



CLARENCE VALLEY OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN



FINAL REPORT

MAY 2012





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Open Spaces Strategic Plan and related Sports Facilities Plan have been prepared to guide the future direction for open spaces management for Council to 2021 and beyond. These Plans link to a Section 94 Open Spaces Contribution Plan that has an extensive schedule of works captured from both planning documents.

The Plans are the first Open Spaces Strategic Plans that take a Clarence Valley approach while reviewing and updating the Lower Clarence Recreation Needs Assessment 2006 and the Grafton City Open Spaces Study 2003.

In 2003, prior to the amalgamation Grafton City adopted an Open Spaces Study for Grafton and its immediate surrounds, while in 2006 the Lower Clarence Recreation Needs Assessment was undertaken. Both documents have been included in the preparation of these Open Spaces Plans.

In summary the draft Open Spaces Strategic Plan and Sports Facilities Plan found that:

- some particular deficiencies notwithstanding, the existing Clarence Valley community is well provided for in terms of open space, sport and recreation facilities.
- planned population growth will impact on the existing use and enjoyment of those facilities.
- there is likely to be unmet demand and pressure on existing open spaces in the LGA, and there is therefore a need for the Council to plan and respond to the existing and future needs.
- the projected population increase means an equitable supply of open space throughout the Valley, particularly in developing and new release areas, will become increasingly important.
- in terms of meeting the future district and LGA-wide recreation needs, priority should be given to improving the quality and usability of existing open space areas and recreation facilities in preference to acquiring more land for open space.

There are approximately 740 parks and reserves in the Clarence Valley. Overall there are 32 hectares per 1,000 people which is a comparatively very high rate of provision. The breakdown of this total open space in the Clarence Valley into categories of open space are:

- Park: 24%
- Sportsground: 19%
- Natural Area: 45%
- General Community Use: 12%.

Despite the high rate of provision, distribution of open space is an issue across the local government area. Council generally has large number of small open spaces, and a small number of larger open spaces. Ideally for cost effective operations and management this should be the opposite with larger open spaces and less smaller spaces. To some extent this is due to the dispersed nature of the Valley but also reflects past practice of accepting small parcels of land in the land development process that serve little useful purpose given their land suitability and capability to support active and passive recreation.

An industry wide needs provision analysis was undertaken and it is considered for planning purposes and provision that 2.5 hectares per 1,000 people of Park open space and 2.5 hectares per 1,000 people of Sportsground as a minimum is required.

From observation and inspection parks were found to be “adequate” to “very good”, however:

- the level of maintenance of parks could be improved.
- some quality facilities (such as a regional children’s playground) could be installed.
- the attractiveness and use of many parks could be improved with relatively minor improvements, such as shade, access for people with disabilities, upgraded park furniture, and landscaping.

The characteristics of the existing and forecast Clarence Valley community, and the existing and forecast future demand for open space, have been assessed. There is a strong need to cater for the young/youth, and a trend to provide open space and recreation opportunities for older people as Clarence Valley already has an above State average older population.

The draft Plans identified that the following actions could be undertaken to improve open space and recreation opportunities. Relatively simple improvements which would encourage greater use and longer visits at all types of open spaces and recreation facilities include:

- more barbecues and shade, particularly at children’s playgrounds and in beach reserves.
- skate parks can be embellished and provided.
- outdoor fitness equipment is being planned at Ford Park, Wherrett Park and Fisher Park.
- facilities for children and young people including playground equipment, safe softfall, furniture/seating for childrens’ carers, children’s bike tracks, and the need to consider a water park.

There are also planned improvements to foreshore parks, footpaths and cycleways, accessible toilets in key parks, and accessible pathways to and within parks.

The draft Plans also identified that to overcome constraints to participation the following would assist:

- accessible by accessible – don’t locate facilities in areas people can’t get to.
- provide quality and attractive facilities.
- make facilities affordable and realistically costed.
- provide for extended hours as mid week activity for example is popular.

The general trends in the sport and recreation provision include:

- design and provide for multi use facilities.
- provide a balance between structured and unstructured activity.
- provide safe, accessible, and visually attractive facilities and open space.
- financial and land cost constraints require improving use of existing spaces.
- risk and litigation – there is general trend to lower-risk activity, and a community and professional approach to manage risks.
- the need to do more with less, and user pays approaches.
- using synthetic surfaces to increase the use of sporting fields and playgrounds.

- partnership funding – groups and organisations that can seek and provide partnership funding can increase the chance of facilities and events happening sooner.

A basis to manage Open Spaces includes identifying particular towns and villages where open space/sport opportunities are or will be needed, defining levels of service for provision and maintenance, and considering existing land management and rationalisation and future acquisition.

The Strategy identifies that generally Council has in the past adopted a passive approach to acquiring open space, and it could be more strategic and targeted in its approach in the future.

The Plan identifies that rationalisation of open space is required in some areas as certain open spaces may be surplus to requirements and do not adequately serve an open space function. The Strategy adopts a basic principle to embellish existing open space before necessarily acquiring land for open space in established and developing areas.

Open Spaces maintenance service levels are identified to be brought back to Council for review in terms of service provision. A further report will be provided to Council on this matter in the future. In terms of maintenance the Strategic Plan recommends:

- increasing the use of contractors or volunteers through committees in areas where the costs of travel from major urban centres where Council staff are based is cost-prohibitive.
- maintaining fewer larger areas than a high number of smaller and unlinked open spaces.
- considering use of contracting for repetitive tasks such as mowing, edging and cleaning particularly outside the main urban centres.
- recognising the need to produce higher maintenance standards in some areas and less intense maintenance standards in others.
- increasing the use of technology.

A detailed Action Plan to meet the identified open space and sporting needs based on a 10+10 year planning timeframe is included in the DOSSP. On some parks, reserves and sports grounds there is a need to undertake masterplanning and to develop and update existing Plans of Management. A generic Plan of Management that is in draft form can be applied fill the gap for other parks and reserves. There is a need to consolidate the myriad of Reserve Trusts in the inland area for administrative efficiency and management.

Several options for funding open spaces and sporting facilities from the NSW and Federal government are identified. The plans will be reviewed after a minimum of 5 years, with a major review after 10 years. Council will need to work together with other levels of government and the community to fund and implement the recommendations of this Strategy. The works needed are extensive, including improvements to existing areas, and will take some time to implement. The result will be improved open spaces and recreational opportunities that will benefit the increasing number of residents of and visitors to the Clarence Valley.

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Local organisations

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Richmond Valley Council
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Government authorities

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NSW Sport and Recreation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In recent years, demands and expectations by a growing and changing community in the Clarence Valley for a wide range of quality open spaces and recreation opportunities have been increasing. At the same time, the cost of providing and maintaining open space and recreation facilities and settings at an acceptable level is also increasing, while it is apparent that funding resources cannot keep pace with the costs of providing and maintaining open space and recreation opportunities.

Clarence Valley Council commissioned an Open Space Strategic Plan, Sports Facilities Plan, and a Section 94 Open Spaces and Sports Facilities Plan in 2010 to plan to meet these challenges. These plans are the first plans for open space and sports facilities to be prepared for the Clarence Valley local government area (LGA) since amalgamation of several local government areas to form Clarence Valley LGA in 2004. Open space and recreation plans had been prepared for Grafton City in 2003 and for the Lower Clarence (former Maclean Shire) in 2006.

This plan is the Open Space Strategic Plan, which has been prepared in parallel with the Sports Facilities Strategic Plan. Following on from those two plans is the Clarence Valley Section 94 Open Space and Sports Facilities Plan which outlines how open space and sports facilities required can be funded by developer contributions.

1.2 WHAT IS OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION?

Various definitions of open space, recreation and related topics are used throughout Australia and overseas.

Open space is a basic requirement of the human environment in Australia. For the purpose of this report, **open space** can be considered as land and water settings that are used for functions such as personal and social recreation, sport, access, flora and fauna conservation, and visual amenity. Such settings include natural areas and linkages, water and foreshore areas, informal parkland, sports grounds and courts, playgrounds, formal gardens, and linear walking, cycling and equestrian tracks.

Public open space is that open space which is publicly owned, accessible to the public, and that can be planned and managed by local, state or federal government. Private open space is on private property which is not always accessible to the public. Examples of private open space include privately owned golf courses and residential back yards.

Various definitions of **sport** contribute to understanding the scope of what is meant by sport in this Plan. The Australian Sports Foundation define a sport for their purposes as:

“a human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill, which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being a sport.”

A sport is generally an activity that:

- ❑ is a form of recreation.
- ❑ involves competitive physical activity, or training for such activities.
- ❑ is usually organised or structured, being governed by a set of rules or customs.
- ❑ can be undertaken as an individual or as part of a team.
- ❑ can be undertaken outdoors or indoors.

Recreation is considered as an activity, voluntarily undertaken, primarily for pleasure and satisfaction during leisure time (Pigram, 1983). Recreation (either structured or unstructured) undertaken in parks and other open space is considered to be outdoor recreation.

Recreation facilities are natural or built physical resources which are used for recreational pursuits, or provided to enable the delivery of recreation services (SGS Economics and Planning and HM Leisure Planning, 2009).

The term **leisure** has a wider meaning than does recreation, including free and uncommitted time available for rest or recreation, such as watching television or reading. Thus, by the above definition ‘recreation’ has a narrower focus than ‘leisure’.

The definitions of sport, recreation and **tourism** overlap. Tourists are attracted to use open space, sporting and recreation resources in the Clarence Valley all year, with a peak in the summer school holidays. The approach taken here is to meet the needs of residents in the first instance, which will also have benefits to tourists. Conversely, activities and resources directed towards tourists also cater for and benefit residents.

The concept of recreation also overlaps with **health**. Use of open space has health benefits, and conversely activities undertaken for health reasons can be enjoyed in open spaces.



Jacaranda Park, Grafton



Brooms Head beach

1.3 PURPOSES OF THIS PLAN

The key purpose of this Open Space Strategic Plan and the accompanying Sports Facilities Plan for the Clarence Valley are to:

- ❑ prepare open space and sports facilities strategies for the whole local government area.
- ❑ detail the current and future direction for adequate, equitable and appropriate provision of open spaces, parks, reserves, sporting and recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- ❑ ensure that incoming residents, especially in new release areas, are adequately serviced by open space facilities.
- ❑ provide a direction for the future management of open space areas (including parks and reserves) under the ownership or management of Council and the activities that are undertaken on those areas.
- ❑ make specific recommendations, plans and funding options relating to facility provision and priority infrastructure improvements.

An assessment of the open space needs for the Clarence Valley is necessary to enable Council to plan to meet the present and future open space needs of the community by providing appropriate open spaces and associated facilities and services. Put simply, this plan will guide Council's decisions on where, when, how much and what type of open space and associated facilities and improvements should be provided over the next 10 years and beyond to meet the needs of the existing and future population.

The assessment and action plan in this plan will also assist Council's strategic planning for open space, particularly the preparation of the open space component of Council's Section 94 Contributions Plan.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THIS PLAN

Following on from the purposes of preparing this Plan above, the objectives of this Plan are to:

- ❑ develop a Strategic Plan that reflects the open spaces, sport and recreation needs, interests and aspirations of the communities in the Valley.
- ❑ develop a vision and mission for provision, functionality, maintenance and management of open space assets and infrastructure across the Clarence Valley, recognising likely financial and resourcing limitations.
- ❑ ensure that the Strategic Plan reflects an integrated approach to open spaces and facility development in relation to the range of existing and future facilities, accessibility, shared uses, and varied management arrangements.
- ❑ consider broad community and emergent trends in the Clarence Valley with respect to sporting and recreation users, including the identification of barriers that prevent participation.
- ❑ undertake a thorough research and consultation process to identify regional, local and community sporting and recreation needs, and identify gaps and/or surpluses in the existing and planned provision of sporting and recreation facilities, parks and reserves.

- ❑ recommend actions that encourage the use of Council's open spaces and participation in sports and recreation activities within the Clarence Valley.
- ❑ develop realistic action plans that guide the achievement of a long-term strategic vision within local constraints and enable simple progress reporting against stated performance measures.
- ❑ make specific recommendations to meet the competing needs of users and further recommendations to manage or dispose of surpluses.
- ❑ recommend management arrangements (such as leases, licences, seasonal field hire, etc.) for Council's parks and reserves and for specific sporting users and groups using those reserves.
- ❑ make recommendations regarding asset maintenance, facility management and functionality/design.
- ❑ consider potential funding sources from Council, other Government sources, developer contributions, private investors and partnerships.
- ❑ provide a framework and criteria for decision making about emergent facility proposals in the future.
- ❑ recommend the provision of service levels for Council's parks, reserves and sporting fields that consider the key elements and goals of the Clarence Valley Sustainability Initiative.
- ❑ develop a procedure with clear performance criteria for the dedication of land or facilities or other offsets by developers as part of the subdivision/development application process.
- ❑ develop open space and sports facilities plans which are consistent with contemporary issues and legislative framework.

1.5 SCOPE OF THIS PLAN

1.5.1 Study area

The study area for this plan is the Clarence Valley local government area. This plan recognises the diverse and particular characteristics and needs of residents living in towns and villages within the Clarence Valley. Open space and recreation resources in surrounding local government areas are referred to where these are likely to impact on the provision of open space, sporting facilities or use of proposed or existing infrastructure. Clarence Valley residents and residents of other LGAs do not recognise local boundaries when accessing open spaces and recreation opportunities.

1.5.2 Ownership and management

Open space considered in this Plan focuses on Council owned and managed open space, including but not limited to:

- ❑ community land that is set aside and protected for publicly accessible open space.

- ❑ the undeveloped and publicly accessible areas of operational land, which may include drainage and other restricted access land for infrastructure and servicing requirements of the community.
- ❑ Crown lands for which Council and other Trust Managers may manage.

Links with other open space managed by organisations are considered, including:

- ❑ Crown and other government agency land for which Council is not the trustee and that other Trust Boards may manage.
- ❑ land owned by other government authorities.
- ❑ private land reserved for future open space.
- ❑ privately owned recreation facilities.

Links between open space areas such as road reserves, cycle and walking paths, and streetscapes including nature strips are considered in the plan.

1.5.3 Settings, facilities and activities

This plan covers the following settings, facilities and activities:

- ❑ open space, parks and reserves.
- ❑ public and private land (not including private dwellings).
- ❑ active and passive.
- ❑ organised and informal.
- ❑ natural (such as national parks) to developed open space settings (for example children's playgrounds).
- ❑ indoor and outdoor.
- ❑ land- and water-based activities.
- ❑ catering for people of all ages and abilities.
- ❑ "traditional" and alternative / emerging activities.

Council's parks and reserves inventory incorporates land that is not relevant to an open space strategy, such as works depots, holiday parks, cemeteries, rubbish depots, quarries and gravel pits, sewage treatment works and animal pounds. Such land has not been included in the analysis of open space provision in Section 3.

1.5.4 Links with sport, community and culture

This Plan refers to sports facilities in the context of open space. A detailed Sports Facilities Plan accompanies this Open Space Strategic Plan.

This Plan does not include cultural and community facilities, which are covered in the Clarence Valley Cultural and Community Facilities Plan (SGS Economics and Planning, 2009).

1.5.5 Timeframe

The timeframe of this Plan aligns with Council's current future direction under its corporate Strategic Plan 'Valley Vision 2020' which is planned to the year 2021. However, a longer time period is considered relevant for open space and recreation facilities and outcomes. This timeframe may extend beyond 2021 depending on specific issues and a review will be undertaken at 5 and 10 year intervals to ensure that the Plan remains relevant to 2031.

1.5.6 Overlap with other reports

This Plan supersedes the Grafton Open Space Plan (Sustainable Futures Australia, 2003), and the Lower Clarence Recreation Needs Assessment (Parkland Environmental Planners and Strategic Leisure Pty Ltd, 2006) where it refers to open space.

1.6 PROCESS OF PREPARING THIS PLAN

The tasks involved in preparing this Plan are set out in **Figure 1.1**.

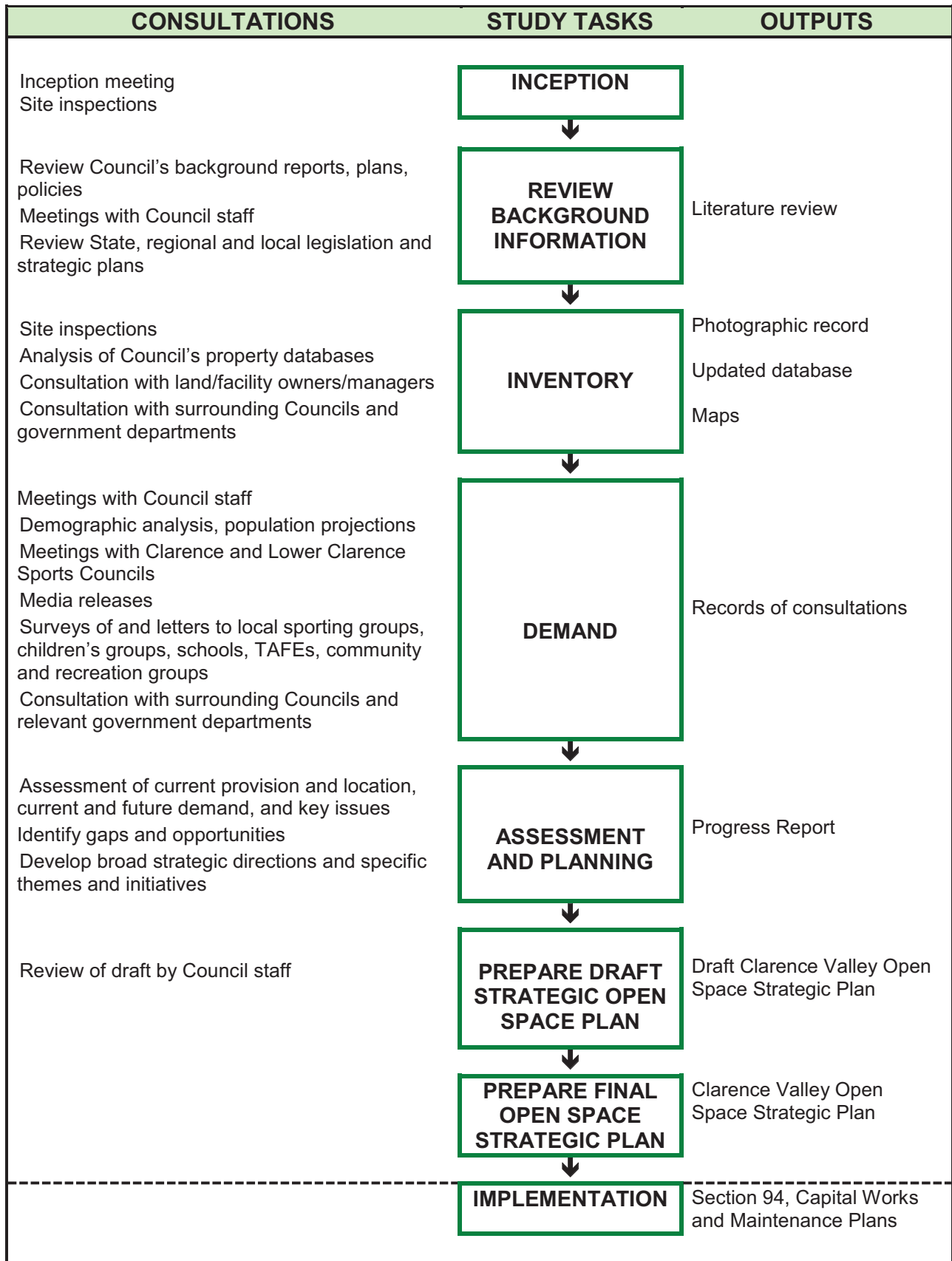
1.7 CONTENTS OF THIS PLAN

The remainder of this Plan comprises:

- ❑ Section 2 – outlines the context of the Clarence Valley, and the planning concepts and management framework on which this plan is based.
- ❑ Section 3 – documents the current and planned supply of open space resources in the Clarence Valley and surrounding local government areas.
- ❑ Section 4 – describes the characteristics of the existing and forecast Clarence valley community, and the existing and forecast future demand for open space.
- ❑ Section 5 – Basis for Management sets out planning principles and objectives on which the assessment in Section 6 is based.
- ❑ Section 6 – assesses the supply of and needs for open space/sport in general for the Clarence Valley, as well as identifying particular towns and villages where open space/sport opportunities are or will be needed. Levels of service for provision of open space/sport are set out.
- ❑ Section 7 - an Action Plan to meet the identified open space/sport needs based on a 10-year planning timeframe.
- ❑ Section 8 – sets out implementation of this plan, including funding and review.

The various appendices contain more detailed information to supplement the information contained in this main report.

Figure 1.1 Process of preparing this plan



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2 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY

The Clarence Valley is located on the mid-north coast of NSW, approximately 300 kilometres south of Brisbane and 650 kilometres north of Sydney.

The Clarence Valley local government area formed in 2004 from the amalgamation of the former Maclean, Ulmarra, Copmanhurst and Pristine Waters (formerly Nymboida and Ulmarra) Councils. Adjoining local government areas are Richmond Valley, Tenterfield, Glen Innes-Severn, Guyra, Armidale-Dumaresq, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour local government areas.

The Clarence Valley is approximately 115 kilometres north-south and 90 kilometres east-west, with a total area of 10,249 square kilometres. The Clarence has over 80 kilometres of coastline which is a significant feature and attraction.

Figure 2.1 Clarence Valley local government area



Key transport links are the Pacific Highway and the North Coast railway, with a railway station at South Grafton.

A significant proportion of the Clarence Valley is a wide variety of natural settings, including:

- ❑ natural bushland and coastal vegetation incorporated in National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Forests.
- ❑ water, including the Clarence River and its tributaries, and lakes, particularly Lake Wooloweyah.
- ❑ numerous ocean beaches.

This combination of natural settings means that the Clarence Valley is a major outdoor recreational area for residents and visitors.

The Clarence River is the focus of the Clarence Valley. As the largest coastal river in NSW and one of Australia's largest river systems, the Clarence Valley rises in the border districts of south-east Queensland and meets the sea some 400 kilometres later at Yamba and Iluka. More than 100 islands form part of the Clarence River system.

The Clarence Valley is a predominantly rural area with dispersed population centres. The total population of the Clarence Valley (estimated at 51,000 people in 2008) is concentrated on the coast and along the Clarence River. Grafton-South Grafton is the regional centre of the Clarence Valley, with three other towns as service centres (Yamba, Maclean and Iluka), and more than 40 villages and rural hamlets along the coast and in the rural hinterland. Grafton (approximately 10,000 people), South Grafton (6,500 people), Yamba (5,500 people), Maclean-Townsend-Illarwill (3,600 people), Iluka (1,800 people) and Junction Hill (1,000 people) are the largest urban areas in the Clarence Valley. A significant percentage of the Clarence Valley population live in rural communities up to an hour's drive from the main service centres.

The population of the Clarence Valley has been growing at a rapid average annual rate of 1.1% per year between 2005 and 2009. Factors contributing to this population increase include 'sea change' and 'tree change' in-migration. The influx of intrastate and interstate retirees (those aged 60 years and over comprise 26% of the Clarence valley population), and people moving in to the new residential subdivisions on the fringes of urban areas. The increase in population is felt most during summer holiday periods when the coastal population is estimated to rise to around 20,000 people. The increasing population of residents and visitors is placing pressure on existing open space and recreation facilities and services.

Much of the rural areas in the Clarence Valley is used for forestry, agriculture and grazing, particularly beef cattle and sugar cane growing. Fishing is also an important industry. Tourism has become a major industry in recent years, particularly along the coast.

The Clarence Valley has a strong sporting and recreation culture, expressed through high participation in sporting and recreational activities, and pride in the Valley's recreational spaces and sporting facilities. The Valley is well known for its sporting culture, particularly for equestrian activities and hockey.

Open space, sport, recreation and tourism in the Clarence Valley are integrally linked. Tourists from the north coast, NSW and Queensland are attracted to the easy access to the Clarence River and its tributaries, beaches, coastal lakes and national parks. Tourism activities focus on the water (such as boating and fishing). The popularity of the Clarence Valley as a low-key tourism destination provides a major economic opportunity for the area,

in addition to agriculture and the fishing industry. While tourism brings economic benefits it also leads to environmental and capacity pressures on open space in the Clarence Valley at peak visitation times. The challenge will be to balance environmental, economic and recreational/social considerations to ensure open space will meet the needs of the local and wider community in future.

2.2 BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

This plan takes the approach that open space and recreation is highly valued by and is a benefit to the community and individuals, and so is worth protecting and providing. Recent initiatives overseas and in Australia have attempted to quantify the benefits of open space and recreation to the community as outlined below.

2.2.1 Personal and individual benefits

Recreation and physical activities may:

- ❑ improve physical fitness through exercise and development of skills and co-ordination.
- ❑ reduce physical health problems, including cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure and lower back pain.
- ❑ improve psychological wellbeing through relaxation and recreation, contact with nature, reducing stress, and increasing self-esteem and self-confidence. There are also intangible benefits such as wellbeing, happiness, relaxation, enjoyment, satisfaction and spiritual experiences through participation in sport and recreation. Open space also provides opportunities for enjoying quiet personal space and relief from urban environments.
- ❑ contribute to human development, through experiencing risks and challenges, developing independence and self-awareness, exploring new things, expressing creativity, interacting with different people, and developing spatial awareness.
- ❑ influence the decision about where to live.

2.2.2 Social and community benefits

Recreation and physical activities can:

- ❑ strengthen social bonds at the national level (such as through the success of Australia's sporting teams) and local community level (through socialising, community development, and involvement of volunteers in recreation and sport).
- ❑ maintain and strengthen family relationships through joint involvement in recreation and sporting activities.
- ❑ lessen the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Open space may:

- ❑ contribute to self-sufficient neighbourhoods.
- ❑ provide unique neighbourhood character.
- ❑ be a venue for community gatherings.

2.2.3 Environmental benefits

Parks and open spaces may:

- ❑ protect habitats, refuges and linkages for flora and fauna, particularly rare and endangered species.
- ❑ protect natural environments for physical activity and visual pleasure.
- ❑ define urban form.
- ❑ contribute to environmental quality through improved air and water quality, biodiversity and reduced buildup of heat in urban areas.
- ❑ increase environmental awareness through education.
- ❑ encourage people to walk and cycle rather than using cars, which improves air quality.
- ❑ provide visual relief and a green buffer from urban development.
- ❑ protect significant heritage sites.
- ❑ protect water supply catchments.
- ❑ control flows and filter nutrients from floodwaters and runoff.
- ❑ act as a carbon sink and absorb greenhouse gases.

2.2.4 Economic benefits

Open spaces and recreation activities result in:

- ❑ economic benefits from the development of recreation and sport facilities, production and sale of related goods and services, and employment of people in the recreation and sport industry.
- ❑ significant savings in health costs, allowing such funds to be redirected into other areas of health services.
- ❑ attraction of participants and officials for sporting events and recreation activities.
- ❑ attraction of tourists to coastal reserves and foreshores.
- ❑ increased property values adjacent to or near parks and open space, resulting in a better environment for the property owner and higher land tax contributions to the community.
- ❑ improved work performance and productivity, decreased absenteeism and staff turnover, and reduced work accidents.
- ❑ a “quality of life” which attracts new residents and businesses to an area and retains financial investment in the area.

2.3 PLANNING APPROACHES

Key planning principles that are adopted in this assessment that are reflected in the future planning and provision of open space and recreation in the Clarence Valley are outlined below.

2.3.1 Recreation opportunity spectrum

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is an outdoor recreation planning tool that recognises that the recreational needs of a community are most likely to be satisfied if a range of recreational experiences are provided through a range of settings (Clarke and Stankey, 1979).

2.3.2 Needs-based provision

Standards for provision of open space based on population were first thought to have been applied by the American Park and Outdoor Art Association in 1901, which recommended provision of open space at the rate of 5 acres (2 hectares) per 1,000 population (Veal, 2008). The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) in the UK first proposed that 7 acres (2.83 hectares) per 1,000 population was a desirable standard for provision of open space, although this figure does not include open space settings and facilities such as outdoor sport facilities, nature conservation areas, ornamental gardens and parks, golf courses, water areas, indoor sport and fitness facilities, or commercial entertainment and theme parks.

Planners in Australia adopted the UK standard of 2.83 hectares per 1,000 people in the 1940s despite little relevant or justifiable evidence (Veal, 2008). More recent attempts by Australian organizations such as the National Capital Development Commission and South Australian Urban Land Trust to develop a more robust standard resulted in guidelines of four to seven hectares per 1,000 people (excluding natural areas and metropolitan parks). If provision of open space in the Clarence Valley was assessed only using these guidelines, then it appears that the Valley is relatively oversupplied in terms of open space (refer to Section 3) when this may not be the case.

The limitations of open space standards have been well documented by many commentators since the 1970s. Such limitations include that quantity of open space does not always equate with quality or appropriate distribution and location, recreation and open space needs of unique communities are ignored, and that a British standard developed in the 1930s has no relevance to Australia 70 years later. Despite these limitations, open space standards are still referred to in planning documents such as Section 94 contributions plans, and by the NSW Land and Environment Court.

Veal (2008) observes that although a numerical standard provides a benchmark by which to consider the adequacy of open space, provision of open space should be assessed on a needs basis and quality of open space should be considered consistent with its designated purpose. In recent years efforts have been made in Australia and the United States to encourage planners to not use standards and to use a needs-based approach to open space and recreation provision instead. The needs-based approach takes into account factors such as social and demographic characteristics of the community being planned for, and needs for open space and recreation expressed through means such as consultation and usage patterns.

2.3.3 Guidelines for and design of open space

Australian Model Code for Residential Development (AMCORD) was produced to assist practitioners to advance the planning, design, assessment, and implementation of low-rise residential housing. The objective of AMCORD for public open space is to provide a range of

recreation settings and adequate facilities to meet the needs of the community, as reflected by indicators such as population density and demographic structure.

This objective can be achieved by providing public open space consistent with:

- ❑ an approved strategy or plan.
- ❑ meeting the statutory requirements of State and local authorities.
- ❑ criteria for various hierarchies of open space (refer to Section 3).

Other guidelines for planning and design of open space in residential areas have been produced by Landcom (2008) and the Premier's Council for Active Living (2010).

2.3.4 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles aim to minimise opportunities for anti-social behaviour in Council recreation facilities and parks, and maximise the perception of safety of users and the community. Implementation of CPTED principles involves:

- ❑ fostering a strong sense of identity and community ownership of parks.
- ❑ improving security lighting in high-use areas and along major pedestrian pathways.
- ❑ maximising casual surveillance from surrounding areas.
- ❑ providing controlled access points, and directional signage.
- ❑ providing clear pathways to and within parks.

2.3.5 Planning for climate change

Changes in the world climate have occurred in the last 150 years since greenhouse gases have been released from widespread industrialisation. Since that time climate change has and will continue to result in further increased average temperatures in Australia (less than 1°C per annum in coastal areas by 2030) and a rise in sea level up to 59cm by 2100.

By 2030 the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change forecasts changes such as decreases in streamflows meaning less water for natural ecosystems, increased intensity of rainstorms resulting in flooding, and an increased number of extreme fire danger days in south-east Queensland and New South Wales. Average annual rainfall in south-west Queensland and NSW is expected to slightly decline by 2030. These changes have implications for management of coastal, foreshore and natural open spaces.

2.3.6 Water Sensitive Urban Design

Management of the water cycle is an important consideration for urban development. Water cycle management covers drinking water, stormwater runoff, waterway health, sewage treatment, and recycling. Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) integrates water cycle management into urban and open space planning and design.

Key principles of WSUD are to:

- ❑ protect natural systems.
- ❑ integrate stormwater treatment into the landscape.
- ❑ protect water quality.
- ❑ reduce runoff and peak flows.
- ❑ minimise the cost of drainage infrastructure.

2.4 RECREATION INDUSTRY TRENDS

Issues and trends in the recreation industry affecting planning and management of recreation and open space include:

- ❑ increasing recognition of the need for balance in the provision of 'structured' and 'unstructured' recreation. This is reflected, for example, in the widespread development of bicycle and walking trails and leisure pools rather than concentrating on sporting facilities.
- ❑ the widespread adoption of 'access for all' principles in open space and recreation facility planning, design and construction.
- ❑ increasing recognition that safe, accessible and visually attractive recreation facilities and open spaces will encourage and promote more active lifestyles.
- ❑ recreation providers are finding many constraints to providing more recreation opportunities due to shortage of land, and limited resources. More resources are being directed towards improving the quality of recreation facilities and spaces to increase their use capacity, rather than developing new spaces and facilities.
- ❑ escalating public liability insurance costs are a significant cost for sporting and community organisations, which are affecting the viability of the groups, and their ability to organise events. There has been a recent shift from the public winning cases against Councils for injuries sustained in Council-owned and managed open space towards the courts taking a view towards taking personal responsibility for actions that lead to injuries. As such, high risk activities are no longer readily accepted by open space and recreation managers. An increasingly litigious society has forced recreation managers to require increasing risk insurance, and costs have increased significantly.
- ❑ the role of local government in managing recreation and sport is changing as follows:
 - trend away from government provision towards Councils to contract out the delivery of leisure services to commercial and community organisations.
 - increasing levels of professionalism are required for the management of sporting activities, facilities and events due to risk management requirements.
 - pressure to do more with less funding and staff. Council budgets for recreation and open space rarely increase in real terms.
 - increasing onus on local government to implement Commonwealth initiatives and programs, such as Active Australia.
 - an increasing move towards 'user pays' for participation in recreation activities.

- ❑ there is a trend away from single-purpose or dedicated facilities towards shared or multi-use facilities. Construction of multi-purpose recreation complexes, combining facilities for indoor sport, weights and fitness training, swimming and other recreation activities. Such facilities are increasingly being funded and/or operated by the private sector. This results in less duplication of facilities, more sustainable assets in the longer term, and streamlined management.
- ❑ an increasing number of facilities are being constructed or upgraded with synthetic surfaces.
- ❑ there is a growing awareness of the need for a “whole-of-life” approach to facility development and asset management.
- ❑ due to the increase in the number of leisure activities available being participated in, there is fierce competition for the “leisure dollar”. Recreation providers can no longer rely on “walk-ins”, with facility management now more business-like to attract and retain customers.
- ❑ financial resources are becoming increasingly limited. Facilities previously funded by one organisation are now provided by partnerships between various types of organisations including State government, local government, the private sector and user groups.
- ❑ on-going pressures to charge users for traditionally free or low-cost subsidised services to cover the costs of provision, or “user pays”.
- ❑ perceptions and incidences of crime are guiding design of recreation spaces, particularly through adopting Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- ❑ drought conditions and water shortages are encouraging Councils to adopt Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles in recreation and open space design.
- ❑ communities and interest groups are increasingly demanding to be consulted, and are less tolerant of disruption to residential amenity brought about by sport or recreation developments. Such disruptions include noise and traffic impacts caused by large spectator events or regular sporting competitions, and impacts from night lighting associated with sporting activities.

2.5 FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

A comprehensive framework of legislation, plans and policies at all levels of government affect the provision, use and management of open space. The federal and NSW legislation and planning studies that form the planning framework for this assessment are outlined below in **Figure 2.2**. Further details about the documents referred to are in **Appendix A**.

2.6 STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS

2.6.1 Introduction

The context of State, regional and local strategic and operational plans are shown in **Figure 2.3**. More information about the State and regional operational plans is in **Appendix B**.

Figure 2.2 Federal and State legislation and policies

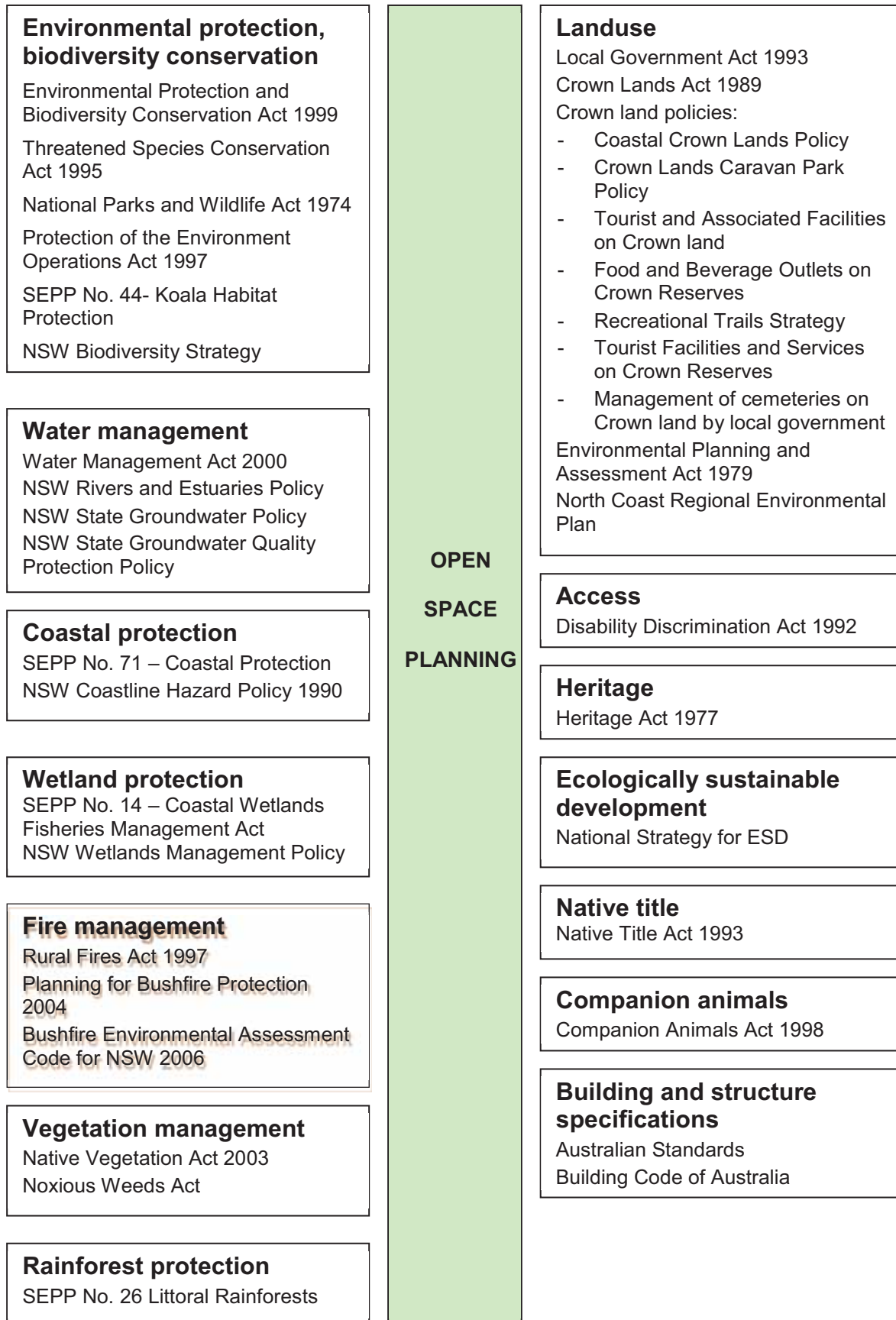
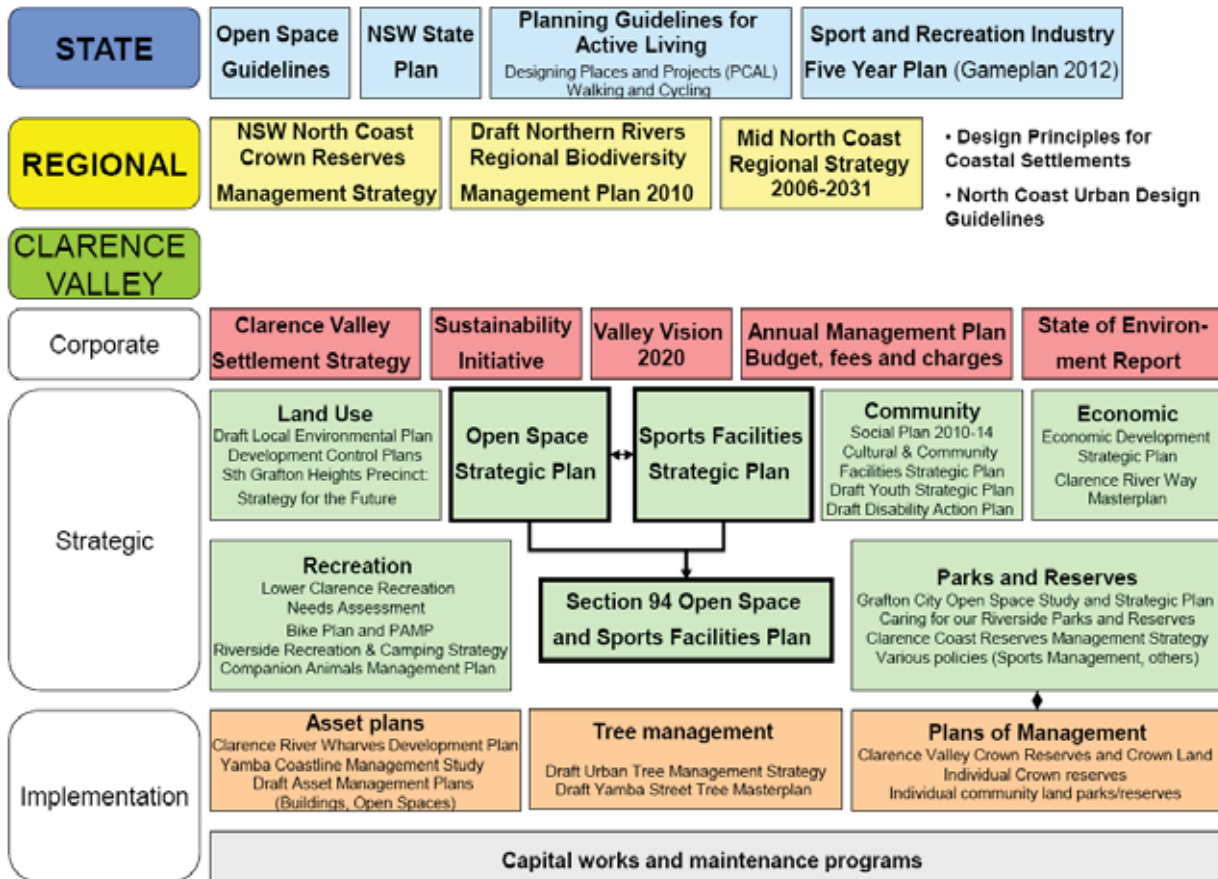


Figure 2.3 NSW, regional and local planning context



2.6.2 Clarence Valley Council plans

The context of Clarence Valley's corporate, strategic and operational/implementation plans were shown in **Figure 2.3** and are outlined below.

Corporate plans

Sustainability Initiative and Valley Vision

Preparation of Council's Sustainability Initiative (Clarence Valley Council, 2006) involved identifying what Clarence Valley values as a community, and setting up a framework for engaging in behaviour that ensures these values can continue for future generations. In practice, the Sustainability Initiative ensures potential and likely impacts on present and future generations and the environment are integral in Council's planning, decision making and actions. The aim is for continual improvement of assessment and decision making, with an emphasis on positive outcomes for the natural environment and community wellbeing. Two years later the Valley Vision was prepared, which follows on from the Sustainability Initiative.

Council's vision (Clarence Valley Council, 2008) is:

A sustainable Clarence Valley: *Life in the Clarence Valley, now and in the future, is based on a culture of living sustainably that protects and carefully utilises the natural environment, its beauty and resources, our cultural heritage and unique identity of our valley and its communities.*

Consistent with the vision, Council's mission is to co-operatively plan for and achieve on behalf of the Clarence Valley community:

- ❑ protection of ecological systems.
- ❑ positive social and community development.
- ❑ cultural diversity, expression and creativity.
- ❑ economic prosperity and efficient resource use.
- ❑ quality human habitat and essential services. .
- ❑ protection of our valuable natural and cultural heritage

through supportive, accountable and participatory decision-making, management and action that actively involves the wider community.

Open space planning is across the five key elements of the Valley Vision and sustainability:

- ❑ ecology
- ❑ economy
- ❑ society and culture
- ❑ human habitat
- ❑ governance.

The aims and goals associated with these elements are in **Table 2.1**.

The recommendations of this Plan are consistent with Council's vision and mission, and the Valley Vision and Sustainability Initiative.



James McIntosh Reserve, Coutts Crossing



Storey Park, Yamba

Table 2.1 Elements of the Valley Vision

Element of vision	Aim	Goals
Ecology	Our intention is to protect and maintain a robust, healthy natural environment, and visually diverse natural landscape, including the rivers, wetlands, forests, floodplain and coastline, and ecological values in our settlement areas, actively protected and cared for by our whole community, supported by effective resources and environmental education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Protecting the land ✓ Maintaining healthy waterways ✓ Protecting biodiversity
Economy	Our intention is for our community well-being and prosperity to be supported by economic activity involving meaningful paid and voluntary work, clean green industry and business, and aware consumers that use water, energy and other resources wisely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ efficient and careful resource use ✓ healthy economic activity ✓ meaningful work and employment
Society and Culture	Our intention is for our creative valley cultures, rich in history and diversity, to be supported by good information, education, health, recreation and other services, providing opportunities for quality lifestyles involving a sense of well-being in which we value our communities and each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Good community relations ✓ Creative culture and recreation ✓ Community health and wellbeing
Human Habitat	Reflects 'our intention is to live in sustainable communities, including a healthy natural environment, supported by efficient and effective essential services and transport systems, our homes and streetscapes reflecting local heritage, character and charm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ effective essential services ✓ efficient transport and access ✓ quality built environment and places.
Governance	Governance incorporates the corporate planning and management machinations of Council. The aim is to efficiently and effectively operate Council business and to plan for and manage the human, physical and financial resources of Council and the public assets for which it is responsible, using the Sustainability Principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ accountability and compliance ✓ participation and communication ✓ resourcing and support

Strategic plans

Land use plans

The Draft Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan 2010 (February 2010) sets out objectives and permissible and prohibited uses and developments in several land use zones in the Clarence Valley local government area. The relevant zones to this Plan are:

- Recreation (RE1 Public Recreation, RE2 Private Recreation).
- Environment Protection (E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves, E2 Environmental Conservation, E3 Environmental Management).
- Waterway (W1 Natural Waterways, W2 Recreational Waterways).

Specific facilities may be zoned differently, such as Grafton Showground and Grafton Racecourse and surrounding land being zoned as SP1 Special Activities.

The Development Control Plan: Development in Environmental Protection, Open Space and Special Use Zones (Clarence Valley Council 2008) outlines development controls for those zones, in terms of general controls, and particular controls relating to parking and vehicle access, sustainable water, erosion and sediment, subdivision and engineering, advertisements and advertising structures, ecotourism facilities, developing steep land, and floodplain management.

The South Grafton Heights Precinct: A Strategy for the Future (Clarence Valley Council, 2007) outlines a strategic planning context for South Grafton Heights for urban residential and rural residential development. Within the next 25 years, future development will not be limited by significant constraints on infrastructure or services, nor of physical and topographical constraints. Social and human habitat considerations (local amenity and character, land use conflicts and community expectations) present limiting factors to growth of the precinct.

The preferred growth scenario for the South Grafton Heights precinct will include a network of open spaces which retains significant vegetation while accommodating additional development. Such a network includes vegetated buffers along watercourses and non-riparian buffers containing vegetation in the landscape, and provides for improved public access for low-impact recreational pursuits.

South Grafton Industrial Precinct: Landscape Design Guidelines sets out landscape design guidelines for the South Grafton Industrial Area. The guidelines promote street tree and perimeter planting, street lighting, landscape setbacks. Design opportunities for the Council reserves include linking existing creek and vegetated corridors, integrating public access, linking residential areas with cycleways, potential recreational and green nodes on existing Council reserves.

Economic plans

The Clarence Valley Economic Development Strategic Plan (Clarence Valley Council, 2006) recognized that community facilities, including sport, recreation and national parks is one important element of infrastructure driving economic and social development in the Clarence Valley.

Strengths and characteristics of the Clarence Valley which contribute to its competitive advantage include the Clarence River, national parks, lifestyle and liveability, environment, location, and people. The strategy recommends building on the Valley's competitive advantage by facilitating development of the Valley as a region of sporting excellence by providing accommodation to support training and coaching opportunities for key sports, and developing an information package that showcases the Valley's sporting advantages and position as a sporting destination.

The Clarence River Way was identified in the Economic Development Strategic Plan as a priority project to develop world-class infrastructure and facilities to support growth of tourism, community connectivity, social infrastructure and sporting excellence within the Clarence Valley. The Clarence River Way Masterplan (Clouston Associates and SGL Consulting Group, 2009) documented the "Clarence River Way is an integrated market driven, tourist destination development initiative that aims to increase economic outcomes by linking towns and villages in the region and leveraging the Clarence Valley's unique selling points and greatest competitive advantage – the Clarence River and related built, natural and cultural attractions." Open space and sport are two of those attractions.

The most relevant Clarence River Way action plan theme is ‘A History of Play’, which is described as “in a landscape full of physical challenge and natural opportunity for fun, there has been a strong tradition of sport and games in all the communities that have lived or worked across the catchment. Many conventional sports and events continue, now with the added significance of heritage. Other contemporary recreation additions, some expensively equipped, some relying on personal endurance, bring new appreciation of the catchment and coasts’ potential.”

Relevant strategic intents in the Clarence River Way Masterplan are to:

- ❑ refocus on the Clarence River for destination development.
- ❑ develop the township hubs along the lower reaches.
- ❑ promote Yamba as the gateway port to the Clarence
- ❑ reposition Grafton as a “River City” tourist destination
- ❑ develop a Clarence River Way touring region
- ❑ develop the upper reaches of the Clarence
- ❑ develop opportunities in the Wilderness Arc.

Table 2.2 Objectives and strategies to achieve the Clarence River Way Masterplan

Components of the Masterplan	Objectives
Clarence River Identity	To establish the Clarence River and its catchment as a distinctive place on the northern coast of NSW and Australia.
Attractions/ destination development	Establish the river as the foundation asset in the Clarence Valley.
	Build upon the whole catchment including mountains, hinterland and coast.
	Cultural tourism that links to the river and reflects a sense of place.
Getting around	Establish Grafton, Maclean, Ulmarra and Yamba/Iluka as river towns that are the key tourism and service hubs for the Clarence River Way.
	Improve physical access to the river
Management/ administration and regional linkages	Improve Clarence Valley “movements”.
	Provide a co-ordinated and integrated approach to planning and management of the river

Open space plans

Lifestyle Grafton: Grafton City Open Space Plan (Sustainable Futures Australia, 2003) was prepared for Grafton City before its amalgamation with other local government areas.

Grafton City Council and the community established a vision for the Plan of “a vibrant and healthy community enjoying and co-operatively caring for our city environment”. The vision will be achieved by:

- ❑ maintaining and enhancing healthy open space landscapes, including waterways, parklands, pathways and vegetation corridors.
- ❑ developing greater environmental and cultural awareness, acknowledging diversity and respect are important keys to sustainability.
- ❑ working in partnership with stakeholders and other agencies to ensure that sustainable and equitable recreation and cultural opportunities are available.
- ❑ timely implementation of cost-effective and practical programs and actions.

- ❑ measuring our success, monitor our progress and being prepared to adapt as we need to.

Guiding principles to be applied to decision making related to open space provision and management are to:

- ❑ provide rational and functional distribution of open space throughout Grafton City.
- ❑ promote equity and fairness in the provision and use of open space and facilities.
- ❑ encourage partnerships, alliances and community involvement for effective management and use of open space areas and facilities.
- ❑ identify and apply sustainability principles in our open space management approach.
- ❑ remain open to ideas and change, taking advantage of opportunities that arise.

These principles will apply to all six key goals to deal with the issues and challenges identified by Council and the community to realise the vision, which are:

1. Adequate open space: to provide adequate open space, both in quantity (area of open space, number of facilities available) and quality (type, attractiveness, condition, usability and accessibility), now and in the future. Location, size, design and maintenance are also important considerations.
2. Provide for a range of uses: provide open space for a wide range of uses to meet recognised existing and likely future community needs.
3. Protect open space values: protect the range of recognised open space values.
4. Multiple and integrated use: promote multiple and integrated use of open space.
5. Co-operative management: Develop co-operative and integrated management of open space.
6. Efficient and effective management: Ensure efficient and effective management of open space and use of management resources.

The key elements of the concept plan for Grafton City to realize the vision are the water, plants and nature's habitat, culture, recreation and the arts, and the people. The main "ingredients" of the concept plan are:

- ❑ Grafton as a prosperous regional centre, a "city of trees", a place of art and culture, of high standard sporting facilities, colourful parks and gardens, heritage buildings and streetscapes, and its location on the "Big River".
- ❑ caring for our living landscapes (habitat and vegetation corridors, Clarence River regional corridor and other riparian corridors, streetscapes and road reserves, parks gardens and sportsgrounds, special places and heritage sites).
- ❑ sharing and reconciling our indigenous Aboriginal and multi-cultural relationships cultures.
- ❑ new and improved parks and places.
- ❑ more and quality sport.
- ❑ safe enjoyable cycle and walking paths.
- ❑ public art in public spaces and sculptured street furnishings.
- ❑ creative gateways to the City.
- ❑ scenic railway and road corridors.

- ❑ crossing the river different ways.
- ❑ leaders, champions and solid partners.
- ❑ attitude of excellence and quality lifestyle.
- ❑ resources to make it happen.
- ❑ a sustainable city ethic.
- ❑ a visual concept plan.

The Grafton plan includes City-wide and precinct-based strategies and actions which have been carried over to this Plan where appropriate.

The Clarence Coast Reserves Management Strategy (Maclean Shire Council, 2002) defines values of Crown reserves on the Clarence Coast at Iluka, Yamba, Angourie, Wooloweyah, Maclean, Brooms Head, Lawrence and Brushgrove, as well as management strategies and actions.

Caring for our riverside parks and reserves: a strategy for managing riverside recreation and riparian vegetation (Succession Planning and Clarence Valley Council, 2009) sets out the priorities and directions for protection and enhancement of natural vegetation, as well as priorities and directions for provision and management of recreation opportunities on 26 Council-managed riverside parks and reserves on rivers upstream of Grafton.

Recreation

The Lower Clarence Recreation Needs Assessment (Parkland Environmental Planners and Strategic Leisure Pty Ltd, 2006) detailed the current and proposed future supply of open space and recreation facilities, and the expected demand for recreation opportunities to 2016. Key findings were the lack of recreation opportunities for young people, and the need for an indoor sport/recreation facility in Yamba. Again, recommended actions in that Plan have been carried over to this Plan where they are relevant to open space.

The Clarence Valley Bike Plan and Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (QED Pty Ltd, 2008) sets out a five-year action plan for walking and cycling networks for the larger population and service centres of Grafton, South Grafton, Yamba and Maclean. The plan reflects Council's commitment to long term planning for pedestrian and cycling access and mobility by establishing principles, guidelines and criteria for walking, cycling and mobility. A hierarchy of cycle routes ranges from local and general access routes, recreational / off-road routes, to a regional cycling route linking Iluka, Yamba, Maclean, Lawrence, Grafton and South Grafton to the Pacific Highway.

The Companion Animals Management Plan (Clarence Valley Council, 2006) sets out guidelines for and designates approved areas for unleashed dog exercise areas.

Environment

Council's Biodiversity Management Strategy 2010 outlines how Council will lead by example to protect and enhance biodiversity in accordance with its vision for a sustainable Clarence Valley.

Other relevant open spaces/landscape strategies are the Draft Urban Tree Management Strategy and the Draft Yamba Street Tree Masterplan.

Community plans

Council's community plans which indirectly relate to open space are:

- Cultural and Community Facilities Plan (SGS Economics and Planning, 2009).
- Social Plan 2010-14 (Clarence Valley Council, 2010).
- Draft Youth Strategic Plan 2011 (Clarence Valley Council, 2011).
- Draft Disability Action Plan (Clarence Valley Council, 2011).

Implementation plans

Plans of Management have been prepared for numerous individual parks and reserves by Clarence Valley Council and the previous Councils. Those plans outline action plans to improve those parks and reserves.

The Disability Action Plan 2011-2016 for Clarence Valley outlines actions to assist people with disabilities use public spaces.

Relevant asset management plans include:

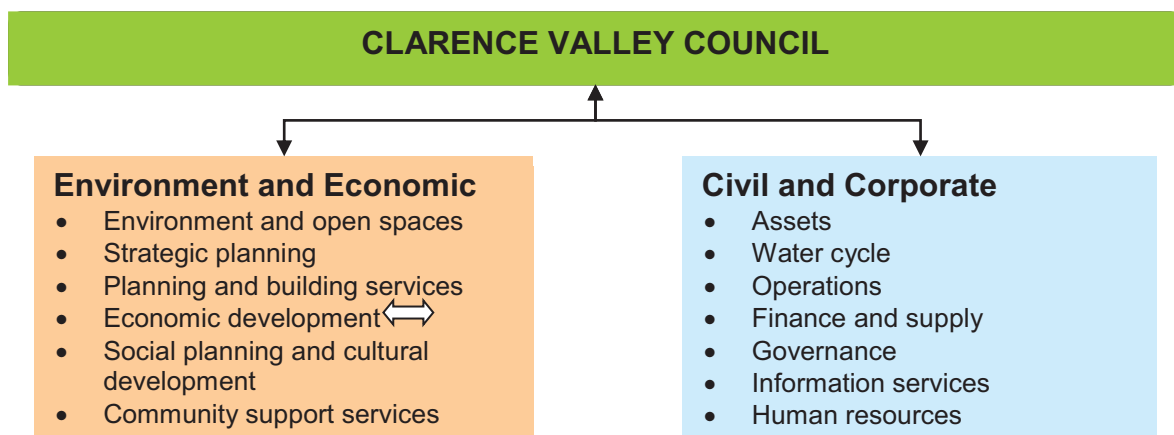
- Draft Asset Management Plan (Buildings)
- Draft Open Spaces Asset Management Plan.
- Clarence River Wharves Development Plan.
- Yamba Coastline Management Study.

Relevant policies for management and maintenance of open space in Clarence Valley include:

- Sports Management Policy.
- Draft Urban Tree Management Policy.
- Footpath and Cycleway Maintenance Policy.
- Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and Bike Plan.

2.7 OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

Open space is managed across several units and offices of Clarence Valley Council.



Council delegates responsibility for management of some of its parks, reserves and sports grounds and fields to Management Committees under Section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. These Committees provide a useful and site-specific forum for engaging key sporting and recreation user groups and advising Council on open space needs.

Council operates two Sports Councils as Section 355 Committees of Council. The Lower Clarence Sports Council, based in the former Maclean local government area, has been operating for many years. The Clarence Sports Council was established in June 2009 to advise Council on the sporting needs of the former Grafton City, Copmanhurst Shire and Pristine Waters LGA.

2.8 PLANNING AREAS

For the purposes of assessing supply of and demand for open space in this Plan, the Clarence Valley LGA is split into 9 small areas as defined in Council's Community Profile (id.consulting Pty Ltd, 2008).



Each small area, and their characteristics, is outlined below.

Table 2.3 Characteristics of small areas in the Clarence Valley

Small area	Area characteristics	Boundaries	Settlement history	Land use	Major features
Grafton	Predominantly residential	Carr Street/Duke Street to the north; Clarence River to east, south and west	From the 1830s. Village formed in 1850s. Major settlement and commercial centre. Significant post-war development.	Timber getting Grazing Ship building Sugar cane farms Dairy farms Nearby gold discoveries	Grafton Base Hospital Grafton Shoppingworld Grafton Mall TAFE North Coast Institute (Grafton Campus) Schaeffer House Museum Grafton Regional Gallery Grafton Racecourse Grafton Golf Club Susan Island Nature Reserve See Park Arboretum Fisher Park / Grafton Skate Park Various schools
South Grafton	Residential and industrial. Rural land in south and west	Clarence River to north, rail line/Through Street/Heber Street/Pacific Highway/Swallow Road to east, Rural Southwest to the south, Grafton Surrounds to the west. Includes Balwarra Heights, Southhampton, Rushforth, Hawthorneville, Bellevue Heights.	From the late 1830s. Growth in 1860s-1870s. Significant post-war development.	Timber getting Grazing Dairying Sugarcane farms	South Grafton Aerodrome South Grafton Golf Course Hawthorne Rodeo Park McKittrick Park Several schools
Grafton surrounds	Predominantly rural	Grafton and South Grafton small areas.	From the late 1830s. Growth minimal until 1860s. Significant post-war development.	Timber getting Dairying Agriculture Sugarcane farms	Grafton Airport Villages of Coutts Crossing, Waterview Heights, Junction Hill, Tucabia, Ulmarra.

Small area	Area characteristics	Boundaries	Settlement history	Land use	Major features
Iluka-Woombah	Predominantly rural. Township of Iluka, small village of Woombah, several rural localities.	Richmond Valley LGA in north; Coral Sea to the east; Clarence River in the south; Pacific Highway in the west.	From the late 1830s. Minimal growth until 1860s with population increase continuing in 1870s and 1880s. Iluka became an important fishing port in late 1880s. Significant post-war development aided by tourism. Slight increase in population since early 1990s from new dwellings.	Timber getting Agriculture	Bundjalung National park Iluka Nature Reserve Iluka Bluff (lookout, whale watching platform) Iluka Golf Course Woombah Coffee Plantation Iluka Rotary International Park Iluka-Yamba Ferry One school
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	Township of Yamba, village of Angourie, small village of Wooloweyah.	Clarence River in the north; coral sea to the east; Angourie Road/ Deering Street / Goldings Street / urban area to the south; Oyster Channel in the west.	From the late 1830s. Growth minimal until 1850s when shipping pilot station established at Yamba. Some growth in 1860s, with more in 1880s and 1890s as Yamba became popular as a seaside resort. Growth continued in 1900s. Significant post-war development, especially from late 1960s aided by growth in tourism. Substantial population increase during 1990s as a result of new dwellings.	Timber getting	Port of Yamba Yamba Marina Yamba Fair Shopping Centre Yamba Plaza Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex Yamba Country Golf Course Pilot station lighthouse Iluka-Yamba ferry Various beaches Blue Pool and Green Pool Yamba Rock Pool Clarence Estuary Nature Reserve Ford Park
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Township of Maclean, small township of Gulmarrad, small village of Townsend		From the late 1860s. Some growth in late 1800s when Maclean became service centre. Significant post-war growth. Increase in population since early 1990s from new dwellings.	Farming Sugar cane growing	Maclean District Hospital TAFE North Coast Institute (Maclean Campus) Wherrett Park Sporting Complex Scottish Cairn Bicentennial Museum Maclean Golf Course Maclean Showground Pinnacle Rock Rainforest Flora and Fauna Reserve Maclean Lookout A number of schools

Small area	Area characteristics	Boundaries	Settlement history	Land use	Major features
Rural Coast	Rural. Small riverside villages of Lawrence, Cowper, Brushgrove, Harwood. Coastal villages of Brooms Head, Diggers Camp, Minnie Water, Sandon, Wooli.	Richmond Valley LGA in the north; Pacific Highway, Clarence River, Coral Sea in the east; Coffs Harbour City in the south; Pacific Highway/Eight Mile Lane/Coldstream River/Coldstream Road/Clarence River/Sportsmans Creek, Gurrang and Banyabba in the west.	From the late 1860s. Growth in 1870s and 1880s aided by establishment of sugar mill in Harwood. Significant post-war growth. Increase in population since early 1990s from new dwellings. Population and dwelling stock stable between 2001 and 2006.	Farming Sugarcane growing	Yuraygir National Park Solitary Islands Marine Park Harwood Sugar Mill Kooyong State Recreation Area Yaegl Nature Reserve Woodford Island Nature Reserve A number of schools
Rural Southwest	Rural. State Forest and National Park, farming and agriculture	Boyd River, Old Glen Innes Road, Orara River, Rushforth, Boundary Road and Old Lilypool Road in the north; Pacific Highway in the east; Coffs Harbour City and Bellingen Shire in the south; Guyra Shire in west.	From the 1830s. Some growth in late 1800s. Significant post-war development. Population increase since early 1990s	Timber getting Gold Dairying and agriculture Coal mining in Nymboida	Villages of Glenreagh, Braunstone, Halfway Creek/Lanitza, Tyringham, Cluds Creek, Dundurrabin, Nymboida. Numerous rural localities. Chaelundi National Park Guy Fawkes National Park Nyboi-Binderay National Park Nymboida Canoe Centre Sherwood Nature Reserve
Rural Northwest	Rural. State Forests and National parks in the west. Remainder of land used mainly for farming, including grazing.	Kyogle and Richmond Valley LGAs in the north; Gibberagee, Lawrence, Sportsman's Creek, Clarence River and Orara River in the east; Old Glenn Innes Road/Old Grafton Road in the south; Glen Innes Severn and Tenterfield LGAs in the south.	From the 1830s. Growth in the late 1800s. Significant post-war development.	Timber getting Pastoral Gold and tin mining	Villages of Copmanhurst, Jackadgery, Alice, Bayulgil, Coaldale, Dalmorton, Newton Boyd. Fortis Creek National Park Gibraltar Range National Park Mount Pikapene National Park Nymboida National Park Ramornie National Park Washpool National Park Banyabba Nature Reserve Burnt Down Scrub Nature Reserve Various State Forests

Source: Clarence Valley Council (2010)

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3 SUPPLY OF OPEN SPACE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines existing and planned open space and recreational facilities in the Clarence Valley to provide a strong basis for understanding current provision.

Information for this section was obtained from previous studies, field inspections, Council databases and GIS maps, and community directories.

3.2 SUPPLY OF OPEN SPACE

3.2.1 Ownership and management

Introduction

The Clarence Valley is well provided for in terms of the quantum of open space available, primarily due to numerous National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Forests located within the LGA. Although difficult to quantify, in broad terms public open space comprises a significant proportion of the Clarence Valley's land area.

This plan is primarily focused on the open space and recreational facilities that are owned by Clarence Valley Council, or those for which Council has responsibility for care, control and management. Open spaces and facilities provided by other government and private organisations are included in this section for contextual purposes, recognising that all open space and recreation resources irrespective of who owns, manages or operates them, significantly contribute to satisfying the recreation needs of Clarence Valley residents and visitors.

State government ownership of open space

The Crown and NSW Government own and control the majority of open space in the Clarence Valley. As such State government agencies are responsible for strategic planning of State public lands, and retain a principal stake where a management role or planning responsibility is devolved to the local level. The nature of open space owned and controlled by NSW government authorities is outlined below.

The **Office of Environment and Heritage (Parks and Wildlife Group) (OEH – PWG)** owns and manages several national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas in the Clarence Valley, which include Yuraygir National Park. More information about recreational opportunities available in these parks and reserves is in **Section 3.3**.

The **Department of Primary Industries - Crown Lands Division (DPI-CLD)** is responsible for the Crown Reserves system, travelling stock routes, and the Crown road network in

NSW. Crown land is managed for the people of NSW for a range of public purposes including recreation and environmental protection. Crown land is managed under a variety of mechanisms including Crown Reserve Trusts. The Minister for Primary Industries has appointed Clarence Valley Council to manage 95 Crown Reserve Trusts on behalf of the local community and the people of NSW.

DPI-CLD has traditionally been a major contributor to open space areas in NSW. The Authority controls important areas of open space in the Clarence Valley LGA, as well as controls some key areas of land that have strategic regional importance for future development.

DPI-CLD recognises the importance of the provision of open space to the community, and supports appropriately-identified Crown lands continuing to be available for this purpose. However the availability of State-owned assets as part of Council's local open space network cannot be guaranteed in the long term.

DPI-CLD are currently engaged in a major rationalisation and disposal program for the Crown road network which has major implications for access and local open space planning in rural areas.

Examples of Crown land in the Clarence Valley are Wooloweyah Foreshore Reserve, and James Cartmill Park at Nymboida.

Forests NSW primarily manage State Forests under the NSW *Forestry Act 1916* for timber production, but a key objective of the Act is also to promote and encourage the use of State Forests for recreation. Some State Forests in the Clarence Valley are recreation and tourism resources because they are accessible to the public for a range of outdoor recreation activities such as walking and camping.

Department of Education and Training (DET) owns land occupied by schools and TAFE colleges in the Clarence Valley. Many public (and private) schools in the Clarence Valley also offer open spaces and recreation facilities which supplement Council-owned or managed facilities, including sporting fields, sports courts, indoor halls / gymnasiums and children's play equipment. Sporting facilities on school land are included in the Sports Facilities Plan.

Schools such as Yamba Public School and Maclean High School allow public access to their hall outside school hours. Several schools have children's play equipment and fitness equipment to which the public is not permitted access outside school hours.

Popular activities in school playgrounds as reported by the schools include field sport (cricket, soccer, touch football, rugby league / union), court sports (basketball, netball, and tennis) and marbles, skipping and handball.

Access by clubs and the general public to school recreational facilities outside school hours is limited according to each school's policy. Access to the facilities offered by private schools are often more restricted than access to public school facilities. Open space in the form of sporting fields, courts and paved areas on public school land has not readily been available for public use in recent years due to insurance and liability issues, and vandalism and anti-social behaviour. However agreements with school principals to use such facilities can be made according to the Department's Community Use of School Facilities Policy (2009). Opportunities for the community to share school facilities are outlined in **Section 7**.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) owns Jackadgery Public Reserve (15 hectares of open space on the Mann River), and numerous road reserves.

Clarence Valley Council

Notwithstanding the extensive open space owned and controlled by the State government outlined above, Clarence Valley Council provides and manages significant open spaces and recreation opportunities for both residents and visitors in the Valley. Council has the responsibility for managing 740 parks, reserves, cemeteries and sportgrounds in the Clarence Valley, either as land owner or manager. Council's Water Cycle section manages the land surrounding and including Shannon Creek Dam near Coutts Crossing.

Adjoining Councils

Clarence Valley residents also have access to a range of recreational opportunities and open space in adjoining areas, particularly regional sporting facilities (such as sports stadiums) in Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Ballina.

Private ownership

Private organisations own recreation facilities and open space in their own right. Private facilities complement rather than replicate public open space provision in Clarence Valley. Such facilities and areas are open to members of their organisations and others, depending on the policies of each organisation. Privately owned recreation facilities in the Clarence Valley include:

- ❑ indoor sports facilities / gyms, including Grafton Indoor Cricket Centre and Yamba Squash Centre.
- ❑ Harwood Oval, owned by Harwood Sugar Mill, and which is primarily used for cricket.
- ❑ registered clubs including lawn bowling clubs and services clubs. In addition, clubs such as the Maclean and Lower Clarence Services Club offer activities such as darts, fishing, cricket, and kickboxing for members and guests.
- ❑ golf courses including South Grafton and Maclean.
- ❑ hotels (snooker tables, darts etc.). The Yamba Shores Tavern incorporates children's play equipment.
- ❑ private schools, which in some cases are self-supporting in terms of sporting facilities and other open space.

Many residents also have recreational facilities and spaces on their own properties, such as swimming pools, tennis courts, children's play equipment and play space.



Yamba Shores Tavern playground



Harwood Oval

Management and use agreements

Management and use agreements between Council and open space user groups include:

- ❑ Community Management Committees also known as Section 355 Committees under the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- ❑ Leases.
- ❑ Licenses for non-exclusive use.
- ❑ Temporary licences.
- ❑ Seasonal hire.
- ❑ Casual hire.

Grazing licences / permissive occupancies apply to land including Cangai Public Recreation Reserve, Chambigne Public Reserve, and Hawthorne Park (for the Grafton Pony Club).

3.2.2 Quantity of open space

The open space owned and managed by Clarence Valley Council by small area and on a population basis is shown in **Table 3.1**.

3.2.3 Categorisation of open space

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that community land is to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- ❑ Natural Area (further sub-categorised as Bushland, Wetland, Escarpment, Watercourse or Foreshore).
- ❑ Park.
- ❑ Sportsground.
- ❑ Area of Cultural Significance.
- ❑ General Community Use.

Table 3.1 Provision of open space by small area in Clarence Valley

Small area	Town / village	Total open space (ha) 2010	Total open space by village	No. people 2006 by town /village where available	No. people 2006 by small area	Estimated resident population 2009	Open space per 1,000 people (ha) 2006
Grafton	Grafton	47.88		9,963			4.8
TOTAL		47.88		9,963	9,963		4.8
South Grafton	South Grafton	88.65		6,279			14.1
TOTAL		88.65		6,279	6,279		14.1
Grafton surrounds	Alumy Creek	0.00					
	Clarenza	0.86					
	Coutts Crossing	35.73		567			63.0
	Elland	8.40					
	Glenugie	0.12					
	Great Marlow	1.91					
	Junction Hill	40.21		1,018			39.5
	Koolkhan	0.40					
	Mountain View	13.30					
	Mylneford	0.00					
	Swan Creek	0.10					
	Trenayr	0.00					
	Tucabia	18.69		255			73.3
	Ulmarra	5.00		443			11.3
Waterview Heights Seelands Eatonsville	26.92	11.96 0.74 14.22	2,017			13.3	
TOTAL		151.64			6,266		24.2
Iluka- Woombah	Iluka	129.21		1,744			74.1
	Goodwood Island	16.10					
	Woombah	4.64					
TOTAL		149.96			2,531		59.2
Yamba- Angourie- Wooloweyah	Yamba, W. Yamba	301.54		5,509			54.7
	Angourie	35.79	23.59	602			0.0
	Wooloweyah		12.20				
TOTAL		337.33			6,120		55.1
Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad	Maclean	73.60	45.99	3,357			21.9
	Townsend Ilarwill		25.85 1.76				
	Gulmarrad	8.86		806			11.0
TOTAL		82.46			4,163		19.8
Rural Coast	Ashby	36.74					
	Brooms Head	33.62		244			137.8
	Brushgrove	78.43	5.26	732			107.1
	Lawrence		70.66				
	Harwood		2.52				
	Calliope	0.92					
	Chatsworth Island	0.04					
	Cowper	4.05					
	Diggers Camp	19.58					
	Halfway Creek	5.69	0.68	1,074			5.3
	Lanitza		5.01				
	James Creek	0.00					
	Lower Southgate	1.30					
	Micalo Island	53.95					
	Minnie Water	158.18	72.65	719			220.0
Wooli		85.52					

Small area	Town / village	Total open space (ha) 2010	Total open space by village	No. people 2006 by town /village where available	No. people 2006 by small area	Estimated resident population 2009	Open space per 1,000 people (ha) 2006
	Palmers Island	15.87					
	Pillar Valley	0.00					
	Sandon River	3.37					
	South Arm	7.99					
	Southgate	0.67					
	Taloumbi	0.00					
	Tyndale	0.00					
	Woodford Island	38.43					
TOTAL		458.81			6,624		69.3
Rural South-West	Blaxlands Creek	0.27					
	Braunstone	0.71					
	Chambigne	3.65					
	Glenreagh	2.50		421			5.9
	Kangaroo Creek	1.03					
	Kremnos	6.89					
	Kungala	0.00					
	Nymboida	10.07					
	Shannondale	0.00					
	Tyringham	11.45	2.72	347			33.0
	Hernani		0.00				
	Dundurrabin		8.74				
TOTAL		36.57			3,616		10.1
Rural North-west	Baryulgil-Malabugilmah	0.00		221			0.0
	Bulldog	0.23					
	Cangai	52.49					
	Coaldale	27.79					
	Copmanhurst	1.32		231			5.7
	Dalmorton	0.71					
	Ewingar	2.59					
	Fine Flower	2.32					
	Gurranang	0.00					
	Jackadgery	16.00					
	Moleville Creek	3.48					
	Mororo	2.14					
	Newbold	0.00					
	Newton Boyd	4.70					
	Ramornie	0.12					
	Stockyard Creek	0.00					
	The Pinnacles	0.99					
	The Whiteman	0.71					
	Tullymorgan	3.68					
	Whiteman Creek	0.00					
	Winegrove	19.93					
TOTAL		139.20			2,602		53.5
TOTAL		1,492.50			48,164	52,054	31.0

The categorisation of open space owned and managed by Clarence Valley Council (categories have also been applied to Crown land for consistency) is shown in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2 Categories of open space by small area

Small area	Category							TOTAL
	Park	Sports-ground	Natural Area – Bushland	Natural Area – Wetland	Natural Area – Foreshore	Natural Area – Escarpment	General Community Use	
Grafton	24.6	20.8	0	0	0	0	2.4	47.9
South Grafton	24.2	56.5	0	0	0	0	7.9	88.6
Grafton Surrounds	43.0	57.9	11.1	5.8	8.8	0	25.0	151.6
Iluka-Woombah	9.3	45.8	27.7	16.1	45.9	0	5.1	150.0
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	84.1	30.4	1.9	0	205.0	0	15.9	337.3
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	9.7	22.8	21.3	0	1.6	14.3	36.8	106.5
Rural Coast	130.0	52.3	116.9	37.9	110.9	0	10.7	458.8
Rural South-West	9.0	1.3	20.1	0	0.3	0	5.9	36.6
Rural North-West	31.1	0	28.7	0	2.1	0	77.2	139.2
TOTAL	365.1	287.8	227.7	59.9	374.7	14.3	187.0	1,516.5
% of total	24%	19%	15%	4%	25%	1%	12%	100%

Note: errors due to rounding

Natural areas make up the highest proportion of open space (45%) in the Clarence Valley, followed by Park (24%) and Sportsground (19%).

3.2.4 Types of open space

Background

Under the Local Government Act community land is categorised according to its intended use and how it is intended to be managed.

Open space can also be grouped or classified according to its primary function or main purpose, while recognising there may be several secondary functions of the open space. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure's open space planning guidelines (SGS Economics and Planning and HM Leisure Planning, 2010) defines nine 'types' of open space, with examples of each 'type' as outlined below.

These functions relate to the categorisation of open space under the Local Government Act as follows.

Table 3.3 Categorisation and classification/function of open space in Clarence Valley

Categorisation ⁽¹⁾	Type ⁽²⁾
Park	Parks Urban public space Linear and linkage
Sportsground	Outdoor sports areas
Natural Area	Conservation and heritage Landscape and amenity Linear and linkage
Area of Cultural Significance	Conservation and heritage
General Community Use	Utilities and services (not in scope of this strategy)
Other	Undeveloped Proposed

Sources: (1) Local Government Act 1993

(2) (SGS Economics and Planning and HM Leisure Planning, 2010)

As Clarence Valley Council use categories of open space under the Local Government Act in its register of open space, such categorisations are used in this report.

Examples

Examples of open spaces in the Clarence Valley by categorisation are shown below.

1 Park

Also described as 'passive' open space. Reserves which have had their physical character and/or vegetation modified to support community recreation, community development and well-being.

Examples:

Informal recreation

Brushgrove Triangle



Areas that provide opportunities for a range of age groups, typically catering for play, picnics, casual sports.

Children's play

Barri Street Playground in Angourie Reserve



Areas primarily for play with no other recreation facilities provided.

Water-based recreation

Spenser Street boat ramp, Iluka



Areas providing opportunities for water based activities such as fishing, boating, swimming.

Gateway/roadside stop

Silver Jubilee Park, South Grafton



Areas located on/near main transport routes that are set aside for visitor information and short breaks for travellers.

Ornamental/botanic garden

Federation Park, Copmanhurst



Areas designed to display specific exotic flora and/or native flora and vegetation communities.

Scenic lookout

Iluka Bluff Lookout (Bundjalung National Park), Iluka



Areas providing opportunity for viewing significant landscapes.

Landscape amenity

Argyle Close, Grafton



Small areas providing visual relief from urban surroundings.

Drainage/floodway

Christopher Street Drainage Reserve, South Grafton



Areas primarily associated with the management of stormwater, floodways and water quality. Floodways are often associated with creek lines and wetlands, thereby providing benefits for flora and fauna.

Accessway/trail

Loxton Park, Yamba



Green space links or walkways. Examples include between or along streets, reserves, waterways and easements.

2 Sportsground

Venues and spaces designed to support sports training and competition.

Examples:

Sport – field

Brent Livermore Hockey Field, Grafton



Junction Hill



Areas set aside for organised field sporting activities such as soccer, cricket, netball and football.

Sport – court

Ulmarra tennis courts



Areas set aside for organised and informal court sporting activities such as tennis and netball.

Equestrian sports

Hawthorne Rodeo Park, South Grafton



Areas set aside for organised equestrian activities.

Refer also to the Sports Facilities Plan.

3 Natural area

Reserves created to protect and enhance natural resources.

Examples:

Flora and fauna conservation

Yuraygir National Park (OEH - PWG)



Bushland

Wooli



Watercourse

Clarence River, Grafton



Wetland

Cowan Pond, Waterview Heights



Escarpment

Maclean Lookout, Maclean



Foreshore

McPhersons Crossing



4 Area of cultural significance

Cultural

Herb Stanford Memorial Park, Maclean



An open space that has cultural significance to the community or sections of it.

Memorial/remembrance

End of Charles Street, Iluka



Areas dedicated to commemorating people or events.

5 General Community Use

Land on which built facilities such as bushfire sheds, public halls, community centres and the like are located.

Community facilities

Nip Welsh Memorial Park, Minnie Water



6 Other

Land which has been acquired or zoned for open space purposes to protect its assets, or to meet assessed community needs once development of an area proceeds.

Land which is proposed to be zoned or acquired for open space purposes to protect its assets or to meet assessed community needs once development of an area proceeds.

Examples:

Undeveloped open space

Poplar Drive, North Grafton



Land reserved for future open space and recreation function

Proposed open space

Junction Hill sewage treatment works land

3.2.5 Catchments of open space

Open space and recreation facilities in the Clarence Valley may be divided into the following general hierarchical categories of national/international, State, regional, district and local/neighbourhood, as follows in **Table 3.4**.

Table 3.4 Definition of open space hierarchies

Catchment	Characteristics	Examples
National/ international	Declared World Heritage Area – Gondwana Rainforests of Australia. Attracts visitors from all over Australia and from overseas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Iluka Littoral Rainforest <input type="checkbox"/> National Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Angourie National Surfing Reserve
State	Of significance to the State of NSW	<input type="checkbox"/> Clarence River <input type="checkbox"/> Nymboida canoeing/rafting/kayaking
Regional	A facility or space which has the potential to attract a significant proportion of its users from the local government area in which it is located, or one that users are prepared to travel a considerable distance to from within a large and dispersed local government area such as Clarence Valley. Regional facilities and spaces can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> substantial in size, with high standard of quality and a wide range of amenities. <input type="checkbox"/> smaller, drawing from a wide catchment area due to unique values, attractions and events. <input type="checkbox"/> the only facility catering for a certain activity in the LGA. <input type="checkbox"/> National Parks and State Forests. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yuraygir and Bundjalung National Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Main Beach, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Wherrett Park, Maclean <input type="checkbox"/> Brooms Head Foreshore Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Fisher Park sporting facilities, Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Market Square, Grafton

Catchment	Characteristics	Examples
District	<p>District open space serve a major town or urban area, or a small area planning district.</p> <p>They are well known and visible destinations and are more commonly located on a major or secondary road. Such spaces are not necessarily within walking distance of all houses.</p> <p>Most users would not walk or drive more than 15 or 20 minutes to get there.</p> <p>Catchment varies according to function. Passive and informal recreation areas will predominantly draw users from a smaller catchment than district sporting areas which could have the capacity to draw users from beyond the LGA and/or attract larger numbers of users due to their size, standard of competition played there, uniqueness, quality / standard, location or accessibility.</p> <p>Due to the diversity of opportunities available longer stays are expected.</p> <p>The character of district open space and recreation facilities will vary in degree of development – according to function (sport or unstructured recreation) and/or mix of landscape elements (natural area, trees, gardens, play facilities, sports facilities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Oval <input type="checkbox"/> Island End Reserve, Brushgrove <input type="checkbox"/> Woombah Recreation Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Iluka Bay Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka <input type="checkbox"/> James McIntosh Reserve, Coutts Crossing.
Local / neighbour-hood	<p>A small facility or space which primarily caters for local communities within easy and safe walking distance of up to 500 metres or a few minutes' drive of the majority of households within the catchment. In rural residential areas it is not expected, required or realistic to have a local park within walking distance of all residences.</p> <p>Use of such spaces would be frequent generally daily or weekly.</p> <p>Depending on their function local spaces would provide opportunities for basic play, informal recreation / games and perhaps some natural features.</p> <p>Local parks typically have a low carrying capacity.</p> <p>Generally smaller and of lower standard compared to district and regional facilities.</p> <p>Less developed.</p> <p>Located in a lower profile location or residential area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Durrington Park, South Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Westringia Park, West Yamba

3.2.6 Size

The size of Council-owned and managed open space areas in the Clarence Valley varies greatly. Generally, there are a large number of small open spaces, and a small number of large open spaces.

Large open spaces in the Clarence Valley include Fisher Park, Maclean Showground; Wherrett Park in Maclean, Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex, Grafton Racecourse, Hawthorne Park, and beach, foreshore and headland reserves. Smaller local parks can have limited value for recreation and other values of open space.

3.2.7 Quality and appearance of open space

The quality of recreation settings and facilities affects their use, as people are increasingly demanding quality facilities and spaces for recreation.

The general quality of Council-owned and managed recreation facilities and open space in the Clarence Valley in March 2010 is generally considered to be “adequate” to “very good”. However, from the site inspections:

- ❑ park maintenance could be improved.
- ❑ some quality facilities (such as a regional children’s playground) could be installed.
- ❑ the attractiveness and use of many parks could be improved with some relatively minor improvements, such as shade, access for people with disabilities, upgraded park furniture, and landscaping.

Open spaces constructed on landfill, and will most likely experience settlement over time, include Pioneer Park, Volkers Park and North Park in Grafton.

3.3 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Clarence Valley offers a wide variety of open space and recreation opportunities through the range of facilities and settings available. These opportunities are presented below.

3.3.1 Parks

General community

Informal recreation

The distribution of informal recreation facilities and settings intended for the whole community (‘family-friendly’ parks, formal gardens, picnic and barbecue areas, unleashed dog exercise areas and lookouts) in parks and open spaces by town and village is shown in **Table 3.5**.

Table 3.5 Informal open space facilities and settings in the Clarence Valley

Small area	Picnic/ barbecue areas	Stage/ Rotunda	Lookout
Grafton	Corcoran Park Jacaranda Park See Park Westward Park Fisher Park Douglas McArthur Park Queen Street Duke Street	Market Square See Park McArthur Park	-
South Grafton	Alex Bell Reserve Beresford Park JJ Lawrence Fields Lane Boulevard (incl. Rotary Park) Bob Liddiard Park Through Street Reserve	Earl Page Park Derek Palmer Place Bob Liddiard Park	-

Small area	Picnic/ barbecue areas	Stage/ Rotunda	Lookout
Grafton surrounds	McIntosh Park Eatonsville Reserve Strontian Park Barnier Park Mountain View Park Bailey Park Tucabia tennis courts/Tucabia Riverbank Reserve	-	-
Iluka-Woombah	Charlie Ryan Park Spencer Street boat ramp Woombah Park	-	-
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	Fred Phillips Park Lions Park/Yamba Oval Watonga Boat Ramp Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex Calypso Caravan Park Crystal Waters Park Flinders Park Honeyman Park	Flinders Park x 2	-
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Cameron Park Lawrence Triangle McLachlan Park Woombah Park	Cameron Park McLachlan Park	Maclean lookout
Rural Coast	Brooms Head Foreshore Reserve Triangle Park Calliope Hall Memorial Park Ogilvie Park 34-40 Rutland Street Nip Welsh Park Minnie Water Tennis Court/Community Nursery Minnie Water Caravan Park Wooli Public Hall Wooli Caravan Park Hargraves Reserve Harold Lloyd Park	-	-
Rural South-west	Dundurrabin Community Centre and Hall Shannon Park, Glenreagh Towallum Park James Cartmill Memorial Park	-	-
Rural North-west	Hamilton Park Jackadgery Heritage Hut Moleville Rocks Public Reserve Eastland Park	-	-

Family-friendly parks

Family-friendly parks include a range of facilities and settings together catering for most if not all age groups, such as a children's playground, hardcourt/ball park/skate park, picnic and barbecue facilities, open grassed area, and gardens/landscaping. The Clarence Valley doesn't have a park that could truly be called a 'family-friendly' park. Examples of partially family-friendly parks in the Clarence Valley are:

- See Park, Grafton
- Beresford Park, South Grafton
- Lions Park, Yamba
- Wherrett Park, Maclean
- Memorial Park, Lawrence.

Formal gardens

Formal and feature gardens in the Clarence Valley include:

- Water feature and formal garden: See Park in Grafton.
- Sensory garden: Federation Park in Copmanhurst.
- Heritage garden: Pioneer Park Grafton.
- Formal gardens: Maclean Memorial Garden.

Picnic and barbecue facilities

People wishing to enjoy a picnic and/or barbecue are well provided for in the Clarence Valley, with numerous picnic shelters, picnic tables and barbecues located in pleasant settings mainly in small parks along the river foreshores, at beach reserves, and in National Parks.

Most such facilities are aging and need to be redesigned for inclusive access and attractiveness to use. In some instances shade is lacking, barbecues are in poor condition, picnic facilities are remote from play spaces making supervision of children difficult, paths dissect picnic areas, and picnic tables are not accessible for people with physical disabilities or may not be accessible from carparks.

No large picnic shelters for large groups are provided.

Additional picnic and barbecue facilities would complement informal parks in non-coastal/river settings. Provision of all new picnic facilities should address access points, water, shade, toilets, and easy movement through the site.



Unleashed dog exercise areas

Given the dispersed character of Clarence Valley and the generous supply of open space, at present there are 14 designated unleashed dog exercise areas spread throughout the LGA as follows.

Table 3.6 Location of unleashed dog exercise areas

Small area	Town	Area	Restrictions
Grafton	Grafton	Alumy Creek bed through Westward Park.	Training of obedience routines for dogs when no sport is being played in Westward Park
	Grafton	Kirchner Street from Villiers Street to the river.	Dogs not leashed but controlled
	Grafton	Fry Street (rear portion of Pioneer Park)	Area below the raised memorial garden: dogs not leashed but controlled
South Grafton	South Grafton	Plantation Reserve (Tyson Street)	Dogs not leashed but controlled
	South Grafton	Rushforth Park (car parking area)	Except when sport is being played at Rushforth Park, dogs not leashed but controlled
Grafton Surrounds	Coutts Crossing	James Macintosh Memorial Park	Prohibited when in use by sporting or school groups
Iluka-Woombah	Iluka	Iluka Beach	North of the 4WD access and carpark along the beach to Iluka Bluff
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	Yamba	Pippi Beach	South of Dolphin Park 4WD entrance, along the beach to the rocky outcrop on Miners Beach
	Yamba	Wattle Park (off Wattle Drive)	-
	Angourie	Green Point	Grassed area to the north of Green Point carpark
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Maclean	Wherrett Park	Excludes sport oval areas (designated area)
Rural Coast	Brooms Head	Brooms Head Beach	North from Lake Cokora 4WD access
	Minnie Water	Bushfire asset protection zone at rear of Hiawatha Road.	-
	Wooli	Wooli Centenary Community Reserve (Oval)	Prohibited when in use by sporting or school groups
Rural South-West	-	-	-
Rural North-West	-	-	-



Wattle Park, Yamba

Dogs may be exercised on the leash on beaches at Minnie Water Main Beach and Wooli Main Beach (excluding areas within surf life saving flags), and on Whiting Beach 200 metres from the carpark.

Responding to community demand, Council may consider designating unleashed dog exercise areas in Waterview Heights, Seelands, Nymboida, Glenreagh, Lawrence, Copmanhurst, and Minnie Water (bushfire asset protection zone at rear of Hiawatha Road).

Dog obedience training occurs at Grafton Showgrounds, Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex and dog trials at Maclean and Grafton Showgrounds, and Small Park Ulmarra.

Outdoor performance and market spaces

Open spaces which are of sufficient size to be used for outdoor performances, markets and similar community activities include:

- Market Square and Memorial Park, Grafton.
- Grafton Showground.
- Memorial Park, Grafton
- Alamy Creek Reserve, Grafton
- Yamba Oval and Ford Park, Yamba.
- Maclean Showground, Cameron Park and McLachlan Park, Maclean.
- Ashby Community Centre
- Glenreagh Recreational Grounds
- Copmanhurst Recreation Ground.

The Grafton and Maclean Showgrounds are particularly suitable, due to their size and seating capacity, as outdoor venues for major events and festivals.

Community gardens

Community gardens in recent years have become very popular, especially among people living in urban areas who have little or no private open space in which to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. The degree of development of a community garden or nursery depends on the interest and effort of the people involved, and the level of funding available.

Community gardens and nurseries may be managed by a public land owner such as a local Council, a community association, or by a co-operative managed by people who have plots in the garden and other interested people.

A community garden has recently been established in Wattle Park, Yamba.

Community nurseries operate in Minnie Water and Townsend.

Walking and cycling tracks and paths

Introduction

A myriad of walking tracks and paths are available for recreation in the Clarence Valley, ranging from urban street footpaths, concrete paths along the river foreshore (such as the

Rotary Walk at Yamba), board-and-chain accessways through dunes to beaches, to unsealed tracks through natural vegetation. Desire lines through open space often become informal walkways.



A network of 65 kilometres of footpaths extends throughout the Valley. The majority of footpaths and cycleways are within public road reserves to separate pedestrians and vehicles.

Roles of paths and walkways include to provide access between key destinations, links from the road network to the open space, and circuit-type trails for fitness / nature enjoyment.

Walkways provided are of varying length and offer opportunities for short activities as well as walks taking several days.

The availability of a range of surfaces is important to cater for the physically fit, to parents with prams and people with disabilities who rely on smooth sealed surfaces to move around. This is especially important in the Clarence Valley, given the significant population of young families and elderly people.

Walking tracks in natural areas

Natural areas in the Clarence Valley includes recreational corridors, some of which are of regional, State and National significance. These corridors include:

- Travelling Stock Reserves, such as the Boyd River corridor.
- Glenreagh Mountain Railway.
- Australian Bicentennial National Trail in the western part of the LGA.
- the rainforest walk through the littoral rainforest in the Iluka Nature Reserve.

Other significant and popular walking tracks in natural areas in the Clarence Valley include walking tracks in other National Parks and Nature Reserves, and the Munns Creek Walking Track near Grafton.

Plans for walking tracks in natural areas in the Clarence Valley include a coastal walking track from Angourie to Turners Beach Yamba that could extend to Iluka. This track will link from the recently completed Yuraygir Coastal Walk that extends from Red Rock to Angourie.

Walking paths in urban areas

Walking paths in urban areas in the Clarence Valley are well used. Popular walking paths are located at:

- ❑ Ford Park (Yamba Bay).
- ❑ the southern breakwall at Yamba.
- ❑ Pippi Beach.
- ❑ Iluka foreshore.
- ❑ northern breakwall in Iluka.

A foreshore path along the Clarence River waterfront in Grafton, South Grafton and Maclean is lacking, because of the location of levees, flooding concerns, and private land ownership. A Foreshore Precinct Masterplan that includes Memorial Park in Grafton and to the east has been developed as part of the Clarence River Way and is being implemented. A similar planning approach is also being developed for Maclean.

Plans for walking tracks in urban areas include extending the pedestrian / cycleway along the Clarence River at Yamba and Iluka, as well as an extension to Yamba Shores.

Cycleways

There are several on and off-road bicycle tracks and paths in the Clarence Valley comprising 25 kilometres of formal cycleways (on-road and off-road).

Council has provided on-road cycle lanes on sections of roads including Queen Street (Arthur Street to North Street) in Grafton, Carrs Drive between Yamba and Wooloweyah, Angourie Road and Yamba Road in Yamba, Alexander Road in Maclean, and Duke Street at Iluka.

Bike paths such as Wooli Bike Path extend from Main Street-Riverside Drive to the mouth of the Clarence River. An extensive section of cycleway has recently been constructed from Townsend to Gulmarrad.

A Coastline Cycleway is proposed to pass through the Clarence Valley, linking a number of towns and villages by ferry and road from Iluka-Yamba-Maclean-Lawrence-Grafton-South Grafton-Pacific Highway.

Detailed plans for improving the pedestrian and cycle network in Grafton, South Grafton, Yamba and Maclean are in the Bike Plan and Pedestrian and Mobility Plan. Plans for improving the pedestrian and cycle network in other towns and villages in the Clarence Valley are proposed.

Mountain bike trails

Mountain biking is permitted in the Bom Bom State Forest at South Grafton.

The *Caring for Our Riverside Reserves* Strategy proposed mountain biking in Mountain View (North) Park after an investigation of opportunity and support for mountain biking. If the investigation shows mountain biking is an appropriate activity in Mountain View (North) Park appropriate material support will be given.

Unplanned mountain bike activity can significantly impact on natural areas through erosion, conflict with walkers on shared trails. There is an opportunity to form partnerships with State agencies to identify land suitable for this activity.

Target groups

Children

There are some 67 children’s playgrounds catering for toddlers and primary school aged children on open space managed by Clarence Valley Council. At least one children’s playground is located in most towns and villages, except Chatsworth Island, Gulmarrad and Tullymorgan.

The provision of playgrounds on a population basis is highest in Iluka-Woombah, where there is one playground per 87 children aged 0 to 11 years. Conversely in Grafton there is one playground per 166 children aged 0 to 9 years, and in Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad there is one playground per 163 children aged 0 to 9 years.

Table 3.7 Playgrounds by small area

Small area	Playgrounds	No. play-grounds	No. children 0-11 years (2006)	No. children 0-9 years / playground
Grafton	Bishop Druitt Park Fisher Park (under reconstruction) General Douglas Macarthur Park Gordon Wingfield Park Jacaranda Park Jaycee Park Racecourse Park See Park Westmore Park	9	1,493	166
South Grafton	Alex Bell Reserve Beresford Park Durrington Park Elsie Crisp Park Hawthorne Rodeo Park Kennedy Street Road Reserve Meillon Park Bob Liddiard Park (new, accessible) Minden Street McFarlane Street	10	1,095	109
Grafton surrounds	Acacia Park James McIntosh Park Eatonsville Reserve Barnier Park Skateboard Bowl/Pine Plantation Sunset Park Hogbin Park Public Reserve / Old Punt Lane Tucabia tennis courts Tucabia Community Pre-school Bailey Park Caramarra Park	11	1,013	92

Small area	Playgrounds	No. play-grounds	No. children 0-11 years (2006)	No. children 0-9 years / playground
Iluka-Woombah	Cason Park Charlie Ryan Park (new) Woombah Park	3	308	103
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	Admiralty Park Calypso Caravan Park CWA William Ager Memorial Park (new) Hakea Park Lions Park / Yamba Oval Angourie Blue Pools carpark (new) Honeyman Park	7	750	107
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Apex Park/Herb Stanford Park Cameron Park Wherrett Park McLachlan Avenue Maclean Pool Townsend Park	6	617	103
Rural Coast	Ashby Public Reserve (under reconstruction) Brooms Head Caravan Park Brushgrove Triangle Harwood Sports Oval Harwood (new) Ilarwill Sportsground Memorial Park Lawrence Sportsground Minnie Water Foreshore Reserve Grevillea Park Palmer's Island Village Park Bill Hargraves Reserve Harold Lloyd Park Wooli Public Hall Riverside Drive	15	945	63
Rural South-west	Braunstone Hall and community centre Dundurrabin Community centre (new) Shannon Park	3	653	218
Rural North-west	Coaldale Community Centre / Bushfire Shed Federation Park Fletcher Reserve	3	381	127

In addition to considering the provision of playgrounds by population, a guideline for the location of children's playgrounds is at least one playground within 400 metres of 90% of residences in urban areas. Using this criteria, the distribution of playgrounds in urban areas of the Clarence Valley is generally acceptable, except in southern and eastern Grafton, central South Grafton, Rushforth, northern and southern Iluka, west and central Yamba, and south-west Maclean.

There are no regional playgrounds in the Clarence Valley. Only the playgrounds in Jacaranda Park (Grafton) and Wherrett Park (Maclean) could truly be considered district, let alone regional. Wherrett Park is probably the best example of a children's playground in the Clarence Valley, given its large size, relatively new equipment catering for a range of age groups, and the children's road safety network.

Most playgrounds in the Lower Clarence comprise “off-the-shelf” and limited equipment (some with a nautical theme), catering for a narrow band of children’s age groups and play experiences. Jacaranda Park in Grafton and Alex Bell Park in South Grafton are good examples of playgrounds catering for very young children (0-4 years) through to older children (5-9 years) and are therefore popular with families with young children.

In the past 5 years new playgrounds have been installed at Harwood, Angourie Blue Pools carpark, Charlie Ryan Park in Iluka, Bob Liddiard Park in South Grafton, William Agar Park in Yamba, Ashby Community Centre and Dundurrabin Community Centre. Playgrounds are being reconstructed at Fisher Park, Grafton. However most playgrounds are aging and require updating and/or redesigning. Aging equipment places a maintenance and liability burden on Council to maintain playgrounds to Australian standards.

Shade over play equipment and basic facilities for supervisors, such as seats, are lacking in most playgrounds. Shading has recently been provided to a number of playgrounds including Wooli, Charlie Ryan Park, Alex Bell Park, See Park, Durrington Park, See Park and Tyson Street.

No public playground except at Harwood is fenced for children’s safety from adjoining road and river.

Softfall in most playgrounds is sand, which reduces injuries from falls, but can harbour sharp sticks, dog faeces and needles. Rubber softfall is preferable from a safety perspective but is expensive. Recent playground upgrades have used certified mulched softfall to Australian Standards.

Bob Liddiard Park in South Grafton is the only equal access playground that is accessible for children with disabilities.

Children’s learn-to-ride bike tracks and paths associated with playgrounds are limited.

Playgroups use playgrounds on public reserves, such as at Barnier Park in Junction Hill. However these playgrounds are not accessible to the public outside the times of use by the playgroup.

Preschools and childcare groups cannot use the playground in See Park in Grafton because it has a water feature, which is not permitted under child care legislation.

Aside from playgrounds on Council-managed open space, play facilities are also provided by:

- ❑ pre-schools, playgroups and primary schools, with varying degrees of public access.
- ❑ Yamba Bowling and Recreation Club, and Yamba Shores Tavern.
- ❑ holiday parks. The Blue Dolphin caravan park in Yamba includes outdoor and indoor children’s play equipment that is not available to the public.

Despite the high temperatures reached in summer, no water play parks are provided in the LGA.

Young people

Recreation facilities provided on open space primarily for young people are listed below.

Table 3.8 Youth recreation facilities

Small area	Skate park	Basketball	BMX track
Grafton	Fisher Park (regional)	North Street Park	-
South Grafton	Beresford Park (district)	Bob Liddiard Park JJ Lawrence Fields (2) Elsie Crisp Park	South Grafton
Grafton surrounds	Skateboard Bowl/Pine Plantation Junction Hill (local)	-	-
Iluka-Woombah	-	-	-
Yamba-Angourie- Wooloweyah	Yamba Oval (regional)	-	-
Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park (district)	-	-
Rural Coast	Honeyman Park (local)	-	-
Rural South-west	Shannon Park, Glenreagh (local)	-	-
Rural North-west	-	Fletcher Reserve	-

Play equipment

No play equipment suitable for teenagers and older people is provided. More challenging equipment for a broader range of age groups (such as for seniors) and abilities is needed.

Skate parks

Such facilities are used for skateboarding, freestyle BMX and scooter riders.

With the exception of the Grafton, Yamba and Maclean skate facilities, skate parks cater for beginners and do not provide sufficient challenge for intermediate and advanced users.

These sites lack associated furniture such as seating, shade and space for people watching competitions and displays.



Fisher Park, Grafton



Yamba



Wherrett Park, Maclean

Young people ride skateboards on roads in most of the towns and villages as they see it as a legitimate form of transport. However this has obvious safety implications.

Basketball

Half-court basketball courts and/or basketball hoops are provided in some schools, and in parks in Grafton (North Street Park), South Grafton (JJ Lawrence Fields, Bob Liddiard Park) Ashby, Iluka, Wooloweyah and Yamba. A basketball court is planned in East Yamba.



Honeyman Reserve, Wooloweyah



Bob Liddiard Park, South Grafton

Bicycle facilities

A formal BMX track is located in South Grafton.



The new criterium track in Pine Street, Junction Hill is 830 metres long, and caters for competitive off-road cycling activity and events.

Older people

Public open space settings and facilities are not provided specifically for older people.

Women

Netball courts throughout the Clarence Valley are provided to cater for court sport for women. Major netball centres are in Grafton (Westward Park) and Maclean (Wherrett Park), with grass courts at Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex.

Men

A site for a men's shed is being sought on part of proposed open space land at Townsend.

Indigenous people

An indoor recreation / community facility is in Ngaru village at Yamba.

People with disabilities

Facilities for people with disabilities are provided in larger and higher-visitation parks and reserves. Such facilities include accessible toilets and pathways.

People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

Public open space settings and facilities are not provided specifically for people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

3.3.2 Sportsgrounds

Sporting facilities in the Clarence Valley are described in the Sports Facilities Plan.

3.3.3 Natural areas

Introduction

The Clarence Valley is blessed with a variety of natural settings including coastal and river beaches, wetlands, coastal rainforest and coastal heath. Such settings are managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage (Parks and Wildlife Group) (approximately 15 National Parks and Nature Reserves), Forests NSW (State Forests), and Clarence Valley Council.

Approximately 45% of land in the Clarence Valley is managed as reserved Crown land by the State. Of these areas there are 7 National Parks including 3 World Heritage Areas, one marine park (Solitary Islands Marine Park), and one national surfing reserve (Clouston Associates and SGL Consulting Group, 2009).

Land-based recreation in natural areas

The degree of public access permitted to preserve natural habitats, and the level of investment of OEH (NPG) and NSW Forests in the development of recreational facilities, both influence the value of such areas for recreation. Recreational opportunities available in

National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Forests in the Clarence Valley are outlined in **Table 3.9**. Such recreational settings and facilities, including walking tracks, bike riding opportunities, picnic and/or barbecue areas, adventure recreation settings, rivers for canoeing and kayaking, camping areas, boat launching ramps, and lookouts.

Other semi-natural settings used for recreation in Clarence Valley include:

- Cowans Pond Reserve at Waterview Heights where access tracks and a bird hide encourage viewing of a wetland and birdlife.
- Islands in the Clarence River, particularly Susan Island between Grafton and South Grafton.

Some National Parks, such as Fortis Creek National Park, have no recreational facilities but can be used for walking, swimming, picnics and birdwatching. Open space that is not accessible for recreation to preserve its natural values include the Theo Tulk Reserve wetlands at Goodwood Island.

Four-wheel driving is permitted on Pippi Beach at Yamba, Iluka Beach, Wooli Main Beach, between Minnie Water and Sandon, and on Minnie Water Main Beach (with restrictions).



Cowans Pond Reserve

Water-based recreation in natural areas

Introduction

The Clarence Valley offers substantial opportunities for enjoying water sports and recreation activities in a range of settings such as rivers, lakes, coastal beaches, a dam, swimming pools and aquatic facilities. Activities that can be pursued in these settings include boating, canoeing, white-water rafting, rowing, surfing, water skiing, sailing, swimming, snorkelling and diving.

Water recreation facilities on open space are listed below.

Rivers and lakes

The Clarence River offers unparalleled opportunities for water-based recreational activities such as boating, dragon-boat racing, fishing, prawning, sailing, rowing, kayaking and windsurfing.

Table 3.9 Recreation opportunities in natural areas in the Clarence Valley managed by the State government

Natural area	Natural features	Picnic and barbecue facilities	Walking tracks	Access for people with disabilities	Bicycle riding	4WD	Canoeing/kayaking	Adventure recreation	Camp sites	Boat launching facilities	Lookouts
National Parks											
Bundjalung NP	Open beach Coastal heath land Freshwater lagoons Mangrove mudflats	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Chaelundi NP	Old-growth spotted gum forest, rain-forest, Chandlers Creek V'illy.	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Gibraltar Range NP	World Heritage Area on a forested plateau above the Nymboida and Mann Rivers.	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓
Nymboi-Binderay NP	Forested ridges, granite cliffs of Nymboida River gorge	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Nymboida NP	Wilderness	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Washpool NP	Lush World Heritage rainforest.		✓						✓		
Yuraygir NP	Coastal forest ecosystems, heath land, coastal caves	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
Nature Reserves											
Iluka Nature Reserve	World Heritage listed beachside rainforest.	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Susan Island Nature Reserve	Rainforest and bat colony.		✓								
Clarence Estuary Nature Reserve	Mangroves										

Source: OEH (NPG) website

Boat moorings are available at Iluka Boatshed and Marina, and in Yamba at the Yamba Boatharbour Marina and Mansfield's Boatharbour Marina. A marina with 20 permanent moorings and 12 casual moorings is planned in Maclean.

Sailing clubs include the Clarence River Sailing Club (Salty Sellar Reserve, Grafton), Clarence River Yacht Club (Corcoran Park), and the Big River Sailing Club (Carey Lane at Harwood Island).

Rowing is a popular activity on the Clarence River, with four active clubs:

- ❑ Grafton Rowing Club
- ❑ Iluka Rowing and Recreation Club
- ❑ Lower Clarence Rowing and Sculling Club
- ❑ Maclean Rowing Club.



Corcoran Park, Grafton



Grafton Rowing Club

Two dragon boating clubs operate on the Clarence River in Grafton and Maclean.

There are numerous outlets for boat and watercraft hire in Yamba (such as Yamba Kayak) and Iluka.

Formal and informal boat launching points are available in the Clarence Valley. Boat launching and / or landing points are at all towns or villages situated on the river. Public boat launching ramps with sealed or soft access are located:

- ❑ along the river foreshore at Grafton, South Grafton, Great Marlow, Seelands, Tucabia, Ulmarra, Cowper, Harwood Island, Iluka, Lawrence, Maclean, Palmers Island, Yamba.
- ❑ on ocean beaches at Spookys Beach Angourie, Brooms Head, Woody Head and Minnie Water Main Beach (Lagoon Area).
- ❑ on lake foreshores at Wooloweyah.

Public jetties and wharves are located at Grafton (Corcoran Park), South Grafton (Rotary Park), Maclean (McLachlan Park), Lawrence (Memorial Park), Sportsman Park (Lower Southgate), Spenser Street Iluka and West Yamba.

A fishing wharf is provided in Grafton (Corcoran Park) and fishing platforms in Grafton (Corcoran Park) and Iluka (Charlie Ryan Park). Fishing is permitted on the breakwater at Yamba and Iluka.

Table 3.10 Water recreation facilities by small area

	Town / village	Boat ramps	Wharf/ jetty	Pontoon	Sailing Club	Rowing Club	Fish cleaning benches
Grafton	Grafton	Fry Street Corcoran Park Villiers Street	Pound Street/ Girl Guides Park Corcoran Park Jetty opp. 8 Memorial Park Prince Street	Prince Street	Big River Sailing Club	Memorial Park	
South Grafton	South Grafton	Rotary Park	Rotary Park	South Grafton Marina (Lane Bvd)			
Grafton surrounds	Great Marlow	Strontian Park					
	Seelands	Hogbin Park Public Reserve					
	Tucabia	Tucabia River Reserve					
	Ulmarra	Bailey Park	Memorial Park x 2 Coldstream Street Roadend Park				
Iluka-Woombah	Iluka		Spencer Street carpark Crown Street Moriarty's Reserve Iluka Riverside Tourist Park	Iluka Riverside Tourist Park		Charlie Ryan Park	Spencer Street boat ramp
	Goodwood Island						
	Woombah						
Yamba-Angourie- Wooloweyah	Yamba and West Yamba	Yamba Bay Park Crystal Waters Park Witonga Drive Fronting Hickey Island	Yamba Bay Park Witonga Drive Crystal Waters Park Hickey Island Reserve Fronting Hickey	Calypso Caravan Park River Street			Yamba Bay Park Crystal Waters Park

	Town / village	Boat ramps	Wharf/ jetty	Pontoon	Sailing Club	Rowing Club	Fish cleaning benches
			Island Ford Park				
	Angourie						
	Wooloweyah	Wooloweyah Foreshore Reserve					
Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad	Maclean	River Street McNaughton Place	Ferry Park McLachlan Park McNaughton Place			yes	
Rural Coast	Brooms Head						
	Brushgrove						
	Calliope						
	Chatsworth Island						
	Cowper						
	Diggers Camp						
	Halfway Creek						
	Harwood	Harwood South Harwood North	Harwood North (River Street)				
	Illarwill						
	Lanitza						
	Lawrence	Memorial Park	Memorial Park				Memorial Park
	Micalo Island						
	Minnie Water						
	Palmers Island						
	Pillar Valley						
	Sandon River						
	South Arm						
	Southgate	Sportsman Park					Sportsman Park
	Woodford Island						
	Wooli						
Rural South-west	Not applicable						
Rural North-west	Not applicable						

Fish cleaning tables are provided next to some boat ramps (Iluka, Townsend) and wharves (West Yamba).

Seelands is a major base for water-skiing on the Clarence River.



A focus for whitewater rafting, canoeing and kayaking is the Nymboida Canoe Centre on Goolang Creek, which is considered one of the best whitewater rafting facilities in NSW with two kilometres of rapids. Canoeing and kayaking also takes place on the Sandon River, Goolang Creek Recreation Reserve at Blaxlands Crossing, and on Lakes Wooloweyah and Aragan.

Windsurfing is popular at Iluka Bay, Whiting Beach, Wooli Wooli River, and Lake Wooloweyah.

The foreshores of the Clarence River and its tributaries are extremely well used, particularly in the summer school holidays, for informal activities such as picnics and barbecues, walking, and as a shore base for boating activities.

There are approximately 30 publicly accessible riverside parks and reserves along the Clarence River and its tributaries (Coldstream, Mann, Boyd, Nymboida and Orara Rivers).

These reserves, distributed throughout the rural areas of the LGA, offer opportunities for picnicking, swimming, fishing and camping.

Ocean and river beaches

Numerous ocean beaches in the Clarence Valley local government area are managed by Clarence Valley Council, or by OEH (NPG). From north to south these beaches include:

- ❑ Woody Head
- ❑ Iluka Main Beach
- ❑ Turners Beach, Yamba
- ❑ Main Beach, Yamba
- ❑ Pippi Beach, Yamba
- ❑ Spooky Beach, Angourie
- ❑ Red Cliff

- ❑ Brooms Head
- ❑ Sandon
- ❑ Minnie Water
- ❑ Diggers Camp
- ❑ Wooli.

Swimming, surfing, bodyboarding and surf club activities are extremely popular at the ocean beaches.

The Yamba Surf Life Saving Club is based at Main Beach in Yamba. The Minnie Water Surf Club is based on Nip Welsh Park and both surf clubs run beach activities for members, including Nippers for children as well as surf patrols.

Council employs surf life savers to patrol several beaches in the Clarence Valley during the school holidays in October, December-January and April. Patrols occur at Bluff Beach in Iluka; Main Beach, Pippie Beach and Turners Beach in Yamba; Brooms Head Main Beach, Minnie Water Main Beach, and Wooli Beach.

Swimming occurs in the netted area off the beach at the western tip of Iluka Bay.

Excellent surf beaches include Angourie, which has been designated as the first legally protected National Surfing Reserve in NSW, and Grey Cliff to the north of Brooms Head.

The Yamba-Angourie Surf School teaches people to surf mainly at Turners Beach in Yamba, and at other beaches in Yamba and Angourie depending on surf and weather conditions.



Brooms Head



Iluka

Commercial operators teach people to windsurf at Iluka Bay, Whiting Beach, and Wooli Lake and Lake Wooloweyah.

Line fishing and spear fishing take place on the beaches and rocks.

Waters surrounding rocky outcrops and headlands are favoured places for scuba diving and snorkelling.

Access points for vehicles at beaches are available on Iluka Main Beach, the southern end of Pippie Beach in Yamba, Red Cliff, north of Brooms Head, and north of Sandon.

Access to beaches for people with disabilities is poor. However wheelchair-accessible beach access is planned for Turners Beach at Yamba, and a wheelchair-accessible lookout platform is planned for Iluka Main Beach. Access for disabled drivers and vehicles for wheelchair accessibility is provided at Minnie Water Main Beach.



Sandon



Yamba Main Beach

Dam

Shannon Creek Dam, west of Coutts Crossing, is open to the public four days a week for land-based recreational activities including barbecues, picnic tables, toilets, bushwalking on a defined trail and a viewing area at the top of the dam wall. The majority of facilities at the dam are accessible. As the dam's primary function is water supply no fires, camping, fishing, swimming, boating or pets are allowed. Other recreational activities which would not necessarily conflict with the water supply function, environmental approval and licence requirements could be considered.

Swimming pools

Public constructed swimming pools are included in the Sports Facilities Strategic Plan.

Other pools available in the Clarence Valley include:

- ❑ a tidal pool at Main Beach in Yamba.
- ❑ the over 50's residential resort at Oyster Cove in Yamba includes a pool / spa.

Natural freshwater pools, such as the Blue Pool at Angourie, are affected by algae, making them unsafe for swimming in warmer weather.



Yamba



Angourie

3.4 REGIONAL SUPPLY

It is important to consider the open space and recreation settings and facilities available outside the Clarence Valley area in order to define the range of available recreational opportunities for Clarence Valley residents. Generally higher-level regional open space areas and facilities adjoining the Clarence Valley are used by Clarence Valley residents, as the community do not regard local government or other boundaries as barriers to use of open space and recreation facilities. For example, people playing or watching first-class sport would travel to Coffs Harbour. Clarence Valley residents travel to facilities not available locally, such as an indoor rock climbing centre at the Link Centre in Coffs Harbour, and indoor children's play facilities in Ballina.

3.5 PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE

Land is available for additional open space and recreational facilities at:

- ❑ South Grafton: potential sporting complex expansion over adjacent farmland.
- ❑ Junction Hill: redundant sewerage treatment plant sites – Trenayr Road (9 hectares) and Back Lane (2 hectares).
- ❑ Junction Hill: proposed sporting facilities yet to be located/developed, but likely near to Barnier Park and/or Trenayr Park.
- ❑ Maclean (Wherrett Park - limited).
- ❑ Gulmarrad-Townsend (5.5 hectares of vacant land for sporting facilities).
- ❑ Yamba (Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex, Yamba Squash Centre site, Treelands Drive).
- ❑ Brooms Head (sportsground).

4 NEED FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

There is no such thing as a “standard” person or community. We all have different needs for open space and recreational interests at different times in our lives. Communities are also dynamic and changing. As a result, open space and recreation opportunities that are varied and flexible will better serve the needs of individuals and communities as these needs change.

Existing and future needs for recreation and open space in the Clarence Valley has been assessed using the following sources of information:

- ❑ Census information for the Clarence Valley local government area and nine ‘small areas’ within the LGA from 2001 and 2006.
- ❑ Previous community consultations, including for the Social Plan (2010), Clarence River Way Masterplan (2009), Lower Clarence Recreation Needs Assessment (2006), the Open Space Plan for Grafton City (2003), and youth action plans.
- ❑ Discussions with Council staff.
- ❑ Survey of schools, facility managers, community and recreation groups, and registered clubs in May 2010.
- ❑ Australian Sports Commission and other national and State data on participation in recreation activities.

4.2 THE CLARENCE VALLEY COMMUNITY

4.2.1 Importance of open space and recreation in Clarence Valley

The community survey carried out during preparation of the ‘Valley Vision’ showed that the top 10 most valued aspects of the Clarence Valley in 2008 are:

- ❑ Natural environment (76% of responses).
- ❑ Healthier lifestyle (71%).
- ❑ Low pollution (61%)
- ❑ Less traffic congestion (61%)

- Rural settings (61%)
- Sense of community (55%)
- Beauty of the area (55%)
- River settings (53%)
- Land protected through environmental zonings such as National Parks (52%)
- Affordable properties (48%).

Further down the list was 'recreational options' which was valued by 38% of respondents.

Survey respondents rated the importance of and satisfaction with services and infrastructure provided by Council. 'Parks and reserves' is rated in the top 10 services and infrastructure provided by Council with a high relative importance and reasonable relative satisfaction score.

A community survey conducted for the Social Plan 2010-14, which attracted submissions from 212 people, found that:

- 14% of respondents were fine with provision of recreation and leisure opportunities.
- 30% wanted better facilities.
- 25% wanted to see better use of and access to the Clarence River and other natural areas.
- 32% referred to the need for a greater range and wider distribution of events.

Respondents to an industry survey for the Clarence Valley Way Masterplan (Clouston Associates, 2008) listed the following major attractions in the Clarence Valley:

- outdoor and water-based activities (21%)
- Clarence River and tributaries (19%)
- natural environment (17%)
- beach and surfing spots (11%).

The 'iconic' experiences that industry thought best summed up the Clarence Valley are :

- Clarence River and its experiences (35%)
- nature-based recreation, including beaches (29%)
- water sports (6%)
- cycling (2%).

4.2.2 Population and housing characteristics

Total population

The population of the Clarence Valley is concentrated towards the central and coastal areas of the LGA. Growth is predominantly occurring in the coastal areas due to the influx of “sea changers”, “tree changers” and retirees. Tourism also contributes to significant increases of the population in coastal towns and villages at peak holiday times.

Clarence Valley is a rapidly-growing local government area compared to the NSW average. The Clarence Valley population has increased from 44,000 people in 1991 to 48,147 people at the 2006 Census. The estimated resident population¹ of Clarence Valley in June 2008 had increased to 51,007 people. A rapid rate of increase occurred between 2001 and 2006, with an increase of 4.9% or 2,236 people in the Clarence Valley at an average annual growth rate of approximately 0.9%. This compares with a more modest increase in population of the Mid North Coast Statistical District (3.9%) and the New South Wales (3.8%) populations between 2001 and 2006.

Within the Clarence Valley, changes in population of the nine small areas between 2001 and 2006 is shown in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Population of small areas in the Clarence Valley 2001-2009

Small area	2001 population	2006 population	% change 2001-2006	Estimated resident population 2009	% average annual change 2006-2009
Grafton	9,880	9,963	0.7%		
South Grafton	6,191	6,279	1.4%		
Grafton Surrounds	5,822	6,266	12.1%		
Iluka-Woombah	2,324	2,531	3.8%		
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	5,592	6,120	9.3%		
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	3,804	4,163	9.4%		
Rural Coast	6,362	6,624	4.2%		
Rural South-West	3,434	3,616	5.3%		
Rural North-West	2,827	2,602	- 7.8%		
TOTAL	46,236	48,164	4.1%	52,054	1.75%

The highest population growth rate between 2001 and 2006 occurred in the Grafton Surrounds small area, followed by Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah and Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad. A loss of population was experienced in the Rural North-West small area.

¹ Information supplied by profile.id based on Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. No. 3235.0 – Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2007

Population density

Population density in the Clarence Valley in 2006 was a relatively low 4.6 people per square kilometre, compared to 8.5 persons per square kilometre in NSW and 11.6 persons per square kilometre for the Mid North Coast region.

Population and housing characteristics

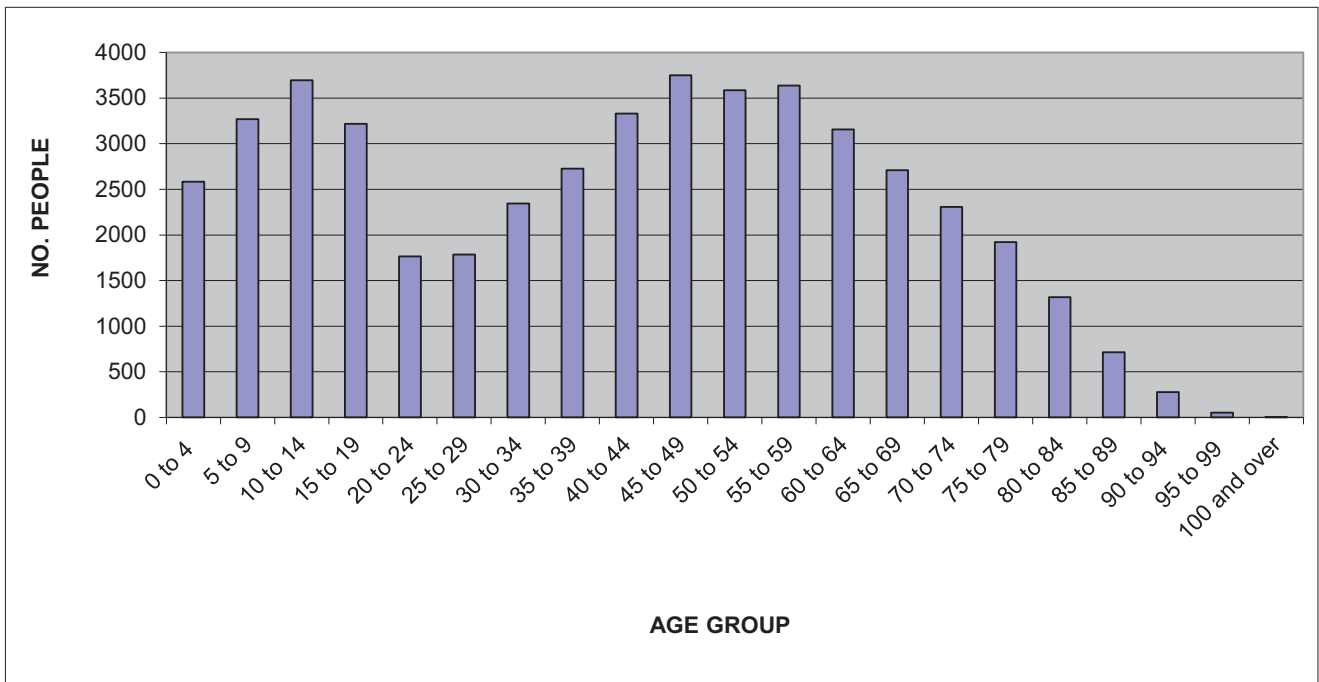
Research has shown that certain characteristics of a population indicate levels and types of use of open space and participation in recreational and sporting activities. These characteristics are presented below.

Age structure

Age is the major demographic characteristic governing participation in recreation and sporting activities and use of open space.

Figure 4.1 shows the Clarence Valley population structure.

Figure 4.1 Age structure of the Clarence Valley population 2006



The population of Clarence Valley has become older in recent years. In 2006, Clarence Valley had a relatively mature population, with the median age of the Clarence Valley population being 44 years, compared to 43 years for the Mid North Coast population and 37 years for the NSW population.

Between 2001 and 2006, there was an increase of 2,946 people aged 50 years and over in the Clarence Valley population, which was greater than the loss of 1,221 people in the 0 to 11 and 25 to 49 years age groups. In 2001, approximately 23% of the population was over the age of 60 years, which increased to 26% in 2006. One in four Clarence Valley residents is aged 60 years or over, including 14% aged 70 and over. As such, Clarence Valley has a significant proportion of elderly people compared to other local government areas in NSW.

The aging of the Clarence Valley population is a reflection of Australia's population generally growing older, and of the influx of "baby boomer" retirees to the coast and inland in the Mid North Coast region for a "holiday" retirement lifestyle, also known as a "sea-change" and "tree-change". As the population gets older, there will be added pressure to provide appropriate recreational and sporting facilities and services.

The implications of a high proportion of elderly people are that the proportions of people in younger age groups are relatively low, particularly in the 18-24 years age group (6% in the Clarence Valley in 2006, compared to 9% in NSW). 20% of the Clarence Valley population is school aged children aged 5 to 17 years, compared to 17.5% in NSW.

The Clarence Valley has a significantly lower proportion of residents in their prime working age between 20 and 59 years compared to NSW. The very low proportion of people in the Clarence Valley aged in their 20s (7%, compared to 20% in NSW) reflects the limited local educational and employment opportunities for young adults in the Valley, with many leaving the Valley for education and employment elsewhere. The Clarence Valley also has relatively fewer people aged 30 to 39 years (11%) compared to NSW (14%), suggesting fewer young families living in the area than the State average. It may also reflect other deficiencies such as appropriate housing, infrastructure, and lack of facilities and services (including for sport and recreation) that define the attractiveness of an area in which to live for young people and young families.

Figure 4.2 shows the proportion of various age groups throughout the Clarence Valley. **Table 4.2** shows the number of people in broad age groups in 9 small areas within the Clarence Valley. Within these 9 small areas, the age groups in several towns and villages are shown in **Table 4.3**.

In general, the "oldest" small areas in the Clarence Valley are on or close to the coast:

- Iluka-Woombah (where 41% of people are aged 60 years and over).
- Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah (34%)
- Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad (31%).

The "oldest" towns and villages are Iluka (where 37% of people are aged 65 years and over) and Brooms Head (36.5%), followed by Minnie Water-Wooli (29%), Yamba (28%), Maclean-Townsend-Illarwill (26%) and Ulmarra (25%).

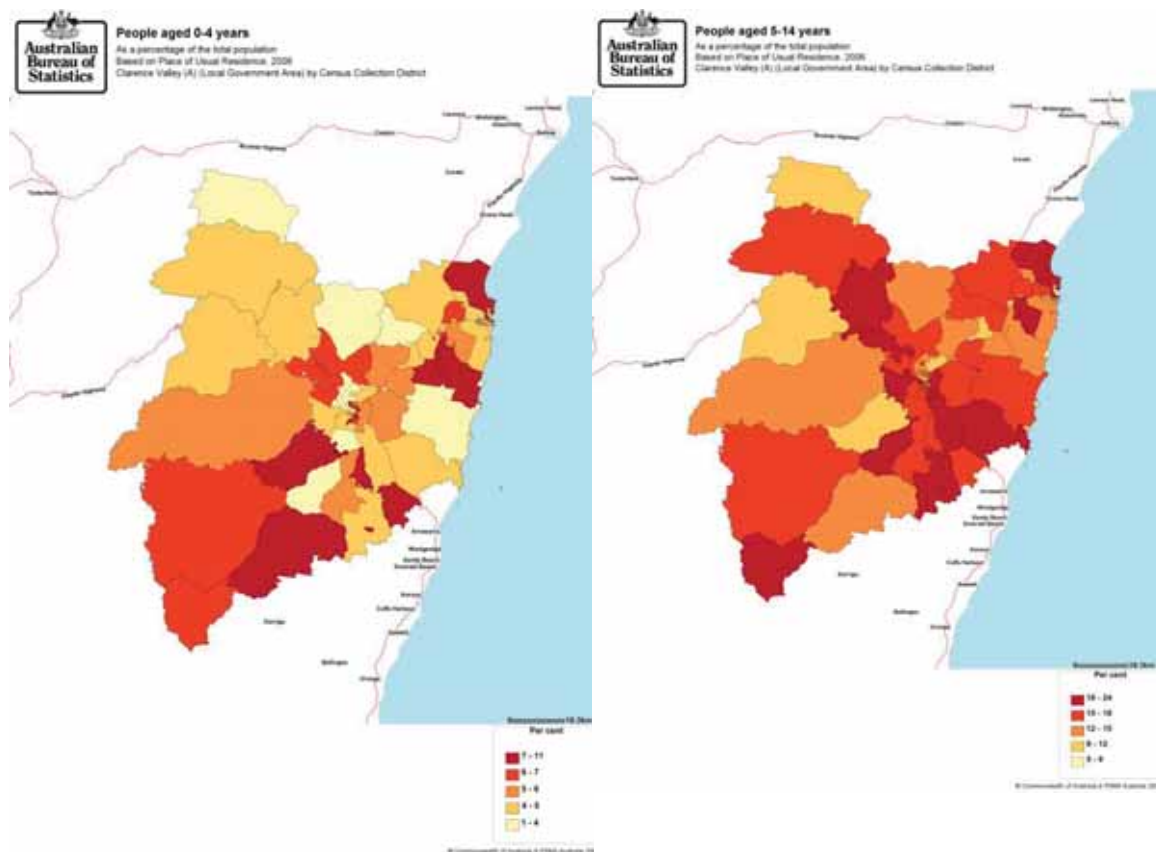
Conversely, the "younger" areas where there is a high proportion of dependent children aged under 18 years are:

- ❑ Rural South-west (29%), particularly Glenreagh (32%) and Tyringham-Hernani-Dundurrabin (29%).
- ❑ South Grafton (28%).
- ❑ Grafton Surrounds (27.5%), in particular Cou tts Crossing (30%) and Waterview-Seelands-Eatonsville (29%).

Other towns which have a high proportion of children under 18 years are Tucabia (32%), Angourie-Wooloweyah (29%), Halfway Creek-Lanitza (29%), and Gulmarrad (28%).

Concentrations of young people aged 12 to 24 years are in Grafton, South Grafton and Grafton surrounds, where young people comprise 17% of the population.

Figure 4.2 Distribution of age groups across the Clarence Valley in 2006



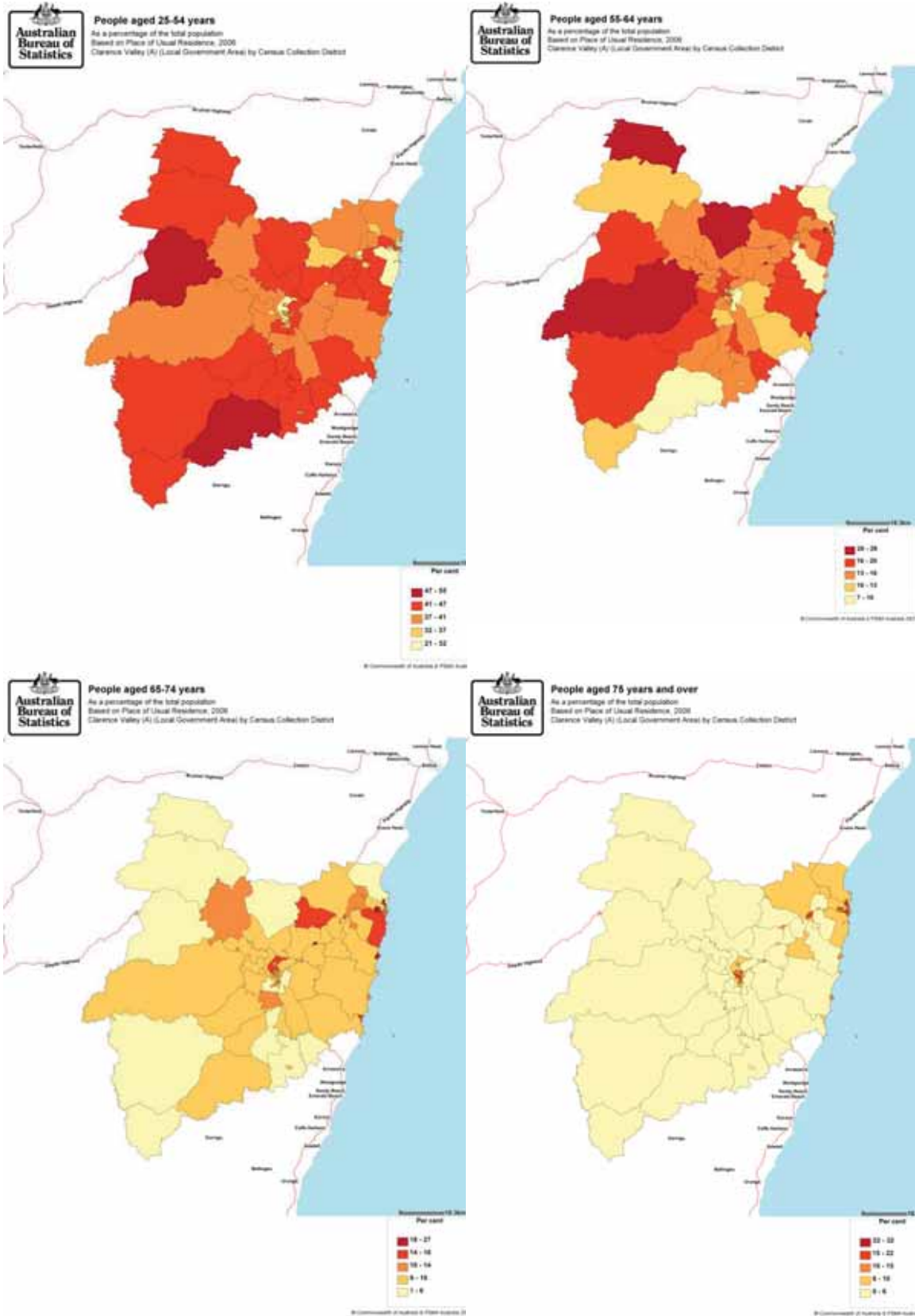


Table 4.2 Clarence Valley population by area in Clarence Valley in 2006

Age group (yrs)	Grafton		South Grafton		Grafton surrounds		Iluka-Woombah		Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah		Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad		Rural Coast		Rural South-west		Rural North-west		Total Clarence Valley	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4	603	6.1	433	6.9	300	4.8	121	4.8	287	4.7	213	5.1	289	4.4	198	5.5	120	4.6	2,584	5.4
5-11	890	8.9	662	10.5	713	11.4	187	7.4	463	7.6	404	9.7	656	9.9	455	12.6	261	10.0	4,703	9.8
12-17	910	9.1	661	10.5	707	11.3	164	6.5	428	7.0	376	9.0	615	9.3	409	11.3	263	10.1	4,525	9.4
18-24	778	7.8	431	6.9	331	5.3	85	3.3	338	5.5	210	5.0	269	4.1	161	4.4	128	4.9	2,718	5.7
25-34	1,095	11.0	616	9.8	485	7.7	145	5.7	451	7.4	332	8.0	533	8.0	275	7.6	197	7.6	4,129	8.5
35-49	1,920	19.3	1,198	19.1	1,358	21.7	395	15.6	1,089	17.8	771	18.5	1,448	21.9	918	25.4	651	25.0	9,805	20.4
50-59	1,203	12.1	805	12.8	1,019	16.3	407	16.0	964	15.8	585	14.1	1,130	17.1	669	18.5	523	20.1	7,224	15.0
60-69	928	9.3	671	10.7	717	11.5	437	17.2	971	15.9	570	13.7	931	14.0	345	9.5	269	10.3	5,864	12.2
70-84	1,245	12.5	653	10.4	566	9.0	520	20.5	1,000	16.4	541	13.0	680	10.3	169	4.7	182	7.0	5,546	11.5
85 +	378	3.8	149	2.4	63	1.0	78	3.1	120	2.0	161	3.9	76	1.1	16	0.4	11	0.4	1,048	2.2
Total	9,950	100.0	6,279	100.0	6,529	100.0	2,539	100.0	6,111	100.0	4,163	100.0	6,627	100.0	3,615	100.0	2,605	100.0	48,148	100.0
Notes	Between 2001 and 2006 there was an increase of people aged 50 to 59 and people 85 years and over, and a decrease in number of people aged 5 to 11 years and 35 to 49 years.		Between 2001 and 2006 there was an increase of 204 people aged 50 to 69 years, and a loss of 135 people aged 25 to 49 years.		Between 2001 and 2006 there was an increase of 378 people aged 50 to 69 years, and a loss of 91 people aged 0 to 4 years and 169 people aged 70 to 74 years.		1996 to 2001: increase in number of people aged 70-84 years, decrease in number of people 18 to 24 years and 60 to 69 years. Concentration of people aged 50 to 69, reflecting popularity as a retirement destination, and out-migration of children. Increase of 78 people aged 50 to 59 years between 2001 and 2006.		Significant increase in number of people aged 35-84 years between 1999 and 2006. Slight increase in people aged 18 to 24 years 2001-2006. Heavy concentration in 50-84 years age groups, which may reflect popularity as a retirement destination, and out-migration of children to form new households elsewhere.		Significant increase in number of people 50 years and over between 1996 and 2006. Significant share in family age groups, notably school aged children (5-17) and their parents in their 30s and 40s. Sizable share aged 70 years and over because retirees have been attracted there over many decades.		Increase in number of people 50-84 years between 1996 and 2001. Significant % in family age groups in 2001, particularly school aged children (5-17 years), and their parents in their 30s and 40s. Share of empty-nesters and retirees (50-69). Between 2001 and 2006 increase of 434 people aged 50 to 84 years, and a decline of 119 people 0 to 4.		Between 2001 and 2006 there was an increase of 250 people aged 50 to 69 years, but a decrease of 62 people aged 25 to 34 years.		Between 2001 and 2006 there was an increase of 117 people aged 50 to 59 years, and a decrease of 136 people aged 25 to 34 years and 67 people aged 5 to 11 years.			

Source: id.consulting.ptv ltd (2008)

- (1) Shading denotes above the Clarence Valley average.
- (2) Table totals may not equate with those in Table 4.1 due to randomisation of small numbers in the id. consulting analysis. However, the percentages based on those numbers are accurate.

Table 4.3 Age structure of towns and villages in 2006

Town / village	Infants 0 to 4 years		Children 5-17 years		Adults 18 to 64 years		Mature adults 65 to 84 years		Senior citizens 85 years and over		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Grafton surrounds												
Coutts Crossing	40	7.1	130	22.9	327	57.7	70	12.3	0	0	567	100.0
Junction Hill	29	2.8	210	20.6	612	60.1	153	15.0	14	1.4	1,018	100.0
Tucabia	10	3.9	72	28.2	141	55.3	27	10.6	5	2.0	255	100.0
Ulmarra	15	3.4	80	18.1	236	53.3	88	19.9	24	5.4	443	100.0
Waterview- Seelands-Eatonville	99	4.9	493	24.4	1,150	57.0	268	13.3	7	0.3	2,017	100.0
Iluka-Woombah												
Iluka	84	4.8	217	12.4	795	45.6	582	33.4	66	3.8	1,744	100.0
Yamba-Angourie- Wooloweyah												
Yamba	263	4.8	742	13.5	2,960	53.7	1,427	25.9	117	2.1	5,509	100.0
Angourie- Wooloweyah	24	4.0	149	24.8	396	65.8	30	5.0	3	0.5	602	100.0
Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad												
Gulmarrad	41	5.1	182	22.6	478	59.3	95	11.8	10	1.2	806	100.0
Maclean, Townsend, Illarwill	172	5.1	598	17.8	1,725	51.4	711	21.2	151	4.5	3,357	100.0
Rural Coast												
Brooms Head	10	4.1	23	9.4	122	50.0	82	33.6	7	2.9	244	100.0
Brushgrove, Lawrence, Harwood	10	1.4	135	18.4	425	58.1	153	20.9	9	1.2	732	100.0
Halfway Creek- Lanitza	58	5.4	250	23.3	657	61.2	103	9.6	6	0.6	1,074	100.0
Minnie Water-Wooli	37	5.1	72	10.0	400	55.6	199	27.7	11	1.5	719	100.0
Rural South-west												
Glenreagh	30	7.1	105	24.9	230	54.6	49	11.6	7	1.7	421	100.0
Tyringham-Hernani- Dundurrabin	23	6.6	79	22.8	219	63.1	26	7.5	0	0.0	347	100.0
Rural North-west												
Baryulgil- Malabugilmah	3	1.4	50	22.6	139	62.9	26	11.8	3	1.4	221	100.0
Copmanhurst	3	1.3	55	23.8	136	58.9	37	16.0	0	0	231	100.0

Source: id.consulting.ptv ltd (2008)

(1) Shading denotes above the Clarence Valley average.

The aging trend is forecast to increase through natural aging of the population, by high levels of in-migration of older people, and the continued exodus of young people leaving in search of education and employment opportunities not available in the Clarence Valley.

Other important demographic indicators that influence participation in and needs for recreation and sporting opportunities are outlined below.

Birthplace

88% of Clarence Valley residents were born in Australia, which is comparatively high compared with NSW at 69%.

Other key countries in which Clarence Valley residents were born are the United Kingdom (3%), New Zealand (1%), and other European countries, particularly Germany and the Netherlands (0.3% each).

Indigenous people

5% of Clarence Valley residents in 2006 identified as being indigenous compared to 2% of people in NSW. The highest proportion of indigenous persons in the Clarence Valley is in the age group 0 to 9 years (22%).

Education

Clarence Valley residents as a whole are not highly qualified. 70% of Clarence Valley adults aged 15 years and over finished school before or at completion of Year 10 or its equivalent compared to 52% of adults in NSW. Only 24% of adults in Clarence Valley finished Year 12 or its equivalent compared to 42% in NSW.

7% of Clarence Valley residents aged 15 years and over have a university degree or higher, compared to 30% in NSW. Holders of bachelor or higher degrees are concentrated in the Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah (9%) and Grafton Surrounds (8%) small areas. Key fields of higher study of Clarence Valley residents are engineering, management and commerce.

Household types

Key features of the household living arrangements of Clarence Valley residents in 2006 are:

- ❑ 47% of Clarence Valley residents are married or in a de facto relationship.
- ❑ 20% are children under 15 years of age.
- ❑ 9.5% live alone.
- ❑ 5% of residents are single parents.
- ❑ 5% are non-dependent children.
- ❑ 4% are dependent students aged 15 to 24 years.
- ❑ 2% live in group households.

Family households comprise:

- ❑ couple family with children (50% of families).
- ❑ couple family without children (32%).
- ❑ one parent family (16%).

Since 1996 there has been a significant increase in the number of couples with no children, and one parent with child(ren) families.

The incidence of families with children is higher than the Clarence Valley average (53% of families) in Baryulgil-Malabugilmah (70%), Coutts Crossing and Angourie-Wooloweyah (63%), Glenreagh (62%), Grafton, South Grafton, Tucabia, Tyringham-Hernani-Dundurrabin, and Halfway Creek-Lanitza (60%), Waterview-Seelands-Eatonsville (56%), and Copmanhurst (55%).

Between 1996 and 2006 there was a significant increase in the number of lone person households in the Clarence Valley which accounted for 25% of all households in the Clarence Valley in 2006. This was higher than the NSW rate of 23% of households comprising lone persons. Iluka (26% of families) and Yamba (25%) have much higher proportions of lone person households, reflecting the characteristic aging population.

Compared to NSW there is a slightly higher proportion of households and families with children in the Clarence Valley.

Dwelling structure

90% of Clarence Valley residents live in a separate house compared to 78% of people in NSW. 4% of Clarence Valley residents live in a medium density dwelling (semi-detached, row, terrace, town house), and a further 4% live in a flat, unit or apartment. Dwelling density is highest in Iluka-Woombah (54% of dwellings being separate houses) and Yamba (57%).

Given the rural and coastal holiday nature of Clarence Valley, 2% of residents live in a caravan, cabin or houseboat, particularly in Brooms Head (33% of dwellings), and Iluka and Minnie Water-Wooli (13%).

Implication for open space: areas of higher dwelling density need comparatively more open space

Household occupancy

The Clarence Valley has a high rate of home ownership, with 70.5% of occupied dwellings being purchased compared to 63% in NSW.

72% of dwellings in the Clarence Valley are owned or are being purchased, with rentals comprising 24% of dwelling stock. The rate of home ownership/purchase is higher in the Clarence Valley than in NSW. Within the Clarence Valley home ownership/purchase is highest in Gulmarrad (92%), Waterview-Seelands-Eatonsville (88%), Tucabia (86%), Coutts Crossing, Junction Hill and Halfway Creek-Lanitza (85%), Copmanhurst (81%), Brushgrove-Lawrence-Harwood (79%), Angourie-Wooloweyah (77%), Glenreagh (76%), and Brooms Head (75%)

Internet connection

46% of Clarence Valley households have no internet connection, compared to 35% in NSW.

Employment

Key industries in which people in the Clarence Valley are employed are manufacturing, construction, retail trade, agriculture/forestry/fishing/mining, and public administration and safety.

Compared to the NSW average, Clarence Valley has relatively low labour force participation (48% in Clarence Valley vs. 59% in NSW), a higher rate of part-time employment, and a high ratio of blue-collar workers.

Unemployment rates in the Clarence Valley dropped significantly between 1996 and 2006. In 2006, the unemployment rate of the labour force in Clarence Valley was 10%, which was above the NSW level of 6%. Employment rates are highest in Ulmarra (100%), Junction Hill (95%), Waterview-Seelands-Eatonsville (94%) and Gulmarrad (93%). Unemployment rates are highest in Iluka-Woombah and Rural South West (13% each), and Rural North West (12.5%) being the remote coastal and rural villages not easily accessible to larger population centres. The youth unemployment rate in the Clarence Valley in 2006 is significantly high at 17% compared to 11.5% for NSW.

Length of residence

Clarence Valley has a relatively stable population. 81% of Clarence Valley residents aged 1 year and over had the same address 1 year ago, and 55% of Clarence Valley residents aged 5 years and over had the same address 5 years ago. These proportions similarly apply to the NSW population.

Motor vehicles

There is a high rate of vehicle ownership in Clarence Valley. Only 8% of households (compared to 12% in NSW) did not own either a motor vehicle, motorbike or motor scooter. All other households had at least one motorised vehicle.

Vehicle ownership is highest in the more remote areas of the Valley particularly Rural South West, Rural North West, Rural Coast and Grafton Surrounds. Conversely households in the main towns of Grafton, South Grafton and Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad have the highest rate of vehicle ownership given higher densities and availability of public transport.

Household income

The median weekly household income in Clarence Valley in 2006 was \$631. This is significantly low compared with NSW (\$1,036), and probably reflects the higher proportion of people in Clarence Valley receiving the aged persons pension, self-funded retirees, and recipients of unemployment benefits.

The proportion of households earning \$1,000 and over gross income per week are highest in Junction Hill (41% of households), Angourie-Wooloweyah and Gulmarrad (39%), and Waterview-Seelands-Eatonville (37%). Lowest weekly household incomes are experienced by households in Iluka-Woombah and South Grafton.

Socio-economic status

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) shows that the small areas with the highest SEIFA and socio-economic 'status' are Grafton Surrounds (981.4 Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah (960.6), Rural Coast (952.7) and Grafton (940.0). The lowest SEIFA scores are for South Grafton (856.5), Rural North West (902.8) and Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad (905.1).

4.3 RECREATION PATTERNS OF CLARENCE VALLEY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

4.3.1 Residents

Open space and recreational facilities which are available to and used by Clarence Valley residents were described in **Section 3**.

There has not been a recent or comprehensive survey of Clarence Valley residents' use of open space and recreational facilities, or the recreational activities they participate in. For illustrative purposes participation in physical sporting and recreational activities by Australians as measured in national surveys is described in **Appendix C**.

4.3.2 Visitors

Clarence Valley Council undertook an interview survey of visitors to Yamba in 2004. The favourite activities of visitors while they are visiting Yamba were mainly water-oriented, as follows:

- ❑ beach activities (56% of visitors).
- ❑ fishing (34%).
- ❑ swimming (29%).
- ❑ surfing (26%).
- ❑ relaxing (20%).
- ❑ walking (18%).
- ❑ eating out (16%).
- ❑ shopping (12%)
- ❑ pub (10%)
- ❑ golf (8%)
- ❑ eating (7%)
- ❑ movies (5%).

4.3.3 Constraints to participation

Reasons for non-participation in sport and physical recreation activities are highly individualistic, and vary at different times and with personal circumstances.

Council can't do much about how people organise their lives or their personal circumstances. It has limited capacity to address individual circumstances such as insufficient time due to work/study/family/ other reasons, lack of interest, injury/illness, and age.

However it can assist with ensuring the facilities and spaces it manages are accessible by transport, are realistically costed and affordable, have extended hours of operation; and are well publicised with up-to-date information.

The location and setting of the Clarence Valley in a rural area, physical boundaries of rivers and the coast, have formed a pattern of dispersed towns and villages. Dispersal of settlements, and the resulting significant distances between towns and villages, result in constraints of travel times and costs for open space users when accessing open space opportunities. Limited public transport exacerbates the reliance on private vehicles to travel to open space. Council and others may overcome those constraints by:

- ❑ locating open space on or near public transport routes.
- ❑ co-locating open space and community facilities near retail centres.
- ❑ ensuring small villages are to some extent 'self-contained' with local play and sporting facilities.

4.4 DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS TO OPEN SPACE

4.4.1 Residents

Grafton City

Consultations undertaken for the Grafton Open Space Study in 2003 showed community needs and demand for:

- regional and district open space.
- access to the river foreshore.
- parkland and gardens.
- retaining and enhancing vegetation corridors, in streetscapes, along creeks and in rural areas.
- cycleways and walking tracks that don't involve use of roadways.
- river and creek foreshores and vegetated corridor trails, especially along the Clarence River.
- regional sporting facilities.
- opportunities for socialising and community development.
- an integrated and linked open space network along the Clarence River, other waterways and open space corridors.

Lower Clarence

Consultations undertaken in early 2006 for the Lower Clarence Recreational Needs Study showed that needs and requests for additional recreation opportunities related to:

- activities (general, children, youth, seniors).
- beaches and lakes.
- boating facilities
- children's facilities
- cinemas
- community halls
- equestrian facilities
- indoor recreation and sports facilities
- informal facilities
- linkages (walking and cycling)
- sports courts
- sporting fields
- swimming facilities
- youth facilities.

Detailed requests are outlined in **Appendix D**.



Clarence Valley

Consultation for this strategy to date has revealed the following suggestions for improving open space and recreation opportunities:

- more barbecues and shade
- skate parks
- outdoor fitness equipment
- playground equipment, safe softfall, furniture for childrens' carers
- children's bike tracks
- water park
- gymnastics facilities
- improvements to foreshore parks
- men's sheds
- indoor children's play centre
- footpaths and cycleways
- toilets.

4.4.2 Visitors

Visitors to Yamba in 2004 said they would like to use or experience:

- improved public toilets and barbecues.
- greater access to a wide range of water activities (windsurfing, jet ski hire, water skiing, parasailing, sailing, canoeing / kayaking, scuba diving, surfing lessons, snorkelling and wakeboarding).
- surfing lessons.
- barbecues at Yamba Main Beach and Angourie

- ❑ organised activities for children, such as Nippers club during holidays
- ❑ putt putt golf
- ❑ skating.
- ❑ movie complex
- ❑ tenpin bowling
- ❑ waterslides at the pool.

Some of these gaps have been filled since 2004.

4.5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION

4.5.1 Introduction

Forecast growth in the population, as well as its projected changing profile and spatial distribution, are important in setting a context for future provision of open space in the Clarence Valley.

The potential for future residential development will result from changes in residential housing density and zoning in established areas, infill development, and the supply of land that is available for future residential development in “greenfields” areas.

Grafton has been identified by the Department of Planning in the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy as a major regional centre for the Mid North Coast.

4.5.2 Forecast population

Residents

The Department of Planning announced in May 2010 that new residential development will occur in West Yamba (1,200 lots), Clarenza (750 lots) and Junction Hill (750 lots).

The small villages of Junction Hill, Clarenza and Waterview Heights which are within 10 kilometres of Grafton are projected to increase in size. The intention is for these villages to have their own identity and self-reliance and not to become dormitory suburbs of Grafton. Junction Hill has been identified as having the potential to function as a major village providing services to its residents and its rural residential catchment.

The Clarenza area has experienced recent development with the establishment of three non-government schools relocating there. An application to rezone land for residential development around a village centre has been submitted to Council. The application envisages the creation of 750 allotments to accommodate a population of 1,800 people. The new village is expected to grow to full capacity by 2021 – 2030.

Population estimates for the Clarence Valley to 2021 below are based on several relevant adopted strategic plans or studies:

- ❑ Clarence Valley Settlement Strategy (Geolink et. al., 1999)
- ❑ South Grafton Precinct Study (Clarence Valley Council, 2008)

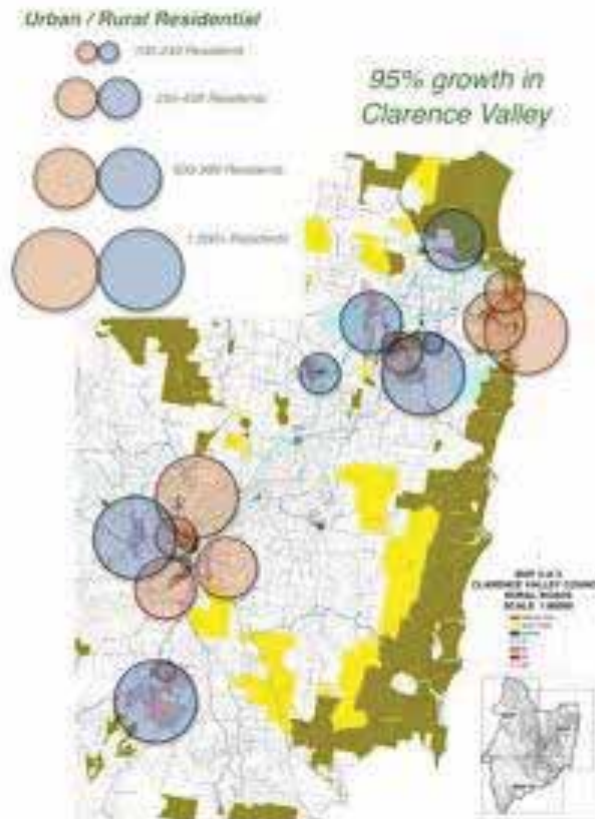
- ❑ Mid North Coast Regional Strategy (Department of Planning, 2009)
- ❑ Draft Local Growth Management Strategy for Maclean-Gulmarrad-Townsend (Clarence Valley Council, 2010, unpublished).

Population projections to 2021 prepared by Council are outlined below in **Table 4.4**. These estimates suggest an average annual growth rate of 1.75% for the next 10 years, which is comparable to the 1.75% per annum growth rate for the period 2006-2009. Areas in which population growth is expected to occur are shown in **Figure 4.3**.

Table 4.4 Population projections in the Clarence Valley to 2021

Small area	Larger towns/villages	2006 population	Adjusted estimated resident population 2009	Additional estimated residents 2010-2021	Estimated residents 2021	% change 2009 to 2021
Grafton	Grafton	9,963	10,100	495	10,595	4.90%
South Grafton	South Grafton	6,279	6,400	766	7,166	11.97%
Grafton Surrounds	TOTAL	6,266	6,318	3,293	9,611	52.12%
	<i>Junction Hill</i>	1,018	1,271	1,235	2,506	97.17%
	<i>Clarenza</i>	n/a	482	961	1,443	199.38%
	<i>Waterview Heights, Seelands, Eatonsville</i>	2,107	2,300	678	2,978	29.48%
	<i>Coutts Crossing</i>	961	1,039	308	1,347	29.64%
	<i>Mountain View</i>	n/a	241	62	303	25.73%
	<i>Ulmarra</i>	443	465	25	490	5.38%
	<i>Elland</i>	n/a	250	12	262	4.80%
	<i>Tucabia</i>	255	270	12	282	4.44%
Iluka-Woombah	TOTAL	2,531	2,593	951	3,544	36.68%
	<i>Iluka</i>	1,744	1,933	642	2,575	33.21%
	<i>Woombah</i>	n/a	660	309	969	46.82%
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	TOTAL	6,120	6,410	1,494	7,904	23.31%
	<i>Yamba, West Yamba</i>	5,509	5,800	1,482	7,282	25.55%
	<i>Angourie-Wooloweyah</i>	602	610	12	622	1.97%
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	TOTAL	4,163	4,842	1,902	6,744	39.28%
	<i>Maclean-Townsend-Illarwill</i>	3,357	3,721	543	4,264	14.59%
	<i>Gulmarrad</i>	806	1,121	1,359	2,480	121.23%
Rural Coast	TOTAL	6,624	4,769	786	5,555	16.48%
	<i>Brushgrove-Cowper-Lawrence-Harwood</i>	732	900	520	1,420	57.78%
	<i>Halfway Creek-Lanitza</i>	1,074	1,205	0	1,205	0.00%
	<i>Ashby</i>	n/a	125	62	187	49.60%
	<i>James Creek</i>	n/a	133	62	195	46.62%
	<i>Minnie Water-Wooli</i>	719	750	49	799	6.53%
	<i>Brooms Head</i>	244	250	32	282	12.80%
	<i>Tyndale</i>	n/a	95	25	120	26.32%
	<i>Woodford Island</i>	n/a	1,075	24	1,099	2.23%
	<i>Palmers island</i>	n/a	236	12	248	5.08%
Rural South-West	TOTAL	3,616	3,650	86	3,736	2.36%
	<i>Glenreagh</i>	421	429	86	515	20.05%
	<i>Tyringham, Hernani, Dundurrabin</i>	347	350	0	350	0.00%

Small area	Larger towns/villages	2006 population	Adjusted estimated resident population 2009	Additional estimated residents 2010-2021	Estimated residents 2021	% change 2009 to 2021
Rural North-West	TOTAL	2,602	2,620	69	2,689	2.63%
	<i>Copmanhurst</i>	231	270	69	339	25.56%
	<i>Baryulgil-Malabugilmah</i>	221	221	0	221	0.00%
TOTAL		48,164	47,702	9,842	57,544	20.63%



Source: Newplan

Figure 4.3 Expected growth areas in the Clarence Valley to 2021

Despite population totals not being available for some towns / villages in 2006, the following key points can still be made:

- **Continued residential growth is expected across the LGA to 2021 and beyond.** The estimated population of the Clarence Valley in 2009 was 47,700 people. Estimated lot yields to 2021 show that 9,842 additional residents are expected in the Clarence Valley to 2021, resulting in an increase of nearly 21% on the estimated 2009 population.

- ❑ **Additional growth is expected to be concentrated in the Pacific Highway corridor between Grafton-South Grafton and Yamba-Iluka.**
- ❑ **The Grafton Surrounds small area will house one-third of additional residents to 2021**, followed by Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad (19%), and Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah (15%). Nearly 3,300 additional residents are expected in the Grafton Surrounds small area, particularly in Junction Hill (1,235 people), Clarenza (961), and Waterview Heights-Seelands-Eatonsville (678).
- ❑ **Towns and villages that are expected to experience particularly increased rates of residential growth** are Clarenza (200% increase), Gulmarrad (121%), Junction Hill (97%), Brushgrove-Cowper-Lawrence-Harwood (58%), Ashby (49%), James Creek (47%), and Woombah (46%).

4.5.3 Characteristics of the future resident population

It is widely expected that retirees enjoying or seeking a coastal lifestyle will continue to comprise a high proportion of the additional population in the Clarence Valley over the next 10 to 20 years. Retirees will comprise self-funded retirees with a relatively high disposal income, and retirees that are dependent on the aged pension who have a lower disposable income.

In addition, relevant research (Gurran, Squires and Blakely, 2005) has shown that younger people, including itinerant workers, low-income families, and young people on welfare, are also increasingly moving from larger cities to high-growth coastal towns in NSW. The main factors influencing the decisions of younger people to move to coastal towns include a more laid-back lifestyle, better access to beaches and natural areas, and being part of a more close-knit community. Affordable housing is also a factor in young people moving to coastal areas in NSW, however property prices in the coastal areas of the Clarence Valley make it unlikely that younger people and families on low incomes could afford to buy their own property in the coastal areas.

4.5.4 Implications for open space

The implications for population increase in the Clarence Valley are:

- ❑ there is likely to be unmet demand and pressure on existing open spaces in the LGA.
- ❑ the projected population increase of 21% to 2021 means an equitable supply of open space throughout the Valley, particularly in developing and new release areas, will become increasingly important.

4.6 FUTURE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS

4.6.1 Introduction

Measuring recreation needs and demand is a complex process that requires multiple approaches because of the vast range of needs and preferences, and recreation activities and settings involved. These approaches include:

- ❑ measuring current participation (via resident surveys, club registrations, observation and visitor counts).
- ❑ identifying partially satisfied demand (via resident surveys, visitor/user surveys and observation).
- ❑ estimating latent or unmet demand (via resident surveys, comparison with national or other State and local demand benchmarks, and visitor/user surveys).

A combination of these approaches is used to gauge demand for open space and recreation in this assessment.

The recreation and open space needs of a large and diverse area such as the Clarence Valley are best assessed at a town / village level to take differences into account. This assessment takes into account the following factors:

- ❑ changes in social, demographic and economic characteristics of the Clarence Valley population and implications of those changes for open space and recreation provision.
- ❑ location and extent of future residential development.
- ❑ criteria relating to the desirable distribution and characteristics of various open space and recreation facilities on a needs basis rather than on arbitrary standards.
- ❑ special needs of target groups such as children, young people, seniors, women, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

In determining the future open space and recreation needs of Clarence Valley residents, a number of assumptions about future demands need to be made, which are:

- ❑ unmet demands will still hold, and will in fact be exacerbated by a continually increasing population and an influx of visitors in peak holiday periods.
- ❑ the future population will reflect the demographic characteristics described above, particularly an aging population.
- ❑ trends in participation in recreation activities and use of recreation facilities by NSW people described in **Appendix E** may be assumed to continue.

4.6.2 Open space and recreation needs

Population characteristics

The size, growth rate and characteristics of a population are key indicators of sport and recreation needs and demands. The key characteristics and their implications for recreation needs and demands in the Clarence Valley are summarised in **Table 4.5**.

Table 4.5 Population characteristics and implications for open space demand

Population characteristics	Demand for open space and recreation opportunities	Implications for the Clarence Valley
<p>Total population Current population (2006 Census) = 48,000 people Expected population in 2021 = 57,500 people Population to 2031 to increase as similar to rate to 2011-2021</p>	<p>An increasing population requires a higher level of provision of open space and recreational facilities and settings to meet demand.</p>	<p>Facility capacity and opportunities will need to keep pace with population and tourism growth. Potential for overuse of facilities. Facilities that absorb the needs of residents and tourists at peak times are required.</p>
<p>Age Mix of age groups. Comparatively high proportion of middle aged and older adults indicating an aging population.</p>	<p>Age is the most important determinant of recreational patterns. As the community ages, the type, frequency and location of activities they pursue changes. Younger people are more active in a variety of recreational pursuits. Participation in sport is higher in younger age groups. As people get older they participate less frequently in activities that require less physical effort, and prefer walking, golf and lawn bowls. People of all ages enjoy walking, observing nature, cycling, swimming and golf.</p>	<p>An aging population requires focus on less structured and non-sporting and competitive facilities and services e.g. walking tracks and parks.</p> <p>A significant proportion of the existing and future population increase will be in the older age groups, affecting the demand for activities popular with older members of the community, which will have a significant impact on the way open space is provided for and used. Activities popular with older adults are aerobics/ fitness, aquarobics, fishing, golf, lawn and carpet bowls, and walking / bush walking is likely to be strong in the small areas with a high proportion of older people such as Iluka.</p> <p>Decline in the proportion of young people will mean a decline in participation in sports that traditionally target young people.</p> <p>The high percentage of children aged 0 to 14 years in the South Grafton, Rural South-West and Rural North-West small areas will require play opportunities, off-road trails, specialist activities such as BMX, sports facilities and open space.</p>
<p>Gender Approximately even % of males and females</p>	<p>Males are likely to use open space and participate more often than females in active recreational pursuits such as cycling and using indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. Females participate more in unstructured and informal activities such as walking, nature activities and aerobics; and sporting activities such as netball, gymnastics, rink sports and</p>	<p>Provision of sporting facilities in the Clarence Valley tends to favour male sports.</p> <p>Recognise the need to equitably cater for the different recreation preferences of males and females.</p>

Population characteristics	Demand for open space and recreation opportunities	Implications for the Clarence Valley
	<p>badminton. Females prefer to use unstructured settings.</p> <p>Activities in which males and females participate equally include visiting parks, picnics and barbecues, bushwalking, baseball/softball, outdoor hockey, and tennis.</p>	
<p>Born overseas The majority of people in the Clarence Valley were either born in Australia, or were born in an English speaking country. People born outside Australia represent a spread of countries, particularly the UK, NZ and northern Europe.</p>	<p>People from different cultural backgrounds have different preferences and interests in recreation activities. People from a non-English speaking background (NESB) do not participate in sport as often as people from an English speaking background. This particularly true for women from a NESB.</p> <p>There are opportunities for integrating and sharing cultures in open space and recreation settings.</p>	<p>12% of people in the Clarence Valley were born overseas, particularly in English speaking countries. There is not a strong imperative to consider cultural factors based on birthplace in open space in the Valley.</p>
<p>Educational qualifications Average level of post-school qualifications.</p>	<p>People with higher levels of education and occupations have a wider knowledge base to draw on. The tend to use open space more often than the less educated, particularly for individual or small group activities, skill-based activities, the more expensive outdoor activities, and indoor sports.</p>	<p>As general educational levels increase in the Clarence Valley, it is expected that use of open space and average participation rates in recreation activities will also increase.</p>
<p>Household type Couple families with children are the dominant household type.</p>	<p>The composition of households helps to determine which recreational activities household members would be interested in.</p> <p>Households with children and young people are more frequent users of open space and recreation facilities.</p> <p>There is a growing desire for families to share recreational activities or to enjoy related activities at one venue rather than doing different activities at different venues. This often reflects changing work, leisure and family arrangements and a desire to do activities as a family.</p>	<p>The high number of families with children in the Clarence Valley implies a higher than average demand for 'family-friendly' parks including combinations of playgrounds, sports facilities, swimming pools, tracks and trails, specialist facilities such as BMX tracks, and indoor sports facilities.</p> <p>Child care and playgroups, parents' rooms, larger change rooms, and vehicle parking are important to parents of young children.</p>
<p>Household income The Clarence Valley is a comparatively low income area.</p>	<p>Use of recreation facilities and settings reflects the cost of using those facilities. People earning medium to higher incomes demonstrate an above average participation in gym activities, tennis and golf which cost money to play. People and households earning lower incomes are more likely to use free public and school facilities.</p>	<p>Lower incomes will constrain participation so free activities close to home are more convenient.</p> <p>There is an ability to pay for recreation activities, although there is a need for affordable opportunities, particularly for older adults, young people and families.</p>
<p>Dwelling structure Diverse housing types, although separate houses dominate. Coastal areas and</p>	<p>Detached dwellings generally have play space for children. Medium density dwellings and flats have little play space which increases reliance on local public open space.</p>	<p>There is a need to provide sufficient open space, particularly children's play space, in medium density residential areas and areas</p>

Population characteristics	Demand for open space and recreation opportunities	Implications for the Clarence Valley
those close to transport nodes have denser housing.		where detached dwellings are on small blocks. Families require space beyond home for active recreation (kicking a ball, walking the dog etc.). The denser population close to the coast and transport routes requires open space to compensate for limited private recreation space.
Vehicle ownership Reliance on motor vehicles for transport is high.	Vehicle owners have the mobility to use open space more frequently for active recreation, and use a greater variety of recreational spaces and facilities. People without access to a vehicle tend to visit local parks within walking distance of their homes or on a public transport route.	Greater access to motor vehicles increases access to recreation options. Households with one or no vehicles are constrained in their access to a range of recreation opportunities. Public transport and quality close-to-home recreation opportunities are particularly important for these households. Almost average levels of vehicle ownership imply average mobility and access to district and regional scale facilities.
Length of residence Similar rate of mobility compared to the NSW population.	Movement of households reflects tenure (renting, purchasing, owning), household composition, and employment opportunities. Households which move regularly may be less active members of the communities they live in, may not learn or be aware of the range of opportunities available to them, and may not make full use of what is provided.	Length of residence has implications for promotion and distribution of information about open space and recreation opportunities.

Source: National Recreation Participation Survey; various Australian and overseas studies.

Needs of target groups

The open space and recreational needs for target groups in **Appendix F** are derived from recreational and leisure research, and observations of trends in participation and use of recreational facilities by various target groups.

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5 BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines Council's and the community's values of open space in the Clarence Valley, and the vision, principles and objectives for future provision and management of open space.

5.2 VALUES OF OPEN SPACE

Open space in the Clarence Valley is valued for the reasons set out below.

Table 5.1 Values of open space in the Clarence Valley

Value	Open space in the Clarence Valley:
Recreation	Caters for the community's informal recreation needs. Includes opportunities for people to participate in active and passive recreation activities.
Sport	Caters for indoor or outdoor structured, formal and active recreation. Important components of open space for sport include playing fields, courts and other settings.
Visual amenity	Conserves or enhances aesthetically pleasing components of the landscape. Important components include views and vistas, and the open space's ability to contribute to urban greening in built-up environments.
Ecological / environmental	Conserves native flora and fauna, and the ecosystems they are part of. Important components include bushland, riparian vegetation, wetlands, coastal environs and aquatic/ marine ecosystems.
Social	Is a venue for social gatherings of families, friends, groups and communities. Acts as a major community meeting or gathering place.
Culture / heritage	Conserves and enhances evidence or community understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> indigenous cultural heritage including sites, objects, landscape modifications, cultural landscapes and places. <input type="checkbox"/> early European cultural heritage including past occupation or use.
Economic	Contributes to the local and regional economy through attracting residents and visitors to enjoy activities and events associated with open space.
Education	Provides opportunities for research, education and interpretation to present the natural and/or cultural values of the park, reserve or area in general.
Access	Is, in general, physically and financially accessible.
Water quality	Enhances water quality and manages water flow for social, economic, health or environmental benefit. Important components include groundwater, stormwater, flood, waterway and water storage management.

Sources: *Lifestyle Grafton: Grafton City Open Space Plan (2004); Draft Clarence Valley Crown Reserves and Community Land Plan of Management 2009-2019*

5.3 VISION AND MISSION FOR OPEN SPACE IN THE CLARENCE VALLEY

Consistent with these values of open space, the vision for open spaces in the Clarence Valley is:

A network of accessible, high quality and diverse open space and sporting and recreation facilities which respect natural characteristics and are able to meet the wide range of needs and desires of residents and visitors into the future.

To achieve the vision, Council's mission is to:

Guide the future development, enhancement and management of the open space and recreation facilities in the Clarence Valley in an efficient, affordable, sustainable and equitable manner, in keeping with the protection of the Valley's environmental, social, cultural and landscape values.

5.4 DIRECTION FOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE TO 2021

The existing supply of open space in the Clarence Valley is diverse, given its range of urban and rural settlements, and coastal and river settings.

There are some gaps in provision for certain open space settings and facilities in some places in the Clarence Valley.

The Clarence valley population is expected to increase from 48,000 people in 2006 to 58,000 people in 2021.

Key new release areas are expected at Clarenza, Junction Hill, and West Yamba. To a lesser extent growth is expected to occur in Grafton, South Grafton, Coutts Crossing, Waterview Heights, Iluka, Woombah, Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad, and Brushgrove-Lawrence-Harwood.

Retirees are expected to comprise an increasing proportion of the incoming future population.

Demand for recreation opportunities is expected to increase in line with increases in the numbers of residents and tourists.

5.5 PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES FOR OPEN SPACE IN THE CLARENCE VALLEY

5.5.1 General

Open spaces in the Clarence Valley will be planned, designed, provided and managed according to several key principles and associated objectives set out in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2 Principles and objectives for open space in the Clarence Valley

Principles Open space will be:	Rationale	Objectives for open space consistent with principles	Planning considerations
Adequate	Inadequate provision of open space results in use of that open space approaching or reaching its capacity, which leads to wear and tear on the space and decreasing attractiveness to use it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide an adequate supply of open space and associated facilities to satisfy existing and future needs for open space of people in established, growing and new release areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Address provision of open space in areas not well served by open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure an appropriate balance between quantity and enhancement/embellishment of open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of surplus open space. 	Provide facilities and services at a level commensurate with need. Standards or benchmarks are considered as minimum best practice in determining need. A needs-based approach is used in this Plan taking into account planning principles, demographic characteristics and forecast populations, expressed needs, and consultation. Options for ensuring open space is adequate for the community include acquisition, dedication, or rationalisation of land.
Quality	Higher quality facilities will provide a further attraction for people to live in the area and should generate a greater sense of community pride and participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide quality open space in terms of fit for purpose, facilities and settings provided, attractiveness, condition, usability and accessibility. 	Recreation facilities and spaces should be of a high standard, particularly regional and district facilities.
Diverse	The greater the range of open space and recreation opportunities available means that people are more likely to find a space or facility that they enjoy using.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a diverse range of informal, structured and natural open space settings and facilities in the network of open space to maximise opportunities for the whole community to use and enjoy open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Minimise conflict between uses of open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Reflect the various values of open space in its planning, use and development. 	Use the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum approach in strategic planning to ensure the widest possible range (within funding constraints) of open space and recreation opportunities is provided.
Attractive	Open space that meets needs and encourages people to use it will be more likely to be used than open space that is not attractive, for various reasons, to use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide open space that is visually attractive to the general community. <input type="checkbox"/> Retain and promote natural viewsapes to reduce the visual impact of the built environment. <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve regional and local landscape character and identity. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect and manage trees. 	Invite feedback on what users of open space like about the space or facility, and suggestions for improvements.

Principles Open space will be:	Rationale	Objectives for open space consistent with principles	Planning considerations
Multi-purpose	Multiple use of parkland and sports facilities allows a variety of user groups to enjoy recreation and social activities. Multi-use buildings will minimise the duplication of built facilities, and achieve better use of resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote multiple and integrated uses of a range of open space and recreation facilities.	Flexible approach to the design of facilities, and a commitment to shared use to cater for a range of activities. This includes discouraging exclusive use of facilities where appropriate.
Equitable	The Clarence Valley population is comparatively low income and elderly. A large proportion of residents are not in the workforce and rely on government assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that open space is socially equitable and affordable to use.	Recreation facilities in the Clarence Valley should be affordable.
	The population of the Clarence Valley is dispersed in towns and villages of varying sizes. It makes financial sense to provide open space and recreation facilities where the population is most concentrated. However people in smaller villages and hamlets have needs for open space too, but often miss out on facilities and services if they are based on a population benchmark. A service-based benchmark has greater weight than a population benchmark.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure equity in provision and distribution of open space so all of the community can enjoy the benefits of open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve an equitable balance of use of open space for structured and informal activities.	There should be a geographical spread of recreation opportunities across the Clarence Valley, including a hierarchy of regional, district and local facilities and spaces. Support isolated areas with declining or small populations by providing co-located 'self-contained' open space and recreation facilities.
Accessible	While vehicle ownership in the Clarence Valley is high, a large proportion of residents, particularly young people, rely on public transport.	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide open space that is connected, is accessible for people of all ages and abilities, and is served where possible by public transport.	Recreation facilities and open spaces are ideally located in prominent locations that are easily accessible by public transport and pedestrian and cycle access, and have high visibility.
	Some groups in the community do not have the same level of access to sport and recreation facilities compared to other groups. This inequity needs to be addressed where possible.		Groups that are not currently well serviced or require specific attention should be focused on to encourage participation in sport or recreation. This includes girls and women, people with a disability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Principles Open space will be:	Rationale	Objectives for open space consistent with principles	Planning considerations
Accessible (cont.)	Larger sporting complexes reduce travel for parents with children of different ages. Fewer larger facilities offer management economies.		Sporting grounds are to be of a reasonable size to cater for a number of activities.
	Equitable physical access to open space and participation in rated activities should be emphasised according to social justice principles and legislation.		Recreation facilities should be designed to be universally accessible to all, irrespective of their level of physical ability.
Flexible	Sharing use of open space owned by other organisations when there is excess capacity or at times when the open space is not being used maximises the use of resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Design and manage open space to respond and adapt to changing community needs and preferences, demographic characteristics, and lifestyle and activity participation trends over time.	Explore shared use arrangements, including the potential for a mix of commercial and community uses/hirers.
	The current allocation of school sporting facilities relies on individual schools making facilities available and user groups approaching the schools. An approach is required to ensure appropriate school facilities are allocated to higher priority groups. A school facility that is 'hidden' within the school is less likely to be perceived as a community facility.		There should be a regional approach to the allocation and use of school sporting facilities. School facilities, such as sportsgrounds and halls, that are available to community groups to use should be designed and located so that they are easily accessible to the public.
	It may not be possible to establish the level of new sporting grounds required, and therefore different approaches to playing sport should be considered.		Existing facilities should be used effectively, such as use of sporting grounds for games as well as training mid-week or on both days of a weekend within carrying capacity.
	Needs and preferences for use of open space change over time.		Plan for activities as well as space. It is important that the design of open space takes into account the proposed purposes through careful planning and engagement with end users, and that the design is flexible to allow adaptation as needs change over time.

Principles Open space will be:	Rationale	Objectives for open space consistent with principles	Planning considerations
Flexible (cont.)	A decreasing commitment to regular participation in organised recreational activities.		Emphasis should be placed on flexible participation in recreation, such as opportunities for casual participation in an activity, and flexible days and times.
Recreation places	Open space serves several functions, including recreational outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cater for informal and active/formal recreation activities.	Recognise that open space serves several functions, and all potential functions must be considered in planning, design and management.
Social places	Open space serves several functions, including social outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan and design open space to promote opportunities for social interactions and forming social connections. <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance, retain and consider possible future social opportunities.	
Educational places	Open space serves several functions, including educational outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide educational places and opportunities for the community.	
Cultural places	Open space serves several functions, including cultural outcomes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Conserve and reflect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage and character in the location, design, development and use of open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Build on existing and develop new multicultural relationships and values in the Clarence Valley through developing and using open space.	
Safe	Perceptions of safety are a key consideration when people make a decision whether to use open spaces.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure safe and secure use and enjoyment of open space through appropriate location, design, construction, use and risk management. <input type="checkbox"/> Discourage anti-social behaviour in open space.	Design and maintain open space according to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
Sustainable	Sustainability of open space is a major issue in the light of climate change and associated changes in water regimes.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that open space is sustainably managed to ensure its conservation, enjoyment and benefits for future generations. <input type="checkbox"/> Aim towards self-sustainability in all elements of open space and facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Adapt open space for environmental and atmospheric changes associated with climate	Plan, design, use and maintain open space in a sustainable way, being mindful of climate change, water sensitive urban design, carrying capacities and other sustainability considerations.

Principles Open space will be:	Rationale	Objectives for open space consistent with principles	Planning considerations
		<p>change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manage open space wisely and efficiently in relation to ecologically sustainable development, water use, energy use, resource use, and waste management practices. 	
Natural	<p>Natural settings, such as bushland, wetlands, and foreshores in public ownership is limited, particularly outside national parks and nature reserves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Protect and, where possible, enhance ecological and landscape values over a range of representative communities including floodplain, forests and bushland, riparian vegetation and wetlands. <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance and link ecologically viable natural areas to improve biodiversity values. 	<p>Retain natural settings in public ownership where possible. Integrate natural settings as a feature of future development of land incorporating natural settings.</p>
Well managed	<p>Sport and recreation groups can concentrate on their activity if they are not dealing with facility management issues. Councils can be impartial in considering the needs of all sports and activities, ensuring equitable access and that priority needs are met.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrate open space planning with other land use planning. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure efficient, effective and best practice management of open space and use of human and financial resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Implement a co-operative, co-ordinated and integrated planning and management system for open space within Council. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the community's needs and aspirations for open space are listened to and addressed through appropriate community engagement. <input type="checkbox"/> Pursue partnerships with other levels of government and private organisations to provide and enhance open space. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure appropriate levels of resourcing for open space, recognising competing demands for resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Optimise triple bottom line (environmental, social and economic) outcomes in relation to open space. 	<p>Council to act as an open space provider and advocate, according to industry best practice management. Council to work in partnership with user groups and other stakeholders to manage open space.</p>

5.5.2 Objectives for categories of open space

Specific objectives for categories of open space, which approximate the categories of community land under the *Local Government Act 1993*, are set out below.

Parks

- ❑ Meet needs for informal recreation in open space by catering for all age groups, genders, physical abilities, cultural backgrounds, and interests.
- ❑ Cater for the outdoor play and developmental needs of children in quality, and safe but interesting and challenging environments.
- ❑ Cater for the recreational interests and needs of young people that can be satisfied in open space.
- ❑ Cater for the needs of older people in open space.
- ❑ Encourage use of open space and participation in recreation by catering for the needs of women and girls.
- ❑ Ensure physical and inclusive access for people with disabilities to open space.
- ❑ Cater for exercise of companion animals.

Sportsground

Refer to the Sports Facilities Plan.

Natural area

- ❑ Protect, conserve, maintain and rehabilitate natural habitats, flora and fauna, and wildlife corridors.
- ❑ Integrate natural areas into the open space network.
- ❑ Conserve and protect natural settings while permitting appropriate recreational access.
- ❑ Improve access to and recreational opportunities offered by public land and rivers, creeks, lakes, beaches and their foreshores.
- ❑ Balance and manage conflicts between recreational activities associated with public land and water.

Area of cultural significance

- ❑ Recognise the cultural significance of open space to indigenous people.
- ❑ Conserve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage.

General community use

- ❑ Provide open space which supports use by the general community for a range of recreational, social, educational and cultural purposes.

Linkages

Linkages and physical connections transcend the categorisations of open space above. Objectives for linkages are to:

- ❑ Provide an integrated network of connected open spaces to promote pedestrian, cyclist, equestrian and wildlife movement.
- ❑ Maximise continuous links and access to, within, and from open space.
- ❑ Provide appropriate opportunities for walking, cycling, equestrian and other compatible activities on tracks and trails.
- ❑ Create walkable and well-connected neighbourhoods in urban and rural residential areas.

5.6 LEVELS OF SERVICE

5.6.1 Introduction

Levels of service for open space are defined in this section. Desired levels of service should be defined before undertaking an assessment of the current and future provision of open space (refer to Section 6).

Performance criteria for open space and recreation land forms the basis for how open space will be planned, calculated, acquired, designed, developed, maintained or rationalised.

General open space performance criteria emphasise:

- ❑ holistic and needs-based planning rather than strict adherence to a standards approach.
- ❑ the unpredictable availability of suitable land and the need to sometimes trade off quantity of open space for quality.
- ❑ safety.
- ❑ quality of land and facilities.
- ❑ maximising the range of opportunity where appropriate.
- ❑ the need to consider capital and maintenance costs of open space land to local government and to the community.

Principles on which open space and recreation facilities should be provided, and the location, land requirements and design criteria for various regional, district and local spaces and facilities are outlined in **Appendix G**. Criteria for land to be dedicated to Council as a Section 94 contribution, and criteria for open space to be rationalised, are in **Appendix H**.

These principles and criteria are guidelines only. It is not always possible to satisfy the principles and criteria, especially in established areas where previous reservation of open space has not always been ideal. However, when designing new release areas there is an opportunity to better meet open space needs based on current planning principles.

5.6.2 Quantity of open space

Established and new release areas

This Open Space Strategy is needs-based (refer to **Section 2**). The Open Space and Recreation Guidelines for NSW (SGS Economics, 2011) advocate using default standards for open space planning in NSW, and adapting these default standards to define locally specific provision standards. This approach is used below.

As shown in Section 3, the current level of supply of public open space is 32 hectares per 1,000 people across the Clarence valley local government area. This amount of open space is broken down by category of open space as follows:

- Park: 24%
- Sportsground: 19%
- Natural Area: 45%
- General Community Use: 12%.

These rates of provision are comparatively very high, so it is not recommended, particularly for financial reasons, to continue this level of provision in the future.

Land for open space may be obtained through planning and through opportunity. Planned provision occurs when land is purchased, dedicated or similar according to an agreed strategy. Opportunistic provision of land for open space occurs through means such as a change in or ceasing of a particular use (such as a sewage treatment plant), a bequest, or land acquired for other purposes which may also be used for open space purposes.

The recommended level of service for parks, sportsgrounds, and natural areas at the Clarence Valley LGA, regional, district/village, local levels; and for linkages are outlined in Table 5.3 and below.

Key general principles regarding provision of open space that are reflected in the following levels of service are:

- one open space dedicated to play/social/family recreation in every local neighbourhood (500 metres easy walking distance of the majority of households in urban areas, or one such space in rural-residential areas located in a nearby village.
- sufficient quality and diversity to serve each precinct of the urban areas, or district catchment, equitably.
- opportunities for core activities undertaken in open space (walking, cycling, play, informal games, relaxing, picnics, and playing and watching sport) are provided in each local neighbourhood or village.
- easy access to off-road trails for local neighbourhoods.
- a range of function and setting types within planning areas encompassing benefits of open space.

New release areas provide opportunities to provide a high quality open space network 'from scratch' because such areas are obviously less constrained by urban development than established areas. An appropriate quantity, distribution, quality and connectivity of open space can be planned for to meet the needs of the incoming population. Constraints will include environmental (flooding), power transmission lines, and location of utilities.

Open space in new release areas should be provided according to the guidelines for future provision in the following tables. Assumptions and provisos for new release areas are that:

- ❑ provision of open space be adjusted for housing density, proximity to existing development, transport links, topography, etc.
- ❑ open space and recreation facilities in new release areas primarily serve the residents of that development. If the new release area offers open space opportunities that attract people from other areas, that is a benefit for the community.

Land alone does not meet community needs for open space. The attractiveness, quality and functionality of the land is important to ensure use.

Desirable guidelines for embellishment of hierarchies of parkland are set out in **Appendix G**.

Acquisition of open space

Current situation

Clarence Valley Council has a “passive” strategy for acquisition of open space, in that it does not actively pursue properties for acquisition for open space such as identifying specific properties in its LEP or informing property owners of an intention to acquire the property. The result has been a limited acquisition program in recent years.

Rationale and objectives for land acquisition

A basic principle should be to embellish existing open space before necessarily acquiring land for open space in established and developing areas.

Within land availability and funding constraints, Council will acquire land for open space to:

- ❑ accommodate the open space needs of an increasing population.
- ❑ provide open space in areas lacking or deficient in open space, especially those areas forecast to experience significant residential growth.
- ❑ conserve natural areas.
- ❑ add to the land area and thus the potential usability of existing regional, district and local open spaces.
- ❑ facilitate open space and recreational linkages.
- ❑ increase provision of open space especially in current and planned medium density and new release areas.

The need for acquisition of land for open space, and thus the cost to Council, decreases if open space and recreation facilities can be provided in another way, such as sharing open space on school land. This is a matter that NSW Sport and Recreation and other North Coast Councils have previously identified.

Table 5.3 Standards of Service for open space provision in Clarence Valley

Open space category	Current provision in Clarence Valley	Future provision				
		Department of Planning default standard		Provision in Clarence Valley		
		Size	Distance from most dwellings	Rate of provision	Preferred minimum size / usable area for main purpose	Main purpose
Total open space	32 hectares per 1,000 people	See below	See below	5 hectares per 1,000 people of park and sportsground, + natural areas + general community use	See below	See below
Park						
Whole of LGA	365 hectares at 7.6 hectares per 1,000 people.	See below	See below	2.5 hectares per 1,000 people	Minimum land area of 2 hectares, or less if the reserve is part of a linear open space system.	Provides for active and passive recreation needs.
Regional	-	5 + ha	5 – 10 km	-	Park focused on a specific location or feature. Unstructured recreation activities with no use prevailing.	Areas for informal non-competitive recreation, appreciation of natural and/or cultural heritage, relaxation, social interaction and solitude. Provides a wide range of recreation experiences for all ages. Attractive landscaped areas.
District / village	-	2-5 ha	2 km	-	Minimum of 2 hectares.	Site greater than local significance which attracts and supports longer duration but less frequent visits than a local park. Also serves as local park for nearby residents.
Local	-	1 – 2 ha	400 metres	-	Local parks of at least 0.5 to 1.0 hectare (0.3 ha usable area) should be	Space for informal, non-competitive recreation and relaxation for residents within a local neighbourhood or

Open space category	Current provision in Clarence Valley	Future provision				
		Department of Planning default standard		Provision in Clarence Valley		
		Size	Distance from most dwellings	Rate of provision	Preferred minimum size / usable area for main purpose	Main purpose
					provided within 400 metres safe walking distance of most urban households to allow flexibility in catering for a range of age groups, activities and population changes over time. Take into account demographic characteristics, land use, barriers such as highways and main roads, and location of district and regional open space.	village. Suitable for specific purpose trips, such as to use a playground, or as one destination in multi-purpose trips to schools, shops and community facilities. Predominantly serves a neighbourhood.
Sportsground						
Whole of LGA	288 hectares at 6.0 hectares per 1,000 people.	-	-	-	-	-
Regional	-	10 + ha	5 – 10 km	-	10 – 20 hectares	Sports precinct serving the whole LGA or some district demand
District / village	-	5 – 10 ha	2 km	-	Minimum 3 hectare	Serves village, township or several neighbourhoods in an urban area.
Local	-	5 ha	1 km	-	Minimum two rectangular / one oval field of 1.5 hectares 5 ha	Serves a small village or local urban area.
Specialist	-	-	-	-	-	Serves local, village, district and regional LGA demand for specialist sporting facilities e.g. equestrian, events, shows.

Open space category	Current provision in Clarence Valley	Future provision				
		Department of Planning default standard		Provision in Clarence Valley		
		Size	Distance from most dwellings	Rate of provision	Preferred minimum size / usable area for main purpose	Main purpose
Natural Area						
Whole of LGA	676 hectares at 14.0 hectares per 1,000 people.	-	-	-	Ensure maximum width to area ratio that is possible to reduce weed invasion, ensure vegetation survival, and an effective wildlife corridor.	Bushland – predominantly natural vegetation which may also provide opportunities for appropriate recreation use. Conservation open space – areas reserved due to inherent natural features.
Regional, district, local	-	-	-	-	As opportunities arise	Appropriate to the natural area
General Community Use						
Whole of LGA	3.9 hectares per 1,000 people.	-	-	-	Depends on main purpose	Appropriate to the space
Linkages						
Whole of LGA	-	-	-	Hierarchy of local, regional and State linear walking and cycling trails linking local communities to regional trails.	Size is variable. Length is more important than width, but width should be sufficient to allow for a path or access route, tree planting, and landscaping as well as functioning as a drainage corridor. Multiuse – at least 2.5 metres wide to accommodate walkers, cyclists, rollerbladers, parents with prams in highly trafficked areas.	Walking tracks / cycleways Catchment from immediate local area for informal play to others passing through on a pathway network. Catchment area depends on the importance of other parks and facilities that are linked to the linear park, and the features, attractiveness and scale of the linear park itself. Provide links and access routes between other parks, community facilities, shops and residential areas, and fauna habitat.

Open space category	Current provision in Clarence Valley	Future provision				
		Department of Planning default standard		Provision in Clarence Valley		
		Size	Distance from most dwellings	Rate of provision	Preferred minimum size / usable area for main purpose	Main purpose
Linkages (cont.)	-	-	-		Cycleways – as per Pedestrian and Mobility Plan	Drainage reserve Primarily serves a drainage purpose, but also caters for informal pedestrian and cycle access.
Regional	-	5 + km	-	-	-	Walking, cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding
District / village	-	1 – 5 km	-	Focus on short trips less than 5 kilometres and loop system to provide accessible network	-	Walking, cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding
Local	-	Up to 1 km	5 – 10 km	-	-	Walking, cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding

Strategy for land acquisition

The principles and strategy for acquisition of land for open space which underpin land acquisition are to:

- not necessarily acquire land for open space if alternatives for public access to open space (such as in schools) exist.
- provide public access to open space especially in established areas.
- provide linkages for pedestrians and cyclists along rivers and creeks.
- move away from providing new small local pocket parks with high relative maintenance costs towards augmenting existing local, district and regional open space and providing mid-block links.
- consider continuing Council's current "passive" approach to open space land acquisition, but be more proactive in reviewing property markets for opportunities to acquire suitable land where necessary.

Criteria for land acquisition

Criteria for identification and acquisition of lands that may contribute to open space are set out in **Appendix I**.

Dedication of open space

Dedication of open space land or facilities may occur through a planning agreement with developers in lieu of a financial Section 94 development contribution. Criteria for land to be dedicated as open space are outlined in **Appendix H**.

5.6.3 Planning of open space

Planning of open space in the Clarence Valley will be undertaken consistent with this Open Space Strategy.

5.6.4 Design of open space

Established areas

Open space in established areas will be designed by a multi-disciplinary team, together with regular consultation with the community.

New release areas

Design of open space in new release areas aim to be consistent with the Department of Planning's Design Principles for Coastal Settlements, and Growth Centres Development Code (2006), Landcom's Open Space Design Guidelines (2008); and the Premier's Council for Active Living's Designing Places for Active Living (2010).

5.6.5 Development of open space

Established areas

Development of open space in established areas will occur according to priority assigned in the action plan of this Strategy, and Council's works programs.

New release areas

Open space, and facilities on that open space, should be physically provided when the funds from developer contributions received from the creation of lots in a new release area reaches a threshold which triggers provision. Such thresholds would be determined for each new release area depending on the number and staging of lots, forecast population, and the quantum of open space and recreation facilities to be provided for that population.

5.6.6 Maintenance of open space

Council will review its current open space maintenance service levels within the first year of adoption of this Strategic Plan. Maintenance service levels will be reviewed generally at the time of Plan review.

5.6.7 Rationalisation of open space

Certain open spaces may be surplus to requirements and do not adequately serve an open space function. Criteria in **Appendix H** should be used to assess surplus lands for open space and sites which are not considered appropriate for quality open space.

6 ASSESSMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section draws together the preceding supply and demand sections to assess gaps between the existing and proposed supply of open space and current and future demand for it. This assessment will provide direction as to how the open space needs of the Clarence Valley residents and visitors in 10 years' time and beyond would be better satisfied.

Planning for an increase in population of the Clarence Valley from an estimated 48,000 people in 2009 to reach about 57,500 people over the next 10 years to 2021 is not just a matter of increasing the provision of existing recreation opportunities by that rate of growth. It requires considering the current supply, and current and future demand, to determine what gaps are likely to be experienced in the future, and how these gaps can be addressed.

The overriding consideration in the following assessment is that in an ideal world, everyone's needs for open space would be satisfied. However, Council's financial resources are limited, and therefore available funds must be expended on prioritised needs, or providing open space opportunities through partnerships with other organisations. It is also well and good to provide open space if funds are available, but careful consideration has to be given also to the costs of ongoing maintenance and possible eventual replacement at the end of the facility's useful life.

6.2 APPROACH TO ASSESSMENT

The recommendations for provision of recreation spaces and facilities for the future as outlined below are made by considering a combination of:

- ❑ existing provision and distribution of open space.
- ❑ rates of existing provision of open space based on population.
- ❑ demographic characteristics.
- ❑ demand expressed by residents, and by sporting and community groups.
- ❑ recreation participation trends in NSW and Australia.
- ❑ professional experience in other places including rapidly growing NSW coastal LGAs.

However, Council must monitor the changes in the size and characteristics of the population shown by Census data, and amend the list of planned facilities, settings and activities accordingly.

To minimise the acquisition of increasingly expensive land and construction of new recreation facilities required, there is a need for smarter use of existing assets. The approach taken below is to recommend opportunities for:

- undertaking masterplanning and site specific plans of management for certain parks, sports grounds, reserves and facilities.
- implementing the 'generic' plan of management for reserves to cover parks and reserves that do not have a current plan or are too small to warrant one.
- embellishing and / or augmenting existing spaces and facilities and multi-purpose.
- sharing use of open space and recreation facilities in preference to acquiring land for open space.
- converting or adapting existing open space.
- integrating the provision of a wide range of recreation facilities and programs.
- co-locating recreation opportunities with other community and commercial services.
- using alternative, commercial facilities and venues for recreation on an opportunistic basis.
- using new technologies and enhanced design.
- providing an equitable mix of outdoor and indoor recreation facilities.
- rationalising underused or poorly located facilities.
- new partnerships and cross-boundary local government co-ordination to address resource and capacity constraints.
- seeking agreements with educational and other institutions for co-use of open space.
- innovations in providing and maintaining open space are required given increasing costs.
- using marginal land (former landfill, drainage, utilities easements) that is acceptable for open space purposes.
- acquiring larger sites for multiple and changing uses over time.
- incorporating environmental resources as open space.

It is necessary to recognise that the current distribution of open space and recreation facilities in the Clarence Valley is largely ad-hoc and was not planned by a comprehensive strategy. It will be more difficult to 'retro-fit' established areas with open space and recreation facilities needed to address gaps, rather than plan for and construct them in new release areas.

6.3 ASSESSMENT

An assessment of the current provision of open space by category of open space for each small area and town/village is in Table 6.1. The need for open space opportunities in the Clarence Valley was assessed by a 'big picture' approach, taking into account local and regional provision of recreation facilities and settings, demographic characteristics, transport and accessibility, and geographic barriers such as the Clarence River.

Assessment of open space provision on a population basis is but one tool to assess the sufficiency of open space provision. Some towns and villages have excess capacity to meet the required 2.5 hectares per 1,000 people of Park open space and 2.5 hectares per 1,000 people of Sportground. Other towns and villages will have insufficient capacity to cater for expected increases in population.

The assessment shows that the following towns and villages are expected to have less than 2.5 hectares of Park open space per 1,000 people in the next 10 years:

- ❑ Grafton
- ❑ Clarenza
- ❑ Ulmarra
- ❑ Waterview Heights-Seelands-Eatonsville.
- ❑ Gulmarrad
- ❑ Cowper
- ❑ Halfway Creek-Lanitza.

Provision of Park open space in these towns and villages is focused on in the following assessment table.

Similarly towns and villages with less than 2.5 hectares per 1,000 people of Sportsground open space are:

- ❑ Grafton
- ❑ Clarenza
- ❑ Waterview Heights-Seelands-Eatonsville.
- ❑ Woombah
- ❑ Angourie-Wooloweyah
- ❑ Townsend
- ❑ Gulmarrad
- ❑ Ashby
- ❑ Halfway Creek-Lanitza
- ❑ Glenreagh
- ❑ Tyringham-Hernani-Dundurrabin
- ❑ Copmanhurst.

Table 6.1 Provision of Park and Sportsground open space

Small area	Town / village	Park (ha)	Sports-ground (ha)	Natural Area - Bushland (ha)	Natural Area - Wetland (ha)	Natural Area - Foreshore (ha)	Natural Area - Escarpment (ha)	General Community Use (ha)	TOTAL	Park (ha/1,000 people)	Sports-ground (ha/1,000 people)	Natural Area (ha/1,000 people)	General Community Use (ha/1,000 people)	TOTAL (ha/1,000 people)	Park	Sports-ground
Grafton	Grafton	24.63	20.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.45	47.88	2.47	2.09	0.00	0.25	4.81		
TOTAL		24.63	20.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.45	47.88	2.47	2.09	0.00	0.25	4.81		
South Grafton	South Grafton	24.24	56.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.89	88.65	3.86	9.00	0.00	1.26	14.12	✓	✓
TOTAL		24.24	56.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.89	88.65	3.86	9.00	0.00	1.26	14.12		
Grafton surrounds	Alumy Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Clarenza	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86					0.00	✓	✓
	Coutts Crossing	0.09	28.51	0.00	0.00	2.68	0.00	4.45	35.73	0.16	50.29	4.72	7.85	63.01	✓	✓
	Elland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.40	8.40					0.00	✓	✓
	Glenugie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12					0.00	✓	✓
	Great Marlow	1.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.91					0.00	✓	✓
	Junction Hill	20.01	19.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	40.21	19.66	19.54	0.00	0.31	39.50	✓	✓
	Koolkhan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.40					0.00	✓	✓
	Mountain View	2.20	0.00	11.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.30					0.00	✓	✓
	Mylneford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Swan Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10					0.00	✓	✓
Trenayr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓	

CLARENCE VALLEY OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN
Final Report

Small area	Town / village	Park (ha)	Sports-ground (ha)	Natural Area - Bushland (ha)	Natural Area - Wetland (ha)	Natural Area - Foreshore (ha)	Natural Area - Escarpment (ha)	General Community Use (ha)	TOTAL	Park (ha/1,000 people)	Sports-ground (ha/1,000 people)	Natural Area (ha/1,000 people)	General Community Use (ha/1,000 people)	TOTAL (ha/1,000 people)	Park	Sports-ground
	Tucabia	0.00	1.48	0.00	0.00	6.16	0.00	11.04	18.69	0.00	5.81	24.17	43.31	73.29	✓	✓
	Ulmarra	0.50	4.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	5.00	1.14	9.77	0.00	0.38	11.28	✓	✓
	Waterview Heights	2.42	3.73	0.00	5.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.96	1.20	1.85	2.88	0.00	5.93	✓	✓
	Seelands	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74					0.00	✓	✓
	Eatonsville	14.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.22					0.00		
TOTAL		42.96	57.94	11.10	5.81	8.84	0.00	24.99	151.64	6.86	9.25	4.11	3.99	24.20		
Iluka-Woombah	Iluka	5.04	45.80	27.71	0.00	45.94	0.00	4.73	129.21	2.89	26.26	42.23	2.71	74.09	✓	✓
	Goodwood Island	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.10					0.00	✓	✓
	Woombah	4.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38	4.64					0.00	✓	✓
TOTAL		9.30	45.80	27.71	16.10	45.94	0.00	5.11	149.96	3.67	18.09	35.46	2.02	59.25		
Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	Yamba, W. Yamba	57.95	30.41	1.95	0.00	195.35	0.00	15.88	301.54	10.52	5.52	35.81	2.88	54.74	✓	✓
	Angourie	23.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.59	39.19	0.00		0.00	39.19	✓	✓
	Wooloweyah	2.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.61	0.00	0.00	12.20					0.00	✓	✓
TOTAL		84.13	30.41	1.95	0.00	204.96	0.00	15.88	337.33	13.75	4.97	33.81	2.59	55.12		
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Maclean	7.90	17.24	1.17	0.00	1.58	14.28	3.82	45.99	2.35	5.13	5.07	1.14	13.70	✓	✓
	Townsend	1.85	4.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.85					0.00	✓	✓
	Ilarwill	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	1.76					0.00	✓	✓
	Gulmarrad	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.74	8.86	0.00	0.00	0.15	10.84	10.99	✓	✓
TOTAL		9.75	22.77	21.30	0.00	1.58	14.28	12.78	82.46	2.34	0.00	8.92	3.07	14.34		
Rural Coast	Ashby	36.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	36.74					0.00	✓	✓
	Brooms Head	23.57	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	33.62	96.59	40.98	0.00	0.20	137.78	✓	✓
	Brushgrove	1.04	3.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71	5.26	1.42	4.79	0.00	0.97	7.18	✓	✓
	Lawrence	2.74	31.99	35.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	70.66					0.00	✓	✓
	Harwood	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	2.52					0.00	✓	✓
	Calliope	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.92					0.00	✓	✓
	Chatsworth Island	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04					0.00	✓	✓
	Cowper	0.00	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.05					0.00	✓	✓
	Diggers Camp	0.00	0.00	19.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.58					0.00	✓	✓
	Halfway Creek	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.23	0.63	✓	✓
	Lanitza	0.00	0.00	3.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	5.01					0.00	✓	✓
	James Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Lower Southgate	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.30					0.00	✓	✓
	Micalo Island	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00	53.18	0.00	0.00	53.95					0.00	✓	✓
	Minnie Water	29.16	0.75	0.00	37.95	3.80	0.00	1.00	72.65	40.55	1.04	58.07	1.39	101.05	✓	✓
	Wooli	30.06	2.00	45.99	0.00	4.93	0.00	2.55	85.52					0.00	✓	✓
	Palmers Island	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.12	0.00	1.51	15.87					0.00	✓	✓
	Pillar Valley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Sandon River	3.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.37					0.00	✓	✓
	South Arm	0.00	0.00	7.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.99					0.00	✓	✓
	Southgate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.67					0.00	✓	✓
	Taloumbi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
Tyndale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓	
Woodford Island	0.13	0.00	3.40	0.00	34.90	0.00	0.00	38.43					0.00	✓	✓	
TOTAL		129.99	52.29	116.90	37.95	110.94	0.00	10.75	458.81	19.62	7.89	40.12	1.62	69.27		
Rural South-West	Blaxlands Creek	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27					0.00	✓	✓
	Braunstone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.71					0.00	✓	✓
	Chambigne	0.00	0.00	2.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82	3.65					0.00	✓	✓

Small area	Town / village	Park (ha)	Sports-ground (ha)	Natural Area - Bushland (ha)	Natural Area - Wetland (ha)	Natural Area - Foreshore (ha)	Natural Area - Escarpment (ha)	General Community Use (ha)	TOTAL	Park (ha/1,000 people)	Sports-ground (ha/1,000 people)	Natural Area (ha/1,000 people)	General Community Use (ha/1,000 people)	TOTAL (ha/1,000 people)	Park	Sports-ground
	Glenreagh	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30	2.50	4.49	0.00	0.72	0.72	5.93	✓	✗
	Kangaroo Creek	0.75	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03					0.00	✓	✓
	Kremnos	0.00	0.00	6.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.89					0.00	✓	✓
	Kungala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Nymboida	4.75	1.00	4.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	10.07					0.00	✓	✓
	Shannondale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Tyringham	1.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.36	2.72	3.92	0.00	0.00	3.92	7.83	✓	✗
	Hernani	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Dundurrabin	0.00	0.00	6.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	8.74					0.00	✓	✓
TOTAL		9.02	1.28	20.07	0.00	0.30	0.00	5.90	36.57	2.49	0.35	5.63	1.63	10.11		
Rural North-west	Baryulgil-Malabugilmah	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	✓	✓
	Bulldog	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.23					0.00	✓	✓
	Cangai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.49	52.49					0.00	✓	✓
	Coaldale	0.00	0.00	26.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.36	27.79					0.00	✓	✓
	Copmanhurst	1.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.32	4.85	0.00	0.00	0.84	5.70	✓	✗
	Dalmorton	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71					0.00	✓	✓
	Ewingar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.59	2.59					0.00	✓	✓
	Fine Flower	0.00	0.00	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	2.32					0.00	✓	✓
	Gurranang	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Jackadgery	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.54	16.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Moleville Creek	3.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.48					0.00	✓	✓
	Mororo	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.14	0.00	0.00	2.14					0.00	✓	✓
	Newbold	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Newton Boyd	4.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.70					0.00	✓	✓
	Ramornie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12					0.00	✓	✓
	Stockyard Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	The Pinnacles	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.99	0.99					0.00	✓	✓
	The Whiteman	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.71					0.00	✓	✓
	Tullymorgan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.68	3.68					0.00	✓	✓
	Whiteman Creek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00	✓	✓
	Winegrove	19.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.93					0.00	✓	✓
TOTAL		31.12	0.00	28.71	0.00	2.14	0.00	77.23	139.20	11.96	0.00	11.86	29.68	53.50		
TOTAL		365.14	287.80	227.73	59.86	374.70	14.28	162.98	1,492.50	7.58	5.98	14.05	3.38	30.99		

Note:

✓ means the town/village has 3 or more hectares per 1,000 people.

✗ means the town/village has less than 3 hectares per 1,000 people.

In addition to space in some towns and villages, the overriding needs for and gaps in provision of open space opportunities in the Clarence Valley is simply making available open spaces and associated facilities attractive to use, and better meeting the personal needs of residents and visitors such as a sense of safety and wellbeing. At present, there are a wide variety of open spaces and recreation facilities in the Clarence Valley, but they generally do not encourage users to visit or to stay for extended periods.

Relatively simple improvements that would encourage greater use and longer visits at all types of open spaces and recreation facilities include:

- ❑ shade, particularly at children's playgrounds and in beach reserves.
- ❑ seating.
- ❑ accessible pathways to and within parks.
- ❑ accessible toilets in key parks.

Table 6.2 Assessment of future open space and recreation needs across the Clarence Valley

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Total open space				
Total open space	Overall the Clarence Valley has a relatively high amount of public open space, with 1,492 hectares, or 31 hectares per 1,000 people. Distribution of open space however is not equitable.	Gaps in distribution will be exacerbated with forecast residential development in the next 10 years.	✓	See below for specific recommendations.
Parkland	The Clarence Valley has 365 hectares of land categorised as Park, or 7.5 hectares of Park per 1,000 people. Distribution of parkland throughout the Valley however is not equitable.	Several towns and villages have less than 2.5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 people.	✓	Provide additional land for parkland in established areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Ulmarra <input type="checkbox"/> Waterview Heights-Seelands-Eatonsville <input type="checkbox"/> Gulmarrad <input type="checkbox"/> Cowper <input type="checkbox"/> Halfway Creek-Lanitza
				Investigate opportunities for new parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> District park adjacent to the Clarence River, accessed from Pound Street, Grafton. Requires liaison with State Rail and other stakeholders. <input type="checkbox"/> Former sewage treatment plant (Trenayr Road, Junction Hill 9.043 ha) <input type="checkbox"/> Former sewage treatment plant (cnr Back Lane and Carrs Peninsula Road, Junction Hill 2.134 ha)
Sportsgrounds	The Clarence Valley has 288 hectares of public land categorised as Sportsground.	Several towns and villages have less than 2.5 hectares of sportsground per 1,000 people.	✓	Additional land for sportsgrounds in established areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Waterview Heights-Seelands-Eatonsville <input type="checkbox"/> Woombah <input type="checkbox"/> Townsend (5.76 ha) <input type="checkbox"/> Gulmarrad <input type="checkbox"/> Ashby

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<input type="checkbox"/> Halfway Creek-Lanitza <input type="checkbox"/> Glenreagh <input type="checkbox"/> Tyringham-Hernani-Dundurrabin <input type="checkbox"/> Copmanhurst
New release areas	Little or no open space is already provided in the future development areas of Clarenza and West Yamba.	Open space will need to be provided in new release areas to serve the needs of residents of that development.	✓	Provide open space for parks and sport in new release areas: <input type="checkbox"/> Clarenza <input type="checkbox"/> Junction Hill <input type="checkbox"/> West Yamba
Distribution	Local open space is not equitably distributed throughout the urban areas in Clarence Valley.	Improve access to and distribution of open space throughout the former Grafton City.	✓	Address gaps in open space provision in established areas in: <input type="checkbox"/> 'Dovedale' precinct in Grafton. <input type="checkbox"/> Westlawn precinct in Grafton. <input type="checkbox"/> Oyster Cove in Yamba.
Quality and usability of open space	Clarence Valley has a high level of provision of open space. However the quality and usability of some open spaces in the Clarence Valley could be improved.	A comprehensive assessment is needed for open space quality within the Clarence Valley. Attention needs to be directed to improve the quality and usability of existing open space and facilities.	✓	Consider the potential for more effective use of open space: <input type="checkbox"/> North Street Park, Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Junction Hill: north of Capricornia Drive <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba: Ford Park <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba: Storey Park Develop undeveloped open spaces as they are located close to residences: <input type="checkbox"/> Poplar Drive/Redhead Close/Nursery Close, North Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Park, South Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk Park. Review the need for open space used for animal grazing: <input type="checkbox"/> Volkens Park, Grafton

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
		<p>Small parcels of open space with little value to the open space network or recreational potential particularly in South Grafton are recommended for investigation for disposal. Disposal of these parcels could fund improvement works at nearby reserves.</p>		<p>Undertake general improvements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence Public Recreation Reserve. <input type="checkbox"/> Trenayr Park, Junction Hill. <input type="checkbox"/> James Cartmill Reserve, Nymboida <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Park, Coutts Crossing <p>Increase access to / visibility of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> McKenzie Reserve, Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Bent Street Reserve, South Grafton from Bent Street <p>Investigate to rationalise / dispose of lands (e.g. vacant operational lands) with little value or recreational potential with examples being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meillon Reserve. Use sale funds for land to access Bob Liddiard Park. <input type="checkbox"/> Excess operational lands in South Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Floodprone land acquisitions in South Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Small pockets of land along Ryan Street, South Grafton
Parks				
General		There is high demand for parkland and gardens.	✓	Refer below for specific recommendations
City gateways and travellers parks	Gateways to Grafton, South Grafton, Maclean along major highways are marked by open spaces such as Silver Jubilee Park at South Grafton, and Ferry Park at Maclean.	Improvements to the appearance and functionality of open space gateways. Enhance city gateways into Grafton and South Grafton with plantings, public art, informal recreation features, and visitor information.	✓	<p>Provide informal recreation facilities (play equipment, sheltered picnic and barbecue areas) at places on or close to the Pacific Highway and main roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton (Fisher Park, or See Park if road signage from bridge and the through route to Summerland Way is installed) <input type="checkbox"/> South Grafton (Silver Jubilee Park at bus interchange, park on Ryan Street but has to be easier to get in and out of) <input type="checkbox"/> Maclean (Ferry Park)

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<p>Provide a civic guide and tourist layby bay at Market Square, Grafton.</p> <p>Install tourist information signage at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Island End Reserve, Brushgrove. <input type="checkbox"/> Flinders Park Reserve, Yamba. <input type="checkbox"/> Ford Park, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka.
'Family' / destination parks	<p>Several parks in the Clarence Valley are regional/family destination parks. However they do not cater for a range of age groups in the one place.</p> <p>Insufficient parks for social/ family function outside river and beach foreshore settings.</p>	<p>Opportunities to upgrade play spaces and provide in new development.</p> <p>Need for parks where families, friends and groups can gather in an attractive setting with furniture and facilities to cater for all ages.</p>	✓	<p>Upgrade regional/destination parks to cater for a range of age groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton – Fisher Park and/or Jacaranda Park. <input type="checkbox"/> South Grafton – Beresford Park or Alex Bell <input type="checkbox"/> Iluka – Charlie Ryan Park. Possibly add youth facility(s). <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba – Ford Park / Fred Phillips Park, Lions Park. <input type="checkbox"/> Maclean – Wherrett Park.
Lunch / informal sport parks in industrial areas	Open space in industrial areas is lacking.	Open space is important for workers to enjoy meals and play informal sport.	✓	Prepare landscape strategies and development control plans to provide open spaces in South Grafton industrial areas for workers.
Parks in commercial areas	Market Square and Memorial Park are the only open spaces in the Grafton central business district.	Opportunities to rest and relax in commercial areas.	✓	<p>Provide green spaces and appropriate public art, landscaping and redevelopment of key streetscape sites including forecourts to commercial and public buildings in the Grafton CBD.</p> <p>Embellish green spaces in Maclean CBD area.</p>
Picnic / barbecue areas	<p>Picnic facilities and barbecues are located in most towns, and at many natural attractions.</p> <p>Aging / lower standard picnic facilities are located along the Clarence River.</p>	<p>Barbecues and picnic tables at locations with views of the water and natural areas are increasingly popular.</p> <p>Undercover picnic facilities for large groups and close to toilets.</p>	✓	<p>Construct an undercover picnic facility and toilets at Memorial Park Lawrence.</p> <p>Locate picnic and barbecue facilities in new park in Gulmarrad, and (depending on residents' views) in the park at end of Gillies Lane at Palmers Island, Scenic Reserve in South Arm (Tyndale Park) , Oyster Cove Foreshore Reserve and Main Beach in Yamba.</p>

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
	Picnic / barbecue facilities are planned at Yamba.			<p>Upgrade barbecue and picnic shelters at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria Park, Tucabia <p>Provide picnic facilities in coastal reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> South Head Reserve, Yamba. <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Bay (appropriate locations) <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Boat Harbour Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka (incl. pavilion) <input type="checkbox"/> South Terrace, Wooli <p>Provide barbecue facilities in coastal reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin Park, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> South Terrace, Wooli <input type="checkbox"/> Diggers Headland Reserve, Diggers Camp <input type="checkbox"/> Minnie Water Foreshore Reserve <p>Install electric barbecue and picnic tables/chairs in Clarence View Reserve, Seelands (Hogbin Park).</p> <p>Replace outdated picnic infrastructure at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wooloweyah Foreshore Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Chatsworth Island Foreshore (Road) Reserve <p>Provide access for people with disabilities to picnic/barbecue facilities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Honeyman Park, Wooloweyah <input type="checkbox"/> Ford Park, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Boat Harbour Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka <input type="checkbox"/> Island End Reserve, Brushgrove <p>Provide / improve picnic and barbecue facilities along the Clarence River foreshore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Strontian Park <input type="checkbox"/> Solitude Park, Seelands <input type="checkbox"/> McPhersons Crossing Reserve, Coutts Crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Park, Lawrence <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsman Creek, Lawrence

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka <input type="checkbox"/> McLachlan Park, Maclean <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Bay Foreshore Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Bay Mangrove Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Boat Harbour Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Island End Reserve, Brushgrove <input type="checkbox"/> Palmers Island Reserve <p>Construct hard surface aprons, level to the ground, around picnic shelters and picnic tables to reduce soil compaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ford Park, Yamba. <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka. <input type="checkbox"/> Island End Reserve, Brushgrove.
Fitness equipment / exercise stations and circuits	Exercise equipment has been provided in Fisher Park in Grafton.	Young adults and older people in particular use outdoor fitness equipment.	✓	Install fitness / exercise equipment at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ford Park, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Honeyman Park, Wooloweyah <input type="checkbox"/> Wherrett Park, Maclean <input type="checkbox"/> Update Fisher Park Grafton (consider if space can be identified)
Unleashed dog exercise areas / dog waste disposal	Unleashed dog exercise areas are located in larger urban areas throughout the Clarence Valley.	There is a need for unleashed dog exercise in increasingly urbanised towns without conflict between dogs and other people in parks.	✓	Designate additional and appropriate unleashed dog exercise areas as identified in Council's adopted Companion Animal Management Plan where demand exists. Possibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Junction Hill: reserve off Capricornia Crescent, Trenayr Park <input type="checkbox"/> Maclean: Harwood Street/Church Street <input type="checkbox"/> Maclean: Showground (not when actively used) <input type="checkbox"/> Waterview Heights <input type="checkbox"/> Seelands <input type="checkbox"/> Nymboida <input type="checkbox"/> Glenreagh <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence <input type="checkbox"/> Copmanhurst

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<p>(Refer to Appendix G for design criteria for unleashed dog exercise areas).</p> <p>Manage disposal of dog waste by installing disposal bin and educational signage at Kolora Lake Reserve.</p> <p>Improve existing unleashed dog exercise areas for owners and dogs at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wattle Park, Yamba: seats, toilets, paths, lighting
Dog training area	Existing dog training areas are in Grafton and Yamba.	Not known	?	<p>Investigate the suitability of the following parks for dog training areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Trenayr Park, Junction Hill or <input type="checkbox"/> Volkens Park North Grafton
Performance / gathering spaces	Performance spaces at Market Square in Grafton, Ford Park in Yamba, and Maclean Showground.	Increasing focus on Market Square in Grafton for events, concerts, festivals and markets.	✓	<p>Implement park entry statement, planting, fencing and community art works in Market Square, Grafton.</p> <p>Replace the stage in Market Square, Grafton with a multi-function rotunda.</p> <p>Develop the Grafton locality river foreshore precinct plan around Memorial Park, along the river, and back to the bridge.</p> <p>Provide a space for small gatherings in McLachlan Park, Maclean.</p> <p>Use large foreshore reserves and sporting fields for performances and large community gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ford Park/ Fred Phillips Park, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Flinders Park Reserve, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Sporting Complex <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Bay Foreshore Reserve. <p>Consider a riverside amphitheatre at Coldstream Street road reserve in Ulmarra for low key social occasions.</p>
Toilets			✓	<p>Construct toilets in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Kolora Lake Reserve, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Honeyman Park, Wooloweyah <input type="checkbox"/> Cameron Park, Maclean <input type="checkbox"/> Solitude Park, Seelands

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				Replace toilets at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pippi Beach
				Upgrade toilets at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lions Park, Yamba
				Complete toilet block at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Park, Lawrence.
Shade	Shade (natural and constructed) is provided in most open space.	A lack of shade in some open spaces limits their use.	✓	Investigate suitable locations for tree planting and installing shade structures.
Children				
Children's playgrounds	Some 69 district / local public playgrounds. Generally at least one playground per town/village, except in small rural areas. Playgrounds in school grounds in some villages are accessible to the public. No regional or adventure playground.	Improvements to existing playgrounds, such as in Iluka. Play equipment for children at Yamba Community hall, Ngaru village. Play equipment for children older than 8 years. Fenced playgrounds for safety. Shade over equipment. Equipment for special needs children. Playgrounds in larger new release areas.	✓	Replacement of 1-2 playgrounds per year with new / upgraded equipment. New playgrounds in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fisher Park, Grafton. <input type="checkbox"/> Flinders Park Reserve, Yamba. <input type="checkbox"/> Ford Park, Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Boat Harbour Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Wajard Park, Coutts Crossing. <input type="checkbox"/> Solitude Park, Seelands. <input type="checkbox"/> Gulmarrad, integrated with sporting facility / family park. <input type="checkbox"/> South Yamba (Carrs Drive) if developed. <input type="checkbox"/> Ashby New playgrounds to serve new residential development at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clarenza <input type="checkbox"/> West Yamba Regional playground at Yamba estuary. Locate playgrounds associated with large sporting complexes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex. Extend playground at Wherrett Park.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<p>Fence playgrounds close to roads and river at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence riverfront. <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park in Iluka. <input type="checkbox"/> Jacaranda Park Grafton (part min.)
				<p>Phase out playground from Macfarlane Street at South Grafton (one of 4 playgrounds within 600 metres of each other) at the end of its useful life.</p>
				<p>Remove equipment from near the Scottish cairn in Maclean.</p>
				<p>Replace play equipment in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clarence View Reserve, Seelands.
				<p>Install playground equipment for children with a disability at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jacaranda Park, Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Maclean
				<p>Establish a playground in outer McKittrick Park, South Grafton to complement sporting facilities and the primary school.</p>
				<p>Establish a playground in travellers parks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the South Grafton bus waiting area (Silver Jubilee Park) <input type="checkbox"/> Market Square, Grafton. <input type="checkbox"/> as above at JJ Lawrence fields outer McKittrick Park
				<p>Replace edging and softfall playground in Brooms Head Reserve.</p>
				<p>Install softfall that meets AS and childcare standards at all public playgrounds, over time.</p>
				<p>Shade play equipment at: Honeyman Park, Wooloweyah</p>

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Children's bike paths/ tracks	Road safety bike track at playground in Wherrett Park at Maclean.	Places for children to learn to ride bikes safely off-road.	✓	Children's bike tracks associated with playgrounds / picnic facilities / attractive foreshore parks in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba estuary <input type="checkbox"/> Iluka. Develop a road safety bike track in Grafton at Jacaranda Park.
Water play park	No water play parks in the Clarence Valley.	Water play parks are increasingly popular, especially in summer and in areas away from the coast and aquatic facilities.	✓	Investigate locating a water play park in Grafton or Junction Hill.
Young people				
General	Refer to Section 3.	There is a lack of recreational facilities and activities for young people in most towns and villages in the Clarence Valley. Many parents and community members have expressed their concern that there is not enough for young people to do in the area. Not all young people actively participate in sport and this is a key point to keep in mind. Facilities popular with young people include hard courts, and skate and BMX parks, which can be associated with family parks.	✓	In consultation with young people, develop the following parks with facilities for young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> JJ Lawrence fields, South Grafton (basketball, skate park, passive socializing facilities, rollerblading, art / culture space). <input type="checkbox"/> Hakea Park, West Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Ulmarra <input type="checkbox"/> Ashby

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Skate facilities	Skate facilities are located at Grafton (regional), Maclean (district), Yamba (district), South Grafton, Junction Hill and Wooloweyah.	Several requests for skate facilities.	✓	Consult with young people regarding new local skate facilities at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Iluka <input type="checkbox"/> Gulmarrad <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence
				Modify the skate park in Yamba to provide for Out of the Box project and extension of the skate park.
				Extend the skate park in Maclean.
				Upgrade skate park in Junction Hill.
				Provide seating, bubblers, and shade at Grafton skatepark
BMX / dirt bike tracks	BMX track in South Grafton. Dirt bike track in Maclean.	Requests for a BMX track in Iluka. Toilets at Maclean dirt bike track.	✓	Consult with young people about demand for BMX track in Iluka and in other locations. Provide toilets at the Maclean dirt bike track.
Basketball courts			✓	Provide half-basketball courts in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> McKittrick Park, South Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> Wherrett Park, Maclean <input type="checkbox"/> Hakea Park, West Yamba.
				Upgrade the basketball court in Honeyman Park in Wooloweyah to 2 new half-court basketball courts.
				Construct two new hardcourts at Wherrett Park, Maclean
Practice walls	No practice walls in local parks.	Practice walls can cater for a variety of informal activities for sports practice.	✓	Install practice walls in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hakea Park, West Yamba <input type="checkbox"/> Honeyman Park, Wooloweyah
Mountain biking	Occurs in State Forest South Grafton, Mountain Nymboida (private facilities)	Requests for additional places to ride mountain bikes.	✓	Investigate the suitability of Mountain View (North) Park for mountain biking.
				Investigate further opportunities for mountain biking.
Seniors				
	No public open space or recreation facilities are provided particularly for seniors.	Aging population	✓	Facilities and walkways to accommodate an aging population in Grafton and South Grafton.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Women				
-	No public open space or recreation facilities are provided particularly for women.	-	-	-
Men				
Men's shed	Men's shed in the lower Clarence.	Requests for additional men's sheds.	✓	Establish a men's shed in Grafton. Relocate men's shed in the Lower Clarence to open space land at Townsend.
Indigenous people				
Indigenous cultural sites	Open space areas in the Clarence Valley include a number of identified indigenous cultural heritage sites.	Appropriate recognition of indigenous cultural significance of open space areas.	✓	Liaise with the local Aboriginal community and land council to identify areas and sites in public open space with particular importance and cultural significance to them, and develop an appropriate management response.
People with disabilities				
Facilities for people with disabilities	Access for people with disabilities is increasingly being provided by retrofitting existing facilities or in design or construction of recent facilities.	Access for people with disabilities is required by legislation, but may also benefit parents with children in prams etc.	✓	Replace / upgrade unisex accessible toilets for people with disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Angourie Reserve (Angourie Point and Blue Pools carpark) Upgrade toilets to unisex accessible toilets at Melaleuca Park, Minnie Water. New unisex toilets accessible for people with disabilities in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka. ❑ Iluka Beach Reserve. Provide all-ability access points and continuous path of travel along the Clarence River in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ McLachlan Park, Maclean Access for people with disabilities, path and handrail along floodwall from boat ramp to barbecue area in Bailey Park, Ulmarra. Consider removal of toilets where they are continually vandalised or are considered unsafe by the community.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Natural areas				
General	There are some 677 hectares of non-National Park natural areas comprising bushland, foreshores, wetlands/ mangroves, and escarpment.	The environmental significance of open spaces and connecting corridors is increasingly being recognised, particularly in terms of flora, fauna habitat, wildlife corridors, the river and creek riparian areas.		Work with the Office of Environment and Heritage (Parks and Wildlife Group) to improve access to national parks and remote areas in the Clarence Valley. Refer to specific recommendations below.
Urban nature parks		There is a lack of urban nature parks in the Clarence Valley. Closest to it is arboretum at Westward Park Grafton. Address the lack of urban nature parks by protecting natural features, improving vegetation values in Council-owned open space, and implementing a corridors strategy.		Plant trees in parks and reserves, where not possible in constrained streets, and which do not necessarily obstruct views, consistent with the Urban Tree Management Strategy. Implement works to contain erosion and assist in improving water quality at Kolora Lake Reserve.
Picnic facilities	Picnic facilities are available in many natural areas in the Clarence Valley.	Increasing demand for eating facilities in natural areas.		Install picnic shelters in Angourie Reserve. Replace the rotunda at Green Point. Replace picnic tables and seats in in Flinders Park Reserve, Yamba.
Viewing opportunities	Viewing points include Maclean Lookout and coastal reserves.	Residents and visitors enjoy opportunities to enjoy views of natural areas.		Prepare vegetation management plans for coastal reserves that consider the benefit of public vantage points. Construct viewing platform in Angourie Reserve. Plant/manage vegetation for viewing areas in Flinders Park Reserve, Yamba.
Access to water storage areas	Recreational access to water in the Clarence Valley is relatively easy.	Permit appropriate public access to natural areas.		Allow Council-owned Shannon Dam to be available for a range of recreation opportunities similar to contemporary management of other water storage areas in NSW and elsewhere in Australia.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				Investigate the opportunities for increasing the range of recreational activities at Shannon Dam that are appropriate for water storage catchment and are consistent with environmental approval and license requirements.
Bushland	There are 228 hectares of bushland in public open space not including National Parks in the Clarence Valley.	Bushland is a natural setting in which people enjoy bushwalking and other activities.		Secure public access to strategically-located Crown land such as along the eastern side of South Grafton cemetery. Landscaping and bush regeneration at Wattle Park, Yamba.
Wetlands	Wetlands in the Clarence Valley include Theo Tulk Reserve at Goodwood Island, Cowans Pond Reserve at Waterview Heights, and mangroves at Yamba Bay Mangrove Reserve.	Increasing demand for pedestrian access to wetlands and for viewing opportunities.		Provide bird hide / interpretation of wetland from adjacent road reserve in Lawrence. Undertake planting and weed control at Yamba Bay Mangrove Reserve. Construct wetland at Angourie Reserve. Develop and provide educational information, including signage, about the ecological values of natural and constructed wetlands at Kolora Lake Reserve in Yamba.
Watercourses	The Clarence River and its tributaries are significant watercourses on which a range of recreation activities are pursued.	Increasing demand for use of water, leading to some conflicts between swimming, horse swimming, waterskiing, fishing, powerboating and sailing on the Clarence River at Grafton.		Prepare a zoning plan for river recreation activities. Encourage access to Susan Island consistent with Susan Island Trust requirements. Restore and enhance Clarence River riparian areas in Grafton particularly Corcoran Park.
Foreshores: upgrading	Numerous foreshore reserves along the Clarence River.	Improved access to and usability of foreshore reserves.		Implement expansion design in Corcoran Park, Grafton. Upgrade Memorial Park, Grafton and adjacent foreshores. Upgrade riverfront at South Grafton. Improve and upgrade foreshores in Lower Clarence. Improve and upgrade foreshores in Yamba.
Foreshores: user amenity	Numerous foreshore reserves along the Clarence River.	Improved access to and usability of foreshore reserves.		Provide seating and shade in foreshore / waterfront parks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Bayside Park, Acacia Park, Crystal Waters Park, Kolora Park in West Yamba.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<p>Improve clarity/visibility of public waterfront land in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cowper. <input type="checkbox"/> Iluka waterfront road reserve. <input type="checkbox"/> Iluka (end of Owen Street). <p>Improve public accessibility of waterfront road reserves in Lawrence.</p> <p>Improve waterfront parkland in Harwood.</p> <p>Redevelop McLachlan Park, Maclean.</p> <p>Provide foreshore facilities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Ryan Park, Iluka. <input type="checkbox"/> Bailey Park, Ulmarra <p>Implement recommendations arising from the Grafton Waterfront Precinct Plan and Maclean Waterfront Plan when finalised and if adopted.</p>
Creek corridors	Limited continuous pedestrian access is available in creek corridors.	<p>Restore creeks running through rural and urban precincts of the LGA to enhance natural and habitat values of their riparian and aquatic environs.</p> <p>Enhance riparian areas in the Clarence River regional corridor including tree planting and protection of riverbanks, and improved public access for walking, picnics and nature-based recreation.</p>		<p>Restore the Alamy Creek riparian corridor with integrated walking trails to other precincts, parklands and recreation areas.</p> <p>Restore and enhance Alipou Creek in the context of future urban development.</p> <p>Investigate the value of flood-prone land purchased for drainage reserves as additional habitat/landscape corridor links.</p> <p>Create corridors for Southhampton Creek and the upper section of Musk Valley Creek in South Grafton.</p>
Vegetation and wildlife corridors		There is a strong interest in retaining and enhancing vegetation corridors, in streetscapes, along creeks and in rural areas.		<p>Establish habitat and vegetation corridors of local to regional significance through a co-operative effort between land owners and Council.</p> <p>Plant local native species to create an avifauna corridor linking the Clarence River between Prince and Villiers Street to the south and Corcoran Park to the north.</p>

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
		Link fragmented vegetation remnants on private and public lands in urban and rural areas of the city.		Acquire land in the South Hill precinct in South Grafton to create links with existing vegetation and habitat corridors. Secure appropriate corridor links as required in future urban development areas and redevelopment sites. Enhance the habitat and vegetation corridor through St Josephs and Gillwinga schools, Grafton Abattoir, undeveloped road reserves and private and public lands with habitat remnants and potential.
Beaches	Various ocean beaches. 5 patrolled beaches in summer. 1 surf club at Yamba.	Improved access for people with disabilities and windsurfers at Whiting Beach. Upgrade barbecues at beaches. Upgrading and maintenance of basic infrastructure such as fences.	↔	Provide ramp for windsurfers (and access for people with disabilities) at Whiting Beach. Upgrade visitor facilities at beaches (barbecues, toilets/change/amenities, and seating). Ensure toilets are provided at all popular beaches. Carry out dune stabilisation works at: <input type="checkbox"/> Woolli Beach Improve beach access and infrastructure at: <input type="checkbox"/> Yamba Bay Foreshore Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Woolli Beach Address the surf life saving and Yamba Surf club's equipment storage issues at Turners Beach.
Swimming pools – tidal	1 tidal pool at Yamba Main Beach. Designated swimming area at Iluka.	Constant need for safe and clean swimming opportunities.	✓	Upgrade and repair the Yamba Rock Pool. Investigate options to improve the water quality of the swimming area at Iluka.
Camping areas	Informal camping areas along the Clarence River and its tributaries.	Increasing demand for primitive and informal camping. Demand for higher end accommodation in holiday parks.	✓	Facilitate private or public sector investment in primitive and high end camping in the upper reaches of the Clarence.
Boat moorings	Iluka and Yamba	Increase in retiree population leads increase in demand for boat moorings.	✓	Liaise with Roads and Maritime Services about increasing the number of boat moorings on the Clarence River.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Sailing clubs	3 clubs based in Grafton and Harwood.	Improvements to access at Iluka Boatshed.	✓	Provide facilities at the northern end of Corcoran Park for sailing activity.
Boat launching ramps	Numerous formal and informal ramps throughout the Clarence Valley.	Boat ramps are crowded in holidays and at peak use times.	✓	Construct an additional formal boat ramp in Yamba.
				Improve parking at Cowper boat ramp.
				Extend parking area at Maclean ramp if possible.
				Dredge and complete sealing of Iluka boat ramp.
				Rebuild the boat ramp in Ulmarra.
Canoe/kayak facilities	World class whitewater rafting/ canoeing at Nymboida Canoe Centre. Informal canoe/kayak entry points on lakes, creeks and rivers.	Increasing demand for access to rivers for canoeing and kayaking.	✓	Provide canoe/kayak entry /exit points and public amenities to support day use in the upper reaches of the Clarence.
Jetties / wharves / pontoons	Numerous jetties, wharves and pontoons on the Clarence River at Grafton, South Grafton, Maclean, Lawrence and Yamba.	Not known	✓	Investigate a potential jetty/pontoon in the vicinity of Grafton Bridge.
				Replace jetty at Brushgrove.
				Upgrade wharf at Bailey Park, Ulmarra.
				Provide a jetty/wharf for small boat access to Ford Park, Yamba.
				Consider additional pontoons in Maclean.
Fishing facilities	Fish cleaning tables are provided at some boat launching points, such as at Iluka.	Not known	✓	Provide fish cleaning tables and rubbish disposal facilities at all ramps with formal parking facilities.
Marinas	Yamba	Uncertain	?	Improve the public domain setting to the marina precinct in Iluka.
General community use				
Community gardens	A community garden in Wattle Park, Yamba is close to completion. Community nursery in Minnie Water.	Potential for community gardens in areas of higher housing density, aging of the population, and for people with an interest in sustainable living and growing own food/flowers. Opportunity to provide community gardens in existing open space.	✓	Investigate interest and feasibility of community garden in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Market Square, Grafton (PoM 2000)

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
Rest areas for motorhomes	An overnight rest area at the greyhound track in Grafton is used by motorhome / recreation vehicle travellers.	Travellers are increasing requesting rest areas suitable for motorhomes.	✓	Provide an overnight stay area for recreational vehicles in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Small Park, Ulmarra. <input type="checkbox"/> In appropriate open space areas along/close to major roads.
Linkages				
General		Growing interest identified for cycleways and walking tracks that don't involve use of roadways.	✓	<p>There is a need for an integrated and linked open space network. In particular, the significance of the Clarence River and other waterways should be recognised. Open space corridors are also proposed and supported.</p> <p>There is potential for private land management activities and approaches to complement and enhance public open space values, for example in the development of habitat and scenic corridors, access pathways and walking trails.</p> <p>Explore opportunities in Crown reserves, travelling stock routes and unformed Crown roads for tracks and trails and flora and fauna conservation.</p>
Walking tracks and paths	<p>Walking tracks in natural areas (national parks and nature reserves).</p> <p>Rotary Walk on river foreshore at Yamba.</p> <p>Other paths at beaches and along foreshores of lakes and the Clarence River.</p>	<p>Walking for pleasure is the most popular outdoor recreational activity.</p> <p>Extend existing and create new walking tracks.</p>	✓	See below
Regional walking tracks			✓	Investigate the potential for a walking track over the Great Dividing Range.
District / local walking tracks			✓	<p>Liaise with Department of Primary Industries (Crown Lands Division) to construct walking / cycling circuits around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton Racecourse / golf course. <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton Showground/ Fisher Park. <p>Construct a walking/cycling track linking parts of Kolora Lake Reserve with adjoining streets.</p>

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<p>Walking trails to utilise drainage lines, suitable roadside paths and habitat corridors to create a range of circuit trails in Grafton Heights precinct and linking to the rural landscape of adjoining precincts.</p> <p>Create linkages via Cedar Park in South Grafton.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for walking trails and native vegetation corridors through the rural landscape of a number of unmade Crown road reserves west of Rushforth Road, Rushforth.</p> <p>Maintain and promote the Crown lands walking track commencing from the Old Glen Innes Road near Waterview Heights crossing into the Southampton-Elland precinct.</p> <p>Southampton-Waterview Heights walking/cycle link.</p> <p>Provide and upgrade pathways at Maclean Lookout.</p> <p>Construct footpaths at Yamba Boat Harbour Reserve.</p> <p>Upgrade footpaths and designated formal access in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Flinders Park Reserve, Yamba. <p>Improve and extend walking track in Memorial Park, Lawrence.</p> <p>Construct a walkway and shelters at Island End Reserve at Brushgrove/Cowper.</p> <p>Install seating at intervals along paths.</p>
Coastal walking links				<p>Implement coastal pedestrian links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Off-road pedestrian link between William Agar Park and Pippie Beach. ❑ coastal / riverfront path between Pippie Beach and Yamba Shores. ❑ Yamba lighthouse-Pippie Beach-Angourie.Pippi Beach to Turners Beach then along river to Peninsula Park. Liaise with DPI – DCL. ❑ Boardwalk between Angourie and Spookys Beaches.

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
River foreshores	<p>Due to levees a limited amount of river foreshore area is currently available to the public.</p> <p>Open space along the Clarence River at Grafton / South Grafton is fragmented.</p>	<p>The Clarence River is a highly valued open space feature in Grafton. Its significance to the community includes its vistas, socializing and recreation opportunities, and pedestrian access and links along and to it.</p> <p>Access to the river foreshore has been identified by the community as a high priority. Community demand for open space improvements particularly relating to river foreshore areas and links between them along the river, as well as for cycleways and pedestrian pathways.</p> <p>Create continuous 'riverwalks' where land ownership allows at Grafton, South Grafton, Iluka, Yamba, and Maclean.</p> <p>Establish walking circuits, pathway links and picnicking and informal recreation spots in riparian corridors.</p>	✓	<p>Address limited public access to river foreshores by liaising with public and private landowners.</p> <p>Develop key potential open space linkages such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton Riverside Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Grafton Bridge-Queen Street according to draft concept plan. <input type="checkbox"/> railway lands in north-west Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> east Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> 'South Bank' in South Grafton <input type="checkbox"/> The Yamba Bay walk path past Ford Park. <p>Construct pedestrian paths along the river at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> riverside walk between Iluka Marina and Spencer Street boat ramp. <input type="checkbox"/> Informal path along River Street levee at Maclean. Riverside Walk Maclean Showground-Maclean High School, Rainforest Flora and Fauna Reserve. Access across Maclean High School land is required. <p>Investigate a riverbank walkway from Riverside Drive to Cowan Street in South Grafton, including access in front of the District Services Club, with links through Alex Bell Reserve and along Christopher Creek as a circuit to McKittrick Park.</p> <p>Link Memorial Park, Euston Place, adjoining river foreshore areas and Alamy Creek as a scenic corridor with walking and bicycle path links.</p>
Cycleways	<p>19 km on and off-road cycleways.</p> <p>On-road cycleways at Yamba, Maclean, Iluka.</p> <p>Plans for cycleway at Gulmarrad.</p>	<p>Cycling is also a high participation recreational activity among all age groups.</p> <p>Potential for bike tourism.</p>	✓	<p>On-road cycle lane between Maclean and Gulmarrad, and Iluka and Woombah, Yamba to Maclean and Palmers Island.</p> <p>Implement the recommendations of the PAMP/bike plan in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Off road routes <input type="checkbox"/> On-road routes

Open space/ recreation facility	Current provision	Current and future needs and demands	Gap?	General strategy and actions
				<input type="checkbox"/> Bike storage <input type="checkbox"/> Bike hire Consider an appropriate location for children in West Yamba to ride their bikes.
Walkways/ cycleways		Strong interest in river and creek foreshore and vegetated corridor trails.	✓	Investigate long term options to develop walking, cycling and habitat links to and along major waterways. Provide walkway/cycleways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> adjacent to Ford Park and the Clarence River. <input type="checkbox"/> on the western side of Ford Park to allow implementation of the Yamba Bay Walk. <input type="checkbox"/> from Yamba Road to Urara and Mulgi Streets. Safe pedestrian and cycle access along/across key thoroughfares such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Highway, between Clarenza and Grafton City. <input type="checkbox"/> Rushforth Road. Plan and construct walking/cycling paths in new release areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Junction Hill <input type="checkbox"/> Clarenza <input type="checkbox"/> West Yamba
Equestrian trails	Horse riders use trails in State Forests.	Demand for additional equestrian trails is unknown.	?	Secure access to equestrian bridle paths where suitable.

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7 IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Co-ordination and implementation of this Open Space Strategic Plan is the responsibility of Clarence Valley Council. Council may invite and encourage assistance from a range of people and organisations in various ways to implement this Strategy.

A range of management alternatives for current and future open spaces and recreation facilities include:

- Council.
- Contractors.
- Section 355 committees (for community land).
- Private organisations.

7.2 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding is required for all aspects of open space including planning, design, development, maintenance and servicing, and whole-of-life asset management.

Funding is the major constraint to provision of open space and implementation of this Strategy. The cost of implementing all recommendations is beyond Council's responsibility and capacity.

In the 2008-09 financial year Council spent \$4.9 million (or \$96.73 per person) on recreation and leisure, an increase from \$3.9 million (\$76.67 per person) in 2007-08 (Department of Local Government, 2010). Clarence Valley Council's expenditure per person on recreation and leisure in 2008-09 is slightly less than surrounding Councils such as Armidale-Dumaresq (\$111.98) and Coffs Harbour (\$98.09) spent on recreation and leisure.

A broad range of funding options for capital works and/or ongoing maintenance of open space include:

- Council-allocated funds from rates and other sources for capital works.
- special rates levies or variations which may be applied to some or all ratepayers to fund particular open space projects if approved by the Department of Local Government. Such projects may include the purchase of an environmental area for example.
- recurrent Council allocations.
- rents, fees and charges for use of facilities. Charges for use should reflect access to and use of the facility, while not pricing people out or denying them access because of an inability to pay. Higher charges are warranted where exclusive use is granted to

a particular user group and consideration be given for leasing in these cases. User charges should at least cover basic operating costs, with major maintenance and capital costs needing to be sourced from other sources.

- ❑ developer contributions.
- ❑ income from Crown reserves, which can only be used by the relevant Reserve Trust for the reserves under its control. Such income is not available for Council's core business or general management of open space. The transfer of income from one Trust to another requires consent from the Minister. Crown caravan parks within the Crown reserve systems finance management and development of Crown reserves.
- ❑ private investment, sponsorships and grants. Funds may be sought from corporate or commercial sources for advertising or naming rights.
- ❑ partnerships (see Section 7.3).
- ❑ Federal and State government grants (refer to **Appendix I**). Grants may be ongoing, or one-off in response to an event such as the federal government's economic stimulus program.
- ❑ other government sources.
- ❑ sale of agreed surplus lands.

Contributions by Council to sport are made through:

- ❑ Council allocations to the Clarence and Lower Clarence Sports Councils per year (\$40,000 in 2011-12) to assist sports with small capital projects to improve their facilities.
- ❑ Cultural and Sports Trust Fund Donation Policy.

7.3 PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Strategic partnerships are critical to optimize planning, provision, use and management of open space. Council can encourage the contributions of, and work with, other organisations to provide recreation and open space opportunities in the following ways.

Table 7.1 Partnership opportunities

Organisation	Examples of partnership opportunities
Government	Land management agencies, facility providers
Peak sporting bodies	Funding for facilities, assistance with programs
Sporting groups	Development of facilities that will benefit their sport. This will be particularly relevant for improvements to district and local level facilities, such as groups raising funds towards improvements to an amenity building, fencing a sporting field, or the provision of lighting.
Community	Businesses, community groups
Licensed clubs	Development and management of regional and district level facilities.
Tourism / economic development organisations	Funding, promotion
Private sector	Recreation facility development as part of private developments, funding. Encourage appropriate private involvement in open space and recreation provision through zonings, development controls and the development application process.

Organisation	Examples of partnership opportunities
Schools / Department of Education and Training	Shared use of school facilities. There is potential to increase the level of use of school facilities in the Clarence Valley. However, this will require the development of a policy, the identification of suitable school facilities, and a commitment to providing some additional facilities. There are many successful examples of public use of school sporting and recreation facilities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Councils maintaining fields in return for public use. <input type="checkbox"/> Councils purchasing school land with Section 94 funds and agreeing with the school for school use during school hours and public use after school hours.
DPI (Crown Lands Division) (DPI-CLD)	Potential use of Crown land that is administered by the Department.
Office of Environment and Heritage (National Parks and Wildlife)	Continued use of national parks for activities such as cycling on roads and orienteering where permitted.
Roads and Maritime Services	Funding and provision of facilities for cycling.
Owners of large areas of land.	Public access

There is a need to consolidate the various Reserve Trusts with DPI-CLD that Council deals with to improve administration, management and reporting (through the Crown Reserve reporting system).

7.4 USE AGREEMENTS

Agreements for use of Council's parks and reserves vary according to the length of time, the type of facility used, and the user group. Such agreements are set out below.

Table 7.2 Types of User Agreements

Type of use agreement	Purpose	Examples of appropriate users
Lease	Exclusive use of a facility or space. Facility of space may be sub-leased.	Sporting, recreational, community groups
Licence	Use of all/part of a facility or space for a specified time permits sharing of facilities / spaces.	Sporting, recreational, community groups
Temporary licence	Short-term / one-off use of a facility.	Social, community groups
Seasonal sporting facility hire	Seasonal use of a sporting facility consistent with the Sports Management Policy. Regularly review seasonal use agreements in terms of actual use of the facility in previous season.	Sporting groups
Casual sporting facility hire	One-off/casual use of a sporting facility consistent with the Sports Management Policy.	Sporting groups

7.5 MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of open space assets is an increasing cost burden for Councils. Current maintenance service levels are presently being reviewed by Council. Maintenance actions are to be directed to efficient resource use. Such actions may include:

- increasing the use of contractors or volunteers through committees in areas where the costs of travel from major urban centres where staff are based is cost-prohibitive.
- maintaining fewer larger areas than a high number of smaller and unlinked open spaces.
- increasing use of contracting and day labour, particularly for repetitive tasks such as mowing, edging and cleaning.
- recognising the need to produce higher maintenance standards in some areas and less intense maintenance standards in others.
- recognising that users of sole use facilities may be required to contribute beyond that for facilities that have multiple users.
- increasing use of technology.

Specific facilities should be maintained according to levels of service in asset management systems, for example Council's Playground Audit and Asset Management System.

7.6 MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Council already provides useful information to the public about its open spaces, parks and reserves, and sporting and recreation facilities through key channels particularly its website and tourism brochures. Council's website is already quite comprehensive regarding information it provides on-line.

Continue to develop Council's website for promotion of Council's facilities, activities, and links to other sites.

Current marketing and promotion of the Clarence Valley's open spaces, parks and reserves and sporting and recreational facilities could be supplemented by:

- preparing specialist information resources, accompanied by maps, for special interest groups and activities such as:
 - playgrounds and other facilities for children – 'Clarence Kids'.
 - facilities for young people.
 - picnic and barbecue facilities.
 - walking and cycling paths, tracks and links
 - sporting facilities
 - water-based sports and recreation facilities.
 - natural areas
 - camping, four-wheel driving
 - motorhome rest areas.
- ensuring travel guides, maps and media include more detail about open space and recreation facilities available.
- ensuring tourism initiatives such as Clarence River Way include open space and recreation opportunities.
- promotion of sporting facilities for sports tourism.
- erecting directional signage at key intersections to major sporting facilities and to parks along major roads.

As internet access is increasing but is not universally available, such marketing and promotional information should be produced in hard copy and electronically for distribution through a wide range of channels.

7.7 FUTURE FACILITIES

A framework and criteria for making decisions about proposals for open space and recreation facilities in the future is set out below. Any facility proposal should meet most, if not all, of the following criteria:

- is it specifically mentioned as an action in this Strategic Plan, or is it consistent with this Strategy?
- is it identified in or consistent with a relevant Plan of Management or planning document?
- does it have the support of Councillors and relevant Council staff?
- does it have approval from the land owner (if land not owned by Council)?
- does it complement, improve or add to the supply of open space and recreation opportunities in the area where it is proposed?
- does it satisfy an identified need in the community?
- does it have the support of potential users?
- can it be provided within existing Council budgets or with other sources of funding?

Any facility proposals must be approved by Council or by delegated authority.

7.8 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement in open space planning, use and management is vital. Clarence Valley Council values and encourages community involvement in open space planning and management. It is recommended that Council continue to involve, motivate and mentor the community through avenues such as:

- the Clarence and Lower Clarence Sports Councils as forums for discussing and resolving issues relating to sport.
- encouraging maintenance of open space, such as bushland and coastal dunes, by appropriately trained or qualified people through partnerships with Bushcare and Dunecare programs.
- seeking input from the general community about open space proposals through existing community networks, information on Council's website, email lists, and on-line forums such as 'Bang the Table'.

7.9 REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This is a 10+10 year plan that outlines a direction and strategy for open space in the Clarence Valley, based on currently available information. It is inevitable that future development may be faster or slower than planned, and other factors affecting the supply of and demand for open space will change. Council needs to anticipate and respond to these changes.

It is recommended that Council monitor the rate of new development through its development and building approvals process. This assessment should also be reviewed every five years as soon as possible after the population and housing data of each Census becomes available, and after community consultation. The recommendations in this Strategy should then be adjusted accordingly.

The Open Space Strategic Plan should be reflected in Council's integrated planning and reporting framework. Some of the actions and recommendations in this Plan will link to a Open Spaces Section 94 Plan that may include provision of facilities beyond the 10 year period identified in this Strategic Plan.

7.10 CONCLUSION

Clarence Valley Council will face some significant decisions over the next 10 years as it plans to meet the needs of the Clarence valley population which is expected to increase by 21% between 2006 and 2021, and will continue to age. This population growth pattern is projected to continue beyond 2021 to 2031 in a similar trajectory. Such population growth, coupled with visitors attracted to the outdoor lifestyle in the Clarence Valley, will place pressure on existing open space.

Through analysis of the existing provision of open space and recreation resources in the Clarence Valley, and an assessment of the likely needs of the current and future population, this Strategy has recommended priorities for satisfying these needs. The general basis of this Strategy is that the Clarence Valley has comparatively a wide range of open space and recreational facilities and settings. However, the two key gaps now and over the next 10 years are expected to be for recreational opportunities, settings and activities for young and older people.

Site planning of facilities needs to be updated in some areas particularly in some key parks, reserves and sports grounds to make better use of space. Some open spaces and recreational facilities and settings need to be embellished with simple improvements to increase their attractiveness for recreational use. Some new open spaces and recreational facilities and open spaces have been recommended to cater for the increased population, especially in towns and villages with a demonstrated demand for such facilities, and in new release areas. However, improvements to existing facilities and spaces in established areas should be considered before necessarily providing new facilities and spaces.

Other levels of government are placing increasing pressures on Council to manage public open space. Council needs to work together with other levels of government and the community to fund and implement the recommendations of this Strategy. The works needed are extensive and will take some to implement. However, the result will be improved open spaces and recreational opportunities that will benefit the increasing number of residents of and visitors to the Clarence Valley.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Commonwealth and NSW government framework for open space planning

Federal Government

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act is a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora and fauna, ecological communities and heritage places that are defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.

Native Title Act 1993

This Act provides for the recognition and protection of native title, and establishes a mechanism for determining claims for native title.

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* aims to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against people with disabilities in many areas, including access to premises. The Act also aims to promote recognition and acceptance in the community that people with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as the rest of the community.

National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development

The Strategy defines core objectives and guiding principles regarding the use, conservation and enhancement of community resources so that the ecological processes necessary for life are maintained, and that quality of life now and in the future can be increased.

State Government

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Under this Act the Office of Environment and Heritage (Parks and Wildlife Group) is responsible for the care, control and management of all national parks, historic sites, nature reserves, reserves, Aboriginal areas and State game reserves. State Conservation Areas, karst conservation reserves and regional parks are also administered under the Act.

The Director-General is also responsible for the protection and care of native fauna and flora, and Aboriginal places and objects throughout NSW.

Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

The Threatened Species Conservation Act aims to protect all threatened plants and animals (with the exception of fish and marine plants) that are native to NSW. The Act provides for the identification, conservation and recovery of threatened species and their populations and communities. It also aims to reduce the threats faced by those species.

Species can be listed in the Act as presumed extinct, endangered or vulnerable. Populations and ecological communities can be listed as endangered.

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

This act aims to protect the environment through implementation of policies, licences, audits, notices and conditions.

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 44 – Koala Habitat Protection

This Policy aims to encourage the proper conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for koalas. This is to ensure a permanent free-living population over their present range and to reverse the current trend of koala population decline.

SEPP 44 encourages identifying areas of core and potential koala habitat, and including areas of core koala habitat in environment protection zones. SEPP 44 requires the preparation of a plan of management before development consent can be granted in relation to areas of core koala habitat.

NSW Biodiversity Strategy

The goals of this strategy are to protect the native biological diversity of NSW, and to maintain ecological processes and systems. It aims to ensure the survival and evolutionary development of all species, populations and communities of plants and animals.

Rainforest protection

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 26 – Littoral Rainforests

SEPP 26 aims to preserve and protect littoral rainforests, which are those rainforests well suited to harsh, salt-laden and drying coastal winds.

The policy applies to “core” areas of littoral rainforest, as well as a 100-metre wide “buffer” area surrounding these core areas. Such areas do not apply to residential land and areas subject to SEPP No. 14 – Coastal Wetlands.

Fire management

Rural Fires Act 1997

The objectives of the Act are to provide for the prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires in local government areas.

Planning for Bushfire Protection 2004

This document has been prepared to provide stakeholders with a set of guidelines for bushfire protection and the necessary considerations when developing areas for residential use when such sites are close to areas likely to be affected by bushfires.

Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code for NSW 2006

The purpose of this Code is to provide a streamlined environmental assessment process for use by issuing and certifying authorities in determining bush fire hazard reduction certificates. Environmental assessment of bushfire hazard reduction must have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development, and environmental planning and assessment considerations.

Protection of wetlands

Fisheries Management Act 1994

The objects of this Act are to conserve, develop and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations. Following on, the objects of this Act include to promote quality recreational fishing opportunities.

State Environmental Planning Policy 14 – Coastal Wetlands

SEPP 14 – Coastal Wetlands applies to local government areas outside the Sydney metropolitan area that adjoin the Pacific Ocean.

SEPP 14 aims to ensure that coastal wetlands are preserved and protected for environmental and economic reasons.

Land clearing, levee construction, drainage work or filling may only be carried out within SEPP 14 wetlands with the consent of local Councils and the agreement of the Director-General of the Department of Planning.

NSW Wetlands Management Policy.

This policy provides for ecologically sustainable use, management and conservation of wetlands in NSW for the benefit of present and future generations. It encourages land use management and practices that maintain or rehabilitate wetlands.

Coastal protection

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 71 – Coastal Protection

SEPP No. 71 was made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to:

- ❑ foster a strategic and consistent approach to coastal planning and management.
- ❑ ensure that the NSW coastal zone is protected in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- ❑ facilitate the assessment of development proposals, and assess each proposal on its individual merits.

Under SEPP 71, development comprising the erection of a building that is 2 or more storeys in height on land within a sensitive coastal location ie. within 100 metres above mean high water mark of the sea is considered significant coastal development. As such, Council must refer any development applications to the Director-General of Planning.

NSW Coastline Hazard Policy 1990

The main purpose of this Policy is for Councils to apply effective planning and development controls to reduce the impacts of hazards caused by natural coastal forces.

Land use

Local Government Act 1993

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires Councils to identify, classify and manage land that it owns. Public land that is classified as community land generally includes parks and other open spaces. Under the Act, Councils are required to prepare Plans of Management for community land. Clarence Valley Council has prepared several Plans of Management for parks and reserves, sporting facilities and natural areas. Councils are also required to categorise community land as either natural area (foreshore, watercourse, wetland, bushland), sportsground, park, area of cultural significance, or general community use. Core objectives for management apply to each category of community land.

Under the Act, Councils are also required to prepare an annual State of Environment report, in which information on open space, recreation and natural resources are usually presented.

Crown Lands Act 1989

Some parks and reserves in the Clarence Valley are Crown land under the management of Reserve Trusts. The *Crown Lands Act 1989* governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including reservation or dedication for a public purpose such as Public Recreation, and leasing and licensing. The Department of Primary Industries - Division of Catchments and Lands, together with Reserve Trusts appointed by the Minister, are responsible for management of the Crown reserve system throughout NSW. The Department encourages the community to be either directly involved in, or contribute to, the planning and management of the system as trustees of reserved and dedicated land.

Crown land must be managed and used according to:

- ❑ the public purpose of the reserve.
- ❑ any conditions and provisions within the zoning that applies in Council's Local Environmental Plan.
- ❑ the principles of Crown land management, which are to:
 - observe environmental protection principles in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.
 - conserve the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna, and scenic quality) wherever possible.
 - encourage public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land.
 - encourage multiple use of Crown land, where appropriate.
 - use and manage Crown land in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, where appropriate
 - occupy, use, sell, lease, license, or otherwise deal with Crown land in the best interests of the State, consistent with the above principles.
- ❑ case law.

DPI - DCL works in partnership with the community and the National Surfing Reserve Committee to declare sites as Crown reserves for the public purpose of surfing recreation under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. Such surfing reserves recognize sites of environmental, cultural and historic significance in Australian surf culture in order to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our precious coastal environment.

Relevant policies relating to Crown Land in NSW are:

- Crown Lands Caravan Park Policy 1990 (under review)
- Coastal Crown Lands Policy 1991 (under review)
- Crown Lands Foreshore Tenures Policy (Non-commercial operations) 1991 (under review)
- Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves Policy 2004
- Crown Lands Policy for Marinas and Waterfront Commercial Tenures 2005
- Crown Lands Policy for Tourist and Associated Facilities on Crown Land 2006
- Management of Cemeteries on Crown Land by Local Government
- Recreational Trails Strategy 2007

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* provide the framework for, among other things:

- Councils and other planning authorities to prepare land use planning instruments, including State Environmental Planning Policies and Local Environmental Plans.
- the processes for the assessment and approval of development applications, including addressing the impacts of development on the provision of public amenities and services.

Parts 3A, 4 and 5 of the Act outline the decision making processes to assess proposed development and activities. The consent/determining authority must have regard to a range of environmental matters when deciding if a proposal should be approved.

All local government areas in NSW are required to amend their current Local Environmental Plans consistent with the Standard LEP template. Zones in current LEPs relating to public and private recreation and environmental protection will be changed to Public Recreation, Private Recreation, National Parks and Nature Reserves, Environmental Conservation, Natural Waterways and Recreational Waterways.

Impacts on public amenities and services provided by councils and other planning authorities that arise from the approval of new development are usually addressed through the imposition of conditions of consent requiring development contributions.

Development contributions are contributions made by those undertaking development approved under the EPA Act toward the provision of public amenities and services. A development contribution can be a monetary contribution, the dedication of land free of cost or the provision of a material public benefit.

Development contributions in the Clarence Valley may be obtained through the imposition of a condition on a consent requiring either section 94 contributions or section 94A levies, or they may be provided through an agreement negotiated between the developer and the

Council (called a 'voluntary planning agreement'). More information on Section 94 contributions for open space and sport are in the Clarence Valley Section 94 Plan for Open Space and Sports Facilities (Newplan, 2010) which follows on from this Plan.

North Coast Regional Environmental Plan

The North Coast Regional Environmental Plan identifies environmental features that are important to the region and provides a basis for new urban and rural development with an emphasis on careful assessment. The REP sets out requirements and guidelines for preparation and processing of LEPs and some forms of development. The REP requires LEPs to have areas for active or passive recreational use. The plan also requires land to be provided for public access to water bodies and foreshores.

The objectives of the *North Coast Regional Environmental Plan 1988* in relation to recreation issues relating to the north coast region are to:

- ❑ allow provisions for the diverse recreational needs of the community, taking into account expected population growth and visitor use.
- ❑ prevent environmental degradation caused by excessive or inappropriate recreational use.

Water management

Water Management Act 2000

The objects of this Act are to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the State for the benefit of both present and future generations. Benefits include ecological, social, cultural and economic values.

State Rivers and Estuary Policy

The objective of this Policy is to manage the rivers, estuaries and adjacent wetlands of NSW in ways which:

- ❑ slow, halt or reverse the overall rate of degradation in these systems.
- ❑ Ensure the long term sustainability of their essential biophysical functions.
- ❑ Maintain the beneficial use of these resources.

NSW State Groundwater Policy

The goal of this Policy is to manage groundwater resources in NSW so they can sustain environmental, social and economic uses. The policy considers the ecosystems into which groundwater is discharged and those from which groundwater is recharged.

NSW State Groundwater Quality Protection Policy

This policy is one of three component policies which make up the NSW State Groundwater Policy. The focus of this policy is to protect aquifers (water below the surface in geological structures) from pollution.

Roads Act 1993

Public roads are a key component of the open space network in NSW with inherent legal rights of access. Roads and Maritime Services, Department of Primary Industries (Crown Lands Division) and Clarence Valley Council are Roads Authorities under the *Roads Act 1993*, which confers responsibilities for future strategic management of the public road network. As such these organizations are significant stakeholders in strategic open space planning and management, especially in rural areas.

Companion Animals Act 1998

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* aims to promote responsible animal ownership in NSW. Under the Act, dogs in public places must be on a lead under the effective control of a competent person, except in a declared off-leash area. Dogs are prohibited within 10 metres of children's play areas, food preparation / consumption areas, and recreation areas where dogs are prohibited by the local authority. If a dog defecates in a public place, the owner must remove and dispose of it in a rubbish receptacle.

Buildings and structures

Numerous other Acts and Regulations relate to the planning and management of open space and recreation facilities. These cover the quality of buildings and structures such as Australian standards for children's play equipment and softfall, and the Building Code of Australia.

APPENDIX B

State and regional operational plans

State government

NSW State Plan

The NSW State Plan 2021 sets out 32 goals for NSW to achieve in the next 10 years. The relevant goals and targets to this open space strategy, related to “Strengthen our Local Environment and Communities”, are set out below.

Strengthen our Local Environment and Communities	
Goal	Targets
Protect our natural environment	Protect and restore priority land, vegetation and water habitats, including to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manage weeds and pests. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect and conserve land, biodiversity and native vegetation. <input type="checkbox"/> Protect rivers, wetlands and coastal environments.
Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments.	Increase the devolution of decision making, funding and control to groups and individuals for local environmental and community activities.
Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities.	Increase volunteering.
	Increase community participation.
	Improve our sense of community.
Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreation opportunities.	Increase participation in sport, recreational, arts and cultural activities in rural and regional NSW from 2010 to 2016 by 10%.
	Increase the number of opportunities for cultural participation.
	Enhance the cultural and natural heritage in NSW.

NSW Sport and Recreation Industry Five Year Plan

Game Plan 2012 (NSW Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and NSW Sport and Recreation, 2006) sets out guidelines for the sport and recreation industry in addressing priority issues until 2012. The Plan is based on the principle that physical activity builds stronger communities, and that social relationships and support lead to increased levels of physical activity. The government’s aim is to encourage increased participation of players and volunteers. The number of adults and children participating in sport and physical activity in NSW is expected to increase at the rate of 1% per year. Relationships with and collaboration between participants, service providers, facility providers, funders and advocates are necessary to ensure the benefits of physical activity are realised.

Challenges facing the sport and recreation industry in meeting the stated aims primarily relate to participation, funding, facilities, and volunteers. The approach to address these challenges is ‘community-centred’ – by recognising the strength of social relationships and community engagement – to build the social capital of NSW.

Four key focus areas in Game Plan 2012 which underpin the vision of “shaping our community for a sustainable future” are:

- active community. The objective is to make it easier and affordable for people of all ages to be physically active and involved in their communities. The success measure is a one percent increase per annum in physical activity across all ages, gender, disability and culturally diverse groups.

- new vision for volunteers. The objective is to increase the number of qualified, confident volunteers – referees, technical officials, coaches and administrators - who feel valued and supported and want to remain in the industry. The success measure is a 1% increase per annum in the number of volunteers working in sport and recreation.
- innovative funding. The objective is to provide sustainable funding from government and non-government sources. The success measure is increased per capita amount of funding from government (all levels) and non-government sources.
- fresh approach to facilities. The objective is to increase the availability of usable open space and ensure facilities are of a quality standard to meet community expectations. The success measures are a two percent increase in access to usable open space; quality assurance framework with standards for new sports facilities (especially multi-use facilities) is accepted and implemented by sport organisations; and a feasibility study completed for a multi-sport facilities model.

Specific strategies following on from these key focus areas relate to:

- providing quality, multi-purpose and safe facilities.
- increasing opportunities for available land for open space through creative means.
- joint use of facilities through partnerships.

Recreation and open space guidelines

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) recognises that open space management is a significant component of local government responsibility in NSW. The Department encourages Councils to prepare open space and recreation plans to help with planning the present and future provision of open space and recreation facilities. To assist Councils with preparing these plans, the DPI prepared guidelines for outdoor recreation and open space planning (Department of Planning, 1992). These guidelines outlined several concepts that Councils are encouraged to adopt in preparing their open space and recreation strategy plans, including:

- providing quality open space areas that cater for diverse recreation experiences which satisfy the community's needs for recreation.
- moving from the rigid 'standards' approach of providing open space (where open space provision is expressed in terms of the number of hectares per 1,000 people) towards a needs-based approach that considers the characteristics and specific needs of local communities.
- compiling an inventory of all open space areas that becomes an important management tool.

State-wide guidelines for provision of open space are set out in SGS Economics and Planning and HM Leisure Planning (2010).

Activity plans

The State government's commitment to promoting participation in physical activity are reflected in:

- Creating Active Communities: Physical Activity Guidelines for Active Communities (2001)

- ❑ Planning Guidelines for Walking and Cycling (2004)
- ❑ Designing places and projects for active living (Premier's Council for Active Living, 2010).

Regional plans

Mid North Coast Regional Strategy 2009

The Mid North Coast Regional Strategy (Department of Planning, 2009) is the primary planning document for the Mid North Coast, which includes Clarence Valley local government area.

The vision for the Mid North Coast is to maintain and enhance the opportunity for the communities of the Region to experience a healthy, prosperous and sustainable lifestyle.

The aims of the Strategy include to guide sustainable development in the Mid North Coast region for the next 25 years, and to protect and enhance natural environmental and scenic assets. In particular the Strategy aims to ensure that adequate land is available and appropriately located to accommodate the projected housing and employment needs of the region's increasingly aging population over the next 25 years. Development in places constrained by coastal processes, flooding, wetlands, important farmland and landscapes of high scenic and conservation value will be limited.

Councils are expected to translate and implement the Strategy through their new Local Environmental Plans. The Department of Planning has stated that the minimum dwelling requirement for the Clarence sub-region (Clarence Valley LGA) is 7,100 dwellings by 2031. Urban release areas identified in the Strategy are in South Grafton, Junction Hill, Clarenza, south-west Yamba, James Creek, and Gulgarrad. All towns and villages are identified as 'growth areas'. Open space for parks, playing fields and so on may be located outside the growth areas where suitable land is not available within the mapped growth areas, but areas of high environmental or natural resource value should be avoided.

Greenfields sites outside the coastal areas (east of Maclean and Grafton Airport) may be developed, subject to satisfying the Department's Sustainability Criteria. Implementation of the Strategy will be according to the Settlement Planning Guidelines for the Mid and Far North Coast (Department of Planning, 2007), Design Principles for Coastal Settlements, and North Coast Urban Design Guidelines (Department of Planning, 2008).

Draft Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan

The Draft Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan (2010) was prepared by the former Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). The Draft Plan identifies the threats operating across the region, and recommends a range of actions to help maintain, protect and support biodiversity. The planning process includes threatened species as well as all native vegetation and ecosystems across the various land tenures in the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority area. The plan outlines a process of collaboration between government and the community, including the indigenous community, with funding provided by the Australian government.

APPENDIX C

Participation in physical activities by Australian adults and children

Youth and children

Australia

National surveys of participation by children aged 5 to 14 years in leisure and cultural activities outside school hours and away from home were undertaken in 1999-2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2009).

Changes in participation between 2000 and 2009 of Australian children aged 5 to 14 years in culture and leisure activities outside school hours showed a marginal increase in participation in at least one organised sport. Participation in physical activities such as bike riding has increased over the same period.

Boys participate in organised sport more so than girls, especially from the age of 7 years. Participation in sport peaks in the 9 and 10 year age group, declining by age 14 years.

Australian children are more likely to participate in organised sporting activities if:

- ❑ they are aged 9-11 years.
- ❑ they or their parents were born in Australia or an English speaking country.
- ❑ they live outside a capital city.
- ❑ they live in a couple family.
- ❑ their parent(s) are employed.

The most popular non-organised activities for Australian children in 2006 are bike riding and skateboarding / rollerblading. Most popular organised sports for children in NSW are soccer, swimming and netball.

Children participate in organised sport at a higher rate than adults do.

Table C.1 Most popular exercise, recreation and sporting activities by Australian children

Activity / sport	2000 %	2003 %	2006 %	2009 %	Change 2000-09	2009 Age	2009 Gender
Bike riding	63.8%	62.1%	67.8%	60.4%	↓	5-8 years	Boys
Skateboarding / roller-blading / riding scooter	-	-	-	49.3%	-	9-11 years	Boys
Skateboarding / roller-blading	30.9%	22.8%	23.6%	-	↓ (2006)	-	-
Swimming	14.4%	16.6%	17.4%	18.5%	↑	5-8 years	Boys / Girls
Outdoor soccer	11.4%	13.4%	13.2%	13.2%	↑	9-11 years	Boys
Netball	9.1%	9.1%	8.5%	8.4%	↓	12-14 years	Girls
Tennis	8.5%	8.6%	7.3%	7.9%	↓	9-11 years	Boys
Basketball	7.6%	7.7%	6.6%	7.4%	↔	12-14 years	Boys
Australian Rules	6.6%	7.3%	7.5%	8.6%	↑	12-14 years	Boys
Cricket (outdoor)	5.3%	5.0%	5.4%	5.2%	↔	12-14 years	Boys
Martial arts	4.0%	4.9%	4.5%	5.7%	↑	9-11 years	Boys
Athletics	3.9%	3.8%	2.9%	3.3%	↓	9-11 years	Girls / Boys
Gymnastics (trampolining)	2.6%	3.5%	3.5%	4.6%	↑	5-8 years	Girls
Rugby league	3.6%	2.9%	4.2%	3.6%	↔	9-14 years	Boys
Hockey	2.4%	2.5%	1.9%	2.1%	↓	12-14 years	Girls

Activity / sport	2000 %	2003 %	2006 %	2009 %	Change 2000-09	2009 Age	2009 Gender
Softball		1.7%					
Touch football		1.6%					
Rugby union		1.3%					
Soccer (indoor)		1.2%	2.2%	2.8%	↑	12-14 years	Boys
Horse riding / equestrian events		1.2%					
Surf life saving		1.1%					
Golf		1.0%					
Baseball		0.9%					

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2000, 2004, 2006, 2009)

↑ Increase in participation rate; ↓ Decrease in participation rate; ↔ No change in participation rate.

Adults

Australia

The Australian Sports Commission and the Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS) (2002 to 2010) have conducted the most recent, comprehensive, annual national surveys of participation in exercise, recreation and sport by Australian adults 15 years and over. Relevant results are outlined below. This data is a guide only as there are State, regional and local variations in participation in physical activities.

In 2009 82% of the adult population participated at least once annually in physical activity for exercise, recreation or sport. In that year 48% of the adult population in Australia participated regularly (at least 3 times per week) in physical activity. There is a general trend towards a slow increase in the regular participation rate in physical activity by Australian adults between 2001 (37%) and 2009 (48%).

Stratton, et. al. (2005) found that participation in sport or recreational physical activity by Australian adults was highest among:

- ❑ males aged 18 to 44 years.
- ❑ people who live in a major city.
- ❑ people employed in professional and advanced services occupations.
- ❑ high income households.
- ❑ the highest 20% socio-economic status for areas (SEIFA).
- ❑ couple (with or without children) or lone person household.
- ❑ degree or diploma holders.
- ❑ people with proficiency in English.
- ❑ people in excellent health.
- ❑ ease of transport access.
- ❑ people with at least weekly contact with family or friends.
- ❑ people with a high feeling of safety.

Stratton et. al. recommended a need for recreation programs to target:

- ❑ people with poor proficiency in English, as this is an indicator of a sense of connectedness and belonging with the community.
- ❑ people in poor health.
- ❑ younger females 25 to 44 years.

- ❑ people aged over 45 years.
- ❑ people with little social contact or access to transport.
- ❑ people with lower socio-economic characteristics.

New South Wales

Participation of NSW adults in any physical activity was highest in 2009 (Australian Sports Commission, 2010) if they:

- ❑ were male and aged 15 to 34 years (88%).
- ❑ were female and aged either 15 to 24 (82%) or 55 to 64 years (82%).
- ❑ lived in a capital city (82%) or in the rest of the State (81%).
- ❑ speak a European language(s) other than English (85%) or speak English only (83%).
- ❑ were either employed (84%) or unemployed (83%).
- ❑ were married (82%) or not married (81%).
- ❑ had at least one child aged 18 years or under at home (83%) or no child under 18 years (81%).
- ❑ were still in secondary school (89%) or had a university degree or higher (88%).

The most popular physical activities of adults in NSW are listed below. On the whole, participation in non-organised, informal activities is significantly higher than participation in organised activities for males and females of all ages.

Table C.2 Most popular physical activities by NSW adults

Activity	NSW Participation Rate 2001	NSW Participation rate 2009	Change 2001-2009	Age	Gender
Walking	26.8%	35.8%	↑	45-65 +	Females
Aerobics / fitness	12.5%	22.4%	↑	25-34	Females
Swimming	19.0%	14.5%	↓	25-34	Females
Running	7.0%	10.7%	↑	15-34	Males
Cycling	7.9%	9.0%	↑	25-44	Males
Golf	8.4%	7.0%	↓	55-64	Males
Football (outdoor)	4.7%	7.0%	↑	15-24	Males
Tennis	11.0%	6.6%	↓	15-44	Males
Bushwalking	6.6%	5.5%	↓	45-54	Males
Basketball	2.7%	3.8%	↑	15-24	Males
Touch football	3.4%	3.6%	↑	15-24	Males
Surf sports	3.4%	3.5%	↔	15-24	Males
Netball	3.3%	3.4%	↔	15-24	Females
Weight training	2.6%	2.8%	↑	25-34	Males
Cricket (outdoor)	2.9%	2.8%	↔	15-24	Males
Rugby league	1.9%	2.4%	↑	15-24	Males
Yoga	1.9%	2.4%	↑	25-34	Females
Fishing	2.3%	2.3%	↔	35-64	Males
Football (indoor)	0.8%	2.1%	↑	15-24	Males
Dancing	2.1%	2.1%	↔	15-24	Females
Lawn bowls	1.8%	2.0%	↑	65 +	Males
Martial arts	2.2%	1.7%	↓	15-24	Females
Canoeing/kayaking	0.7%	1.2%	↑	15-24	Males, Females

Activity	NSW Participation Rate 2001	NSW Participation rate 2009	Change 2001-2009	Age	Gender
Horse riding/ equestrian/polo	1.2%	1.0%	↓	15-54	Females
Aquarobics	1.0%	1.0%	↔	65 +	Females
Rugby union	0.9%	1.0%	↔	15-24	Males
Volleyball	1.5%	1.0%	↓	15-24	Males
Australian football	2.3%	1.0%	↓	15-24	Males
Rock climbing	1.3%	0.8%	↓	15-24	Males
Orienteering	-	0.8%	↑	15-24	Males
Waterskiing / powerboating	1.1%	0.8%	↓	25-34	Males
Tenpin bowling	1.0%	0.8%	↓	25-34	Males, Females
Badminton	0.6%	0.7%	↔	15-24	Males
Roller sports	0.9%	0.6%	↓	15-24	Males
Softball	1.1%	0.6%	↓	15-24	Females
Scuba diving	0.6%	0.5%	↔	15-24	Males
Athletics	0.7%	0.5%	↓	15-24	Males
Sailing	1.2%	0.5%	↓	35-54	Males
Hockey (outdoor)	0.9%	0.4%	↓	15-24	Females
Cricket (indoor)	1.1%	0.3%	↓	25-34	Males
Baseball	-	0.3%	-	15-24	Males
Gymnastics	-	0.2%	-	15-24	Females

Source: Australian Sports Commission (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)

Women tend to participate more regularly in physical activity and exercise than men, however males tend to participate in such activities for a longer time than women.

Table C.3 further illustrates the activities that are more popular with NSW adults in some age groups compared with other age groups. Activities at the top of the table are participated in most by younger people.

The table shows:

- ❑ the highest rate of participation in sport and physical activities is among people aged 15-34 years, however participation decreases markedly at around 17-18 years of age as young people leave school and start studying or working.
- ❑ golf, fishing, sailing, walking, lawn bowls and carpet bowls generally become more popular as people age.
- ❑ as age increases, participation rates in vigorous, faster sports such as soccer (outdoor) and netball decline significantly.

Recent national surveys by the Australian Sports Commission (2000-09) have shown that certain activities are more popular with some age groups rather than others.

In 2009 young Australians 15-24 years participated most in:

- ❑ aerobics / fitness 25%
- ❑ running 18%
- ❑ football (outdoor) 16%
- ❑ swimming 16%
- ❑ walking 14%
- ❑ basketball 14%
- ❑ netball 12%.

Table C.3 Participation by Australian adults in 2009 by age

Activity	Total Participation %	15-24 %	25-34 %	35-44 %	45-54 %	55-64 %	65+ %
Athletics / track and field	0.8%	3.8	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	-
Indoor hockey	0.1%	0.5	0.1	-	-	-	-
Hockey (outdoor)	0.9%	2.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1
Rugby union	0.8%	2.9	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
Basketball	3.9%	14.4	4.9	2.1	1.1	0.2	-
Australian Rules football	2.8%	8.8	4.1	2.3	0.9	0.3	-
Football (indoor)	2.2%	7.0	4.2	0.7	0.6	-	-
Rugby league	1.5%	5.9	1.6	0.8	0.3	-	-
Netball	4.0%	11.7	5.9	3.5	1.8	-	-
Orienteering	0.7%	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.2	-
Badminton	0.7%	1.6	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1
Football (outdoor)	5.1%	15.9	6.6	4.5	2.1	0.4	-
Rowing	0.4%	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
Aerobics / fitness	22.9%	25.1	29.2	26.8	21.1	18.8	14.5
Martial arts	1.8%	3.0	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.4	1.5
Cricket (indoor)	0.8%	1.4	1.7	1.0	0.2	-	-
Touch football	2.2%	5.7	4.1	2.2	0.6	0.2	-
Boxing	0.7%	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.3	-
Rock climbing	0.6%	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.2	-
Roller sports	0.5%	1.4	0.8	0.3	0.1	-	0.1
Running	11.0%	18.4	16.2	15.8	8.8	3.2	1.2
Cricket (outdoor)	3.2%	7.6	4.5	3.4	1.9	0.5	0.4
Volleyball	1.3%	3.5	2.2	1.2	0.5	-	0.1
Surf sports	2.5%	4.3	3.5	2.5	3.1	1.0	0.3
Canoeing / kayaking	1.2%	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.1	0.4
Swimming	14.1%	16.0	15.9	16.9	14.8	12.5	7.3
Shooting sports	0.5%	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4
Water polo	0.2%	0.8	0.1	0.2	-	-	-
Softball	0.4%	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	-
Horseriding/equestrian/polocrosse	1.0%	1.5	0.6	1.7	1.3	0.5	0.1
Tennis	6.4%	8.9	6.3	7.4	6.9	4.1	3.9
Gymnastics	0.2%	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Dancing	2.3%	5.5	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.9	2.3
Table tennis	0.5%	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6
Weight training	2.9%	2.8	4.5	3.4	2.6	1.8	1.6
Triathlon	0.4%	0.3	1.1	0.8	0.2	-	-
Squash / racquetball	1.5%	1.0	2.4	2.6	2.0	0.5	-
Waterskiing / powerboating	0.9%	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.3	0.1
Baseball	0.3%	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	-
Cycling	11.1%	8.1	12.2	18.1	13.6	9.0	4.0
Yoga	2.8%	1.8	3.5	2.9	3.9	3.3	1.7
Scuba diving	0.5%	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.5	-
Fishing	2.2%	0.7	1.6	2.5	3.4	3.1	2.0
Bushwalking	5.0%	1.4	4.9	5.9	6.6	7.2	4.4
Walking	36.1%	13.9	27.0	36.6	45.3	52.0	45.5
Sailing	0.6%	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.3
Tenpin bowling	0.7%	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.7
Golf	6.4%	2.3	4.5	6.3	7.4	10.1	8.7
Lawn bowls	2.0%	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.5	3.0	7.5
Carpet bowls	0.2%	-	-	0.1	-	0.2	1.2

Source: Australian Sports Commission (2010)

Notes:

Shading indicates above-average participation in activity at a level higher than the total participation %.

%s reflect the proportion of the total population and people in each age group who participate in that activity, so %s don't add to 100 in each row.

%s don't add to 100 in each column because people participate in more than one recreational activity.

(-) denotes participation rate is not statistically significant, or less than 0.1%.

Activities in which participation increases with age, at least until the age of 65 years, are:

- canoeing / kayaking
- golf
- fishing
- sailing
- walking
- lawn bowls
- carpet bowls.

The most popular activities for older Australians 65 years and over in 2009 were:

- walking 45%
- golf 9%
- swimming 7%
- lawn bowls 7%
- bush walking 4%
- cycling 4%
- tennis 4%.

Activities that are popular in most adult groups, or “whole of life” activities, include:

- swimming
- shooting sports
- horse riding / equestrian / polocrosse
- dancing
- table tennis
- tennis
- walking
- yoga
- scuba diving
- sailing
- golf
- tenpin bowling.

Activities increasing in total participation between 2001 and 2009 are:

- running (75% increase)
- outdoor football (60%)
- walking (43%)

- cycling (32%)
- aerobics / fitness (10%).

Activities experiencing declines in participation between 2001 and 2009 include tennis (21% decrease) and golf (11%).

Australian adults participate most frequently in walking (average three times a week), followed by aerobics/fitness, weight training, running and martial arts (average twice a week).

Reasons for participation

The reasons given by Australians who participated in sports and physical recreation activities 13 times or more in the year before interview (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007) for participating in such activities are in **Table C.4**.

Table C.4 Reasons for participating in sport and physical recreation activities

Motivator	% of Australians	Gender	Age group
Health / fitness	82%	Females	25 years and over
Enjoyment	54%	Males	15 to 24 years
Wellbeing	41%	Females	35 years and over
Social / family	34%	Males	15 to 34 years
Weight loss	17%	Females	25 to 64 years
Competition / challenge	12%	Males	15 to 34 years
Walk the dog	8%	Females	35 years and over
Transport	4%	Males, females	All ages

Note: Total does not add up to 100% because each person could give more than one answer.

Constraints to participation

Reasons for non-participation in sport and physical recreation activities are highly individualistic, and vary at different times and with personal circumstances.

The key constraints on participation of Australians who either did not participate in sports and physical recreation activity or participated irregularly (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007) are in **Table C.5**.

Table C.5 Constraints on participation in sport and physical recreation activities

Constraint	% of Australians	Gender	Age group
Insufficient time due to work or study	23%	Males	15 to 54 years
Not interested in sport or physical activity	19%	Males, females	15 to 34 years
Injury / illness (temporary or ongoing)	18%	Males	45 years and over
Age / too old	17%	Females	65 years and over
Insufficient time due to family	11%	Females	25 to 54 years
Already active	7%	Males	45 to 64 years
Cost	1%	Males, females	18 to 34 years
Insufficient time (other reasons)	1%	Males, females	All age groups

Note: Total does not add up to 100% because each person could give more than one answer.

Non-participation in recreation activities

Not everyone participates in recreational activities away from home. It is important to know what the degree of and reasons for non-participation are, to at least recognise them and address them if possible. Reasons given by adults in other NSW local government areas for not participating in recreational activities away from home include:

- no time
- too old
- physical disability
- medical problems
- work / study
- too lazy / can't be bothered
- can't get to facilities
- lack of facilities
- no interest
- looking after children or other family members
- new to area
- too expensive
- don't like sport.

APPENDIX D

Requests for open space and recreation opportunities in Clarence Valley

Lower Clarence

Table D.1 Needs and requests for recreational opportunities in the Lower Clarence 2006

Expressed need	Mentioned by
Activities – general	
Aerobics in Yamba – affordable	Business groups
Affordable facility hire fees	Activity organisers
Live entertainment – music, shows	Yamba residents (1)
Beaches / lakes	
Upgrade facilities at beaches- fences, maintenance	Activity organisers
Improve access for windsurfers to Whiting Beach	Activity organisers
Toilets at waterside parks	Activity organisers
Improve access for people with disabilities to beaches – Turners	
Upgrade electric barbecues at beaches and tourist areas	
Boating facilities	
More boat ramps in Yamba	Business groups
Upgrade boat ramps – Yamba	
Iluka boat ramp – dredging, complete sealing	Facility managers
Parking at boat ramps – Cowper, Maclean	Facility managers
Children's activities	
Weekends and after school	Activity organisers Facility managers
Kindergym or similar	Parents of young children
Children's facilities	
Venue and equipment for vacation care	Facility managers
Play equipment at Yamba Community Hall, Ngaru village, generally	Indigenous people Yamba residents Seniors
Play equipment for older primary aged children 8+	Facility managers
Fenced playgrounds – Lawrence	Facility managers Parents of young children
Shade sails over equipment	Parents of young children
Play equipment for special needs children	Facility managers
Upgraded / additional play equipment at Iluka Bay	Parents of young children
Bike paths for kids in parks	Parents of young children
Jumping house for kids	Yamba residents
Cinemas	
Upgrade Yamba Cinema	Young people
Community halls	
Complete building works – Wooloweyah	Facility managers
Equestrian facilities	
Upgrade the stables at Maclean Showground.	Equestrian group
Repair gaps in the fence of the Maclean Showground arena.	Equestrian group
Upgrade the surface of the Maclean Showground equestrian arena.	Equestrian group
Indoor recreation / sports facilities	
Indoor sports stadium – multi-purpose	Schools
Sports stadium in Maclean Two full-size indoor basketball courts and tiered seating for spectators in Maclean.	Registered clubs Schools
Indoor cricket, soccer, squash in Maclean	Schools
Indoor soccer training facility	Sporting groups
Gym in Yamba	Sporting groups Yamba residents
Gym in Maclean	Young people

Expressed need	Mentioned by
Indoor cricket, indoor soccer, basketball, netball, table tennis, volleyball, skating rink, etc. in Yamba (West)	Business groups Councillors Facility managers Residents' groups Sporting groups Yamba residents
Multi-purpose building for meetings, entertainment, martial arts, dancing, arts etc. in Yamba (West).	Residents' groups
Squash courts to replace existing in Yamba	Business groups
Community centre / hall / meeting space	Facility managers
Tenpin bowling alley in Yamba	Yamba residents
Skating rink in Yamba	Yamba residents
Darts venue	Yamba residents
Informal facilities	
Shelters and walkway – Island End Reserve	
Informal open space in Angourie	Residents' groups
Family parks	Parents of young children
Exercise trails	Sporting groups
Undercover picnic shelter and toilets in Lawrence	Parents of young children
New toilet and shower in Charley Ryan Park, Iluka	Sporting groups
Toilets in Ford Park	Activity providers
Linkages	
Coastal walkway from Pippi Beach- Turners Beach-river trail – Peninsula Park.	Councillors
Foreshore walkway in Iluka	Facility managers
Cycleways	
Extend Yamba walkway / cycleway	
Footpaths in urban areas – Iluka	
Seating along paths	
Sailing / boating facilities	
Improvements to Iluka Boatshed access	Sporting groups
Seniors	
Seniors' events	Yamba residents
Sports courts	
Tennis courts in Yamba	Yamba residents
Upgrade 2 nd tennis court in Iluka – surface, lighting	Facility managers Sporting groups
Additional tennis court in Iluka	Sporting groups
Tennis practice wall – Wooloweyah	Sporting groups
Netball / basketball ring in Yamba, Wooloweyah	Facility managers Sporting groups
1 or 2 tennis courts at Ryan Park tennis complex	Sporting groups
Improved tennis nets, lights, fencing, court surfaces at Ryan Park tennis complex	Sporting groups
Improvement of tennis courts near the Yamba Golf Club	Sporting clubs
Sporting fields	
Mow fields – Wooloweyah	Facility managers
Drainage on all soccer fields	Sporting groups
Field with a fence for Maclean rugby league	Sporting groups
Amenities at all junior soccer fields	Sporting groups
Reorganise field layout and level Iluka Oval	Sporting groups Schools
Additional pump to water Iluka Oval	Sporting groups
Improve field surface of rugby league fields at Maclean Showground, Wherrett Park	Sporting groups

Expressed need	Mentioned by
Improve soccer field surface at Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex, Lawrence, Iluka	Sporting groups
Fencing, canteen, dressing room, seating, amenities at Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex rugby league ground	Sporting groups
Improve drainage and topdressing of sports fields (rugby league field) at Wherrett Park	Sporting groups
Provide lighting, fencing, parking at Wherrett Park rugby league field	Sporting groups
Grandstands and amenities blocks for rugby league and soccer	Sporting groups
Upgraded / new toilet block at Lawrence Sportsground	Sporting groups
Upgraded soccer and cricket fields in Lawrence	Parents of young children
Better lighting – Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex, Wherrett Park, Barry Watts Oval	Sporting groups
Clubhouse above amenities building at Barry Watts Oval	Sporting groups
Upgrade Harwood Oval (leveling, grandstand)	Sporting groups
Grandstands - hospital field in Maclean	Sporting groups
Improve cricket outfield at Iluka Oval	Sporting groups
More cricket training nets	Sporting groups
Playing fields in Gulmarrad	Schools
Multi-purpose sports complex at Townsend or Gulmarrad	Sporting groups
Cricket sight screens in Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex, Yamba Oval	Sporting groups
Change rooms / clubhouse facilities for cricket in Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex and Yamba Oval	Sporting groups
Irrigation of Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex and Yamba Oval	Sporting groups
Better lighting of Yamba Oval for night activities	Sporting groups
Hockey fields in Maclean	Schools
Swimming facilities	
Swimming pool / hole in rockwall in Iluka Bay	Councillors Residents' groups
Maclean pool: continue shade structures on the road side of the pool. Semi-electronic timing and starting blocks built at the other end.	Schools
Learn to swim pool at Yamba	Facility managers
Storage for surf club	
Repair ocean pool at Yamba	
Ramp and handrails at Yamba ocean pool	
Extend Yamba pool to 50 metres	Yamba residents
Youth facilities / activities	
Adventure-type activities: mobile climbing walls	Parents of young people
Activities for young people 10 -17 years in Yamba, Iluka	Yamba residents
Girls' activities – craft, dancing	Young people
Youth centre in Yamba	Young people
Extend skate park in Maclean	Young people
Skate park in Yamba	Young people Yamba residents
Youth centre / space / café in Maclean: Activities, food / cafe, dance floor, stereo, bands at night, pool table, table tennis	Young people
Activities at night in Maclean	Young people
Summer activities at beach (volleyball, cricket, BBQs, music, surf club carnivals)	Young people
Night pool parties – u/18s, DJs	Young people
Skate competitions – lit	Young people
BMX track at Iluka	Young people
Girls' sport	Young people
Concern about proposed closure of the Maclean sporting complex	Young people
Toilets at Gardeners Road dirt bike track	Sporting groups
Gym	Young people

Clarence Valley

Consultation for this strategy has revealed the following suggestions for improving open space and recreation opportunities.

Table D.2 Requests for open space and recreational opportunities in the Clarence Valley 2010

Open space / recreation setting / facility	Suggested improvement	Location	Suggested by:
Open space	Provision	Gulmarrad	Gulmarrad Public School
Parks			
Barbecues and shade	More	Yamba-Angourie-Wooloweyah	-
Skate park	Provision /more	Grafton and Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school
		Lawrence	Lawrence Public school
		Iluka	Iluka Golf Club
Outdoor fitness equipment	Provision	Yamba	Resident
Playgrounds	Equipment like new park in Coffs Harbour	Grafton and Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school
	Softfall that meets regulations – wet-pour rubber	Grafton and Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school
	Bike tracks for pre-schoolers and primary children with road safety signs, crossings e.g. Jacaranda Park	Grafton and Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school, Junction Hill playgroup
	Seating and picnic tables for supervision of children	Grafton, Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school
Water park	Provision	Grafton, Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school, Junction Hill playgroup
Dog exercise areas	Dog waste disposal systems	Grafton and Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school
Sportsgrounds			
Swimming pool	Finish works	Grafton	Grafton pre-school
Gymnastics		Yamba	
Natural areas			
Foreshore park	Finish work at Corcoran Park	Grafton	Grafton pre-school
	Beautify river banks for picnics, exercise, walking.	Grafton Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school, Junction Hill playgroup
General community use			
Men's shed (expansion)	Provision	Grafton	Grafton U3A
Kindy gym / children's indoor play centre	Provision	Yamba, Grafton, Grafton Surrounds	Junction Hill playgroup
Linkages			
Footpaths	Suitable for prams, and boardwalks with night lighting along the river.	Grafton, Grafton Surrounds	Grafton pre-school

Open space / recreation setting / facility	Suggested improvement	Location	Suggested by:
Cycleways	Provision	Grafton-South Grafton to Clarenza	Clarence Valley Anglican School
		Palmers Island-Yamba-Maclean	Palmers Island Public School
General			
Toilets	Better maintenance and cleaning	Grafton Grafton Surrounds Yamba -Angourie- Wooloweyah	Grafton pre-schools

APPENDIX E

Recreation participation trends

Recreation participation trends

Introduction

There are a number of established and emerging trends in participation in activities using open space, and use of sport and leisure facilities, which are important to consider when preparing an open space plan.

Recreational activities that Australians participate in change with time, popularity, trends, promotion, and awareness.

The following information has been sourced from national surveys undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Sports Commission, and recreation studies undertaken for other local government areas.

Societal trends

Trends in participation in recreation activities are being driven by several wider trends in Australian society:

- ❑ **Aging population.** The Australian population is gradually aging as life expectancy increases, birth rates stay low, and “baby boomers” grow older. This results in increasing demand for facilities and lower impact activities that cater for the needs of older age groups. Many retirees have the time, energy and commitment to improve their physical fitness once they no longer work.
- ❑ **Work practices.** Changes in work practices mean that increasing demands on peoples’ spare time, the increase in casual and shift work, and the increase in the proportion of families with two parents working full time requires flexibility in the times that facilities are available for people to enjoy recreation. This leads to a greater demand for indoor facilities that are available all day and evenings, every day of the year. Organised sports on weekday evenings give people more time on weekends for informal recreation with family and friends.

General participation trends

- ❑ **Significant and increasing popularity of informal recreation activities.** Although organised sport is a very visible form of recreation, various surveys indicate that participation in organised sporting activities is not as popular as participating in unstructured recreation activities. There has been a significant increase in non-competitive but active pursuits such as walking, cycling and swimming across all age groups.
- ❑ **Diversity and flexibility in provision of facilities.** Changes in recreation preferences towards newer and more varied activities which are available in more time periods, rather than committing to a small number of activities.
- ❑ **Community activities.** Greater support for and more involvement in community development and strengthening activities such as cultural events, markets, festivals, concerts.
- ❑ **Volunteerism.** Apart from participants, all sporting and recreation clubs need support from volunteers such as office-bearers, coaches and officials to keep their activities going. Australians are less likely to spend their time volunteering now than they were during the 1980s, which can be directly related to the rapid change and complexity of people’s daily lives, family commitments and litigation issues.

Consequently, volunteering is declining in many sport and recreation organisations. The dependence of clubs on voluntary labour and support will require them to provide greater incentives and better management practices to attract and retain volunteers. Larger clubs are increasingly employing administrators, coaches and other officials.

- **Interest in health and fitness.** There is a growing interest and awareness in physical fitness and healthy living among all age groups. Fitness is increasingly seen as part of a balanced lifestyle for health and avoidance of illness, rather than just a leisure activity. Recent trends include:
 - the concern about obesity, especially in children, has led to the recognition that children need to keep physically active, and the development of activity programs for children.
 - the increasing incidence of Type 2 diabetes which can be helped by physical activity.
 - cardio-vascular activities (such as aerobics) no longer dominate group fitness activities. Cardio work is now being balanced with activities focusing on strength and flexibility such as yoga, Pilates and weight training.
 - personal fitness activities are becoming an increasingly sophisticated, comprehensive and commercial service offered by gyms and individual personal trainers often in Council parks and indoor fitness centres. “Boot camps” are a high-profile form of such activities.
 - activities requiring commitment for attendance at a specified time are declining in favour of activities that can be participated in informally, such as walking, swimming, cycling and gym activities.
- **Increase in demand for outdoor recreation.** Outdoor recreation activities that take place in natural settings, such as bushwalking, mountain bike riding, camping and fishing, are growing in popularity. There is likely to be substantial demand for natural settings and destinations close to urban populations in future.
- **Interest in recreational use of the natural environment.** In the past 20 to 30 years there has been an increasing focus on ecological values and impacts, and the role in which open space can play in conserving such values and minimizing impacts. Observing, experiencing, enjoying, studying, and restoring/regenerating natural ecosystems have become popular recreational activities. Natural and wilderness areas are venues for a wide range of activities including adventure (abseiling/rock climbing, canoeing/kayaking/rafting, and BASE jumping).
- **Interest in sustainability.** In recent years there has been an increasing interest, particularly in higher density urban areas, in sustainable living. In particular, demand for community gardens where residents can grow food (fruit, vegetables) and flowers is increasing.
- **Increased interest in traditional activities by young people.** People in their 20s are taking up pastimes once done by older people, such as knitting and crocheting, and lawn bowls (Paiement, 2006).
- **New activities.** New activities are constantly emerging as a result of overseas trends, cultural diversity and the increasing impact of technology on leisure choices, including computer games and new equipment such as scooters.
- **Acquisition of wider range of recreational equipment for use in open space,** such as off-road vehicles and mobile homes/caravans.
- **Personalised recreation.** Growth in more personalised recreation and leisure venues and services evidenced by home gyms, home cinemas, and personal trainers as a result of higher education, rising incomes, and a desire for personalised programs.

APPENDIX F

Needs of target groups

Needs of target groups

The open space and recreational needs for target groups outlined below are derived from recreational and leisure research, and observations of trends in participation and use of recreational facilities by various target groups.

Children

The provision of children's play facilities is often the focus of community perceptions about parks and recreation in a particular area.

Away-from-home play needs of children in specific age groups are:

- ❑ 0-4 years: provision of small parks with play equipment within walking distance of the home, served by footpaths, in a quiet area, and with shaded seating for adult supervisors. District and regional playgrounds at a greater distance from homes provides greater physical and psychological stimulus and challenge.
- ❑ 5-9 years. Children in this age group often play in their immediate neighbourhoods – on the street, footpaths and nature strips. This age group need small parks within walking or cycling distance from their homes, with stimulating play equipment. Discovering their local area and meeting new friends is important, so passive open space and areas for both organised and informal junior team sports is essential.

Young people

Children and adolescents aged between 10 and 14 years start to seek out recreational opportunities beyond their immediate neighbourhood. Their recreation often involves group activities and team sports, in addition to informal recreation such as bike riding. Thus, playing fields for organised sport, areas for informal and specialised activities, and passive recreation areas are important.

As young people aged between 15 and 19 years become more independent, family-oriented activities become less important or desired. Participation in informal and active organised sports increasingly takes place away from home, in which participation may be limited according to the availability of transport. Nationally, young people 15 to 24 years most participate most in aerobics / fitness, swimming, walking, soccer, basketball, netball, running, tennis, Australian football, and cycling.

This age group need a wide range of recreation and social opportunities provided by indoor gyms and courts, pools, playing fields, outdoor sports courts, specialist facilities (such as waterslides) and passive recreation areas.

Seniors

The Australian Local Government Association (2003) recognised that older people have a diversity of needs, interests and backgrounds. Needs for recreation of older people will be influenced by gender, lifestyle, location, socio-economic circumstances, cultural backgrounds, education level, and health. Seniors in Australia are diverse, are wealthier (baby-boomers), are significantly involved in volunteering, and are living longer and healthier lives.

Recent national surveys by the Australian Sports Commission (2000-04) have shown that certain activities are more popular with some age groups rather than others. Given the increasingly high proportion of elderly people in the Lower Clarence, the following findings

are relevant. Participation in active recreation generally declines with age. The most popular activities for older Australians 65 years and over are:

- walking
- aerobics / fitness
- lawn bowls
- golf
- swimming
- tennis
- bush walking
- fishing
- cycling
- dancing.

Supply of facilities for less active activities popular with the elderly, particularly lawn bowls, is essential. The elderly favour small or large parks with sheltered and comfortable seating, established gardens, and play spaces where they can take their young relatives while visiting. As walking is also a favoured activity of the elderly, easy pedestrian access around local streets, and to large natural areas and parkland, is very important. Grandparents ask for playgrounds to take their grandchildren to play when they visit.

Gibson and Ashton-Shaeffer (2004) described the “Florida Factor”, where retirement-aged women living in a pleasant location conducive to outdoor activities for much of the year and being surrounded by other active older adults participate significantly in walking, cycling, exercise classes, golf and tennis.

Self-funded ‘baby-boomer’ retirees are moving to the Lower Clarence, bringing with them a relatively high disposable income. Based on trends elsewhere and observations, such retirees participate more than those reliant on the aged pension in more ‘up-market’ recreational pursuits. Such activities include:

- boating and water activities, which often require significant capital investment in watercraft.
- golf. Retirees are increasingly purchasing residences as part of golf estates or adjacent to golf courses for example, both to play golf, and enjoy uninterrupted views of trees and grass.
- tennis, exercise classes, and other ‘whole of life’ active pursuits.
- dining in up-market cafes and restaurants.
- group social and recreational activities, local tours and outings, and sports tourism.

Council and others, such as the private sector, should focus on meeting or facilitating others to meet the needs of older people for the above activities. Meeting the recreational needs of older people will also benefit other age groups.

Adults – general

Activities in which participation increases with age, at least until the age of 65 years, are:

- aquarobics
- carpet bowls
- fishing
- golf

- lawn bowls
- sailing
- bush walking
- walking

Activities that are popular in all adult age groups, or 'whole of life' activities are:

- aerobics / fitness
- cycling
- golf
- bush walking
- walking
- swimming
- tennis

Women

Walking and cycling tracks, gyms and halls, swimming pools, sports courts and golf courses particularly cater for the recreational activities that are most favoured by women.

Men

Men participate above the adult average in a wide range of sporting and other recreational activities. An increasing trend taken up by some local Councils is to cater for men's social needs through facilitating social groups for men, and through facilitating the establishment of 'men's sheds' where interested men can meet to socialise and participate in hobbies such as woodworking.

People with a disability

People with a physical disability require easy pedestrian and wheelchair access to facilities and open spaces, and comfortable seating and shade.

People from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

Given the Australian and Northern European background of over 90% of Clarence Valley residents, the recreation needs of people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background would be met by current facilities. However, open space and recreational activities could be targeted towards culturally diverse backgrounds if desired.

Indigenous people

The particular needs of indigenous people are for opportunities for sporting activities, and for spaces and settings for social and cultural gatherings.

APPENDIX G

Land and design criteria for specific open space settings

Principles for locating regional facilities

- ❑ As an overall principle, establish regional facilities in higher profile and easily accessible locations. This will include main road access, links to public transport, and links to pedestrian and cycle ways.
- ❑ Ensure the location supports the establishment of safe pedestrian and cycle pathways around and to the facility, and safe vehicle access points and car parking.
- ❑ Link the facility to public transport collection / drop-off points and a regular transport service. This includes establishing or linking with public transport that is safe at night and affordable.
- ❑ Where feasible, link regional sport and recreation facilities to other recreation, sport, community or relevant commercial facilities, i.e. creating a 'hub' of activity and a safe and appealing environment, as well as greater potential for regular public transport.
- ❑ Minimise the impacts on surrounding residents and the broad community. This will include guiding the design and location of facilities to minimize noise, impacts of lighting and impacts of vehicles and activities.

Not all regional facilities can be located to meet these principles, and not all principles will be relevant to a facility. For some regional facilities, a more isolated location would be appropriate, such as for equestrian, motor sports, rifle range. The key principles for these facilities would be:

- ❑ Minimise impacts on surrounding residents and communities in terms of noise and activity.
- ❑ Locate the facility in a relatively open and safe environment, or at least design the facility to be open and safe.
- ❑ Link the facility to main roads to enable easy and safe access by motor vehicle.
- ❑ Link the facility to other sport, recreation or community facilities where appropriate to achieve economies in management and reduce isolation.

Table G.1 Locational criteria, land requirements and design criteria for recreation spaces and facilities

Recreation space / facility	Locational criteria	Land requirements	Design criteria
Children's playspaces and facilities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A place where children play with or without formal play equipment. <input type="checkbox"/> Regional, district and local hierarchy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic calming in local roads <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible – within easy walking distance of homes, without major barriers such as main roads. <input type="checkbox"/> On clearly defined pedestrian and cycle route <input type="checkbox"/> Locate play areas in public spaces next to shops and community centres to promote social play and opportunities for watching which inform fantasy play. <input type="checkbox"/> Each neighbourhood within larger towns: a central playground that caters primarily for older children located within the central park adjacent to the local shops and the primary school. Local playgrounds cater for 2 to 6 year old children and located in local parks throughout the neighbourhood within 400 metres of residences. <input type="checkbox"/> Locate play areas on clearly defined pedestrian and cycle routes, or next to shops, schools, sports grounds or parks. <input type="checkbox"/> Visible from adjacent residential housing, streets and public areas to facilitate casual surveillance. <input type="checkbox"/> Urban area: within 400 metres walking distance from homes without crossing busy roads, or located on pedestrian and cycle routes. <input type="checkbox"/> Rural area: central location in each village, close to schools, shops, sportsgrounds or parks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting – preserve the natural features of the area and incorporate these into the play area <input type="checkbox"/> Include natural areas to allow for creative and interesting play opportunities. <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping that enhances the play experience <input type="checkbox"/> Design playground facilities to allow for safety, flexibility, variety, imagination and creativity. <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing around the perimeter of parks near water or roads <input type="checkbox"/> Child-proof gates for young children <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment and softfall meets Australian standards <input type="checkbox"/> Shaded play equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Wide and sealed pathways for prams, wheeled toys and wheelchairs. <input type="checkbox"/> Easy access to play equipment for people with disabilities and people with strollers. <input type="checkbox"/> Offer play opportunities for children with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Challenging and interesting equipment for children to test their skills and limits <input type="checkbox"/> A diverse range of safe but exciting opportunities for all ages, including facilities for children aged under 5 years. <input type="checkbox"/> Shade and comfortable seating for supervisors in sight of the play area. <input type="checkbox"/> A number of different activities at each location. <input type="checkbox"/> Separate active and informal play areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water nearby. <input type="checkbox"/> Regional and district parks – toilets that are easily accessible to users of all ages and by people with disabilities.

Recreation space / facility	Locational criteria	Land requirements	Design criteria
Youth facilities			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Location supported by local youth <input type="checkbox"/> Good access to public transport <input type="checkbox"/> Links to pedestrian and cycle routes <input type="checkbox"/> Close to food outlets <input type="checkbox"/> Walking distance to residential areas <input type="checkbox"/> Separate but visible from potential uses which may generate conflict eg footpaths, access to shops/buildings etc <input type="checkbox"/> Road frontage with houses, shops etc facing facility for good public surveillance <input type="checkbox"/> Good street lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Located in adequately sized park to enable noise setbacks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Allow potential conflict-generating activities to be physically separated from other uses, but visible e.g. skate park. <input type="checkbox"/> Young people integrally involved in the planning and design.
Unleashed dog exercise areas			
<p>The Companion Animals Act stipulates certain areas where dogs are not allowed in public open spaces eg. schools, playgrounds, picnic and barbecue areas. In addition, dogs in public open space are required to be on a lead unless they are in a designated off-leash dog exercise area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Located away from environmental protection areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Away from concentrations of people such as sporting areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Away from areas where people eat and from children's playgrounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Walking distance to residential areas 	<p>Large area to avoid crowding conflicts between dogs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Natural boundaries such as a steep hill, or fenced boundaries. <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting and variable topography – undulating, mounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Native plantings used eg. <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Grevillea</i> to deter access, and provide scented plants for sniffing. <input type="checkbox"/> Natural surfaces such as grass (long in some areas), and gravel footpaths. <input type="checkbox"/> Waste disposal facilities (dog waste bins) and disposal areas eg. “pooch patch” consisting of a pole with sand at the base. <input type="checkbox"/> Carpark adjacent to the off-leash dog exercise area.

Table G.2 Standards of service for open space provision – land criteria

Open space category	Future provision in Clarence Valley				
	Visibility	Slope / topography	Solar access	Constraints and hazards	Access and co-location
Total open space	See below	See below	See below	See below	Accessibility of open space and recreation facilities is important, because if people cannot easily access a park they are less likely to use it.
Park					
Whole of LGA	Parks to have at least 50% of their direct frontage to a public road.	Maximum slope 1:4.	Good solar access	Land cannot be constrained by hazards (power lines, constructed drains, conservation, contamination). Generally free of flood constraints. Maximum 30% of the park constrained. Must not require above-average development costs.	Safe and convenient access by pedestrians and cyclists. Linkage with natural areas, waterways, foreshores to provide diversity of settings.
Regional	Located on an existing or proposed regional open space corridor, waterways, on a major public transport route or arterial road.	1:20 for main use area. 1:50 for kickabout / games area. Variable topography for remainder	Good solar access	No soil contamination to limit safe use as open space.	Pedestrian and cycle linkages. Accessible by public transport
District / village	Located on collector / through road. Road frontage that forms 50% or more of the perimeter.	1:20 for main use area. 1:50 for kickabout / games area. Variable topography for remainder	Good solar access	No soil contamination to limit safe use as open space.	Preferably accessible by public transport in urban areas. Safe pedestrian and cycle linkages. At a junction of pedestrian links. Located close to existing/proposed community facility or retail area. At least car access and parking or on-site parking.
Local	May be located away from main	1: 20 for main use area, 1: 6 for	Receives at least 5	Local parks should not be separated from the local catchment	Main entry from a local access street. Car access to the boundary.

Open space category	Future provision in Clarence Valley				
	Visibility	Slope / topography	Solar access	Constraints and hazards	Access and co-location
	roads but visible from the street. Visible from surrounding land uses for surveillance. Road frontage that forms 50% or more of the perimeter.	remainder	hours of sunlight in winter. Adjoining buildings do not unduly overshadow the open space.	by physical barriers such as main roads, creeks. No soil contamination to limit safe use as open space.	Central and local parks should be readily accessible from the pedestrian and cycle network. Central parks should be located near the primary school and local shops.
Sportsground					
Whole of LGA	-	-	-	Major built facilities above 1:100 ARI.	-
Regional	25% road frontage	1% cross-fall 1:50 for playing surfaces	Receives sunlight for most of the day.	Major built facilities above 1:100 ARI.	Car, foot and bike access. On-site vehicle parking. Internal road.
District / village	25-50% road frontage	1% cross-fall 1:50 for playing surfaces	Receives sunlight for most of the day.	Major built facilities above 1:100 ARI.	Car, foot and bike access. On- and off-street parking. Internal road.
Local	25-50% road frontage	May be less than 1:50	Receives sunlight for most of the day.	Major built facilities above 1:100 ARI.	Car, foot and bike access. On-street parking
Specialist	Less than 25% road frontage	1: 50 for main arena	Depends on needs of activity	Major built facilities above 1:100 ARI.	Car, foot and bike access. On-site vehicle parking. Internal road. Access for large vehicles.
Natural Area					
Whole of LGA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Plan habitat corridors for the natural and uninhibited movement of wildlife.

Open space category	Future provision in Clarence Valley				
	Visibility	Slope / topography	Solar access	Constraints and hazards	Access and co-location
General Community Use					
Whole of LGA	At least 50% of their direct frontage to a public road.	Maximum slope 1:4 if no building. Flat land for building.	Good solar access	Land cannot be constrained by hazards (power lines, constructed drains, conservation, contamination). Generally free of flood constraints. Must not require above-average development costs.	Preferably accessible by public transport in urban areas. Safe pedestrian and cycle linkages. At a junction of pedestrian links. Located close to existing/proposed community facility or retail area. At least car access and parking or on-site parking.
Linkages					
Whole of LGA	Appropriate landscaping with good public surveillance.	Flat routes with minimal gradients.		Reduce number of street crossings required to improve safety. Consider a range of alternative designs for cycling routes, including on-road and off-road alternatives. Reduced conflict between high pedestrian and car activity ie main street shopping/tourism.	Shared off-road pathways preferred. Links to school – off road preferred Links to shops Links to recreation/ community facilities Link to rest stops ie shops, parks with water, picnic areas etc. Provide local horse riding trails that link to a regional network. Cycle paths provide direct and safe links between major parks and recreation facilities. Horse riding trails should be separate from walking trails to minimise user conflicts.

Table G.3 Standards of service for embellishment of parks

Open space element	Local / village park	District park	Regional park
Playgrounds	Basic. Caters for 1-2 age groups. Equipment, softfall, shade, seating.	Caters for 2-3 age groups. Children's bike path. Picnic facilities. Equipment, soft-fall, shade, seating. Equipment more sophisticated than that provided in local parks. Shade structures where natural shade is not available	Caters for 3 age groups. Children's bike path / road safety track. Equipment, soft-fall, shade, seating. Accessible and 'adventure' children's playgrounds. Shade structures where natural shade is not available
Youth / informal active recreation facilities	Facility older youth such as a half-court, small skate facility, open grassed area for kick-about.	Active youth facility(s) provided. Informal areas for recreation and ball games	Active youth facility(s) provided. Informal areas for recreation and ball games
Picnic / barbecue	1-2 tables 2+ seats Barbecue provided in village parks.	2+ sheltered tables. Barbecues usually provided.	Multiple picnic/barbecue areas provided as required.
Fitness equipment	No	May contain other facilities, such as fitness tracks	May contain other facilities, such as fitness tracks
Seating	Sometimes bench seating	4+ seats.	Multiple
Lighting	Night lighting provided by street lights.	For car park, toilets, youth space and picnic area. Natural areas: lights in carpark and toilets.	For carpark, toilets, picnic shelters and pedestrian/ cycle paths.
Fencing	Bollards to prevent car access	Bollards to prevent car access	Range of fencing and boundary definition styles as appropriate to location and level of security required.
Water	At least one drinking tap / fountain where potable water is available.	Two or more drinking taps / fountains where potable water is available. Taps for picnic and barbecue areas, and active recreation areas.	Drinking taps / fountains provided at picnic and barbecue areas and built facilities/amenities, where potable water is available. Irrigation
Toilets	Not provided for local parks. Provided for village parks.	Usually provided.	Provided.
Shade / landscaping	Preserves areas of existing trees or other natural	Attractive informal landscaped areas. Enhancement plantings	Significant landscape works including plantings, features, public art at entry points and use

Open space element	Local / village park	District park	Regional park
	<p>features such as natural rock outcrop or a view.</p> <p>Ornamental plantings.</p> <p>Buffer plantings to other use nodes.</p> <p>Shade from trees and structures provided for children's play and picnic areas.</p>	<p>and shade plantings with screening and buffers.</p> <p>Mix of landscape treatments.</p> <p>Constructed shade for play and picnic facilities if natural shade not available.</p>	<p>nodes.</p> <p>Mix of landscape treatments</p> <p>Shade for picnic/barbecue facilities and all use areas.</p> <p>Shade planting and/or structures as required.</p>
Carparks / internal roads	On street.	Off-street parking provided unless sufficient on-street parking available.	Off-street parking provided.
Paths / bike tracks	On footpath providing access to the boundary.	Path links to park and within park. Bike rack(s) provided.	Path links to park and within park. Internal links to facilities and use areas. Bike racks provided.
Signage	Locational signage.	Locational, directional and regulatory signage.	Locational, directional, interpretive and regulatory signage.
Power	Not necessary	Access to power for events	Access to power for events
Maintenance	Low-medium	Medium to high	High

APPENDIX H

Criteria for acquisition, dedication and rationalisation of open space

Criteria for land acquisition

Criteria for identification and acquisition of lands that may contribute to open space include:

- Land along foreshore areas, or which would facilitate river and creek access, particularly links along the Clarence River and enhanced river vistas.
- Lands of identified natural or cultural significance.
- Lands located in identified vegetation, habitat and riparian corridors.
- Lands located in accessible locations in areas with identified open space shortage.
- Lands zoned for environmental protection, subject to negotiation with relevant government departments, corporations and agencies.
- Lands identified as suitable under strategic plans such as urban investigation areas.
- Land suitable for recreation and other open space activities or facilities which have an identified shortfall.

Selection of preferred park sites should consider:

- Land which may be constrained for residential use and is cheaper to acquire.
- Land which will not require substantial improvement to be suitable for use.
- Shape, landform and access that minimises future maintenance costs.
- Co-location of facilities and integrating informal parks and other open space will maximise savings from sharing of facilities and services.

Land to be acquired should have most of the features below:

- Suitable for intended purpose.
- Be not less than 0.5 hectares in size.
- Be accessible to the general public.
- Safe and convenient access by pedestrians and cyclists.
- Have low impact on the amenity of adjoining or adjacent development.
- Have the capacity to accommodate recreational facilities or to satisfy particular recreation needs and demands.
- Add to the diversity of open space settings in the area.
- incorporate the special attributes of an area for a sense of place, for example a hill top, river or creek frontage, mature trees, panoramic views, rocky outcrops, remnant vegetation, cultural heritage sites.
- Linkage with natural areas, waterways, foreshores to provide diversity of settings.
- Link existing and/or proposed areas of open space and other community-focused land uses (shopping centres, libraries, transport nodes, schools, community centres).
- Be either flat or undulating, with a general maximum slope of 20% to maximise recreational use and to minimise maintenance costs.
- Maximum 30% of the park constrained.
- Land cannot be constrained by hazards (power lines, contamination).
- Generally free of flooding constraints, with the majority of land not being subject to inundation greater than 10% Annual Probability of Exceedance (AEP). Drainage swales, channels and detention basins should only be accepted for dedication for open space where the land fulfils one or more of the above criteria, and Council is satisfied that the recreational value of the land will not be compromised by its function as part of a drainage system.

- Have at least 50% frontage to a public road, facilitating visibility in to and from the site.
- Have maintenance and emergency vehicle access.
- Be cleared of all rubbish, boulders and debris.
- Be provided with connection to water mains and other utility services.
- Be separately subdivided and have a separate certificate of title.
- Be zoned for open space / recreation purposes in the relevant planning instruments if it has recreational and/or environmental value.
- Must not require above-average development costs.
- Involve low ongoing costs to Council, including maintenance and other site costs.
- Not display any other factors that may limit its usability, such as acid sulfate soils, threatened species, proximity to existing uses, current use of the land, and any improvements that may be necessary.

Criteria for dedication of open space

Criteria for land to be dedicated as open space are outlined below.

Land to be dedicated should be located in or close to the development site wherever possible.

Land to be dedicated as an open space contribution should have most, if not all, of the characteristics as set out in the previous section for land acquisition. Land to be dedicated should not be subject to regular inundation, or if it is it should only be partly inundated and additional land must be dedicated to make up for its reduced functionality. In such cases the open space development contribution shall be 10% of the developable land, except that up to 50% of the dedicated land may be subject to inundation provided it is suitable for recreation purposes. When land subject to inundation is provided it shall be at double the rate of developable land.

When a land dedication is required a cash-in-lieu option will be necessary to provide flexibility in applying this requirement. In areas where land holdings are fragmented there may be a need to require monetary contributions in the first instance, with an ability to provide land in accordance with the open space strategy.

Developer contributions for open space and recreation facilities may be provided by a cash contribution from development of residential land, or as negotiated with the developer on a case-by-case basis in cash or either on-site or in the immediate vicinity of the development. Dedication of land in lieu of a monetary contribution for open space and recreation facilities should only be considered where at least one of the following circumstances applies:

- the land is part of a housing subdivision or development of a greenfields site.
- the land is zoned for open space, or has been identified as being suitable for open space purposes in a relevant study or plan.
- the land adjoins an existing or proposed open space and can be desirably and readily consolidated into that area.
- the land will create or improve linkages between existing open space areas, or access to existing open space areas.

Drainage channels and detention basins should only be accepted for dedication for open space where the land fulfils one or more of the above criteria, and Council is satisfied that the recreational value of the land will not be compromised by its function as part of a drainage system.

Criteria for rationalisation of open space

Factors which should be considered in rationalizing open space include:

- ❑ Vacant operational land in areas with an identified oversupply of open space.
- ❑ Land owned freehold by Council which is not required for the purpose for which it was purchased.
- ❑ Community land not suitable for its existing use and which cannot be easily modified for alternative suitable community purposes.
- ❑ Less than 3,000m² in size
- ❑ No or old play equipment
- ❑ Does not serve as an open space linkage.
- ❑ Land outside of proposed wildlife corridors, and which do not serve strategic access purposes or other foreseeable open space purposes.
- ❑ Land which does not have identified environmental, visual and cultural significance.
- ❑ Land identified as surplus or inappropriate once more detailed strategic planning has been undertaken for urban investigation areas.
- ❑ Is located close to another park or open space, including accessible Crown lands and private facilities.

Any open space which meets many of these criteria should be assessed further to determine its recreational value, including community values (ie value the community places on the land for providing other benefits eg noise buffer, visual amenity etc); potential for disposal/sale (ie does the land have a market value); other uses of the land (ie may be used as a walkway, landscaped area etc).

These issues should be further assessed by Council as part of the extensive process involved in the potential disposal of community land. Consultation with the community is essential when considering rationalisation of open space.

APPENDIX I

Potential funding sources

Table I.1 Funding sources for recreation and open space in the Clarence Valley

Funding source	Name	Eligibility criteria	Contact details and further information
Federal Government			
Depts of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population, and Communities; and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant	<p>Aims to help established community-based organisations in the environmental and sustainable land management arenas to conserve and protect their natural environment.</p> <p>Community Action Grants support local activities such as tree planting, revegetation, dune rehabilitation, field days, improving land management practices, and recording and use of traditional ecological knowledge.</p>	<p>Ph. 1800 552 008</p> <p>communityactiongrants@nrm.gov.au</p>
Australian Sports Commission	Active After School Communities Program/ Active Australia Schools Network	<p>AASC is part of the Australian government’s Building a Healthy, Active Australia package. AASC is an after school hours program that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of primary school children through structured physical activity. It is delivered nationally to primary schools and approved out of school hours care services.</p> <p>Provides information on school programs and initiatives, support materials and information to promote sport and physical activity, assistance with a school plan, and resources and discounts.</p>	<p>Ph. 1800 664 564</p> <p>infoaasc@ausport.gov.au</p>
Australian Sports Foundation	Sport Incentive Program	<p>Contributions can be made by local businesses and the community within a tax-effective scheme.</p> <p>Increasing opportunities for Australians to participate in sporting activities and/or excel in sports performance.</p> <p>Projects that may be eligible include facility development, facility feasibility studies, equipment, team travel, hosting a major sporting event, and sports development.</p>	<p>Ph. (02) 6214 7868</p> <p>www.asf.org.au</p>

Funding source	Name	Eligibility criteria	Contact details and further information
NSW Government			
Communities NSW: Department of Sport and Recreation	Sport and Recreation Facility Grant Program	<p>Objectives of the program are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase regular and ongoing participation opportunities in sport, recreation or structured physical activity in a sustainable manner. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve access for people from groups that traditionally find it difficult to access sport. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve safety at sport and recreation facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop environmentally sustainable sport and recreation facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Assist people from identified groups that face barriers to participating in sport and recreation. <p>NSW incorporated community based not-for-profit organizations and local government authorities may apply.</p>	<p>www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants srgrants@communities.nsw.gov.au</p>
Communities NSW: Department of Sport and Recreation	Sports Development Program	<p>The Sports Development Program is designed to assist eligible State sporting organizations and peak industry bodies to work in partnership with the State Government to develop their sport and recreation activities at all levels in NSW.</p> <p>The purpose of project-based grants within this program is to provide State sporting organizations with the opportunity to work in partnership with the department, local government and other relevant community organizations to address health, social and sport industry issues.</p> <p>Eligible State sporting organizations and peak industry bodies must be not-for-profit and incorporated, and be affiliated with a national sporting organisation recognised by the Australian Sports Commission.</p>	<p>www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants srgrants@communities.nsw.gov.au</p>
Communities NSW: Department of Sport and Recreation	Disability Sport Assistance Program	<p>Objectives of the program are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase regular and ongoing participation opportunities for people with a disability in sport or physical activity in a sustainable manner. <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate long-term change that will benefit people with a disability facing barriers to participation in sport and physical activity. <input type="checkbox"/> Build the capacity of the organization to enhance their provision of sport and physical activity programs for people with a disability. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide accreditation or training to develop the skills of volunteers to increase the capacity of the organisation to enable sport and physical activity programs for people with a disability. 	<p>www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants srgrants@communities.nsw.gov.au</p>

Funding source	Name	Eligibility criteria	Contact details and further information
Communities NSW: Department of Sport and Recreation	Sport and Recreation Participation Program	<p>Objectives of the program are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase regular and ongoing participation opportunities in sport, recreation or structured physical activity in a sustainable manner. <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate long-term change that will benefit people facing barriers to participation in sport, recreation and structured physical activity. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop the skills of volunteers and capacity of community organizations that provide participation opportunities. <input type="checkbox"/> Build the capacity of a community organization to enhance their provision of sport and recreation services. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide accreditation or training to enable sport, recreation and physical activity programs to be conducted in locations across NSW and for specific communities. <p>NSW incorporated community based not-for-profit organizations and local government authorities may apply.</p>	<p>www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants srgnants@communities.nsw.gov.au</p>
Communities NSW: Department of Sport and Recreation	International Sporting Events Program	<p>This program is designed to assist in attracting and supporting international sporting events in NSW in an effort to provide high level competition opportunities for NSW athletes, coaches, and officials.</p> <p>Organizations that can apply for grants are National and State sporting organizations, not for profit sporting and recreational organizations, other not for profit organizations, and event organizers with a contractual arrangement with a national or state sporting organization.</p>	<p>www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants srgnants@communities.nsw.gov.au</p>
Communities NSW: Department of Sport and Recreation	Sport and Athlete Development Program	<p>The primary focus of this program is to invest in the industry to provide increased opportunities for participation in sport and recreation.</p> <p>Objectives of the program are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase opportunities for athletes, coaches, officials, sports leaders and volunteers in activities such as professional development and attendance in representative competition. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage innovative and flexible approaches to increasing opportunities and reducing barriers to participation. <input type="checkbox"/> Assist disadvantaged or under-represented groups to better participate in sport and recreation. <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to building industry capacity. 	<p>www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants srgnants@communities.nsw.gov.au</p>

Funding source	Name	Eligibility criteria	Contact details and further information
		<input type="checkbox"/> Assist the industry to change and grow in a sustainable manner and respond to emerging issues and challenges. NSW State sporting organizations and peak industry bodies that are recognized by Sport and Recreation through its Sport Development Program.	
Roads and Maritime Services	Regional Cycleways Network	Recognising that most cycling takes place on local roads, the RMS offers matching funding to local Councils to improve bicycle networks, provide approved bicycle facilities, and prepare local bike plans. The RMS provides funds for cycle routes and facilities identified in Council bike plans.	www.rta.nsw.gov.au
	Better Boating Program: Regional Infrastructure Grants	Aims to provide better public recreational boating infrastructure for the benefit of the boating community on NSW waterways.	Ph. (02) 9563 8847 www.maritime.nsw.gov.au
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Coastline Cycleway Grants Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase participation in safe and healthy recreation activities. <input type="checkbox"/> improve alternate transport systems for residents. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve cycling facilities by developing and implementing the NSW Coastline Cycleway route from Qld to Vic border. <input type="checkbox"/> Improve access for local people to schools etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase cycle related tourism. Funds on-the-ground construction works. Coastal Councils outside Sydney metropolitan area can apply.	Ph. 9228 6270 www.planning.nsw.gov.au
Department of Primary Industries - Division of Catchments and Lands	Public Reserves Management Fund Program	Improvements to Crown Reserves. Preparation of Plans of Management for Crown reserves.	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au
Office of Environment and Heritage	Environmental Trust	Supports exceptional environmental projects which do not receive funds from usual government sources. Objectives of the Trust are to: <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote research into environmental problems of any kind.	Ph. (02) 8837 6093 info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Funding source	Name	Eligibility criteria	Contact details and further information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promote environmental education in the public and private sectors. <input type="checkbox"/> Fund acquisition of land for the national parks estate. <input type="checkbox"/> Fund the declaration of areas for marine parks and for related purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management. <input type="checkbox"/> Fund the purchase of water entitlements for the purpose of increasing environmental flows for the State's rivers and restoring or rehabilitating major wetlands. 	
Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing	Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme	<p>Encourages larger registered clubs in NSW to contribute to the provision of front-line services for their local communities.</p> <p>Registered clubs receive a tax rebate of up to 1.5% of gaming machine profits over \$1 million, providing they spend an equivalent amount on community development and support projects, which may be sports-related.</p>	Local licensed clubs www.olgr.nsw.gov.au