



# Recreation Strategy 2009

Adopted December 2009



Warringah  
Council

# **Recreation Strategy**

## **Adopted December 2009**

This document was adopted December 6, 2009.

## Executive Summary

Participation in recreational activities is a key facet of our lives; it helps us stay healthy and provides us with opportunities for enjoyment, socialisation and personal growth. Evidence has shown that communities with more physically active people are more socially connected and healthier places to be (Premiers Active Living 2008).

Warringah's residents are highly active with recreation participation rates well above state and national averages. Warringah is characterised by beaches, foreshores, waterways, parks and bushland which provides an excellent setting for physical activity.

Warringah Council's involvement in the provision of recreation is extensive. Council manages over 800 hectares of open space including nine beaches, 54 sportsgrounds, 500 hectares of natural areas, a range of community buildings, over 200 parks, 170 playgrounds, a series of tracks, trails and pathways, the Warringah Aquatic Centre, and a variety of other developed assets, such as horse arenas, skate parks, ocean pools and sports courts. Council is also involved in the provision and facilitation of a variety of programs and services which encourage and promote participation in recreation, including information directories, 'learn to' classes and grant programs for community providers.

The Recreation Strategy has been developed to provide a long term strategic direction for the future provision and management of recreational assets, programs and services in Warringah. In preparing this document a series of consultative and research activities were undertaken to understand current provision, usage and community needs. This has informed a set of guiding principles and strategic directions which provide a framework for Council to use in the provision of recreation assets and services in Warringah. The vision is the '*where*' we wish to be, the principles are the '*what*' we want to do and the strategic directions are the '*how*' we are going to do it.

The vision for recreation in Warringah is:

*A healthy and active Warringah community that has access to a wide range of appropriate, suitable, sustainable and quality recreational opportunities, both now and in the future.*

We are going to achieve this by adhering to the following guiding principles:

1. Being a leader in the planning, management and facilitation of recreational assets, services and programs for the community.
2. Recognising and continuing to support high levels of participation of all ages and abilities by providing accessible infrastructure, programs and services.
3. Working regionally with government and non-government organisations, creating ongoing structures, links and partnerships to increase participation.
4. Working with external organisations to improve and increase their capacity to provide appropriate and successful programs, assets and services for Warringah residents.
5. Developing and implementing administrative frameworks and policies that provide consistency and certainty for administrators and users and reflects Council's direction.
6. Communicating with residents about what is on offer and involving residents and stakeholders in the planning and development of their recreational environment.
7. Incorporating a 'healthy active' planning approach to all physical and urban development.
8. Assessing funding priorities against evidence based strategic directions, identified need and whole of life costing.
9. Basing asset provision and development on: the principles of sharing, multi-use, fit for purpose; appropriate safety standards; full life costing and environmental, sustainable and flexible designs.

10. Considering the improvement, consolidation and / or usage of existing recreation areas and assets, before provision of new assets.
11. Balancing planning and management efforts to reflect current and future demand for sport and recreational activities.
12. Regularly evaluating and monitoring Council's performance (assessed against recognised and relevant benchmarks and levels of customer satisfaction) through the collection of relevant data.
13. Adopting a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to recreation planning and development.

The vision, guiding principles and associated strategic directions included in this document are to be used as the basis for recreation provision and decision making until such time as they are deemed to no longer accurately reflect Warringah's community needs or provide relevant direction to Council.

A four year action plan listing twenty seven actions has been proposed during the development of this Strategy including high priority actions to be considered in the short-medium term. These actions have been based on the information collected and discussed in this Strategy. The actions primarily cover the following high priority areas:

- Open space assessment.
- Community provider assistance and facilitation.
- Partnerships with other councils, commercial providers and community groups.
- Access audits and provision for people with a disability.
- Communication.
- Data collection.
- Pricing.
- Asset management and development.
- Addressing gaps in asset provision.
- Climate change and sustainability.

Progress will be monitored on an annual basis. A new action plan is proposed to be developed every four years and is to be based upon the strategic directions as set out in this document, the outcomes of the implementation of any of the actions and any further data collected and collated over that period.

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 What is the purpose of the Recreation Strategy?**

The Recreation Strategy has been developed to provide a long term strategic direction for the future provision and management of recreation assets, programs and services in Warringah. The Strategy aims to identify the recreational needs of our community, the opportunities which currently exist and appropriate actions to meet identified gaps and improve current provision.

This Strategy does not attempt to provide the answers to all the recreation issues in Warringah; instead it provides a strategic framework to determine the priority needs and issues and assist long term planning for recreation.

The Recreation Strategy aims to facilitate the provision of a wide range of appropriate, sustainable and quality recreational opportunities in which the community can participate, now and in the future.

## **1.2 What is recreation?**

In this Strategy the term 'recreation' refers to a wide range of organised and less structured physical activities that are pursued for enjoyment, health or self satisfaction outside of the home, including:

- Playing organised sport: e.g. soccer, netball, cricket or hockey.
- Informal, unstructured activity: e.g. playing with friends, walking the dog or throwing a ball.
- Outdoor recreation activities that make use of the natural environment: e.g. such as bush walking, surfing, water skiing, mountain biking, or jogging.
- Indoor recreation activities that take place within a purpose built facility: e.g. gym and fitness activities, badminton and indoor bowls.

This Strategy does not cover passive recreation or leisure activities such as reading, attending concerts, dances, cultural events and cinemas or participation in board games or art and craft activities. Many of these pursuits are discussed in Warringah's Cultural Plan (2007).

## **1.3. Why is local government involved in recreation?**

Warringah Council is one of the many providers of recreation assets, programs and services to our community. The commercial sector, State and Federal Government and adjacent local councils all play a role in providing recreational opportunities for our local residents.

Local councils commonly play a vital role in the provision and management of assets, programs and services that are often financially unviable for the commercial sector but have an immense community benefit e.g. the management of sportsfields, natural areas, beaches and passive open space. Local government plays a key role in promoting, facilitating and funding recreation at the local level. In many cases, Councils such as Warringah also play a substantial regional role.

Councils are custodians and managers of public land and have responsibilities under both the Local Government Act (1993) and Crown Land Act (1989) to manage such land for the benefit of the community and environment. Over 800 hectares of the land managed by Warringah Council is used for recreation.

Local government plays a pivotal role in the provision of safe, affordable, appropriate and accessible recreation opportunities to local communities.

## **1.4 What are the benefits of participating in recreation?**

Recreation provides opportunities for people to have fun, be healthy, experience adventure, socialise, learn skills, develop self esteem and achieve a positive sense of identity. Recreation

ultimately contributes to the quality of a person's life and their ability to be involved in their community.

The Premiers Council for Active Living NSW (2008) notes that people who are physically inactive are more likely to develop heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer. They are also more likely to be overweight and suffer from depression. They are less likely to take part in all that life has to offer.

The provision of recreational assets, programs and services enables people to experience and be involved in recreation and adopt an active lifestyle. The health, social, environmental, organisational and economic benefits of recreation participation have been summarised in Table 1.4.2.

## 1.5 Warringah Council's area

The Warringah Local Government Area is located on Sydney's northern beaches and covers 153 km<sup>2</sup> and includes parts of Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garigal National Parks. Excluding National Parks, open space in Warringah covers over 16km<sup>2</sup> (figures derived from Council's Geographic Information System) or 1629 hectares (just over 10%) and includes bushland, beaches and lagoons, sportsgrounds and parklands.

Figure 1.4.1 illustrates the Warringah Local Government Area and suburbs. The suburbs have been divided into five demographic areas for the purpose of data analysis and comparison for the recreation needs assessment. The groupings were based on geographical location and an attempt to have relatively similar population numbers in each area. The demographic areas and suburbs are listed in Table 1.4.1.

**Table 1.4.1 The five demographic areas used in this Strategy and the suburbs included in each area.**

<b>Central Beaches Demographic Area</b> Collaroy Curl Curl Dee Why North Curl Curl	<b>Central Demographic Area</b> Cromer Narraweena Beacon Hill Brookvale
<b>West Demographic Area</b> Allambie Heights Davidson French Forest Forestville Killarney Heights	<b>North Demographic Area</b> Narabeen Oxford Falls/ Belrose Ingleside Terrey Hills/Duffy Forest/ Cottage Point/ Ingleside Ku-ring-gai Chase
<b>Southern Demographic Area</b> Freshwater North Manly Manly Vale North Balgowlah Queenscliff	

## 1.5 Recreation Strategy document structure

Section 2 of this document outlines the direction that Council will follow for the provision of recreation in Warringah including, our vision, guiding principles and strategic directions. This has been based on the findings from consultation and research activities undertaken during development of this document. Section 3 provides a demographic profile of Warringah.

Sections 4 to 8 further discuss research findings and provide background to the development of the vision, guiding principles, strategic directions and actions. The discussions cover community



participation, community needs and issues, recreational asset provision and funding and managing recreation.

Details on the implementation of this document and the four year action plan have been listed in section 9. Each of the recommended actions has also been listed under the relevant discussion in section 4 to 8. In some cases an action may be relevant to a number of topics and as such is referred to as part of the discussion.

The consultation activities undertaken as part of the preparation of this Strategy have been summarised in Appendix A.



**Table 1.4.2 Benefits of Physical Activity (Government of Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation 2009)**

Benefits Category	Specific Benefits
Physical health benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces risk of chronic diseases.</li> <li>• Reduces risk and management/ treatment for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cardiovascular disease – risk reduced by as much as half:</li> <li>– Stroke</li> <li>– Diabetes</li> <li>– Colon cancer – halved risk</li> <li>– Breast cancer</li> <li>– High Blood pressure</li> <li>– High cholesterol</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reduces risk of mortality.</li> <li>• Improves quality of life.</li> <li>• Manages weight.</li> <li>• Improves sleep.</li> <li>• Reduces risk of osteoporosis and falls.</li> <li>• Improves body weight and composition and reduces risk of musculoskeletal conditions such as osteoarthritis and low back pain.</li> </ul>
Mental health benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves concentration and enhanced memory and learning.</li> <li>• Reduction in and management of stress, anxiety and depression.</li> <li>• Improves self esteem and confidence.</li> <li>• Improves psychological wellbeing.</li> </ul>
Social benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages family and community connectedness.</li> <li>• Improves social skills and networks.</li> <li>• Reduces isolation and loneliness.</li> <li>• Creates safer places/ communities.</li> <li>• Contributes to better performing schools.</li> </ul> <p>Physical activity assists young people by providing opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self expression</li> <li>• Building self confidence</li> <li>• Social interaction</li> <li>• Integration</li> </ul> <p>Physical activity provides seniors with the opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating friendships</li> <li>• Maintaining social networks</li> <li>• Interacting with people of all ages</li> </ul>
Economic benefits	<p>Physical activity provides economic benefits to individuals, local, State and Federal governments and businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produces health savings.</li> <li>• Creates employment.</li> <li>• Attracts tourism.</li> <li>• Becomes a means of transport.</li> <li>• Supports local business.</li> <li>• Reduces absenteeism.</li> <li>• Reduces crime.</li> </ul>
Environmental benefits	<p>Physical activity leads to a range of environmental benefits, especially when walking or cycling replaces car trips, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces traffic congestion</li> <li>• Reduces air pollution</li> <li>• Reduced greenhouse emissions</li> <li>• Reduces noise pollution</li> </ul>
Benefits to organisations/ workplaces	<p>Benefits of physical activity to organisations/workplaces include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces absenteeism</li> <li>• Increases productivity</li> <li>• Increases morale</li> <li>• Reduces rates of injury</li> <li>• Better employee relations</li> <li>• Improves team spirit</li> <li>• Improves job satisfaction</li> </ul>

## **2. Future direction of recreation provision**

This section outlines the framework for the provision of recreation assets, programs and services by Warringah Council over the next ten-plus years. The vision, guiding principles and strategic directions have been developed as a means of enabling Council to make decisions regarding recreational involvement and future development. The vision is the ‘where’ we wish to be, the principles are the ‘what’ we want to do and the strategic directions are the ‘how’ we are going to do it.

The vision, principles and strategic directions have been developed through the analysis of the recreation needs assessment undertaken during development of this Strategy. This involved numerous community consultative activities (Appendix A), including a residential telephone survey, youth surveys, stakeholder interviews, focus groups and a survey of local community organisations involved in recreation provision in Warringah. The findings from the consultation and research activities undertaken have helped to inform ‘why’ we have chosen the direction outlined in this Strategy.

### **2.1 Vision**

***A healthy and active Warringah community that has access to a wide range of appropriate, sustainable and quality recreational opportunities, both now and in the future.***

### **2.2 Guiding principles**

To achieve the vision it is essential that Council's recreation provision is guided by a set of principles that enable the community's needs and values to be met. The following principles cover the manner in which Council should be working to achieve the best recreational outcomes for the community:

- 1. Being a leader in the planning, management and facilitation of recreational assets, services and programs for the community.**
- 2. Recognising and continuing to support high levels of participation of all ages and abilities by providing accessible infrastructure, programs and services.**
- 3. Working regionally with government and non-government organisations, creating ongoing structures, links and partnerships to increase participation.**
- 4. Working with external organisations to improve and increase their capacity to provide appropriate and successful programs, assets and services for Warringah residents.**
- 5. Developing and implementing administrative frameworks and policies that provide consistency and certainty for administrators and users and reflects Council's direction.**
- 6. Communicating with residents about what is on offer and involving residents and stakeholders in the planning and development of their recreational environment.**
- 7. Incorporating a ‘healthy active’ planning approach to all physical and urban development.**
- 8. Assessing funding priorities against evidence based strategic directions, identified need and whole of life costing.**
- 9. Basing asset provision and development on the principles of sharing, multi-use, fit for purpose, appropriate safety standards, full life costing and environmental, sustainable and flexible designs.**
- 10. Considering the improvement, consolidation and / or usage of existing recreation areas and assets, before provision of new assets.**

11. **Balancing planning and management efforts to reflect current and future demand for sport and recreational activities.**
12. **Regularly evaluating and monitoring Council's performance (assessed against recognised and relevant benchmarks and levels of customer satisfaction) through the collection of relevant data.**
13. **Adopting a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to recreation planning and development.**

## **2.3 Strategic directions**

The strategic directions have been developed to guide the provision of recreation services, programs and assets and by putting the above principles into practice over the next ten plus years. They define 'how' we propose to improve recreational provision in Warringah during this time.

Some of the strategic directions can be implemented directly but others need to be broken down into a series of actions to enable Council to progress to the desired state. In all cases they can be considered evolving targets that require Council to be responsive in the way it undertakes recreation planning, management and development.

The following strategic directions are to be implemented to ensure that Council can provide a healthy and active community that has access to a wide range of appropriate, sustainable, quality recreational opportunities, both now and in the future:

1. **Encourage, support and promote participation in sport and recreation.**
2. **Develop, manage, maintain, renew and fund assets, programs and services that support a highly active community, opportunities for people with special needs, low participation groups and address barriers to participation. This should be based on future participant activities, high population and predicted growth areas, urban development, changing use, community expectations and any identified gaps in provision.**
3. **Planning and management is to reflect high current and future demand sporting and recreational activities, particularly incidental, un-structured recreational activities such as walking, swimming and cycling.**
4. **Partner with government, clubs/community organisations, industry agencies and commercial providers to maximise opportunities and the effectiveness of asset, program and service delivery and management.**
5. **Develop pricing and cost recovery policies relative to full lifecycle costs as agreed through asset management and strategic planning instruments.**
6. **Develop transport networks and options which support participation in recreation.**
7. **Improve access to and within recreational assets.**
8. **Provide responsive and targeted communication and information provision to the community.**
9. **Engage with the community and the sport and recreation industry in a meaningful manner.**
10. **Rationalise, consolidate or divest assets where there is duplication, poor quality of outcomes, lower patronage and/or where there are barriers which prevent ability to improve service delivery.**
11. **Develop an environmentally sustainable approach and management of sport and recreation including managing and protecting natural areas to balance conservation, environmental and recreational needs.**

- 12. Create a healthy physical environment and improve incidental physical activity through urban planning, building development, improved transport options and linking community spaces that encourage walking and cycling.**
- 13. Improve data collection and analysis to enable ongoing performance review and the monitoring of recreation services, assets and programs trends.**
- 14. Support and improve the capacity of community organisations to deliver quality recreation programs to the community.**
- 15. Facilitate and encourage the development of partnerships and regional cooperation to enable the provision of assets.**

The vision, guiding principles and strategic directions are to be used as the basis for recreational provision in Warringah. Any potential actions must be considered in relation to these directions.

## **2.4 Four year action plan**

Using the information gained through the various consultation and research activities a four year action plan has been developed based on issues and priorities that were identified in this review. It is expected that each action will be considered in Council's annual business planning processes over the next four years.

A review of this action plan is to occur in four years where new or revised actions are to be developed and determined for another four year term. This is to be in line with Council's Strategic Community Planning process.

Any new action plans are to be based upon the principles and strategic directions set out in this document, until such a time as it is considered that the vision, principles and strategic directions within this document no longer accurately reflect Warringah's community needs or provide relevant direction to the Council.

### **3. Demographic Profile**

Understanding the community profile and relevant trends within Warringah enables recreation planning and provision to be accurate, equitable and reflect the changing profile and behaviour of the community and surrounding populations. The following outlines some of the statistical information derived from the 2006 Census and other sources relevant to the future planning of sport, recreation and open space in Warringah.

#### **3.1 Population growth**

Warringah's population in 2006 was 133,490 and is projected to increase by 6.4% to 142,090 in 2031; this is a slower rate of increase compared to the 3.5% growth between 2001 and 2006. This will result in Warringah having 2.5% of the Metropolitan Region population where it presently has 3.3% (NSW Department of Planning projections 2005).

The largest increases in population since 2001 have been across the Northern (Narrabeen, Terry Hills, Belrose/ Oxford Falls etc) and Central Beaches (Collaroy, Dee Why, Curl Curl etc) Areas indicating the need to plan accordingly for recreation facility and activity provision.

The characteristics of Warringah Council suburbs are varied. Planning for recreation at the local level should consider the different characteristics and needs in each suburb and potential trends in those areas.

#### **3.2 Age profiles**

Large numbers (69%) of Warringah's population are aged in their most active years (0-49 years), although Warringah has a significant number of people aged in the less active years of 60 years and over (20%).

The 2001-2006 period saw increases in children and young people (0-17 yrs), a decline in people aged 20-35 yrs and increases in middle years (35 - 64) and older age groups (65+). The current median age is 38 years - up from 34 years in 1991. This is in line with national trends of an aging population; however Warringah's average age is around two years older than the national average.

There has been growth in the number of 0-11 year olds which will drive demand for access to age-appropriate recreation facilities and services, e.g. playgrounds, juniors sports development and participation opportunities. Just over fifteen percent (15.6%) of Warringah's population is aged between 0-11 years. Over the next 10 years these young people will transition to another phase of recreation participation and planning will need to take such demographic changes into account. Table 3.2.1 provides an age profile for each of the suburbs and demographic areas.

The proportion of young people in the 12-24 age groups grew in 2006 by over 4% since 2001. Figure 3.2.1 compares the age structure of Warringah with the Sydney Statistical Division.

The range of age groups and family types across Warringah highlights the need for a diverse range of recreation opportunities.

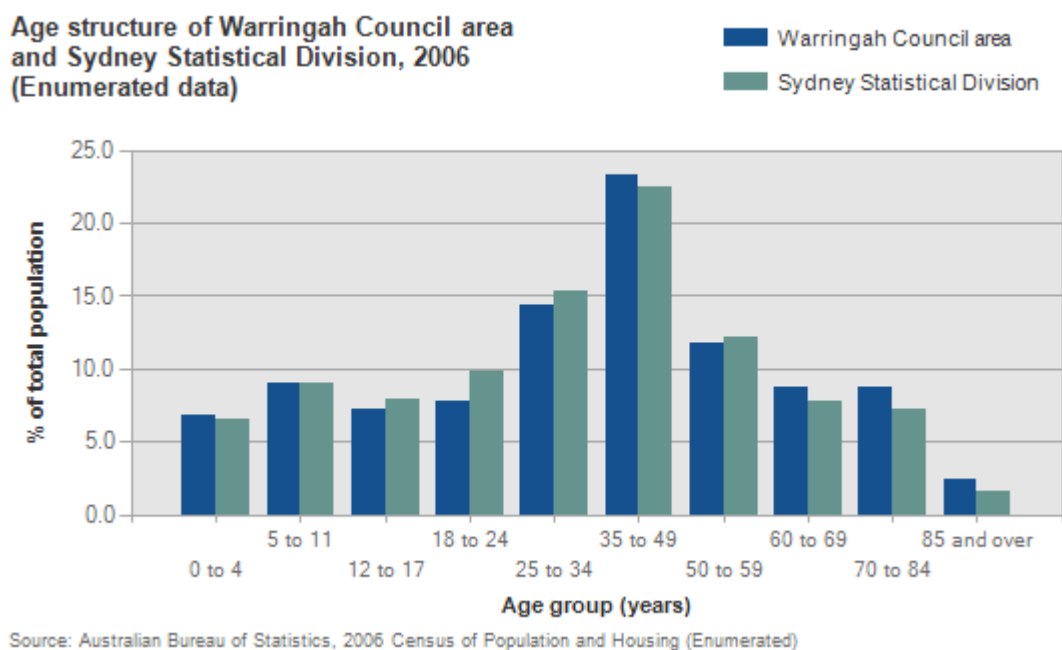
#### **3.3 Culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD)**

As of 2006, over a quarter of Warringah's population (26.4%) were born overseas (34,847 people). The most common countries of birth were (in order) England, New Zealand, Italy, China and South Africa.

Aside from English which is spoken at home by 81% of the population, the next most common languages spoken at home are: Italian 2.3%, Cantonese 1.2%, Mandarin 1.1%, Armenian 0.9% and German 0.6%. Warringah also appears to have a number of emerging communities including Tibetan and Pacific Islanders, who have centred themselves in areas such as Dee Why.

Although in their specific cultural groups the numbers may not be significant it is important that these groups have equitable access to recreation.

**Figure 3.2.1 Age Structure of Warringah Council area and Sydney Statistical Division, 2006**



### 3.4 Indigenous people

In 2006, 457 people or 0.3% of the population in Warringah identified as being of Indigenous origin which is less than the 2.3% Australian average. The Northern Sydney Aboriginal Social Plan (2006), the Warringah Children's and Family Services Strategy (2006), the Warringah Cultural Plan (2007), research undertaken for Families First (State Government funded program) and other studies have highlighted the need for Aboriginal people to gain better knowledge of and access to services, facilities and programs in this area.

### 3.5 Housing and households

57% of the dwellings in Warringah are separate houses which is almost double the number of flats or apartments.

The major areas identified by the North East Subregional Strategy (draft 2008) for further medium and higher density housing include Dee Why (Central Beaches), Narrabeen (North Demographic Area) and Brookvale (Central Demographic Area). There is a greater density of housing predicted for surrounding coastal areas which may result in the need for increased open space facilities as development reduces garden and block sizes.

Total household size is varied, with an average size in 2006 being 2.58 people compared to 2.61 people in 2001.

In line with national trends, there has been an increase in one and two person households in the Warringah area in 2006 compared to 2001. One person households have increased to 11,246 (23%) from 10,629 (22%) in 2001 and similarly two person households have increased to 16,081 (33%) from 15,319 (32%) in 2001.

Three person households have seen a decline from 2001 of 2%, but four and five person households have seen an increase of 5%. These are similar trends to the SHOROC region and Sydney area.

Couples with families continue to be the most common family type, this type decreased slightly to 45% between 2001 and 2006. The proportion of couples without children increased from 36% in 2001 to 37% in 2006.

Warringah's changing family and household makeup reflects the ageing population.



### **3.6 People with a disability**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) defines disability as any limitation, restriction or impairment which lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. The ABS had not collected information on disability at local government level before the 2006 Census. The self-reported 2006 census figures indicate that 4,275 people (3.2% of the population) in Warringah reported as having a 'profound or severe disability'. However it should be noted that some 7,161 people (5.3%) did not answer the question on the need for assistance so the quoted figures may well under-represent the true scale.

A 2004 ABS report suggests that one in five Australians has a disability. A Warringah Council survey in 2005 indicated that most common disability type was physical disabilities, affecting 64.8% (107) of the 165 respondents. This was followed by visual impairment (affecting 38.2%), hearing impairment (23.6%), intellectual disability (22.4%), mental illness (7.3%) and acquired brain injury (4.8%).

It is estimated that the proportion of people with a disability in Warringah may be higher, due in part to the marginally higher proportion of older people in the population, and in part to (anecdotal) evidence that families with a disabled member have historically been attracted to Warringah given the availability of specialist services offered by the various peak disability organisations located in the area. However, at this point there is no substantial research to support this assumption.

The prevalence of people with impaired mobility and other disabilities in the Warringah community highlights the need for programs, assets and services which take into consideration the needs of a cross-section of the population with disabilities and includes all age groups.

### **3.7 Socio-economic indicators**

The 2006 census indicated that the average weekly household income in Warringah was \$1,387, compared with \$1,027 in Australia; however, approximately 13% (6000) of employed persons in Warringah are classified as low income earners. Warringah's unemployment rate was 3.5% which was (and remains) relatively low compared to the Sydney Statistical Division of 6.1%.

Despite a relatively high average weekly household income a large proportion of young people and older adults are earning lower incomes. This inequity highlights the need to ensure affordable recreation opportunities are available and accessible to all residents.

The 2006 Census figures indicate that 22,525 (21%) of Warringah's residents (persons 15 years and older) had attained a university qualification, bachelor or higher degree with a 21% increase since 2001. This level of higher education achievement is similar to the figure for the Sydney Statistical Division (20%) but lower than the SHOROC region (25%).

The proportion of persons with a vocational education had decreased from (19,162) 18% in 2001 to (18,528) 17% in 2006. This is a reduction of 3.5%. The total SHOROC area has decreased by 6.6%. These statistics are not in line with the Sydney vocational education uptake which has increased by 1.5%.

Persons aged 15 years and over with no formal post-school qualifications have markedly reduced from 45,352 (43%) in 2001 to 40,415 (37%) in 2006. This is a lower proportion than the Sydney Statistical Division of 44% but higher than SHOROC region at 38%.

### **3.8 Transport Indicators**

Analysis of the car ownership of households in the Warringah Council area in 2006 compared to the Sydney Statistical Division shows that 84.8% of the households owned at least one car, while 8.5% did not, compared with 78.7% and 13.1% respectively in the Sydney Statistical Division.

Overall, 35.7% of the households owned one car; 36.2% owned two cars; and 12.8% owned three or more cars, compared with 36.4%; 30.2% and 11.5% respectively for the Sydney Statistical Division.

A large proportion of households in Warringah have access to a motor vehicle which may indicate some flexibility for people to travel to and from recreation facilities and services. The high level of vehicle ownership may possibly be due to the limitations of the public transport system to provide for all desired journeys as well as a general community expectation towards car ownership. Even so, public transport and alternative transport such as bicycles will be important for young people and those people without motor vehicles (8.5% of households). A large proportion of 'lone person households' (32.5%) do not have a motor vehicle, which may suggest a risk of isolation. This further indicates that transport and transport links need to be considered in recreation programs, services and asset planning and provision.

**Table 3.2.1 Warringah's age profile for each of the suburbs and demographic areas (Source: ID Demographic Planning Warringah).**

DEMOGRAPHIC AREA	SUBURB	POPULATION 2006	0-4Yrs %	0-4Yrs No	5-11 Yrs %	5-11 No	12-17 Yrs %	12-17 No	18-24 Yrs %	18-24 No	25-34 Yrs %	25-34 Yrs No	35-49 Yrs %	35-49 Yrs No	50-59 Yrs %	50-59 Yrs No	60-69 Yrs %	60-69 Yrs No	70-84 Yrs %	70-84 Yrs No	85+ Yrs %	85+ Yrs No
NORTH	Narrabeen	6,745	5.6	375	4.4	300	3.5	238	6.5	440	21.1	1,426	17.4	1,174	9.6	649	7.2	489	14.9	1,002	9.7	651
	Terrey Hills,Duffys Forest,Cottage Point, Ingleside	3,557	5.3	187	11.6	414	9.3	330	8.0	283	7.0	249	23.2	825	15.2	541	10.8	384	7.1	254	2.5	91
	Belrose-Oxford Hills	8,435	6.3	532	9.8	824	7.9	668	6.5	546	8.7	736	20.3	1,715	12.7	1,072	11.7	984	11.0	930	5.1	429
TOTAL		18,737																				
WEST	Allambie Heights	6,173	7.2	442	9.4	582	8.1	503	6.5	399	9.1	568	23.4	1438	12.2	754	9.7	601	11.3	700	3.0	188
	Davidson	2,638	5.6	147	9.0	237	10.6	281	9.3	245	9.1	241	21.2	559	18.9	499	12.5	329	3.2	86	0.5	14
	Forestville	7,472	7.4	550	9.9	739	7.4	552	6.7	504	10.8	804	22.7	1,693	11.0	825	10.9	818	11.3	841	2.0	148
	Frenchs Forest	12,394	7.6	945	10.8	1,333	8.6	1,066	7.4	915	9.6	1,195	23.9	2,964	12.7	1,574	10.8	1,344	7.5	926	1.1	133
	Killarney Heights	4,158	6.8	282	12.2	506	8.1	337	7.1	297	8.0	335	23.3	971	12.0	499	11.3	469	9.9	412	1.2	50
TOTAL		32,835																				
CENTRAL	Beacon Hill	6,893	6.8	466	10.5	721	8.3	571	8.2	562	10.4	719	24.9	1,719	12.1	833	9.9	683	8.0	555	1.0	66
	Brookvale	1,883	6.2	117	6.5	122	5.3	99	9.3	175	20.3	382	21.0	395	12.0	226	8.3	156	8.8	165	2.4	46
	Cromer	7,271	6.7	490	10.8	783	9.7	705	7.0	511	10.5	766	22.3	1,622	12.4	904	9.4	683	9.1	661	2.0	147
	Narraweena	5,981	6.9	411	9.5	568	8.3	497	6.7	401	10.5	630	22.5	1,344	11.7	698	9.0	536	11.8	704	3.2	193
TOTAL		22,028																				
CENTRAL BEACHES	Collaroy-Wheeler Heights	14,064	6.8	954	9.5	1,337	8.4	1,186	8.3	1,162	14.0	1,964	22.9	3,218	11.8	1,665	8.4	1,180	7.9	1,108	2.1	291
	Dee Why	17,117	6.4	1,100	5.7	982	5.0	853	10.0	1,716	23.3	3,984	24.1	4,126	10.3	1,758	6.5	1,121	7.2	1,226	1.5	251
	Curl Curl/North Curl Curl	5,632	7.6	427	11.1	625	8.6	484	7.7	432	11.9	672	25.8	1,456	11.4	639	6.7	378	7.5	424	1.7	95
TOTAL		36,813																				
SOUTHERN	Freshwater	7,980	7.3	586	7.8	622	5.3	419	7.3	579	22.2	1,770	25.3	2,017	10.6	843	6.2	498	6.5	515	1.6	131
	North Balgowlah	3,265	9.8	321	12.2	397	8.3	272	5.9	194	9.0	294	27.9	910	13.1	427	6.6	216	5.8	190	1.3	44
	North Manly	2,705	7.9	215	9.2	250	7.2	194	6.6	179	12.7	343	24.3	658	12.2	330	7.8	212	8.8	238	3.2	86
	Queenscliff	2,794	5.1	142	4.5	126	2.0	57	9.6	269	34.1	954	22.9	639	9.4	263	6.7	186	4.6	128	1.1	30
	Manly Vale	5,020	7.0	353	7.9	398	5.4	271	8.1	406	19.5	980	24.5	1,228	11.3	566	6.1	304	7.6	382	2.7	133
TOTAL		21,764																				
Population Total		132,177																				

## 4. Current Provision

Warringah Council currently provides a wide range of assets, programs and services which facilitate community access and participation in recreation.

### 4.1 Provision of recreation assets and open space

Warringah's natural features such as bushland, beaches and coastline, lagoons and water ways create a valuable and beautiful setting for recreation. These features along with developed open spaces are the key to the unique recreation experiences and the quality of lifestyle enjoyed by residents.

Warringah Council manages and/or facilitates the use of:

- Nine beaches, seven ocean pools, four major lagoons and a series of creek systems.
- Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam) which provides a large natural area, water body and parkland.
- Two large regional sporting facilities, Brookvale Park and Cromer Park.
- Fifty four sportsgrounds which enables up to 127 sporting fields at any one time and caters for a variety of sports at various levels including regional competitions.
- A variety of other structured sporting facilities including 3 golf courses, 2 bowling clubs and over 70 hard surface courts catering for tennis, basketball and netball.
- Warringah Aquatic Centre, the only indoor 50 metre pool in the northern beaches.
- A series of walking, cycling and multipurpose tracks and pathways throughout Warringah, including the Bi-centennial Coastal Walkway. There is also a BMX track at JJ Melbourne Hills Memorial Reserve and a mountain bike track at Manly Warringah War Memorial Park.
- A range of council buildings including 5 swimming clubs, 10 surf lifesaving buildings, 23 community centres/ halls, 53 sports club buildings and 31 public amenities as well as scout halls and art and craft clubs. At least three of the community centres provide facilities for indoor sporting competitions.
- Three designated skating facilities in Terrey Hills, Manly Vale and Frenchs Forest.
- Stony Range Botanic Garden.
- A series of horse trails in Terry Hills and Duffys Forest and three designated horse areas, including JJ Melbourne Hills, Frenchs Forest Show Ground and Anembo Reserve.
- Over 200 developed open spaces and parks with 170 playgrounds.
- Approximately 500 hectares of natural areas which include bushland, wetlands, escarpments, and foreshores.

Maps in Appendix B illustrate the location of Warringah's recreational assets. The assets have been divided into sportsgrounds, natural areas and developed open space, with the specific identification of a number of other assets including ocean rock pools, amenity blocks and Council buildings. Appendix C includes an audit of all recreation assets within each suburb.

Council manages over 800 hectares of open space which includes natural areas (approximately 500 hectares) such as wetlands, bushland and foreshores (does not include dunes or rocky areas) and developed open space such as parks, sportsgrounds and other land areas used for community recreation. Table 4.1.1 lists the amount of managed open space per 1,000 head of population in each suburb of Warringah. In addition there are approximately 6300 hectares of national parks in

Warringah however this land is not managed by Council and has not been included in any open space calculations.

The open space figures indicate that Warringah has an average of over six hectares of open space per 1000 head of population, although four of the five demographic areas have less than this per 1000 head of population.

**Table 4.1.1 Open Space in Warringah, hectares per 1,000 head of population (Council's Geographic Information System 2009)**

Suburb	Hectares per 1,000 head of pop	Suburb	Hectares per 1,000 head of pop
<b>Central Beaches Demographic Area</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>West Demographic Area</b>	<b>3.37</b>
Collaroy	4.82	French Forest	6.89
Dee Why	2.21	Forestville	6.89
North Curl Curl/ Curl Curl	11.59	Allambie Heights	10.65
<b>Central Demographic Area</b>	<b>4.92</b>	Killarney Heights	5.65
Cromer	7.31	Davidson	5.78
Narraweena	1.83	<b>Southern Demographic Area</b>	<b>3.37</b>
Beacon Hill	5.22	Freshwater	1.72
Brookvale	5.58	North Manly	4.16
<b>North Demographic Area</b>	<b>11.52</b>	Manly Vale	6.72
Belrose/ Oxford Falls	5.58	Queenscliff	0.83
Narrabeen	6.22	North Balgowlah	3.84
Duffys Forest/ Cottage Point/ Terry Hills/ Ingleside	24.78	<b>Warringah Open Space Total</b>	<b>806.26</b>
<b>Warringah open space per 1000 head of the population</b>			<b>6.04</b>

(It is important to note that these figures do not take into consideration those facilities in neighbouring council areas which would be accessible to Warringah residents e.g. Queenscliff residents would have access to considerable recreation facilities in Manly).

The commonly applied standard for open space provision in NSW is 2.83 hectares per 1,000 head of population although there is little background information to suggest that this is based on any relevant or appropriate evidence (Veal 2008). This figure does not take into consideration a number of open space areas including outdoor sport facilities, nature conservation areas, ornamental gardens and parks, golf courses, water areas and indoor sports and fitness areas. Australian based attempts by the Australian Capital Authority and the South Australian Urban Land Trust to ensure a more robust figure resulted in guidelines of four and four to seven hectares per head of population respectively, however these figures still excluded natural areas and metropolitan parks. The most recent examples of provision of standards in the ACT and South Australia have been in the order of eight to fourteen hectares per head of population (SGL Open Space and Facility Report 2009). If Warringah's open space provision was to be assessed by the figures in Table 4.1.1 only, then it would appear that there may not be adequate open space.

However Veal (2008) notes that although the figures per hectare provide a standard by which to consider the adequacy of open space, provision should be assessed on a needs basis and the quality of the space considered in line with its designated purpose. An assessment of open space provides extensive data on the use, quality, accessibility and value of the land areas and therefore enables the development of recommendations on embellishment, acquisition and divestment. The following data fields were used by Bankstown Council (SGC Economics and Planning 2008) in assessing open space areas.

- Level of use (high average, low, no use).
- Recreational quality (very poor to very good).
- Accessibility (very poor to very good).
- Conservation/scenic quality (scale 1 to 5).
- Connectivity (scale 1 to 5).

This assessment resulted in each open space area receiving a total score that enabled the development of long-term strategies for each area and open space in general.

In discussing the quantity of open space per head of population it is interesting to note that the amount of open space does not necessarily directly correlate with the health of a community. For example Japan has 32 playing fields per one million people where as in Australia we have 500 fields per one million however it is predicted by 2015 that 33% of Australians will be obese compared to only 3.9 % of the Japanese population (Perry 2008). This supports evidence that the type of open space is more important than the amount of space provided and that involvement in competitive sports does not necessarily correlate with obesity levels. The impact of the physical environment on health and physical activities is further discussed in section 7.

Council is currently developing strategic 'Asset Management Plans' which include an audit of all assets. The assessment of the value, usefulness and quality of open space and assets would add further value to this process and provide additional data to assist in open space and recreation planning and provision.

There is currently considerable work and research being undertaken to improve open space management. The NSW Department of Planning is developing "Open Space Guidelines" which are anticipated to be completed late 2009 and should provide guidance and assistance with open space development and management and feed directly into Council's planning instruments.

Research is currently being undertaken by Veal (NSW Parks and Leisure Conference 2009) which proposes that one of the key facets of open space planning should be the development of participation targets. That is Councils' should have an understanding of the current participation levels and set increased participation targets to be achieved for each activity type. This then provides the basis for understanding what space might be required to achieve such targets. Achieving the targets would lead to an increase in physical activity which would ultimately lead to community benefits. The National Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) and other data would assist Councils in developing such targets.

## Recommended action

The following action has been recommended to improve open space provision in Warringah.

No	Action	Responsibility
1	Undertake a recreational assessment and audit of all open space. This is to assess the recreational quality and value of all Council managed land areas considered to be open space. Such a qualitative assessment is to compliment and enhance Council's current asset management processes as well as informing relevant planning documents, policies and frameworks.  The following should be considered as part of the assessment:	<b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b>  <b>Property and Commercial Development</b>  <b>Strategic</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development of clear criteria to assess the value and quality of outcomes of the actual space and related assets (expand on Councils level of service core assessment criteria and review examples such as Bankstown Council section 4.1).</li> <li>– Applying a hierarchal rating system (similar to that used for sportsfields and neighbourhood parks) to all open space.</li> <li>– Identifying potential new open space areas including reviewing future land releases and development proposals.</li> <li>– Developing guidelines for the quality of open space provision in any new developments and land releases to be developed. See Appendix E for sample guidelines.</li> <li>– The consolidation of current spaces and potential disposal of others where there is duplication, poor quality of outcomes, low patronage and/ or barriers to enable improvement to service delivery.</li> <li>– Reviewing and assessing the additional open space opportunities in those suburbs identified as requiring additional supply as well as considering the requirements of those areas expected to have increase of population density.</li> <li>– Prioritising and seeking control of land not yet under Council's control which has been zoned as open space in the relevant LEP.</li> </ul>	<b>Planning</b>  <b>Strategy and Policy</b>
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## 4.2 Provision of programs and services

Council is currently involved in the provision of various programs and services which enable participation in recreation. A program can be defined as a planned, coordinated group of activities often for a specific purpose where a service is defined as a helpful activity required by the public (<http://dictionary.reference.com>). In some cases Council provides a program or service directly to the community and in other cases a program or service may be offered to facilitate recreational opportunities through other organisations or groups. Some of the recreational programs and services offered by Council include:

- Youth holiday programs e.g. skate tours and workshops.
- Vacation Care which provides a range of activity options and excursions for children five to 12 years.
- The Sporting Club Capital Improvement Fund which provides funding assistance for large capital works projects for local sporting groups.
- The Community Development Grants Program which provides financial support to community based organisations for new projects and initiatives for their target groups, e.g. Disabled Surfers Association was funded in 2008 for 'Hands on Day' for people with a disability.
- Seniors Week which is an annual program of active and passive activities for seniors.
- Learn to swim, squads, diving classes and yoga, Pilates and fit ball sessions are offered at the Warringah Aquatic Centre.
- BASE (Beach Awareness and Safety Education) – provides introductory beach awareness and safety lectures to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups and children in Years 3 and 4 at Primary school with more advanced presentations delivered to Years 5 and 6.

- Community Centres and buildings enable the provision of recreation services through their availability, bookings service and concessionary pricing policy.
- A number of information directories, including the Community Directory, Youth Directory, Children Services Booklet, Youth and Adults with Disabilities in the Northern Beaches and Leisure Guide for Older Residents, all provide comprehensive lists of recreational opportunities and information to their targeted audiences.
- 'What's On' information is provided on Council's web site and where appropriate advertised in the local newspapers, residents newsletter 'Warringah Matters' and other promotional material.
- YOYOs Youth Centre at Frenchs Forest provides safe, affordable and age appropriate afternoon and evening recreational and entertainment options for young people.
- Warringah Disability Information Service provides an information and referral service to help people with a disability, their families, carers and local service providers. A 'Disability Newsletter' and 'Leisure Activities for Adults and Youth with Disabilities Guide' provides up to date information on what is on and available.
- 'Accessible Community Facilities in Warringah' outlines those assets which can cater for people with disabilities for a variety of recreational opportunities.
- Beach Services patrol and manage the beaches in conjunction with the Surf Life Saving Associations ensuring that our community is safe and able to enjoy the beach.
- Council develops and manages a number of leases, licences or hire agreements which enable the provision of additional services to the community including, surf schools, sports camps and high level sporting competitions and carnivals.
- A range of subsidies are provided throughout the year to groups providing various services and events to the community which have recreational benefit e.g. surfing carnivals.

#### 4.3 Recreational Provision in the northern beaches

The Warringah LGA has the largest number of sporting assets available for allocation on the northern beaches. Council has 54 sportsgrounds which converts to 127 fields. By comparison Manly Council manages eight sportsground sites which include approximately 23 playing fields and a number of cricket wickets, practice nets, basketball courts and croquet courts. Pittwater Council manages ten sportsgrounds which converts to approximately 44 playing fields. Pittwater Council also manages a number of other court sports and indoor facilities, including the Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Centre (Sports in Warringah 2004). Table 4.3.1 outlines the provision of grounds per head of population.

The Manly Warringah and Pittwater Sporting Union allocate grounds to the relevant local sporting associations within the three local government areas. Allocation is not governed by the local government boundaries but rather where the most appropriate facilities exist.

**Table 4.3.1 Comparison of the number of sportsground sites provided per person, per Local Government Area**

Local Government Area	Approx. number of sportsground sites (2008)	Population ( 2006) Source: ID Demographic Planning	Approx. number of sportsground sites per person
Warringah	127	133,490	0.00095
Manly	23	37,380	0.00062
Pittwater	44	53,102	0.00083



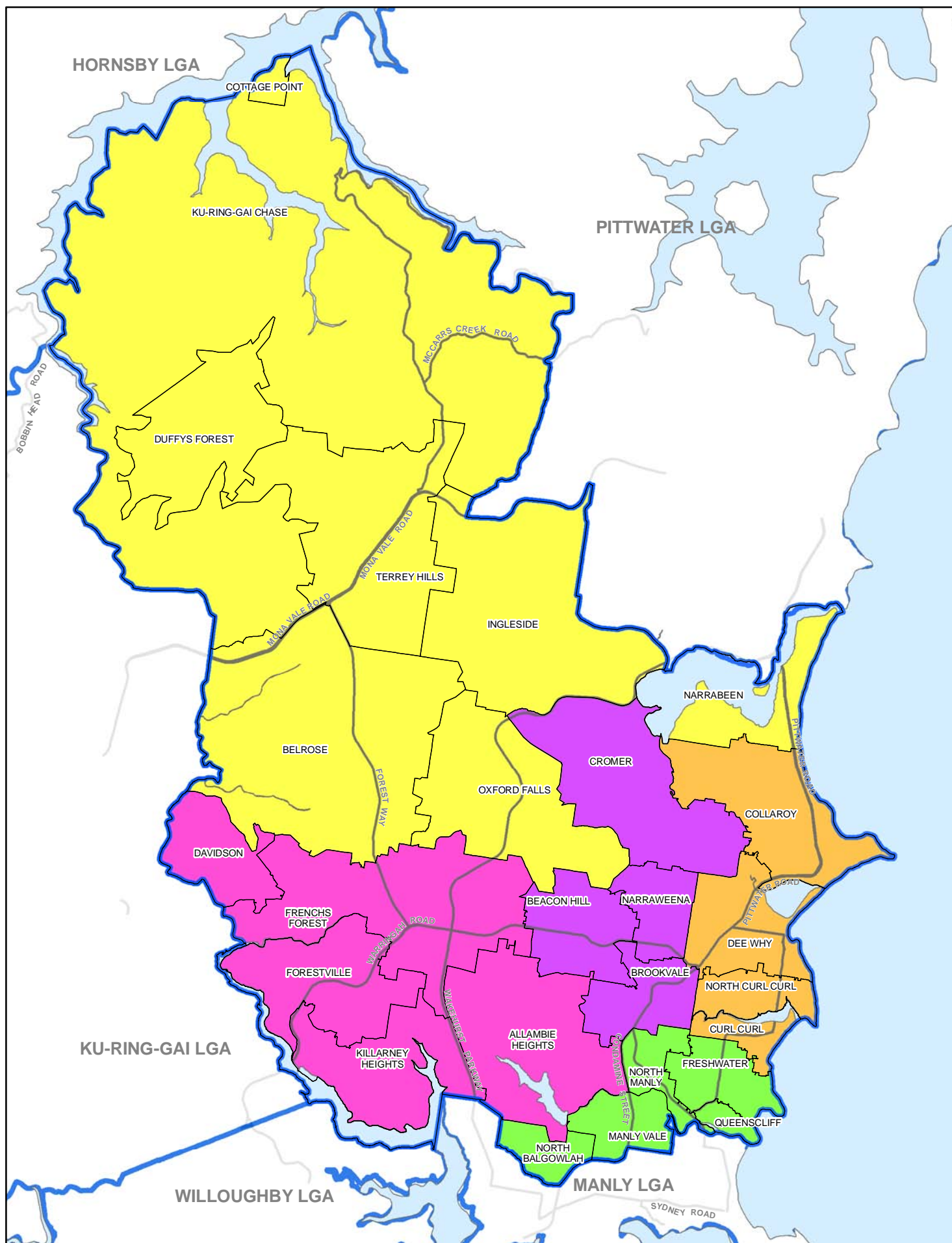
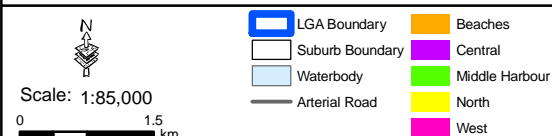


Figure 1.4.1 Warringah Council Local Government Area, catchments and suburbs within each catchment.



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The Warringah Aquatic Centre, Brookvale Park, John Fisher netball and softball areas and Cromer Park are all Warringah Council managed facilities that cater for their respective sports on a regional level.

The Sports in Warringah Strategy (2004) indicated that Warringah's outdoor playing field provision when compared to seven Sydney metropolitan councils was generally higher than most metropolitan Sydney Councils.

#### **4.4 Non-council assets and private provision**

The commercial sector and various other government agencies are involved in the provision of recreational opportunities and assets to Warringah residents.

The Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union has agreements with a number of schools for use of fields for sporting competitions. Some schools also allow halls and facilities to be used by the community throughout the year.

There are numerous private recreational clubs and groups, including Returned Soldiers Leagues Clubs and bowling clubs which provide recreational opportunities such as swimming, fitness activities and sporting competitions.

Private sector facility provision is generally confined to those areas that support higher yielding activities including: golf, swim lessons, ten pin bowling, surf lessons, health and fitness, wellness, water safety education, rock climbing and dance (SGL Consulting 2008).

## 5. Community participation

This section examines and discusses the findings from the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) and the Children's/Youth Surveys (2008) as well as other relevant consultation and research data which provides information regarding residents' participation in recreation. The surveys collected information regarding current participation rates and the types of activities undertaken across age groups and genders, in some cases this data has been compared with state or national figures. The surveys also asked a series of questions attempting to predict future participation patterns.

The following definitions were provided to residents undertaking the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) regarding the difference between a sporting and a recreational activity.

- Sporting activities are defined as activities you compete in, as a member of a club, team or as an individual.
- Recreation activities are defined as non-competitive activities that are undertaken in your free time for fun, enjoyment, fitness or health.

### 5.1 Current participation rates

A detailed telephone survey in April 2008 was completed by 621 randomly chosen residents, fifteen years and over. The residents were asked a series of questions regarding their recreation participation over the last 12 months. The following results were obtained in relation to current participation rates.

- 86% of people surveyed were involved in some form of sport or recreation in past 12 months. This is 5.5% above the national and NSW average. Warringah Council residents appear to have one of the highest recreation/sport participation rates across metropolitan Sydney.
- There is high participation across the entire local government area (with more than 80% in all demographic areas).
- All age groups indicated high levels of participation in sport and recreation activities, although participation appeared to decline as people age (98% participation for 15-19 yrs to 80% for 60+ years).
- Approximately 35% of people surveyed were involved in sports activities and 65% in recreation activity in past 12 months. This is line with NSW and Australian sport participation averages.

In August 2008, 333 students from 16 schools completed a 'Children's/Youth Activity Survey'. The survey collected data regarding the children's current recreation participation behaviour and their attitudes towards sport and recreation.

The following results were found regarding current participation rates:

- 89% of primary school and 78% secondary school children surveyed considered themselves quite to very active, with 61% feeling that they were more active now than they were 12 months ago.
- 87% of primary school and 73% of secondary students surveyed had been involved in an organised sporting club or group in the last 12 months.
- 81% of primary school and 73% of secondary students had other family members participating in sport.

Data from the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) regarding the frequency an activity was participated in has not been included in this analysis as the collation of the data proved problematic. However figures collected by the NSW Population Health Survey from 2005 to 2007 indicate that Manly Warringah residents' (16 years and over) participation in adequate physical

activity (a total of 150 minutes per week on 5 separate occasions) was significantly higher than the NSW average across all age groups as indicated in Figure 5.1.1

**Figure 5.1.1 Manly Warringah, adequate physical activity by age, persons aged 16 years and over, NSW, 2005-2007(NSW Health 2007).**



## 5.2 Participation in sport

The following results were obtained regarding Warringah residents sports participation:

- A majority of people (65%) involved in sport are in their most active years (under 39 years old). Current research and data trends indicate that sports participation drops as people age.
- Larger numbers of 15-19 year olds are involved in organised sport/recreation (98%) than other age groups.
- Males have slightly higher participation in sports than females.
- 2001 data listed in Sports in Warringah (2004) indicated a higher use of outdoor sports facilities by children (66% adults, 78% children).
- The top 10 sports for adults in Warringah as indicated in the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) are listed in Table 5.2.1.

**Table 5.2.1 The top ten sports participated in by adults in Warringah (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)**

1. Soccer	19%	6. Lawn Bowls	5%
2. Golf	13%	7. Rugby Union	4%
3. Swimming	10% (indoors 5% /outdoors 5%)	8. Tennis	4%
4. Gym/Weights	8%	9. Boating/Sailing	4%
5. Cricket	5%	10. Netball	4%

It should be noted that although a separate definition was provided for 'sports' compared to that of unstructured non-competitive 'recreation' this may have been misinterpreted as it appears that organised activities of a non-competitive nature have been listed in this section i.e. gym/ weights.

- The top 10 activities children (15 and under) are involved in with an organised group (as indicated in Children's/Youth Activity Survey 2008) is listed in Table 5.2.2.

**Table 5.2.2 Top ten sports participated in by children in Warringah (Children's/Youth Activity Survey 2008)**

1. Soccer	29%	6. Rugby League	9%
2. Netball	14%	7. Surf Life Saving/Nippers	7%
3. Dance	13.5%	8. Martial Arts	5.5%
4. Touch Football	11%	9. Cricket	5%
5. Rugby Union	9%	10. Athletics	5%

- Soccer was the most popular adult sport for both genders (males 21%, females 15%), however, the next four sports for females were swimming (16%), gym/ weights (14%), golf (11%) and netball (10%), where as the next most popular sports for males were golf (20%), cricket (9%), Rugby Union (7%) and sailing (7%).

**Table 5.2.3 Top five sports by age group for Warringah adults (Residents Telephone Survey 2008).**

No.	15 – 19 yrs	%	20 – 39 yrs	%	40 – 59 yrs	%	60 yrs +	%
1	Soccer	23%	Soccer	26%	Soccer	25%	Golf	35%
2	Rugby Union	17%	Swimming	9%	Golf	11%	Gym/Weight Training	17%
3	Basketball	11%	Golf	8%	Swimming	10%	Lawn Bowls	15%
4	Swimming	8%	Cricket	8%	Gym/Weight Training	8%	Swimming	12%
5	Rugby League	8%	Netball	6%	Tennis	7%	Dancing (various)	6%
			Touch Football	6%			Yachting/Boating/Sailing	6%

- Tables 5.2.3 and 5.3.3 indicate that the activities participated in by each age group change as we age, with the more unstructured recreational activities of walking and cycling becoming more popular as people get older.

### 5.3 Participation in recreation

The following was found in relation to Warringah residents' participation in unstructured non-competitive recreational activities.

- All age groups indicated high levels of participation in recreation activities.
- Females indicated slightly higher participation in recreation activities than males.
- The top 10 recreation activities for adults in Warringah are listed in Table 5.3.1.

**Table 5.3.1 The top ten recreation activities participated in by adults in Warringah (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)**

1. Walking	54%	6. Pilates/Yoga	7%
2. Swimming	31% (outdoor 21% /indoor 10% )	7. Golf	7%
3. Cycling/Bike Riding	12%	8. Gym/Weights	7%
4. Tennis	11%	9. Soccer	4%
5. Surfing/B-Boarding	9%	10. Fishing	3%

- The three top activities in Warringah are walking, swimming and cycling. These are different to the top three activities across Australia and NSW which are walking, swimming and aerobic/fitness.
- The participation rate of walking in Warringah (54%) is higher than NSW (33.7%) and national (36.2%) averages. Participation in Warringah for aerobics and golf are below national and NSW averages.
- Participation in walking has fallen by 2.4% and swimming has decreased by 22.8% since the 1998 Recreation Needs Assessment (UTS), however, they still remain the most popular activities. Cycling has increased by 5.6% and has moved from eighth position to third on the most participated recreational activity list. It should, however, be noted that the 1998 question was worded differently to the 2008 question.
- The most popular children's recreation activities when asked to list the activities that they did (outside of school) over the last week (Youth Activity Survey August 2008) are listed in Table 5.3.2.

**Table 5.3.2 The most popular activities that children participated in outside of school over the course of a week (Youth Activity Survey August 2008).**

1. Watched T.V/ video/DVD	92%	7. Arts/crafts/crafts	63%
2. Read a book	90%	7. Bike riding/ BMX	63%
3. Played and run around in the yard or a park	86%	8. Gone to a park or playground	61%
4. Played a computer game/ electronic/console game	82%	8. Walked to and from school	61%
5. Walking – including bushwalking, walking dog etc	75%	9. Athletics/track and field/ running/ jogging	56%
6. Swimming (indoors 14%/ outdoors 69%)	73%	10. Played a musical instrument/ practice/lesson	48%

(Please note that the survey question asked for information on all activities that the children participated in outside of school. The shaded areas represent the physical recreational activities defined as being relevant to this Strategy).

- The top five recreational activities for each group (15 years and over) are shown in Table 5.3.3.

**Table 5.3.3 Top five recreation activities by age group for Warringah adults (Residents Telephone Survey 2008).**

No	15 – 19 yrs	%	20 – 39 yrs	%	40 – 59 yrs	%	60 yrs +	%
1	Surfing/Body Boarding	29%	Walking	43%	Walking	57%	Walking	68%
2	Walking	22%	Swimming (outdoors)	27%	Swimming (outdoors)	21%	Swimming (outdoors)	17%
3	Cycling	16%	Cycling	18%	Tennis	13%	Golf	10%
4	Swimming (outdoors)	13%	Swimming (indoors)	16%	Swimming (indoors)	11%	Tennis	9%
5	Tennis	11%	Surfing/Body Boarding	16%	Soccer	11%	Swimming (indoors)	6%
							Gym/Weight Training	6%
							Pilates/Yoga	6%

- Walking was the most popular recreational activity for both genders, with 66% of females and 39% males walking. Swimming outdoors (males 18%, females 23%) was the second most popular activity for both, with males preferring surfing/body boarding (18%), cycling (14%), golf (13%) and tennis (13%). Swimming indoors (13%) was popular with females as was cycling (11%), gym/weights (9%) and tennis (9%).

## 5.4 Future participation predictions

In an attempt to collect possible future participation trends, adult residents were asked (Residents Telephone survey 2008) what activities they might like to undertake in five years time, the results are listed in Table 5.4.1.

**Table 5.4.1 The most popular activities chosen to participate in the future by Warringah residents compared to current participation (Residents Telephone Survey 2008).**

Top 10 current activities	Total %	Top 10 future activities	Total %	Expected increase or decrease from current participation
1. Walking	46%	1. Walking	38%	-
2. Swimming (outdoors)	19%	2. Swimming (outdoors)	23%	+
3. Golf	13%	3. Tennis	19%	+
4. Soccer	12%	4. Swimming (indoors)	17%	+
5. Swimming (indoors)	11%	5. Soccer	15%	+
6. Bike Riding/Cycling	11%	6. Bike Riding/Cycling	15%	+



Top 10 current activities	Total %	Top 10 future activities	Total %	Expected increase or decrease from current participation
7. Tennis	11%	7. Golf	13%	Unchanged
8. Gym/Weights	10%	8. Gym/weights	8%	-
9. Surfing/B-Boarding	8%	9. Surfing/B-Boarding	7%	-
10. Running/Jogging	7%	10. Running/Jogging	6%	-

(Please note that if both swimming categories are combined they represent a higher proportion of participants than walking; however swimming outdoors includes participation in the ocean rock pools, waterways and beaches).

The most popular future activities by age groups are listed in Table 5.4.2

**Table 5.4.2 The most popular future activities chosen by Warringah adults by age group (Residents Telephone Survey 2008).**

No.	15-19 yrs	%	20-39 yrs	%	40-59 yrs	%	60 yrs +	%
1	Soccer	28%	Swimming (outdoors)	26%	Walking	40%	Walking	61%
2	Tennis	26%	Walking	23%	Swimming (Outdoors)	25%	Golf	27%
3	Swimming (Outdoors)	26%	Swimming (indoors)	21%	Tennis	22%	Swimming (Outdoors)	23%
4	Rugby Union	17%	Soccer	21%	Soccer	18%	Swimming (Indoors)	16%
5	Bike riding/ Cycling	14%	Tennis	18%	Bike Riding/ Cycling	18%	Tennis	13%
6	Surfing/ Body Boarding	14%	Bike Riding/ Cycling	16%	Swimming (Indoors)	15%	Bike Riding/ Cycling	10%
					Netball	15%	Lawn Bowls	10%

These figures suggest that the participation rates of tennis and swimming may increase significantly. However these results should be interpreted in context with national figures. The 2007 ERASS data indicates that since 2001 tennis and golf participation levels had dropped by 31% and 26% respectively and swimming participation has dropped nationally by 19%.

The Youth Activity Survey (2008) participants were asked what they would play if they could participate in any new activities. The results in order were:

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Tennis/Table Tennis/Squash
- Rugby League
- Athletics

The information discussing future trend predictions should be seen as a guide only as it is based on the preferences and thoughts of those surveyed at the time of questioning, it is recommended that further monitoring of participation rates and trends is undertaken.



## 5.5 Recreation assets usage rates

Respondents (Residents Telephone Survey 2008) were asked if they had used any of a list of nominated main sport and recreation facilities in the past 12 months. The results were as follows:

- The most visited sport and recreation assets in Warringah are listed in table 5.5.1.

**Table 5.5.1 The most visited recreation assets in Warringah (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)**

1. Beaches	80%	5. Ocean rock pools and swimming pools	48%
2. Open space/parklands	70%	6. Rivers, lakes, waterways	41%
3. Walking, bike tracks and trails (incl. bushland)	69%	7. Playgrounds	38%
4. Outdoor sporting reserves/playing fields	59%	8. Community facilities	26%

- The figures in Table 5.5.1 indicate a higher use of outdoor and natural areas, compared to the use of organised sport areas. There was a reasonably high use of informal recreation facilities such as swimming pools and playgrounds.
- Males make higher use of indoor and outdoor sports assets, while females make higher use of beaches, pools, community centres and playgrounds.
- People aged 15 to 19 years make above average use of a range of facilities; however, this did not include walking/ cycle tracks and trails, ocean rock pools, waterways and playgrounds. Those aged 20 to 39 years make above average use of most facilities particularly playgrounds. People aged 40 to 59 years make higher than average use of all facilities particularly outdoor areas such as beaches, open space/parklands and walking/bike tracks and trails, outdoor sporting reserves and waterways. People aged 60 years-plus make lower than average use of most facilities with the exception of golf courses.
- Usage in the demographic areas was generally consistent with the geographical location of such facilities, with the Central Beaches Demographic Area recording the highest use of ocean pools and beaches. The Northern area having the lowest use of beaches and the Western area having the lowest use of ocean pools. The Central area makes the highest use of outdoor sporting reserves while Central Beaches residents make the lowest use of these facilities. Southern Area residents make higher than average use of dams, lagoons or creeks and outdoor courts. There was a high use of the horse riding facilities by the Northern area when compared to the total area response. All residents make similar use of swimming pools.
- Facility use patterns are consistent with participation trends which see higher demand for unstructured recreational activities compared to organised sporting activities.
- The most used regional or major facilities are listed in Table 5.5.2.

In 2008 a survey was sent to all 63 schools in Warringah which collected information regarding the current and future use of recreation facilities. Of the schools (13) who responded 92% indicated that they used Warringah Council's recreation assets. It should also be noted that a number of non-Warringah schools travel to Warringah to use the sporting and recreation facilities.

**Table 5.5.2 The most used regional/ major facilities in Warringah (Residents Telephone Survey 2008).**

1. Narrabeen Lagoon	57%	6. John Fisher Park Netball area	22%
2. Warringah Aquatic Centre	44%	7. Narrabeen Sports Academy	21%
3. Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam)	39%	8. Brookvale Park	20%
4. Cromer Park	25%	9. Narrabeen Indoor Sports Centre	14%
5. Pittwater Park	27%		

## 5.6 Barriers to participation

There are many and varied reasons why people do not participate in regular physical activity. This section looks at those barriers affecting Warringah residents as identified through the various surveys and research papers undertaken for this Strategy. The following was found regarding the factors preventing physical activity participation.

- The Residents Telephone Survey (2008) found the main participation constraints noted by adults included:
  - Family commitments (30%)
  - Work commitments (24%)
  - Health problems (22%)
  - Too busy (9%)
  - Not interested (13%)
  - Other (2%)
- Work commitments were found to be the main constraint for males and family commitments the main constraint for females.
- The differences between the five demographic areas were quite pronounced. A majority of residents in the Southern Demographic Area (58%) noted family commitments. The Central Beaches Demographic Area noted health and family commitments were the major barriers at 36% each. The West Demographic Area had a 25% response to family commitments, work commitment and health problems as the major barriers to recreation. 32% of residents in the Northern Demographic Area indicated that they were not interested in recreation or had work commitments.
- Consultation indicates such constraints are increasingly obtrusive in people's ability to participate and become involved in recreation.
- Consultation with young people and key stakeholders indicated young people have less time and transport options. They are more likely to participate in less structured sport and recreation activities, arts, cultural activities and socialising.
- In the Children's/Youth Surveys (2008) students who were not currently participating in an organised sport indicated that they were not for the following reasons:
  - Too busy at the moment – 41% (Primary students 18%/ Secondary Students 23%)
  - Not interested – 44% (Primary 13%/ Secondary Students 31%)
  - Affordability – 21% (Primary students 13%/ Secondary students 8%)
- Consultation with key stakeholders also indicated that a lack of transport is often a key barrier to participation by younger and older people, people with a disability and low income

groups. The limited trails, pathways and track network in Warringah to enable walking or cycling were raised in all consultation discussions and are discussed throughout this document.

## **5.7 Incidental activity levels**

The Government of Western Australia Department of Sport and Recreation (2007) defines incidental physical activity as physical activities performed for less than ten minutes that are undertaken as part of carrying out normal daily chores, these include walking or cycling instead of driving a short distance, climbing the stairs instead of using a lift or escalator, parking vehicles further away or walking the dog. Incidental activities are important in our overall health and contribute to our daily physical activity levels.

Measuring incidental activity levels is not easy and there are few participation figures. Participation in incidental exercise statistics from the Western Australian Government (2006) indicate that 70% of adults were involved in at least one of the four physical activity behaviours surveyed (climbing stairs, parking vehicle further away, walking instead of five-minute drive and walking the dog). This study indicated that incidental activity declined with age.

The NSW trends listed in the Levels of Sufficient Physical Activity in NSW 1998-2005 report (2007) indicated that there was a significant increase in the proportion of the adults in NSW participating in physical activity (at least 150 minutes of walking, moderate and/or vigorous activity per week over five occasions). Participation in walking was the major contributor to this increase. Although not measured in their study the authors believed that there was some evidence to indicate that people's attitude to commuting behaviours has changed and more people are cycling and walking to work (2007).

The research undertaken for the development of this Strategy did not collect any data regarding incidental activity levels. However, the important role that such activity plays in our overall health can not be overestimated. Currently there is an emphasis by the NSW State Government on increasing opportunities for incidental activity through the improvement of the physical environment; this is further discussed in Section 7.

## **5.8 Summary and recommended actions**

Warringah appears to be a highly active community with all age groups having high participation rates. There is a higher demand for unstructured recreation opportunities such as walking, swimming and cycling and incidental exercise opportunities, especially among the older age groups. There is therefore a need to provide a balanced provision of leisure and sporting opportunities to cater for the different age groups and needs as well as addressing identified barriers to participation.

The pattern of use across the demographic areas indicates that residents tend to use facilities closest to their homes and require less travel. It is expected that there will be a continuing high demand for those sports/activities currently with high participation levels.

Lack of transport and linkages is a key barrier to participation and needs to be addressed to ensure access.

There are a number of actions which aim to maintain and increase participation as well as addressing barriers, which are discussed in the following sections.

## **6. Community needs and interests**

This section discusses the results from the various community consultation activities undertaken for the preparation of this Strategy, including the Focus Groups (2008), stakeholder interviews (2008), Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) and other surveys. The following discussion covers special population groups, specific sports, program and service provision and community groups and organisations.

### **6.1 Issues raised by specific target groups**

Considerable information has been obtained in regards to the needs and issues of particular target groups within Warringah. Focus groups held in 2008 provided the opportunity for community members to outline their concerns and ideas regarding recreation provision in Warringah.

#### **6.1.1 Young people**

The youth surveys, focus groups and stakeholder interviews raised a number of issues relating to young people and their involvement in recreation, the major points include:

- There appears to be less activity and sports options for females compared to males.
- There are limited local activities that can be accessed without the need for transport.
- There were numerous requests for multi-use indoor courts and additional outdoor playing spaces e.g. basketball.
- There is a need for further development of cycle/walking tracks which further enable walking and cycling to community facilities.
- There has been increased participation in BMX and mountain bike riding, although there are few facilities to cater for these sports.
- Additional skating facilities were requested across Warringah, especially street style skating opportunities.
- The Residents Telephone Survey (2008) indicated that a large majority of respondents felt that Council needed to improve the facilities, programs and services for children (84%) and young people (85%). Catering for and improving services for these groups were considered the highest priorities by the 621 respondents. 82% of clubs who responded to the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) also agreed that recreational facilities, programs and services for children and young people needed to be improved.

#### **6.1.2 Older people**

The focus groups, stakeholder interviews and surveys raised a number of issues relating to older people and their involvement in recreation, the major points include:

- Programming and catering for this group is difficult due to the broad range of ages and abilities.
- There is a perception that there is limited availability of affordable spaces and activities for senior activities and multi-purpose indoor centres with appropriate and accessible spaces are needed.
- There is anecdotal evidence that there is an increasing number of older people becoming isolated in their homes.
- The further development of footpaths and designated cycleways/walkways would improve accessibility and opportunity for walking and cycling.
- Activities such as men's shed, computer pals, dancing, school for seniors and walking groups are becoming increasingly popular and there are opportunities for future development.

- Many activities rely on volunteers who are difficult to attract and retain.
- There were requests for considerably more information and promotion of recreational opportunities within Warringah.
- The layout and location of the Warringah Aquatic Centre appears to effect older people's accessibility and willingness to attend.
- Transport and parking need to be considered in the development and improvement of recreational facilities.

### **6.1.3 People with disabilities**

The focus groups, stakeholder interviews and surveys raised a number of issues relating to people with disabilities and their involvement in recreation, the major points raised include:

- There appears to be a high risk of social isolation particularly for older people with disabilities.
- There were requests for considerably more information and promotion of recreational opportunities within Warringah.
- People with disabilities need additional support to access and participate in mainstream activities.
- The further development of footpaths and designated cycleways/walkways would improve accessibility and opportunity for walking.
- There are opportunities to improve accessibility to Council facilities and general open space for people with disabilities.
- 'Accessible Facilities' brochure needs updating.
- There are opportunities to adopt a more holistic planning approach to cater for people with disabilities especially regarding asset development.
- There were requests to increase the range of specific facilities for people with a disability which will enable greater participation i.e. pathways, seats, signage, bus stops.
- There are opportunities for Council to work more closely with local businesses and groups to make improvements to further cater people with disabilities.
- There are opportunities for Council and other groups to develop specific recreation programs for people with disabilities.
- 83% of the respondents (Residents Telephone Survey 2008) felt that the Council needed to improve the facilities, programs and services for people with disabilities. 81% of the groups who responded to the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) also agreed that recreational facilities, programs and services needed to be improved for people with disabilities.

Aside from the above target groups, the focus groups and surveys also indicated that there was a need to improve the provision of recreational and sporting programs, services and assets which enable access to other special needs groups i.e. families, parents with prams, women and CALD communities.

### **Recommended actions**

The following actions have been recommended over the next four years as a means of improving recreation opportunities for people with disabilities:

No	Action	Responsibility
2	<p>Undertake a review and audit of recreational programs, services and assets appropriate for people with a disability in Warringah. Identify potential gaps, determine Council's role in addressing these and develop an action plan to implement the improvements.</p> <p>This should include a physical access audit of key Council recreation facilities, including community centres, sportsfields and facilities on natural areas.</p> <p>Outcomes of the access audit and review are to be incorporated into appropriate asset management and service delivery planning and consider opportunities for partnerships to further improve services, programs and assets.</p>	<p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
3	<p>Develop a comprehensive 'Recreation Guide/ Directory/ Resource' for people with disabilities. Relevant information is to be collected from specialist providers, community groups and stakeholders.</p> <p>Consider mapping facilities and associated information and placing data on Council's webpage. The most appropriate way to display, maintain, distribute and provide access to this data should also be determined.</p>	<p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p>

## 6.2 Specific sports and activities provision

The Focus Group Discussions (2008), stakeholder interviews and Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) raised a number of issues and trends regarding particular sports and activities. The participant numbers obtained from the surveys have also been included here to assist in the discussion and identification of future implications for recreation in Warringah. In some cases a discussion regarding relevant asset provision have been included.

### 6.2.1 Walking

This was the most popular recreational activity for adults and was in the top five activities undertaken by children. The 2007 ERASS Report lists walking as having the highest participation rate of any physical activity in Australia.

Walking is a key activity for incidental activity involvement i.e. exercises in our daily lives through being able to walk, for example, to and from the shops or the community centre. Walking is the most popular physical activity and is open to almost everyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status (Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation 2009).

The limited footpath network in Warringah was raised consistently, especially in regards to older people and those with mobility issues such as people with a disability and parents with prams. The Annual Community Survey (2008) indicated that footpaths were an area of high importance to the community but they were generally unsatisfied with the current provision of footpaths in Warringah.

There are a number of trail networks throughout Warringah, however, there are gaps within these networks and further development is needed to link key centres, major transport routes and community and recreation facilities i.e. parks, community centres and sportsgrounds.

### Recommended action

The following action is recommended for implementation:

No	Action	Responsibility
4	<p>Continue to develop a network of walking tracks, pedestrian pathways, linkages, cycleways and multi-use trails, concentrating initially around high use sites to connect with transport routes and residential areas. This should be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development of a regional tracks and trails overview which links current documents such as the Bike Plan and Multiuse Trail Strategy and identified plans and locations for links and pedestrian pathways etc.</li> <li>– Develop and implement a series of Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans (PAMP) which outline the provision of safe, convenient and connected pedestrian routes throughout Warringah.</li> <li>– Continue providing annual funds for pathway/cycleway improvements and expansion.</li> <li>– Updating pathways/cycleways maps, signage and web information to inform users of new links and new trails.</li> <li>– Continue to seek additional funding opportunities and grants for the development of the network.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Roads, Traffic and Waste</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p> <p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Planning</b></p>

## 6.2.2 Swimming

Swimming was Warringah's second most popular recreation activity, with 31% of adults and 73% of children participating in either or both indoor and outdoor swimming. The Telephone Residents Survey (2008) predicts a 10% increase in the number of people swimming in the next five years, with the increase spread relatively evenly across both indoor and outdoor venues.

The 2008 Annual Community Survey (Iris Research) indicates that the beaches and rock pools were of high importance and the community were generally satisfied with their provision. Equally, the community were satisfied with the Warringah Aquatic Centre.

The outdoor swimming clubs that responded to the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) were generally satisfied with their pools and areas. However, ongoing maintenance is required to keep the ocean pools up to standard and fit for purpose. The limited shade around the ocean pools was raised as a concern, with some feeling it impacted on the use of the facility.

The indoor swimming clubs who responded to the Recreation Organisational Survey (2008) felt that there were a lack of suitable facilities for their particular activities and that availability of the Warringah Aquatic Centre was limited. Water polo in particular felt that there are inadequate opportunities to develop their sport. Most schools that completed the Schools Survey (2008) felt the aquatic centre's fees and charges were too high and that this limited their use of the facility.

The Aquatic Centre is the major indoor swimming centre in the region and according to the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) was the second most visited facility in Warringah at 44% (with 59% visiting Narrabeen Lagoon). The issues raised in regards to the Warringah Aquatic Centre from the surveys and focus groups included:

- The facility has high maintenance and expenditure requirements
- It is an aging asset and there is a need for an upgrade/refurbishment
- The physical structure, layout and location of the centre have created a number of access issues for a range of demographic groups.

The Aquatic Centre fees are perceived as being too high and as a result many of those consulted felt that the cost was limiting participation of a number of groups including people with a disability and older people. It is interesting to note that when the entry fees are compared across Sydney, Warringah Aquatic Centre's fees are at the lower end of the market with only Macquarie University and Parramatta having a lower adult entry charge. However, the perception of high cost may be

more related to 'value for money' as many of the pools visited by specific groups (youth, disability, vacation care and families) such as Ryde Aquatic Centre and Sydney Aquatic Centre offer more activities and facilities than the Warringah Aquatic Centre i.e. water slides, fun splash pools, cafeterias.

As noted earlier the Warringah Aquatic Centre is the only large community indoor aquatic centre on the northern beaches. The commercial swimming facilities in Warringah tend to cater for fitness, hydrotherapy and learn to swim classes, i.e. Fitness First and RSL ANZAC Village.

A strategic plan for the Warringah Aquatic Centre is currently being developed.

### Recommended action

The following action has been recommended to improve the long term direction of the Warringah Aquatic Centre:

No	Actions	Responsibility
5	<p>Determine the long term strategic direction of the Warringah Aquatic Centre. In doing so take in to consideration the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Options for co-location of high demand including multiuse indoor sports facilities.</li> <li>– Funding opportunities</li> <li>– Working with regional councils to develop regional aquatic infrastructure and possible partnership opportunities.</li> </ul>	Warringah Aquatic Centre

### 6.2.3 Mountain biking and off-road cycling

There are anecdotal reports that the number of people participating in mountain biking and other forms of off-road cycling have increased significantly over the last five years. Mountain Bike Australia's membership has soared in the last four years, particularly in NSW which now has the largest number of registered members (Mountain Bike Australia 2008).

2008 bicycle sales indicate that for the ninth consecutive year Australians have bought more bicycles than cars. Between 1998 and 2005 73.4% of bicycle sales in NSW and ACT were mountain bikes, which was the highest percentage sold compared to any other State in Australia (Cycling Promotion Fund 2009).

Council has only one permissible area for mountain bikes which is a shared track for cyclists, walkers, joggers and emergency vehicles at Manly Warringah War Memorial Park (Manly Dam). It is considered to be a moderate to easy track for off-road cycling.

There is evidence of off-road cycling happening in the National Parks and in Crown and privately owned bushland in Cromer, Oxford Falls and Belrose.

At this stage there are no allocated resources for the ongoing development and maintenance of tracks for off-road bicycle use outside of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park.

The focus groups and stakeholder interviews raised the following points:

- The use of current walking trails is not necessarily ideal for off road cycling as it can lead to conflict of use with users and potential safety issues.
- There is only one legitimate place to go mountain biking in Warringah.
- If not adequately managed mountain bike riding can have a detrimental impact on natural areas.
- There is limited management, signage and support systems for off road cycling activities.



- Many of the illegal tracks run across several land tenures which complicates the resolution of issues.
- There has been limited assessment of the demand for off road cycling facilities.
- Council should consider volunteer involvement in developing and maintaining facilities.

### Recommended action

The following action is recommended to address the current issues and limited opportunities for off road cycling:

No	Actions	Responsibility
6	<p>Determine Council's role and involvement in the provision of off-road cycling opportunities through the completion of research and consultative activities. Such activities will aim to address ongoing and future provision and management of off-road facilities and issues within Warringah, including resource implications and environmental impact.</p> <p>Relevant actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research current trends and participation rates in off-road riding regionally, nationally and where relevant internationally.</li> <li>• Analysis of local off-road cycling participation and site usage including identification of unauthorised mountain bike tracks and other cycling facilities across the various land tenures.</li> <li>• Assessment of the impact of off-road cycling on the natural environment and the development of appropriate measures to reduce impact.</li> <li>• Consultation with relevant stakeholders, land owners and the community. This would include ongoing liaison with National Parks NSW and their approaches to managing mountain biking.</li> <li>• Assessment of Manly Dam trail condition, safety issues, track suitability, bicycle and other usage and the carrying capacity of the site in relation to environmental and resource constraints.</li> <li>• Based on the above research and consultation, development of options for the provision of off-road cycling opportunities in Warringah. This is to include considering various off-road cycling styles and level of difficulties as well as considering relevant strategic planning documents such as the Regional Multiuse Trails Strategy, Metropolitan Regional Strategy and Warringah Bike Plan. The resources required for the development and ongoing maintenance of each option should also be included.</li> <li>• Development of trail facility management options. This is to include the consideration of the involvement of volunteers in developing and maintaining trails.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Parks, reserves and Foreshores</b></p>

#### 6.2.4 Golf

The Residents Telephone Survey (2008) indicates that golf is one of the most popular sports in Warringah with 13% of the population participating and that it will remain popular. However, the National ERASS (2007) data has recorded a decline in golf over the past six years with participation dropping by 26% in that period.

Two of the three golf clubs that responded to the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) noted that there were concerns over declining memberships and a third club said they were finding it more difficult to attract people to golf because it was a time consuming game. All clubs noted that being able to raise adequate funds was an issue.

The Residents Telephone Survey (2008) also asked residents which venue they were using within Warringah and the results indicated that only 1% of the residents who responded to the survey actually used a golf course located in Warringah in the last 12 months. There is no explanation for this discrepancy at this stage however given the Golf Club current participation numbers are over 4100 (membership data from 3 of 4 clubs in Warringah Organisation Survey 2008) there appears to be quite a number of people actually playing golf in Warringah.

The Draft North East Subregional Strategy (Manly, Pittwater and Warringah) noted that a significant amount of open space is occupied by golf courses. Golf courses account for 4% of Warringah's open space where as only 2% of land is used for other active sports, such as soccer and softball.

Given the discrepancies in the Residential Telephone Survey (2008) and the movement away from national trends it is recommended that further data be collected and analysed regarding golf courses and participation trends. Action 7 specifically relates to this issue.

#### 6.2.4 Tennis

Council is currently involved in the management of ten tennis centres/areas in Warringah, with a total of 48 courts. There are also a number of privately owned tennis centres in Warringah. There is limited information as to the usage rates of either the private or public centres.

National ERASS data (2007) notes that there has been a 26% decline in tennis participation since 2001 which is contradictory to the Resident Telephone Survey (2008) results that indicate that there may be an increase in future participation here in Warringah.

Again, further research and analysis is needed to clarify the future need for provision of tennis in Warringah.

#### Recommendation for action

The following action has been recommended to address golf and tennis provision in Warringah.

No	Action	Responsibility
7	Review and assess current tennis and golf provision and demand in Warringah (including private and council facilities). Such reviews are to critically analyse the future demand for such facilities and, where relevant, make recommendations for rationalisation of current assets or justification for renewal and/or additional facilities in either sport.	<b>Strategy and Policy</b> <b>Property and Commercial Development</b>

#### 6.2.5 Other activities provision

There are many recreational activities that Warringah residents are involved in, some of which Council provides extensive facilities and support to such as netball, rugby league and soccer and others which Council may provide limited support to including gliding, surfing and basketball. The discussion included in this section has focused upon those activities which attract the highest participant numbers, have limited facilities or are considered new or emerging which in turn are demanding increased attention. Tennis and golf have specifically been included here due to conflicting participation trend data.

There are however sports and activities (other than those noted here) that Council will continue to work with when considering future service provision in Warringah. For example, a horse riding research paper has recently been prepared which specifically deals with the provision of horse trails and related facilities in the Terrey Hills and Duffy Forest areas. This paper was initiated through the identification of issues related to horse riding in the region and discussions with the local riding community.

It is expected that other research papers and work will be undertaken as recreational needs and issues are identified and seen as relevant to ongoing planning for recreational facilities and opportunities.

## **6.3 Program and Service Provision**

### **6.3.1 Direct provision**

Council's involvement in program and service provision is in the main focused on the provision of funds and information to local community organisations. Consultation and research indicates there are opportunities for Council to improve the provision of recreational programs and services and increase the range of participation opportunities to the community through the following:

- Improving the capacity of the sport and recreation industry within Warringah.
- Improving the capacity of community groups to deliver programs and services to target groups.
- Encouraging greater cooperation, co-ordination within the industry, especially with local Councils.

The Residents Telephone Survey (2008) and the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) indicates the community is generally supportive of policy initiatives that will improve and where relevant increase the level of programming and support for clubs/organisations and the industry in Warringah.

Direct provision of recreation programs and services by local government varies throughout the country, with some councils like Warringah having limited involvement in direct provision of sports and activities. Others such as Bankstown Council have a dedicated team to run "Sport a Month", Recreation Expos and other events aimed at increasing participation (Australian Parks and Leisure 2008). Some councils such as Willoughby Council provide direct fitness, health and wellness and sport programs through their indoor sports centres, leisure centres and gymnasiums.

Industry trends indicate that local governments tend to become involved in program and service delivery where (SGL 2008):

- There are gaps in service provision.
- To show leadership in new and emerging areas.
- To assist in the implementation of preventative public health policy initiatives (e.g. prevention of obesity and chronic disease prevention, mental health and wellbeing, social/community inclusion).
- To ensure inclusion and equitable access to sport and recreation opportunities by groups with special needs.
- To increase participation by high need and specific target groups.
- To ensure council facilities are being utilised and operationally sustainable.

Warringah appears to have an active community, however, there are a number opportunities to improve current services and facilitate additional programs as well as to address the traditionally lower participation groups of older people, people with a disability and those from CALD communities.

There are also number of opportunities to work more closely with community providers and organisations in addressing identified gaps; this is discussed further in section 7.

## Recommendation for action

The following action has been recommended in relation to future provision of recreation services to the community (note this action also addresses a number of factors discussed later in this document).

No	Action	Responsibility
8	<p>Consider reviewing staffing and financial resources in the following areas to provide enhanced levels of service delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Program development and delivery – including addressing needs of low participatory groups.</li><li>– Club and community group liaison and development.</li><li>– Grant identification, support and promotion.</li><li>– Regional networking and partnership development.</li><li>– Special event facilitation and promotion, e.g. heart week.</li><li>– Health and fitness promotion for key target groups.</li><li>– Government and industry initiatives/campaigns.</li></ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p>

## 6.4 Community Recreation Providers

There are more than 400 public and private groups, clubs or organisations who provide recreational and sporting activities, programs and services and in some cases assets to Warringah's residents. These groups provide valuable and varied opportunities and services to the community. Many of these are community based and are operated by volunteers. Without these clubs and groups many of the recreational opportunities Warringah residents have would not be available or accessible.

The Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) was sent out to relevant groups to collect information regarding provision of recreation within the community and relevant groups were also invited to participate in the focus group discussions. It is noted that only 23% of groups responded to the survey which is not particularly high and therefore the data collected should be seen as a guide only.

Key themes and issues derived from the consultation are as follows:

- Over 50% of clubs/groups conduct their activities in a Council owned facility, with 66% using more than one facility. 63% of clubs/groups of the total surveyed share their facilities with other groups.
- 72% stated that they would not be able to contribute further to the ongoing improvement and development of their main facility which is provided or maintained by Council.
- 57% of respondents thought that the Council should have responsibility for maintaining and managing sport and recreational facilities. 18% thought their organisation should be responsible.
- 47% thought that Council should have responsibility for developing new facilities.
- 41% of clubs/organisations are planning improvements/capital works on their main facilities over the next five years. Proposed projects planned over the next five years total approximately \$16 million (note this figure includes the \$4 million planned netball expenditure as listed in 2008). Of this total capital cost/upgrade expenditure, clubs are likely to fund approximately \$1.8 million (11%). The organisations are expecting that the outstanding amount of \$14.2 million (89%) will be funded through state/federal and local government grants.
- The main issues impacting on the clubs/groups (Recreation Organisation 2008) in order are:

- Ability to upgrade facilities.
  - Lack of suitable facilities.
  - Funding/Income raising issues.
  - Declining memberships.
  - Lack of recognition/promotion.
  - Recruiting committee members.
  - Reduction in volunteer involvement.
  - Fundraising/sponsorship.
  - Cost of venue hire/rent.
- The major policy issues and future directions important to the clubs/groups are:
    - Upgrading the quality of existing sport and recreation facilities.
    - Providing new sport and recreation facilities.
    - Improving communication about opportunities to participate.
    - Development support and training for local clubs and associations.
    - Provision of recreation and physical activity initiatives for the community.
  - A large majority of clubs/groups felt Council should undertake the following to improve planning and management of recreation in Warringah:
    - Sustainable development and design of facilities.
    - Improving partnerships/cooperation with clubs/organisations.
    - Improving cooperation between Councils.

## Recommended actions

The following actions have been recommended to facilitate opportunities for the community through support programs and partnerships with other organisations.

No	Action	Responsibility
9	<p>Review opportunities for community organisations and relevant commercial providers to further build their capacity to deliver recreation programs and services. Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Grants and funding opportunities.</li> <li>– Support and assistance in accessing grants and funding programs.</li> <li>– Recruitment and development of volunteers.</li> <li>– Assistance and advice with assets, program and service development.</li> <li>– Information provision and promotion.</li> <li>– Partnering and linking with relevant organisations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
10	<p>Work and partner with representative bodies (i.e. Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union, SHOROC, peak sporting bodies), regional partners, State Government and community organisations to ensure programs and services are available for the community that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase participation and involvement.</li> <li>– Assists associations and club operations and viability.</li> <li>– Creates links and foster collaboration and cooperation.</li> <li>– Encourages multi/shared facility use.</li> <li>– Enables club rationalisation and partnering where necessary.</li> <li>– Attracts funding to the region to support participation.</li> <li>– Provides advice and support on asset management and development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p>

Action 27 also addresses the need to develop guidelines for working with community organisations on the development or renewal of assets.

## 6.5 Affordability

Market research and consultation indicates, despite the relative affluence of the Warringah community, there are a number of groups within the community that need affordable opportunities including:

- Young people
- Older people
- People with a disability
- People from CALD backgrounds
- Families
- Unemployed
- Low income earners (13% of employed persons are classified as low income earners in Warringah).

The Youth Activity Survey (2008) noted that the affordability of an activity affected their participation and it was raised as one of the main barriers to participation in the Youth Forum (2008). The cost of an activity is often increased by transport costs.

Council currently has concessionary pricing for the hiring of community centres which provide cheaper rates for not-for-profit or community based groups, however, fees can not otherwise be reduced or waived without Council approval.

## Recommended action

The following action has been recommended to improve affordability of recreation programs and services to the community.

No	Action	Responsibility
11	<p>Develop a financial and policy direction for all programs and services which takes into account an analysis of the full cost of providing the service or program against current income. The following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Review and compare subsidies, grants and donations provided by Council to those groups involved in recreational provision in Warringah.</li><li>– Options to increase income and funding opportunities.</li><li>– Pricing concession systems for low income and special needs groups accessing sport and recreation assets, programs and services.</li><li>– Development of promotional information and communication systems supporting the program/ policy which allow for easy implementation.</li></ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p>

## 6.6 Communication

Communication to and from Council, access to information and the promotion of opportunities were all raised as being major issues affecting recreation participation.

### 6.6.1 Information Provision

There are a range of methods used across a number of Council service areas to promote and communicate recreation opportunities, including brochures, directories and newspaper advertisements.

Knowing what is on offer is imperative to an individual's ability to become involved. The lack of awareness of what people can be involved in was raised by all Focus Groups (2008), particularly for people with disabilities, those with lower educational backgrounds, young people, CALD communities, families and older people.

Very few people indicated that they were aware of the various directories which Council manages. Less than a third of those surveyed at the Youth Forum were aware of either the Youth Services or Community Directories. 50% of the groups who responded to the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) were not listed in the Community Directory and 98% of these wished to be included.

The Community Directory which is available in hard copy and on the internet provides an extensive list of recreation providers and facilities within Warringah and regional areas. The following issues were specifically raised regarding the Community Directory:

- Accessibility to the directory.
- Awareness of the directory.
- Ease of use.
- Repeat of entries.
- Not all relevant groups included.
- Web based format required.
- Maps, pictures and links required to improve service.
- Consider interactive link to Council's Geographical Information System (GIS).
- Lack of clarity of inclusion of commercial groups.

The inconsistent use, condition and location of directional, informative and compliance signage were also noted as a factor affecting people's awareness of recreational assets and their usage. It



is recommended that signage be considered in the renewal and development of any recreational assets.

### 6.6.2 Promotion of recreation opportunities

The various consultative activities found the following on promotion of recreation in Warringah:

- The local papers (49%), word of mouth (38%), family/friends (23%) and internet (14%) were the most used mediums to find out about sport and recreation activities in Warringah (Residents telephone survey 2008).
- Males make greater use of the internet while females make greater use of local papers (Residents telephone survey 2008).
- Older people make greater use of the local papers while younger people make greater use of family and friends (Residents telephone survey 2008).
- One of the high priorities in the focus group discussions was that there needs to be increased and improved advertising and promotion of assets, programs and services appropriate to the target groups.

### 6.6.3 Communication with Council

In the Focus Group (2008) discussions it was suggested that Council was not always easy to work with and communication was not as good as it could be. It was noted that sometimes it was difficult for external customers to be able to locate the right person to deal with on a specific matter.

It was also noted through the Focus Group (2008) discussions that there were limited opportunities for participation in recreation/open space planning particularly by users of unstructured activity, i.e. cycling and walking.

### Recommended actions

The following actions have been recommended to improve communication:

No	Action	Responsibility
12	<p>Develop a recreation communication and exchange program/system to ensure targeted, regular and up-to-date distribution of information to the community, in particular to the community recreation providers and key target groups catering for those with lower participation rates or special needs. The following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Online administration and management of data.</li> <li>– Community 'shop-fronts' (posters, brochures etc on display and available to the public) in major facilities.</li> <li>– Incorporating new and emerging technology including developing interactive information systems.</li> <li>– More effective contact and increased involvement with community organisations.</li> <li>– Redevelopment of current 'Community Directory'.</li> <li>– Regular media features.</li> <li>– Mapped inventory of facilities, programs and services.</li> <li>– Supporting and promoting activities provided by Warringah's community organisations.</li> <li>– Signage strategy or consistent approach to signage</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p>



No	Action	Responsibility
13	<p>Ascertain needs and priorities for each sport. Such information should be collated and fed into the relevant planning mechanisms, including master plans (Action 15) and the recreational assessment of open space (Action 1).</p> <p>As part of the above consider running regular forums to discuss the ongoing management and development of recreational assets, services and programs with relevant associations and groups. Separate forums should be considered for both the formal and unstructured activities and possible different target groups such as older people, children and young people.</p>	<b>Parks Reserves and Foreshores</b>

No	Action	Responsibility
14	Develop mechanisms that assist Council staff and external stakeholders to better understand the roles and responsibilities of council officers/departments in relation to sport and recreation. This should include streamlining 'communication points' and 'channels' required to be navigated by external stakeholders and the community for both initial and ongoing contact.	<b>All services</b>

#### 6.6.4 Community satisfaction

How the community perceives or feels about the recreation services and assets they use affects their experience and the ongoing use of such services. Various surveys and consultation activities have collected data regarding Warringah resident's satisfaction levels.

The most used facilities also generally received the highest user satisfaction ratings as indicated in Table 6.6.1 (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)

**Table 6.6.1 The most visited facilities in Warringah (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)**

Facilities	% of those visited Warringah facilities	Good rating
1. Beaches	80%	83%
2. Open space/parklands	70%	74%
3. Walking, bike tracks and trails (including bushland)	69%	73%
4. Outdoor sporting reserves/ playing fields	59%	55%
5. Swimming pools	48%	79%
6. Ocean Rock pools	48%	65%
7. Rivers, lakes waterways	41%	74%
8. Playgrounds	38%	65%
9. Community centres/ public halls	26%	50%
10. Outdoor sport courts	24%	61%
11. Public Indoor sports courts/facilities	18%	57%

12. School facilities	17%	66%
13. Youth facilities (skate, half court facilities)	6%	36%
14. Horse riding facilities and areas	3%	56%
15. Golf course facilities	1%	100%

Poorer satisfaction ratings were received for outdoor sporting reserves/playing fields, public indoor sports courts, horse riding and youth facilities. This was also consistent with focus group (2009) discussions.

The Annual Community Survey (2008) assesses satisfaction for Council's major services and there were good satisfaction ratings received for maintenance of beaches, rock pools, parks and recreation. However, sportsfields received a high satisfaction rating which was different to the Residents Telephone Survey (2008).

The Annual Community Survey (2008) also highlighted the need for improvement in a number of areas, including footpaths, public toilets and management of waterways and lagoons, all relevant to recreation provision.

The footpaths and public toilets were also seen as requiring significant improvement by those involved in the focus group discussions.

## 7. Recreational assets: Use and demand

Council's major role in recreation is the provision of assets and facilities which enable participation in a wide variety of activities throughout Warringah. Council provides, manages and maintains community buildings, swimming pools, sportsfields, parks, youth facilities, playgrounds, natural areas, tracks, cycleways and pathways, lagoons, beaches and waterways. An audit of all facilities is listed in Appendix C.

### 7.1 Condition and management of assets

The following was noted regarding the condition of Council's recreation buildings and other assets through the various consultative activities:

- Council has a large and ageing sport and recreation asset portfolio and all focus groups and stakeholder discussions and surveys noted the need to improve the quality of the existing assets. There were many requests from sporting groups for upgrades and maintenance. The Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) respondents raised concerns with the condition of the sporting assets, in particular the buildings, on field lighting and sportsfield surfaces.
- There are increasing asset maintenance and operational costs for Council's existing infrastructure. A number of facilities have not been upgraded increasing future asset maintenance cost and risk exposure.
- Condition of public toilets are a major area of concern as noted in a number of surveys and discussions.
- A majority of the schools using Council facilities commented on the need to improve amenity buildings and change rooms.

The community is generally dissatisfied with the quality or limited provision of support facilities (i.e. toilets, change amenities, seating, water, shaded facilities, park furniture etc) that support use of sports reserves and open spaces. Council has allocated a significant amount of money in the 2009/2010 capital expenditure budget for the improvement of those amenities considered in poor condition to bring them up to standard.

Consultation has also indicated the need for an improved facility booking, administration and management policy framework that:

- Ensures a consistent approach.
- Is available and understood by users/lessee/owners.
- Supports Council staff in their administration, management and customer relation roles.
- Supports Council's strategic asset provision, cost recovery and pricing strategies.

Council is currently preparing a Total Asset Strategy Program which involves preparing updated Asset Management Plans for all asset groups and developing a 'Levels of Service' program, which establishes criteria to measure all assets and determine the level of service that they provide to the community.

A key component of the overall asset strategy program involves the need to dispose/rationalise assets that are past their useful lives. These assets may become surplus to requirements, uneconomical to maintain or rehabilitate, or are no longer fit for purpose.

The actual service and the quality of that service delivered by each asset is the primary indicator of its overall value and will guide the decision to rehabilitate, renew or dispose. Council will use its Level of Service program for this purpose. The Level of Service ranking takes into account accessibility, utilisation, affordability, community benefit, community involvement, health and safety, quality, condition and sustainability.

Asset Management Plans are currently being prepared for all of Council's assets, based on broad classes (e.g. buildings, roads, parks and reserves, stormwater etc). These plans will include in detail the need for future asset rationalisation and renewal.

It is expected that the Total Asset Management Plans will be completed by the end of 2009 and improve the management and maintenance of all Council assets. It is also expected that the Asset Management Plans will increase the community's understanding of the costs of asset provision and the implications if there are changes to an asset's level of service. This program does not evaluate the recreational value and whether the land or asset is fit for purpose as discussed in Section 3.

### Recommended action

The following action has been recommended to improve the condition of major recreation assets in Warringah:

No	Action	Responsibility
15	<p>Determine long term strategic direction of all major assets including sports facilities and community centres to guide ongoing strategic development of such assets through the development of master plans or similar. Plans are to be developed in line with intentions and recommendations listed in the Asset Management Plans and any outcomes from the recreational assessment of the relevant open space areas (Action1).</p> <p>The following should be included in the development of the plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Explore options for improved community use of existing facilities via events, pricing structures, lease/ licence conditions and/or facility use.</li> <li>– Review facility management and operations as means of determining future needs for operational support and facility upgrade investment.</li> <li>– All proposed maintenance, renewal and development initiatives that improve the standard/capacity of the asset are to be included and prioritised. The following should be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Buildings and amenities.</li> <li>▪ Landscaping.</li> <li>▪ Parking.</li> <li>▪ Tracks, pathways and linkages.</li> <li>▪ Shade – both natural and built structures.</li> <li>▪ Lighting.</li> <li>▪ Spectator seating.</li> <li>▪ Fencing and entrances/exits.</li> <li>▪ Signage.</li> <li>▪ Furniture and barbecues.</li> <li>▪ Potential for additional recreational facilities on a site including exercise circuits, fitness equipment, skate facilities, tennis walls, basketball courts etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Consideration is to be given to retiring or rationalising some facilities that are surplus to needs, uneconomical to maintain or renew or are no longer fit for purpose within such plans. The community should be suitably engaged regarding rationalisation of any Council assets.</p> <p>All new buildings and/or refurbishments are to be developed with due regard for Council's Operational Management Standard 'Environmentally Sustainable Design and Management of Council Built Assets.'</p>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>

	<p>The priority order for the development of the master plans (or similar) are to be based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Current and future high use assets.</li> <li>– Maintaining highly rated facilities to high standards.</li> <li>– Poorly rated assets being brought up to standard (where need for facility indicated).</li> <li>– Occupational Health and Safety, Disability Discrimination Act and any other regulatory compliance.</li> </ul>	
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## 7.2 Future trends and gaps in asset provision

High participation rates, the large number of recreation organisations/groups and the existence of many and varied assets has contributed to high asset provision expectations from the community. There appears to be an increasing expectation of high quality and service standards for the provision of recreational facilities with limited consideration of how this will be paid for.

Warringah caters for several specific sporting competitions at a regional level which also impacts on the condition and demand for assets.

There will be an increased demand on recreation assets as the population grows and density increases.

As part of the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) respondents were asked what their priority improvements would be for Warringah. There was a strong preference for improvements to the sportsgrounds and cycle/walkways as shown in Table 7.2.1. These results are aligned to the survey findings in the areas of current and future participation trends, existing use and satisfaction with facilities and priorities identified by clubs/groups and by stakeholders.

**Table 7.2.1 Priority Improvements for recreation facilities (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)**

1. Sporting reserves/playing fields	26%	5. Playground provision	9%
2. Bike/cycle and walkway	22%	6. Brookvale oval	8%
3. Outdoor sports courts	18%	7. Improve swimming centres	5%
4. Improve change facilities/amenities	10%	8. Others	2%

## 7.3 Current facility provision gaps and issues

Specific gaps or issues have been identified through the various surveys and consultative activities for the following asset groups.

### 7.3.1 Sportsfields/reserves

Despite the high number of sportsgrounds in Warringah there are constant requests for additional fields from the sporting associations. In particular soccer, hockey, softball and cricket feel that they have sufficient interest in the region to expand their programs if there were additional fields.

The Sportsground Plan of Management (2007), Sports in Warringah (2004) and other relevant reports have noted that sportsfields are overused and there is inadequate maintenance of surfaces and fields, some of which is thought to be due to increased usage by sports outside of their traditional seasons (i.e. soccer summer competitions). The Standing Committee on Public Works Inquiry into Sportsgrounds Management in NSW (2006) recommends that councils should place a minimum two week ground rest period in sporting organisations hire conditions.

There is also a need for improved resource management, including drainage/irrigation and water use. The Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) in particular noted the limited maintenance of buildings and surrounding areas and sportsgrounds surfaces as significant issues.

The allocations by Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union (MWPSU) are based on seasonal block bookings. Some groups maintain allocation is based on tradition and not on the current needs of the sport.

Fees collected by MWPSU are at very low cost recovery threshold. The 2006 Thompson Tregear report indicated that from 2001 to 2003 the recurrent income received from users of sportsfields represented only 3.4% of reported operating costs by Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Councils. The report recommended that SHOROC Councils aim to recover 25% of total recurrent costs. Council resolved in December 2007 to develop a new fee structure (in collaboration with the SHOROC Regional Sports Liaison Committee) to move towards recovering 15% of all operational costs. This resulted in a seasonal cost of \$5.00 for juniors and \$7.00 for senior players in the 2008/ 2009 year for use of the sportsgrounds. The previous charge was \$3.00 for all MWPSU members.

Council's management of the use of the sportsgrounds and ability to influence pricing policies is affected by the role the MWPSU play. Council's direct involvement with the sporting associations/ clubs and access to sports ground usage data has been limited.

There are also no artificial all weather facilities suitable for competition in Warringah which would assist in resting fields and enabling year round use.

Over the past five years considerable work has been undertaken regarding sportsfields provision which has resulted in the development of several strategic documents. The Sports in Warringah (2004) and the Sportsground Plan of Management (2007) both contain actions relevant to sportsgrounds and sports development which are in line with the strategic intention of this document and should be referred to for the ongoing development and improvement of sportsfields.

### Recommended actions

The following actions are recommended to improve the provision of sportsgrounds:

No	Actions	Responsibility
16	<p>Continue to develop a sportsgrounds improvement program (as based on Sportsground Plan of Management 2007) to enhance the capacity and quality of the current sporting fields by undertaking the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review of current occupancy and configuration of playing fields.</li> <li>– Assess current asset use and maintenance practices and develop an agreed maintenance program.</li> <li>– Review current leasing and licensing practices to ensure that they are consistent and maximise facility use.</li> <li>– Consider options to enhance capacity of existing playing fields (i.e. night lighting, drainage, water reuse, synthetic surfaces, soil improvements) and reserves (i.e., amenities and visitor infrastructure improvement) based on demand and ground hierarchy</li> <li>– Investigate opportunities for increased use of school grounds and formalise any agreements.</li> <li>– Consider developing a relief playing field and the introduction of an annual playing field resurfacing program for priority facilities (over an agreed time).</li> <li>– Align use and maintenance and development to the hierarchy categories (i.e. local, district and facilities)</li> <li>– Determine long term direction for sporting assets through the development of master plans (or similar) as listed in Action 15.</li> </ul>	Parks, Reserves and Foreshores

No	Actions	Responsibility
17	<p>Undertake an assessment of the allocation and management of sportsgrounds in Warringah. Develop a series of actions which aim to further improve sportsground provision which best meets the needs of relevant stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>This should include a review of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union's role, responsibilities and performance and the development of ongoing management systems to improve sportsground provision.</p>	<b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b>

### 7.3.2 Community centres

There are 23 community centres located in Warringah. Research into the utilisation of the centres in 2008 found that there is an increase in demand for the following recreation activities:

- Indoor sport and emerging sports – particularly Futsal (indoor soccer).
- Playgroups.
- Indoor parties and other children's activities.
- Ballet and dance schools.
- Health and leisure activities – yoga and Pilates.
- Seniors activities.

Curl Curl and Beacon Hill Community Centres are the only two centres with halls suitable for indoor sport, although Cromer Community Centre can cater for some sporting activities such as badminton and kindy gym. It is, however, becoming increasingly difficult to fulfil all requests for indoor sport activities.

The centres also have physical restraints - their structure, location and availability or non-availability of certain facilities/equipment affects their demand and usage. These need to be considered in any future planning of the centres to maximise access, efficiency and income.

There is a high demand for recreation space in Dee Why, given its central location and proximity to transport routes.

It is important to acknowledge that community centres play a significant role in the provision of recreation within Warringah and this role should be considered in any future plans for the centres. In particular, consideration should be given to the provision of multi-purpose and multi-use spaces compatible with contemporary sports and activities within the centres. The application of the principles and strategic directions within this Strategy should guide development and renewal of such facilities to ensure that they are accessible, connected, sustainable, viable and safe assets which meet all relevant standards.

### 7.3.3 Indoor facilities

The Warringah Council Local Government area does not have a major, multi-use indoor facility and indoor, community and leisure facilities are currently scattered throughout Warringah. Limited access to indoor sports courts has been noted by the Schools Survey (2008), Focus Groups (2008), Stakeholder Interviews (2008) and Community Centre Survey (2007) and many of the groups who completed the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008).

Community Centre research data (2008) indicates that there has been significant growth in demand for indoor sports. It has been suggested that this is in keeping with the heavy pressures on Warringah's outdoor sports facilities and with changing community interests. There has been high demand for space from indoor sports such as Futsal, netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton and table tennis. The requests for indoor sport space from the community are not being met by the community centres.



One of the largest growing sports requiring indoor space is Futsal, an indoor version of soccer. The Northern Beaches Futsal Association membership has doubled since 2003 and they are expecting this trend to continue into the future. The number of registered players in Sydney has grown between 23% and 27% a year over the last five years (NSW Futsal Association 2009). Council has received a number of requests from interested commercial groups who wish to work with Council to develop such a facility.

The closest major indoor sporting facility is in Pittwater Council which has limited capacity for additional bookings. Action 19 recommends that consideration be given to the development of an indoor sporting facility in Warringah.

### **Recommended action**

The following action is recommended:

No	Action	Responsibility
18	<p>Undertake further research on the emergence of new sports or changes in trends such as Futsal (modified soccer), ensuring that current demand, potential future demands and supply of appropriate facilities is considered in any investigations and, where relevant, develop an action plan.</p> <p>Such information is to be used in the consideration of any future relevant asset development or renewal.</p>	<b>Strategy and Policy</b>

### **7.3.4 Youth facilities**

Consultation and research has indicated that there is limited access to spaces appropriate for youth orientated recreational activities. There appear to be limited indoor venues with a range of recreation, social and cultural activities which are available at appropriate times, in key urban centres and are on transport routes.

There were also numerous discussions regarding appropriate youth outdoor facilities such as skate parks and basketball courts. Council receives many requests for additional skating facilities and the provision of such facilities was considered a high priority in the youth focus group discussion. There is a need for improved quality and additional provision of skate parks and other facilities which appeal to young people.

### **7.3.5 Outdoor sport courts**

There is limited hard surface court space suitable and accessible for less structured use (e.g. skating, rollerblades, riding bikes, remote control cars, tennis walls, basketball). There are no designated learn to cycle areas in Warringah outside of pathway circuits at some parks such as Passmore Reserve. A specially designed learn to ride area has been suggested for Cromer Park in the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Corridor Plan of Management (2008).

These types of assets alongside other recreation facilities such as fitness circuits should be considered in the development of a long term strategic direction (Action 15) for major facilities and any other planned developments at relevant locations such as sportsgrounds, community centres and parks. However should it be considered that such a facility should be developed for its own purpose as a stand alone feature (i.e. learn-to-cycle on a small local park) then all the actions and strategic principles related to the development, maintenance and management of assets discussed in this document should be referred to.

### **7.3.6 All weather artificial turf facilities**

Cromer Park has a small section of artificial turf available for soccer training which has proven very popular especially in the wet weather.



There have been many requests for artificial turf areas and several approaches to Council for partnerships in the provision of such facilities. This has been primarily due to grass fields being in poor condition and the increased demand for year round and night time competitions.

The sustainable management of natural sportsgrounds has proven difficult given the variable rainfall, increase sport participation and shortage of available space (Rodgers 2008). Many of Warringah's grounds are also subject to subsidence as they are former land fill sites.

A synthetic playing surface has a number of benefits including:

- Water input is zero (for non-water based surfaces).
- Surface is highly durable and able to endure high usage rates.
- Provides consistent ball roll and bounce.
- Provides continuous and immediate availability.
- Is not prone to seasonal maintenance (Rodgers 2008).

The cost of artificial turf is comparable to natural surfaces, however, the advantage is in the whole-of-life costing and the lack of renewal requirements over its life time (Rodgers 2008). The other advantage is that artificial turf facilities have high potential for generation of income, which grass fields cannot sustain.

The Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Plan of Management has listed the inclusion of all weather artificial turf pitches as being suitable for Cromer Park. There may be a number of suitable locations throughout Warringah that could also be considered. A number of hockey and soccer groups have made requests for artificial turf facilities appropriate for competition.

### Recommended action

The following action is recommended for consideration in relation to the development of new recreational facilities in Warringah.

No	Action	Responsibility
19	<p>Consider the provision of new recreational assets which address identified recreational gaps, including (priority order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Indoor sport courts and multi-purpose indoor community space which incorporates space usable for various groups and activities.</li> <li>ii) Walking tracks, cycleways and multi-purpose trails.</li> <li>iii) Mountain bike trail.</li> <li>iv) Outdoor all weather sports fields (artificial turf).</li> <li>v) Skate facilities and other youth orientated facilities (specifically in Central Beaches and Western Demographic Areas).</li> </ul> <p>An investigation and business case must be undertaken prior to support for any major development. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Funding options including the rationalisation of current facilities and potential partnerships and grants to fund whole-of-life of the asset (e.g. construction, maintenance and decommissioning).</li> <li>– Community consultation.</li> <li>– Reflection of principles and strategic directions as outlined in this strategy and the way in which such a development will benefit the community and complement current provision.</li> <li>– Ancillary facilities and opportunities in the surrounding areas (i.e. links with open space, parking etc).</li> <li>– Location and feasibility studies, including options for co-locating or developing additional facilities at current sites (i.e. indoor facilities incorporated at the WAC or community centres).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services.</b></p>

### **7.3.7 Brookvale Park**

Brookvale Park is a significant sporting facility which plays an important role regionally and nationally, as well as providing a much needed neighbourhood park area in Brookvale. The following issues were raised through the Focus Group (2008) discussions:

- There are high maintenance and expenditure requirements
- It is an aging asset and there is a need for an upgrade/refurbishment
- The main tenant is partly privately owned.
- There is a perception that there is a lack of cost recovery for the commercially orientated facility.
- Some consider that there is a public open space encroachment
- Need to improve overall access and use of this facility to the community

Action 15 aims to address the need to improve the long term direction of regional sporting facilities such as Brookvale Park.

### **7.3.8 Leases, licences and other agreements**

The Sportsground Plan of Management (2007) outlines that leases and licences are to encourage multiuse of open space and facilities, and in most cases Council would prefer to issue seasonal agreements (licences) rather than a lease which tends to offer exclusive tenure for a set period of time to one tenant.

The following issues were raised in consultations regarding leases, licences and agreements:

- There appears to be inconsistent application of leases versus licences.
- Some clubs have historical ties to a facility and consider the facility theirs.
- Some current agreements are preventing community or other group access.
- There were questions regarding the income received and resulting community benefit of some agreements.
- Some groups have leases and some do not for similar facilities.
- How will current lease agreements be changed to licences?
- Some groups have invested significant funds into a facility and there are concerns as to how this will be managed and protected.

Actions 15, 16 and 24 aim to improve the development and management of leases, licences and agreements.

## **7.4 Recreation use and impact on natural areas**

A significant portion of Warringah's designated open space is natural area and includes bushland, wetlands, foreshores, beaches, lagoons and waterways. The use of these areas for recreation is a major focus for a majority of residents as indicated in the Residents Telephone Survey (2008) and other consultative activities.

The most used natural regional facilities were Narrabeen Lagoon (57%) and Manly Warringah Memorial Park (39%). 83% of survey respondents visited at least one of Warringah's nine beaches. There is also high usage of other outdoor natural areas for swimming, walking and cycling.

There is evidence (some anecdotal) that high usage levels and some recreation activities are degrading natural environments and in some cases is blamed on the lack of appropriate infrastructure, management and maintenance of these areas.

It is expected that there will be an increasing demand for access to Warringah's natural areas both from within Warringah and from Sydney in general due to population growth, increasing popularity of outdoor activities, reduction in natural areas and downturn in economic conditions. Such

increases are expected to create a greater impact on natural areas and will require increased management (Draft Subregional Strategy 2008).

The use of natural areas is generally by definition 'unstructured' or 'unorganised'. In some cases these activities are high impact and do not necessarily have a recognised or formal 'voice' making communicating with users and controlling impacts difficult (i.e. mountain bikers).

There is also a perceived conflict between public use and exclusive use, especially at the beaches and waterways. Exclusive use includes activities such as events (surf carnivals, beach festivals etc), those activities that require exclusive use for safety reasons (e.g. water skiing, nippers etc) and commercial activities (e.g. surf schools, tourism tours, personal trainers). There were concerns that the capacity and accessibility of some areas is being affected by the lack of management direction at these sites.

Climate change has also been raised as an issue which Council should take into consideration in the ongoing development and management of recreation assets, in particular the potential impact on beaches and outdoor facilities (i.e. sportsground surfaces).

Various models and methods have been developed to manage the impact of the recreation activities and visitors to sensitive natural areas throughout the world. Such models include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and the Visitor Impact Management (VIM) systems. These management models ensure a diverse range of outdoor recreational opportunities are provided and maintained in line with participation, demand and carrying capacity of the natural area. The use of such a model collects information regarding land uses, resource development and management and maintenance practices which then enable the development of a specific policy and management direction for natural areas.

### Recommended actions

The following actions have been recommended as a means of managing natural areas.

No	Action	Responsibility
20	<p>Assess, adopt and implement a specific management model for the major recreational facilities located in natural areas, including Manly Dam, beaches and Narrabeen Lagoon. (Such models include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and the Visitor Impact Management (VIM) systems as discussed in section 7.4).</p> <p>This is to ensure a diverse range of outdoor recreational opportunities are provided and maintained in line with participation, demand and carrying capacity of the natural areas. Where appropriate this process should be undertaken in partnership with any other relevant groups such as neighbouring councils and Trusts and include the development of appropriate policy and planning processes.</p> <p>It is also expected that as an outcome from the above, a long term strategic plan will also be developed for the natural recreational areas in line with Action 15.</p>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
21	<p>Develop a community education plan and/or a series of relevant activities to educate the users of recreational facilities on reducing their impact on natural areas. Where relevant, implement protective design or management practices.</p>	<b>Natural Environment</b>

No	Actions	Responsibility
22	Assess the risk of climate change for Warringah's sport and recreation assets, services and programs and develop and implement recommended actions.	Strategy and Policy

## 7.5 Physical environment (built and natural)

The Premier's Council for Active Living website (2009) notes that the relationship between the physical environment (which incorporates the built and natural environments) and the health and wellbeing of both the individual and the community is well established. Research suggests some built environments encourage sedentary lifestyles and contribute to modern health epidemics such as obesity, cardiovascular diseases and 'type 2' diabetes. These same built environments encourage car dependence and result in environmental impacts such as the greenhouse effect and air and noise pollution. There are also some indications that the physical environment may potentially undermine community strength and cohesiveness because people do not have opportunities to meet and connect simply by being active in their local area. Some people may also be reluctant to use poorly designed and maintained built environments because they are perceived as unsafe (Premier's Council for Active Living 2009).

Built environments that facilitate more active lifestyles and reduce barriers to physical activity are desirable because of the positive relationship between physical activity and health (Transportation Research Board Institute of Medicine of the National Academies 2005). The NSW Centre of Overweight and Obesity 2005 report states that recent studies have found that there are particular aspects of the urban environment that influence people's physical activity and food purchasing, these include:

- Mixed land use.
- Housing density.
- Footpaths and cycleways.
- Facilities for physical activities including pools, parks, sportsgrounds.
- Facilities enabling physical activity (i.e. end of trip facilities such as bike racks, lockers, showers, storage).
- Street networks, characteristics and design.
- Transport infrastructure and systems linking residential, commercial and business areas.

The NSW Centre of Overweight and Obesity 2005 report goes on to say that people are more likely to make healthy behaviour choices when these choices are readily available to them and as such an environment that supports healthy behaviour is a critical influence on health. However, an individual's behaviour is also influenced by social and personal aspects. An optimal approach requires several strategies including physical environmental changes in combination with social marketing and community education.

Opportunities to increase physical activity levels exist in many settings – at home, at work, at school, in travel and in leisure. The built environment has the potential to influence physical activity in each setting (Transportation Research Board Institute of Medicine of the National Academies 2005). Those responsible for modifications or additions to the built environment should facilitate access to, enhance the attractiveness of, and ensure the safety and security of places where people can be physically active (Transportation Research Board Institute of Medicine of the National Academies 2005).

It is interesting to note that a survey undertaken for the Dee Why Valley and South Creek Open Space Plan of Management in 2007 (233 responses) indicated that walking was the most common reason for visiting a park in that area (51%) and 75% of those who walked did so with other people, indicating that walking is probably an important social outlet as well as an opportunity to be active. It is also significant that the most popular reserves in this survey were the two which have the

formal shared pathway linking two reserves in Dee Why. The second most popular activity was cycling (13.5%) which again occurred most frequently in the two parks with the designated shared pathway.

The consideration of any principles directly aimed at facilitating healthy active lifestyles in our physical environment is not formalised in either Warringah's Development Control Plan or Local Environment Plan (LEP). However, relevant matters can be raised during the development assessment process. The Warringah Bicycle Plan is currently being reviewed and it is expected that there may be a number of initiatives suggested for inclusion in the next Development Control Plan (DCP).

There is currently a strong emphasis towards improving the physical environment by various levels of the government and private organisations. The 'Healthy Spaces and Places' project is a collaboration between the Australian Local Government Association, the Planning Institute of Australia and the National Heart Foundation. It aims to promote the ongoing development and improvement of built environments where Australians live, work and play, that will facilitate lifelong active living and promote good health (Healthy Spaces and Places 2009).

The Premier's Council for Active Living has recently developed a set of design guidelines for a number of areas, including walking and cycling routes, public transport, streets, retail areas, and open spaces. Landcom (NSW State Government development corporation) has also released design guidelines for Landcom projects using principles which assist in making liveable places and spaces.

Some councils have begun to embrace and implement strategies and principles to improve the physical environment from a health and environmental perspective. Ryde Council requested the implementation of a travel plan from Optus regarding their recent development at Macquarie Park. This plan resulted in the employment of a Sustainable Transport Manager and has enabled the initiation of active transport options and reduced the number of car parks and traffic in the area. The average mode of transport at Macquarie Park is 85% car and 15 % other transport forms, the Optus building has, as a result of its travel plan, 48% of its staff bringing cars to work and 52% using other forms of travel to get to work. The numbers of cyclists have increased well beyond predicted estimations. Such positive results have led to Ryde Council altering its Development Control Plan for Macquarie Park to require any development which caters for 300 or more people to have a travel plan and a staff member designated as being responsible for sustainable travel in the organisation. The Development Control Plan also includes a Cycle Strategy which outlines requirements of cycle connections, safety and end of trip facilities, including the required number of bike parks per development.

### Recommended action

The following action is recommended to begin the formalisation of healthy active principles into Council's development controls and processes.

No	Action	Responsibility
23	<p>Consider the integration of principles and standards aimed at facilitating healthy active lifestyles into land use planning instruments. Ensure that the following are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mixed land use.</li> <li>– Housing density.</li> <li>– Footpaths and cycleways.</li> <li>– Facilities for physical activities including pools, sportsgrounds.</li> <li>– Facilities enabling physical activity (i.e. end of trip facilities such as bike racks, lockers, showers, storage etc).</li> <li>– Street networks, characteristics and design.</li> <li>– Transport infrastructure and systems, linking residential, commercial and business areas.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategic Planning</b></p> <p><b>Development Assessment</b></p>

## 8. Managing and funding recreation

Being able to adequately fund and manage the wide array of recreation facilities, programs and services provided is an ongoing challenge for Council. Governments at all levels are responsible for the provision and long term management and maintenance of a substantial amount of public infrastructure. Adequate provision for maintenance, depreciation and replacement has not always occurred and community demand for more services and facilities has increased the pressures on local government.

### 8.1 Management and coordination

The management of Council's recreation services, assets and programs by Council was discussed consistently throughout the consultative activities. The consultations raised the following:

- A perceived lack of 'holistic oversight' and coordination for recreation and all related facilities.
- Communication and involvement with external organisations (i.e. direct club/community liaison and ground allocation) is limited and impacting on Council's ability to maintain close connection with local industry.
- There is a need for additional asset usage monitoring and data collection.
- There is a perceived lack of management control and ability to influence important areas of management such as asset use and pricing (particularly with the sportsfields).
- User conflicts are not always adequately managed.
- There are issues with the management of exclusive versus public use.
- There is a range of tenures, including leases and other agreements used to manage some assets as well as historical connections of some groups to a facility.
- There are opportunities for increased programming at community centres and a number of facilities which are not used at set time periods during a day, week or year (i.e. community kindergartens).
- Ageing assets, such as community buildings, are creating demands on Council resources.
- Difficulty in being able to sell, dispose or consolidate assets even if funds are required to provide better facilities.
- There are varying levels of financial contributions from community clubs and groups towards facilities use.

### Recommended actions

The following actions have been recommended to improve management of Council assets.

No	Actions	Responsibility
24	<p>Review asset use policies and develop a policy framework to guide future use and management which reflects the principles and strategic directions as outlined in this Strategy. Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Booking and hiring policies.</li><li>– Fees and charges.</li><li>– Lease/licence arrangements (ensure consistency, currency and in line with Council policy).</li><li>– Casual user agreements.</li><li>– Exclusive/multi-use policy.</li><li>– Public/commercial use.</li><li>– Ownership and development of assets.</li></ul>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Roles and responsibilities of users and Council (including identification of maintenance and renewal responsibilities).</li> <li>– Policy implementation.</li> </ul> <p>All natural areas, community facilities, parks and sporting reserves could be covered by this framework.</p> <p>Ensure the policy framework is clearly presented, promoted and understood by relevant staff, lessee/hirer/s and facility users. The policy itself and any agreements are to be monitored on a regular basis.</p>	<b>Services</b>  <b>Natural Environment</b>  <b>Finance</b>
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No	Actions	Responsibility
25	<p>Establish a policy and set of guidelines for the development of new recreational facilities in Warringah.</p> <p>One element of this policy is to outline the role of the 'User Groups' (i.e. sports clubs) in the provision of new assets and/or any redevelopment of an asset. These should set out both the Council's and the user group's role in the planning, construction, management and maintenance of such capital works.</p> <p>Consider additional support for user groups who wish to develop a Council asset (i.e. support and advice with development applications, fundraising, community liaison and communication between the club and council).</p>	<b>Strategy and Policy</b>  <b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b>  <b>Property and Commercial Development</b>

## 8.2 Data collection and monitoring

There is limited access to relevant and meaningful data being collected on an ongoing basis regarding Council's recreation services, assets and programs.

The electronic booking system used for community centres, sportsgrounds bookings and vacation care does not enable the extraction of relevant utilisation and income information. This has to be done manually.

The allocation of the sportsfields by the Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union, inhibits access to accurate data in regards to usage figures of each of the sportsgrounds and sports.

Council has commenced the development of 'Works and Assets', an information storage system that should assist in the storage of relevant information regarding Council's recreational assets.

### Recommended actions

The following actions have been recommended to improve the collection and collation of data.

No	Action	Responsibility
26	<p>Develop effective systems to collect and collate relevant sport and recreation data and ensure it is centrally administered and accessible for use, for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Asset, program and service provision and planning</li> <li>– Budgeting and resources planning</li> <li>– Asset management and maintenance</li> <li>– Review of participation rates, future needs and trends analysis</li> <li>– Club, organisation and membership analysis</li> <li>– Asset/activity usage and satisfaction levels</li> <li>– Baseline establishment and benchmarking for assets, services</li> </ul>	<b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b>  <b>Community and Safety Services</b>  <b>Natural Environment</b>  <b>Property and Commercial</b>

	<p>and programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Monitoring and evaluation of the Recreation Strategy and Council's recreation provision.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure any new electronic booking system is compatible for all recreational bookings and is able to collect, collate and report on the relevant assets, programs and services data. Such a system should also ensure consistency in both customer service and data collection across the Council.</p>	<p><b>Development</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p>
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## 8.3 Partnerships

A partnership can be defined as a cooperative relationship between people or groups that is characterised by mutual cooperation and responsibility for the achievement of a specific goal (<http://dictionary.reference.com>). Consultative activities consistently raised the need for Council to improve their partnerships with local, regional and state organisations.

### 8.3.1 Local councils

The Residents Telephone Survey (2008) indicated that 82% of residents wanted more cooperation between councils as indicated in Table 8.4.1.

Council has worked closely with SHOROC (Manly, Pittwater, Mosman and Warringah Council) in addressing issues related to sportsfields. Warringah was involved in the development of the Regional Sportsgrounds Analysis report undertaken by Thompson Tregear in 2006. This report recommended that all three of the northern beaches councils increase the percentage of cost recovery for the provision of sportsgrounds; this has now been implemented through the SHOROC Implementation Plan. A SHOROC Regional Sports Liaison Committee has also been established to discuss the ongoing development and management of sportsgrounds in the area.

There are opportunities for further discussions with local councils regarding sharing recreational assets or other related services.

The Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union has been delegated the authority to act on behalf of the three northern beaches councils to allocate the grounds to the relevant sporting associations and competitions. The union is made up of delegates from each of the sporting associations and meets throughout the year to discuss ground allocations and other related matters. A number of issues have been raised through the consultation activities regarding this relationship and the following opportunities have been suggested:

- Increasing and improving communication.
- Improving fee structures and money collection.
- Clarification of responsibilities.
- On going monitoring and data collection.

### Recommended action

Action 17 recommends a review of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union's roles and responsibilities and action 10 recommends the development of partnerships to provide additional programs and services to the community.

### 8.3.2 Department of Education and Training

A number of schools in Warringah allow their grounds to be used for sporting competitions under an agreement with the Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union. Council generally undertakes mowing and minor surface repairs of these sportsgrounds in return for their use. There are no formal agreements in place and there is limited communication between the schools and Council.

The Standing Committee on Public Works Inquiry into Sportsgrounds Management in NSW recommended that the Department of Education and Training develops a 'Memorandum of



Understanding' with local government to facilitate joint arrangements between schools and councils. The Standing Committee also recommended that councils negotiate use of facilities at private schools and other educational Institutions. Action 16 includes further investigating opportunities for use of school grounds and formalising agreements with schools.

### 8.3.3 Local community based organisations

Council has previously entered into agreements with community groups to develop or refurbish community based assets. There are opportunities for improved policy direction or guidance on how these relationships should be managed.

There is also a range of agreements, leases and licences with various clubs and organisations in regards to the use of buildings and grounds. Stakeholder discussions raised the need for these to be seen as more equitable, consistent and benefit the community. This issue is addressed in Action 16.

### 8.3.4 Industry relationships

Council is responsive to industry requests and has provided input into State Government strategies such as the Sports and Recreation Strategy and the North East Subregional Strategy. However, there are limited active industry networks for ongoing involvement and capacity building, which was highlighted at the Regional Recreation Focus Group (2008). Council has had limited resources allocated to implementing recreation industry initiatives in the past.

The Standing Committee on Public Works Inquiry into Sportsgrounds Management in NSW has suggested that the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation establish a network of regional planning forums involving relevant agencies.

Action 8 considers the allocation of resources for both networking and implementation of industry initiatives.

### 8.3.5 Commercial partnerships

Council has few formalised relationships with commercial recreation providers, although there have been requests from groups who wish to provide recreation services and assets in partnership with Council i.e. Futsal, basketball. There is limited policy direction on how to proceed with these discussions, enabling such opportunities to be thoroughly explored and considered by Council.

#### Recommended action

The following action has been recommended for implementation to facilitate partnerships:

No	Action	Responsibility
27	<p>Include guidelines which enable the consideration and establishment of partnerships (including local government, peak sporting bodies, State and Federal Government and commercial providers) when designing and developing assets or reviewing existing assets into the policy for the development of new recreational facilities in Warringah (Action 25) .</p> <p>Any relationship must demonstrate a net benefit to the community and provide quality recreational experiences.</p> <p>The guidelines are to also cover the management of requests from commercial providers who wish to partner with Council on the provision of recreation services or assets.</p>	<p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p>

Action 10 also specifically addresses partnerships.

## 8.4 Future planning and policy initiatives

Telephone Residents Survey (2008) respondents were asked to indicate their support for various planning and policy initiatives for Council to consider in the future planning and management of sport and recreation for Warringah. Table 8.4.1 outlines those areas which the survey respondents felt were the most important areas for Council's consideration. These results indicate that residents want to see more cooperation between local councils as well preferring that Council upgrade existing facilities rather than build new ones.

**Table 8.4.1 The top policy and future direction preferences for Warringah Council (Residents Telephone Survey 2008)**

Improving Planning and Management			
1. Cooperation between Councils	82%	4. Environmentally sustainable design	77%
2. Improve partnerships cooperation	78%	5. Cooperation between clubs	74%
3. Encourage shared/multi-use Facilities	77%		
Improve Facilities, Programs/Service for Specific Target Groups			
1. Young people	85%	4. Older people	67%
2. Children	84%	5. CALD communities	44%
3. People with a disability	83%		
Improve Access for Participation through			
1. Upgrade of existing facilities	80%	4. Provide new facilities	69%
2. Assist club development	72%	5. Improve communication	65%
3. Develop recreation programs	70%	6. Implement user pays systems	29%

Clubs/organisations through the Recreation Organisation Survey (2008) rated the following Council policy issues and future directions as important:

- Upgrading the quality of existing sport and recreation facilities.
- Providing new sport and recreation facilities.
- Improving communication about opportunities to participate.
- Development support and training for local clubs.
- Provision of recreation and physical activity initiatives for the community.

The strategic direction and guiding principles in this Strategy reflect the findings and data expressed in the consultation and research activities. The data presented here has informed a number of actions.

## 8.5 Funding and resource provision

Implementation of any strategy relies on resources, both people and financial. Allocation of resources to the priority areas of this strategy may require Council to either reallocate from existing service areas or collect additional revenue. Council's Financial Planning Policy provides further direction in this respect.

### **8.5.1 Council's Financial Policy**

The aim of Council's Financial Planning Policy, which forms part of the Strategic Community Plan, is to make sure that Council manages its finances in such a way that balances community needs with long-term financial sustainability.

According to the policy, preparation of the Strategic Community Plan and budget is to reflect the following principles:

- Council's strategic management processes include financial plans prepared on a rolling ten year basis, asset management plans of at least 20 years and a works plan covering a four year cycle.
- Projected operating revenues are set at a level sufficient to meet projected operating expenses.
- Investment in the renewal of assets will increase each year to meet the full cost of asset depreciation by 2011-2012, and thereafter increased to keep pace with the depreciation of assets.
- Asset renewals are funded by the depreciation expense.
- New assets to support population growth are funded from developer contributions.
- New assets created to provide increased levels of service are to be funded from sources other than general revenue, including but not limited to loans.
- Proceeds from the sale of real property are used in accordance with the 'Sale of Real Property – Allocation of Funds' policy.
- Excess accumulated working capital to be applied to 'one-off' projects that improves financial sustainability and builds capacity for the community.
- Annual budget surpluses are to be applied to the repayment of debt.

This policy has a significant impact on the ongoing provision of recreational assets, in that new facilities should not be funded from general revenue and renewal of facilities must keep pace with depreciation to ensure that they can be maintained at an appropriate standard.

### **8.5.2 Budget and recreation expenditure**

In 2008/ 2009 approximately 27% of the annual budget was allocated for expenditure related to services, programs and assets which contribute to recreational outcomes. Approximately 69% of the 2008/ 2009 Capital Expenditure Program has been allocated for projects related directly or indirectly to recreation provision in Warringah.

These figures highlight the significant amount of money currently spent on recreation and the limited resources that Council can call upon to develop additional programs, assets and services.

### **8.5.3 Renewal expenditure**

An Infrastructure Levy established in 2006 collects additional revenue from Warringah ratepayers to fund for infrastructure renewal works.

Renewal funds are for the renewal of existing assets and not the development of additional infrastructure. Renewal consists of either rehabilitation or replacement. Rehabilitation is the re-instatement of the structural components of assets to ensure that required levels of service are met and prolonged asset life is achieved. Replacement is the disposal and substitution of an asset with an equivalent or enhanced standard asset.

The Sportsfield Rectification Levy commenced in 1998-1999 and is 2% of the ordinary rate. The program involves the rectification of differential settlement and subsidence on the sportsgrounds and playing fields constructed on former land fill sites.

The annual Capital Expenditure Program includes all renewal and rectification projects.

#### **8.5.4 Developer Contributions**

Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) enables Council to impose conditions of consent on a development application to require contributions from developers to meet demand for public amenities and public services in Warringah created by new development. Such public amenities can include recreational assets. Funds generated through Section 94 are unlikely to be sufficient to meet the demand for additional and upgraded recreational assets.

Specific works for which developer contributions are required under Section 94 or 94A of the EP&A Act are listed in the relevant development contribution plans. Over half of the projects listed in the current Section 94A schedule of works are considered to have recreational benefits.

Section 94 funds alone can not be relied upon as the main source of funding for recreational asset development.

#### **8.5.5 Grants**

Council administers a number of annual community grant programs. These programs aim to assist not-for-profit community groups to further build their capacity to provide services or facilities, including capital works on Council buildings. Action 11 has recommended a review of Council's grants programs to ensure that they best achieve the desired outcomes.

Council applies for grants from government agencies and other organisations which offer funding for recreational programs, services and asset development where relevant.

#### **8.5.6 Contributions of users**

Sporting clubs and community groups who have an interest in a particular asset have contributed to the ongoing development and improvement of assets, particularly for sportsgrounds amenities and club buildings. In some cases their contributions have enabled additional grant funding from Council or other sources to be secured.

There was limited support for the introduction of user pays systems from the respondents of the Residents Telephone Survey (2008), with only 29% in favour of such charges.

As a result of the Thompson Tregear report (2007) and ongoing SHOROC discussions Council resolved in December 2007 to develop a new fee structure (in collaboration with the SHOROC Regional Sports Liaison Committee) to move towards recovering 15% of all operational costs. This resulted in a seasonal cost of \$5.00 for juniors and \$7.00 for senior players in the 2008/ 2009 year for use of the sportsgrounds. The sporting user income fees will remain at \$5 and \$7 for the 2009/2010 financial year.

#### **8.5.7 Additional issues raised which will impact on resources**

The following issues were also raised during community consultations for this Strategy:

- Many facilities provided by Warringah Council have a regional function; this contributes to management and facility provision costs and should be recognised and in some cases recovered, so as to not disadvantage the Warringah community.
- There is a large number of facility improvements proposed by clubs and organisations with an expectation that Council and/or the State Government will assist in funding.
- There are unrealistic expectations of Council's ability to support and fund recreational assets and activities. This is highlighted by the \$14 million-plus requested by clubs and organisations for asset improvements and development from State/Federal and local government (as discussed in Section 6)
- There is a high number of ageing assets resulting in increasing maintenance, repair and renewal needs.

- Grants are sometimes obtained for projects not listed as high priority but then have to be completed before other projects deemed of a higher priority.
- Council has limited involvement in determining the allocation of State Government grants to detriment of high priority needs.
- There are opportunities to increase the revenue received from some facilities through consideration of alternative uses and increased promotion.
- Matched funding schemes advocated by State Government have tended to benefit larger (more financially stable) clubs/organisations to the detriment of high priority needs.
- There are opportunities for improved communication and partnerships with other local councils, levels of government and non-government sources regarding grants submissions and projects.

Actions 1, 11, 15-16, 20-22 and 24-27 all aim to improve recreational resource management.

## 9. Implementation

The vision, guiding principles and strategic directions outlined in this Strategy provide guidance and direction to Council in facilitating the best possible recreational outcomes for Warringah's community for the next ten-plus years.

### 9.1 Four year action plan

A four year action plan has been developed setting actions to be considered over this period to enable the strategic directions for recreation to be realised and implemented. The plan lists high priority actions which aim to address many of the issues that have been raised during the development of this Strategy and aid the future delivery of recreational services, programs and assets.

Although it is expected that the principles and strategic directions will remain relevant for a considerable time period the action plan included in this Strategy has been developed for a four year period only. This will facilitate:

- A detailed review every four years. The previous Recreation Strategy and Action Plan had not been formally reviewed since its adoption in 1999.
- An ongoing assessment as to what has been achieved from this Strategy enabling ongoing monitoring of recreation planning, development and management within Council.
- A subsequent evaluation of the relevance and priority of those actions not yet completed, which may result in their removal, redevelopment or listing in relevant planning documents.
- Development of new or revised actions which may assist in further achieving the vision of this Strategy but are seen as more relevant and or appropriate given circumstances at the time of review.

It is expected that a revised action plan will be submitted to for consideration every four years, until such time as a major review or another detailed recreation needs assessment is required.

The ongoing collection of data as suggested in this Strategy and other available information such as the annual Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) data will be used to review effectiveness of actions in the plan, together with any further community consultation considered appropriate.

Projects and actions identified in this Strategy will be assessed against other priorities of Council as an ongoing element of Council's planning process. Commitment to implementing particular actions is given once these actions appear in Council's Strategic Community Plan and related business plans.

The listing of an action in the four year action plan is not a guarantee that it will be implemented within the life of this document; however, the annual review during development of the Strategic Community Plan will ensure that actions are continually assessed and considered.

Table 9.1.1 lists all actions included in this Strategy and make up the 2009 – 2013 Recreation Strategy Action Plan.

**Table 9.1.1 2009 – 2013 Recreation Strategy Action Plan (as based on the 2009 Recreation Strategy)**

No	Action	Responsibility
1	<p>Undertake a recreational assessment and audit of all open space. This is to assess the recreational quality and value of all Council managed land areas considered to be open space. Such a qualitative assessment is to compliment and enhance Council's current asset management processes as well as informing relevant planning documents, policies and frameworks.</p> <p>The following should be considered as part of the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development of clear criteria to assess the value and quality of outcomes of the actual space and related assets (expand on Councils level of service core assessment criteria and review examples such as Bankstown Council section 4.1).</li> <li>– Applying a hierarchal rating system (similar to that used for sportsfields and neighbourhood parks) to all open space.</li> <li>– Identifying potential new open space areas including reviewing future land releases and development proposals.</li> <li>– Developing guidelines for the quality of open space provision in any new developments and land releases to be developed. See Appendix E for sample guidelines.</li> <li>– The consolidation of current spaces and potential disposal of others where there is duplication, poor quality of outcomes, low patronage and/ or barriers to enable improvement to service delivery.</li> <li>– Reviewing and assessing the additional open space opportunities in those suburbs identified as requiring additional supply as well as considering the requirements of those areas expected to have increase of population density.</li> <li>– Prioritising and seeking control of land not yet under Council's control which has been zoned as open space in the relevant LEP.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Planning</b></p> <p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p>
2	<p>Undertake a review and audit of recreational programs, services and assets appropriate for people with a disability in Warringah. Identify potential gaps, determine Council's role in addressing these and develop an action plan to implement the improvements.</p> <p>This should include a physical access audit of key Council recreation facilities, including community centres, sportsfields and facilities on natural areas.</p> <p>Outcomes of the access audit and review are to be incorporated into appropriate asset management and service delivery planning and consider opportunities for partnerships to further improve services, programs and assets.</p>	<p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>
3	<p>Develop a comprehensive 'Recreation Guide/ Directory/ Resource' for people with disabilities. Relevant information is to be collected from specialist providers, community groups and stakeholders.</p> <p>Consider mapping facilities and associated information and placing data on Council's webpage. The most appropriate way to display, maintain, distribute and provide access to this data should also be determined.</p>	<p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
4	<p>Continue to develop a network of walking tracks, pedestrian pathways, linkages, cycleways and multi-use trails, concentrating initially around high use sites to connect with transport routes and residential areas. This should be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development of a regional tracks and trails overview which links current documents such as the Bike Plan and Multiuse Trail Strategy and identified plans and locations for links and pedestrian pathways etc.</li> <li>– Develop and implement a series of Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans (PAMP) which outline the provision of safe, convenient and connected pedestrian routes throughout Warringah.</li> <li>– Continue providing annual funds for pathway/cycleway improvements and expansion.</li> <li>– Updating pathways/cycleways maps, signage and web information to inform users of new links and new trails.</li> <li>– Continue to seek additional funding opportunities and grants for the development of the network.</li> </ul>	<b>Roads, Traffic and Waste</b>
5	<p>Determine the long term strategic direction of the Warringah Aquatic Centre. In doing so take in to consideration the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Options for co-location of high demand including multiuse indoor sports facilities.</li> <li>– Funding opportunities</li> <li>– Working with regional councils to develop regional aquatic infrastructure and possible partnership opportunities.</li> </ul>	<b>Warringah Aquatic Centre</b>
6	<p>Determine Council's role and involvement in the provision of off-road cycling opportunities through the completion of research and consultative activities. Such activities will aim to address ongoing and future provision and management of off-road facilities and issues within Warringah, including resource implications and environmental impact.</p> <p>Relevant actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research current trends and participation rates in off-road riding regionally, nationally and where relevant internationally.</li> <li>• Analysis of local off-road cycling participation and site usage including identification of unauthorised mountain bike tracks and other cycling facilities across the various land tenures.</li> <li>• Assessment of the impact of off-road cycling on the natural environment and the development of appropriate measures to reduce impact.</li> <li>• Consultation with relevant stakeholders, land owners and the community. This would include ongoing liaison with National Parks NSW and their approaches to managing mountain biking.</li> <li>• Assessment of Manly Dam trail condition, safety issues, track suitability, bicycle and other usage and the carrying capacity of the site in relation to environmental and resource constraints.</li> <li>• Based on the above research and consultation, development of options for the provision of off-road cycling opportunities in Warringah. This is to include considering various off-road cycling</li> </ul>	<b>Strategy and Policy</b>  <b>Parks, reserves and Foreshores</b>



	<p>styles and level of difficulties as well as considering relevant strategic planning documents such as the Regional Multiuse Trails Strategy, Metropolitan Regional Strategy and Warringah Bike Plan. The resources required for the development and ongoing maintenance of each option should also be included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of trail facility management options. This is to include the consideration of the involvement of volunteers in developing and maintaining trails.</li> </ul>	
<b>7</b>	<p>Review and assess current tennis and golf provision and demand in Warringah (including private and council facilities). Such reviews are to critically analyse the future demand for such facilities and, where relevant, make recommendations for rationalisation of current assets or justification for renewal and/or additional facilities in either sport.</p>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p>Consider reviewing staffing and financial resources in the following areas to provide enhanced levels of service delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Program development and delivery – including addressing needs of low participatory groups.</li> <li>– Club and community group liaison and development.</li> <li>– Grant identification, support and promotion.</li> <li>– Regional networking and partnership development.</li> <li>– Special event facilitation and promotion, e.g. heart week.</li> <li>– Health and fitness promotion for key target groups.</li> <li>– Government and industry initiatives/campaigns.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Review opportunities for community organisations and relevant commercial providers to further build their capacity to deliver recreation programs and services. Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Grants and funding opportunities.</li> <li>– Support and assistance in accessing grants and funding programs.</li> <li>– Recruitment and development of volunteers.</li> <li>– Assistance and advice with assets, program and service development.</li> <li>– Information provision and promotion.</li> <li>– Partnering and linking with relevant organisations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<p>Work and partner with representative bodies (i.e. Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union, SHOROC, peak sporting bodies), regional partners, State Government and community organisations to ensure programs and services are available for the community that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase participation and involvement.</li> <li>– Assists associations and club operations and viability.</li> <li>– Creates links and foster collaboration and cooperation.</li> <li>– Encourages multi/shared facility use.</li> <li>– Enables club rationalisation and partnering where necessary.</li> <li>– Attracts funding to the region to support participation.</li> <li>– Provides advice and support on asset management and development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
11	<p>Develop a financial and policy direction for all programs and services which takes into account an analysis of the full cost of providing the service or program against current income. The following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review and compare subsidies, grants and donations provided by Council to those groups involved in recreational provision in Warringah.</li> <li>– Options to increase income and funding opportunities.</li> <li>– Pricing concession systems for low income and special needs groups accessing sport and recreation assets, programs and services.</li> <li>– Development of promotional information and communication systems supporting the program/ policy which allow for easy implementation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p>
12	<p>Develop a recreation communication and exchange program/system to ensure targeted, regular and up-to-date distribution of information to the community, in particular to the community recreation providers and key target groups catering for those with lower participation rates or special needs. The following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Online administration and management of data.</li> <li>– Community 'shop-fronts' (posters, brochures etc on display and available to the public) in major facilities.</li> <li>– Incorporating new and emerging technology including developing interactive information systems.</li> <li>– More effective contact and increased involvement with community organisations.</li> <li>– Redevelopment of current 'Community Directory'.</li> <li>– Regular media features.</li> <li>– Mapped inventory of facilities, programs and services.</li> <li>– Supporting and promoting activities provided by Warringah's community organisations.</li> <li>– Signage strategy or consistent approach to signage</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>
13	<p>Ascertain needs and priorities for each sport. Such information should be collated and fed into the relevant planning mechanisms, including master plans (Action 15) and the recreational assessment of open space (Action 1).</p> <p>As part of the above consider running regular forums to discuss the ongoing management and development of recreational assets, services and programs with relevant associations and groups. Separate forums should be considered for both the formal and unstructured activities and possible different target groups such as older people, children and young people.</p>	<p><b>Parks Reserves and Foreshores</b></p>
14	<p>Develop mechanisms that assist Council staff and external stakeholders to better understand the roles and responsibilities of council officers/departments in relation to sport and recreation. This should include streamlining 'communication points' and 'channels' required to be navigated by external stakeholders and the community for both initial and ongoing contact.</p>	<p><b>All services</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
15	<p>Determine long term strategic direction of all major assets including sports facilities and community centres to guide ongoing strategic development of such assets through the development of master plans or similar. Plans are to be developed in line with intentions and recommendations listed in the Asset Management Plans and any outcomes from the recreational assessment of the relevant open space areas (Action1).</p> <p>The following should be included in the development of the plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Explore options for improved community use of existing facilities via events, pricing structures, lease/ licence conditions and/or facility use.</li> <li>– Review facility management and operations as means of determining future needs for operational support and facility upgrade investment.</li> <li>– All proposed maintenance, renewal and development initiatives that improve the standard/capacity of the asset are to be included and prioritised. The following should be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Buildings and amenities.</li> <li>▪ Landscaping.</li> <li>▪ Parking.</li> <li>▪ Tracks, pathways and linkages.</li> <li>▪ Shade – both natural and built structures.</li> <li>▪ Lighting.</li> <li>▪ Spectator seating.</li> <li>▪ Fencing and entrances/exits.</li> <li>▪ Signage.</li> <li>▪ Furniture and barbecues.</li> <li>▪ Potential for additional recreational facilities on a site including exercise circuits, fitness equipment, skate facilities, tennis walls, basketball courts etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Consideration is to be given to retiring or rationalising some facilities that are surplus to needs, uneconomical to maintain or renew or are no longer fit for purpose within such plans. The community should be suitably engaged regarding rationalisation of any Council assets.</p> <p>All new buildings and/or refurbishments are to be developed with due regard for Council's Operational Management Standard 'Environmentally Sustainable Design and Management of Council Built Assets.'</p> <p>The priority order for the development of the master plans (or similar) are to be based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Current and future high use assets.</li> <li>– Maintaining highly rated facilities to high standards.</li> <li>– Poorly rated assets being brought up to standard (where need for facility indicated).</li> <li>– Occupational Health and Safety, Disability Discrimination Act and any other regulatory compliance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
16	<p>Continue to develop a sportsgrounds improvement program (as based on Sportsground Plan of Management 2007) to enhance the capacity and quality of the current sporting fields by undertaking the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review of current occupancy and configuration of playing fields.</li> <li>– Assess current asset use and maintenance practices and develop an agreed maintenance program.</li> <li>– Review current leasing and licensing practices to ensure that they are consistent and maximise facility use.</li> <li>– Consider options to enhance capacity of existing playing fields (i.e. night lighting, drainage, water reuse, synthetic surfaces, soil improvements) and reserves (i.e., amenities and visitor infrastructure improvement) based on demand and ground hierarchy</li> <li>– Investigate opportunities for increased use of school grounds and formalise any agreements.</li> <li>– Consider developing a relief playing field and the introduction of an annual playing field resurfacing program for priority facilities (over an agreed time).</li> <li>– Align use and maintenance and development to the hierarchy categories (i.e. local, district and facilities)</li> <li>– Determine long term direction for sporting assets through the development of master plans (or similar) as listed in Action 15.</li> </ul>	<b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b>
17	<p>Undertake an assessment of the allocation and management of sportsgrounds in Warringah. Develop a series of actions which aim to further improve sportsground provision which best meets the needs of relevant stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>This should include a review of the Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union's role, responsibilities and performance and the development of ongoing management systems to improve sportsground provision.</p>	<b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b>
18	<p>Undertake further research on the emergence of new sports or changes in trends such as Futsal (modified soccer), ensuring that current demand, potential future demands and supply of appropriate facilities is considered in any investigations and, where relevant, develop an action plan.</p> <p>Such information is to be used in the consideration of any future relevant asset development or renewal.</p>	<b>Strategy and Policy</b>

No	Action	Responsibility
19	<p>Consider the provision of new recreational assets which address identified recreational gaps, including (priority order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi) Indoor sport courts and multi-purpose indoor community space which incorporates space usable for various groups and activities.</li> <li>vii) Walking tracks, cycleways and multi-purpose trails.</li> <li>viii) Mountain bike trail.</li> <li>ix) Outdoor all weather sports fields (artificial turf).</li> <li>x) Skate facilities and other youth orientated facilities (specifically in Central Beaches and Western Demographic Areas).</li> </ul> <p>An investigation and business case must be undertaken prior to support for any major development. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Funding options including the rationalisation of current facilities and potential partnerships and grants to fund whole-of-life of the asset (e.g. construction, maintenance and decommissioning).</li> <li>– Community consultation.</li> <li>– Reflection of principles and strategic directions as outlined in this strategy and the way in which such a development will benefit the community and complement current provision.</li> <li>– Ancillary facilities and opportunities in the surrounding areas (i.e. links with open space, parking etc).</li> <li>– Location and feasibility studies, including options for co-locating or developing additional facilities at current sites (i.e. indoor facilities incorporated at the WAC or community centres).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services.</b></p>
20	<p>Assess, adopt and implement a specific management model for the major recreational facilities located in natural areas, including Manly Dam, beaches and Narrabeen Lagoon. (Such models include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) and the Visitor Impact Management (VIM) systems as discussed in section 7.4).</p> <p>This is to ensure a diverse range of outdoor recreational opportunities are provided and maintained in line with participation, demand and carrying capacity of the natural areas. Where appropriate this process should be undertaken in partnership with any other relevant groups such as neighbouring councils and Trusts and include the development of appropriate policy and planning processes.</p> <p>It is also expected that as an outcome from the above, a long term strategic plan will also be developed for the natural recreational areas in line with Action 15.</p>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p>
21	<p>Develop a community education plan and/or a series of relevant activities to educate the users of recreational facilities on reducing their impact on natural areas. Where relevant, implement protective design or management practices.</p>	<p><b>Natural Environment</b></p>
22	<p>Assess the risk of climate change for Warringah's sport and recreation assets, services and programs and develop and implement recommended actions.</p>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
23	<p>Consider the integration of principles and standards aimed at facilitating healthy active lifestyles into land use planning instruments. Ensure that the following are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mixed land use.</li> <li>– Housing density.</li> <li>– Footpaths and cycleways.</li> <li>– Facilities for physical activities including pools, sportsgrounds.</li> <li>– Facilities enabling physical activity (i.e. end of trip facilities such as bike racks, lockers, showers, storage etc).</li> <li>– Street networks, characteristics and design.</li> <li>– Transport infrastructure and systems, linking residential, commercial and business areas.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategic Planning</b></p> <p><b>Development Assessment</b></p>
24	<p>Review asset use policies and develop a policy framework to guide future use and management which reflects the principles and strategic directions as outlined in this Strategy. Consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Booking and hiring policies.</li> <li>– Fees and charges.</li> <li>– Lease/licence arrangements (ensure consistency, currency and in line with Council policy).</li> <li>– Casual user agreements.</li> <li>– Exclusive/multi-use policy.</li> <li>– Public/commercial use.</li> <li>– Ownership and development of assets.</li> <li>– Roles and responsibilities of users and Council (including identification of maintenance and renewal responsibilities).</li> <li>– Policy implementation.</li> </ul> <p>All natural areas, community facilities, parks and sporting reserves could be covered by this framework.</p> <p>Ensure the policy framework is clearly presented, promoted and understood by relevant staff, lessee/hirer/s and facility users. The policy itself and any agreements are to be monitored on a regular basis.</p>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p> <p><b>Finance</b></p>
25	<p>Establish a policy and set of guidelines for the development of new recreational facilities in Warringah.</p> <p>One element of this policy is to outline the role of the 'User Group' (i.e. sports clubs) in the provision of new assets and/or any redevelopment of an asset. These should set out both the Council's and the user group's role in the planning, construction, management and maintenance of such capital works.</p> <p>Consider the additional of a support for user groups who wish to develop a Council asset (i.e. support and advice with development applications, fundraising, community liaison and communication between the club and council).</p>	<p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p> <p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p>

No	Action	Responsibility
26	<p>Develop effective systems to collect and collate relevant sport and recreation data and ensure it is centrally administered and accessible for use, for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Asset, program and service provision and planning</li> <li>– Budgeting and resources planning</li> <li>– Asset management and maintenance</li> <li>– Review of participation rates, future needs and trends analysis</li> <li>– Club, organisation and membership analysis</li> <li>– Asset/activity usage and satisfaction levels</li> <li>– Baseline establishment and benchmarking for assets, services and programs</li> <li>– Monitoring and evaluation of the Recreation Strategy and Council's recreation provision.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure any new electronic booking system is compatible for all recreational bookings and is able to collect, collate and report on the relevant assets, programs and services data. Such a system should also ensure consistency in both customer service and data collection across the Council.</p>	<p><b>Parks, Reserves and Foreshores</b></p> <p><b>Community and Safety Services</b></p> <p><b>Natural Environment</b></p> <p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Cultural Services</b></p>
27	<p>Include guidelines which enable the consideration and establishment of partnerships (including local government, peak sporting bodies, State and Federal Government and commercial providers) when designing and developing assets or reviewing existing assets into the policy for the development of new recreational facilities in Warringah (Action 25) .</p> <p>Any relationship must demonstrate a net benefit to the community and provide quality recreational experiences.</p> <p>The guidelines are to also cover the management of requests from commercial providers who wish to partner with Council on the provision of recreation services or assets.</p>	<p><b>Property and Commercial Development</b></p> <p><b>Strategy and Policy</b></p>

## **9.2 Measuring success**

Although there will be a four year review, the success of actions and strategy document still need to be measured. The following should be used as a means of assessing how Council is going and be reviewed every four years:

- Level of use of assets, programs and services as monitored through data collection and analysis (i.e. attendance figures and utilisation numbers).
- Regular assessment of the condition of assets
- Regular assessment of community satisfaction, opinion, behaviour and complaints through customer surveys, annual community survey, service reports and review of strategies, plans and correspondence reviews.

## **10. Conclusion**

Recreation is an important component of our life and wellbeing and Warringah Council plays a pivotal role in recreation provision. This Strategy has provided Council with the opportunity to review its provision and to set a clear strategic direction for the future. There are 27 actions listed for Council to consider over the next four years. However, the guiding principles and strategic directions developed from the consultation and research undertaken in the development of this Strategy will enable the ongoing improvement and development of recreation provision and facilitation here in Warringah, now and in the future.



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## **Appendix A: Research and Consultation undertaken for the Recreation Strategy**

A range of research and consultation has been undertaken for the preparation of this Strategy which aimed to identify the major issues and gaps in Warringah's recreation provision.

Consultation and research included:

### **1 Review of Council's strategic documents**

Council has a number of documents related to recreation which were reviewed to ensure all relevant data was considered and the progress of any previous recommendations reviewed.

The documents reviewed included:

- Warringah Recreation Needs Assessment 1998
- Recreation Strategy 1999
- Heritage Conservation Plan for Warringah's Six Rock Pools 1999
- Warringah Bike Plan (1998)
- Warringah Open Space Review 2000
- Sports In Warringah Strategy 2004
- Recreation and Open Space Issues Paper 2004
- Living Warringah 2005
- Warringah Social Plan 2006 – 2009
- SHOROC Regional Sportsground Analysis 2006
- The Talk of Town Results report 2007
- Warringah Sportsgrounds Plan of Management 2007
- Warringah Multiple-Use Trails Strategy 2007
- Warringah Cultural Plan 2007
- Warringah Playground Strategy 2007
- Warringah Community Survey, Management Report 2008
- Strategic Community Plan 2008

### **2 Review of recreation plans from other councils**

Recreation and sport plans were collected from other Councils in NSW, Australia and internationally and reviewed.

### **3 Statistical analysis of national, state and local recreation participation**

Documents from the ABS, Australian Sports Commission (ERASS) and recreation needs assessment data from other councils were used for participation level comparisons.

### **4 Assessment of Census data**

The data on Council's Community Profile and Community Atlas and (as on Council website) was analysed to assist in predicting future trends. This data is primarily sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

### **5 Residents Telephone Survey**

621 randomly selected residents (15 years and over) completed a telephone survey in April 2008. The survey asked a variety of questions to ascertain current sport and recreation participation and facility trends.

### **6 Schools Survey**

All Warringah's schools (63) were sent a survey which aimed to collect information regarding the current and future use of recreational facilities, 13 surveys were returned.

## **7 Club/Organisation Survey**

Over 400 community clubs and organisations were sent a Recreational Organisation Survey. One hundred and forty seven completed surveys were returned and considerable information has been obtained in regards to the groups themselves and their current and future needs.

## **8 Focus Groups**

Six focus groups were held in June 2008 and were independently chaired by SGL Consulting. The following discussions were held:

- Recreation and the older person
- Recreation and young people
- Recreation for people with a disability
- Recreation at the beaches and waterways
- Parks, reserves and recreation buildings
- Regional recreation discussion – this included representatives from Ku-ring-gai Council, Pittwater Council, Willoughby Council, NSW Sport and Recreation, National Parks, Playgroup NSW, Education Department, Fisheries and Wildlife, Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union and Northern Beaches Health Promotion.

## **9 Public Submissions**

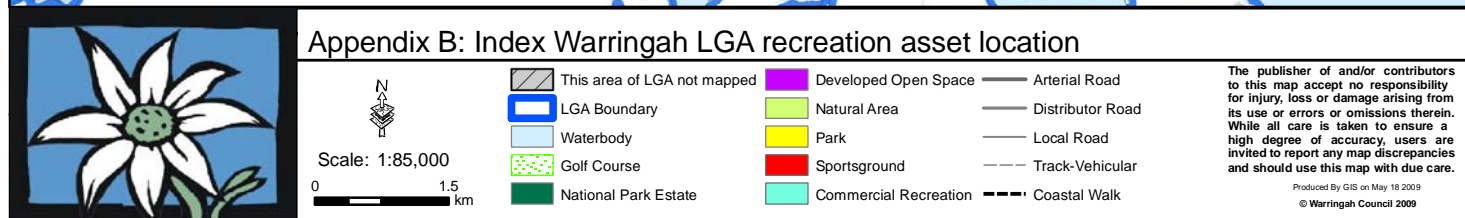
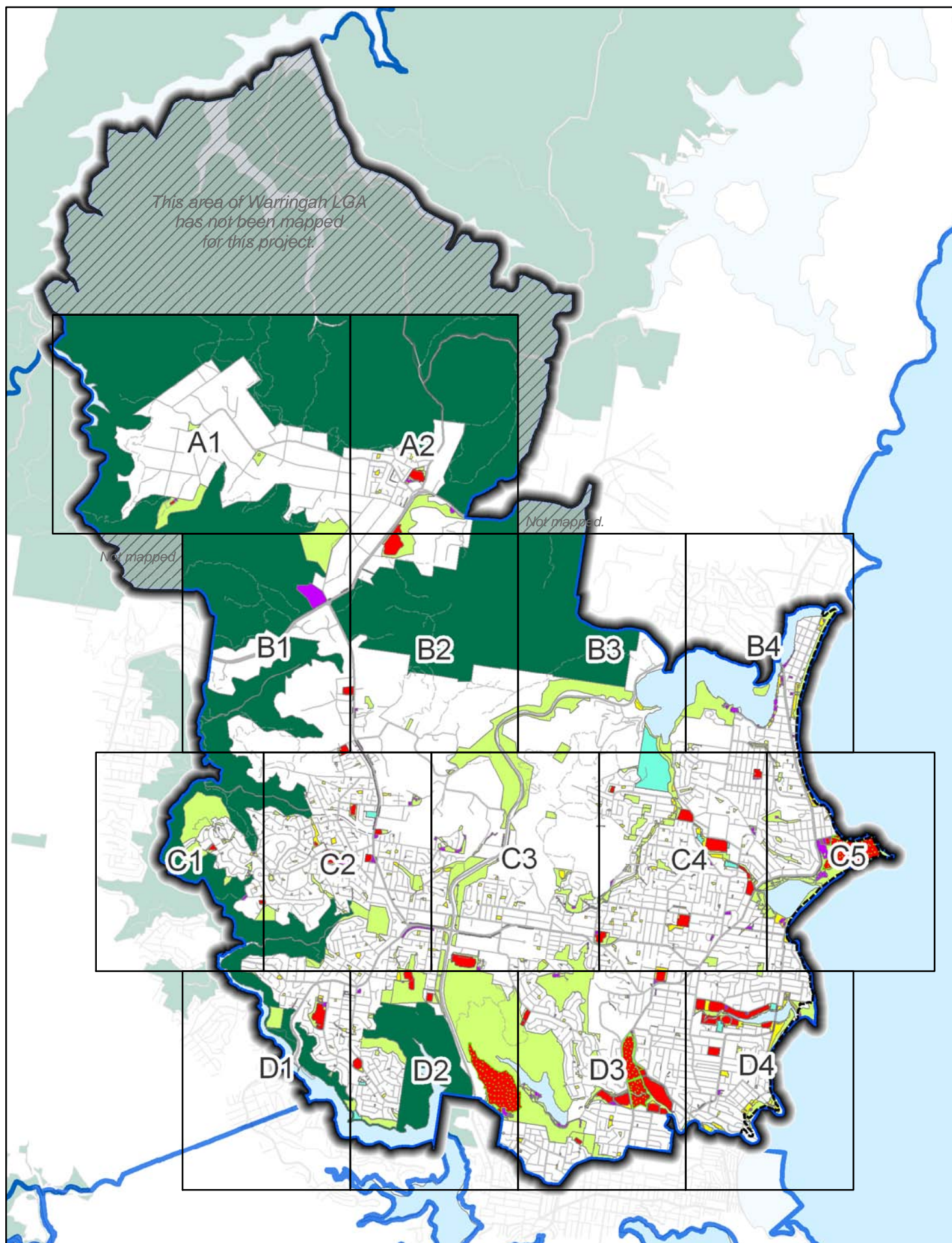
The broader community were invited to make submissions regarding recreation in May 2008 through advertisements in the Manly Daily. A total of 14 submissions were received.

## **10 Children and Youth Activity Survey**

333 students (from 16 schools) completed a 'Youth Activity Survey'. This survey aimed to ascertain current physical activity levels and attitudes.

## **11 Youth Forum focus groups and survey**

52 secondary students participated in three focus groups and recreation participation survey as part of the Council run Youth Forum November 2008. The three workshops covered recreational topics including facility development, participation barriers and community engagement.





# Map A1 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

- Amenities
- Community Building
- Play Equipment
- Tennis Clubhouse
- Boat Ramp
- Bowling Club
- LGA Boundary
- Waterbody
- Beach/Rocky Headland
- Golf Course
- Ocean Rock Pool
- Developed Open Space
- Natural Area
- Park
- Sportsground
- Commercial Recreation
- National Park Estate
- Coastal Walk
- Arterial Road
- Distributor Road
- Local Road
- Track-Vehicular



Scale: 1:20,000



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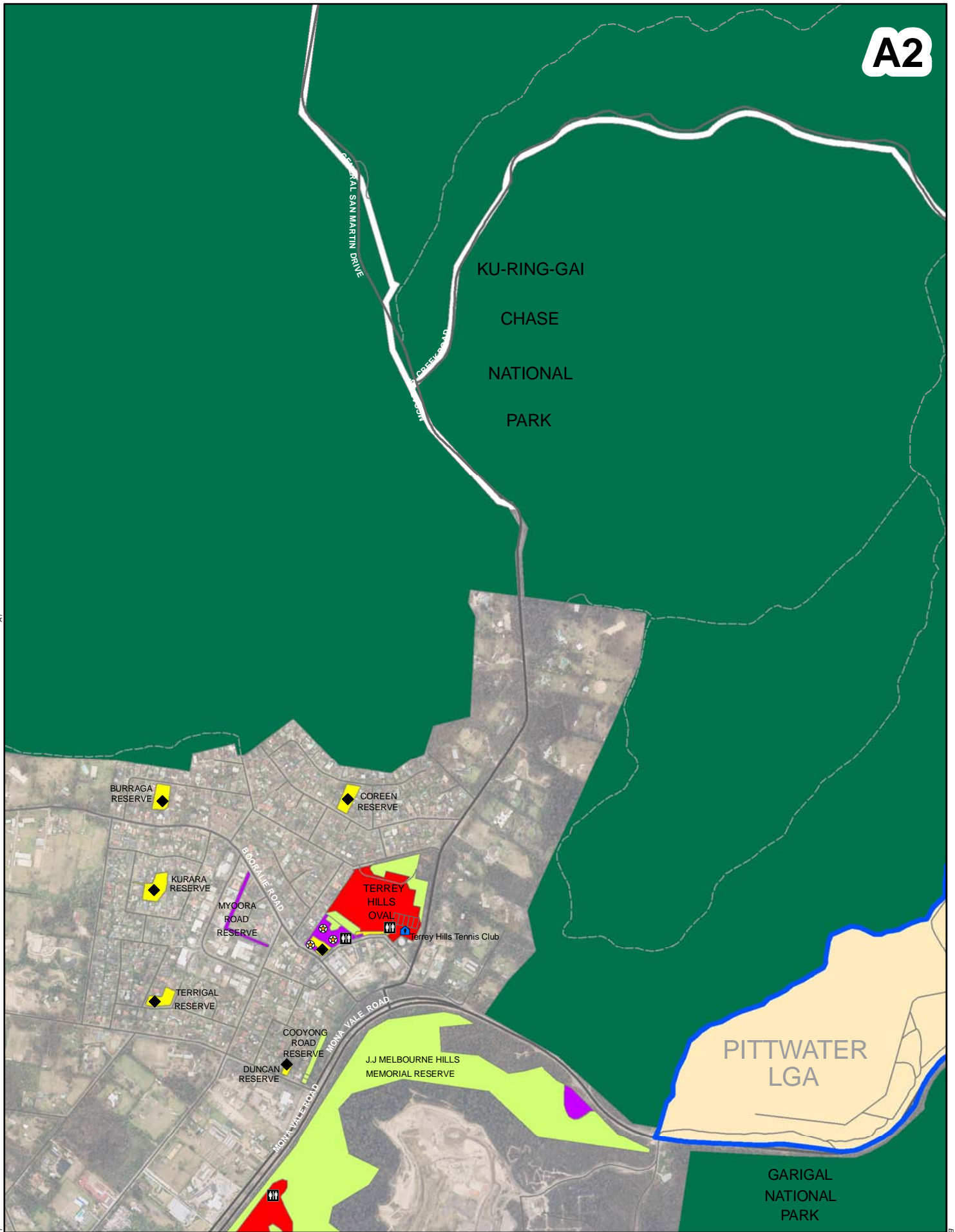


A1

A2

B1

B2



Map A2 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

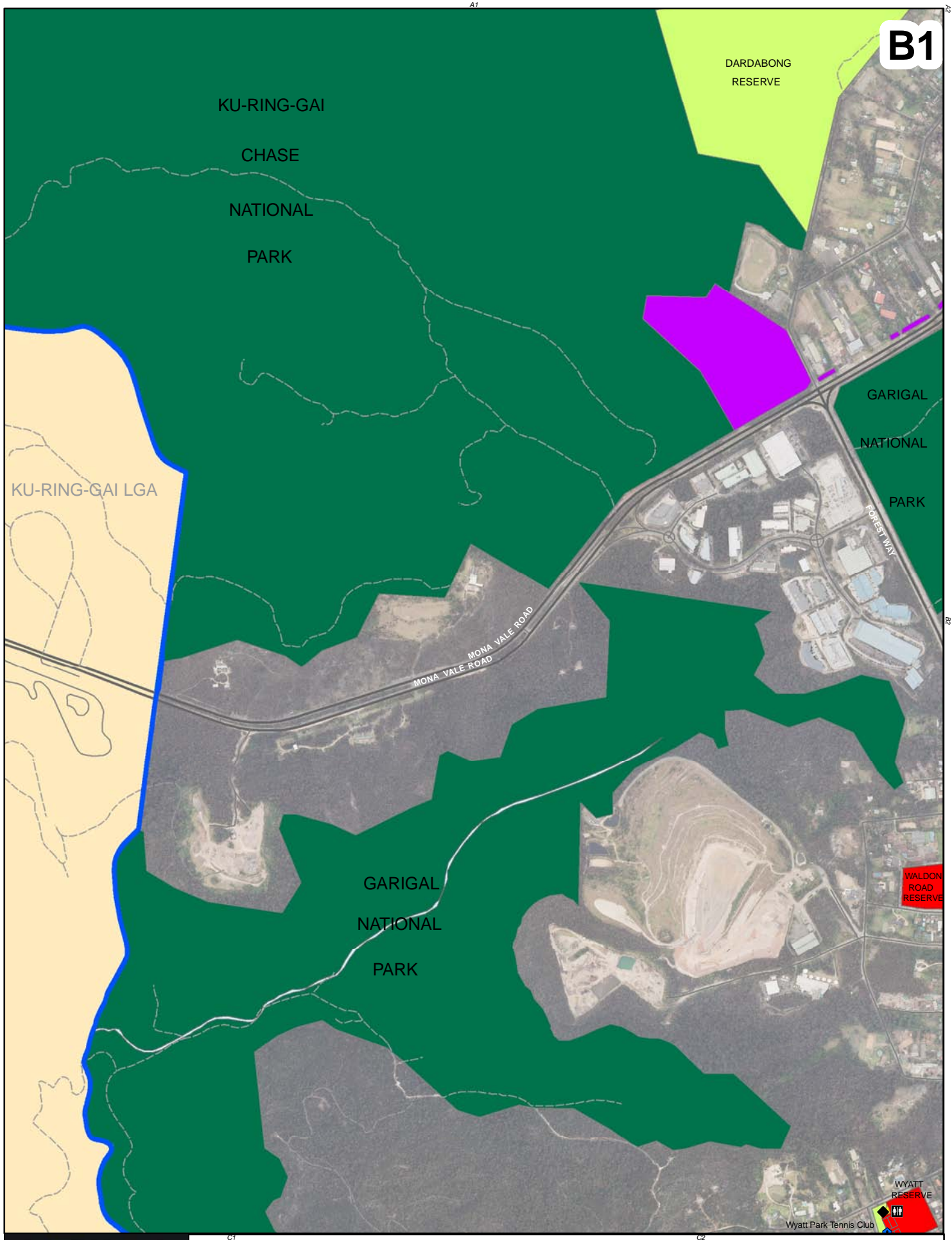


Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

Amenities	LGA Boundary	Developed Open Space	Coastal Walk
Community Building	Beach/Rocky Headland	Natural Area	Arterial Road
Play Equipment	Waterbody	Park	Distributor Road
Tennis Clubhouse	Golf Course	Sportsground	Local Road
Boat Ramp	Ocean Rock Pool	Commercial Recreation	Track-Vehicular
Bowling Club		National Park Estate	

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Map B1 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

- Amenities
- Community Building
- Play Equipment
- Tennis Clubhouse
- Boat Ramp
- Bowling Club

- LGA Boundary
- Beach/Rocky Headland
- Waterbody
- Golf Course
- Ocean Rock Pool

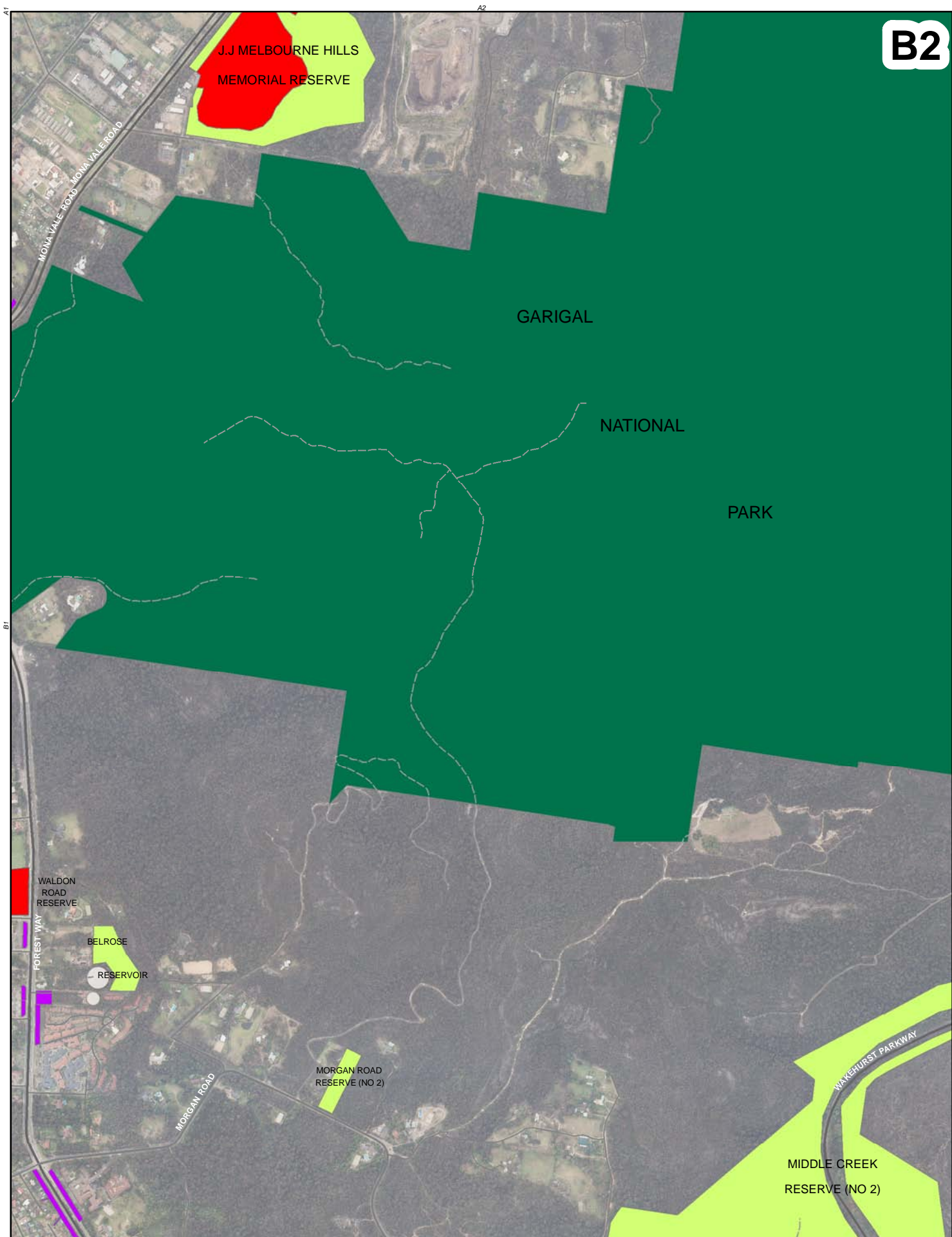
- Developed Open Space
- Natural Area
- Park
- Sportsground
- Commercial Recreation
- National Park Estate

- Coastal Walk
- Arterial Road
- Distributor Road
- Local Road
- Track-Vehicular

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**B2**



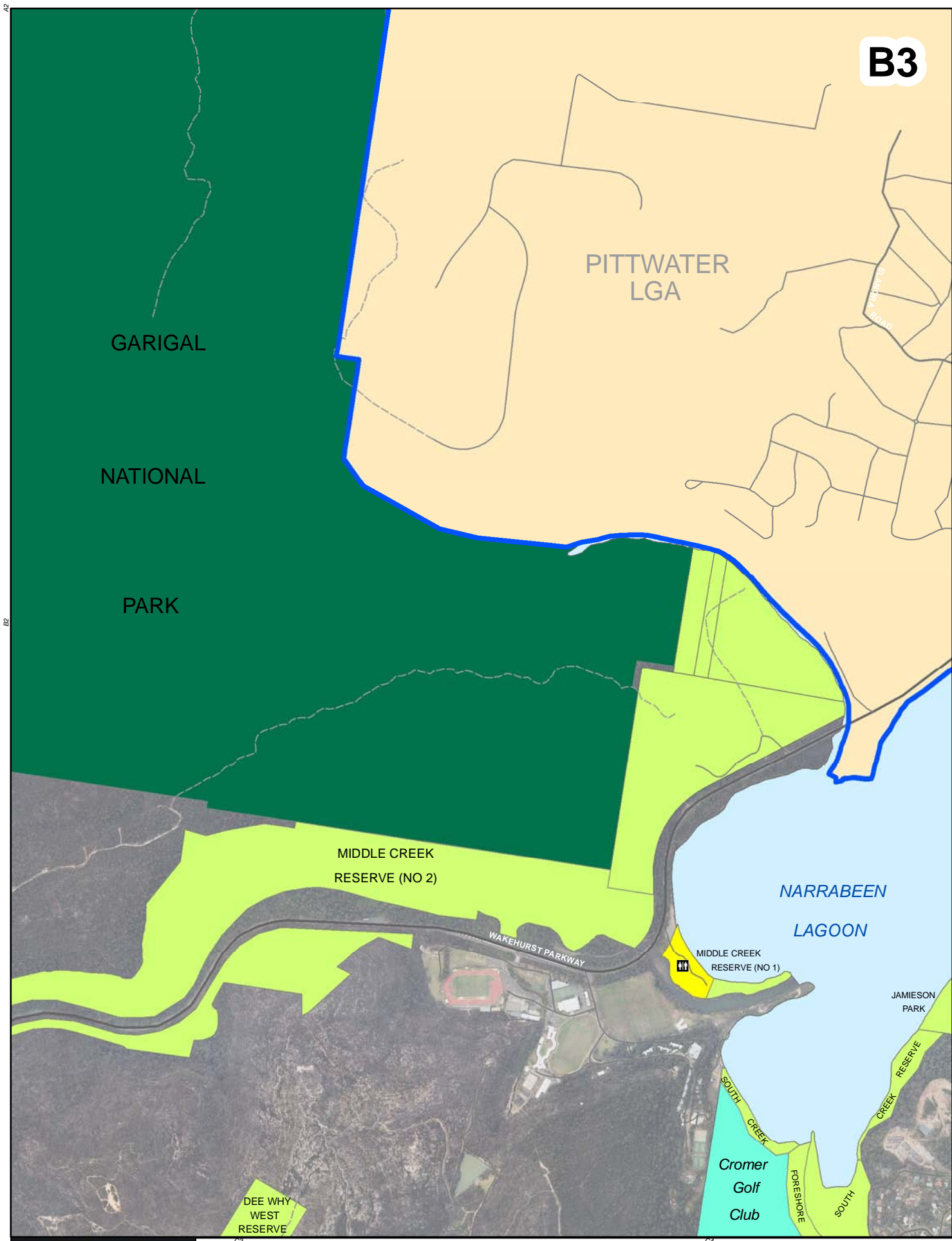
# Map B2 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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**B3**

GARIGAL

NATIONAL

PARK

PITTWATER  
LGA

PANDORA  
ROAD

MIDDLE CREEK  
RESERVE (NO 2)

NARRABEEN  
LAGOON

WAKEHURST PARKWAY

MIDDLE CREEK  
RESERVE (NO 1)

JAMIESON  
PARK

DEE WHY  
WEST  
RESERVE

SOUTH CREEK  
Cromer  
Golf  
Club

SOUTH CREEK  
RESERVE  
FORESHORE

Map B3 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution



Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

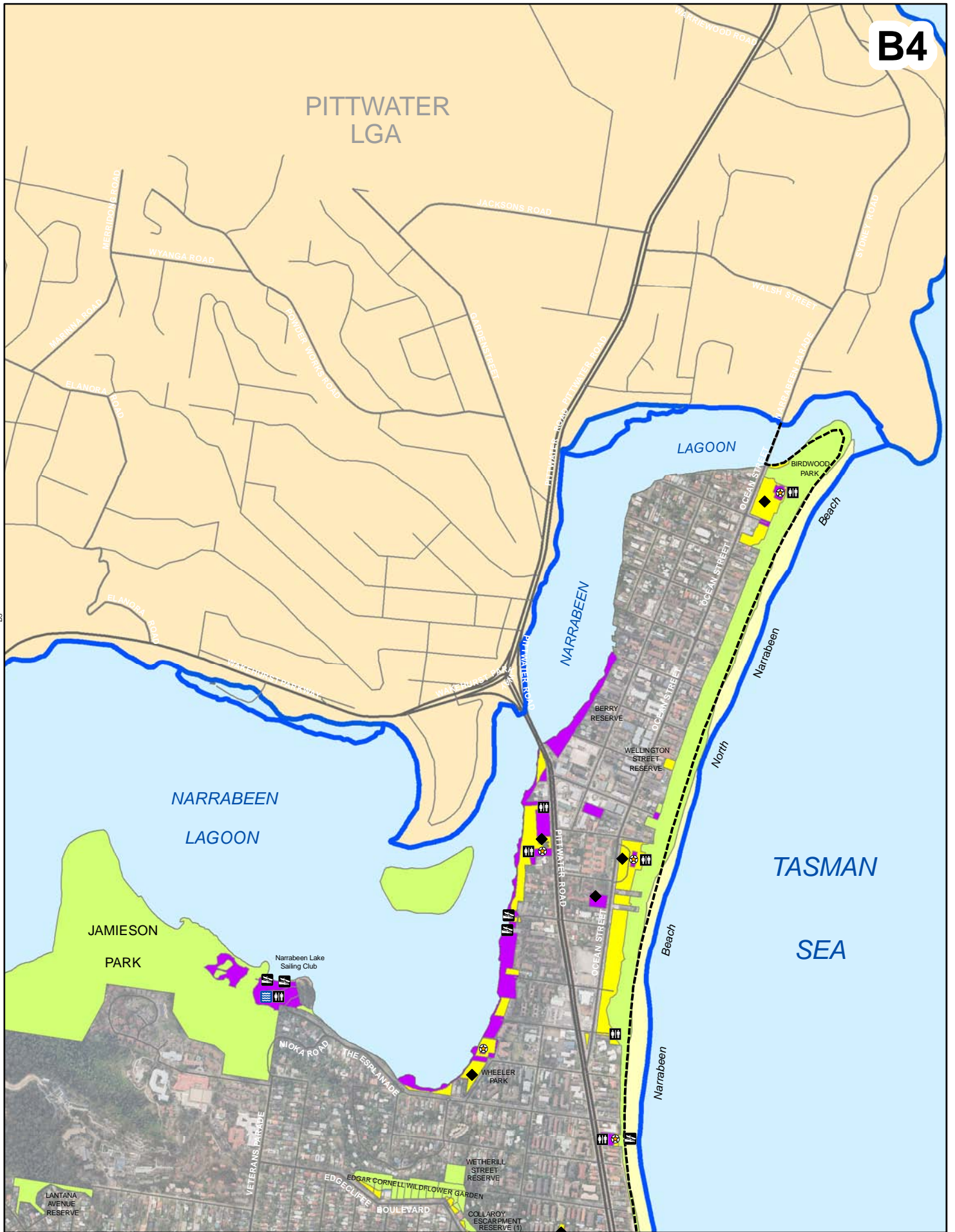
- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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# PITTWATER LGA



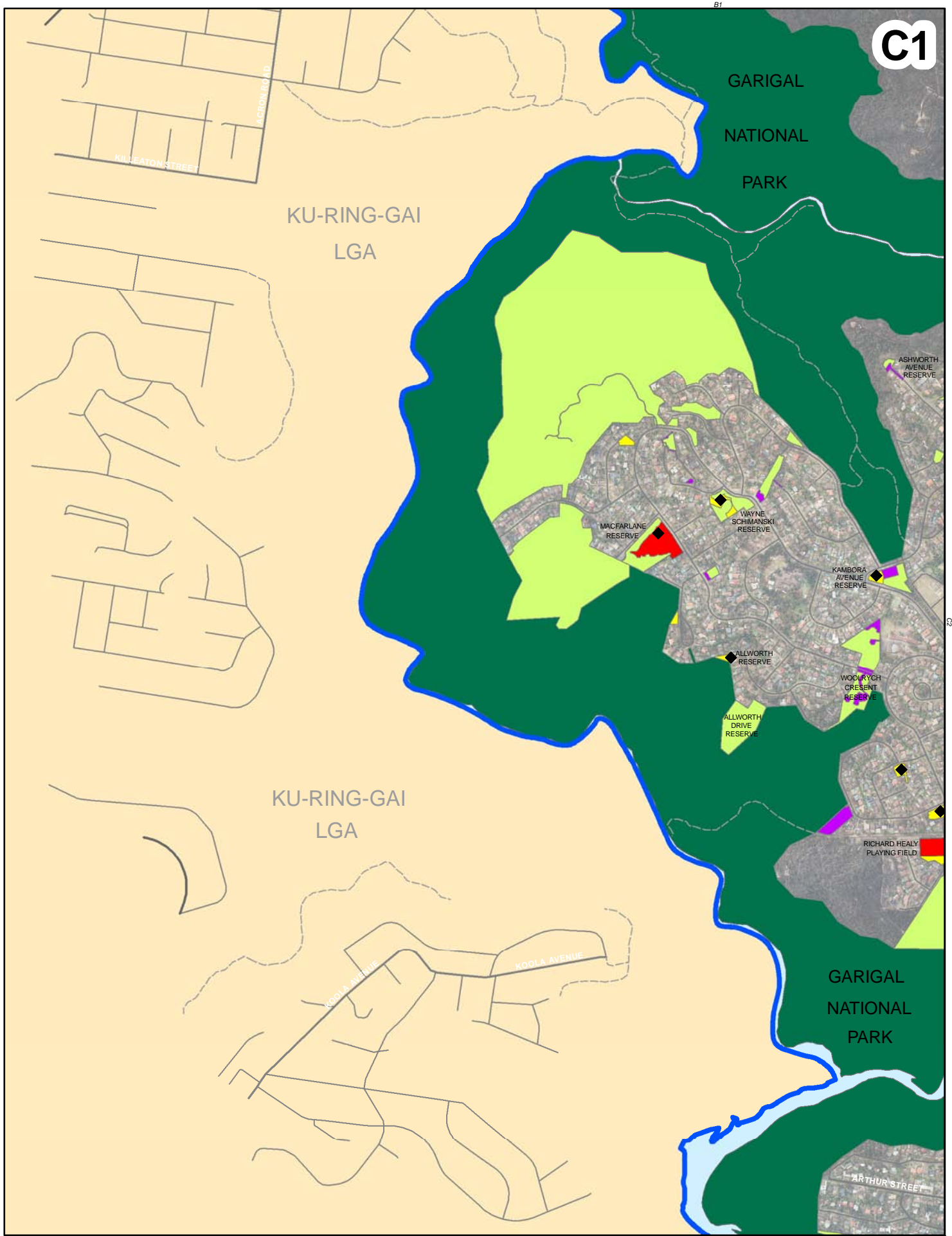
Map B4 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution



Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

- |                    |                             |                       |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary                | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland        | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody                   | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course                 | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool             | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       | Narrabeen Lake Sailing Club | National Park Estate  |                  |

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**C1**

KU-RING-GAI  
LGA

GARIGAL  
NATIONAL  
PARK

KU-RING-GAI  
LGA

GARIGAL  
NATIONAL  
PARK

Map C1 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution



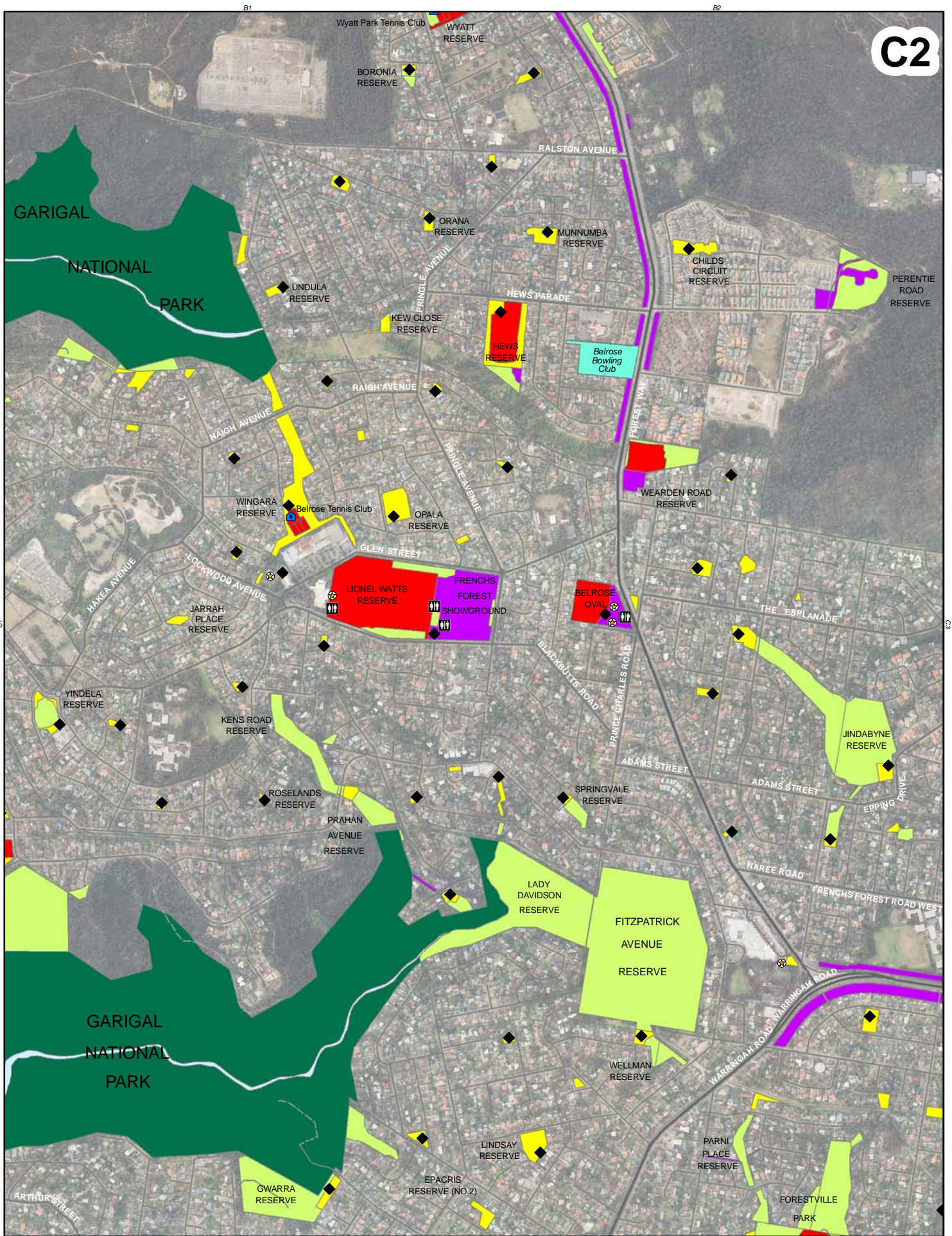
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- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amenities</li> <li>Community Building</li> <li>Play Equipment</li> <li>Tennis Clubhouse</li> <li>Boat Ramp</li> <li>Bowling Club</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGA Boundary</li> <li>Beach/Rocky Headland</li> <li>Waterbody</li> <li>Golf Course</li> <li>Ocean Rock Pool</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed Open Space</li> <li>Natural Area</li> <li>Park</li> <li>Sportsground</li> <li>Commercial Recreation</li> <li>National Park Estate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal Walk</li> <li>Arterial Road</li> <li>Distributor Road</li> <li>Local Road</li> <li>Track-Vehicular</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|--|

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C2



## Map C2 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

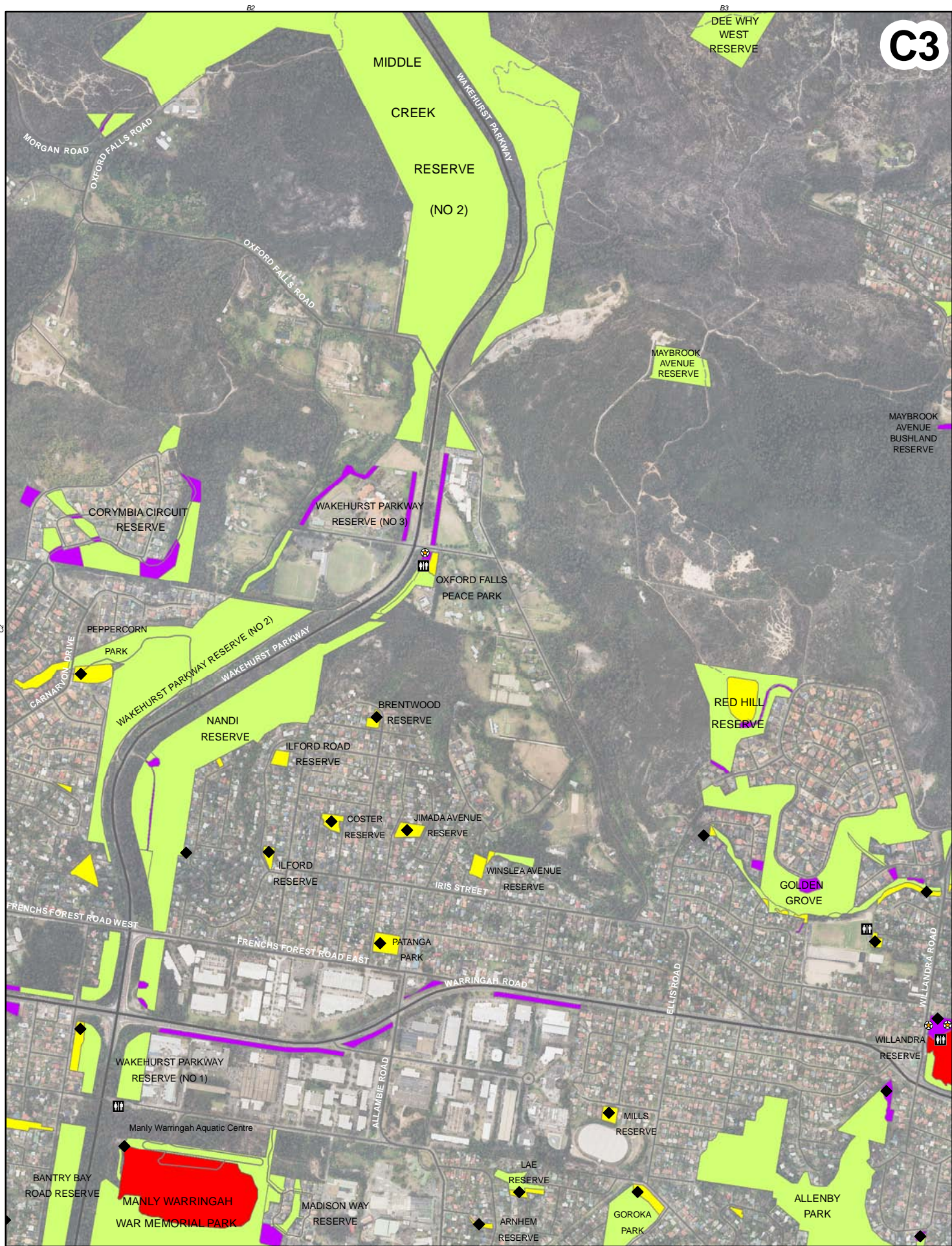
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Amenities	LGA Boundary	Developed Open Space	Coastal Walk
Community Building	Beach/Rocky Headland	Natural Area	Arterial Road
Play Equipment	Waterbody	Park	Distributor Road
Tennis Clubhouse	Golf Course	Sportsground	Local Road
Boat Ramp	Ocean Rock Pool	Commercial Recreation	Track-Vehicular
Bowling Club		National Park Estate	

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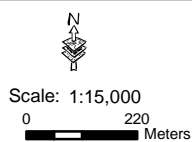
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**C3**

Map C3 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

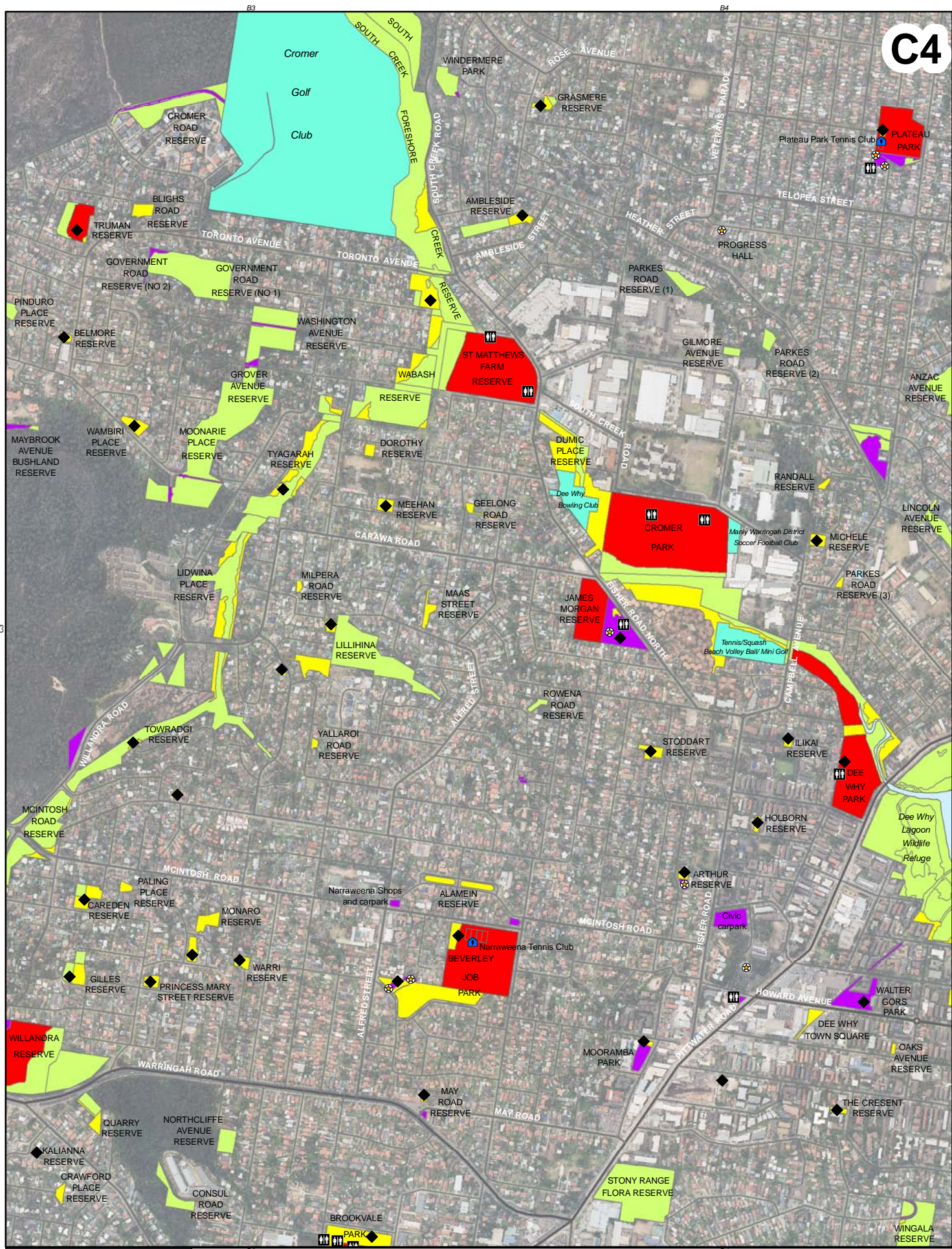


- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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C4



Map C4 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

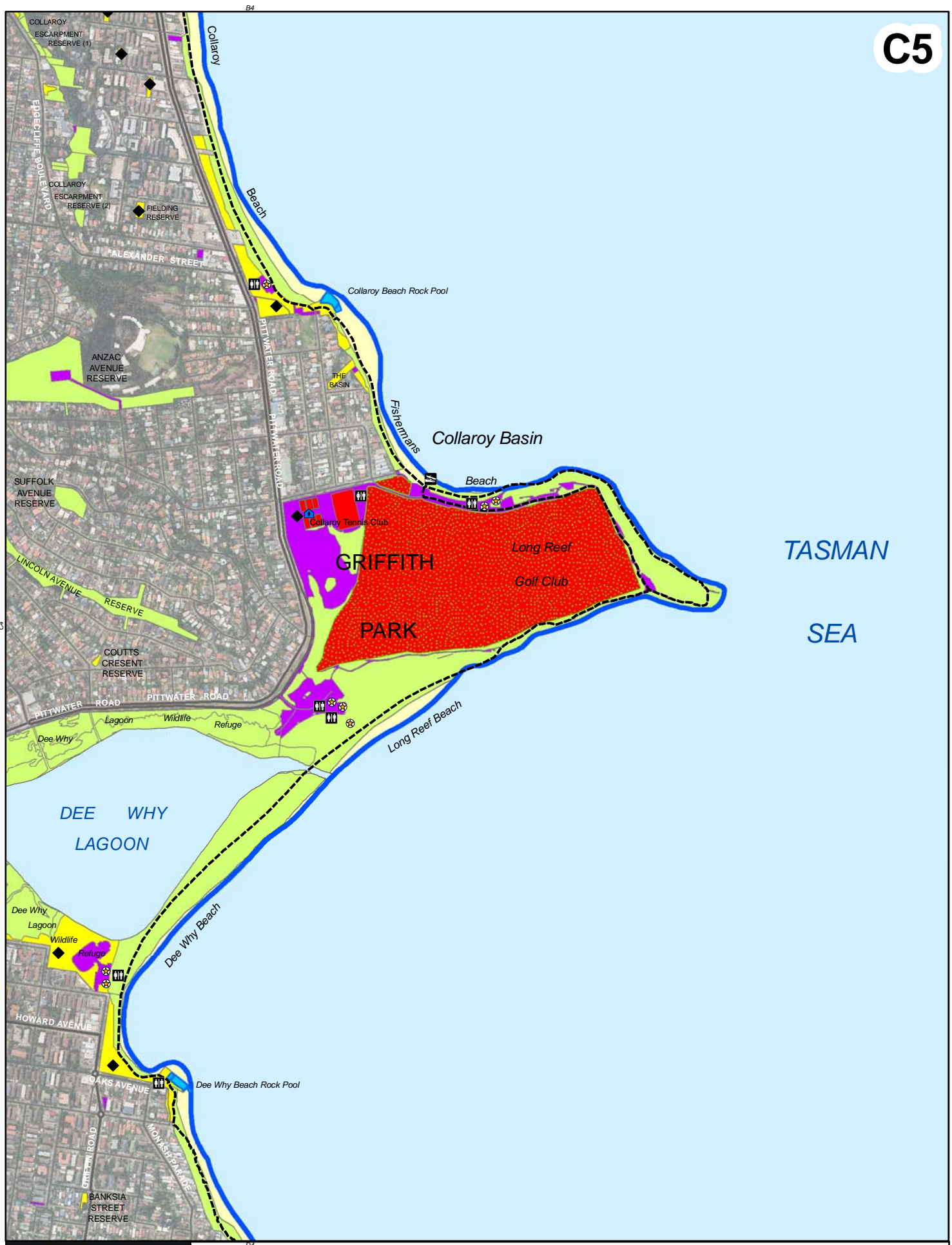
Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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Map C5 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution



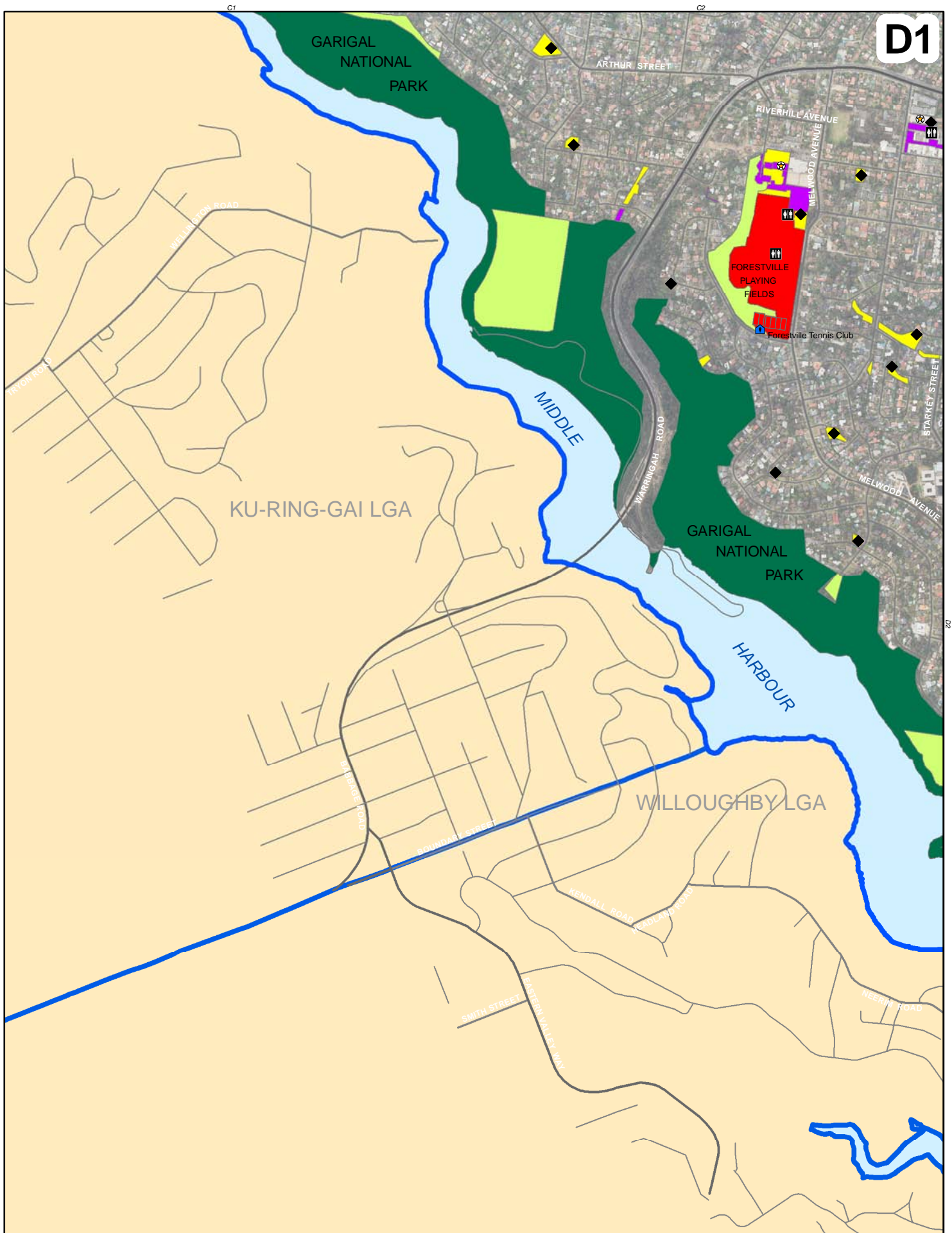
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0 220 Meters

	Amenities		LGA Boundary		Developed Open Space		Coastal Walk
	Community Building		Beach/Rocky Headland		Natural Area		Arterial Road
	Play Equipment		Waterbody		Park		Distributor Road
	Tennis Clubhouse		Golf Course		Sportsground		Local Road
	Boat Ramp		Ocean Rock Pool		Commercial Recreation		Track-Vehicular
	Bowling Club				National Park Estate		

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## Map D1 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

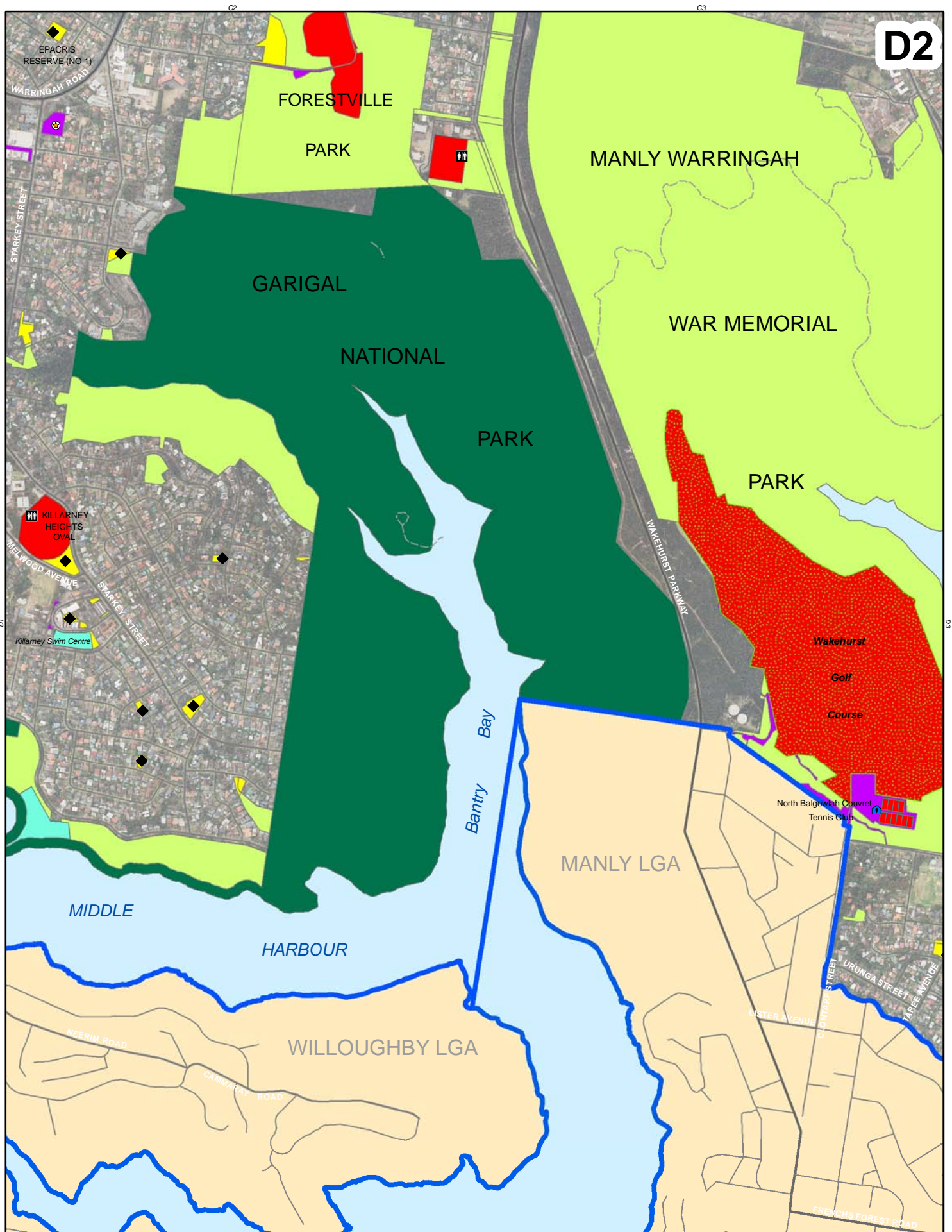
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Amenities	LGA Boundary	Developed Open Space	Coastal Walk
Community Building	Beach/Rocky Headland	Natural Area	Arterial Road
Play Equipment	Waterbody	Park	Distributor Road
Tennis Clubhouse	Golf Course	Sportsground	Local Road
Boat Ramp	Ocean Rock Pool	Commercial Recreation	Track-Vehicular
Bowling Club		National Park Estate	

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Map D2 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

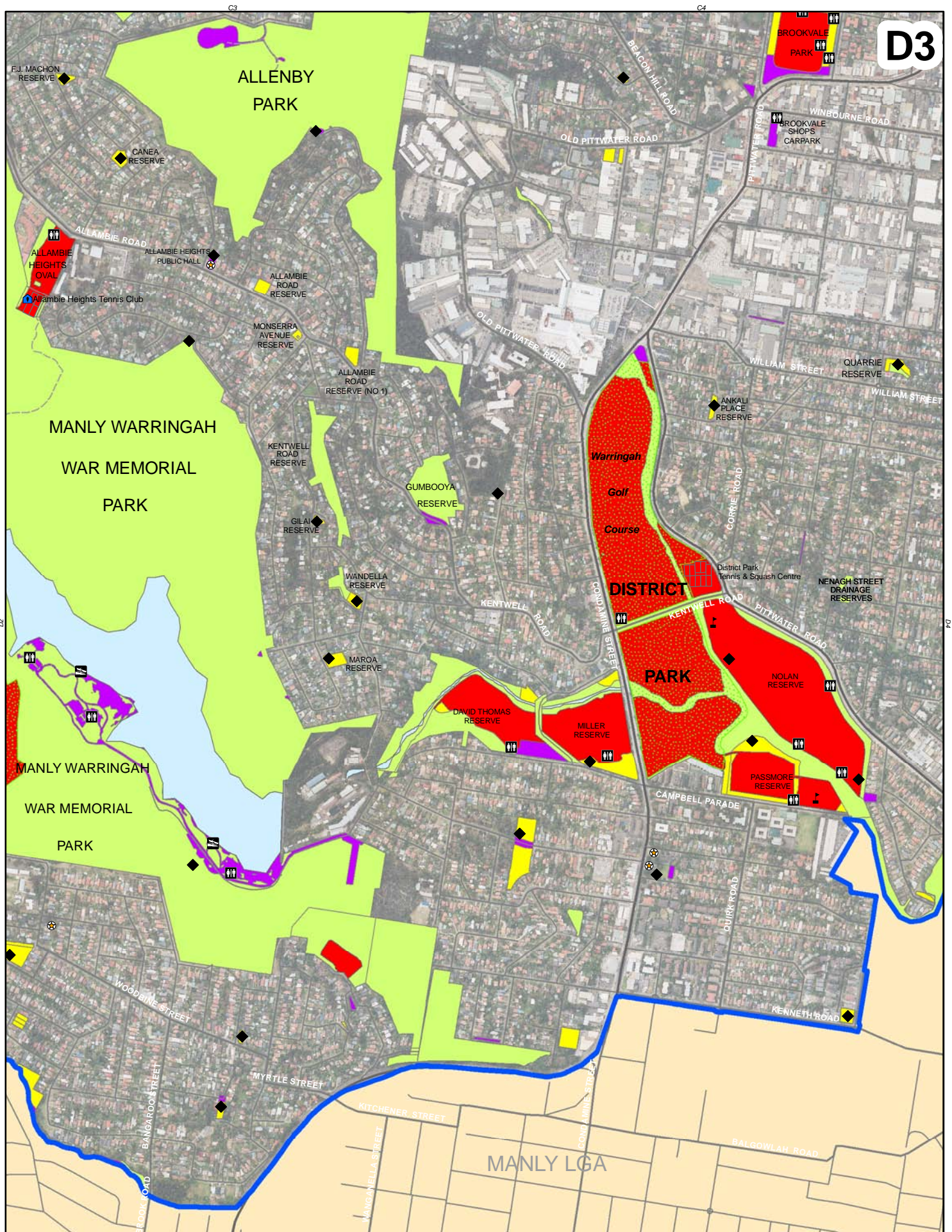
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0 220 Meters

- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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Map D3 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

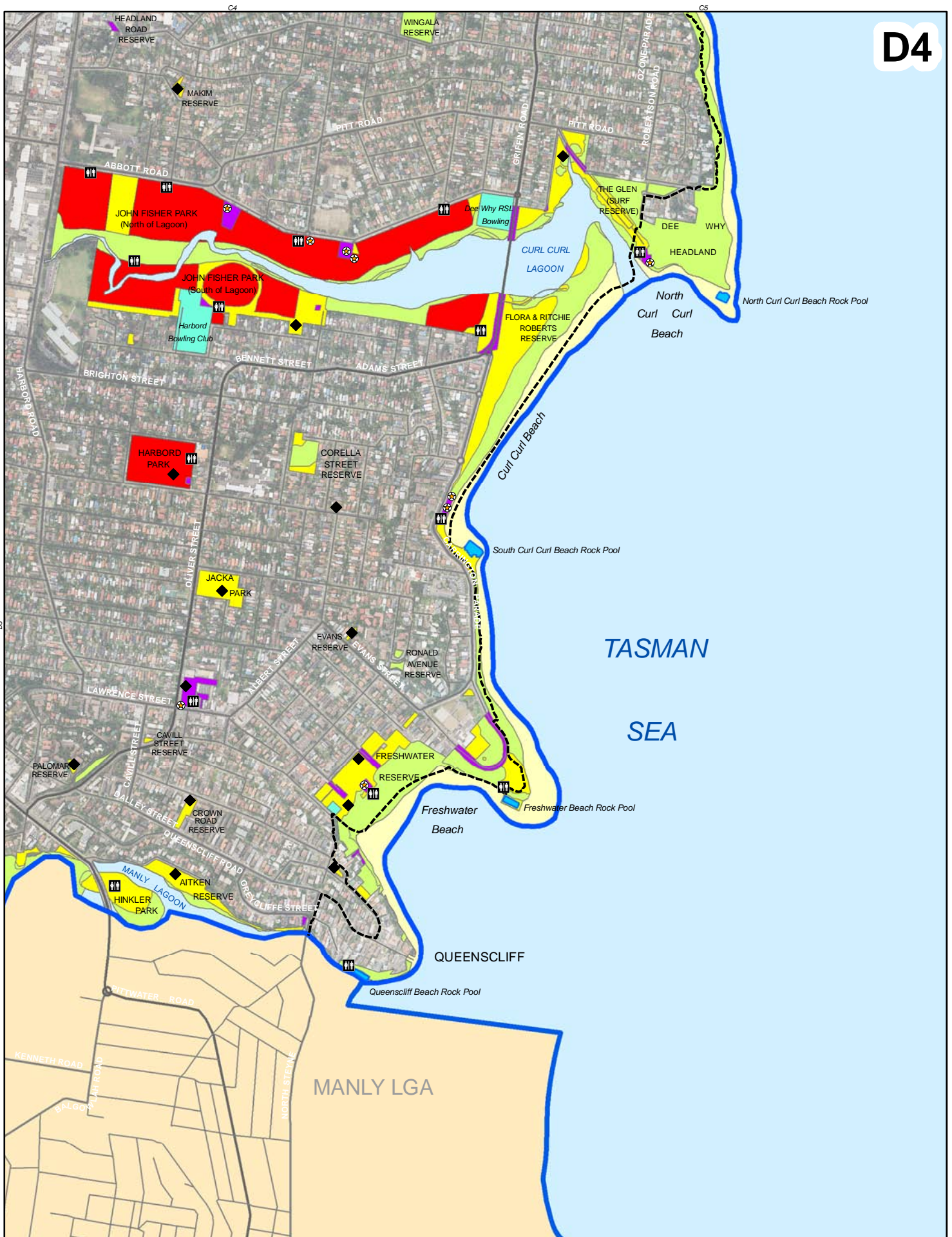
Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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Map D4 Warringah LGA Recreation asset distribution

Scale: 1:15,000  
0 220 Meters

- |                    |                      |                       |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Amenities          | LGA Boundary         | Developed Open Space  | Coastal Walk     |
| Community Building | Beach/Rocky Headland | Natural Area          | Arterial Road    |
| Play Equipment     | Waterbody            | Park                  | Distributor Road |
| Tennis Clubhouse   | Golf Course          | Sportsground          | Local Road       |
| Boat Ramp          | Ocean Rock Pool      | Commercial Recreation | Track-Vehicular  |
| Bowling Club       |                      | National Park Estate  |                  |

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### Appendix C: Audit of recreation facilities per suburb and demographic areas

The data contained in this table has been derived from Council's Geographic Information System (GIS). It has been based on the mapped location of all those buildings, structures and areas related to recreation. Please note that the 'other buildings' label in the other column includes all those buildings not specified elsewhere in the table and structures such as picnic and shade shelters, sheds and kiosks. In some cases buildings may have multiple classifications and be double counted as both a community and children's centre i.e. Beacon Hill Community Centre.

Area	Suburb	No of Reserve	No of Play grounds	Beaches, Waterways, Natural areas	Social Recreation Facilities	Linkages	Sports fields/ facilities M = mini field												Other
							AFL	Rugby	Soccer	Cricket	Indoor Crts (full BB)	Netball	tennis	Pools	Golf	Lawn bowls	Mini soccer	Cricket Practice	
North					Half Courts, Skate parks, tennis walls														
	Belrose/ Oxford Falls	65	18	Bare Creek, Frenchs Creek, Middle Creek, Deep Creek, Oxford Creek Natural Areas	Tennis Wall (2)	Minimal		2									6	2	Club House (4) Children's Centres (2) Other Bldg (7)
	Narrabeen	15	5	Beach (2) Narrabeen Lagoon, Natural Areas	BB Half Court (1)	Minimal												2	Club House (3) SLSC (3) Community Centre (1) Children's Centre (1) Boat Ramp (5) Other Bldg (3)
	Duffys Forest/ Terrey Hills/ Cottage Point/ Ingleside	2	4	Natural Areas, Kierans Creek Duffy Creek	-	Minimal		1	1		1								Club house (4) Horse Arena (2) Children Centre (1) Community Centre (1) Amenities (3) Other Bldg (8)
	Ingleside	3	-	Natural Areas, Access to Middle Creek, Narrabeen Lagoon	-	None													
	Ku-ring-gai chase	1	-	Coal/Candle/Cowan/Smiths Creek	-	None													
	Total	95	27	Beaches (2) Narrabeen Lagoon Creeks (7) Natural Areas	Bb Half Court (1)	Minimal		3	2		1					6	2		Children's Centre (4) Community Centre (2) SLSC (3) Club House (11) Horse Arena (2) Boat Ramp (5) Other Bldg (18) Amenities (3)

Area	Suburb	No of Reserve	No of Play grounds	Beaches, Waterways, Natural areas	Social Recreation Facilities	Linkages	Sports fields/ facilities M = mini field												Other
					Half Courts, Skate parks, tennis walls		AFL	Rugby	Soccer	Cricket	Indoor Cts (full BB)	Netball	tennis	Pools	Golf	Lawn bowls	Mini soccer	Cricket Practice	
West	Frenchs Forest	71	23	Carroll, Middle Creek, Bantry Bay Creek. Natural Areas	BB Half Court (1) Skate Park (1)	Minimal	1	1 1M	3	2	1	7		2				6	Club House (6) Youth Centre (1) Baseball (2) Discus (2) Long Jump (1) Other Bldg (24)
	Forestville	40	14	Manly Dam, Natural Areas	Skate Park (1)	Minimal		4	2	3	1	5	6				3	2	Club House (4) Scout Hall (1) Youth Centre (1) Other Bldg (5)
	Allambie heights	25	12	Manly Dam, Natural Areas		Minimal			1	1		2	4					2	Boat Ramp (2) Club House (3) Community Centre (1) Other Bldg (18)
	Killarney Heights	23	10	Middle Harbour Creek, Bantry Bay Creek Natural Areas	Tennis Wall (1)	Minimal		1	1	1									Cricket Practice (2) Discus Ring (3) Handball Court (1)
	Davidson	24	10	Middle Harbour Creek, Natural Areas		Minimal											4		Other Bldg (1)
	<b>Total</b>	183 Reserves	69	Manly Dam, Creeks (3), Natural Areas	BB Half Court (1) Skate Facility (2)	0.48ha	1	6	7	7	2	14	1 0	2			7		Club house (13) Community Centre (2) Scout Hall (1) Other Bldg (48) Baseball Field (2) Discus Ring (5) Long Jump Pit (1) Handball Court (1)

Area	Suburb	No of Reserve	No of Play grounds	Beaches, Waterways, Natural areas	Social Recreation Facilities	Linkages	Sports fields/ facilities M = mini field											Other	
					Half Courts, Skate parks, tennis walls		AFL	Rugby	Soccer	Cricket	Indoor Crts (full BB)	Netball	tennis	Pools	Golf	Lawn bowls	Mini soccer	Cricket Practice	
Central	Cromer	41	10	South Creek, Wheeler Creek Natural Areas	BB Half Crt (1)	Above average		2	10	1		1						0	Club House (1) Community Centre (1) Amenities (4) Discus Ring (1) Other Bldg (3)
	Narraweena	25	7	South Creek Natural Areas		Minimal		1	1	1			4				2		Club House (2) Community Centre (2) Mini Soccer (2) Other Bldg (4)
	Beacon Hill	27	14	South Creek Natural Areas	BB Half Crt (1)	Minimal			1 1 M									1	Scout Hall (1) Discus Ring (2) Community Centre (1) Children's Centre (1) Amenities (1) Long Jump Pit (1) Other Bldg (3)
	Brookvale	13	2	Brookvale Creek Greendale Creek Natural Areas	BB Half Crt (1)	Minimal		1										1	Children's Centre (1) Community Centre (1) Cricket Net (2) Grandstands (5) Amenities (5) Other Bldg (8)
	Total	106	32	Natural Areas Creeks (4)	BB Half Crt (3)	1.47 ha		4	12	2		1	4					2	3

Area	Suburb	No of Reserv e	No of Play grounds	Beaches, Waterways, Natural areas	Social Recreation Facilities	Linkages	Sports fields/ facilities M = mini field												Other
					Half Courts, Skate parks, tennis walls		AFL	Rugby	Soccer	Cricket	Indoor Crts (full BB))	Netball	tennis	Pools	Golf	Lawn bowls	Mini soccer	Cricket Practice	
Central Beaches	Collaroy/ Wheeler Heights	12	11	Beaches (3) Natural Areas	Tennis Wall (1)	Average		1	2	2		1	1	1		1		2	Boat Ramp (1) Club House (3) Community Centre (1) SLSC (4) Children Centre (1) Amenities (2) Other Bldg (8)
	Dee Why	5	10	Beaches (1), Natural Areas, Dee Why Creek Dee Why Lagoon		Above Average			3	1				1			2		Community Centres (5) SLSC (1) Scout Hall (1) Amenities (2) Other Bldg (21)
	Curl Curl/North Curl Curl	9	3	Beaches (2), Greendale Creek Natural Areas	BB Half Court (1)	Above Average	1	1 2 M	3	2		58		2					Club House (2) Community Centre (1) Amenities (7) SLSC (2) Scout Hall (1) Softball (5) Baseball ( 5) Mini Soccer (4) Cricket Practice (4) Hockey (2) Mini Hockey (2) Long Jump Pit (1) Other Bldg (19)
	Total		85	24	Beaches (6), Creeks (2) Natural Areas	BB Half Court (1) Tennis Wall (1)	1.65 ha	1	4	8	5		59	1	4		1	6	6



Area	Suburb	No of Reserve	No of Play grounds	Beaches, Waterways, Natural areas	Social Recreation Facilities	Linkages	Sports fields/ facilities												Other
					Half Courts, Skate parks, tennis walls		AFL	Rugby	Soccer	Cricket	Indoor Crts (full BB)	Netball	tennis	Pools	Golf	Lawn bowls	Mini soccer	Cricket Practice	
Southern	Freshwater	7	8	Beaches(1), Natural Areas		Minimal		1 1 Mi		1		2		1		1		2	Community Centre (1) Clubhouse (1) SLSC (1) Spectator Seating Amenities (3) Other Bldg (4)
	Manly Vale	24	5	Natural Areas, Manly Creek	Tennis Practice Wall (1) Skate Park (1)	Average		1	1 0	10		3			2		9		Club House (1) Children's Centre (1) Amenities (4) Mini Rugby (3) Other Bldg (5)
	North Balgowlah	14	3	Natural Areas, Burnt Bridge Creek	BB Half Court (1)	Minimal											2		Community Centre (1)
	North Manly	14	4	Natural Areas, Manly Creek		Minimal				3					4	1			Community Centre (1) Amenities (4) Club Houses (3) Mini Rugby (2) Other Bldg (18)
	Queenscliff	9	3	Natural Areas, Manly Creek		Minimal								1					SLSC (1) Amenities (1)
	<b>Total</b>	69	23	Beaches (1) Creek (2) Natural Areas	Skate Park (1) BB Half Crt (2) Tennis Wall (1)	Minimal		6 1 M	2	14		5		2	6	2	11	2	Club House (5) Community Centre 4) Children's Centre (1) Amenities (12) SLSC (2) Mini Rugby (5) Other Bldg (27)

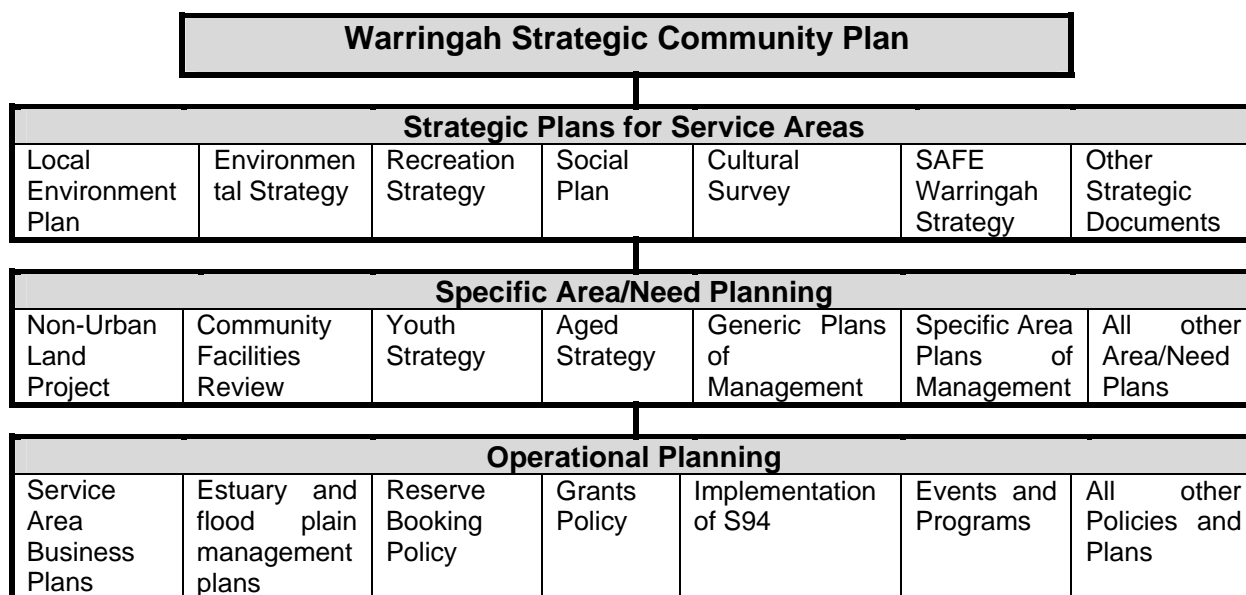
Area	No of Reserve	No of Play grounds	Beaches, Waterways, Natural areas	Social Recreation Facilities	Linkages	Sports fields/ facilities												Other
				Half Courts, Skate parks, tennis walls		AFL	Rugby	Soccer	Cricket	Indoor Crts (full BB)	Netball	tennis	Pools	Golf	Lawn bowls	Mini soccer	Cricket Practice	
Total Warringah	538	176	Beaches (9) Manly Dam Narrabeen Lagoon, Dee Why Lagoon, Creeks (17) Natural Areas	Skate Parks (3) BB Half Courts (8), Tennis Walls (5)	Total 5.05ha	2	18 8 M	30	28	2	48	15	7	6	3	32	26	Community Centre (21) Children's Centre (10) Club House (37) Amenities (36) Surf/SLSC (12) Scout Hall (4) Boat Ramp (6) Softball (5) Baseball (7) Mini Rugby (5) Cricket Nets (3) Hockey (2) Mini Hockey (2) Discus Ring (8) Long Jump Pit (3) Grandstands (6) Horse Arena (2) Other Bldg (158)

## Appendix D: Relevant Strategic Documents

### How does this plan relate to other strategic documents?

In accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act* 1993, Warringah Council has adopted a coordinated approach to planning. This involves development of a number of linked strategic documents under the guidance of the *Warringah PLAN 2002-2005*. This Plan of Management highlights Council's commitment to protecting Warringah's identity, high quality of life and enhancement of natural environmental, aesthetic, cultural, heritage and recreational values. Table 1: Warringah's Strategic Planning Documents, illustrates the framework for planning and this plan's relationship to other strategic documents which share the same guiding principles.

**Table 1 - Warringah Council's Strategic Planning Documents Flow Chart**



### Relevant Council documents important to this plan

There are several documents which have been important in the development of the strategic direction and actions within this Strategy. To ensure that the intentions of these documents are considered alongside the implementation of this Strategy, a summary of each relevant document is included.

#### Generic Sports Ground Plan of Management (2007)

The Generic Sportsgrounds Plan of Management provides guidance for the management of sportsgrounds in Warringah and establishes planning principles for the development and use of sportsgrounds.

The Plan of Management places all sportsgrounds in a 'hierarchy' of fields. This sets the basis for the provision of services and infrastructure and the management of the grounds.

The hierarchy is based on the following levels:

- Regional A - Significant regional facilities which are used regularly for state level games. Only Brookvale Oval would currently be included in this category.
- Regional B - Significant regional facilities and centre for club functions, e.g. Cromer Park for soccer.
- Subregional - Generally district competition with more support for higher level games and facilities to support level of use, e.g. St Matthews Farm.
- Local A - Used for local competition with appropriate facilities focusing on daytime competition at weekends and evening training, e.g. Dee Why Park.

- Local B - Minimal facilities and lower use fields with a strong local and casual user focus for daytime use only, e.g. Condoover Street Oval, Balgowlah.

The Generic Sportsgrounds Plan of Management also includes a number of actions which impact on the management of sportsgrounds and their users. The actions cover a variety of areas including:

- Licences, leases and user agreements
- Good neighbour codes of conducts
- Ground management
- Facilities and buildings
- Wet weather
- Lighting
- Subsidence and ground condition
- Drainage and irrigation
- Signage
- Security and antisocial behaviour
- Risk management

### **Sports in Warringah (2004)**

This Strategy aims to assist Council in future infrastructure and service planning in the areas of sportsfields and associated facilities taking the current and future needs of the community and related sports groups into consideration. Two major surveys were undertaken to inform this strategy and a series of recommendations have been made to improve the overall provision of sport in Warringah as well as there being recommended actions for individual sports.

The information in this document forms the basis of the “Sportsgrounds Plan of Management” and has been used in the development of this Strategy.

### **Playground Strategy (2007)**

The Playground Strategy was adopted in August 2007 and provides an overview of playground provision in Warringah. Research into play theory, playground design and a thorough analysis of current playground supply and demand has helped to establish Council's direction for the future provision of playgrounds in Warringah.

The Playground Strategy aims to provide a playground within a 10-minute walk, taking into account available open space, topography and barriers i.e. roads and natural features.

### **Generic Parks Plan of Management (2008)**

The Generic Parks Plan of Management provides a framework for the management of Council's hierarchy of district, neighbourhood and local parks within Warringah. The plan covers a total of 203 parks and reserves, the vast majority (200) being classified as either “local” or “neighbourhood”. These parks are valued by the community for the recreational experiences they offer as well as the safety and accessibility, social and cultural interaction and environmental and aesthetic appeal.

Key management actions within the Plan include:

- Formal guidelines on neighbourhood park development, establishing desired service levels
- Recognising the growing desire, particularly in medium density areas, for community gardens
- Providing improved and more accessible information on parks
- Highlighting opportunities for better linkages
- Recommendations to formalise management of certain state government parcels which are currently managed by Council on an informal basis.

## **Other Strategic Documents Used in the Preparation of this Plan**

The following Council documents have been used to assist and guide the strategic outcomes of this Strategy, ensuring consistency in values, principles and policies:

- Warringah's Strategic Plan – *Living Warringah*
- Strategic Community Plan 2008;
- Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2000
- Community Facilities Management and Subsidies Policy
- Recreation Strategy Plan (1999)
- Local Environment Plan 2000
- Cultural Strategy 2007
- Environmental Strategy 2001
- Section 94 Plan 2000
- Heritage Conservation Plan for Warringah's Six Rock Pools 1999
- Warringah Bike Plan (1998)
- Warringah Open Space Review 2000
- Warringah Social Plan 2006 – 2009
- SHOROC Regional Sportsground Analysis 2006
- The Talk of Town Results report 2007
- Warringah Multiple-Use Trails Strategy 2007
- Warringah Cultural Plan 2007
- Warringah Community Survey, Management Report 2008

## **Other relevant legislation and policies**

This plan must also be in accordance with the provisions contained within relevant legislation and policy guidelines, including but not limited to the following:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Local Government Act, 1993
- Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992

## Appendix E: Proposed Guidelines for the provision of open space in new developments

When land from a land release site is identified for open space needs the following should be considered to ensure that it is appropriate for the purpose it is reserved for and any resultant allocation or development achieves the best possible outcomes for the community:

1. Population demographics and forecasts – to ensure that any open space development is targeted to the community in that area and addresses both current and future trends.
2. Identified recreational gaps and current trends as indicated in relevant research and Council strategic documents i.e. Recreation Strategy. This should also include an open space needs calculation, analysis and evaluation in light of the requirements in the specific area and region.
3. Topography - must be able to support the activity for which it is reserved without significant alterations, expenditure and ongoing maintenance issues and requirements. The land should be able to provide options for the provision of open space facilities to best meet the needs of the relevant community. Careful consideration should be given to possibly having multiple uses such as developed open space and natural areas protection within in the same development.
4. Natural environmental constraints – need to be identified and assessed such as threatened species and acid sulphate soils.
5. Safety – employ safety and crime preventative measures through Environmental Design Principles to ensure safe usage and protection of any asset.
6. NSW Open Space Planning Guidelines (expected release late 2009) and other relevant Government legalisation including Crown Land Act (1989) and NSW Local Government Act (1993).
7. Assets developed to appropriate Australian standards.
8. The open space should be integrated into the proposed development during design stages - including the inclusion of tracks, trails and pedestrian linkages, ancillary facilities and considering the overall appearance and presentation of the open space area. Master planning (or the like) of the open space site and intended development should be considered.
9. Incidental activity and Healthy Active planning principles – consideration should be given for the integration of such principles in any development to facilitate increased opportunity for physical activity within residents' daily lives. These principles should be integrated and linked to the open space through master planning.
10. Consultation with relevant internal Council stakeholders prior to finalisation of plans.
11. Commitment to managing or taking ownership of a land parcel should not be given until an investigation of Council's liabilities and future responsibilities is undertaken and all future maintenance and management requirements (including costs) are determined.
12. Council's principles for Community land management as outlined in Council's *Policy for Plans of Management on Public Open Space* (2003) be considered in the planning, acquiring (or taking control of) and managing any additional open space:
13. Ensure Warringah's community has an opportunity to be involved in the planning and management of public open space;
14. Plan, maintain and enhance a diversity of recreational public open space opportunities;
15. Plan and maintain a hierarchy of quality, multi-use public open space facilities;

16. Conserve and enhance the natural environment and rehabilitate degraded areas of public open space;
17. Recognise the importance of culture and heritage;
18. Ensure a high standard of risk management in the provision, maintenance and management of public open space and facilities; and
19. Apply the above principles in an economically responsible manner.
20. Zoning – the land should only be zoned for open space purposes in the relevant planning instruments if it has been assessed as having recreational or environmental value.



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