the large land size of the well patronised equestrian centre.
- Focus in the Rural East Planning District should be on maintaining recreation facilities.



Fern Bay

Fern Bay | Fullerton Cove

Existing recreation facilities

- This planning district has a number of mature aged villages. These villages are gated and have private recreational facilities. The residents of these villages have a lesser reliance on public open space. Examples of the gated community infrastructure include tennis court, bowling green, swimming pool and gymnasium.
- Seaside Fern Bay development is a large development with private open space managed by the estate. The open space includes several parks, bushland reserve, informal sporting oval, playground and picnic facilities.
- State and National Parks – Surrounding National and State Parks provide recreational opportunities such as mountain bike riding and bush walking. These reserves provide a linkage to Stockton Beach.
- The suburb of Fern Bay shares open space with the neighbouring Newcastle City Council suburb, Stockton. Stockton has a number of recreational facilities to cater for the growing population of Fern Bay including four sporting fields hosting cricket, Football (soccer), athletics track and rugby league; aquatic centre; bowling club; tennis courts; sailing club and SLSC.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks (ha)								
Local	0	0.0004	3330	1.33	-1.33	4729	1.89	-1.89
District	0.67	0.0006	3330	2.00	-1.33	4729	2.84	-2.17
Sportsgrounds (ha)								
Local	0.27	0	3330	0	0.27	4729	0	0.27
District	0	0.0006	3330	2.00	-2.00	4729	2.84	-2.84

- The provision of recreation land in Fern Bay Planning District is adequate to 2036 due to private recreation facilities and Council working together with Newcastle City Council to provide District level facilities within the Newcastle local government area. Future new release areas will also add to the recreation network.
- Focus in the Fern Bay Planning District should be on maintaining existing facilities to service future populations and increasing recreational opportunities for younger populations.



Karuah and Swan Bay

Karuah | Swan Bay | Twelve Mile Creek

Existing recreation facilities

- Karuah has high levels of social disadvantage and quality open space within walking distance is important to the health and well-being of the community.
- The Karuah community has access to a number of recreational opportunities including skatepark, BMX track, sporting oval, tennis courts, foreshore reserves with play equipment and boating facilities.
- Swan Bay and Twelve Mile Creek has low population density with a mixture of medium to large lot sizes. Private open space suitably caters for demand in these areas.
- There is an additional park with play equipment and a half basketball court area on Mustons Road privately owned by the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council.



Recreation land gap analysis

	Provision	Rate	2016 population	Desired provision 2016	2016 gap	2036 population	Desired provision 2036	2036 gap
Parks (ha)								
Local	2.04	0.0004	1776	0.71	1.33	2907	1.16	0.88
District	5.19	0.0006	1776	1.07	4.12	2907	1.74	3.45
Sportsgrounds (ha)								
Local	3.72	0	1776	0.00	3.72	2907	0.00	3.72
District	0	0.0006	1776	1.07	-1.07	2907	1.74	-1.74

- The provision of recreation land in Karuah Planning District is adequate to 2036.
- Focus in the Karuah Planning District should be to upgrade existing recreation facilities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Community engagement

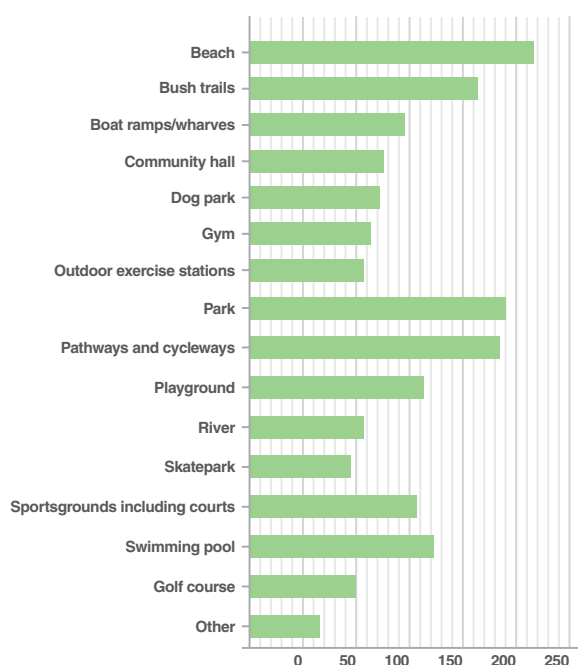
Council sought community feedback to ensure the Recreation Strategy considered all issues relevant to recreation in Port Stephens. To inform the strategy, Council reviewed 355c committee Forward Works Priorities, Sports Council's Sport Development Strategies and conducted a public survey. The online survey was open for two weeks from the 20th March 2018 to the 3rd April 2018 and consisted of 12 questions that explored how the community utilises recreation and open space.

The survey was promoted via the following means:

- Council website
- Council social media including Facebook
- Page 2 article in the local Port Stephens Examiner newspaper
- Direct notification emails to Council 355c committees, Sports Council club delegates, engagement HQ contacts
- Paper survey copies were distributed to Raymond Terrace Library, Tilligerry Library, Tomaree Library and Community Centre and Raymond Terrace Council Administration building

Survey results

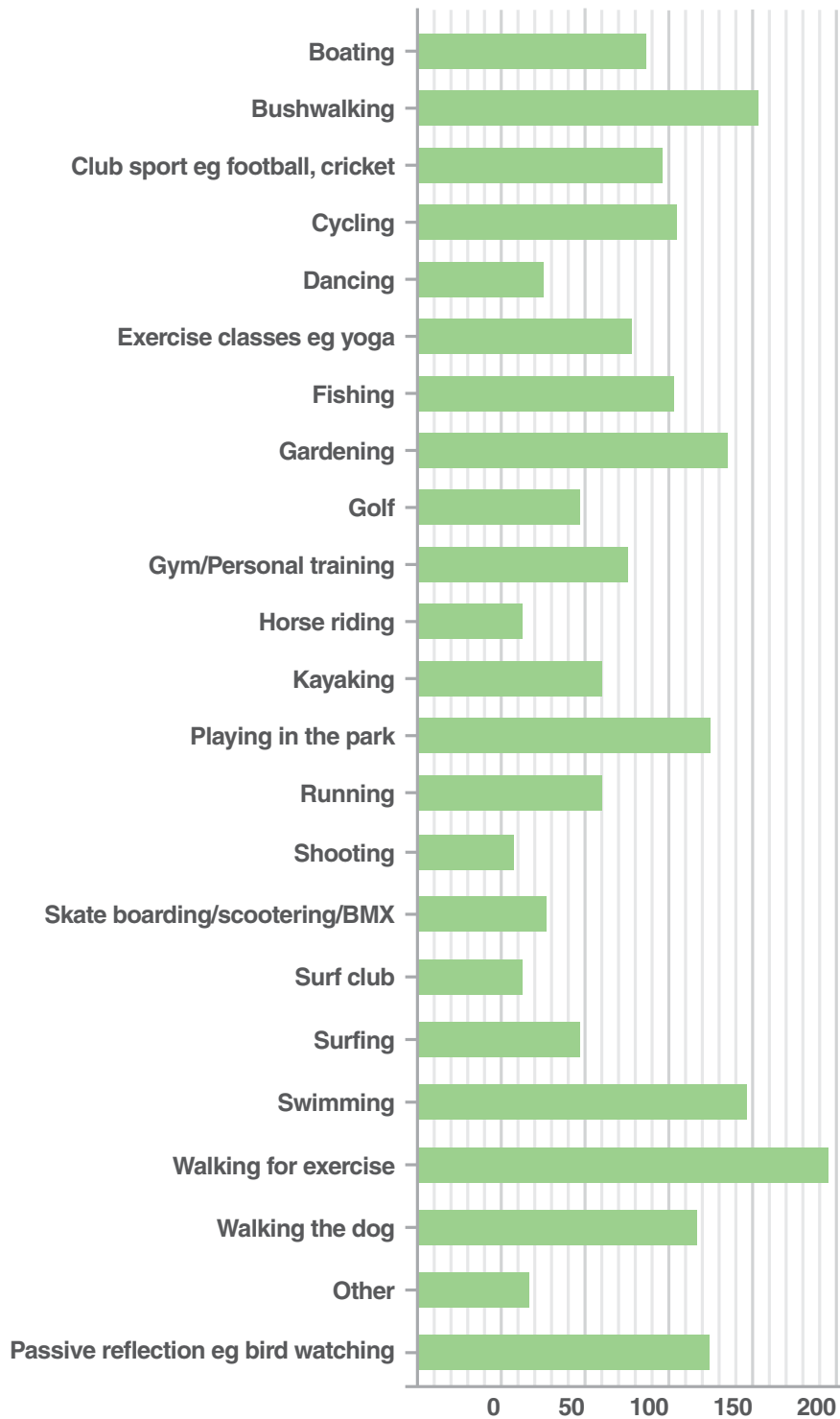
Q1. What local facilities do you use for recreation and sport?
Please select all that apply:



Other local facilities identified in the survey included:

- 4WD Tracks
- National Parks and waterways including moorings
- PCYC
- Williamtown Park Radio Control Car Club Track
- Yacht moorings and pump out facilities

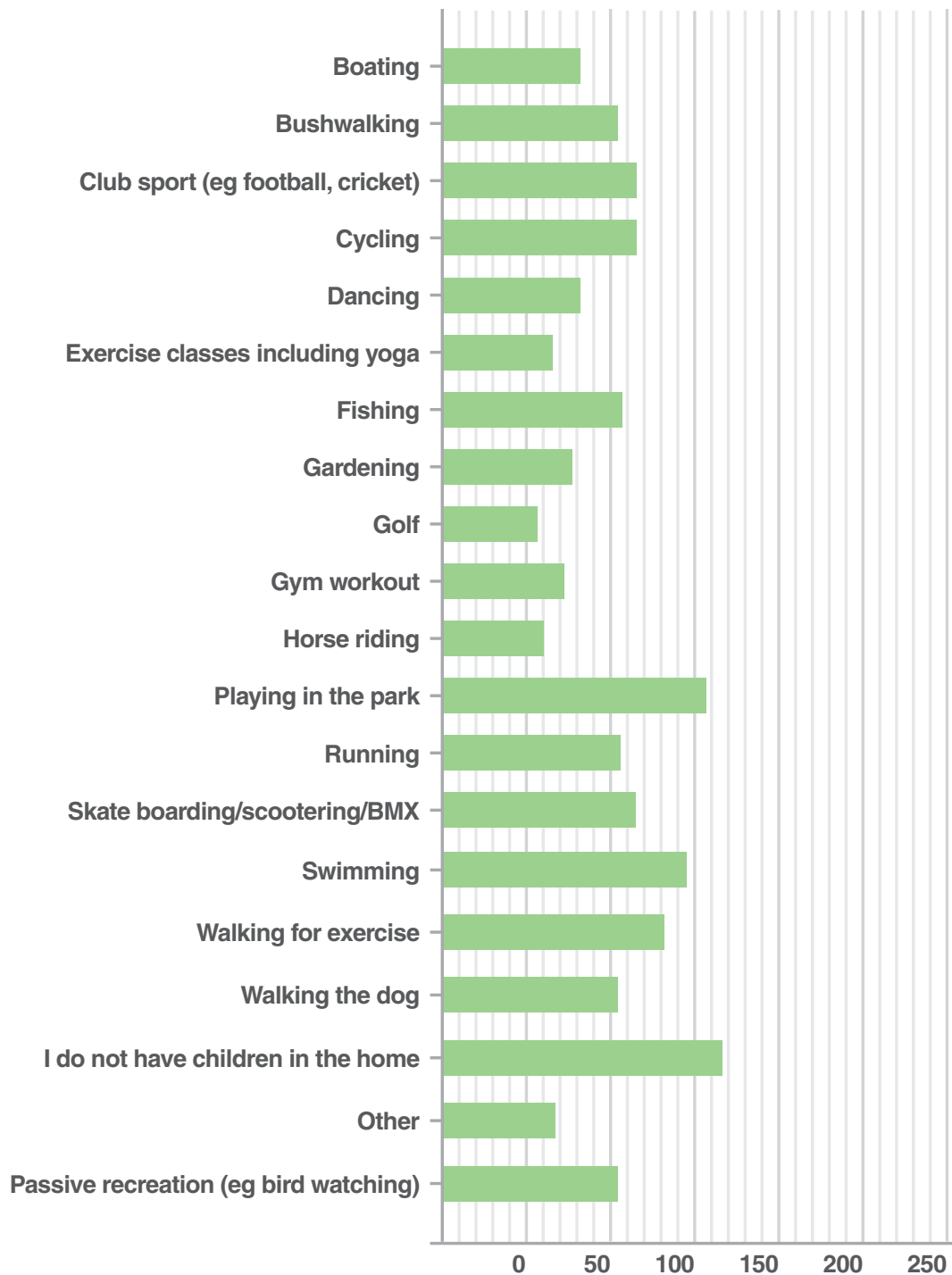
Q2. What recreational and physical activities do you do?



Other recreational and physical activities identified in the survey included:

- Basketball
- Camping
- Martial Arts
- Mountain biking
- Paddle boarding
- Painting, photography and craft
- Passive recreation
- Radio control car racing
- Scouts
- Snorkelling and Scuba Diving

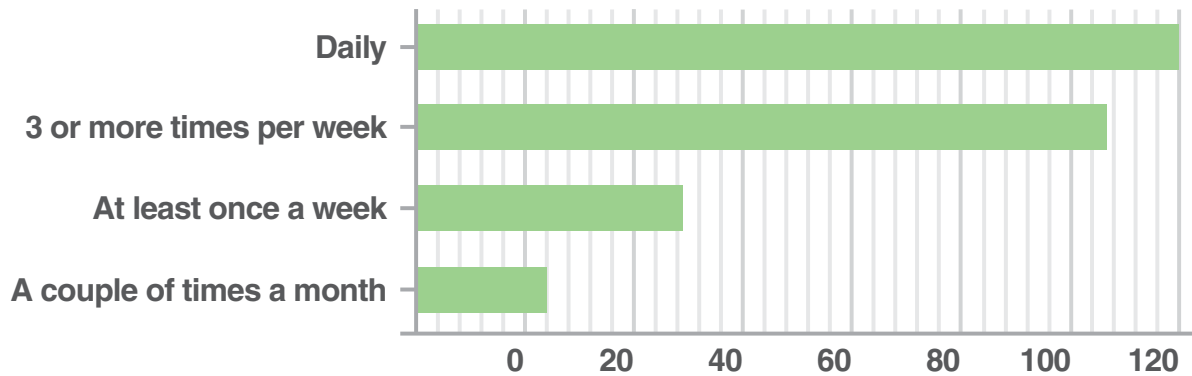
Q3. If you have children in your home, what activities do they do?



Other children's recreational and physical activities identified in the survey included:

- Aerial circus skills
- Arts and craft
- Basketball
- Camping
- Computer games
- Gymnastics
- Martial arts
- Mountain Biking
- Radio control car racing
- Scouts
- Surfing

Q4. How often do you undertake recreational and physical activity?



Q5. Do you think Port Stephens has enough parks? Why?

The majority of respondents to this question believed that Port Stephens had enough a sufficient supply of parks. Many of the responses highlighted the important role parks and natural areas play in their quality of life.

While it was recognised that provision was sufficient by many, it was noted that the quality of the existing park facilities needed to be improved to increase usage and enjoyment.

Key areas of concern included lack of facilities at Medowie, Fern Bay and Anna Bay and improving access to dog exercise areas.

Survey quotes:

There have been big improvements in this in the past few years. The good parks used to be concentrated in the Nelson Bay Area, but there seems to be more of an effort to improve park facilities across other areas now. Don't stop! Not everyone lives at Nelson Bay!

Yes. I think they have adequate green space to look after especially as many are looked after by volunteers.

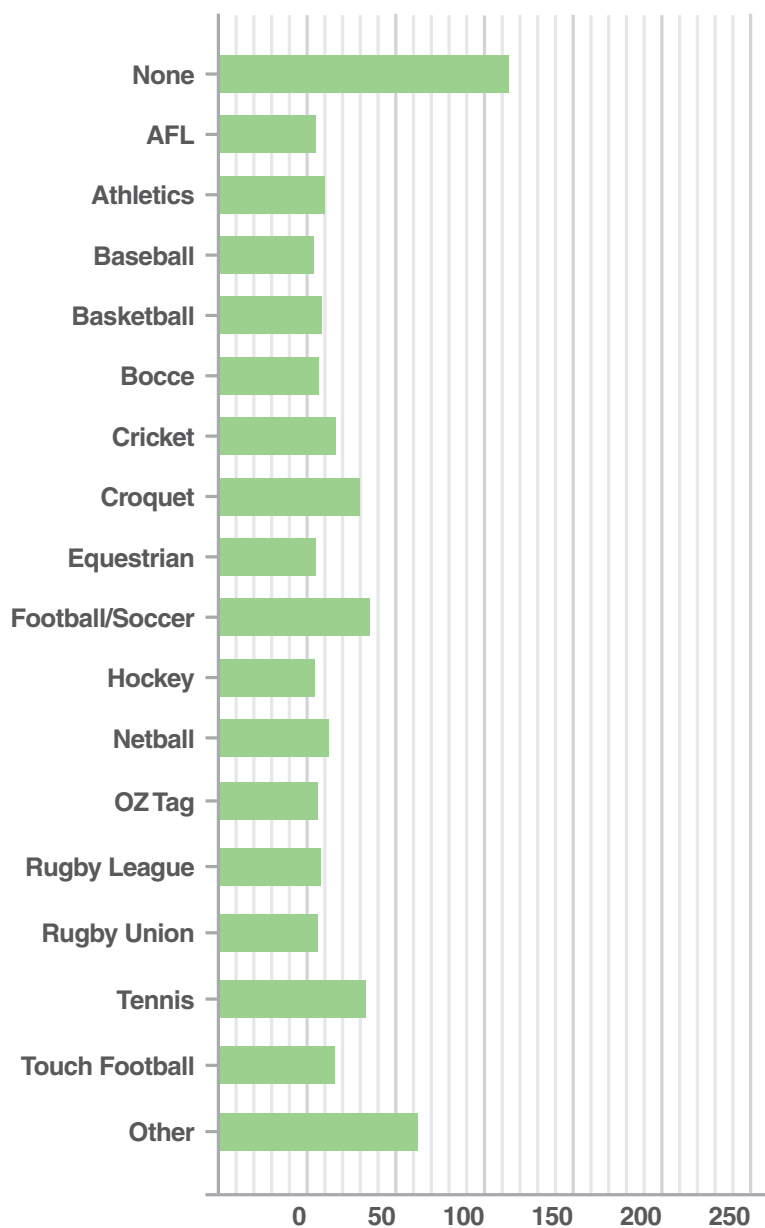
Our parks and bushland are so important. We can never have too many. New developments should allow for swathes of natural bushland and green zones within residential zones.

Port Stephens has a reasonable supply of parks and each is important. We cannot afford to lose one, and it is important that they be maintained adequately. They are the green that everybody moves to, or visits, Port Stephens for.

No. That's why we all have to converge on the bay, where there are large parkland areas, toilet facilities and safe walking paths.

No. You can never have too many parks in any area.

Q7. What sport(s) do you play?



Other sports identified in the survey included:

- Aqua aerobics
- Cycling
- Fencing
- Figure skating
- Futsal
- Golf
- Kayaking
- Lawn bowls
- Martial arts
- Mountain bike riding
- Quoits
- Running
- Sailing
- Skateboarding/Scooter
- Snorkelling/Scuba diving
- Squash
- Surf lifesaving racing, body surfing
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Volleyball

Where do you play sport?

Responses within Port Stephens included:

At home	Beaches, Waterways, National Park	Boat Harbour Tennis Courts
Bowling Clubs- Raymond Terrace and Nelson Bay	Boyd Oval, Medowie	Bush and cycle paths
Fern Bay	Fingal Bay Oval	Fingal Bay Tennis Courts
Hinton and Wallalong	Kindlebark Oval, Medowie	King Park Sports Complex
Lakeside Aquatic Centre	Lakeside Sports Complex	Local gyms
Mallabula Tennis Courts	Martial Arts Academies	Medowie Netball Courts
Medowie Tennis Courts	Nelson Bay Tennis Courts	PCYC- Nelson Bay and Raymond Terrace
Port Stephens Yacht Club	Raymond Terrace and District Tennis Club	Raymond Terrace Athletics Centre
Raymond Terrace Netball courts	Salamander Sports Complex	Tomaree Aquatic Centre
Tomaree Sports Complex including Croquet Courts	Golf Clubs- Nelson Bay, Tanilba Bay, Horizons	Shoal Bay Tennis Club
Yulong Park, Medowie	Tilligerry Aquatic Centre	Fingal Bay Parkrun Course

Responses outside of Port Stephens included:

Beresfield Touch Football	Broadmeadow	Corroba Oval, Stockton
Fieldsend Oval, Metford	Gyms	Hunter Ice Skating Stadium
International Hockey Centre, Kotara	Maitland	Newcastle Netball Association
Stockton	Wallsend	

Q8. What can council do to encourage you to use sportsgrounds more?

A wide range of survey responses were received for this question. Improving the quality of existing facilities was an overarching theme with priorities including:

- Accessible facilities for everyone, of all ages and abilities to enjoy
- Seating, shelter and supporting infrastructure e.g. BBQs, shade trees, signage and waste bins
- Car parking, improved lighting, shared pathways linking communities to grounds
- Cleaner toilets and changerooms
- Ground surface improvements
- Outdoor exercise equipment around ground perimeters

The importance of well-maintained grounds and buildings were recognised including drainage, irrigation and weed management.

Other requests included:

- Improved grounds and facilities at King Park to cater for growing club membership
- Additional croquet courts at Tomaree Sports Complex
- Multi-use, more centralised sports facilities

- Improved quality of Medowie sporting facilities
- Sport grounds in Fern Bay
- A basketball court in Raymond Terrace
- A mountain bike park
- Indoor sports complex and pool at Raymond Terrace

Survey quotes:

More centrally organised club sport i.e. all games in one location like in Sydney. I am single parent of 5 kids and can't get all my kids to a game

Assist older facilities to upgrade their clubhouses – renew toilets. Better shade for spectators. More consistent mowing of parks in summer.

Make sure car parking is accessible and sport fields relate to cycleways and footpaths. Keep sports field central in the community for accessibility and group them when possible to share facilities. Well drained and irrigated field are more likely to be used more frequently.

Q9. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about recreation and sport in Port Stephens?

Survey quotes:

I think the maintenance of the facilities is so important. It's great to provide facilities but they need to be well for ongoing support in the future.

Make parks a place where everyone can go and find some sort of recreation.

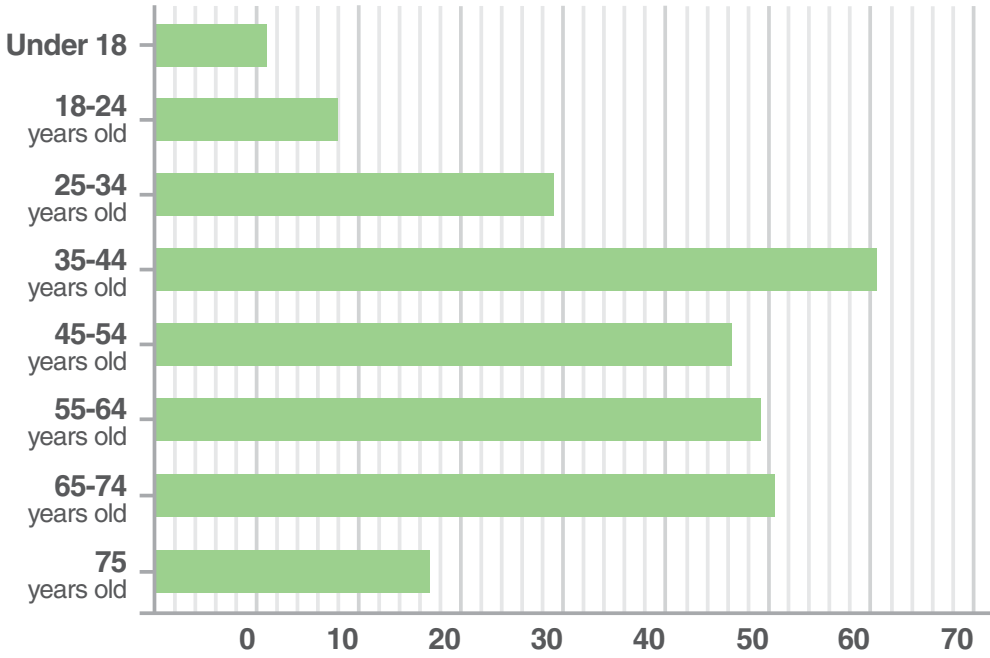
PSC does provide some great support but this needs to be consistent across the council area. Some areas seem to get favoured over other areas, especially when it comes to funding.

Keep making it better and people will come, but more important is to make the residents that pay rates to be happy not just tourists.

We have a beautiful natural area to live in and need to make sure that we respect that.



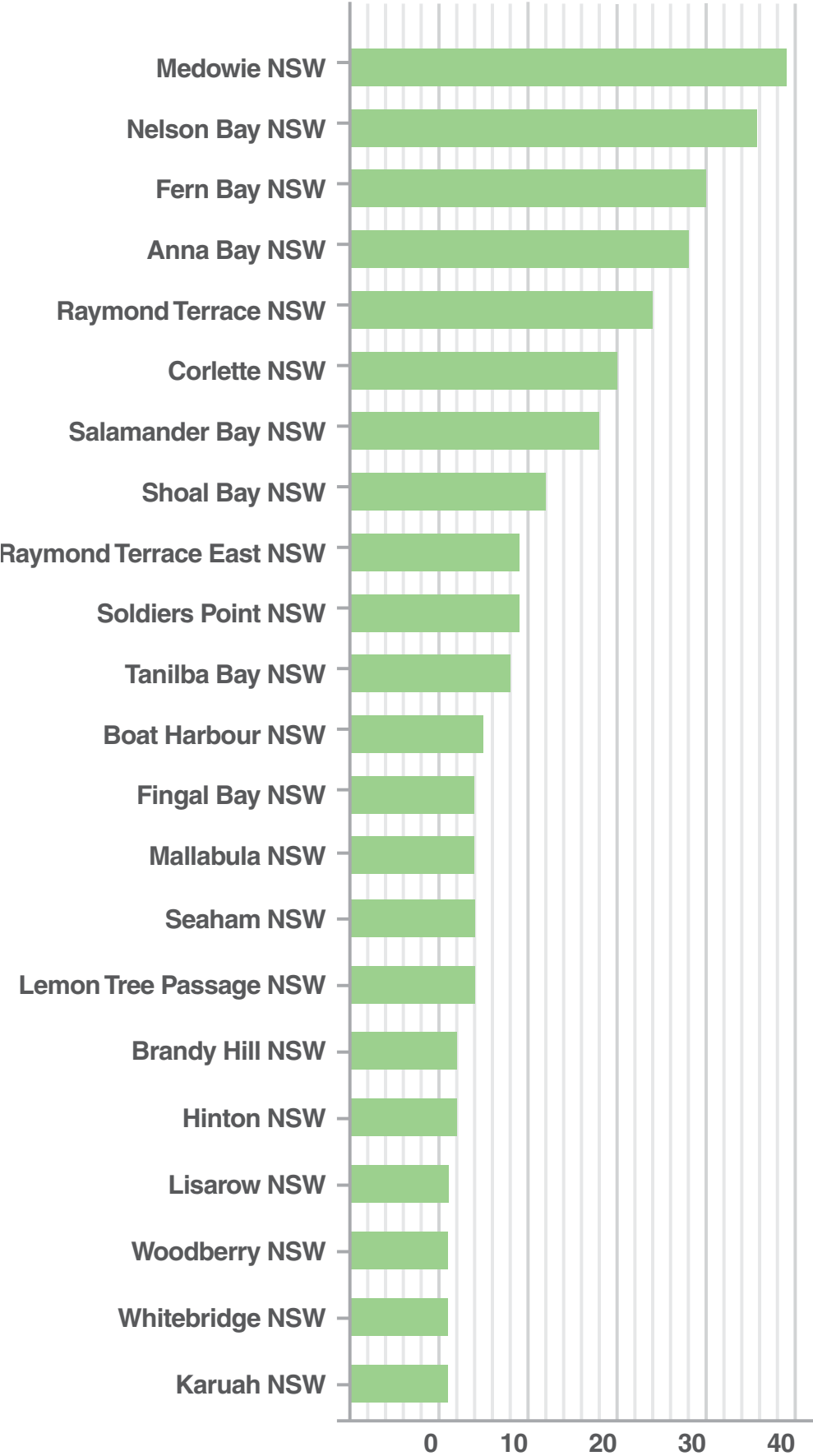
Q 10. What is your age?



Q11. What is your gender?

Male	95
Female	165
Unidentified	1

Q17. What suburb do you live in?



PLANNING IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION



Planning implications for recreation

Planning context

The State Government is aiming to increase the utilisation of its education facilities outside of school hours. Council should therefore consider opportunities to utilise school facilities to supplement gaps in the recreation facility network. Alternatively, opportunities for schools to utilise Council reserves for their recreation needs could also be investigated. Council should ensure that the NSW Government contributes to the management of shared facilities in improve sustainability. Council also has an advocacy role to work with Crown Lands and National Parks and Wildlife for the development of recreational pursuits that benefit residents and visitors.

The Hunter Regional Plan recognises Raymond Terrace and Nelson Bay as strategic centres within the Ports Stephens LGA. Strategic Centres are recognised for their role in supporting the regional population of the Hunter. Council therefore needs to respond by locating its regional facilities within the strategic centres to increase their accessibility and utilisation.

At a local level, a number of Council's planning strategies identify the need for upgraded recreation facilities to address the anticipated increase in demand from population growth. Council therefore needs to consider the future provision of recreation facilities in accordance with the provision standards of this Strategy to ensure the sustainable provision of facilities into the future. Council's planning documents also recognise the challenges imposed by climate change and an ageing population both of which need to be managed in the planning and provision of recreation areas.

Council needs to be committed to adopting environmentally sustainable approaches to manage its open space network. Strategic Objective 5 for Environmental Management and Climate Change Adaptation, proposes some strategic directions which aim to influence better design and planning responses to the adverse effects of climate change. The challenge for Council will be securing adequate funding and resources to fulfil these directions effectively.

Improving access to facilities is a reoccurring direction throughout Council planning documents. Access refers not only to how people travel to recreation areas but also how they move and interact within recreation areas. Consideration to facilities and how people use them needs to be considered when planning recreation facilities to ensure barriers to participation are not created through poor design.



Participation trends

Participation data is showing that there is a strong preference for low/no impact sports and physical activities. This preference increases as people get older. Sporting clubs are the primary avenue for children to be active and therefore must be supported moving forward to continue to facilitating kids being active. Kids are considerably less active than adults and Council must look at ways to address barriers to encourage more kids to get active. The key barriers for young, middle aged and older populations are perceived risk and inability to participate (by parents), lack of time and poor health and injury.

Council therefore needs to respond by providing infrastructure and services that eases the impact of these barriers throughout a person's lifetime.

Opportunities include providing safe and fit for purpose facilities for residents, providing multi-use and adaptable facilities that can respond to changing recreation preferences and environments. Council should focus on easing the barriers to participation in younger years as a preventative measure to reduce the likelihood of failing health and injury in later years.

Local participation data indicates that there is a rise of female participation in traditionally male-dominated sports. Council therefore needs to respond by ensuring that facilities are suitable for both male and female players including supporting modified formats of traditional sports that aim to increase female participation.



Planning profiles

Port Stephens LGA

A large portion of Port Stephens is rural and characterised by village type settlements separated by large bodies of water and nature reserves. This creates a significant barrier to accessing Council's recreation facilities and Council needs to consider how to provide accessible facilities for its residents without over supplying and creating an unsustainable network. Port Stephens has a higher representation of Australian born residents, people identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and median age than the average of NSW.

Port Stephens has a higher portion of low income earners than the NSW average with almost a quarter of households earning less than \$650 per week. Opportunities to provide affordable recreational opportunities accessible by low cost transport options must be considered to encourage broad participation in recreation and physical activity.

Port Stephens is seen as a well-established, stand-alone destination in NSW and hosts a number of regional events throughout the year. As a major regional visitor destination in NSW,

Port Stephens attracts an average of 1.3 million visitors per year and generates an estimated 1,840 jobs and an excess of \$391.393 million in output for the local economy (Dec, 2016).

Destination Port Stephens provides reports on visitor activity, with recent data identifying a steady international market and large spikes in visitation particularly in the January to March period. The spikes in visitation reflect the seasonal nature of the tourism

market. The primary focus for tourism is on the Tomaree Peninsula with visitors drawn to its expansive bushland and marine surroundings, which are synonymous with the character of Port Stephens.

It is anticipated that the tourism and events market in Port Stephens will only grow, with the planned expansion of the Newcastle Airport, shorter travel times from Sydney due highway improvements and the proposed Newcastle Cruise Ship Terminal.

Demand for recreation facilities is seasonal in popular tourist areas such as the Tomaree Peninsula. The majority of visitors to Port Stephens are domestic day trippers. Domestic visitors to Port Stephens are predominantly families and older retired couples and therefore opportunities for informal recreation.

Council recognises that tourism provides much needed economic stimulus to the area. Events may require access to permanent supporting infrastructure and this places a pressure on

community infrastructure, generating a need for additional maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

Open space and supporting infrastructure needs to be adaptable in order to support a diverse range of activities e.g. adventure sport events, community markets, mobile vendors and cultural festivals.

The seasonal influx of visitors to Port Stephens increases demand for quality open space and recreational infrastructure. This demand is predicted to increase with future growth in the tourism and event market. Open space planning must meet both the needs of the local community and that of the area's visitors.

The domestic and international visitor profile is diverse and this needs to be reflected in open spaces that provide recreational opportunities for a range of ages, abilities and cultures.

Port Stephens is well serviced by recreation facilities to 2036. Focus should therefore be on consolidating, rationalising and improving existing facilities to help improve the sustainability and diversity of Council's recreational network.



Planning District 1 - Raymond Terrace

The Raymond Terrace Planning District is anticipated to experience moderate growth to 2036 and will retain the second largest residential population in the LGA. The majority of population growth is anticipated to occur in the urban release area of Kings Hill north of Raymond Terrace town centre. The Raymond Terrace Planning District is considered to be the second most disadvantaged in the LGA. The planning area is well serviced by recreation facilities however there is a notable imbalance of parks with the current network lacking district level parks. Two of Council's premier recreation facilities being Boomerang Park and King Park are located within the Raymond Terrace Planning District.

Focus for the Raymond Planning District should be centered on improving existing recreation facilities and reducing the overlap of facility catchments.

Planning District 2 - Rural West

The Rural West Planning District is anticipated to experience considerable growth to 2036 with the demographic structure showing proportional growth in the 55 years and over cohort and a notable decline in the proportion of residents aged under 25 years. The recreation facility provision in the Planning District is dominated by local sporting facilities.

Focus in the Rural West Planning District should be centred around consolidating local sporting facilities into multi-use district facilities and increasing recreational opportunities suitable for an ageing population.



Planning District 3 – Medowie

The Medowie Planning District is anticipated to experience high population growth to 2036 and experience the greatest growth in the over 55 year old cohort in all of Port Stephens. The average household income in Medowie is above the Port Stephens average. Recreation facility provision in the Planning District is dominated by local facilities.

Focus in the Medowie Planning District should be centered around providing higher level parks and consolidating local sportsgrounds into multi-use district facilities.

Planning District 4 – Tilligerry Peninsula

The Tilligerry Peninsula is anticipated to experience minimal population growth to 2036 with a continued high representation of the 55 year and older cohort. Bound by the Karuah River and Tilligerry Creek, the district is linear in shape offering a mix of water and land based recreational activities. Recreation facilities currently offered are well represented by local parks and district sportsgrounds.

Focus in the Tilligerry Peninsula should be on rationalisation/consolidation of local parks that are surplus to need.

Planning District 5 – Tomaree Peninsula

The Tomaree Peninsula is anticipated to experience relatively low population growth to 2036 with a continued high representation of the 55 year and older cohort. The local resident population is predominantly made up of middle aged couples and retirees living in separate houses. The Planning District experiences high tourist visitation during peak seasons. Recreation facilities provision in the Planning District is dominated by local and district parks.

Focus in the Tomaree Peninsula should be on rationalisation/consolidation of district and local parks and local sportsgrounds that are surplus to need.

Planning District 6 – Rural East

The Rural East Planning District is anticipated to experience low population growth to 2036 with a slightly increased representation of over 75 year old cohort and a slight decrease in residents aged under 25 years. Recreation facility provision is a mixture of local and district facilities.

Focus in the Rural East planning District is to maintain and improve existing district facilities.

Planning District 7 – Fern Bay

The Fern Bay Planning District is anticipated to experience moderate population growth to 2036. The age structure is anticipated to experience an increase in the proportion of under 25 year olds and a decline in the population aged 55 years and over. Much of the population is serviced by privately owned open space within the masterplanned over 55s residential areas and seaside development. Council works together with Newcastle City Council to provide District level facilities for Fern Bay residents within the Newcastle local government area. Future new release areas will provide the opportunity to compliment the recreation facility network.

Focus in the Fern Bay Planning District is to maintain existing facilities to service future populations and increase recreational opportunities for younger populations.

Planning District 8 – Karuah

The Karuah Planning District is anticipated to experience moderate-high population growth to 2036. The largest growth is anticipated to occur in the over 55 year age group. The Karuah Planning District experiences the highest level of social and economic disadvantage.

Focus in the Karuah Planning District is to upgrade existing recreation facilities.



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