



**HORNSBY LEISURE STRATEGIC
PLAN
STAGE 2 REPORT**

**DEMAND, SUPPLY &
SERVICE GAP ANALYSIS**

**Prepared for
Hornsby Shire Council**

**By
Recreation Planning Associates,
40 Milson Pde, Normanhurst
N.S.W. 2076**

**Hornsby Shire Council
Parks & Landscape Division
PO Box 37
HORNSBY 1630
Tel: 9847 6900**

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DEMAND, SUPPLY & SERVICE GAP ANALYSIS

1. Introduction

Council's overall objective for this project is the preparation of a strategic report that provides the 'basis for long-term leisure planning and services and facilities provision for the Hornsby community'. The Plan builds upon Council's existing policies and programs and proposes strategies 'to best align **service** and facility provision with the identified leisure needs of Hornsby's present and future populations'.¹

This report deals with stages 2 to 4 – demand and supply assessment and gap analysis - of a six-stage study process. Stage 1 entailed a detailed review of existing policies and strategies and this was reported to Council's project steering committee in June 2001. Stage 5 and 6 will, respectively, comprise the preparation of **a strategic** framework and the public exhibition of the framework and other key recommendations.

The Stage 1 report documented the key issues to emerge out of the review of existing plans and strategies.

These key issues included the following:

- Council's overall vision and objectives, for leisure and recreation require broadening and clarification.
- There are apparent gaps in the provision of different types of open space setting and different types of leisure/community facility.
- There appears, for example, to be an under-supply of facilities for both sport and physical recreation (sports fields, indoor sports courts and swimming pools) and 'unstructured' activities (cycle ways and walking trails, picnic areas, dog off leash areas, skate board facilities etc).
- Previous open space/recreation studies have not been comprehensive in their analysis of both demand and supply issues.
- The type and extent of leisure service gaps therefore requires further investigation.
- There are perceived equity issues surrounding the distribution of leisure facilities (between urban and rural locations), Council's user fee and licensing policies and the targeting of services (with concerns expressed in regard to opportunities for young people, women's sport and the leisure needs of 'healthy' older people).
- The enhancement of existing facilities was often seen as a higher priority than the provision of wholly new facilities.

¹ The Leisure Strategic Plan complements and does not replace existing working plans - including the 1997 Open Space Plan

- Particular issues included the upgrading and improved presentation of parks and open spaces, swimming pools and tourist infrastructure and 'value adding' to many existing services
- The previous studies identified barriers to participation - including ,poor public transport to recreation and community facilities, inadequate disability access provisions, lack of information on opportunities, perceived safety issues in public places and insufficient leisure programming.
- The provision of more and/or improved walking and cycling opportunities are perceived as key needs.
- The protection of ecological and outdoor recreation values (that are present in many locations within Council's open space system) was seen as a high priority.
- Opportunities to improve Council's leisure planning and management capability.
- A need to review aspects of Council's S94 planning methodology

The Stage 1 review of previous studies – some of which are now 10 years old - identified a range of perceptions and issues in regard to leisure service gaps. The review also noted that because some of the studies lacked comprehensiveness in their methodologies, their findings needed to be treated with some caution.

The stage 2 study – the subject of this report – builds on the knowledge base provided by these previous studies. Through a comprehensive demand, supply and needs analysis, it investigates and documents the extent of service gaps and other issues across a wide range of leisure facilities and services. In doing so, it identifies the issues of most current concern and relevance – and how these reflect or differ from the concerns expressed over the previous ten years.

2. Study Approach

2.1. Supply/Demand Analyses

Supply and demand analyses are necessary for determining the adequacy and appropriateness of recreation facilities and services– and the extent of under or over supply of particular facilities/services.

This report identifies the existing supply of open space and indoor and outdoor leisure facilities (provided both by Council and other agencies) within the **Hornsby** Council area and trends in the demand for these facilities.

Specifically, the supply and demand analyses identified and reviewed:

- a profile of both existing and incoming populations.
- a review of relevant leisure trends and their implications,
- a profile of leisure participation and needs in the **Hornsby** Council area,
- the location, roles and values of leisure and community facilities in **Hornsby** and (where relevant) in surrounding municipalities, and
- efficiency and equity issues and the asset management implications of the current mix, distribution, accessibility, use and condition of leisure and community facilities,

2.2. Service Gaps and Needs Analysis

This stage of the study involved the analysis of all relevant information on gaps between the provision of leisure opportunities within the study area and the community's needs and expectations for those opportunities.

For each planning district, a systematic framework was developed for recording and presenting relevant information relating to:

- leisure facilities (open space, cultural and sporting facilities) by type and function,
- existing and anticipated population numbers and overall demographic characteristics, and
- broad land use considerations based on the **Hornsby** Shire Housing Strategy, environmental planning instruments and other relevant issues.

The adequacy of leisure facilities and services was then assessed (at the district and wider district and regional levels) by reference to the current and forecast gaps between the demand for and supply of leisure facilities and services. This

assessment was based on the 'local' supply-demand analyses together with the application of relevant planning guidelines and benchmarks and regional comparisons.

Each planning district is supported by a GIS generated plan that illustrates:

- the location of all major leisure facilities by type and function.
- theoretical service catchments for key open space areas.
- all major open space corridors and suggested access provision

This analysis provides the basis for identifying:

- the adequacy of existing open space, recreation and leisure facilities for current and future communities,
- the broad catchment areas for different types of facility,
- the balance of provision between 'regional' and 'local' facilities, and
- the balance of provision between 'structured' and 'unstructured' opportunities

It also provides the basis for formulating recommendations on benchmarks and standards for an adequate and achievable level of leisure services at local, district and regional levels.

3. Leisure and Sport Participation Trends

3.1. Introduction

This chapter identifies the major causes of change in leisure participation, evidence of change in broad national trends in various types of leisure activity and the implications of the trends for Hornsby Shire – in terms of the demand for different types of leisure facilities and services.

The review of broad trends provides the context for the more specific and detailed investigation of leisure demands and needs at the Shire and local levels.

3.2. Causes of Change in Leisure Participation

Significant catalysts of change in leisure participation include the following:

- change in the size and structure of populations
- the substantial rise in long term unemployment and under-employment
- increasing recognition of the strong links between recreational involvement and health and the development of activities and services which cater for this.
- the demand for a greater diversity of recreation opportunities
- greater reliance on local and lower cost opportunities by those without the resources to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits
- a greater emphasis on non-competitive, cultural and passive leisure opportunities
- expectations of high standards of facilities and of quality programming, servicing and management
- more flexible programming – including week day, evening and weekend leisure activities
- an increasing demand for indoor facilities – to facilitate this programming and to provide protection from poor weather and solar radiation
- expectations that good information will be provided about the leisure opportunities which are available

Changes in population size and characteristics – age structure, ethnicity, family type, income levels and mobility – are arguably the key determinants of change in leisure participation and need. These are discussed in detail in Chapter 4.

The sections below identify key leisure trends and the implications of these for Hornsby Shire.

3.3. Key Trends in Leisure Participation

Identifying the relevance and impact of broad national trends in recreation and cultural participation is a key component of understanding leisure demands and needs in any 'local' community.

With respect to this, the research indicates that there is both continuity and change in leisure needs and participation².

Most people have a core of activities that remain central throughout life. These include watching television, reading, socialising with family and friends, walking, home based projects and playing with children. These are all low cost, easy access activities not requiring any special planning or skills.

Beyond this core, there is more change. Interests in sport, outdoor recreation, cultural activities and travel are developed. Some of these interests are life long. Some grow. Others wane. Some change (from player to coach, from performer to teacher). Some are abandoned. Choices reflect age, education health, talents and available opportunities, and are subject to influence by friends, family, program and facility management, time availability, weather and many other factors.

Amongst the significant trends has been the substantial growth, in recent years, in indoor sport and recreation. This has been reflected in an indoor facility provision 'boom' throughout Australia and the growth in popularity of indoor sports – particularly basketball. Thus, basketball is the third most popular participatory sport (behind aerobics and netball) for young people aged 15-24 years (with 5.4% of this age group participating in the sport).

This trend has been accompanied by a swing from outdoor team sports to individual fitness and social sport and aquatic activities. Swimming and aerobics increased in popularity as attractive year round aquatic/leisure centres became more widely available.

While there is evidence of recent declines in attendance rates for some of the activities that utilise indoor centres (including basketball), the demands are still substantial and require an appropriate provision and distribution of suitable facilities.

² *National trend data on the recreation participation is provided by several surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and other government agencies over the past ten years – including 1991 Recreation Participation Survey; Survey of Involvement in Sport 1993; Participation in Sport and Physical Activities 1996/97 to 1999/2000; Population Survey Monitors, annual ; Time Use Surveys 1992 & 1997; 1998/99 Survey of Attendance at Selected Cultural/Leisure Venues*

Other significant trends include a decline in sports participation by young women – possibly because of greater involvement in the workforce – and decreasing involvement by young people in general in 'structured' activities.

Young people, as a whole, spend more of their time (than other people) pursuing sport, cultural and recreation activities.

For example, 15-24 year olds allocate considerably more of their time to social life and entertainment than do older people. In the 1992 Time Use Survey, young males and females reported spending on average 2.3 hours per day on socialising and entertainment, compared with 1.5 hours per day for persons 25 years and over.

As well, participation in organised sport and physical activities is highest amongst young people and declines steadily with age. In 1999-2000, nearly half of all 18-24 year olds were involved in organised sport and physical activities. However, among 25-34 year olds, the participation rate had dropped to below 40%.

Despite the relatively high participation rates, a sizeable minority of young people (around 40%) are not particularly attracted to mainstream or structured recreation forms. The Australian Sports Commission's 1991 study, *Sport for Young Australians*, found for example that 36% of 13-18 year olds were not involved in sport at all and a further 26% were involved in sport only at school.

And it seems that the proportion of young people not interested in structured sport is increasing. The 1997 Time Use Survey found, for example, that between 1992 and 1997 there was "a marked decline in Australians' involvement in formal and informal sport". This was "most noticeable" for those aged 15-24 years where the average time spent on sport fell from 22 minutes to 16 minutes a day. Additionally, the number of young people actually involved in organised sport fell by 25%.

A significant proportion of young people dislike organised activities and prefer to spend their leisure time with friends (hanging out, skating, pursuing adventure activities etc)³.

Participation in cultural activities is generally high. In the twelve months to March 1995, 83% of Australians aged 15 years and over had attended at least one cultural venue or activity. The most popular venue was the cinema (attended by 62% of the population) followed by botanical gardens (39%), libraries (38%), animal/marine parks (35%), museums (28%), popular music concert (27%), art galleries (22%), music theatre/opera (19%), other performing arts (19%) and theatre (17%)⁴.

³ Several recent studies highlight the widely held view in many communities that there are not enough accessible, low cost recreation and social opportunities for young people - particularly affordable, youth-friendly places for young people to gather and socialise.

⁴ Attendance rates at venues were highest for people in the younger to middle age groups, with persons over 65 years participating at much lower levels than people in other age groups. As well, Australian

Most people support having cultural venues in their communities – irrespective of whether or not they used them. In 1997, 95% of the population rated libraries as important or very important and more than 70% rated art galleries, performing arts centres and museums as important or very important. Only 14% of women and 22% of men said they had no interest in the arts⁵.

A potentially significant, but yet to be confirmed, trend concerns increasing participation rates amongst older people. Government programs (such as Active Australia and the Masters Games) and sporting organisations are increasingly encouraging older people to participate in sport and regular physical exercise. If these programs are successful, and if people over 50 years engage in recreation activities more than their predecessors did, then the use of public recreation facilities *may not* decline significantly as the population grows older.

3.4. Implications for Hornsby Shire

Despite significant changes in the structure of households and communities and in social values, participation rates in many recreation activities show a remarkable continuity.

The participation rates for some individual sport and recreation activities are, however, changing. Over the past 10-15 years, for example, there has been some swing from structured team sports to individual fitness and social sport activities. Swimming has become more popular as attractive year round facilities (such as the Willoughby Leisure Centre) have become more widely available. Basketball and skateboarding have grown in popularity amongst young people. Sports participation by young women has declined.

The major implication is that leisure facilities must be flexible, accessible and varied – to allow for population 'life cycles' and consequent shifts in recreation focus. There will be times when some facilities will be overused and others under-used. Opportunities for making adjustments for these peaks and troughs and for catering for future (unknown) needs will be maximised where facilities have built-in flexibility.

born people were more likely to go to cultural activities (eg 65% Australian born attended the cinema compared to 54% of overseas born people). Australian Social Trends 1999, ABS pp 177-182

⁵ Australian Social Trends 1999, ABS pp 177-182

4. Population Profile

4.1. Introduction

A population's size and growth rate and its characteristics – age structure, family type, income levels, mobility and ethnicity – are key indicators of leisure needs and demands.

A detailed analysis of Hornsby Shire's relevant population characteristics– including comparisons with those for the Sydney Statistical Division (SSD) and NSW - is provided at Attachment A. Council's 1996 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census-based social atlas has been used as the basis for this review.

This chapter summarises the key data and draws out the main implications with respect to leisure needs and demands. It firstly establishes the regional context for the population review and then reviews Shire-wide population characteristics, key differences between districts and past and future population growth patterns.

4.2. Regional Context

Hornsby Shire is one of more than fifty councils within the Greater Metropolitan Region as defined by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP). The Region comprises metropolitan Sydney and the Central Coast (defined as the Sydney Statistical Division by the Australian Bureau of Statistics) together with the Newcastle/Lower Hunter and Wollongong regions.

The Sydney Region houses 4 million people (including 275,000 on the Central Coast). The Region's population has been growing recently at an average of just over 1% or 42,000 each year (compared with 1.2% for NSW as a whole) and is likely to reach 4.5 million somewhere between 2011 and 2016. The Metropolitan Region population as a whole will top 5.2 million.

Continuing strong growth in the Region is attributed to the employment and lifestyle opportunities of the metropolis. DUAP predicts that current growth rates will continue within the region resulting in a need, in Sydney, for 500,000 additional homes (and associated leisure and other infrastructure) over the next 20-30 years (DUAP, *Shaping Our Cities, 1998*).

Hornsby Shire is located on the Hornsby Plateau in Sydney's north and extends from Epping in the south to Wiseman's Ferry in the north-west. It comprises a varied settlement pattern - with a range of established areas (in the south), relatively new suburban areas (Cherrybrook), rural communities and isolated river settlements.

The Shire is within the 'outer ring' of the Sydney Region and shares boundaries with Ryde, Hornsby Shire, Gosford, Baulkham Hills, Parramatta, Hawkesbury and Pittwater Councils. It extends over an area of 510 square kilometres and is the second largest local government area in Sydney.

A large proportion of the Shire (around 50%) comprises National Park or Nature Reserve, and these account for a large proportion of the Shire's outstanding natural values.

The large size of the Shire and the borders with multiple other councils provide particular planning challenges – as noted in Council's Social Plan 2000-2005 which observed that these factors impact on social planning in the following two ways:

- The size of *Hornsby* means that planning for social needs is a large and often complex task, and
- Social planning for the area requires effective relationships with neighbouring Councils to avoid duplication of services or service gaps – as different councils assume their neighbour is providing services to people living in border areas.

With respect to regional resource sharing and planning, **Hornsby** Shire is a member of the North Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils – with membership also including Hornsby Shire, Ryde, Willoughby, Lane Cove and North Sydney Councils.

The Shire's other 'border' councils belong to the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (Parramatta, Baulkham Hills, Hawkesbury), Central Coast Regional Organisation of Councils (Gosford) and the Shore Regional Organisation of Councils (Pittwater).

4.3. Hornsby Shire's Population Characteristics

4.3.1. Shire-wide Characteristics

In 1996, Hornsby Shire had a population of 136,746 persons. Just over 70% of this population (or nearly 100,000 people) lived in the older established areas between Epping and Hornsby. Just 8% of the population occupied the extensive rural areas in the west and northern districts of the Shire.

The Shire's population is fairly average when compared to Sydney as a whole and to NSW – particularly with respect to age profile, family structure and ethnic diversity. In some important ways, however, the population varies significantly from the metropolitan and state averages – particularly in regard to its higher incomes, levels of education and labour force participation.

A detailed analysis of the Shire's population – with respect to age profile, household characteristics, ethnicity, socio-economic status, vehicle ownership and housing types

– is provided at Attachment A. As indicated in that analysis, the main distinguishing features of the Shire's population include the following:

- a slightly above-average proportion of children/youth aged 0-19 years,
- a below average proportion of young adults 20-40 years,
- an average proportion of 'older' people (ie aged over 65 years),
- high proportion of couple families with children,
- lower than average proportions of 'one parent families' and 'lone person' households,
- an average proportion of couple families without children,
- average resident mobility (with 57.5% of residents living at the same address five years previously),
- an average level of ethnic diversity,
- a moderately high English proficiency (with only 7.4% of the overseas born population speaking English 'not well or 'not at all'),
- slightly above average individual incomes but well above average household incomes,
- high level of educational achievement (in terms of degree or diploma attainment),
- very high labour force participation rate,
- relatively low unemployment rate.
- high proportion of professional/managerial employees and a lower proportion of trades persons,
- relatively high levels of vehicle ownership,
- a high proportion of separate houses,
- a high rate of home ownership, and
- a higher than average occupancy ratio (at 2.80 people per dwelling)

4.3.2. Differences between Planning Districts

The above Shire-wide analysis 'disguises' significant variations in population characteristics within the Shire. In order to clarify these variations, the key characteristics have also been analysed for each of Council's nine planning districts (as described in Table 4.1).

In 1996, the nine districts varied in population size – from 915 people in PD 7 to 29,972 in PD 1. For equity and access reasons, local-scale recreation resources (such as neighbourhood parks, halls and community centres) should be provided and distributed broadly in line with these population size differences.

Table 4.1: Hornsby Shire Council - Planning Districts

Planning District No.	Areas Included	Population (1996)
1	Eastwood, Epping, North Epping, Carlingford, Cheltenham, Beecroft	29,972
2	Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills, Westleigh, Thornleigh, Normanhurst)	26,845
3 & 9	Hornsby, Waitara, Wahroonga	18,823
4	Asquith, Berowra Creek, Hornsby Heights, Mt Colah, Mt Kuring-gai	19,071
5	Berowra, Berowra Waters, Milson's Island, Milson's Passage, Cowan, Berowra Heights)	8,678
6	Glenhaven, Dural, Arcadia, Galston, Mid Dural, Berrilee, Maroota, Wiseman's Ferry, Glenorie, Forest Glen, Fiddletown, Canoelands, Singleton's Hill, Laughtondale	9,393
7	Brooklyn, Dangar Island	915
8	Cherrybrook, Castle Hill	22,695

A detailed analysis of the characteristics of these various district populations is included in Attachment A. The paragraphs below highlight the key differences of most relevance in assessing leisure needs and demands.

Age Profile

The differences between districts are substantial. While the Shire as a whole has a fairly average age profile, this disguises the fact that some areas have 'older' than average profiles and some are considerably 'younger'.

In 1996, for example, Hornsby had a slightly higher than average proportion of population aged 0-19 years, but the proportions in some districts – in PD's 4, 5 and 8 in particular – were *significantly* higher than the State average. And the variation between districts was large, ranging between 23.3% (PD 7) and 33.8% (PD 8).

Again, while the Shire as a whole has an average proportion of people aged 65+ years, this is not true of some districts – PD's 4, 5 and 6 – which have well below state average proportions of older people. Conversely, other districts – PD's 1, 3/9 and 7 have above average proportions of older people.

The proportion of people aged 65+ years ranges from 5.8% in PD 5 to 16.3% in PD 3/9 (compared to 12.7% for NSW).

Ethnicity

It was indicated above that, in the Shire as a whole in 1996, 17.1% of the total population (23,363 people) were born in a non-English speaking country. This was slightly higher than the NSW average of 15.8%.

Again, however, there are significant variations between districts- with the proportion of residents born overseas in NESB countries varying from 5.3% (in PD 7) to 23.8% (in PD 8). Cherrybrook and the Hornsby CBD area, in particular, have high proportions of people born in NESB countries.

Household Type

With respect to household type, it was noted above that the Shire has a high proportion of households with children. While this is generally true across the Shire, two districts – PD's 319 and 7 – have well below state average proportions of families with children. The proportions range from a very low 37.2% in PD 7 to 64.1% in PD 5 (compared to 45.8% for NSW).

The proportion of lone person households also varies significantly - ranging from 9.7% in PD 5 to more than 28% in PD's 319 and 7 (22.2% for NSW).

The proportion of couple families without children is, however, more uniform across the Shire. The exceptions are PD 8, where there is a low proportion of this household type, and PD 1 where, conversely, there is a high proportion.

Incomes

In all but two districts, household incomes are well above the NSW average – but there is still variation across the Shire in the extent of this. Thus, the proportion of households with weekly incomes less than \$500 ranges from 16% in PD 5 to 35.1% in PD 7 (compared to 35.4% in NSW). Similarly, the proportion of households with weekly incomes greater than \$1,500 ranges from 8.5% in PD 319 to 32% in PD 8 (compared to 12.2% in NSW).

PD's 319 and 7 are the districts with lower than state average household incomes.

Vehicle Availability

There is, Shire wide, a high proportion of households with 2 or more vehicles (50% of households compared to 38.4% for NSW). But again, the variations are significant – ranging from below 30% in PD's 319 and 7 to more than 60% in PD's 6 and 8. (To a large extent, this reflects the size of households – with both these districts having much higher than average lone person households).

4.4. Population Growth & Change

4.4.1. Shire Wide Growth

Population growth in Hornsby Shire between 1986 and 1996 was relatively high compared to the average in the Northern Sydney Region and in NSW – as illustrated in Table 4.2. The Shire's growth was particularly rapid between 1986-91.

Table 4.2: Population Growth, 1986-1996

Area	1986	1991	1996	% Change 1986-91	% Change 1991-96	% Change 1986-96
Hornsby Shire	117,565	127,672	136,746	8.6	7.1	16.3
Northern Sydney Region						4.4
NSW	5,401,881	5,732,032	6,038,696	6.1	5.4	11.8

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Table T01

Table 4.2 also shows that growth in Hornsby (and NSW) had slowed in the last intercensal period from rates of growth previously experienced. The intercensal growth rate in Hornsby, however, remained at an above average 7.1%.

Growth Distribution and Characteristics

The significant growth within Hornsby Shire over the last two decades is mainly attributable to the release area developments (at Cherrybrook, Dural, Castle Hill and Glenhaven) but also to the construction of large apartment buildings close to the Hornsby CBD and to infill residential developments within established areas.

To a large extent these housing developments reflected a significantly higher demand for smaller dwellings (as a result of population ageing and trends to smaller families). Thus, while the Shire population increased 16.3% between 1986-96, the number of private dwellings increased by a much higher 22.1%. As a consequence, the proportion of 'separate house' private dwellings declined from 85% in 1986 to 79% in 1996.

The growth also reflected significant demands from migrants from non-English speaking countries. The number of NESB people more than doubled between 1986-96 (from 11,368 to 23,363) with many settling in Cherrybrook and other release areas. The main countries of origin include Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea and China.

In contrast to the above growth patterns, any areas of the Shire- the northern districts and rural villages - have experienced only modest growth and some - the older established 'southern' suburbs - have experienced slight population declines.

Growth Strategy

The *Hornsby* Shire Housing Strategy (Stages 1 and 2) was prepared in response to the State Government's requirements and approach to urban consolidation. Specifically, Council chose to prepare its own strategy to enable exemption from State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 53 - Metropolitan [Residential Development. The Strategy builds upon existing provisions - which permit multi-unit housing - in the Hornsby Shire Local Environmental Plan 1994.

The Strategy's key objectives are to:

- support ongoing population growth – consistent with natural increase and 'a fair and equitable amount of Sydney's immigration' and within limits defined by land capability and carrying capacity
- encourage housing styles that reflect population profiles and needs
- promote a concentrated rather than dispersed model of urban consolidation– and one that conforms with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and Total Catchment Management and gives adequate consideration to 'sensitive urban land' and heritage issues:
- encourage housing in commercial districts and underutilised commercial and special use zones
- discourage urban expansion into rural areas

With respect to recreation issues, the guiding principle for infrastructure required that additional housing should only be provided in areas with adequate infrastructure - including 'open space/parkland' and 'recreation opportunities' - or in areas where adequate infrastructure can be provided.

In accordance with the adopted principles, the proposed strategy replaced the previous 'dispersed' multi unit strategy with a 'concentrated' strategy– including the identification of specific districts suitable for the development of multi-unit housing and the encouragement of high density multi-unit housing in these districts.

A series of 'neighbourhood design principles' were established to guide the development of multi-unit housing within the nominated districts. Amongst other things, these principles addressed access to community and recreation facilities and services.

The Strategy has short, ~~short/medium~~, medium and long term strategies.

The short-term strategy promotes development within the existing high-density multi-unit housing precincts at Hornsby and Waitara. It also promotes multi-unit housing development within the Duffy Avenue (Conference Centre) precinct. This part of the Strategy is estimated to result in the development of 1414 dwellings.

In the *short/medium* term a key component is the rezoning of eight (8) precincts - from Berowra in the north to Epping in the south - to permit medium, medium-high and high-density multi-unit housing. The LEPs associated with these rezonings were gazetted on 16 July, 1999 (with Council exempt from the provisions of SEPP No. 53). This component of the Strategy is estimated to result in the development of 1,166 dwellings.

With respect to the medium term strategy, Council progressed (in 1999) the preparation of a detailed environmental investigation and planning strategy to permit higher density housing at number of properties in Westleigh. This component of the Strategy was estimated to result in the development of 1048 dwellings. The estimated yield has subsequently been revised to 323 dwellings to have regard to the planning strategy and development consents issued.

The long-term strategy includes the ongoing review of planning instruments and opportunities to provide for 270 multi-unit dwellings per annum between 2006 to 2021.

The Housing Strategy Stage 1 Report also indicated an average approval of 150 single dwellings per annum, over the period 1991-1995, excluding the urban release areas and rural areas of the Shire. The long-term strategy expects this rate of infill housing development to continue.

Population Projections

Council does not currently possess a detailed set of age-related population projections. The only projections available, in fact, are those to the year 2005 included in the S94 Plan. These are broken down for each planning district and are detailed in Table 4.3

Table 4.3: Population Growth by Planning District, 2000-2005

PLANNING DISTRICT	YEAR		POPULATION GROWTH 2000-2005	
	2000	2005	No.	%
PD 1	30,935	31,706	771	2.5
PD 2	26,706	29,085	2,379	8.9
PD 3 & 9	20,573	23,560	2,987	14.5
PD 4	20,122	20,657	535	2.7
PD 5	9,702	10,139	437	4.5
PD 6	9,627	9,899	272	2.8
PD 7	1,228	1,282	54	4.4
PD 8	26,603	27,056	453	1.7
Hornsby Shire	147,495	155,383	7,888	5.3

Table 4.3 indicates that 68% of the forecast population growth to 2005 is expected to occur in planning districts 2, 3 and 9. This is consistent with the Housing Strategy's identified districts for multi-unit housing.

Based on the ABS estimated residential population at June 2001 (of 151,529) and current 'net dwelling stock increase' estimates⁶ – between June 2000 and the end of 2005¹⁶ – the above forecasts seem reasonable. The dwelling increase forecasts are illustrated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Hornsby Shire - Population Growth Forecast, 2005¹⁶

Development Area	Net Dwelling Increase		Occupancy Rate	Population Increase 2001/2 – 2005/6
	2000/01 (Actual)	2001/2 to 2005/6 (Forecast)		
MUDP Precinct				
7A	256	1,930	*1.9	3,667
7B	127	240	**2.70	648
7C	91	220	2.70	594
7R	78	100	2.70	270
UDP Release Area				
Rogan's Hill	95	260	2.70	702
TOTAL	647	2,750		5,881
<p>* Based on likely occupancy rate of higher density, multi-unit housing that comprises the majority of growth in the 7A precinct ** Based on average occupancy rate at 1996 census data and trends over previous inter censal periods</p>				

Based on the dwelling increase and occupancy assumptions used in the above table, the estimated June 2006 population is 157,410 (151,529 plus 5,881). This represents an average 0.82% annual increase between 2000 and 2006.

If this average rate continues, the population will reach 163,800 by 2011. This figure, however, must be used with caution. The actual figure may be higher or lower - depending upon the State Government's future Metropolitan Urban Development Program requirements and the Shire's capacity to accommodate those requirements.

4.5. Population Characteristics and Leisure Needs and Demands

The population characteristics discussed above (size, distribution, age structure, individual and household incomes, household structure, ethnicity and growth) are all major determinants of leisure needs and demands.

Population Size and Distribution

An area's population size is a major determinant of its ability to sustain support for a wide range of activities and facilities and the quality and diversity of those activities and facilities.

⁶ 2001 Regional Consultations – Metropolitan Urban Development Program and Urban Development Program. DUAP August 2001

Small communities will find it difficult to support the range and quality of recreation opportunities found in larger population centres. All facilities – public and private - require a particular threshold population to be viable. In small centres, this may be lacking for a range of facilities.

The distribution of populations is a critical factor in the location of facilities and in the marketing and promotion of activities and programs.

Age Structure

The population's age structure is a key determinant of the level and type of demand for recreation opportunities and services. Very youthful populations have a greater need for child and family oriented opportunities while those with a large proportion of families with teenagers seek sporting and social opportunities to a greater extent.

Changes in age structure are more significant, in some ways, than changes in population size. The latter, while important, simply means more of the same, but a significantly changing age structure requires major adjustments in the type and mix of leisure services.

This is because of the differing leisure preferences of, and rates of participation by, different age groups in a wide range of recreation activities- including those activities that utilise local and district open space.

Differences in age related participation rates are regularly confirmed in leisure and social participation studies at national, regional and local levels.

Ageing populations may well use many of the same facilities but will also require more support services and programs and participate at far lower rates than do young people.

Socio-Economic Status

An area's socio-economic status is a reflection of its residents' education levels, occupations and incomes. High-income earning individuals have large disposable incomes and a greater ability to engage in a wider array of leisure and recreation activities. More options are available across a wide activity spectrum - including home-based recreation, culture and entertainment and travel and tourism.

People in lower socio-economic groups have fewer options. Relatively small disposable incomes may limit the affordability of many recreation activities (including public activities). This may restrict some residents to team sports and lower cost social and home-based activities.

Mobility

Population mobility measures the extent to which families change their place of residence – either within or between municipalities and regions. When many people are frequently moving homes, there is a greater need for information **services** (brochures, maps and signposting) so that the constant flow of new residents know where recreation opportunities are. If these needs are not met there is a significant chance that the optimal use of resources will not be achieved. **Further**, experience shows that community demands for assistance and guidance will be more frequent and vocal.

Vehicle Ownership

Vehicle ownership is an important issue with respect to access to recreation facilities. This is particularly so for people living at some distance from regular public transport services.

Households without a car are particularly constrained but households with more than one adult and only one car may not be much better off. If a main breadwinner uses the car to travel to and from work every day, those left at home become, essentially, members of a household without a car. Only in households with two or more cars can a high level of mobility be guaranteed.

Ethnic Diversity

The ethnicity of the population is important because people from different cultural backgrounds have different preferences and interests in recreation and leisure activities. This has been identified in both national and local level surveys.

The ABS 1993 Survey of Involvement in Sport found, for example, that people born in Australia were far more likely to play sport than people born overseas (40% of men and 27% of women born in Australia compared to 24% of men and 13% of women born overseas).

The findings of recent research conducted in Fairfield LGA (Recreation Needs Study and Strategy Plan and and Redevelopment Feasibility Study for the Cabramatta Pool) and other local areas (eg Hornsby Shire Shire's 1999 Recreation Participation Survey) have also demonstrated this trend. In these studies people from NESB backgrounds were found to have lower than average participation rates in swimming and traditional team sports (but a higher than average preferences for indoor court sports).

Population Growth

Population growth is clearly a critical influence on leisure needs and demands. Thus a 10% increase in the number of people means, other things being equal, a 10%

increase in leisure demand. For Hornsby, it may mean 13,000 additional potential users of Council's leisure services by 2011.

4.6. Leisure Need Implications of the Shire's Population Characteristics

Hornsby Shire's key population characteristics are summarised in Table 4.5 – together with the particular implications of these characteristics for leisure needs and demands within the Shire.

Table 4.5: **Hornsby** Population Characteristics & Implications for Recreation Demand

Population Characteristics	Leisure Needs & Demands
<p>Population Size</p> <p>136,746 in the Shire in 1996</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population is large enough to support a wide range of leisure facilities & services,
<p>Population Growth:</p> <p>Significant (16.3%) growth since 1986 & forecast further increase (by 9% to 163,000) by 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The large forecast increase in the population to 2021 implies a similarly large increase in leisure demands and need
<p>Age Structure:</p> <p>A slightly above-average proportion of children/youth aged 0-19 years</p> <p>A below average proportion of young adults 20-40 years</p> <p>An average proportion of 'older' people (ie aged over 65 years)</p> <p>[Notwithstanding these averages, some districts (in particular PD's 4 & 5) have a markedly 'younger' profile – with high proportions of children, only slightly below state average proportions of 'young adults' and low proportions of 'older' people]</p>	<p>The higher than average proportion of children/youth would normally imply higher than average leisure demands (because participation in sport and cultural activities is higher in younger age groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This impact is offset by the low proportion of 'young adults' The age profile therefore implies an average level of leisure need /demand in most areas – but with some above average exceptions (PD's 4.5 and 8)
<p>Family Type:</p> <p>High proportion of couple families with children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children, youth and adults with children are, typically, the high use markets for many leisure and recreation activities The high number of families with children implies a higher than average demand for playgrounds, swimming pools and sports facilities
<p>Income:</p> <p>Relatively high incomes – with at least 21% of house holds in six districts earning more than \$1,500/week (compared to 12.2% for NSW)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The higher than average incomes in most districts imply that these residents will have more capacity, than average, to pay for leisure (particularly expensive options – such as indoor sport and aquatics and cultural performances)

<p>Just two districts (PD's 3/9 and 7) have lower than average incomes</p>	<p>sport and aquatics and cultural performances)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those on low incomes – and more than 20% of Shire households are in this category - are more likely to be restricted to local activities, to team sports and to lower cost social and home-based activities.
<p>Ethnicity:</p> <p>Slightly above average level of ethnic diversity – with 17.1% of residents born overseas in NESB countries (compared to 15.8% in NSW)</p> <p>Well above average ethnic diversity in two districts – PD 8 and 3/9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People from different cultural backgrounds may have different leisure interests and preferences • Both national and local level surveys have found that people born overseas were less likely to play sport than people born in Australia (24% of men and 13% of women born overseas compared to 40% of men and 27% of women born in Australia). • The high proportions of NESB people in PD's 8 and 3/9 implies a marginally lower than average need for outdoor sports facilities in those districts

5. Community Consultations

5.1. Introduction

A range of market research initiatives (including a random community survey, a survey of sport, leisure and cultural organisations, a call for submissions, stakeholder workshops and focussed discussions with representatives of various population 'target' groups) were undertaken to identify local views in regard to facility needs and priorities.

The key outcomes of these consultations are reviewed in this Chapter, together with the outcomes of previous relevant consultations.

5.2. Previous Consultations

Several previous studies have canvassed leisure needs and demands in the Shire. The consultations of most relevance to the current study include those undertaken for the *Hornsby Recreation Needs Study (1991)*, the *Hornsby Open Space Plan (1997)*, *A Social Strategy for Hornsby (1997)*, the *Social Plan 2000-2005*, the *Youth Services Strategic Plan (May 2000)* and the *Review of Senior Citizens Centres (November 2000)*.

The annual Customer Satisfaction Surveys (most recently, the *Hornsby 2001 Report (2001)*) are also of relevance to the current study.

The key findings of these consultations are summarised in the following sections.

Hornsby Recreation Needs Study (1991)

This Shire wide study included a random household survey and consultations with stakeholder groups. Findings of relevance to the current study included the following:

- Popular recreation activities, preferred recreation settings and 'six distinct experience type user groups' were identified
- Passive outdoor activities (visiting parks, walking, swimming) were found to be more popular than team sports
- The need for additional non-sport recreation opportunities for youth (eg skating and BMX facilities, youth centres) was perceived as important by all age groups
- The current provision of facilities was found to be equitable (as 'there are no disadvantaged social groups')
- Barriers to recreation participation included lack of facilities, lack of floodlighting and (for some water sports) Hawkesbury River pollution

- There was an identified need for some additional facilities – cycle ways, heated swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts (in districts 2, 3, 4 and 5), sports fields, equestrian trails, youth facilities (in districts 2, 4, 5 and 6), landscaped linear parks (in districts 1, 2 and 3) and picnic areas (districts 1, 2, 5 and 6)
- There was a need to extend the useability of some facilities – sports fields, tennis courts and swimming pools – with floodlighting
- Financial support provided to recreation groups should be maintained at current levels
- User fees are high and should be reviewed

Hornsby Open Space Plan (1997)

This study was commissioned to provide guidelines for the provision of open space and recreation facilities within the Shire.

The methodology included consultations with relevant stakeholder groups – with the purpose of identifying unmet needs, future facility requirements, key issues and possible solutions. Findings of relevance to the current study included the following:

- The need for additional facilities for youth (such as skate parks, basketball courts, adventure playgrounds, youth groups)
- The need for improved information on existing open space opportunities (via more informative signage, widely distributed brochures)
- The need to upgrade existing facilities and promote better use – rather than providing new facilities
- With respect to this, improved lighting was seen as a high priority – both to enhance safety and to extend the utility of sports areas (for training and competition)
- Other proposed improvements included the provision of more attractions in parks – such as kiosks and boardwalks – and links between parks and bushland (cycle and walking trails)
- The need for additional facilities for seniors (attractive accessible parks and walking opportunities)
- The need for more maintenance and upgrading of the natural environment (especially prevention of further bushland and creek degradation)
- An urgent need for indoor sports facilities – particularly for basketball
- Many sports women (netball, softball) have to play in adjoining local government areas – due to lack of available facilities
- Many sports facilities are not used to their 'maximum potential' (often due to lack of lighting)

- The need for more 'home ground' sports facilities (except for cricket, which have access to adequate facilities)
- Many sports groups regarded ground hire fees as too high
- There is a need to address equity issues – including gender equity (allocation of sports grounds, design of support facilities), age equity (more shade trees, suitable seating and accessible pathways in and leading to parks), geographic equity (distribution of parks) and ethnicity equity (more areas suitable for large social gatherings).
- Sports organisations are concerned about 'a lack of effective communication with Council'

There is a need to improve liaison and productive partnerships between Council and the community

Social Strategy for Hornsby (1997)

This report documented the findings of a community consultation (survey and workshops) – including community attitudes towards Council's services and concerns about particular issues – and identifies initiatives to address the needs and concerns of residents. The initiatives are based on resident and council staff input.

Findings of relevance to the current study included the following:

Recreation Areas and Open Space

- 'Open space and bushland' received high 'importance' and 'satisfaction' scores in the community survey
- 'Sports fields and playing areas' received moderate importance and generally high satisfaction scores
- Swimming pools generally had low importance scores and variable satisfaction scores (eg high in Hornsby CBD and low in Berowra)
- Key concerns expressed in the workshops included lags between residential development and provision of recreation areas and poor toilet facilities,

Arts and Culture

- 'Arts, entertainment and culture' and 'art galleries' generally received low importance and satisfaction ratings in the community survey
- 'Library services' generally received high importance and satisfaction ratings

Facilities for *Teenagers/Youth*

- 'Teenager's facilities' generally received moderate importance and very low satisfaction ratings in the community survey

- Key concerns expressed in the workshops included the need for additional 'non-sporting leisure activities for youth' and the need for more consultative opportunities for youth

Facilities/services for the Aged and Disabled

- 'Facilities for the aged' generally received moderate importance and satisfaction ratings in the community survey
- Facilities for the disabled' generally received moderate importance and satisfaction ratings
- Key concerns expressed in the workshops included the need for safer walkways (streets and parks) to encourage older people to exercise and use parks and gardens. Tree hazards on footpaths were a particular concern.

Social Plan 2000-2005

The process for developing the Social Plan included a series of nine Community Think Tank meetings in various areas of the Shire. These canvassed issues of concern to local residents as well as ideas for further community development.

Issues and ideas of particular relevance to the current study are summarised below.

Location	Issues	Ideas'
PD 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on available opportunities ■ Involvement of individuals in wmmunity activities • Security on ovals ■ Recycling in parks/ovals • Visible conversation place in wmmunity – with large chess board – for building community activity • Increase in graffiti & vandalism • Drug problem amongst younger people • Preservation of open space/environment ■ Loss of bushland character with increasing medium density developments ■ No cinema in area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local wmmunity calendar ■ Circulate directory ■ Community news letter ■ Parks with seats, tables, covered areas ■ Town square ■ Market days • Multicultural festivals • Beecroft Spring Festival • Fairs as vehicles to publicise available activities (ie information: booths for scouts, youth activities, dance groups etc)
PD 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to community recreation information • Recognition of volunteers • Community art ■ Promotion of parks as focal points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved access – community bus, information (events calendar, community notice board, newsletter, newspaper inserts, wmmunity radio)

Hornsby Leisure Strategic Plan

Location	Issues	Ideas
PD 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of parks as focal points • Access to recreation for people with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community focal point – identity • Multi use of facilities <p>Youth 'hang out in parks...parents often uncomfortable taking young children to parks in afternoons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community day for recognition of volunteers • Provide seating, bins, local performances in parks • Integration for people with disabilities <p>Consult young people about 'things to do'</p>
PD 3 & 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Growth in NESB population • Youth recreation – Hornsby 'is a hole...youth need to get out to get somewhere...' ■ Growing isolation – lack of sense of community • 'Nowhere to go to be with people...go to library' • 'People don't know what's going on' • Places to meet – safe and secure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skateboard facilities • directory of what is available – community calendar with listing: of clubs and organisations • coordinate Interactive community – all ages complementary ■ Community centre in Hornsby CBD • Festivals <p>Bring district together through sport and creative programs</p>
PD 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for theatre/community performance space • Dog control (cleaning up faeces) • Kids 'hanging out' at Asquith shops • Transport difficulties (particularly for older people: difficult to get past Hornsby) • Insufficient information on services available ▶ Need for a local swimming pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we offer more sporting facilities? • Safe, accessible public transport • Bicycle facilities • Directory of community services, community notice boards, calendars, web site
PD 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Teenagers out all night ▶ Lack of youth specific facilities (basketball court, community centre, somewhere to hang out') ▶ Indoor pool/gym ▶ Transport from train station ▶ Sports grounds are poor quality – unused during week days • High opportunity wst of maintaining turf cricket wickets • inadequate parking at Hornsby Pool • Warrina St Park – needs shade, better softfall, more female toilets ▶ Parks in Berowra not 'child friendly' – safety Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More consultation with community • Multi use of Mt Colah Senior Citizen's Centre (ie youth area some days) • Improved bus service to station • Venue for major events (a town hall/civic centre - like the Hills Centre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide facilities for kids as they grow up ■ Higher quality Indoor sports centres (embarrassed by quality of PCYC)
PD 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for more playing fields • lack of entertainment for over 12's • skateboarders using shopping centre • need for equestrian facilities/safe riding trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skateboard ramp in Galston Park
PD 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for improved communication from Council • need for community hall • need for lighting of McKell Park • value in extending existing boardwalk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fire brigade building – ideal youth centre & other community purposes

Location	Issues	Ideas:
PD 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for more organised sports programs (within and outside school system) ■ graffiti and vandalism Greenway Park and Community Centre are isolated – no purposeful activity • Lack of community library • Need opportunities for greater interaction between different age/ethnic groups • Need for improved linkages Need more meeting space ■ Need for local – Cherrybrook – identity via landscaping, street tree planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension to Community Centre • More cycle tacks • Improve pedestrian routes – paths/natural routes
Shire wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No appropriate recreation areas for the residents (particularly young people) of recent high rise developments in Hornsby ■ More promotion by Council of available opportunities • Need for town hall and community centre in Hornsby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi cultural days – throughout Shire • Music events in small parks

Youth Services Strategic Plan (May 2000)

The process for developing this Plan included 12 youth consultations with a total of 180 young people. The consultations were undertaken in three phases during 1998 and 1999. Findings of particular significance to the current study are summarised below.

Participants at eight of the consultations were asked about their current leisure time activities. The range of activities was wide – including watching TV, movies, listening to music, attending local festivals (Mundowie), 'hanging out' (in the city, McDonalds, shopping centres), playing team sports, skateboarding, coffee with friends, attending entertainment venues (outside the Shire), shopping and school related activities.

Concerns raised in the consultations included the need for more facilities and activities, transport difficulties, attitudes to young people, information, drugs and graffiti.

As indicated in the following table, the major relevant needs identified (in terms of breadth of concern) were improvements in public transport, better information dissemination, more skateboard facilities and more evening entertainment.

Issue	Times raised'
More facilities	
skateboard facilities	6
Social venues/night spots	5

Issue	Times raised*
More/better cinemas	3
Bike tracks	2
BMX facility	1
Aquatic centre	1
Youth centres	1
Performance venues	1
More trees and gardens	1
Pool parlours	1
Youth centres (P Hills area and rural areas)	1
More activities	
Boredom/nothing to do	6
Entertainment (eg band nights/dance parties for u18's)	6
Activities for females	1
Opportunities for community involvement	1
Attitude issues	
Poor public image of youth dance nights etc	1
Poor police attitudes to youth	1
Access issues	1
Poor/limited transport	10
More/improved dissemination of information	6
Issues of concern (eg drugs, graffiti, gangs, suicide)	4
number of consultations – out of 12 – that this issue was identified	

Review of Senior Citizens Centres (November 2000)

A review of the Shire's Senior Citizen's Centres was undertaken in late 2000⁷. This included a 'Needs of Older People' Survey – a survey of retirement village residents and a random sample of visitors to the Hornsby CBD - with 113 respondents over the age of 55 years.

The survey found that the most popular leisure activities of respondents were walking, reading, swimming, bowls and gentle exercise.

Activities that respondents would like to do more of included discussion groups, bowls, croquet, literature, music art, computers and outings/tours.

⁷ Hornsby Shire Council, Review of Senior Citizens' Centres in the *Hornsby Shire*, Nov 2000'

Hornsby 2000 Report (2000)

The purpose of this report was to present the findings of the year 2000 Customer Satisfaction Survey – including a review of trends in resident opinions over recent years (possible because of the six annual surveys now undertaken).

The survey (involving a sample of 600 residents) found that the overall rating of Council by residents, in the year 2000, was at its highest level in four years. With respect to leisure and recreation issues, the survey found that both the 'importance' and 'performance' ratings for leisure services were high and increasing. Key findings included the following:

- The top 20 Council services, in terms of importance, included 'bushland reserves' (5), 'parks and gardens' (9), 'children's playgrounds' (13), 'sports fields' (18) and '12-16 yrs youth activities' (19).
- For all these services – except '12-16 yrs youth activities' – the rating for 'performance' was higher than it was for 'importance'
- Over the past four years the 'performance' rating for all these services- except '12-16 yrs youth activities' – had improved.
- Most leisure services in the year 2000 received a 'high importance-high performance' rating

Areas of particular concern – those given a 'high importance-low performance' rating included 'pollution of local streams/waterways' and 'services for people with disabilities'.

5.3. Random Community Survey

A survey of residents was undertaken to identify current leisure facility and program usage patterns, issues and needs, and any barriers to desired use.

The survey was designed to facilitate comparisons with the outcomes of the community recreation survey conducted in 1991 (as part of the Recreation Needs Study). In doing so, it provides a basis for monitoring change over the past ten years – as well as providing a 'snapshot' of current leisure needs and issues within the Shire.

The survey involved the postal distribution of questionnaires to 3,000 randomly selected residential addresses (1,000 more than the 1991 survey). 766 usable responses were received – a response rate of 26%.

The results of the survey are detailed in Attachment B and summarised in the paragraphs below.

Most Popular Leisure Activities

To provide an indication of the range and popularity of non-sport leisure and recreation activities in the Shire, survey respondents were asked to indicate how often they participated in a range of specified 'away from home' activities in the previous 12 months. Several of these activities were found to be highly popular – with 40% or more of respondents participating in them at least once in the previous year. This is illustrated in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Most Popular Leisure Activities – Hornsby Shire 2001

Activity	% Respondents participating in previous 12 months	% Respondents participating regularly (> 20 times/year)
Visiting friends/relatives	95.6	51.1
Dining out	95.2	22.4
Visiting parks/gardens	88.6	17.0
Shopping for pleasure	86.4	37.3
Picnics/barbecues in public areas	78.7	8.1
Walking/walking the dog	75.3	51.0
Driving for pleasure	75.0	15.8
Bush walking	69.0	10.2
Personal hobbies	67.8	25.4
Taking kids to parks/playgrounds	65.7	21.0
Swimming (non-sport)	59.1	15.5
Informal games (eg kites)	48.8	5.9
Jogging/running	42.7	15.2
Visiting museums/galleries	41.2	3.2

There is nothing surprising in the results detailed in Table 5.1. The relative popularity of the various activities is consistent with the findings of recent national surveys and local surveys conducted in other council areas (such as in Ku-ring-gai in 1999).

Table 5.1, however, is useful in illustrating the critical importance of Council's recreation resources in accommodating a wide range of popular activities. This is particularly true of the open space estate which provides the main setting for 5 of the 10 most popular away from home activities – 'visiting parks', 'picnics/barbecues in public places', 'walking', 'bush walking' and 'taking kids to parks/playgrounds'.

Structured Sport Activities

The survey sought to identify the proportion of the population engaged in formal sports activity and the nature of that engagement (player, spectator or organiser).

Table 5.2 details levels of 'player' participation – in terms of participant numbers and percentage of respondents – in structured sports activities over the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 5.2: Participation in 'structured' sports activities - Hornsby Shire 2001

Sport	Respondents participating in previous 12 months	
	No.	%
Soccer	30	3.9
Tennis	28	3.7
Netball	21	2.7
Lawn Bowls	18	2.3
Golf	13	1.7
Baseball/softball/T-ball	9	1.2
Squash	9	1.2
Rugby league/union/touch	8	1.0
Cricket	8	1.0
Basketball	8	1.0
Competitive swimming/water polo	7	0.9
Indoor Cricket	6	0.8
AFL	2	0.3
Hockey	1	0.1
Athletics	1	0.1
Other	37	4.8
Nil	515	67.2

Table 5.2 shows that one in three people – a sizable minority – participate in formal sports activities (with some participating in two or more sports).

Soccer and tennis (and then netball, lawn bowls and golf) are the most popular *structured* sports activities – in terms of participant numbers.⁸

As well as the playing participants, most sports also have significant numbers of *non*-playing participants (spectators and administrators). In some sports – rugby union and league, soccer, netball and baseball/t-ball – the non-playing participants are larger in number than the playing participants.

Overall, the majority of participants in structured sport (55%) were found to be players – with the others being spectators (38%) or organisers (7%).

The frequency of participation is detailed in Table 5.3. This illustrates the high levels of 'commitment' associated with 'structured' sports – with the majority participating on more than 20 occasions (or close to 20 occasions) per year.

The exceptions to this are athletics and golf – where sizable minorities participate fewer than seven times per year.

⁸ It is noted that some of the sports identified in Table 5.2 – particularly golf, tennis and squash – have substantial numbers of 'informal' participants. That is, people who participate casually/socially outside the formal competitive structures of clubs. The figures in Table 5.2 therefore under-represent overall participation in these sports.

Table 5.3: Frequency of participation in structured sports – Hornsby Shire 2001

Sporting Activity	Frequency of participation in last 12 months (%)		
	1-6 times	7-20 times	>20 times
Athletics	33.3	0.0	66.7
Golf	28.6	0.0	71.4
Lawn Bowls	25.0	12.5	62.5
Hockey	20.0	20.0	60.0
Cricket	18.5	40.7	40.7
Soccer	17.0	33.0	50.0
Baseball/softball/T-ball	13.6	63.6	22.7
Other	13.0	19.6	67.4
Netball	12.5	27.1	60.4
Rugby league/union/touch	12.5	31.3	56.2
AFL	10.0	60.0	30.0
Tennis	8.8	23.5	67.6
Competitive swimming/water polo	6.7	13.3	80.0
Basketball	0.0	14.3	85.7
Squash	0.0	18.2	81.8
Indoor Cricket	0.0	0.0	100.0

Use of leisure facilities/settings

Many public leisure facilities/settings (including bushland, parks, picnic areas, foreshores, playgrounds, playing fields and public swimming pools) were used by more than 50% of respondents at least once in the previous 12 months – as illustrated in Table 5.4.

The high use of these settings reflects the popularity of activities dependent on such locations - such as visiting parks, picnicking, walking the dog, bush walking and taking kids to parks (as detailed in Table 5.1, above).

Other settings and facilities– including community and cultural centres, bicycle paths, tennis and netball courts and golf courses – also attracted substantial use.

Of note is the very low number of indoor sports centre users in the Shire (at 0.3% of respondents) – undoubtedly reflecting the low local provision of such facilities.

Table 5.4: Most popular leisure facilities/settings – Hornsby Shire 2001

Setting/Facility	% Respondents using facility within the Shire in last 12 months	% Using Facility Outside the Shire
Bushland/National Park	83.8	28.2
Parkland/formal garden	80.6	30.8
Library	77.6	2.0
Picnic/BBQ area	77.3	8.1
Waterway/foreshore	63.9	49.0
Playground	61.2	0.2
Outdoor playing field	58.2	9.1
Public swimming pool	50.7	7.8

Setting/Facility	% Respondents using facility within the Shire in last 12 months	% Using Facility Outside the Shire
Indoor community/arts centre	39.7	3.4
Cycleway/bicycle path	38.0	6.3
Tennis court	31.3	3.0
Golf course	19.7	5.8
Netball/basketball court	15.2	2.4
Indoor sports centre	0.3	11.3
Other	1.5	52.4

For most settings – as illustrated in Table 5.4 - the majority of facility use occurred within the Shire. This is particularly so for playgrounds, libraries, tennis and netball courts and community/arts centres.

There is also, however, substantial use of facilities outside the Shire – with two thirds of respondents indicating that they had used leisure settings outside the Shire in the previous 12 months. The most popular 'outside-Shire' facilities were foreshores and waterways, bushland, parks and indoor sports centres.

For 'indoor sports centres', in fact, the majority of use of such facilities took place outside the Shire - and the use was relatively frequent (with 39% of those using such facilities using them more than 20 times in the previous 12 months– with a further 28% using them 7-20 times).

The use of other popular 'outside Shire' facilities was somewhat less frequent– with waterways and bushland, for example being used more than 20 times per year by only around 19% of users.

Just under 50% of 'outside Shire' leisure facility use took place in immediately surrounding municipalities – particularly Ryde, but also in Gosford, Ku-ring-gai, Pittwater, Baulkham Hills and Parramatta – with most of the remainder occurring elsewhere in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Use of private leisure facilities/settings

Survey respondents were asked how often they used their own, their friends' or their relatives' private leisure and recreation facilities in the last 12 months.

As illustrated in Table 5.5, a high proportion of respondents uses private facilities for leisure activities and many also use these facilities frequently.

Some of these facilities – swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball hoops- are likely to absorb some of the potential 'unstructured activity' demand for public facilities. While this should be recognised in any relevant planning initiatives, the private

facilities should not – because of their limited scope – be seen as substitutes for public facilities.

Table 5.5: Use of private leisure facilities/settings – Hornsby Shire 2001

Facility	% Using Facility in past 12 months	% Using regularly (>20 times)
Garden for leisure	69.7	33.9
Swimming pool	68.4	23.8
Internet for leisure	65.2	33.5
Computer games	51.8	18.3
Tennis court	29.8	5.7
Basketball hoop	23.2	4.2
Gymnasium	23.0	8.9
Other	*	36.0

Preferred leisure facilities/settings

Survey respondents were asked to name a public leisure/recreation setting or facility within the Shire that they especially enjoyed using.

Parks, bushland and picnic areas were, collectively, the most popular settings– as illustrated in Table 5.6. Fagan Park was the most popular specific site– being the preferred leisure setting for nearly 10% of respondents. Other popular outdoor places included Bobbin Head, Berowra Waters and Pennant Hills Park.

Popular non-open space facilities included swimming pools (particularly the Hornsby Aquatic Centre) and libraries – as also illustrated in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Preferred leisure facilities/settings – Hornsby Shire 2001

Setting/Facility	% Respondents
Parks	
Fagan Park	9.7
Pennant Hills Park	3.8
Crosslands Reserve	3.3
Ruddock Park	3.2
North Epping Oval	2.3
Greenway Park	1.4
Parks, gardens, playgrounds, ovals, picnic areas (not specified)	18.1
Sub-total	41.8
Bushland	
Kuring-gai National Park	1.8
Berowra Valley Bushland	1.8
Bushland (not specified)	7.8
Sub-total	11.4
Foreshores/waterways	
Bobbin Head	5.8

Setting/Facility	% Respondents
Berowra Waters	4.7
Hawkesbury River	1.8
Brooklyn	1.4
Sub-total	13.7
Swimming Pools	
Hornsby Aquatic Centre	3.3
Dence Park/Epping Pool	2.3
Galston Pool	1.5
Swimming Pools (not specified)	1.8
Sub-total	8.9
Indoor centres/facilities	
Libraries	3.2
Gym	1.7
Clubs	1.7
Local Community Halls	1.4
Sub-total	8.0
Other	
Shopping Centres	2.1
Other	14.0
TOTAL	100.0

The ranked reasons for using the above facilities/settings are listed in Table 5.7. Of particular note – in terms of Council's roles in leisure opportunity provision – is the high importance ascribed to 'easy access' to facilities and to those facilities being 'relatively inexpensive.'

Table 5.7: Ranked reasons for using preferred public leisure/recreation setting

Reason	% citing as extremely or very important	Rank
To do something easily accessible to me	84.4	1
To be with and do things with family/friends	76.7	2
To rest and relax	73.4	3
To do something relatively inexpensive	72.8	4
To get away from the usual demands of life	65.9	5
To keep physically fit	59.0	6
To view the scenery	58.0	7
To be close to nature	55.1	8
To do something different	50.1	9
To be away from crowds of people	44.9	10

Satisfaction with leisure facilities/settings

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their levels of satisfaction with leisure settings and facilities used in the previous 12 months.

As illustrated in Table 5.8, respondents were *highly* satisfied with most leisure settings – particularly bushland, parks, **waterways** and foreshores and outdoor playing fields. Lower levels of satisfaction were, however, indicated for bicycle paths, public swimming pools and **netball/basketball** courts.

Table 5.8: Satisfaction with leisure facilities/settings – Hornsby Shire 2001

Setting/Facility	Satisfied/very satisfied (%)	Dissatisfied/very dissatisfied (%)
Bushland	97.2	2.8
Parkland/formal garden	94.1	5.9
Waterway/foreshore	91.8	8.2
Outdoor playing field	89.5	10.5
Tennis court	89.0	11.0
Picnic/BBQ area	88.4	11.6
Playground	87.2	12.9
Indoor Community Centre	87.1	13.0
Golf course	86.7	13.2
Library	85.9	14.0
Netball/basketball court	80.5	19.5
Public swimming pool	71.2	28.8
Cycleway/Bicycle path	64.9	35.1
Other	75.0	25.0

While clear majorities of respondents were satisfied with all leisure settings/facilities, it is noted also that significant minorities of people (up to 35% with respect to bicycle paths) were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with all of these settings/facilities (except bushland – where less than 3% were dissatisfied).

Unmet leisure demands

To identify both the extent and type of *unmet* demand for leisure activities and facilities, survey respondents were asked to nominate leisure activities that they would like to do within the Shire (but could not currently do for some reason). Where relevant, they were also required to list the reasons for not participating in desired activities.

The survey found that more than one in three respondents (36%) wished to participate in additional leisure/recreation activities within the Shire - but were not currently doing so because of various constraints.

As illustrated in Table 5.9, the highest levels of unmet demand were recorded for swimming/aquatic activities (with 11.1% of respondents wishing to participate more)

followed by cycling/mountain bike riding (6.4%), aerobics/gym (3.1%) and jogging/walking for pleasure/walking the dog (3.1%).

Table 5.9: Unmet demand for leisure/recreation activities – Hornsby Shire 2001

Leisure Activity	Respondents expressing unmet demand ⁹	
	No.	%
Swimming/aquatic activities	85	11.1
Cycling/mountain bike riding	49	6.4
Jogging/walking for pleasure/walking the dog	24	3.1
Aerobics/gym	24	3.1
Other sports	20	2.6
Tennis	16	2.1
Bushwalking	14	1.8
Dining out	13	1.7
Golf	13	1.7
Horse riding	12	1.6
Visiting parks/playgrounds/picnic areas	10	1.3
Motorcross	8	1.0
Skateboarding	8	1.0
Art/craft activities	8	1.0
Concerts/theatre	7	0.9
Dancing	6	0.8
Martial arts	6	0.8
Basketball	6	0.8
Yoga	5	0.7
Visiting pubs/clubs	4	0.5
Driving for pleasure	4	0.5
Table tennis	4	0.5
Rock climbing/abseiling	4	0.5
Visiting library	3	0.4
Going to the cinema	3	0.4
Shopping	3	0.4
Other	2	0.3
Nil	491	64.1

Based on the findings of this question, unmet demands for physical recreation activities are substantially more frequent than they are for cultural and 'passive' leisure activities.

The major reason for non-participation in desired activities was 'lack of facilities' (with 25.3% of respondents citing this reason). Other significant constraints included 'lack of time' (4.4%), 'no child care' (3.5%), 'distance' (3%) and 'cost' (2.6%) – as illustrated in Table 5.10.

⁹ Percentages do not add up to 100% - due to option for multiple responses

Table 5.10: Reasons (constraints) for not participating in desired activities

Reason/constraint	Respondents indicating constraint	
	No.	%
Lack of facilities	194	25.3
Lack of time	34	4.4
No child care available	27	3.5
Distance	23	3.0
Financial costs	20	2.6
Dogs are not allowed	12	1.6
Lack of understandable information	8	1.0
Don't know what's available	8	1.0
Feel insecure/unsafe	6	0.8
Physical problems	3	0.4
No-one to participate with	1	0.1
Age	1	0.1
Don't know how to get involved	1	0.1
Lack of public transport	1	0.1
Don't think I'll enjoy activities	1	0.1
Feel unwelcome	1	0.1
Nil	491	64.1

Perceived 'barriers' to leisure participation

Survey respondents were also asked to indicate the factors (if any) that prevented them from participating in leisure and recreation activities, in general, within the Shire.

As illustrated in Table 5.11, the main barriers were 'lack of time' (due either to 'work commitments' or 'family commitments') which both affected at least two in three respondents.

Other significant barriers included 'not knowing what activities are available', 'financial costs' and 'lack of facilities'. Each of these constraints have at least the potential to be influenced by Council's leisure expenditures and other initiatives.

Other constraints relevant to Council's leisure policies and initiatives include 'lack of transport', 'lack of understandable information' and 'lack of necessary skills/abilities'.

Table 5.11: Reasons for non-use of leisure opportunities - Hornsby Shire 2001

Barrier/constraint	Always experienced (%)	Sometimes experienced (%)
Lack of time due to work commitments	21.4	57.8
Lack of time due to family commitments	13.3	52.9
Don't know what's available	11.8	57.1
Financial costs	8.0	50.6
Lack of provision of facilities, services	7.9	52.3
Lack of public transport	7.5	25.8
Don't know how to get involved	4.6	37.4
Lack of private transport	3.6	12.9

Barrier/constraint	Always experienced (%)	Sometimes experienced (%)
Activities available are not appealing	3.6	53.9
No one to participate with	3.5	42.8
Lack of understandable information	3.5	26.2
Activities available are not meaningful	3.4	38.5
Lack of necessary skills/abilities	3.3	38.0
Physical problems	2.9	26.2
Age	2.0	18.4

Expenditure Priorities

To test the relative community support for different areas of Council's leisure expenditure, respondents were asked to prioritise specific areas of Council expenditure.

Respondents were asked to select and rank the five most important items from a specified list of 14 expenditure areas. Table 5.12 shows the selected top priority areas (ranked 1 by respondents) as well as ranked average priority overall (based on the rankings from 1 to 5).

The respondents' highest priority for council expenditure was - by a clear margin - bushland management. Other high priorities included library facilities and services, youth facilities/entertainment, sports fields and playgrounds.

Table 5.12: Expenditure priorities - Leisure facilities/services – Hornsby Shire 2001

Facility/service type	% respondents ranking priority 1	Overall priority
Bushland management	38.7	1
Libraries	25.4	2
Youth facilities/entertainment	25.2	3
Sports fields/facilities	19.5	4
Playgrounds	21.2	5
Parklands and gardens	16.1	6
Cycleways/bicycle paths	14.6	7
Swimming pools	18.5	8
Indoor sports facilities	14.0	9
Leisure activity courses/programs	7.8	10
Seniors centres	12.3	11
Arts and cultural activities/facilities	12.1	12
Community halls	4.0	13
Information services/interpretation	6.3	14

The effect of 'age' on leisure participation

Table 5.13 illustrates the variable leisure participation patterns of three broad age groupings and provides a basis for identifying the longer-term implications - for leisure participation and use of facilities - of the aging of the population.

Table 5.13: Sport/Recreation Participation & Facilities Use x Age, Hornsby 2001

ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN	Percent			FACILITIES USED	Percent		
	Aged 15-24 yrs	Aged 25-54 yrs	Aged 55yrs +		Aged 15-24 yrs	Aged 25-54 yrs	Aged 55yrs +
Sport				Generic Facilities			
Tennis (social)	51	32	19	Museums/Art Galleries	33	39	47
Golf (social)	31	24	19	Libraries	84	78	76
Lawn Bowls	0	0.4	2.5	Park/formal garden	74	84	74
Netball	1.1	4.8	0.1	Playgrounds	67	67	44
Rugby/touch	0.3	3.3	0.3	Bushland	82	87	77
Soccer	1.0	9.1	1.7	Public swimming pool	71	57	25
Aerobics	52	30	17	Outdoor sports field	86	65	29
				Golf Courses	28	20	16
Outdoor Recreation				Courts – Tennis	52	34	17
Picnic/barbecues	72	84	68	Courts – Netball/basketball	38	17	2
Visiting Parks and Gardens	83	90	87	Indoor community centre	38	40	39
Cycling	53	44	14	Cycleway	44	45	16
Bush walking	67	74	57	Waterway/foreshore	61	63	66
Walking/walking the dog	79	76	71				
Jogging & Running	83	46	19				
Gardening (for leisure)	37	72	76				
Recreation							
Shopping for Pleasure	86	89	80				
Swimming	68	65	39				
Hobbies	75	67	66				
Dancing	66	24	18				
Photography/painting	34	35	48				

Table 5.13 shows the percent of survey respondents, according to age group, who participated (at least once in the previous 12 months) in a range of sport and recreation activities and who used a range of facility types.

The responses clearly illustrate the decline with age in many sport and outdoor recreation activities – although visiting parks and foreshores, golf, lawn bowls, walking for pleasure and gardening are exceptions – and the substitution of more passive and cultural activities including hobbies, reading and visiting museums/galleries.

The lower participation in sport is reflected in the lower use of sports fields, tennis courts and netball/basketball courts – as illustrated in the right side of Table 5.13.

This 'age effect' has significant implications. Thus, as the population ages over the next decade or two (as the large 'baby boomer' cohorts grow older), there are likely to be substantial increases in the demand for activities popular with the 50+ age groups and a decline in demand for activities popular with the young.

Overall, there are likely to be lower rates of participation, in keeping with the lower participation rates in many recreation and cultural activities by older people¹⁰. But as identified in this survey, the participation rates for some activities – visiting parks, golf, lawn bowls, walking and bushwalking – decline only slightly, if at all, with age. For these activities, there is likely to be increased demand as the population grows (irrespective of the 'age effect').

Conversely, any declines in the younger age groups¹¹ would most likely cause declining demand for activities popular with these age groups (such as sport, fitness/gym activities, swimming and jogging) unless the decline in population numbers was offset by increases in the rates of participation by these age groups.

The major implication is that leisure facilities must be sufficiently flexible and adaptable to allow for population 'life cycles' and consequent shifts in leisure focus. There will be times when some facilities will be overused and others under-used. Opportunities for making adjustments for these peaks and troughs and for catering for future (unknown) needs will be maximised where facilities possess the flexibility mentioned above.

The effect of 'ethnicity' on leisure participation

People from different cultural backgrounds often have different preferences and interests in recreation and leisure activities – a matter confirmed in many national surveys¹².

The current survey included a question on country of origin. The results – for participation in a range of sport and recreation activities and use of various leisure facilities – are illustrated in Table 5.14.

¹⁰ This observation is based on past and present trends. In the future, it is possible that, as people age, recreation preferences and rates of participation may not change in the same way that they did in the past. Social and personal changes (such as heightened awareness of the links between recreation and health) may lead to higher than current participation levels by older age groups.

¹¹ The extent of this, if any, needs to be confirmed by age related population projections (which are not currently available)

¹² The ABS 1993 Survey of Involvement in Sport found, for example, that people born in Australia were far more likely to play sport than people born overseas (40% of men and 27% of women born in Australia compared to 24% of men and 13% of women born overseas). In terms of sports played, further, research conducted in local areas, in other parts of Sydney, has demonstrated that people born in Asian countries have a higher preference for indoor court sports and lower participation rates in traditional team sports.

Table 5.14: Leisure Participation & Facilities Use x Ethnicity, Hornsby Shire 2001

ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN	Percent			FACILITIES USED	Percent		
	Born in Australia	Born Overseas English Speaking	Born Overseas Other language		Born in Australia	Born Overseas English Speaking	Born Overseas Other language
Sport				Generic Facilities			
Tennis (social)	32	16	38	Museums/Art Galleries	38	41	49
Golf (social)	22	26	25	Libraries	75	83	84
Lawn Bowls	2.5	0.3	0	Park/formal garden	81	86	76
Netball	4.8	0.6	0.5	Playgrounds	61	59	65
Rugby/touch	2.7	0.8	0.1	Bushland	85	88	79
Soccer	8.5	2.0	1.3	Public swimming pool	49	45	62
Cricket	1.0	0.5	0.5	Outdoor sports field	59	50	62
Aerobics	29	27	34	Golf Courses	20	17	21
				Courts – Tennis	32	17	41
Outdoor Recreation				Courts – Netball/basketball	15	7	23
Picnic/barbecues	79	74	81	Indoor community centre	40	42	40
Visiting Parks and Gardens	88	88	94	Cycleway	39	38	33
Cycling	37	36	38	Waterway/foreshore	65	73	53
Bush walking	70	67	66				
Walking/walking the dog	77	75	68				
Jogging & Running	40	39	59				
Gardening	71	85	59				
Recreation							
Shopping for Pleasure	86	84	93				
Swimming	57	51	74				
Hobbies	65	72	77				
Dancing	27	21	27				
Photography/painting	66	45	45				

The responses illustrate the varying participation rates of the different ethnic groups.

Thus, the participation rates of people born in non-English speaking countries are significantly lower for many sports (rugby, soccer, netball, cricket, lawn bowls) and various other activities, including walking and gardening.

But for most other activities – including visiting parks, tennis, golf, picnicking, cycling, swimming, bushwalking and visiting libraries and museums - the participation rates of NESB people are average or higher than average.

Therefore, and perhaps surprisingly, for those born in non-English speaking countries, the results of the local survey only partly echo the national surveys and those conducted in other local areas.

The reasons for this apparent local variation in the participation rates of NESB people are not clear. It could, in part at least, be due to distortions caused by the relatively low survey response rate. That is, those NESB people that did respond may not be representative of the whole NESB community. The sample may, for example, be skewed towards those with higher than average leisure participation rates (perhaps longer-term residents and/or those of a higher socio-economic status).

The results – for NESB people – therefore need to be interpreted with caution. It is also noted that those born overseas in English speaking countries have lower than average participation rates – across most activities. This is more in accordance with the findings of the national surveys

The survey outcomes suggest that the implications, of ethnicity change, for use of Council's leisure facilities depends upon the mix of any increase in the overseas born population. Thus, the lower participation rates of people born in English speaking countries are likely to be offset, at least for some activities, by the higher participation rates of NESB people.

The survey outcomes also suggest that any increase in the overseas born population – particularly in the NESB component – is likely to increase the per capita demand for some activities (including golf and visits to parks and libraries) while reducing it for others (such as most team sports).

Participation trends – comparisons with **1991 survey** results

Due to differences in scope and methodology, the findings of the current survey are not directly comparable to the findings of the 1991 Recreation Needs Survey.¹³ However, some questions are sufficiently similar to enable the following observations of similarities/differences in the responses in the two surveys:

- Rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities and use of recreation facilities/settings appears to have remained fairly stable over the past ten years,
- Parks, bushland and sports grounds remain the preferred leisure settings for a majority of people.
- The level of unmet demand for leisure activities appears to have risen since 1991 (with 36% of respondents wishing to participate more – compared to 27% in 1991),
- Insufficient time, poor information and lack of appropriate facilities remain the key barriers to the desired additional recreation activity, and

¹³ The 1991 survey - in being mainly concerned with outdoor recreation and sport - had a substantially narrower scope than the current study. The survey methodology (sample population 12 years and over in 1991; 15 years and over in 2001) and range and phrasing of questions were also somewhat different

- Bushland management is still seen as the number one priority for Council expenditure (but high rankings were also achieved by 'libraries' and 'youth facilities/entertainment' – which were not included in the 1991 survey).

5.4. Organisations Survey

Survey forms (together with a covering letter explaining the purpose of the study and inviting participation via the survey and/or the preparation of submissions) were sent to more than 200 community, cultural, sport, recreation and education organisations within the Shire.

The overall response rate was a reasonably high 54% (146 of 270 forms distributed). The breakdown of responding organisations is summarised in the following schedule:

Organisation Type	Responses Received	
	No.	% of responses
sports and recreation	58	40
environmental	4	3
cultural	25	17
youth	8	5
seniors	12	8
progress/ratepayer	4	3
community development	8	5
schools	27	18
Total	146	100

The survey sought information on the size of organisations, trends in membership, their use of public recreation and community facilities, their opinions on the quality of these facilities, critical upgrading requirements, views on the need for additional facilities and ability to contribute to the upgrading/development of facilities.

Information was also sought on reasons (where relevant) for the non-use of public facilities.

A detailed table of survey results together with a list of respondent organisations is included at Attachment C. The following sections highlight the key findings.

Membership Trends

The 119 respondent sport, cultural and community organisations currently have a collective membership of around 41,000 persons. This had (according to the organisations' estimates) increased from around 35,000 members in the five years

since 1996. This was principally due to substantial growth in soccer, netball, cricket, basketball, tennis, little athletics, U3A, equestrian activities and junior AFL.

The overall growth in memberships was 18% over the five-year period- with growth for individual organisations ranging between minus 56% and plus 1,000%. Thirty six organisations (30%) experienced high growth (of 25% or more), forty two (35%) were stable or had modestly growing membership numbers and thirty-seven organisations (31%) reported declining membership numbers.

Declining memberships were experienced by scout and guide groups, lawn bowls clubs, various 'seniors' organisations (ie probus and view clubs and pensioners associations) and a diverse range of cultural activities (choirs, orchestras and craft groups).

Forty-nine organisations expect further growth in membership numbers. Forty expect numbers to stabilise around current levels, and eighteen expect (or hope that) declining numbers will be reversed as a result of membership drives and other initiatives. Nine organisations (including the Beecroft Bowling Club, West Epping Women's Bowling Club, Epping View Club, Scouts Australia – Yanagin District and the Northern District Motor Cycle Club) expect further declines in membership numbers.

The 27 respondent schools had combined enrolments of 11,600 students. The average annual growth rate between 1996-2001 for these was 1%. Despite this steady growth, four schools reported declines in enrolments (due to local demographic changes). Fourteen schools expected numbers to stabilise around current levels, five expected further growth and three expected further declines.

Use and Opinions on Facilities

Organisations were asked to rate the quality of the venues and facilities that they used. The 119 sport, recreation, community and 'progress' organisations that responded to the survey provided ratings for 219 facilities (comprising 139 different facilities).

The responses showed a reasonable level of satisfaction with existing facilities. Thus, 49% of facilities were rated as 'very good' or 'good' and only 14% were rated as 'poor' or 'very poor'. A further 32% of facilities were rated as 'average'.

The 'very poor' ratings were mainly received by sports ovals - including Pennant Hills No.2, Montview 3, Greenway Park toilets and Somerville and Asquith Ovals). Other poorly rated facilities included the Berowra Waters Boatshed and Berowra Community Hall.

Schools were considerably more satisfied with the quality of facilities. The 27 respondent schools nominated 70 facilities (comprising 42 different facilities) that they

collectively utilised. Of these 60% were rated as 'very good' or 'good' and only 13% were rated as 'poor' or 'very poor'. The remaining 27% were rated as 'average'.

Overall, 51% of ratings were 'good' or 'very good' (and 82% were at least 'average'). This suggests that while there is a relatively high degree of satisfaction with facilities used there is still scope for improvement.

The ratings provide a useful benchmark for monitoring the success of future programs to provide new and/or upgraded facilities in Hornsby and surrounding areas

Upgrading/Improvement Needs and Critical Requirements

The 146 respondent organisations identified a wide range of improvement and upgrading requirements at the venues they used. These are detailed, for each facility, at Appendix 4.

Of the 289 facilities collectively rated by respondent organisations, 89 (or 31%) were not considered to require any improvements or upgrades. The other 200 facilities attracted a total of 305 improvement suggestions (or an average of 1.5 suggestions per facility).

'Outdoor sports facilities' and 'community centres, halls and meeting places' accounted for the majority of improvement proposals (63% and 20%, respectively). The other proposals concerned 'swimming centres' (7%), 'parks and bushland' (6%), 'indoor sports facilities' (4%) and 'waterway facilities' (1%)- as summarized in Table 5.12.

Table 5.12: Leisure facility upgrading requirements – Hornsby Shire 2001

Upgrading/improvement requirement x type of facility	No. of citations
Outdoor sports fields and courts (151 cases)	
No upgrading requirements	39
Playing surface improvements	56
Upgrade amenities/change rooms/kiosks/club & umpire's rooms	27
New/improved sports facilities (cricket nets, rings, back nets, courts, run ups)	20
Provide/improve lighting/power	12
Shade/shelter	21
Car parking/access roads	8
Provide new amenities/change rooms/kiosks/club rooms/meeting space	7
Spectator facilities	10
Improved seasonal sharing/reinstatement	6
Storage	5
Landscaping/maintenance	9

Upgrading/improvement requirement x type of facility	No. of citations
Larger playing fields/ warm up areas	3
Fencing	4
Access to change facilities	3
Parks/bush land (33 cases)	
<i>Nil upgrading requirements</i>	19
Drainage/ground improvements	4
Car parking/access roads	3
Shade/shelter	3
More/upgraded toilets	2
Other (lighting, seating, fencing, pathways)	6
Indoor sports halls (7 cases)	
<i>No upgrading requirements</i>	0
Larger courts/ sports halls	4
Improved sports equipment (rings, back boards etc)	4
Provide/improve lighting/power	1
Upgrade amenities/change rooms	1
Provide new amenities/change rooms	1
General upgrade	1
Community and cultural centres/halls (73 cases)	
<i>No upgrading requirements</i>	25
Air conditioning/ventilation/heating	7
Larger rooms	6
Access/parking	6
Disabled access	4
Upgrade toilets	5
More/better furniture/equipment	6
Upgraded kitchens	4
External lighting	3
Complete refurbishment	3
Storage	3
Improved maintenance	2
Other	11
Swimming Pools (20 cases)	
<i>No upgrading requirements</i>	4
Pool/building/plant upgrade/maintenance	8
Shade/shelter	6
Activity specific equipment	2
Car park upgrade	2
Improved access to pool	2
Boat ramps/waterway facilities (5 cases)	
<i>No upgrading requirements</i>	2

Upgrading/improvement requirement x type of facility	No. of citations
Provide/upgrade toilets	1
Water pollution/quality	1
Provide club rooms	1
Ramp safety (conflict between sail and motor boats)	1

Table 5.12 clearly illustrates that most facility upgrading requests relate to outdoor sports facilities – particularly the improvement of playing surfaces, amenity/change facility upgrades and the provision of more/improved sports activity equipment. These three items, in fact, account for 34% of all facility improvement proposals.

While user groups are satisfied with many facilities, the suggestions reflect widespread concerns about the quality of facilities and highlight the perception in the community that many leisure resources need to be upgraded.

When asked to nominate the most critical improvement needs, most respondents reiterated most of the items listed in Table 5.12.

Additional Facility Needs

More than half the respondent organisations (71) did not nominate any leisure facility needs additional to the upgrading suggestions detailed above. The other 49 organisations provided a diverse range of additional facility requirements – as summarised in Table 5.13.

Table 5.13: Additional leisure facility needs – Hornsby Shire 2001

Facilities Needed	No. of proposals
More/ more suitable meeting spaces/club rooms	12
Indoor sports halls	8
Cultural centres/performance spaces	6
More sports fields (general x 3; soccer x 2; cricket x 1)	6
More facilities/furniture in parks (shaded seating, bike tracks, hoops etc)	4
Skateboard facilities	4
New indoor heated pool	4
Major event sports facilities	2
Equestrian/show ground facilities	2
Purpose built athletics facilities	2
More parks in particular locations	2
Facilities for dogs	2
Dedicated rugby/football fields	1
Fully equipped gym	1
Add training pool to existing Galston Pool	1

Table 5.13 illustrates the strong perceived need for additional indoor facilities – indoor sports halls, meeting places, club rooms and civic centres – with such facilities accounting for nearly 50% of proposals. Other notable items included additional sports fields (6), skate park facilities (4), heated indoor pools (4) and more furniture and/or equipment in parks.

When asked whether or not they could contribute to fundraising for the required facilities, 42% of the organisations that were seeking additional/upgraded facilities indicated that they could – mainly via the organising/undertaking of fundraising activities.

Conclusions on Organisations Survey

The survey of sport, recreation, cultural organisations, progress associations and schools has identified a wide range of issues. The survey findings have, in fact, highlighted the specific concerns of groups that play a significant role in the provision of leisure opportunities in the Shire.

While many of the organisations are relatively happy with the facilities they are currently using, the survey responses have highlighted concerns about the quality of some existing facilities - with nearly one in five venues being rated as either 'poor' or 'very poor' by users.

The responses also demonstrate that the demand for the upgrading and better servicing of existing facilities is generally keener than it is for the provision of completely new facilities. That said, the demand for some new facilities – particularly indoor sports halls, cultural centres, indoor meeting places and more sports fields – is quite strong.

5.5. Submissions

Organisations and interested members of the public were invited, via letter and/or press release, to prepare submissions on matters of relevance to the Leisure Strategic Plan. Five submissions were received – from the Marramarra Area Recreational Riders Alliance (MARRA), Hornsby Zone of Playgroups, NSW Badminton Association, Berowra Evening View Club and SK8 north.

MARRA

This submission represents the views of six Shire based equestrian organisations. It seeks additional equestrian facilities in the Shire on the basis of the following criteria:

- Regional justice (eg Baulkam Hills and Hornsby Shires have similar numbers of horses – but the former has five good facilities compared to the one inadequate facility in Hornsby)

- Activity justice (eg rural residents have access to a plentiful supply of outdoor field sport facilities - but not equestrian facilities)
- Gender equity (ie most existing facilities are male sport oriented but the provision of facilities for equestrian sports - which are female oriented – would partly redress the imbalance)
- Age equity – participants range in age from 4 to 70+ years
- Health and social benefits – horse riding provides young people with opportunities to develop personal and social skills (responsibility, teamwork, and leadership) and provides opportunities for healthy outdoor activity.

The submission also expressed concern that the study may be biased towards urban area sports.

Hornsby Zone Playgroups

The Hornsby Zone of Playgroups represents nine playgroups (which, together, conduct 30 sessions per week for about 380 local families). The groups' submission covers issues in regard to venues used and required and the quality of local play opportunities.

Collectively, the groups use nine community halls in the Shire. Most of these venues¹⁴ adequately meet the needs of their respective playgroup populations.

Needs are not, however, met adequately in the **Hornsby** CBD and surrounding areas (Planning Districts 3 and 9). Here there is a need for an adequate venue (the current facility - the City North Christian Church hall - has no outdoor space, inappropriate flooring and serious safety issues) and more sessions (currently only two).

The submission argues that due to the 'inadequacy of facilities in PD 319, only about 25% of the demand for playgroup spaces in this area is being met¹⁵. The **Hornsby Squealers** group has, accordingly, been seeking an alternative suitable **venue** but all possible venues in the CBD area have been ruled out on the basis of cost, size and/or availability.

The submission argues, therefore, for the provision of 'more facilities within the CBD area' and suggests, as a possible option, a multi-purpose building in an existing play ground area (eg park on corner of Albert and Walter Streets in Hornsby).

¹⁴ Asquith Sports Club Hall, Berowra Resource Centre, Cowan Hall, Anglican Church Hall (Burdett Street Hornsby), Hornsby Heights Community Centre, Mt Colah Community Centre, Mt Ku-ring-gai Community Centre and Hawkins Hall

¹⁵ PD 3/9 has a large child population (1,147 in 1996) but is served only by the **Hornsby Squealers** group's two weekly sessions (compared, for example, to PD 4 which has four venues and 12 weekly sessions but only 30% more children than PD 319).

The submission also identifies the need for additional play ground maintenance at some parks used by playgroups – particularly Willow Park, Hornsby (need for self-closing gates) and Lakes Park. Cherrybrook (removal/replacement of the old equipment and replenishment of softfall).

NSW Badminton Association

The submission argues that Hornsby (and Sydney in general) has a poor supply of indoor sports facilities - specifically those that are suitable for badminton.

While the Hornsby PCYC accommodates daytime social and schools badminton on most weekdays, there is an urgent need for an additional suitable facility 'for the development of elite players in the area' (for at least three nights/week).

Desirably, the facility would accommodate 12 badminton courts (in a space equivalent to 3-4 basketball courts). Such a facility would be suitable for local needs as well as inter state and national titles and 'veterans' and 'masters' games and tournaments.

The submission also expressed concern re perceived inequities in approaches to providing and operating indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Thus, the submission argued that 'councils and the State Government spend a greatly disproportionate amount of funds on providing and maintaining outdoor sports areas while at the same time there is an obvious lack of indoor facilities'.

In claiming that 'the cost of maintaining these outdoor areas is also unbelievably high while the same Government Departments insist that indoor sporting facilities should generate their own funds', the submission also expressed strong concern about the equity of facility funding.

The submission concludes that 'any assistance in building a large facility will be greatly appreciated'. With respect to this, the submission also notes that the Dartford Road Tip Site facility, as currently proposed, 'will not be suitable for badminton' (due to roof, ceiling and wall design details).

Berowra Evenina View Club

Following 'considerable discussions' amongst members, the Club identified a swimming pool as the major leisure need in Berowra – both for the benefit of Club members and 'everyone in our community'.

SK8 North

This submission argues for additional skate park facilities in the Shire. These are needed for the following reasons:

Long travel distances to existing facilities

- A dedicated skate park is preferable to skating in schools, car parks and shopping areas
- Provision of places for older children and young adults to meet and mix

Suggested locations for the facility are Mills Park, Rofe Park and the park opposite the Hornsby Police Station.

The facility should be enclosed and able to be locked at night. Ideally, it would be indoors with entry fees and 'proper supervision' – a place 'for kids to call their own'.

5.6. Sports/Recreation Stakeholder Group Meeting

A stakeholder workshop with representatives of 'sport' and recreation organisations was held on Tuesday 26th July 2001.¹⁶

Invitations were extended to 60 relevant organisations but representatives from only 18 of the organisations attended the workshops. (The invited and attendant organisations are detailed at Attachment D).

The purpose of the workshop was to outline the Leisure Strategic Plan process, to facilitate discussion of key relevant issues and needs and to discuss the potential benefits and options for establishing a 'sports council'.

Issues and Needs

The workshop included a 'brainstorm' session on facilities and services that were 'working well', that 'needed fixing' and that 'needed adding'. The outcomes of this session are summarised below:

What facilities and services are working well?

- Tennis Clubs – well managed and well supported by Council
- Good sports grounds in the Shire – including Storey Park (which was 'well looked after'), Waitara Oval (a 'wonderful facility' for cricket) and Berowra Oval (grounds were 'good and well organised')
- Cherrybrook Athletics Club has a good working relationship with Council
- Electric Model Aircraft Club (user of Fagan Park) – good relationship with Council

¹⁶ Comprehensive stakeholder consultations were undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the Social Plan 2000-2005, the Youth Services Strategic Plan (May 2000), the Library and Information Services Strategic Plan 2000-2003 and the Review of Senior Citizens Centres (November 2000). Due to the recentness of these consultations – and the relevance of their outcomes to the current study – it was not considered necessary to conduct additional stakeholder workshops for seniors, youth or cultural organisations.

- Excellent Council response to youth problems at Greenway Park

What facilities and services need *fixing/changing*?

- Swimming centres in need of upgrading - according to needs identified up to 10 years ago
- Some sports grounds need resurfacing/upgrading (including Pennant Hills Park soccer ground)

What facilities and services need to be added?

- A sports 'centre of excellence' required – to attract elite sport to the area – a community focal point a 'flagship' facility (as exists in regional centres such as Newcastle, Gosford, Wollongong)
- Equestrian facilities - discussion for many years – need for a plan of action – a facility for varying ages and activities
- Overwhelming need for indoor sport – including basketball – facilities
- Additional netball courts
- A synthetic athletics track (for more than 1,000 little athletes)

Sports Council

The workshop also discussed the need for and potential role of sports councils – including the purposes of councils, typical functions, different structural models, potential benefits and processes for establishing sports councils.

There was general agreement at the meeting about the potential benefits of a Shire based sports council – including the injection of sports body expertise into Council's decision-making processes. Perceived essential requirements included the need for all sports interests to be represented, acknowledgement of the different needs of rural and urban based groups, need for Council representation, need for regular evaluation of outcomes and mechanisms for maintaining volunteer enthusiasm.

The potential benefits of sports councils and possible courses of action are discussed further in the Stage 3 Report.

5.7. Focus Group Meetings

Focussed discussions of 1.5 hours duration were held with three groups of people at the Hornsby Youth Centre on 10th and 11th December 2001. All respondents lived

within the Shire – in both the newer and more established areas - and there was a mixture of different age and cultural groups.

Group participants were recruited at random by a market research recruiter. The groups were as follows:

- Group 1 – Young people aged 15 to 19 years
- Group 2 – Adults with at least one child aged between 2 and 12 years
- Group 3 – People born in a non-English speaking country

The following research questions were adopted for the groups:

- What do you do in your leisure time?
- Are you satisfied (happy) with these activities? Would you prefer to be doing other things? What?
- What stops you from doing the sorts of things that you want to do? (eg does anything need to be provided/changed to make your leisure time more enjoyable?).
- Do you spend leisure time within the Hornsby Shire area? If so, what do you do within the Shire?
- Do you spend leisure time outside the Shire? If so, where and what do you do there?
- Is Hornsby Shire a good place for leisure and recreation? Why?/Why not?
- How could Hornsby Shire be made a better place for leisure and recreation?

The focus group research provides understandings at two levels. For the whole community it provides an understanding of broad needs and requirements and, for the different age and ethnicity groups, it provides insights into particular needs, values and concerns.

The outcomes cannot, in quantitative terms, be generalised to the whole population. They are, however, indicative of the values, attitudes, perceptions and behaviours of a cross section of people living within the Shire, of relevance to the current study.

A detailed description of the study design and the outcomes is included at Attachment D. Key outcomes of the discussions are summarised in the following points:

- 'Many young people are not satisfied with their current range of leisure activities. Cost of activities, poor public transport, lack of appropriate facilities and inadequate information (about existing opportunities) are perceived as the major constraints.

- Those young people who are reasonably happy with their leisure time activities are generally involved in a greater range of activities – including structured indoor and outdoor sports activities.
- Young people generally feel that there are too few things to do in the Shire – particularly unstructured social and entertainment activities – and that the area can be boring.
- Most adults with children are fairly satisfied with the range and quality of leisure opportunities in the Shire. Notwithstanding this, they also believe that there is scope for improvements to facilities and activities – for children, young people and adults.
- Most of the participating NESB people are also generally happy with the range and quality of leisure opportunities in the Shire but also nominated a range of improvements – again for all age groups.
- The suggested improvements entailed the provision of more 'places to go' and 'things to do', extended and more frequent public transport services and, in some cases, improved maintenance of existing facilities.

Specific suggestions included the following:

Focus Group	Suggested Improvements
Young People, 15-19 years	More entertainment opportunities (Timezone or Lazerzone, youth nights, night spots for under 18's, open air cinema, later opening cafes, fun and computer game parlours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modern leisure pools • indoor sports centres ■ more adventure activity opportunities (rock climbing, go kart etc) • improved information on currently available opportunities • improved public transport to northern and more isolated parts of the Shire
Adults with children 2-12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heated indoor swimming pools ■ indoor sports facilities ■ bike facilities ■ more evening entertainment ■ more variety in playgrounds (to cater to a wider range of age groups) • more parking in the Hornsby CBD ■ lower parking fees at Westfield • improvements in park maintenance in some locations
NESB group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the establishment and promotion of more opportunities for families to do things together (including safer cycling opportunities and more diverse playgrounds) • indoor heated swimming pools ■ more local cultural events • more activities for teenagers • more multi-cultural festivals ■ better public transport • design for safety (night lighting etc) ■ more bush regeneration • policing of drug related issues within the Brooklyn and Dangar Island areas.

5.8. Consultations – Summary of Findings

The consultations identified a high level of participation in leisure activities and a high use of leisure related facilities.

The consultations also found that while many individuals and organisations are generally happy with the facilities and services that they use, many others have concerns about their quality. (In the Organisations' Survey, for example, user groups rated one in six venues as either 'poor' or 'very poor').

The consultations also found a strong demand both for the upgrading and better servicing of existing facilities **and** for the provision of completely new facilities – including indoor sports facilities, modern pool facilities, a performing arts venue, more walking and cycling opportunities, ovals, youth centres and community centres.

They also expressed keen support for a variety of 'support' services (particularly improved public transport and information about available opportunities – but also more car parking, floodlighting, better amenities, public toilets, street lighting, signage, shade and footpaths) which improve the accessibility and utility of sport, recreation and cultural facilities.

Disability access, high user fees and funding (and other) assistance from Council to community groups was also raised on several occasions.

Notable Council 'successes' in open space and leisure management were identified in the consultations – and included Fagan Park, sports grounds, the central library, bushland (and the natural environment in general) and the good maintenance of parks.

Altogether more than 500 concerns and issues – to do with facility upgrading, the need for new facilities and facility operations and management - were raised in the consultations. The concerns were spread across a range of program areas as illustrated in Table 5.14:

Table 5.14: Issues Raised in Consultations

Program Area	Type of Issue/Concern Raised (No.)			
	Facility Upgrade	New Facility	Facility Operations & Management	Total
Facilities				
Sports ovals/courts	198	20	8	226
Halls & meeting places	60	18	1	79
Parks & bushland	37	4	13	54
Aquatic facilities	23	14	2	39
Youth facilities	0	28	0	28

Program Area	Type of Issue/Concern Raised (No.)			
	Facility Upgrade	New Facility	Facility Operations & Management	Total
Indoor sports	12	14	0	26
Cinematertainment venues	0	9	0	9
Theatre/ performance space	0	8	0	8
River/foreshore	6	0	1	7
Cycleways	0	6	0	6
Equestrian facilities	0	6	0	6
Libraries	0	1	0	1
Activities & services				
Transport	28	0	0	28
Information	N/A	N/A	17	17
Youth entertainment	N/A	N/A	10	10
Total	364	128	52	544

Table 5.14 shows that three quarters of the issues raised concerned the upgrading and/or improved management of *existing* facilities. The other one-quarter concerned the need for wholly new facilities.

Table 5.14 also illustrates that nearly half the demands for new and/or upgraded facilities related to 'sport'.

The issues raised in the consultations are important: they highlight the specific concerns of groups that play a significant role in the provision of recreation opportunities in the community – as well as those of a cross section of the general community.

6. Demand Analysis - Conclusions

The demand analysis has entailed a review of broad leisure trends (Chapter 3), demographic changes (Chapter 4) and the specific leisure demands and needs of existing populations (Chapter 5).

With respect to broad trends, it was shown, that despite significant changes in the structure of households and communities and in social values, participation rates in many leisure activities have shown a remarkable continuity.

The participation rates for some individual sport and leisure activities are, however, changing. Over the past 10-15 years, for example, there has been some swing from structured team sports to individual fitness and social sport activities. Swimming has become more popular as attractive year round facilities have become more widely available. Basketball and skateboarding have grown in popularity amongst young people. Sports participation by young women has declined – possibly because of greater involvement in the workforce.

Changes will continue with further shifts in the size and (age and ethnic) structure of the population.

Thus, Hornsby's population is currently growing at over 1,500 people per annum. The age structure is changing rapidly and significantly – with an expectation of substantial growth in the 50+ age groups and only modest gains in some of the younger groups (particularly children 5-14 years and young adults 25-44 years).

An aging population, as detailed in section 4.5, is normally associated with a trend to lower participation rates across most away-from-home sport and leisure activities. There are exceptions to this, as was also noted above, including golf, lawn bowls, walking for pleasure, bush walking, reading, attending concerts and visiting museums.

Additionally, it is noted that Government programs (such as Active Australia and the Masters Games) and sporting organisations 'are increasingly encouraging older people to participate in sport and regular physical exercise. If these programs are successful, and if people over 50 years engage in recreation activities more than their predecessors did, then the use of Council's sport and physical recreation facilities may not decline significantly.

At the planning district level, the impact of future population growth and change on recreation facility requirements, depends upon where the growth occurs and how it relates to the existing and potential facilities in those districts. It also depends on the type of people who move into those districts – their age, family type and so on.

These broad demographic changes are occurring within the context of significant existing needs and demands for additional **and/or** upgraded leisure facilities and services. These include modern aquatic centres, community centres and meeting places, a central performance venue, youth facilities, additional sports ovals, indoor sports courts, equestrian facilities and bicycle trails - as documented in detail in Chapter 5.

The existing (and emerging) leisure demands and needs (as documented in Chapters 3-5) provide the necessary context for the assessment of leisure facilities (in Chapters 7-12, below) and also provide a major basis for identifying leisure service gaps (in Chapter 16).

7. Existing Leisure Facilities

7.1. Model of Leisure Facility and Service Provision

The delivery of leisure facilities and services in the Shire is undertaken by Council, other spheres of Government, the community and voluntary sectors and a range of commercial (for profit) providers. These stakeholders provide services both independently and in partnership with others.

Some State Government Departments (such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service) provide facilities and/or services directly while others (Department of Sport and Recreation, Aging and Disability Department) provide indirect assistance in the form of grants, subsidies and advisory services.

The Shire's community not-for-profit sector provides many facilities used for community leisure activities – including halls and meeting places, auditoria, indoor sports centres (PCYC, YMCA and various school halls), youth centres and a range of activities and programs for people with 'special' needs.

The commercial sector is also involved in community leisure – via the provision of learn to swim pools, commercial sports centres, shopping malls and various entertainment opportunities' (including cinemas, night spots and ten pin bowls).

7.2. Council's Role in Leisure Services

7.2.1. Scope

Council is the major provider of community leisure facilities and Services in the Shire – via its extensive portfolio of park and open space resources, aquatic centres, libraries and community centres (including senior citizens' and youth centres).

But Council's role in leisure services provision also extends beyond the facilities and services that it directly provides. Council also has a stake in the services and facilities provided by other agencies and organisations - to the extent that these are relevant to Council's broader concerns for leisure, cultural and community development.

These concerns are summarised in Table 7.1

Table 7.1: Council's overall concerns for leisure and community development

<p>1 Overall concern for the welfare of the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council is concerned to ensure that residents are adequately provided for in leisure services – as in other areas such as housing, roads, safety, waste management
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2. Concern for the economic well being of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Leisure and community services are providers of jobs and business incomes
3. Land-use planning responsibilities and powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council has a responsibility to ensure that all legitimate land-use demands are catered for, including leisure services
4. Ability to assist other providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Council can provide, or withhold, grants, access to land etc to other providers of leisure services
5. Provider of 'last resort'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given Council's overall concern as indicated in (1), it may be seen as the only possible provider of certain types of facility if no other organisation is willing or able

Due to these concerns and interests, Council uses its social and physical planning powers and responsibilities to maximise the availability of legitimate leisure opportunities within the Shire. It does this both through its own leisure programs (which in some cases are in partnership with others) and through facilitating or assisting the initiatives of a wide range of other providers.

7.2.2. Mission and Policy

Council's overall mission or intent is 'creating a living environment'. Council has determined to achieve this through:

- "engaging the community in the future of the Shire
- protecting the natural environment
- conserving resources
- facilitating increased social wellbeing
- aligning service provision to meet changing needs
- integrating land use and transport planning
- facilitating a diverse local economy
- achieving financial sustainability."

Within the context of this overall mission, Council's Management Plan 2001/2 – 2003/4 identifies desired outcomes, achievements and new initiatives for the delivery of a wide range of leisure related programs.

The new initiatives encompass direct service delivery roles – in the areas of bushland management, parks and sports grounds, swimming pools, youth services, senior services and libraries – as well as a range of planning, coordination, lobbying and advocacy roles.

For example, under the overall goal of 'facilitating increased social wellbeing', a desired outcome is the 'equitable provision of sporting, recreational and cultural facilities: This outcome is to be achieved via several new initiatives – including a

recreation and leisure strategy, plans of management, parks user surveys, skateboard strategy, sports council and the parks asset management system.

7.2.3. Leisure Facilities

Council's leisure provider role includes the provision and management of the following wide range of leisure facilities:

- **5,700** hectares of bushland
- **45** sportsground complexes (with 62 summer and 71 winter sport fields)
- **184** parks
- **78** tennis courts (at 19 centres)
- 3 aquatic centres
- 23 community centres/meeting rooms
- one youth centre
- five senior citizen's centres
- one central and four branch libraries
- one exhibition space

Council manages the day to day operations of some of these facilities– the parks and open space, the aquatic centres, the youth centre and the libraries. But many of the facilities – the tennis courts, the senior citizens' centres and most of the community centres - are operated on Council's behalf by management committees and/or other user groups.

7.2.4. Leisure Programs

A diversity of leisure, recreation, sport and cultural programs will normally be required to ensure high levels and effective use of open space and other leisure facilities. Potential programs encompass a wide spectrum and include social, cultural and entertainment activities, learning and skill development programs, special events, fitness and health activities, seasonal sporting competitions and tournaments and environmental interpretive programs.

In Hornsby, clubs and associations, non-profit community organisations, state government agencies (such as the Department of Sport and Recreation and the National Parks and Wildlife Service) commercial organisations and Council provide a range of leisure and recreation programs.

Issues to do with the provision of leisure programs by clubs and associations and other community organisations were, it is noted, canvassed in detail in the discussion of the organisations'survey outcomes (section 5.4 above).

It is arguable that Council's resources are more appropriately used in supporting and facilitating the leisure programming of other agencies than they are in directly providing programs. These other community agencies – the clubs, associations, non-profit organisations, schools and commercial interests – have the skills, experience and enthusiasms to run effective programs.

These organisations may, however, need support from Council in general and/or specific ways. The former could include the provision of transport and other infrastructure in particular areas. The latter could include access to land, development consents, small 'seeding' or operational grants and/or assistance with information and promotion activities, management, volunteer/leadership training and transport.

Through assisting and facilitating in the above (and other) ways, Council can leverage the large array of skills and enthusiasms in the community and generate more leisure activity than it could through direct programming.

There are situations, however, where other agencies are unable or unwilling to provide needed programs and many of these – including public library activities, some cultural events, 'non-institutional' youth programs and interpretive programs on council managed bushland open space – are normally provided by councils.

Leisure programs and *services* are at least as important as leisure facilities in the provision of a comprehensive and effective leisure *service*.

7.2.5. Expenditure

Council's operational and capital expenditures on leisure and recreation facilities (and services) reflect current priorities and relative levels of commitment to various components of leisure and recreation. Expenditures for the most recent financial year (2000/2001) are summarized in Table 7.2.

Table 7.2: 2000/2001 Net Expenditure – Leisure & Recreation Facilities and **Services**

ACTIVITY	Operational Expenditure (\$)			Capital Expend (\$)	Net Cost of Activity (\$)
	Expend	Income	Net Expend		
Aquatic Centres	2,341,000	1,973,000	173,000	80,000	323,000
Parks, landscape & bushland	6,886,000	1,160,000	5,726,000	2,550,000	8,276,000
Tennis courts	111,000	113,000	-2,000	9,000	7,000
Library & Information Services	3,721,000	565,000	3,156,000	462,000	3,618,000
Youth Services	248,000	107,000	141,000	0	141,000
Aged services	346,000	309,000	37,000	0	37,000
Community centres	751,000	183,000	568,000	288,000	856,000
Total	14,404,000	4,410,000	9,994,000	3,389,000	13,383,000

The total gross expenditure - \$17.79 million on operational and capital items - accounted for nearly 22% of Council's total expenditure in 2000/01 (of \$82.5 million).

The major expenditure item - accounting for 48% of recreation/leisure expenditure - was parks, landscape and bushland maintenance (mainly comprising grass mowing, rubbish removal, tree maintenance, cleaning and bushland regeneration).

Table 7.3 illustrates trends in Council's leisure related operational expenditure, over the past five years, in constant dollar terms¹⁷. Thus, operational expenditures for all leisure programs increased by 22% between 1996/97 and 2000/01 (from \$8.16 million to \$9.99 million).

Table 7.3: Net Operational Expenditure, Leisure Facilities & Services: 1996/97 to 2000/01

ACTIVITY	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01
Aquatic centres	256,664	87,326	297,933	114,718	368,000
Parks, landscape & bushland	4,951,853	5,164,401	4,627,748	5,545,751	5,726,000
Tennis courts	*	*		9,560	-2,000
Library Services	2,502,478	2,554,566	3,061,969	3,149,426	3,156,000
Youth Services	78,548	92,853	183,762	116,842	141,000
Aged Services	-67,920	29,846	38,057	6,373	37,000
Community Centres	438,100	374,729	558,896	446,124	568,000
Total	8,159,724	8,303,720	8,037,668	9,388,794	9,994,000
Not separately accounted for prior to establishment of tennis courts business unit in 1999					

On a per capita basis, however, the expenditure increases are not as great. The per capita operational expenditures increased a more modest 12% (from \$59.67 to \$67.07 per resident) in this period.

Table 7.4 shows the capital expenditure changes over the past five years - also in constant dollar terms. These have essentially remained the same in real terms over the period - except in 1998/99 when they were significantly higher due to the Pennant Hills Library, Galston Community Centre and Hastings Road (Cherrybrook) sports field developments.

¹⁷ In year 2001 dollar terms (actual expenditures adjusted according to change in Sydney CPI)

Table 7.4: Capital Expenditure (2001 dollar terms), Leisure Facilities: 1996197-2000101

ACTIVITY	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
Revenue					
Aquatic centres	252,239	375,834	25,009	134,900	80,000
Parks, landscape & bushland*	2,147,352	2,008,501	4,501,616	2,648,067	2,550,000
Tennis courts	7,744	0	0	4,249	9,000
Library Services	610,684	1,283,363	2,471,540	593,770	462,000
Youth Services	0	0	0	0	0
Aged Services	0	0	0	0	0
Community Centres	106,206	281,875	1,003,621	126,402	288,000
Total	3,124,226	3,949,573	8,001,786	3,507,387	3,389,000
* Includes S94 funds					

The five year capital expenditure (1996197 to 2000101) amounted to just over \$20 million – with the largest allocations being to 'parks landscape and bushland' (63%), and 'libraries' (25%) – as illustrated in Table 7.5.

Table 7.5: Total Capital Expenditure, Recreation Facilities: 1996197 to 200012001

ACTIVITY	Capital Expenditure 1996197 to 2000101	
	\$	%
Aquatic centres	798,000	3.9
Parks, landscape & bushland	12,941,000	63.3
Tennis courts	20,000	0.1
Library Services	5,007,000	24.5
Youth Services	0	0.0
Aged Services	0	0.0
Community Centres	1,681,000	8.2
Total	20,447,000	100.0

The 'parks, landscape and bushland' capital expenditure was allocated to park and sportsground improvement (about 30% each), land acquisition (20%), urban landscape (mainly CBD) improvements (10%) and bushland restoration (7%).

Key issues emerging from the review of Council's recurrent and capital budgets for open space and recreation facilities include the following:

- The high cost of basic facility maintenance – with parks and landscape maintenance (mainly comprising grass mowing and rubbish removal), for example, accounting for more than 30% of the total leisure operational and capital budget.

- Increase and decrease, respectively, in per capita leisure operational and capital budgets over the last five years.
- The overwhelming focus of the budget on facilities (as distinct from activities, programs, promotions, interpretation etc)
- Reasonable levels of income generated from facility utilisation (with sportsground income, for example, marginally higher than common benchmarks of 15% return on sports grounds).

7.2.6. Staffing

Parks and Open Space

The planning and management of open space and park facilities and services is the responsibility of the Parks and Landscape and Bushland & Biodiversity Management Branches of the Environment Division. The Parks and Landscape Branch has responsibility for the design, development and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, outdoor sports fields and civic areas. The Bushland & Biodiversity Management Branch has responsibility for bushland management and interpretation.

The current staff establishment in the Parks and Landscape Branch includes:

- Manager Parks and Landscape
Park Assets Team (Park Assets Provider, Park Assets Officer, Park Assets Liaison Officer, 2 Park Rangers)
- Tree Management Team (Co-ordinator, 3 Tree Management Officers)
- Landscape Design Team (Co-ordinator, 2 Landscape Architects)
- Park Maintenance Teams (Co-ordinator, Service Unit Officer, 43 field staff)
- Parks Technical Officer
- Parks Team Secretary

The current staff establishment in the Bushland & Biodiversity Management Branch includes:

- Bushland Manager
- Biodiversity team (Biodiversity Officer, Bushland Management Assessment officer, BVRP Team Co-ordinator (P/T))
- Bushland management team (Supervisor, Technical Field Officer, Nursery Officer (P/T), bushwalking guides)
- Bushland management Operations (Co-ordinator, Noxious Weeds Officer)
- Team Secretary (PIT)

Aquatic centres

Council's three aquatic centres are the responsibility of the Aquatic Centres business unit of the Business Activities Division. The current staff establishment includes the following positions:

- Aquatic Centres Manager
- Centre Supervision (3 centre supervisors; 2 weekend supervisors; ? multi skilled attendants)
- Lifeguarding (2 senior lifeguards; 37 casual pool attendants)
- Coaching (2 head coaches; 1 assistant coach; 5 casual coaches)
- Learn to swim (2 co-ordinators, 50 casual instructors)
- Creche (6 casual creche attendants)
- Programs (6 casual aquarobics instructors)

Community and Cultural Facilities

Leisure related community and cultural facilities– including community centres, youth and senior's centres, galleries and libraries – are the responsibility of the Community Services and Library and Information Services Branches of the Corporate and Community Division.

Staff positions within the Community Services Branch with leisure related responsibilities include the following

- Manager Community Services
- Community Development Officer– Aged Services
- Youth services team (Community Development Officer– Youth Services, Hornsby Youth Centre Co-ordinator, Youth Worker)
- Tourism/Recreation Co-ordinator
- Administrative Support Officer

The current staff establishment in the Library & Information Services Branch includes the following positions (listed as full time equivalents):

- Manager, Library & Information Services
- 17.5 librarians
- 12.8 library technicians
- 12.6 library assistants
- 1.06 clerical officers
- casual staff

7.3. Facilities/Services Assessment

The following sections (Chapters 8-15) review the Shire's existing leisure facilities and services. Specifically, they identify the quantity, distribution, quality, management and use of the different types of leisure facility– including parks and open space, aquatic facilities, indoor sports centres, halls and community centres, libraries and cultural centres.

Facilities provided both by Council and other agencies are included in the assessment.

Where Council provides leisure programs in conjunction with the management of these facilities, these are also discussed.

8. Facilities Assessment – Open Space

8.1. Introduction

This chapter reviews the Shire's existing supply of open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities. Specifically, it identifies the quantity, distribution, quality and use of the different types of open space provided both by Council and other agencies.

8.2. Hornsby Shire's Open Space System

Open space systems provide for a range of functions – leisure and recreation, conservation and preservation, landscape amenity, environmental education and appreciation, drainage, and screening/buffering. The focus of this study is, however, on the leisure function.

Ideally, an open space system in any area will provide sufficient quality space for a wide diversity of leisure experiences. To effectively provide for quality leisure experiences, there must be a sufficient quantity of open space and it must be accessible (ie appropriately located) and suitable to the needs of potential users.

According to Council's Open Space Asset Register, Council-managed open space comprises around 6,000 hectares – as illustrated in Table 8.1:

Table 8.1: Open Space Areas Managed by **Hornsby** Council

Park Type	No. of Parks*	Area (Ha)
Natural area	185	**5,700.00
Park	184	182.84
Sports ground	43	107.30
Sports ground (private)	1	1.09
General community use	68	34.81
Ancillary ('undeveloped' park/nature strip)	177	11.93
Town Park	1	0.07
Total		6,038.40
May be a proportion of park – ie. where there is more than one classification type within the boundaries of a park ** This includes the 3,880 ha Berowra Valley Bushland Park. The other 1,820 ha is an estimate based on currently available information. It may be varied as records in Council's GIS data base are reviewed and validated		

These categories vary slightly from those prescribed in the Local Government Act 1919 (as amended 1998), viz:

- Sports ground
- Park
- General community use
- Culturally significant area
- Natural Area (bushland, escarpment, wetland, watercourse, foreshore)

Council is currently in the process of amending its community land plans of management and - as part of this process - is reclassifying open space according to the categories prescribed in the amended Local Government Act.

Table 8.1 shows that the majority (95%) of Council managed open space is 'bushland'. The next major category is 'parks' (2.8%) followed by 'sports grounds' (1.8%) and 'general community use' (0.6%).

The per head supply of these different types of open space is illustrated in Table 8.2:

Table 8.2: Per Capita Provision of Open Space Areas, **Hornsby**

Open Space Type	Total Hectares	Ha/000 Existing Pop*	Ha/000 2011 Pop**
Developed Open Space			
Parks & gardens	182.8	1.24	1.12
Sports ground***	107.4	0.73	0.66
Sub-total	290.2	1.97	1.78
Undeveloped Open Space			
Bushland	5,700.0	38.65	34.97
Ancillary	11.9	0.08	0.07
Sub-total	5,711.9	38.73	35.04
		0.00	-
TOTAL	6002.10	40.69	36.82
Estimated 2000 population of 147,495			
** Estimated 2011 population of 163,000			
*** Includes 3,884 hectares of school sports grounds – maintained by Council			

8.3. Parks & Gardens

8.3.1. Quantity

As illustrated in Table 8.2, there is an existing provision of 1.124 hectares of parks & gardens per 1,000 people within the Shire and without additional acquisitions, this is expected to decline to around 1.12 hectares per thousand people by the year 2011.

There is a wide range in the scale and attributes of parks. They range from very small parks servicing immediate localities to larger neighbourhood parks through to large district parks catering to a group of neighbourhoods.

Local parks include the small local reserves that provide for people within immediately adjacent areas - probably within 300 metres walking distance - and the larger neighbourhood parks that may attract users from surrounding suburbs/areas (but still usually within walking or cycling distance).

The small reserves (such as Janet Avenue Park in Thornleigh) provide short-term play and rest opportunities and landscape features, primarily for local residents). The larger parks (such as Ray Park in Carlingford) may comprise more comprehensive play equipment, significant landscape features (views, vegetation) and/or linkages with other open space.

District parks comprise larger reserves which may include picnic/socialising facilities, toilets, walking opportunities, public art, heritage items and sophisticated 'play equipment (larger playgrounds, skateboard facilities, basketball rings etc). They provide for groups of suburbs/towns and perhaps whole municipalities.' Access for most users is by car or public transport. Greenway Park (Cherrybrook) and Fagan Park (Galston) are examples of this type of open space.

The relative quantity of local and district parks in each planning district - in terms of both hectares and, numbers of parks - is illustrated in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3: District Distribution of Local & District Parks

District	Pop*	Parks/1000	Ha/1000	No.	Ha
PD 1	29,972	1.30	0.98	39	29.3
PD 2	26,845	1.38	0.63	37	17.0
PD 3 & 9	18,823	1.12	0.83	21	15.6
PD 4	19,071	1.47	1.27	28	24.3
PD 5	8,678	1.04	0.36	9	3.1
PD 6	9,393	0.96	6.93	9	65.1
PD 7	915	8.74	15.63	8	14.3
PD 8	22,695	1.45	0.63	33	14.3
TOTAL	136,746	1.35	1.34	184	183.0
* 1996 Census					

There is 183 hectares of local and district park open space in the Shire and, as illustrated in Table 8.3, this open space is distributed very unevenly throughout the Shire.

The average is 1.34 hectares/1000, but in different districts the amount ranges from 0.36 hectares (in the **Berowra-Cowan** area) to over 15 hectares (in the **Brooklyn-Dangar Island** area).

The apparent generous per capita provision of parkland in planning district 6 is mainly due to the location within this district of three of the Shire's major parks (**Fagan Park**, **Wiseman's Ferry Recreation Area** and **Galston Recreation Reserve** – the first two of which are arguably of regional significance). Leaving aside these, the district has only an average provision of parkland.

Similarly, in planning district 7, the high per capita provision is largely a consequence of the district's small population and the location, within the district, of large regionally significant foreshore reserves (**McKell** and **Brooklyn Parks**).

Nevertheless, there is an unequal distribution of parkland open space within the Shire and opportunities to reconfigure the open space network more equitably should be pursued. In particular, there is a need to address the relatively low quantities of parkland in planning districts 5, 2 and 8.

8.3.2. Quality & Recreation Value of Parks & Gardens

Parks have different purposes and levels of 'significance' and variously cater to local, district or regional 'catchment' populations. There are no standard quality and recreation value criteria for assessing parks. These vary with the different scales and functions of parks.

At the 'local' level, parks should provide both for passive pursuits (sitting, quiet contemplation, strolling and socialising) as well as the active, informal pursuits of children/families (such as ball games, kite flying, children's games and use of play equipment).

At the 'district' level, parks should provide for the large-scale recreation activities that cannot be accommodated in local parks. Desirably, they will comprise a range of developed and semi-natural parks with sufficient size to accommodate a variety of informal uses – large social gatherings, picnicking, play, walking, cycling – while protecting and enhancing natural features, ecologically sensitive areas, cultural heritage and/or visually significant areas.

Most local and district level open space is provided for recreation and/or sporting purposes (although some sites have a principal purpose of protecting environmental and/or heritage values).

To be suitable, recreational open space must meet the recreational needs of potential users. To do this, it must be acquired, designed and developed in accordance with these needs. This may seem obvious, but a large amount of 'unusable' land continues to be dedicated as open space in subdivision developments.

The recreational value and suitability of open space is a measure of the extent to which parks meet the recreational needs of potential users.

The critical issues regarding the suitability of open space include the size and shape of parks and reserves, linkage potential, their terrain, location, relationship to surrounding land uses and the presence/absence of attractive natural features **and/or** design details.

Park size, for example, has been found (in many park visitor studies¹⁸) to be a major determinant of park use. Thus open space areas of less than 0.5 hectares generally have very low visitation levels – mainly because they are too small to accommodate a range of activities.

To accommodate both quiet, contemplative activities as well as children's play (including 'kick-about' opportunities), a park will generally need to be a minimum of 0.4 hectares.

The shape of reserves is also an important determinant of use. Linear reserves facilitate walking and cycling activities – particularly where they are long **and/or** safely connect to other open space areas, schools, shops and other facilities. Such reserves also have the advantage of maximising the number of residences within a 500 metre walking distance.

Linear reserves, however, may be too narrow for either quiet **socialising** or active play. Desirably, therefore, there needs to be a combination of linear, connective spaces and a series of wider, more regularly shaped parks about one kilometre apart and connected to local residences by safe pathway systems.

Terrain is also an important determinant of use. Slope, aspect and the presence/absence of vistas will all impact the type and levels of use. Parks need to have large areas that are relatively flat but they also need to be visually interesting. Changes in level, vegetation, the preservation of vistas and other landscape features will assist in this.

In many local government areas, unsuitable terrain is a common constraint to recreation activities in local open space. In the past, steep, rocky **and/or** flood-prone areas were often dedicated as open space in subdivisions. These sites may provide useful screening or buffering functions but they are generally not suitable for recreation activities.

Location is also important. Visitor studies have shown that users of local parks will normally travel a maximum of 5 minutes or 500 metres walking distance to a park and that most, in fact, will travel less than this.

¹⁸ Commonwealth Bureau Of Roads 1975, *Small Open Spaces in Urban Areas*; MMBW 1983, *Melbourne Parks, A Survey of the Use of Selected Sites*; Just D in *Australian Parks and Recreation Winter 1989*. *Appropriate Amounts and Design of Open Space*.

This was confirmed in one study of over 1,000 small local parks in Sydney and Melbourne¹⁹. The study found that park users who had travelled up to 100 metres to use the parks were more numerous than those who had travelled between 100-500 metres – even though the catchment population of the 100-500 metre zone was 25 times larger than that in the 0-100 metre zone.

The results of this and other studies suggest that, at a minimum, all residences should be at least within 500 metres of appropriately sized and developed local parks.

In determining these 500 metre travel zones, impediments to travel such as creeks, busy roads and railway lines need to be taken into consideration.

Travel distance is not so critical for district level parklands and sports grounds as these facilities are mainly accessed by motor vehicle (although pedestrian/bicycle access is still important for local residents). It is more important that these facilities be centrally located (according to opportunity and site suitability) with good traffic access and adequate parking.

Surrounding land uses are also a critical factor in the suitability of parks. Busy roads, for example can be a hazard for children chasing balls and for children who have to cross them to gain access to the park. Parks completely surrounded by private residences are 'invisible' except to those who back on to them. Parks adjacent to industrial areas or railway lines may be perceived as unattractive, unless adequately screened.

Finally, the presence/absence of appealing natural features, designed landscapes (including lawn and paved areas, gardens and furniture) and/or attractive play equipment are major determinants of use. Park visitor studies have generally found that parks without key features (such as high quality playgrounds, water features or significant landscapes) tend to be poorly used.

In fact, it is parks that combine a variety of features and uses – contact with nature, pleasant social settings, children's play, cultural interest, varied topography – that are most valued and most used.

Ideally, then, parks will provide somewhere to sit in comfort, areas for socialising, places for children to play safely (and big enough to 'burn off energy') and some contact with the natural world.

¹⁹ Commonwealth Bureau Of Roads 1975, *Small Open Spaces in Urban Areas*

8.3.3. Quality Assessment of the Shire's Parks & Gardens

Park Size

The Shire's 184 parks range in size from 225m² to over 40 hectares (Fagan Park) with an average size of 0.9937 hectares²⁰.

Park size is an important indicator of a park's recreation value – of its capacity to provide diverse and high quality neighbourhood and district level recreation opportunities. As indicated above, a park will generally need to be a minimum of 0.3-0.4 hectares to accommodate this diversity of opportunity (including quiet, contemplative activities, children's play and 'kick-about' areas).

With respect to this, it is noted that 43 (or 23%) of the Shire's parks are of 'district' or higher significance - with an average size of 2.81 hectares - and 141 (77%) are of local or neighbourhood significance with an average size of 0.44 hectares.

It is also noted that 71 (or 50%) of the local parks are smaller than 0.3 hectares. It is arguable that these parks are generally not capable of adequately meeting the 'walk to' recreation needs of residential neighbourhoods.

This is not to deny the attractiveness and value of many smaller parks. Some of these small parks (such as Norman Avenue Reserve in Thornleigh) are attractive (with playgrounds and other minor embellishments) and are well used. They do not, however, facilitate the diversity mentioned above.

Recreation facilities

The diversity and condition of recreation facilities within parks are important indicators of a park system's overall quality.

Facilities within Hornsby Shire's park system include around 130 children's playgrounds, one skateboard facility, basketball rings and various barbecue facilities.

With respect to playground quality, Council's playground consultants (Playfix) undertook a comprehensive audit of relevant facilities in 1999/2000. A key finding was the non-compliance of many playgrounds with Australian Standards – with Council subsequently resolving to remove 4 playgrounds, replace 14 and modify 8 others.

These works were undertaken in 2000-2001 – as a first stage in the implementation of a new Asset Management System (discussed further below). Further upgrading

²⁰ Many of these parkland areas are components of larger open space parcels which also incorporate bush land and/or sports grounds (eg the 23.1 hectare Pennant Hills Park comprises 0.5 ha park, 5.3 ha sports ground and 17.3 ha bush land)

works are being undertaken this financial year with other priorities included in a draft four-year improvement program (to 2004/15).

There are currently two skateparks in the Shire – at Cherrybrook and Brooklyn – and these have been a great success. Council has also attempted to locate a facility within Pennant Hills Park but this was abandoned due to the level of local opposition to the proposal.

Additional skate facilities are required – and this is discussed in detail in chapter 12 (Youth Facilities and Services). The design of these facilities should be undertaken in consultation with young people to ensure maximum usability. As well, support facilities (such as shade and seating) should be provided at skateparks so they can more adequately function as intended - as gathering and meeting places for young people.

Quality Audit

Council officers undertook a quality audit of the Shire's parks in 1997 in conjunction with the development of the Open Space Plan.

The purpose of the audit was to determine the recreation value - in terms of attractiveness, usability and accessibility - of the Shire's open space. Low quality parks were identified within each planning district - as the first stage in a process of formulating priorities for the upgrading/rationalising of the Shire's open space resources.

The outcomes of this assessment for parks and gardens – within each planning district – are summarised in Table 8.4

Table 8.4: Open Space Quality Assessment

District	Quality Assessment
PD 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Open space areas are unevenly dispersed across the district – with the best provision in the south-east ● Small parks generally had a low quality ranking – particularly in the south and north areas of the district ● High quality spaces included West Epping Park ● Medium quality spaces included Beecroft village Green and Roselea Park
PD 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The distribution of space is irregular -with central, NE & SW areas 'largely served by smaller low quality parks' ● The district has 7 high quality parks (including regionally significant Pennant Hills Park) & 5 high quality natural areas ■ Small parks are generally low in quality
PD 3 & 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Distribution is uneven – with western areas well served and eastern areas 'sparsely covered' ■ High quality parks include James Park, Hornsby Park, Reddy Park, Lisgar Gardens and Storey Park

PD 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of small parks is uneven – with most in the western side of the district – and most are low quality • The majority of high quality space is sportsground
PD 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most small parks are low in quality • The district has four high quality parks (two of which are mixed park/bush/ sports areas)
PD 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of space is uneven – with concentration in the more populated south • The district has two high quality parkland areas - Fagan Park and Galston Park
PD 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space is evenly distributed – but most was rated low in quality ■ The exceptions were McKell Park and a mixed park/bush/sports space (Brooklyn Oval)
PD 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small parks were generally rated low in quality • Six areas of high quality open space include Greenway Park and the Lakes of Cherrybrook

Further quality assessments - including a parks buildings audit, a playground condition audit and an audit of park furniture and general infrastructure- have been undertaken since 1997 in conjunction with the development of Council's GIS-based parks assets register.

All these assessments have been used as inputs into subsequent park improvement programs. Up to the year 2000. these programs included \$60,000 per year for playground upgrading and around \$1.5 million per year for S94 projects (the majority of which was used for new projects rather than the upgrading of existing assets).

In the 2000-2001 financial year, Council commenced implementation of an Asset Management System and, as a component of this, allocated an additional \$250,000 to playground upgrading (in accordance with the year 2000 playground audit) as well as additional funds for sportsground and **bushland** upgrading (as detailed in the following sections).

Overall, \$6.67 million has been allocated to 37 projects over the five-year period (with another \$240,000 allocated to various playground improvement'projects). Twenty-three of these projects – costing \$2.96 million or 44% of the total expenditure – involved the upgrading of existing facilities. The other 14 projects (costing \$3.7 million) involved the design **and/or** establishment of new parks in new residential areas – mainly in Cherrybrook.

Details on these projects are summarised in Table 8.5.

Table 8.5: Park Improvement Works, 1997 to 2001

District	Improvement Details	Cost (\$)
PD 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local park acquisition and development (Essex St. Epping) 308,000 • Fearnly Park (Beecroft) upgrade 150,000 • Forest Park (tipping) upgrade 40,000 • Bingara Road (Beecroft) playground upgrade 25,000 ■ Bullawai Place (Beecroft) playground upgrade 7,000 • Robin Street (Carlingford) playground upgrade 30,000 ■ Tripoli Park (Carlingford) playground upgrade 6,000 • Somerville Oval (Eastwood) playground upgrade 700 	
PD 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wollundry Park development (P Hills) 165,000 • New farm Rd Reserve (W P Hills) 13,000 ■ Eucalyptus Drive (Westleigh) – reserve design 15,000 • Davidson Park (Normanhurst) playground upgrade 35,000 • Femdale Avenue (Normanhurst) playground upgrade 15,000 • Norman Avenue (Normanhurst) playground upgrade 20,000 	
PD 3 & 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hornsby Park embellishments 440,000 • Edgeworth David House/Open Space 1,085,000 • Reddy Park (Hornsby) playground upgrade 35,000 	
PD 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrens playground (Montview Parade. H Heights) 60,000 • Waninga Road (H Heights) playground upgrade 25,000 • Local park development (Lessing St. Asquith) 130,000 	
PD 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarrabin Park (Berowra) 14,000 • Turner Road reserve (design) 185,000 • Yeramba Cres Reserve 2,000 	
PD 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fagan Park improvements 195,000 ■ Cairnes Road (Glenorie) playground upgrade 30,000 	
PD 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ McKell Park (Brooklyn) 420,000 • Baroona Street (Dangar id) playground upgrade 30,000 	
PD 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local park development (Robert Rd. Cherrybrook) 30,000 ■ Local park development (Doulton Rd. Cherrybrook) 20,000 • Local park development (Tahlee Rd. Cherrybrook) 150,000 • Local park development (David Rd. Cherrybrook) 350,000 • Local park development (Sebastien Drive, Cherrybrook) 320,000 • Local park development (Darlington Drive. Cherrybrook) 807,000 • Local park development (Treetops Drive, Cherrybrook) 130,000 • Local park development (Franklin Road. Cherrybrook) 10,000 • Hastings Road Park (Cherrybrook) 1,337,000 • Myson Drive (Cherrybrook) playground upgrade 35,000 	
Shire wide	■ Playground upgrading (\$60,000 per annum = to 1999/2000)	240,000
TOTAL		6,909,700

The upgrading program has been ramped up further in the 2001-2002 financial year - with the allocation of another \$283,000 to 13 playground upgrading projects.

Notwithstanding the demonstrable value of the various upgrading projects, most of the quality issues identified in the 1997 open space audit still need to be addressed. Council recognises this and is seeking to develop a long term and *sustainable* basis to the Asset Management System – including the sourcing of funds to clear the backlog of essential upgrading works.

8.3.4. Distribution Equity Assessment of the Shire's Parks & Gardens

To further test access and equity issues with respect to the provision and distribution of open space at the district level, the proportion of population within reasonable proximity of adequately sized (ie. minimum 0.3 hectares) local and district parks was estimated for each planning district.

Areas served and not served by local open space were assessed according to the percent of households within 500-metre travel distance of parks. Both local and district level parks were included because, although district parks attract users from beyond the 500-metre catchment zone, they serve as 'local' open space for those who live near them.

Utilising Council's GIS software and property registers, 500 metre travel distance buffer zones were constructed around each relevant park. The percentage of residences (both separate and multi dwelling) falling within and outside the buffer zones were then calculated for each district. The results are illustrated in Table 8.6:

Table 8.6: Urban Park 'Catchment' Zones, Hornsby, 2000

Suburb	Residential Properties within Planning District	Residential Properties within 500 Metres	% properties within park service zones
PD 1	10,549	9,377	88.9
PD 2	8,956	6,769	75.6
PD 3 & 9	4,978	4,173	83.8
PD 4	7,185	5,068	70.5
PD 5	4,404	2,829	64.2
PD 6 & 7	3,796	758	20.0
PD 8	7,362	5,406	73.4
TOTAL	47,230	34,380	72.8

Table 8.6 indicates that nearly 73% of residential properties within the Shire are within reasonable walking distance of at least one park. The table also illustrates substantial variation in the extent of this between districts– with a range from 20% in the rural districts (PD's 6 & 7) to 89% in PD 1.

[Catchment analysis of this type, however, is not particularly relevant for rural areas. Due to demand 'thresholds' and the small, dispersed nature of rural populations, rural people, of necessity, have to travel further for most recreation opportunities.]

Leaving aside the rural populations, the results are more positive– with 77% of 'urban area' residents overall and over 80% in some areas (PD's 1, 3 & 9) within reasonable walking distance of a park at least 3,000m².

It is also noted that the above percentages are likely to exaggerate the real levels of service. This is because access barriers to specific parks (such as steep inclines, busy roads and creeks) have not been included in the analysis and because many of the parks are quite small and modest in their current level of development. Some of these are unlikely, at present, to attract users from a distance of more than 100-200 metres.

At the very least, 27% of residences within urban areas are poorly served by accessible local open space. For the reasons given, the 'real' figure is likely to be considerably higher than this. Access to suitable open space is a particularly serious issue for residents in PD's 5 and 6 – which, respectively, have a minimum of 35% and 80% of residences without reasonable proximity to local open space.

The relatively high proportion of households located outside park service zones (together with the large proportion within close proximity only to small parks or parks requiring further development) is a significant equity issue and should be addressed in detail in the community land management planning process.

8.3.5. Current Use of Local & District Parks

Information on levels and types of open space use is a critical management tool. It provides key indicators of whether or not current open space provisions are appropriate and sufficient and it also provides an essential input into the management planning of particular sites – particularly for 'high use' areas.

Unfortunately, Council does not have a 'visitor use monitoring program' for its parks and the conduct of such a program is outside the scope of the current study. Additionally, visitor monitoring was not a component of the previous open space and recreation studies undertaken in recent years.

An appropriate 'visitor use monitoring program' for Council's local and district parks (and other non-sporting open space) would entail a combination of observation and/or visitor surveys at a cross section of parks. Such surveys could identify information on the number and type of park users, activities undertaken, park settings used, visitor opinions on park attributes and the 'catchment area' of specific parks.

In lieu of the availability of such information, levels of use can only be surmised from preliminary observations and anecdotal evidence.

8.4. Outdoor Public Sports Facilities

8.4.1. Quantity

As illustrated above in Table 8.2, there is an existing provision of 107.4 hectares of sports ground open space in the Shire (not including 'private' sports facilities – lawn bowls and golf courses – and publicly accessible sports facilities within schools other than those maintained by Council).

The distribution of this space is illustrated in Table 8.7. The information is taken from Council's Asset Register.

Table 8.7: District Distribution of Sports Reserves

Planning District	Sports Reserves		Pop	Sports Reserves/1000	Ha/1000
	Total Ha	No.			
PD 1	21.5	9	29,972	0.30	0.72
PD 2	24.9	8	26,845	0.30	0.93
PD 3 & 9	6.4	3	18,823	0.16	0.34
PD 4	19.9	8	19,071	0.42	1.04
PD 5	10.3	4	8,678	0.46	1.19
PD 6	12.5	5	9,393	0.53	1.33
PD 7	1.1	1	915	1.09	1.20
PD 8	10.8	5	22,695	0.22	0.48
TOTAL	107.4	43	136,392	0.32	0.79

Table 8.7 indicates that the quantity of 'outdoor sports reserve' in the Shire is just over 107 hectares – or 0.79 hectares per thousand people (using 1996 census population figures).

The table also illustrates the uneven distribution of this open space throughout the Shire. The average is 0.79 hectares/1000, but in different districts the amount of open space ranges from 0.48 hectares (in Cherybrook/Castle Hill) to well over 1.00 hectare (in the northern and rural areas - Planning Districts 5, 6 and 7).

The *overall* supply of sports specific open space in Hornsby is low compared to the amounts specified in various planning guidelines – with the most widely used of these guidelines ranging between 1.21 and 1.80 hectares per thousand people²¹.

²¹ The standard of 2.83 hectares/1000 people, traditionally used in NSW, comprises 'active' and 'passive' components. The recommended 'active' (ie sports facilities) component is 1.21 hectares/1000. The Victorian Ministry for Planning and Environment's widely used guideline (Planning Guide for Urban Open Space, 1989) specified 'approximately 1.5 hectares per 1000 people for various outdoor sports (excluding golf courses and race-courses). The National Capital Development Commission's Urban Open Space Guidelines (1981) specified 1.8 hectares/1000 for 'playing fields' (but not including 'demand space' ie tennis courts, swimming pools, bowling/croquet greens and golf courses).

Notwithstanding the comments made above about planning standards, such standards are particularly useful with respect to sports open space. This is due to the more uniform participation rates experienced in sporting activities (compared to informal pursuits) and the ability to identify participant numbers fairly precisely.

Specific facilities within Council's sports ground open space comprise a range of summer and winter season field and court facilities. The quantity of these facilities (and the quantity of 'private' sports facilities) and their distribution between planning districts is illustrated in Table 8.8:

Table 8.8: Hornsby Shire Sports Facilities x Planning District

Facility	Planning District							
	PD1	PD2	PD3 & 9	PD4	PD5 & 7	PD6	PD8	Total
Outdoor Sports Fields & courts								
Soccer fields	6	6	1	8	2	3	2	28
Mini Soccer fields	5	2	0	9	3	3	2	24
Rugby League	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	8
Rugby Union	2.5	2	1	0	0	1	0	6.5
AFL	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
Hockey	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Baseball diamonds (sen)	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	6
Softball (diamonds)	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	6
Cricket fields	11	7	3	9	5	4	4	43
Athletics	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Tennis courts	18	20	5	13	8	9	5	78
Netball courts	2	19	2	2	3	2	2	32
Archery range	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Table 8.8 illustrates the large number and wide variety of 'structured' sports facilities within the Shire: It also indicates the relatively unequal distribution of facilities– with the number of playing fields, for example, ranging from 0.2 per thousand residents (in planning districts 3/9 and 8 to 0.8/1,000 in the rural and northern precincts (PD's 5, 6 and 7).

The above analysis suggests that opportunities to enhance the *quantity* of sports grounds may need to be pursued more urgently in some parts of the Shire than in

others (but only to the extent justified by the demonstrated need for facilities and the capacity and use of existing facilities).

8.4.2. Quality Issues – Outdoor Sports Facilities

The open space quality audit component of the 1997 Open Space *Plan* concluded that sports grounds were, with some exceptions, 'generally high in quality'..

This finding has been reflected in the high levels of community satisfaction with the quality of Council's outdoor sports facilities – as demonstrated in, the community survey component of the current study and the Community Attitude Surveys conducted annually by Council in recent years.

Notwithstanding these high levels of 'general community' satisfaction, various refurbishment and/or upgrading requirements have also been identified – in the consultations undertaken in conjunction with development of the 1996 Sports Grounds Generic Plan of Management, the 1997 Open Space Plan and the current study.

In the main, specific sports clubs and associations and schools have articulated these upgrading requirements.

The 1996 Sports Grounds Plan of Management identified a range of generic sports ground upgrading projects – including additional irrigation systems, floodlighting, drainage works, car park improvements, fencing, signage, spectator facilities, shade and building maintenance.

More recently, specific upgrading projects have been identified in conjunction with the Asset Management Program. The current list of backlog works comprises more than 100 projects with a total estimated cost of \$3.5 million.

Specific upgrading projects are included in Council's annual works program according to priorities and funding availability. Before the 2000-2001 financial year, sports specific projects were financed solely from Council's S94 funds. In 2000-2001, with the initial implementation of Council's Asset Management Program, S94 funds were supplemented with an additional \$250,000 from surplus funds.

Sportsground projects completed since 1996 include the following:

Sportsground	Upgrading Project	Program*	Cost \$
1996/97			
Brooklyn Oval		S94	125,000
Story Park	Amenities	S94	1,000
Greenway Park	Tennis courts, floodlights	S94	77,000
Berry Park		S94	340,000

Sportsground	Upgrading Project	Program ¹	Cost \$
1997/98			
Brooklyn Oval		S94	125,000
Greenway Park		S94	206,000
Berry Park		S94	385,000
Dural Park	Amenities/car park	S94	340,000
Galston Rec Reserve		S94	170,000
1998/99			
Dural Park	Amenities and landscaping	S94	450,000
Epping Oval		S94	130,000
Galston Rec Reserve		S94	55,000
1999/00			
Galston Rec Reserve		S94	50,000
2000/01			
Sportsground augmentation		S94	170,000
Pennant Hills Park	■ Fire hydrant for indoor netball court	AMP	15,000
	• Upgrade sewerage system	AMP	80,000
Waitara Oval	• Sealing of car park	AMP	50,000
Greenway Park	• Lighting of netball courts	AMP	25,000
Dural Park	• Installation of automatic irrigation	AMP	40,000
Asquith Oval	• Drainage of playing surface	AMP	40,000
Total			2,874,000
* S94 = S94 Contributions Plan; AMP =Asset Management Program			

In the 2001-2002 financial year, a further \$511,000 was allocated to 15 upgrading projects – including drainage, irrigation, fencing and wicket refurbishment.

Notwithstanding the considerable value of the above expenditure, it is noted that, in the main, it has been applied to less than half of Council's 40 sportsground complexes. It is clear that considerable upgrading work is still required to optimise the usability of existing facilities.

The potential additional use of existing facilities is, it is emphasised, a prime consideration in the planning of new facilities. That is, in accordance with asset management principles, it is necessary to, maximise the use of existing facilities before committing limited resources to new facilities.

8.4.3. Current Use of Outdoor Sports Facilities

Information on the formal use of sports grounds is available - from the ground booking records of Council and relevant committees/individuals.

The booking records for the 2000/2001 and 2001 seasons indicate that many sports grounds are being used at well over full capacity – particularly during the summer season. This is illustrated in Table 8.8 (with detailed calculations supporting the findings provided at Attachment E).

Table 8.9 indicates that 24 grounds during the summer season and 8 grounds during the winter season are being used at full or over-full capacity.

Overall, the Shire's sports grounds are over-utilised in the summer season - being used at 106% of capacity. Most grounds are also used at full or over full capacity in winter. (The existence of some spare capacity, overall, in winter is largely due to the very low use of some grounds – Wood Street Oval, Headen Park and Glenorie Oval.

Table 8.9: Hornsby Shire Sports Ground Use – 2000/2001 and 2001 Seasons

PARK NAME	No. Fields	Summer Season			Winter Season		
		Actual Use (Hrs)	capacity (Hrs)	capacity used (%)	Actual Use (Hrs)	capacity (Hrs)	capacity used (%)
Planning District 1							
Somerville Oval	1	645	644	100.2	718	1,100	65.3
Cheltenham Oval	1	873	644	135.6	751	1,100	68.3
Epping Oval	1	396	644	61.5	738	1,100	67.1
Epping Athletics Field	1	0	?		405	?	
West Epping Oval	1	816	?		694	?	
North Epping Oval	1	297	644	46.1	655	900	72.8
Woods Street Oval	1	642	644	99.7	149	900	16.6
Carlingford High School 1, 2 & 3	3	825	1,380	59.8	2,230	2,700	82.6
Roselea Oval	1	380	460	82.6	840	900	93.3
Booth Park	1	300	460	65.2	443	500	88.6
Planning District 2							
Pennant Hills Park 1	1	691	644	107.3	704	1,100	64.0
Pennant Hills Park 2	1	752	644	116.8	927	900	103.0
Pennant Hills Park - soccer	1	86	460	18.7	619	700	88.4
Pennant Hills Park - hockey	1	120	460	26.1	572	1,100	52.0
Headen Park	1	457	644	71.0	348	1,100	31.6
Oakleigh Oval	1	884	460	192.2	787	900	87.4
Thomleigh Park(Oval)	1	490	644	76.1	800	900	88.9
Ruddock Park	1	275	460	59.8	334	500	66.8
Campbell Park	1	739	460	160.7	667	900	74.1
Normanhurst Oval	1	608	460	132.2	1,000	700	142.9
Planning District 3/9							
Storey Park	1	630	644	97.8	1,018	1,100	92.51

PARK NAME	No. Fields	Summer Season			Winter Season		
		Actual Use (Hrs)	capacity (Hrs)	capacity used (%)	Actual Use (Hrs)	capacity (Hrs)	capacity used (%)
Waitara Oval	1	761	644	118.2	829	1,100	75.4
James Park	1	606	?		444	?	
Planning District 4							
Mt Kuring-gai Oval	1	387	644	60.1	453	900	50.3
Mills Park Sportsground	2	680	1,288	52.8	1,014	2,200	46.1
Asquith Oval	1	486	644	75.5	714	1,100	64.9
Parklands Oval	1	716	644	111.2	1,015	900	112.8
Berry Park	1	452	460	98.3	609	500	121.8
Foxglove Ovals	2.5	1,215	1,380	88.0	1,725	2,200	78.4
Rofe Park	1	1,084	644	168.3	801	1,100	72.8
Montview Ovals	2.5	1,221	1,288	94.8	1,737	2,200	79.0
Planning District 5 & 7							
Warrina Street Oval - large	1	495	644	76.9	1,040	900	115.6
Warrina Street Oval - small	1	735	460	159.8	472	700	67.4
Berowra Oval	1	1,045	644	162.3	820	1,100	74.5
Brooklyn Oval	1	450	644	69.9	281	500	56.2
Cowan Oval	1	445	460	96.7	576	500	115.2
Planning District 6							
Arcadia Oval	1	335	?		62	?	
Galston Reserve (Hayes Oval)	1	943	460	205.0	659	1,100	59.9
Glenorie Park	1	3961	460	86.1	0	500	0.0
Dural Park	2	735	1,288	57.1	1,595	2,200	72.5
Planning District 8							
Greenway Park 1	1	2,214	690	187.2	1,673	1,100	81.0
Greenway Park 2	1		644	143.2		900	86.9
Edward Bennett Oval	1	811	460	176.3	755	900	83.9
T Thompson Oval	1	754	460	163.9	725	900	80.6
J Henty Drive Oval	1	622	460	135.2	324	500	64.8
Shire Total				105.9			78.2

It is noted, importantly, that Table 8.8 only includes 'formal' use of grounds. Although not quantified, there is likely to be substantial informal (ie unbooked) use of sports grounds by both schools and sports organisations.

Taking this use and the informal use by local residents into account, the 'true' use of grounds overall is likely to be somewhat larger than indicated in Table 8.8.

It can be concluded therefore that, with respect to sports reserves at least, there is no excess capacity in the existing open space system capable of absorbing the demands of new populations.

8.5. 'Private' Sports Facilities

Private (or semi-private) outdoor sports facilities include playing fields and courts within government and private schools and a variety of facilities located on private or leased land - including golf courses, lawn bowls and croquet greens.

Details on the number and distribution of different types of private sports facility are summarised in Table 8.10.

Table 8.10: 'Private' Sports Facilities x Planning District

Facility	Planning District							Total
	PD1	PD2	PD3 &9.	PD4	PD5 &7	PD6	PD8	
School sports fields								
Full size ovals/fields	0	4	5	2	0	2	1	14
Junior fields	3	3	3	3	1	2	0	15
Hockey pitch	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cricket nets	0	5	3	2	2	2	0	14
School sports courts								
Tennis	1	7	6	2	0	2	0	18
Netball	3	1	6	2	0	0	3	15
Basketball	0	6	0	1	0	1	2	10
Multi purpose courts	0	5	3	2	3	5	0	18
Other Sport Facilities								
Lawn bowls greens	13	3	3	3	3	0	1	26
Croquet rinks	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Golf course	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

As indicated in Table 8.10, schools within the Shire collectively have 29 multi-purpose sports fields (14 senior and 15 junior), one all weather hockey pitch, 14 cricket nets (at 7 locations) and 61 outdoor sports courts (18 tennis, 15 netball, 10 basketball and 18 multi purpose).

Some - but not all - of these school facilities are available for community use outside school hours. The cricket nets are the most widely used facilities - with 12 of the 14

nets used at least occasionally by community groups. Junior and senior sportsfields and multi purpose courts are also widely used – with about half of these facilities used by non-school groups.

On the other hand, there is no non-school use of tennis courts and very little use of netball and basketball courts.

Details of current community use – together with more specific details on outdoor sports facilities within the Shire's schools - are included at Attachment F.

Greater than current community use is constrained by after hours school requirements (at some schools) and the lack of key support facilities – particularly floodlighting and change rooms - normally required by sports clubs.

Nevertheless, the school facilities provide an important back-up resource to Council facilities – particularly for junior sport.

The other private facilities – golf courses, bowling and croquet greens and some tennis courts – are typically developed by clubs and associations with specific interests in a particular activity or group of activities. The use of these facilities is usually restricted to club members - either at all times or at designated specific times.

There are no specific quantitative standards for these facilities. Appropriate levels of supply depend upon specific local demands – which vary from one region to the next. Generally, it appears that these facilities are well provided in the Shire – with a good balance between supply and demand.

The community survey found, for example, that while tennis, golf and lawn bowls comprised three of the five most popular structured sports – with respective participation rates of 28%, 20% and 18% - there was little evidence of unmet demand. Only 2.1% of respondents wished to participate in tennis more and 1.7% wished to play more golf. Additionally, high proportions of respondents were 'satisfied/very satisfied' with the Shire's tennis and golf facilities (89% and 87%, respectively).

These findings were echoed in the organisations' survey. Four lawn bowls clubs (with nearly 800 members, in total), four tennis clubs/associations (with 4,400 members) and one of the Shire's two golf clubs (with 1,700 members) responded to the survey. Only one of the respondent groups (a tennis association) expressed a need for additional playing facilities (although several were seeking upgraded facilities – including a new clubhouse and improved playing surfaces).

Due to the absence of general community access to these facilities (and to the self-funding capacity of licenced clubs), Council support is normally confined to the provision of public land at subsidised rentals. The clubs and associations are fully responsible for the development, maintenance, operation and refurbishment of facilities.

8.6. Equestrian & Showground Facilities

There is only one specialist equestrian centre in the Shire – the Arcadia Pony Club site at Johnson Road, Galston. Until recently, there was also the Hornsby Pony Club facility at Redgum Avenue, Pennant Hills. This is now defunct due to difficulties in accessing the facility from the rural areas and subsequent substantial declines in club membership.

Council has for some years, however, been investigating the development of additional equestrian facilities within the Shire. Various options have been reviewed – including redevelopment of Arcadia Park, development of a Fiddletown site, extension of the existing Johnson Road facility and various sites within Fagan Park, Galston.

A site within Fagan Park is the currently preferred option – with the other locations being ruled out due to various financial and/or spatial constraints.

Fagan Park is crown land managed by Council on behalf of the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLAWC). The Department has stipulated various conditions in regard to Council's intent – including the review of alternatives (the existing Johnson Road facility), demonstrating the need for the facility, ensuring multi-purpose use and preparation of a new plan of management.

Council has resolved that an extension to the Johnson Road facility is not feasible and is now focusing on a site within Fagan Park. With respect to DLAWC's requirements on need and multi-use, Council has determined to develop equestrian facilities as part of multi-purpose showground facilities and is looking to this Leisure Strategic Plan to provide the necessary guidance on need.

The need for equestrian facilities in Hornsby – and the adequacy of existing and proposed equestrian facilities – is discussed in section 8.9.5, below.

8.7. Civic/Ancillary Open Space

There is 11.93 hectares of 'ancillary/undeveloped space' - generally providing drainage and utility easement, road related amenity and/or linkage functions. Some of these spaces, depending on their size, shape, location and other attributes, may have the potential to be developed for recreation, amenity and/or civic functions.

There are also a small number of 'civic places/malls' and 'formal gardens' in the Shire. These provide important civic, amenity, memorial, heritage, access and/or rest functions.

8.8. Bushland

8.8.1. Quantity & Distribution

Hornsby LGA has a generous supply of bushland – over 35,000 hectares, or 69% of the Shire. Some of this is on private land but much (over 21,000 hectares) is protected within National Parks and other regionally significant crown reserves.

Most residences within the Shire are within reasonable travel distances of these open space resources.

Council has management responsibility for about 5,700 hectares of bushland (comprising the 3,880-hectare Berowra Valley Regional Park – jointly managed with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service - and more than 400 other reserves (or part reserves) totaling nearly 2,000 hectares. This is a small proportion of the Shire's overall bushland resource but it comprises nearly 95% of Council-managed open space.

8.8.2. Bushland Values

Bushland has significant aesthetic, recreation, education, cultural and scientific values. Council's bushland-specific management plans²² describe these values and the threats to them – including urban impacts and bushland fragmentation.

Of particular relevance to the current study are the recreation values of bushland - the outdoor recreation opportunities provided by bushland and other natural resources (creek lines, rivers and estuarine wetlands) close to the Shire's urban areas.

Council's specific management aims for bushland (articulated in both the 'generic' and 'significant areas' bushland plans of management) include 'the promotion and provision of recreational opportunity in bushland:

Recreation opportunities and values include bush walking, climbing, mountain bike riding, orienteering, nature study and appreciation, picnicking and, where permitted, camping.

8.8.3. Council's Roles

Council's bushland management roles are mainly concerned with urban and urban fringe resources. The roles complement those of the State agencies responsible for managing the large nature reserves and national parks in the Shire – particularly in providing opportunities to experience the ecological character of the Shire in close proximity to urban centres.

²² *Bushland* Generic Plan of Management 1996; Berowra Valley *Bushland* Park Plan of Management 1996; Significant Area-Bushland Plans of Management 2000

Specific functions are to:

- Maximise the ecological values of bushland under Council management,
- Provide a range of ecologically oriented recreational experiences within the bushland open space network,
- Acquire ecologically significant land, where it is too small to be practicably incorporated into the NPWS reserve system (and where it can functionally link with Council's existing open space system), and
- The management of compliance with a wide range of environmental legislation (including the preparation, implementation and updating of plans of management).

Key management issues include the application of different management regimes to different ecosystem types and striking the appropriate balance between conservation and access/interpretation

Ecosystem management

As indicated above, a range of ecosystem types are represented in the Shire – including woodlands and forests, creek lines, rivers and wetlands. The resilience and management challenges presented by these differing ecosystems vary considerably.

The creek line urban environments (such as Lamorna Avenue Reserve in Beecroft) in particular are subject to weed infestation due to their linear nature and the role that water plays in the transport of weed seeds. Their restoration can be an expensive and labour intensive process.

Resource allocation to management needs to take the differing resilience levels into account.

Current initiatives in ecosystem management include the following:

- Inventory of bushland resources (including vegetation condition assessment)
- Mapping of endangered vegetation communities
- Involvement in NSW NPWS recovery plans for endangered and threatened fauna and flora species
- Noxious weeds and fox control programs
- Fire management
- Contract and volunteer bush regeneration programs
- Community education and involvement (workshops, promotional days, tree planting days, sponsoring of 'friends' groups, brochures)
- Assessment of development applications within or adjacent to bushland
- Community nursery for production of indigenous native plants
- Biodiversity planning and implementation of conservation initiatives

Recreation Access/Interpretation

Council also needs to constantly review the allocation of resources to conservation and restoration of natural areas, versus those allocated to access and interpretation. These decisions need to be based on an overall assessment of the ecological significance of a natural area and what, realistically, can be achieved through active management and, on the other hand, the uniqueness and quality of experience that can be gained through expenditure on access and interpretation.

With respect to interpretation, a particular focus should be applied to the relationship between Council's developed open space reserves and adjacent ecologically significant areas. Picnic areas and other reserves are often located on 'the edge of wetlands, forests, estuaries and other natural areas - which may or may not be Council owned open space. These situations provide opportunities for an improved interface between the two types of open space- including the provision of, small-scale interpretive facilities (such as viewing points, information signs and trails).'

There are two such opportunities within the Shire- at Calna Creek within the Berowra Valley Bushland Park and and the swamp mahogany forest/estuarine wetland at Brooklyn. Both are associated with picnic opportunities and promote access and interpretation via boardwalk trails.

There are similar issues with the smaller creek line reserves. These generally occur as drainage reserves in suburban locations – in close proximity to a large number of potential users. But because drainage is often regarded as the primary function of these areas, their recreational potential can sometimes be overlooked.

With respect to this, the Significant Areas *Bushland* Plan of Management does not propose any additional recreation facilities for any of the 13 reserves– most of which are creek line reserves - included in the Plan.

Nevertheless, Council is currently developing an interpretive trail along the Terry's Creek corridor in Epping – from the end of Essex Street to the Epping Pool in Dence Park. There are also plans to extend the Waitara Creek corridor trail in Normanhurst – including the construction of a loop trail.

Other Council initiatives in bushland 'access and interpretation' include:

- Construction and maintenance of bush trails (local trails such as the Blue Gum and Callicoma Walks and regional trails such as the Manly to Berowra Link Track)
- Signage and landscape improvement works
- Guided bush walks program (28 guided walks in 2000101 with 273 participants)

Natural area open space should be seen as an intrinsic and integrated component of a broader open space system. Council recognises this and is endeavouring to forge linkages between bushland and developed open space and between different parcels of bushland - where feasible. Constraints to this initiative include the small size and inappropriate shape of many reserves and opposition from neighbouring residents (some of whom are concerned about the impact of trails on their privacy and security).

Acquisitions

While it is arguable that management should focus on maximising the quality of existing bushland and natural area resources, there will be occasion= when it is appropriate for Council to acquire additional sites. In this situation, three primary criteria should be considered when assessing whether a particular parcel of land should be acquired:

- The site is of high ecological significance but too small to be managed by the NPWS or other State agency.
- The site provides a link between two disconnected natural areas, or extends an existing area - making it more sustainable from a management point of view and/or providing corridors of open space that link parks, natural areas and other sites of interest into a greater whole. (This improves access to a range of sites, enhances opportunities for bushland based recreation – including walking, nature appreciation and mountain bike riding – and provides movement corridors for wildlife).
- The area is ecologically significant, is under private ownership and cannot be adequately conserved or managed through planning controls alone.

Conclusions – Council's Bushland Management Roles

The bushland (and other natural area) open space owned and/or managed by Council is a significant asset and the major reason for the area's attractiveness to both residents and day-trippers.

Given the range of experiences that can already be gained in bushland open space in the Shire, Council's future bushland management performance is most appropriately measured according to the quality of the environments provided and the experiences gained by people using them.

8.9. Adequacy of Open Space

8.9.1. Methodology issues

The question of whether or not open space provision is adequate has traditionally been answered via the use of quantity based standards (such as, for example, 2.83

hectares/1000 people in NSW and 4.00 hectares/1000 people in the ACT). It was often perceived that open space provision obligations were met when the standards were achieved.

It is now well understood, however, that different areas have different needs – depending on their demographic make up, climate, traditions and local 'cultural and natural resources.

It is, in fact, possible that 2.83 hectares/1000 people of open space (or even more) is inadequate in some circumstances – where, for example demand is robust and where the quality and/or accessibility of the open space is poor. Alternatively, a lesser amount of space could be sufficient – where, for example, the space is well designed, accessible and effectively managed.

The existing supply of non-bushland open space in Hornsby - at 2.00 hectares/1000 people (not including 'general community use' areas) - is significantly less than the historical standard of 2.83 hectares/1000 people.

The approach taken in this study is to not rely on such standards due to issues to do with their reliability and validity.

The favoured approach, instead, is to assess adequacy in terms of not just 'quantity', but also 'quality' and 'accessibility'. A combination of approaches is used based on locally relevant research and these approaches differ for different types of open space - as seen in the following sections.

8.9.2. Outdoor Sport Facilities

Both quality and quantity issues are of critical importance in assessing the adequacy of sports specific open space.

Quality and accessibility

Attitudes and issues to do with the quality and accessibility of sports facilities were identified via the community consultations and site appraisals.

The community *survey* undertaken for this study and Council's recent customer satisfaction survey found that 'sportsgrounds' were rated very highly. In the community survey, for example, 90% of survey respondents were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with 'outdoor playing fields'.

But these high levels of satisfaction are not as evident within the 'sporting fraternity' – as evidenced in both the organisations' survey and the sports stakeholder meeting. Respondents to the survey, for example, were asked to rate the facilities that they used on a five-point scale. Of the 99 facilities rated, collectively, by outdoor sports

clubs and associations, 15% were rated as 'poor' or 'very poor'²³ and 43% were rated as average. Only 7% were rated as 'very good'.

The survey also found that facility upgrade demands were most frequently expressed by sports organisations and that the most requested upgrades were for 'playing surface improvements', 'amenities upgrades', 'shadelselter' and 'improved sports equipment'.

The sports stakeholder meeting echoed these outcomes in also emphasising the need for sports surface upgrading.

As well, the resource reviews – detailed in section 8.4.2, above – identified widespread needs for additional irrigation systems, floodlighting, drainage works, car park improvements, fencing, signage, spectator facilities, shade and building maintenance.

Council is currently addressing these needs via the S94 Contributions Plan and the recently initiated Asset Management Program.

Quantity

With respect to quantity, it is possible to develop useful planning benchmarks – based on facility capacity estimates and the monitoring of actual and potential participation. The five-stage process is explained as follows.

1. Measurement of sports facility capacity

The capacity of a field (in terms of numbers of 'players' – as distinct from number of 'visits') is determined more by the number of competitive fixtures that can be scheduled on it (usually on Saturdays, Sundays and, in some cases, on Friday nights) rather than by mid week training.

The capacity of individual fields and courts have been estimated – through reference to the playing patterns of sports (age groups, size of teams, length of games, days and times of matches), field suitability (eg mini fields cannot accommodate seniors) and social constraints (eg night-time 'curfews').

In identifying capacity, it is assumed that fields are of sufficient quality and have the support facilities (floodlights, change amenities) to accommodate at least one full day of weekend use and competitive use (if required) on mid week evenings.

(Fields, of course, are not always of this quality – but, for planning purposes, it is still valid to identify the theoretical capacity of fields).

²³ Including Pennant Hills No.2 oval, Montview No. 3, Somerville Oval and Asquith Oval

Attachment **G** details the use capacities - expressed in terms of 'maximum number of players per week' - for a range of outdoor (and indoor) sports facilities. The capacity measures incorporate 'junior', 'senior' and 'total' capacities and range from 66 per week for a cricket field (which assumes 3 games in a week- or 1.5 days each weekend) to 700 for an athletics track.

2. Estimation of sports participation levels

The March 2000 Organisations survey and the **ABS** survey, Participation in Sport and Physical Activities *1999-2000*, have been used to estimate local participation levels in a range of outdoor sports.

Specifically, the NSW average age-related participation rates for various sports have been applied to the Hornsby population to derive 'theoretical' participation rates, at the municipal level, for various population age groups (from 5-14 years to 45+ years) – as illustrated at Attachment H.

These theoretical participation rates are then compared with actual registration numbers in Hornsby for a range of sports (as identified in the Organisations Survey and subsequent stakeholder interviews).

For some sports, the figures are remarkably similar – suggesting average participation levels in the Shire. For other sports, the figures differ significantly. There may be several reasons for this. Where they are higher than the State average, the cause is likely to be a strong local tradition or culture in that sport. Where they are lower, the cause may be a relatively weak local tradition, a lack of volunteers and/or a lack of suitable facilities.

In Hornsby, there is near-average participation in little athletics, cricket, baseball, softball and netball, above average participation in soccer, indoor soccer, and AFL and below average participation in rugby (Union and League), hockey and basketball.

3. Determination of required facility quantities

The required number of facilities is derived simply by dividing the 'participation level' or 'registration numbers'²⁴ for each sport by the 'capacity' of relevant facilities. For example, the estimated number of cricketers in the Shire is 2,995. The assumed facility capacity is 66 per field. The required number of facilities is therefore 46 cricket fields ($2,995/66 = 45.4$, rounded up to 46).

²⁴ The appropriate figure to use is determined by the circumstances of the sport. Where the evidence suggests that the sport is being 'held back' by facility shortfalls, the theoretical participation rate figure is used. Where, on the other hand, lower than average participation is a product of 'cultural' factors, the 'registration numbers' figure is used.

4. Measurement of facility shortfall or surplus

By comparing 'facilities required' with 'actual facilities available', the shortfall or surplus is derived. Thus, using the Hornsby Shire cricket example again, there are 43 cricket fields in the district – suggesting a shortfall of 3 fields.

Where relevant, school and other private facilities are used in these calculations (eg the use of Pacific Hills Christian School and Asquith Girls High School facilities by soccer clubs).

This part of the process is illustrated at Attachment I.

5. *Review* of these 'notional' shortfalls or surpluses in the light of expressed needs, actual facility utilisation and access issues

The apparent gaps between supply and demand for various sports facilities within the Shire – as detailed at Attachment I - are generally consistent with the felt needs of users and actual facility utilisation.

Thus, in the consultations undertaken for this study, soccer clubs and associations expressed the most urgent requests for additional playing facilities.

Similarly, in reviewing the utilisation of Council's sportsgrounds, those used by soccer clubs – including Normanhurst Oval, Berry Oval, Parklands Oval and Roselea Oval - were amongst the most heavily used grounds.

Some adjustments do, however, need to be made to the 'notional' shortfalls and surpluses (calculated in the spreadsheet at Attachment I).

In Rugby League, for example, it is theoretically possible for the Shire's 910 registered players to be accommodated on four fields. However, the players are spread over six clubs in different geographical areas and all require at least one home ground. Similar adjustments are required for rugby union.

With AFL, the notional results suggest a shortfall of one field but the relevant clubs are not expressing a need for additional facilities.

With respect to netball, it is not appropriate to assess adequacy according to the overall provision of facilities. This is because nearly 50% of available facilities (14 of 32) are not suitably located or configured for district level competitions. They are suitable for training activities only. Taking this into account, there is actually a shortfall of 4-5 'competition level' courts.

On the basis of this other evidence, the facility shortfalls/surpluses have been appropriately adjusted – as summarised in Table 8.11.

Table 8.11: Sports Facility Shortfalls and/or Surpluses

Facility type	No. Required	No. Available	Surplus /Shortfall
Athletics field	3	3	0
Cricket wicket	46	43	-3
Softball diamond	6	6	0
Baseball diamond	5	6	+1
AFL field	3	3	0
Rugby Union field	4	6	+2
Rugby League field	7	8	+1
Soccer field - senior	39	30	-9
Soccer field – mini/mod	20	24	+4
Hockey field	4	2	-2
Netball court	22	18	-4
Indoor sports court	7	3	-4

* Not including the 14 courts in the Shire - in groups of one or two - that are suitable only for training

Table 8.11 illustrates a good balance between the supply and demand for facilities for athletics, softball, baseball, AFL, rugby union and rugby league.

There are, however, demonstrable facility shortfalls for cricket, hockey, netball and particularly senior soccer.

The most significant shortfall concerns senior soccer – with a current shortage of 9 fields (offset to some extent by a small surplus of mini/mod fields). It is emphasised, however, that this assessment is based, in part, on information provided by the relevant associations (Kuring-gai & District Soccer Association and the Gladesville-Hornsby Football Association) on registered members resident in Hornsby.

The registration numbers provided by the Associations are very high compared with average soccer participation rates in NSW. Notwithstanding this, they may accurately reflect very high levels of participation in the Shire – but they may also reflect errors in the associations' data base records.

Until the soccer registration figures are scrutinised in more detail, it is prudent to treat them with some caution. Accordingly, the notional shortfall of 9 fields is reduced to 4-5 fields until a more detailed review of soccer registrations (ie number x ages in each suburb of the Shire) is undertaken.

It is noted also that the 'notional' *surpluses* (for rugby and mini soccer fields) are not significant. This is, in part, due to the Shire's large geographical area. That is, the relative isolation of the scattered rural and northern suburban populations inevitably

requires the duplication of facilities and/or the development of facilities that (because of small catchment populations) may be under-utilised.

In these latter situations, Council will need to carefully balance cost-effectiveness objectives (in terms of optimal use of facilities) with equity objectives (in terms of all residents, irrespective of their locations, having reasonable access to a basic range of facilities).

8.9.3. Outdoor Informal Recreation

The approach to identifying gaps in the quantity of local and district parks and bushland areas is altogether different than it is for sports grounds and facilities.

Quantitative standards and benchmarks (such as hectares of open space or number of facilities per head of population) are relevant for sports facilities – where there are specific participation numbers associated with facility use (such as 22 players per four-hour cricket match). They are less relevant for parklands and bushland.

The use of parklands is mainly informal, relatively unpredictable and far more varied than for sports grounds.

Far more important is the suitability and accessibility of this space – in terms of size, attractiveness, diversity of opportunity, proximity to catchment population and presence/absence of access barriers.

With respect to these attributes, the findings of the current and previous studies are mixed.

The broad 'satisfaction' surveys²⁵ found, for example, that both the importance and Council's performance in 'parks and gardens' were rated very highly. The community survey undertaken for the current study found that parks – particularly Fagan Park, Bobbin Head, Crosslands and Pennant Hills Parks – were the 'favourite' leisure setting for 42% of survey respondents. The survey also found that 94% of respondents were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with 'parkland/formal gardens'.

On the other hand, the consultations also highlighted a range of demands for improvements in parks – including more recreation facilities and activities²⁶, more park furniture (seating, tables and covered areas), shade trees, accessible pathways, lighting and, in some areas, improved maintenance and safety.

As well, the resource reviews – detailed in section 8.3, above – identified the following issues:

²⁵ 1997 Social Strategy for *Hornsby* and the annual customer satisfaction surveys

²⁶ Playgrounds for a wider range of age groups, skate and bike facilities, basketball hoops, boardwalks, kiosks and more performances in parks

- The small size of many parks – with 71 of the Shire's parks smaller than 0.3 ha which (as argued in section 8.3.3) is probably too small to provide the full range of desired 'walk to' recreation opportunities,
- The relatively low quantity of parkland in planning districts 2, 5, and 8,
- Poor access to open space for some residents – with a significant proportion of the population (27%) outside the catchment areas of parks,
- Low quality of many parks – in terms of attractiveness, condition and usability,
- Poor quality of many playgrounds, and
- Insufficient diversity of play equipment – with too few skate facilities, cycle tracks and play facilities for 'older' children

Council is currently addressing some of these issues – playground and park upgrading requirements and more skate facilities – via the Asset Management Program and other initiatives.

8.9.4. Bushland Resource

For bushland, quantitative standards are even less relevant. The availability and distribution of **bushland** is more a function of the presence of areas of conservation value than of planning.

The distribution of **bushland** in the Shire is a product of natural phenomena. Its location cannot be 'planned' and 'engineered', as can the more developed types of open space such as parks and sports grounds. Also, and again in distinction to developed forms of open space, there can be no such thing as 'too much' **bushland** open space.

Remnant **bushland** and urban forests have significant environmental and recreation values and should be protected and enhanced (irrespective of the quantity) to the extent that this is consistent with other land use requirements.

Benchmarks for **bushland** planning are therefore less to do with quantity and more to do with quality and access – with, specifically, the level of protection of natural values and the equity of access to appropriate facilities (such as picnic areas, walking tracks and/or interpretive programs). Where facility development is contemplated, equity in terms of accessibility should influence priorities for the development of potential sites.

It is not particularly meaningful therefore to assess the adequacy of **bushland** according to planning benchmarks (such as hectares per head of population). This is not to say that quantity is not important. Indeed, a region may have **insufficient** **bushland** and other types of natural area (as possibly indicated by water quality issues, limited opportunities for nature-based recreation and educational activities and insufficient habitat for endangered and other species).

When assessing the adequacy of Council controlled environmental open space, the ability for people to experience a range of habitats, without having to drive long distances is suggested as the most appropriate criterion.

With respect to this, the Shire has a range of natural areas- including woodlands and forests, creek lines, rivers and estuarine wetlands - in locations close to the Shire's urban areas. (As indicated in section 8.6.1, the Shire has more than 20,000 hectares of bushland within the reserves system – much within and/or adjacent to urban areas).

Key resources include the following:

- Large multi habitat parks (Berowra Valley Bushland Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park)
- Smaller woodlands and forests (such as Pennant Hills and Florence Cotton Parks)
- Creek line and drainage reserves (such as Waitara Creek/Dog Pound Creek Reserves)
- River foreshore reserves (such as McKell Park in Brooklyn)
- Estuarine wetlands (including areas of mangroves, salt marsh and melaleuca wetland within the Berowra Valley Bushland (including the Calna Creek boardwalk area) and the swamp mahogany forests at Brooklyn).

Collectively, these resources provide a range of locations for nature based recreation activities within reasonable travel distances of most of the Shire's urban areas – particularly the northern and central parts of the Shire.

(The southern suburbs of Beecroft and Epping have a somewhat smaller provision of bushland parks compared to other parts of the Shire. But residents of these suburbs still have good access to significant bushland areas – including Pennant Hills Park and Cumberland State Forest – and local resources such as the Devlin's Creek corridor).

Based on the quality, quantity and wide distribution of these resources, it is reasonable to conclude that the 'natural area' open space provided by Hornsby Council is, in quantitative terms, adequate. Residents and visitors' can easily experience a range of ecosystems within or on the fringe of suburban areas.

The main tasks for Council therefore lie in managing its current estate more than in the acquisition of more natural areas.

8.9.5. Equestrian Facilities

Recreational horse riding and equestrian sports are popular activities. In NSW, overall, nearly 1.5% of people over the age of 18 years participate at least

occasionally in equestrian activities.²⁷ This is higher than the equivalent numbers for cricket, rugby league and dancing and is nearly as high as those for soccer, basketball and touch football.²⁸

The popularity of horse sports is particularly strong in urban fringe areas such as Hornsby Shire. This was demonstrated in the community survey which found that almost 10% of respondents had been horseriding in the previous 12 months– and that more than 2% had participated regularly (ie more than 20 times over the period).

As well, a significant number of residents are members of equestrian sport organisations – as detailed in Table 8.12.

Table 8.12: Equestrian Sports Organisations & Participants

Equestrian Club/Group	Membership	
	Details	No.
Arcadia Pony Club	Children/young adults - 5-25 years - mainly female	80
Hornsby Pony Club	Children (3) and adults (10)	13
School Equestrian Teams (S.E.T.)	Equestrian teams from 11 Shire schools' as well as Abbotsleigh & Dural Public	120+
Marra Adult Riders Club	Adult riders (20's to 60's age groups) with interests in dressage and cross country	40
Parelli Natural Horsemanship		70
Total		333
* Galston High, Cherrybrook High, Hornsby Girls High, Forest Hill, Christian & Horwood, Northholme, Cammar, Barker, Loreto, Galston Public, Middle Dural Public, Glenorie Public, Arcadia Public		

This number of structured sport participants is equivalent to half the number of registered rugby union players in the Shire and more than a third of the numbers for baseball, softball and little athletics. In contrast to these other sports, however, the equestrians have only the one facility currently – and this is barely sufficient for the one club (ie the Arcadia Pony Club).

Needs for additional specialist facilities for equestrian pursuits were strongly expressed in the community and organisations' surveys and the sport and outdoor recreation stakeholders group meeting – as detailed in chapter 5, above.

The need for additional equestrian facilities is also supported by regional facility provision benchmarks. This is illustrated in Table 8.13 which summarises the relevant details for a range of other urban fringe local government areas.

²⁷ ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Activities 1999-2000

²⁸ In terms of numbers of participants – not frequency of participation (the majority of participants in equestrian activities infrequently)

Table 8.13: Equestrian facilities in urban fringe local government areas

Local Government Area	No. of Equestrian Facilities	Population	Population per facility
Hornsby	1	151,000	151,000
Kur-ring-gai	2	108,000	54,000
Pittwater	2	56,000	28,000
Warringah	3	135,000	45,000
Baulkham Hills	5	137,000	27,400
Hawkesbury	5	63,000	12,600
Blue Mountains	5	77,000	15,400
Penrith	4	175,000	43,750
Campbelltown	5	150,000	30,000
Blacktown	5	261,000	52,200
Total	37	1,313,000	35,486

The 10 urban fringe local government areas included in Table 8.13 have a total of 37 equestrian activity centres and these cater to a collective population of 1,313,000 people. On a per capita basis, this translates to an overall provision of one facility per 35,000 people. In Hornsby, however, the current provision is only one facility per 151,000 people – or less than one quarter of the average provision for the ten council areas.

On both an expressed need and a comparative basis, therefore, there is a demonstrable need for additional equestrian facilities.

Council's current approach to including additional equestrian facilities within multi-use showground facilities is also supported by the findings of this study. The following observations are made in support of this approach:

- Multi-purpose flexibility is a critical requirement for all outdoor recreation developments - given the scarcity of suitable land for a wide range of sport and recreation activities (including equestrian pursuits)
- A multi-use showground development has the potential to generate considerable efficiencies in the use of roads, car parks and buildings as well as promoting synergies and cross fertilisations between activities
- The proposal would provide a venue for a wide range of recreation and cultural activities – including horse and dog events and activities, agricultural and horticultural shows, sport, informal outdoor recreation, entertainment and other special events, conferences, banquets and receptions
- These activities have the potential to fill some of the **service** gaps identified in the consultations undertaken for this study – including the lack of entertainment and cultural activities and 'interesting' things to do

8.10. Conclusions – Open Space Assessment

Hornsby Shire contains a very large quantity of open space. Most of this space (95%) is bushland of district and regional significance. As such, it provides a wide range of nature-based recreation opportunities (both to residents and to visitors to the Shire).

The Shire also has a range of developed open space areas – parks and gardens and sportsgrounds – but on a comparative basis, the provision of these types of open space is relatively low.

This chapter has identified a range of issues, needs and opportunities in regard to the different types of open space. The key issues include the following:

Parks and gardens

- The provision of parks (at 1.24 ha/thousand people) is low according to commonly accepted standards (of 1.62 ha/thousand)
- The Shire's extensive high quality bushland areas substitute for this 'under-provision' to some extent.
- But this substitution is of limited value. **Bushland** cannot substitute for most of the functions performed by developed open space – including children's playgrounds, bike riding, 'kickabout' play, sport and formal garden/rest areas
- The distribution of parks in the Shire is uneven – with relatively low provision in Planning Districts 2, 5 and 8
- A high proportion (50%) of local parks are less than 0.3 hectares – a size which does not facilitate the provision of a diversity of 'walk to' recreation opportunities
- Due to these distributional and size characteristics, a large minority of the population (27%) is not adequately serviced by high quality neighbourhood open space
- To confirm this and other issues, Council needs to develop and implement a park use monitoring system
- Several condition audits have identified a large number of park furniture and playground upgrading requirements
- Some of these requirements have been addressed with the recent implementation of an Asset Management System
- Given the large backlog of upgrading requirements, the momentum of the asset management program needs to be maintained
- The community consultations identified widespread desire for a greater diversity of recreation opportunities in the parks system
- Significant demands for additional opportunities included equestrian facilities, dog 'off leash' areas, more cycling and walking opportunities, more diversity in playgrounds, more youth opportunities and improved access for older people

Sportsgrounds

- The provision of sportsgrounds (at 0.73 ha/thousand people) is low according to commonly accepted standards (of 1.21 ha/thousand)
- There are significant shortfalls in the provision of soccer, cricket and hockey facilities (but a balance of facility demand/supply for other outdoor sports)
- Many sportsgrounds are being used at well over full capacity – with a consequent impact on ground quality
- Condition audits and stakeholder consultations have identified a large number of ground upgrading requirements
- As with parks, some of these requirements have been addressed in the first phase of the Asset Management System – but with \$3.5 million of backlog works, the momentum also needs to be maintained

Bushland

- Despite the 'generous' supply of high quality bushland, there are further opportunities for extending the **interpretive/recreation** values of the resource – via the appropriate development of trails, boardwalks, picnic facilities and interpretive information

Equestrian>Showground Facilities

- The provision of equestrian facilities in the Shire is low on a regional comparative basis and this is reflected in the strong expression of need by stakeholder groups for additional relevant facilities
- The inclusion of equestrian facilities within a multi-use showground development is supported by the findings of this study

9. Facilities Assessment – Indoor Recreation

9.1. Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities

9.1.1. Community Indoor Sports Halls

There are six single court indoor sports halls within the Shire. Two of these halls are components of community based youth recreation centres (PCYC and YMCA). The other four halls are within schools.

Additionally, Council is proposing to build a four-court hall within the old Dartford Road tip site in Thornleigh. This project is currently in the planning stage and is expected to be completed by late 2002.

On a per capita basis, and as illustrated in Table 8.1, the existing distribution of courts within Hornsby is relatively uneven – with no courts available in the highly populated Planning District 2 or in the far north of the Shire (Planning Districts 5 and 7).

Table 8.1: Existing Sports Halls – Hornsby Shire

Location (District)	Centre	Cat.	No. Courts	Pop*	Pop'n/court
PD 1					
Epping	Epping YMCA	CC	1	30,935	30,935
PD 3 & 9					
Hornsby	Hornsby PCYC	CC	1		
	Barker College	School	1		
Total – PD 3/9			2	20,573	10,286
PD 4					
Asquith	Asquith Girls High School	School	1	20,122	20,122
PD 6					
Dural	Pacific Hills Christian School	School	1	9,627	9,627
PD 8					
Cherrybrook	Cherrybrook Technical HS	School	1	26,603	26,603
Total Shire			6	147,495	24,582
* Estimated year 2000 population					

Overall, the Shire has slightly better than one court per 25,000 people with the respective amounts in the planning districts ranging from nil (in PD's 2, 5 and 7) to 119,600 (in PD 6).

This, however, overstates the availability of indoor sports courts – because the four school facilities are only partly available to community organisations– and often with many constraining conditions. The more accurate measure is one court per 75,000 people.

The Shire-wide provision of public courts will, however, increase to 1125,000 following the opening of the proposed four-court facility in Thornleigh. This initiative will also improve the overall equity of facility distribution.

The proposed **Dartford** Road (former tip site) facility will be the first major indoor multi-court sports facility in **Hornsby** Shire. Expected to be open by late 2002, it will comprise a four-court sports hall for basketball, netball, indoor soccer, badminton (and other suitable indoor sports). The design incorporates spectator-seating capacity of up to 200 for one championship standard court.

The **Hornsby** Kuring-gai **PCYC** facility, located in George Street close to the Hornsby CBD, was opened in 1967. It comprises a single court sports hall with one full size basketball court (also marked for indoor soccer and badminton), spectator seating for 200+, several program rooms (for weights, wrestling, martial arts, boxing, boxercise and **speech/drama**) a gymnastics area, dance studio, music room (now used for storage), several officelcommittee rooms, toiletslshowers and a kitchen.

The main sports hall also has a stage and is licenced for entertainment activities up to 1,000 people.

The Centre is open around 70 hours per week - generally between **9.00am** to **9.00pm**, Monday to Saturday.

Regular programs include indoor court sports (basketball, soccer, badminton), boxing, boxacise, kickboxing, wrestling, weightlifting, martial arts (aikido, ninjutsu, self defence, jishukan and judo), art class, dance and speechldrama. Sailing is also offered as an off-site program on Saturdays.

(Gymnastics was offered until the end of 2000 but has been discontinued as the program was generating insufficient revenue for essential equipment upgrades).

Around 40% of the programs are provided by the PCYC. The other 60% are provided by other organisations or individuals that hire parts of the venue.

Occasional programs include band nights (up to **10/year**), band competitions, dance nights and boxing tournaments.

Schools also use the Centre three days per week during school terms (for basketball, gymnastics, badminton, volleyball and soccer).

Centre management advises that the major uses are basketball (about 1,250 visits per week), dance schools (about 280 visits per week) and badminton. (about 120 visits per week).

The use breakdown is illustrated in Table 8.2:

Table 8.2: PCYC Stadium – Use Levels

CENTRE COMPONENT	VISITS (per annum)	
	No.	%
Basketball	57,500	58.8
Badminton	5,520	5.6
Indoor soccer	1,760	1.8
Martial arts	3,816	3.9
Boxercise	2,160	2.2
Boxing	3,120	3.2
Wrestling	1,296	1.3
Weights gym	2,400	2.5
Dance school	11,400	11.7
Speech and drama	600	0.6
Art class	1,440	1.5
Youth band/dance nights	1,500	1.5
School activities	4,000	4.1
Casual'	1,200	1.2
Total	97,712	100.0
• badminton, martial arts etc		

According to the PCYC's recent (October 2001) Review of Youth Services in the Northern Sydney Region, the Centre is used at only 54% capacity during peak hours (ie between 4.00-6.00pm weekdays).

Club membership was around 600 in 2001. Of these, 49% were 10-17 years and 39% were adults (ie over 18 years). Males accounted for 75% and females 25% of total membership.

Despite the review findings of spare peak time capacity, the Centre Manager believes that there are unmet needs for additional indoor **sports/recreation** facilities in **Hornsby**. The high use of the PCYC hall by the Basketball Association, and the consequent inability to accommodate a range of activity demands– dance nights, indoor soccer, cricket and social competitions (such as 3 on 3 basketball) – is cited in support of this.

The Epping **YMCA** facility was established in 1966 and is located within West Epping Park (off Ward Street, Epping). It comprises a single court sports hall, a full size gymnastics facility and five other program/meeting rooms (totaling 2,350m²)

The sports hall is marked for basketball (1), indoor soccer (1), volleyball (2) and badminton (4). Spectator seating is provided for 50-100.

The gymnastics facility is one of the largest and, in terms of the competitive success of elite gymnasts, is one of the most successful such facilities in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Centre based programs include gymnastics, kids fitness, basketball, badminton, indoor soccer, trampolining, tennis, table tennis, karate, sports skills clinics, art and craft activities and vacation care.

The Centre is also hired to local schools and social groups- mainly for badminton, but also for basketball, group meetings and dance. (The lack of kitchen/catering facilities and three-phase power limits the functionality of the Centre for large-scale social activities).

According to advice provided by the Centre's management, the **Centre** attracted 71,000 users in the most recent financial year. This translates to about 30 visits per metre per annum which (according to the Centre for Environmental and Recreation Management's performance indicators project) is well below the 51-visits/metre average for 'dry' centres of this type.

(The main reason for this relatively low use would appear to be that the **Centre** – having only one indoor court – cannot host a regular basketball competition).

Centre management advises that the major uses are gymnastics (about 600 visits per week), school programs (280 visits per week during school terms), kindy gym (130 visits per week) and holiday programs (more than 7,000 over the 4 school holidays).

The use breakdown is illustrated in Table 8.3:

Table 8.3: YMCA Sports Hall & Gym – Use Levels

CENTRE COMPONENT	Hours/week	VISITS (per annum)	
		No.	%
In House Programs			
Gymnasium (gymnastics, kindy gym)	50	38,139	53.5
School programs		11,352	15.9
Vacation care	50	7,295	10.2
Martial arts (Karate)	4.75	2,059	2.9
Indoor soccer		1,519	2.1
Basketball – skills coaching	2	1,285	1.8

CENTRE COMPONENT	Hours/week	VISITS (per annum)	
		No.	%
Art/crafts (pottery)	25	553	0.8
Table tennis	4	515	0.7
Badminton	4	311	0.4
Kids fitness	1	214	0.3
Trampolining	1	181	0.3
Yoga		124	0.2
Facility Hire		7,750	10.9
TOTAL		71,297	100.0

According to Centre management, the facility is used at full capacity at peak times—between 4.00 and 9.00pm on weekdays. The major 'down-time' periods are weekdays during school hours. (The Centre is closed on Sundays).

The Centre's primary user catchment comprises planning districts 1 and 2 within Hornsby Shire together with significant parts of Parramatta, Ryde and Baulkham Hills Council areas – as illustrated in Table 8.4.²⁹ More than half the catchment, in fact, extends outside the Shire. This is not surprising given the Centre's location close to the municipal borders with these three other Council areas.

Table 8.4: YMCA Sports Hall & Gym – User Catchment Area

Residential Location	No.	%
Hornsby Shire		
PD1	1,805	24.4
PD2	485	6.5
PD3&9	162	2.2
PD4	59	0.8
PD5	188	2.5
PD6	109	1.5
PD7	13	0.2
PD8	408	5.5
Total * Hornsby Shire	3,229	43.6
Other LGA's		
Parramatta	1,742	23.5
Ryde	1,032	13.9
Baulkham Hills	806	10.9
Lane Cove	276	3.7
Kur-ing-gai	68	0.9
Hunters Hill	58	0.8
Willoughby	19	0.3
Elsewhere	182	2.5
TOTAL	7,412	100.0

²⁹ Based on Centre management's post-code listing of centre customers

The Centre was refurbished in the year 2000 – with major improvements to the reception/foyer areas and the provision of a spectator viewing area and 'new offices. Due to the high peak time use, the YMCA wishes to expand the Centre¹ to enlarge the gymnastics area and expand the sports hall from a one to two court facility. (The latter, however, is not possible at the current facility due to site constraints).

The Centre Manager believes that there is a major need for additional indoor sports/recreation facilities in the Shire – particularly in the areas to the north of Epping.

Four schools in the Shire – Asquith Girls High School, Cherrybrook High School, Barker College and Pacific Hills Christian School - have single court sports halls that are available for community use outside of school hours.

(Loreto College has also made its sports hall available for community use – but this contravenes development consent conditions and is currently subject to litigation between Council and the School).

Current community use and levels of unutilised capacity at each of these facilities is summarised in Table 8.4:

Table 8.4: School Sports Halls In Hornsby Shire – Current Use & Unutilised Capacity

School	No. Courts	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
Loreto College	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No community use currently pending litigation with Council over issue of out of school hours use • Would be available after 5.00pm Monday to Friday & all weekend 	High
Barker College	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used by Hornsby Basketball two mid-week evenings • Lack of continuity for community use due to school requirements (after school hours use – including exams in term 4) • School is 'uncertain' about further community use – pending outcome of Council's litigation with Loreto 	Low to medium
Pacific Hills Christian School	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hills District Basketball Association – Mon and Thurs evenings • Church on Sunday mornings ■ No further availability for mid-week regular bookings (due to school requirements) • Available all day Saturday & Sunday afternoon 	Low (mid-week) High (weekends)
Cherrybrook High School	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YMCA children's gymnastics – 4.00 to 7.00pm Mon and Fri 	Low

School	No. Courts	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Social badminton - 8.00 to 10.00pm Mon and Thurs ● Table tennis and badminton - 9.00am to 4.00pm Sat ■ Baptist Church - all day ● Occasional concerts and social events 	
Asquith Girls High School	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hornsby Basketball - 6.00-10.00pm, Tues and Thurs (the only regular user group). ● Barker College - 9.00am-2.00pm on Saturdays ■ Facility often available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 	Medium

Many other public and high schools have assembly halls which while too small for indoor court sports such as basketball, are still used for a variety of community recreation and leisure activities including martial arts, dance and public assembly activities.

Additionally, several schools just outside the Shire borders– including Knox Grammar School, Turrumurra High School, Ku-ring-gai High School and Epping High School– have indoor sports courts which are used by Hornsby based associations.:

9.1.2. Commercial **Sport** and Fitness Centres

There are several commercial indoor sport and fitness centres in the Shire which provide a range of indoor sport and recreation opportunities – including squash, indoor cricket, netball, soccer, rock climbing, aerobics and weight training.

There is one indoor multi-purpose sports centres in the Shire– Action Indoor Sports at Thornleigh - and two others (Dural Sports and Leisure Centre and the Dural Recreation Centre in Baulkham Hills just over the municipal boundary at Round Corner). These facilities provide indoor cricket, soccer and netball facilities (with the Dural Sports and Leisure Centre also providing volleyball courts).

There are also four fitness centre gyms and three squash centres (with a total of **24** courts).

The centres complement the public sports hall facilities in providing for a range of more commercially oriented activities.

While these centres will not (for commercial reasons) provide information on the current use of facilities, management advises that the existing centres are meeting

the Shire's commercial indoor sports needs. Many are used at less than full capacity and have to vie with each other for a fairly limited market.

9.2. Adequacy of Indoor Sport/Recreation Facilities

This section assesses the adequacy of indoor sport and recreation facilities– on the basis of industry benchmarks, regional comparisons, current use and expressed needs.

Assessing the Adequacy of Supply on the Basis of Industry Benchmarks ,

Sports halls (including the volunteer-managed local, school and community facilities and the modern multi-court, commercially oriented facilities) are normally justified at the rate of one basketball size court for every 10,000-15,000 people in the catchment area.

According to these benchmarks. the Shire's population of 150.000 requires the equivalent of 10-15 indoor sport courts.

With six courts currently (or one court per 25,000 people), the Shire falls well short of this requirement. This is particularly the case given that only two of the ,courts– the PCYC and YMCA courts– are fully accessible. (Four of the courts are school facilities - with community use being constrained and impeded by both regular and irregular school requirements).

Additionally, the single-court configuration of all the facilities is a major constraint for many (existing and potential) user groups. To schedule and conduct their activities adequately, these groups normally require multi-court facilities.

The Shire currently has only one dedicated multi-court indoor sports centre (ie the Dural Sports and Leisure Centre)– and this is essentially a commercial **facility** with its own programs. It does not meet the requirements of community based indoor sports organisations.

The proposed four-court facility at **Dartford** Road will assist greatly in bringing local facility provisions closer to the benchmark levels. Nominally, this facility will increase the overall provision to one court per 15,000 residents. But leaving aside the (only partly accessible) school facilities, the provision of 'accessible' courts will be one per 25,000 residents – still well below the benchmark level.

Additionally, with forecasts of steady population growth, any short term sufficiency of supply may not remain in the medium to longer term.

Assessing the Adequacy of Supply on the Basis of Regional Comparisons

Hornsby has a below average supply of indoor sports centres compared with many other regions in Australia. With one court per 75,000 people (excluding the school facilities), the Shire compares unfavourably with metropolitan Sydney as a whole (which has one court per 30,000 people)³⁰ and even more so with a range of other areas.

These areas include the NSW Central Coast (with per capita provision of 1 court/6,500), Townsville (1/7,000), the Wollongong/Shellharbour region (1/12,000), and Newcastle/Lake Macquarie (1/15,000).

Despite the relatively high provision levels in these areas, there is no evidence, in any of them, of over-provision. In fact, there appears to be a fairly good balance between supply and demand in all. In Wollongong, for example, all facilities are being used at full or near full capacity but, at the same time, the needs of all indoor sports groups (including basketball, netball, futsal and hockey) are being adequately met.

On a comparative basis, therefore, there is a 'very low' provision of indoor sports halls in the Shire. (However, when the proposed Dartford Road facility is completed, the Shire will have one court per 25,000 people – better than the metropolitan average and more comparable with many of the better provided regions in Australia).

Assessing the Adequacy of Supply on the Basis of Local Participation

State average participation rates in indoor sports in NSW can be compared with the actual participation rates in a particular area to provide an indicator of facility adequacy or otherwise.

That is, where actual participation is greater than the state-level benchmarks there is a strong indication, other things being equal, that participation is not being held back by the lack of accessible facilities. Where, on the other hand, participation is lower than the benchmarks there is an indication that the lack of accessible facilities may be a cause of this.

Being, typically, the dominant use of indoor sports halls, basketball provides the best subject for this analysis.

³⁰ The overall provision of indoor sports courts in Sydney is low – perhaps less than half of what it should be to provide adequate opportunity. It is particularly low compared to Melbourne – as well as to many other parts of metropolitan and regional Australia.

(In Melbourne, for example, the provision of indoor courts has occurred at the rate of one court for each 10,000 population or better. There are 170 public stadia courts in Melbourne (105 more than in Sydney) as well as those facilities operated by youth organisations, schools and tertiary institutions).

The most recent available participation statistics for basketball are those identified in the 1999/2000 Participation in Sport and Physical Activities (ABS) survey. This showed that in NSW, in 1999/2000, 1.2% of the population aged 18 years and over (or 57,000 people) played basketball in a competition organised by a club or association.

The majority of these players (80% or 46,000) were in the 18 to 24 year and 25-34 year age groups. The specific age group breakdowns were 4.8% of those 18-24, 1.5% of 25-34 year olds, 0.9% of 35-44 year olds and 0.05% of those aged 45 years and over.

Assuming that Shire residents have an 'average interest' in playing basketball, these age related participation rates can be applied to the Shire's population—to generate an estimate of the likely number of participants in 'organised' basketball. This approach results in an estimate of 1,136 participants in structured basketball activities (comprising 658 in the 18-24 age group, 261 in the 25-34 age group, 193 in the 35-44 age group and 24 in the 45+ age group).

These estimates are then compared to the actual participation rates—based on the numbers provided by the local basketball associations.

This comparison shows that the actual participation rates are significantly lower than the benchmark estimates. Thus, the Hornsby Basketball Association has about 1,500 members and 500 of these are aged 18 years or over - 56% less than would be expected from the statewide averages.

The lower than average participation levels in Hornsby could be a consequence of factors other than the low provision of facilities (such as travel distances to facilities, local traditions and/or the promotional expertise of local associations).

However, given the high use of existing facilities in the region and the Basketball Association's view that participant numbers would double if sufficient facilities were provided, it appears that the relatively low local participation rates are mainly the consequence of too few (appropriate) facilities being available.

Assessing the Adequacy of Supply on the Basis of Community Views

Community consultations conducted in previous studies - including the 1991 Recreation Needs Study and the 1997 Open Space Plan - have all identified significant demands for additional indoor sport and recreation facilities.

The consultations undertaken for the current study - including the July 2001 *Organisations Survey* and subsequent interviews with representatives of sports associations and managers of indoor sports centres - have also found a very strong need for additional indoor sports halls in the Shire.

Thus all four indoor sports organisations that responded to the organisations survey – Hornsby Basketball Association, NSW Futsal Association, Upper North Shore Table Tennis Association and Hornsby RSL Youth Club Gymnastics – all unambiguously expressed an urgent need for additional indoor facilities within the Shire.

9.3. Conclusions – Indoor Sports Facility Assessment

The key supply issues are:

- There are only two community-based indoor sports centres in the Shire
- Both of these centres are single court facilities
- There are also four 'partly accessible' indoor courts in schools and two commercial centres (used primarily for indoor soccer and netball).
- On a national benchmark basis, Hornsby has a very low provision of indoor recreation facilities.
- There are insufficient indoor sports courts to meet current needs and demands
- The Shire has no major indoor sports facility suitable for the conduct of major sports events (the closest such facility being the 4-court Hills Basketball Stadium).
- The Shire's level of participation in basketball (the major indoor sport in Australia) are low compared to average participation levels in NSW
- The low participation levels may, in part, be a consequence of factors other than the limited supply of facilities (such as access difficulties and competition from 'high growth' activities such as soccer and touch football)
- It appears, however, that the poor provision of facilities is the major contributing factor to the low participation rates in basketball and other indoor sports
- The proposed Dartford Road four-court sports hall will substantially but- according to planning benchmarks - not completely remove the current shortfall in the supply of indoor sports facilities in the Shire
- Due to the extent of 'pent up' demand for indoor sports facilities within the region, it is likely that the proposed sports hall will be used at full or near to full capacity in a relatively short period after its opening
- This level of use will occur within the context of a steadily growing population and consequent increases in the demand for a range of indoor sports activities
- The need for **additional/expanded** indoor sports facilities will therefore need to be monitored on an ongoing basis
- Options for meeting any additional demands would include the provision of wholly new facilities, the expansion of existing facilities (including the PCYC and YMCA facilities) and/or the better utilisation of school facilities

10. Facilities Assessment – Aquatic Facilities

10.1. Introduction

There are five 'swimming centres' in the Shire – three public centres provided by Council (in Hornsby, Galston and Epping) and five 'private' pools, mainly used for learn-to-swim and squad training.

There are no large public swimming centres in adjacent municipalities in locations close to Hornsby Shire's boundaries. (The closest centres are at Baulkham Hills, West Pymble and Ryde – at four, six and seven kilometres, respectively, from the Shire's boundaries).

This Chapter describes the basic features and attributes of the existing aquatic centres in the Shire - the component facilities at each centre, the programs and activities available, current use, use fees and future development plans. It **also** identifies the extent to which pools in adjacent municipalities meet the aquatic needs of Hornsby Shire's residents.

10.2. Council Facilities

Hornsby Olympic Pool

The Hornsby Swimming Centre is located in Hornsby Park, opposite the Hornsby Shire Council Chambers. The facility is strategically well located, being visible from a major traffic route (Pacific Highway) and within easy walking distance of the Hornsby CBD and railway station.

The Pool complex comprises the following facilities:

- 50 x 7 lane outdoor, heated pool and concourse,
- 12 x 6 metre heated outdoor program pool (covered with plastic wind breaks)
- toddlers wading pool (with shade cover and mushroom)
- children's playground and grassed areas
- creche
- swimming club room
- support facilities (change, kiosk, covered grandstand)
- limited (inadequate) car parking

Centre operations are managed directly by Council

The Centre is open year round. During summer, public access hours are between 6.00am-7.45pm from Monday to Thursday, 6.00am-6.45pm on Friday and Saturday, and 7.00am-6.45pm on Sunday (and public holidays). In winter, the opening hours are slightly shorter five days of the week and significantly shorter two days (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Use over the past 6 years has averaged 157,000 per annum (or 430 per day).

Programs include swim school (toddlers to intermediate), squad training; aquarobics school programs (learn to swim, lifesaving and aquarobics), scuba and water polo. A creche is available 3 mornings per week.

The Pool is a major venue for school swim carnivals, with 28 schools and zones using the centre during February and March 2002.

Single entry fees are \$3.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children and \$2.20 for pensioners/seniors. Program fees range from \$6.00 for casual concession aquarobics to \$14.00 for private (15 minute) swim lessons. A range of membership and multiple ticket options are also available.

Pool entry statistics indicate that the major current markets are adult fitness swimming, child casual swimming, learn to swim and school activities. The full year data for 2001, for example, show that adult (and pensioner) casual aquatic entries accounted for 32% of centre entries, child casual 16%, learn to swim 18% and school entry (carnivals and programs) 18%.

Galston Aquatic Centre

Galston Aquatic Centre is within Galston Reserve off Galston Road, Galston – opposite Galston High School.

The Centre comprises the following facilities:

- 25 metre 6 lane indoor, heated pool
- a small gymnasium area
- Swimming club room
- Creche
- Office/first aid room
- Changeltoilet facilities
- kiosk/reception area
- grassed barbecue and playground area

Centre operations are managed directly by Council.

The Centre is open year round. Public access hours are generally between 5.30am and 9.00pm from Monday to Friday and 7.00am to 6.00pm Saturday. Sunday and public holidays.

Use over the past 6 years has averaged 96,000 per annum (or 260 per day) but, over the past 3 years, the average annual use has increased to 123,000 (337 per day) – reflecting the provision of 'dry' program areas since 1998.

Programs include swim school, squad training, school sport and aqua aerobics. The Centre has a creche.

Not having a 50-metre pool, the Centre is not a major venue for school carnivals.

Pool single entry fees are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.20 for children. Gym single entry fees are \$6.50 for adults and \$5.50 concession. Program fees range from \$5.50 for student/pensioner fitness classes to \$7.00 for adult casual aquarobics classes. A range of membership and multiple ticket options are also available.

Pool entry statistics indicate that the major current markets are learn to swim, squad training, adult and child fitness/casual swimming, and gym use. The full year data for 2001, for example, show that learn to swim accounted for 44% of centre entries, squads 18%, general entries 17%, gym (including gym-swim) 10% and schools 9%.

Epping Swimming Centre

Epping Swimming Centre is within Dence Park (off Epping Road, Epping). The Centre is a traditional outdoor pool complex, comprising the following facilities:

- 50 x 17.5 metre outdoor, heated pool
- 15 metre wading/teaching pool
- small toddlers' pool
- gymnasium
- changeltoilet facilities
- kiosk/kitchen
- grassed areas with playgrou'nd facilities
- spectator seating and clubrooms
- storage and first aid rooms
- large sealed car park

The Centre is open year round. Public access hours are between 5.30am and 7.45pm from Monday to Thursday, 5.30am and 6.45pm on Friday, 9.30am and 7.00pm on Saturday and 7.00am to 7.00pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Use over the past 5 years has averaged 133,000 per annum (or 360 per day).

Programs include learn to swim, squad training, water polo, canoe polo, scuba and aquarobics.

The Centre (like Hornsby) is also a major venue for school swim carnivals, with 30 schools (from as far away as Belrose) and zones using the centre during February and March 2002.

Single entry fees to the pool are \$3.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children, \$2.20 for pensioners and \$1.60 for spectators. Various concession ticket options are also available.

Single entry fees to the gym are \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children and pensioners and \$3.50 for school groups. Concession ticket options are also available for the gym.

Entry statistics indicate that the major current markets are adult and child casual swimming, squad training and learn to swim. The full year data for 2001, for example, show that casual (adult and child) entries accounted for 49% of centre entries, squad training 22%, learn to swim 17% and school entries 10%.

Gym and aqua programs accounted for a modest 1.5% of total centre use.

10.3. The markets for Council's facilities

This section reviews the market position and reach of the existing pools by identifying the 'catchment area' for each centre - and the size and characteristics of the populations within those catchments (and the special needs of some components of those populations). Along with the data on the use of the centres (section 9.4), this review provides the necessary background to the assessment of facility adequacy - in section 9.5 below.

Pool 'catchment' areas

The catchment area for a facility is the geographical area from which the users of the facility are drawn. The actual size of a catchment depends upon many matters including a facility's intrinsic qualities and appeal, its uniqueness, promotion and marketing campaigns, programs and activities offered, management skills and the presence or otherwise of other opportunities in the catchment, including other pools.

The primary catchment is the geographical area containing the majority - 70% to 80% - of potential users. Research undertaken by the Victorian and South Australian Governments between 1980 and 1995³¹ has demonstrated that the primary catchment area for aquatic facilities is generally within about 5 kilometres travel

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distance or **15** minutes travel time from the facility. This is the average catchment size. Individual catchments may be larger or smaller, depending on specific local circumstances.

In some circumstances pool users will travel for more than **15** minutes to use high quality aquatic facilities. This is unlikely to occur in the case of the Shire's three pools. Most of those who live beyond the **15** minute travel zone (for each pool) will be closer to one or both of the other two pools in the Shire or pools in neighbouring municipalities (in West Pymble, Parramatta, Ryde and Baulkham Hills).

Given the adequacy of these other facilities, it is unlikely that persons living closer to them than to the Shire's pools would incur the additional costs of travelling to them. They may, of course, choose to use the facilities when travelling to **Hornsby, Galston** or Epping for other purposes (such as for work or visiting family), especially if the facilities offer attractive new services and programs not available elsewhere.

It is assumed, therefore, that the primary catchment areas for the Shire's aquatic centres are largely within five kilometres travel distance of each centre. The constraining factors are the large number of 'competing' pools in the Shire and wider region, the presence of major access barriers (railway lines, major roads and extensive bushland areas) and the public transport dependency of many users.

The catchment area for the Epping Pool is limited to about five to seven kilometres - being constrained by competition from the West Pymble and Ryde pools (in the east and south-east), Baulkham Hills and Parramatta pools (in the west and south-west) and Hornsby Pool (in the north).

The primary catchment areas for the **Hornsby** and **Galston** Pools are likely to be much larger - up to **15** kilometres - due to the absence of alternative opportunities in the north and northwest districts of the Shire.

Research undertaken by Jenny Rand & Associates in **1999** supports these assumptions. Thus, a survey of pool users at **Hornsby** and **Galston** Pools found that many learn to swim and squad clients lived in the Berowra area (around **11** kilometres from the pool). As well, the Berowra **RSL Swimming Club** uses the **Hornsby** Pool for its weekly competitions.

The catchment areas for each of the Shire's three centres are illustrated, according to the suburbs within them, in Table **10.1**. The Table illustrates clearly how there is very little overlap between Epping Pool's catchment area and those for the **two** 'northern' centres.

The catchment areas for all pools extend into surrounding **LGA's**. Those for the **Galston** and **Hornsby** Pools are however mainly within the **Hornsby** Shire. The former extends to Kenthurst in Baulkham Hills Shire while the latter extends to Wahroonga in

Ku-ring-gai. The majority of the Epping Pool's catchment is within the Ryde and Parramatta LGA's – with only about 30% within Hornsby Shire.

Table 10.1: Catchment Areas – Hornsby Shire's Aquatic/Leisure Centres

Suburb	Epping Aquatic Centre	Hornsby Aquatic Centre	Galston Aquatic & Leisure Centre
Hornsby Shire'			
Westleigh		4	
Thornleigh		4	
Normanhurst		4	
Hornsby		4	
Waitara		4	
Asquith		4	
Berowra Creek		4	
Hornsby Heights		4	
Mt Colah		4	
Mt Ku-ring-gai		4	
Berowra		4	
Berowra Waters		4	
Milson's Island		4	
Milson's Passage		4	
Cowan		4	
Berowra Heights		4	
Glenhaven			4
Dural			4
Arcadia			4
Galston			4
Mid Dural			4
Berrilee			4
Maroota			4
Wiseman's Ferry			4
Glenorie			4
Forest Glen			4
Fiddletown			4
Canoelands			4
Singleton's Hill			4
Laughtondale			4
Brooklyn		4	
Dangar Island		4	
Cherrybrook		4	4
Epping	4		
Epping North	4		
Carlingford	4		

Suburb	Epping Aquatic Centre	Hornsby Aquatic Centre	Galston Aquatic & Leisure Centre
Cheltenham	4		
Beecroft	4		
Pennant Hills	4		
West Pennant Hills	4		
Other LGA			
Kenthurst			4
Glenhaven			4
Wahroonga		4	
Warrawee		4	
Turrumurra		4	
Epping	4		
Denistone	4		
Denistone East	4		
Eastwood	4		
Marsfield	4		
Ryde	4		
North Ryde	4		

Catchment populations

Based on Table 10.1 (and the assumptions contained therein) the *primary* catchment populations are around 80,000 for the Epping Pool, 50,000 for the Hornsby Pool and 18,000 for the Galston Pool³².

The Hornsby and Galston Pools also have large secondary catchment populations – extending to Berowra and Cowan (for the Hornsby Pool) and Cherrybrook/Castle Hill (for the Galston Pool) – due to the lack of alternative facilities in these areas.

The actual catchment populations for the Hornsby and Galston Centres are, therefore, more likely to be in the order of 75,000 and 40,000, respectively.

Based on the Shire's current population growth rate, the combined catchment population of 200,000 in 1996 is likely to grow to 250,000 by 2021.

The catchment populations comprise the following key markets³³:

³² The actual catchment populations may differ from the potential, due to the overlapping of catchments and the existence of access barriers (highways, creeks etc).

³³ Based on the population characteristics of Hornsby Shire (as analysed in Chapter 4, above), These characteristics are used here as a proxy for the wider pool catchment areas.

- A major child and youth market with 29% of the population between 0 and 19 years of age,
- A lower than average – but still significant - younger adult market with 36% of the population between 25 and 49 years of age,
- A large family with children market – with 'couple families with children' accounting for 45.8% of families (compared with 35.7% in NSW)
- A small but still significant older adult market with 12% of the catchment population over 65 years – a proportion which will increase significantly over the next two decades,
- A significant school market – with 30,000 attending primary and high schools in the catchment in 1999, and
- Higher than average individual and household incomes – with a still significant, proportion of low-income households.

The market profile indicates that some of the population groups that, typically, are higher users of pools (children and adults with children) form a significant proportion of the catchment populations.

As a consequence, the population is likely to generate reasonably high use of pools – especially where management focuses on children's and youth opportunities, family activities and fitness activities for younger adults.

The larger than average proportion of children suggests that the requirement for *learn* to swim and water play opportunities will be more pronounced than it is, in say, inner city areas.

The lower than average number of young adults in the catchment can be expected to generate a lower than average demand for fitness and sports activities. On the other hand, the average proportion of older adults is likely to generate an average demand for water exercise and therapy type activities.

While average incomes are relatively high - suggesting that many residents can afford reasonable entry fees - consideration still needs to be given to the constraints facing lower income individuals and households.

Low-income groups – including single parent families and unemployed - are important target markets for Council's aquatic/leisure centres. Council has community *service* obligations to provide basic recreation (including *swimming*) opportunities to the whole community. The implication is that pricing structures should incorporate appropriate concession fees for those with a limited ability to pay.

Mobility levels – in terms of car ownership – are relatively high within the Shire – with 53% of households having two or more cars. Despite this, a large proportion of households - the 47% that have only one or nil cars - may still experience access difficulties.

Hornsby Pool is well placed near public transport – but there are implications for the other centres in regard to public transport routing and timetables and the possible provision of subsidised transport services for customers with special access needs.

10.4. Utilisation of Council facilities

The Hornsby Aquatic Centre is a 'wet' facility only while the Epping and Galston Aquatic Centres also have small gyms – but use of these gyms accounts for only a small proportion of overall centre use.

The wet area utilisation of the three centres is summarised in Table 10.2:

Table 10.2: Use of Hornsby Shire's Aquatic/Leisure Centres

Year	Hornsby Pool			Epping Aquatic Centre			Galston Pool			Total
	visits	visits/day	visits/yr/mt	visits	visits/day	visits/yr/mt	visits	visits/day	visits/yr/mt	Visits
2000/01	162,000	444	151	144,000	395	136	114,000	312	304	420,000
1999/00	143,000	392	133	135,000	370	128	115,000	315	307	393,000
1998/99	165,000	452	154	127,000	348	120	110,000	301	293	402,000
1997/98	174,000	477	162	129,000	353	122	59,000	162	157	362,000
1996/97	163,000	447	152	123,000	337	117	45,000	123	120	331,000

* Visits per year per metre is a measure of the total annual visits divided by the m² of relevant program space. In this table, this is the pool water area. The measure facilitates efficiency comparisons of centres of different sizes.

The overall utilisation of (the pool components) of Council's aquatic centres in the last three years has ranged between 400-420,000 visits. This had increased from 330,000 visits in 1997.

The 'dry area' facilities attracted an additional 1,889 visits at Epping (or 1.2% of total use) and 11,800 visits at Galston (9% of total use).

Despite the apparent substantial growth in visitor numbers, the overall use of Council's pools is relatively low on a national benchmark basis. Thus, based on national facility use benchmarks, average participation in the Shire would generate around 600,000 visits to Council's pools – considerably more than the 430,000 visits actually achieved.³⁴

³⁴ The University of South Australia's Centre for Environmental and Recreation Management (CERM) produces annually a number of leisure/aquatic centre performance indicators. One of these is 'catchment multiple' – 'the number of visits per year divided by the estimated population size within 5 kms of the centre'. The median national catchment multiple for 'outdoor wet centres' (like Hornsby and Epping Pools) is 3.8. For indoor wet/dry centres (like Galston) it is 7.2. The product of these multiples and the respective 5 kms populations for the three centres (47,000, 80,000 and 18,000) is around 600,000:

Table 10.2 also illustrates the gap in cost effectiveness – measured by visits per annum per square metre of pool space – between the **Galston** (indoor heated) Pool and the two older (outdoor heated) centres. The utilisation of water space at **Galston**, in terms of visits per square metre of water space, is twice that achieved at the **Hornsby** and **Epping** Pools – reflecting the greater 'usability' and attractiveness of indoor facilities.

10.5. Other Facilities

There are several private and commercial aquatic facilities in the Shire – including six small commercial pools – at **Berowra**, **Dural (2)**, **Hornsby Heights**, **Thornleigh** and **Beecroft** - and two school 25 metre indoor pools (**Barker** and **Loreto**). There is also a pool at **Abbotsleigh School** – just over the municipal border in **Wahroonga**.

The small commercial pools – **Berowra Aquatic Centre**, **Bubbles Swim School (Dural)**, **Winram Swim School (Dural)**, **Fish Alive (Hornsby Heights)**, **Dougal Moffat** at the **Thornleigh Sports Centre** and **Audrey and Bruce McDonald (Beecroft)** – generally provide learn to swim, adult stroke correction, aqua aerobics and squad training programs.

Three of the pools are outdoor summer-only facilities. Only the **Bubbles** and **Winram Swim Schools** at **Dural** and the **Dougal Moffat** pool at **Thornleigh** are heated all-year-round facilities.

Some of the facilities – being within residential areas - have restricted hours of operation. The **Berowra Aquatic Centre**, for example, is closed on **Sundays** and open to 4.00pm only on **Saturdays**.

While these pools do not provide casual and lap swimming opportunities, they are major providers of learn to swim, squad training and aqua-aerobic programs and compete with Council's pools for participants in these activities.

The school facilities are not available for general public swimming.

10.6. Adequacy of the Shire's Aquatic Facilities

This section reviews the adequacy of Council's aquatic facilities – via reference to planning benchmarks, the needs of specific 'markets' (existing and potential) for pool facilities and the extent to which these needs are met by the Shire's existing pools (and/or by 'competing' pools in neighbouring local government areas).

Planning benchmarks and the experience of 'modern' centres

The last 15-20 years have witnessed a 'revolution' in the design and development of aquatic (and other recreation) facilities. As a consequence, there are now, throughout Australia, many indoor aquatic leisure centres sewing different sizes and types of community.

It is now generally accepted that conventional 50 metre outdoor pools are less cost-effective than modern alternatives. Most are old, with high unavoidable maintenance costs, and most are used effectively for only part of the year (ie in the warmer months). Such pools typically incur large operating deficits in the order of \$50,000 to \$200,000 per annum.³⁵

Lack of shallow and heated water, weather, the short season and the usual heavy commitment to club and lap swimming activities limits the range and flexibility of programming at traditional, outdoor facilities. Substantial operating subsidies are the inevitable result.

Indoor heated pools, on the other hand, have the potential to break even financially. But this will generally require entrepreneurial management, minimum sizecatchment populations (around 40,000 for fifty metre pools and 20,000 for twenty-five metre pools) and integration with other leisure facilities such as sports halls, fitness facilities and catering/merchandising.

Pool market segments

The emergence of the 'modern centre' is, in part, a result of the widespread recognition that there are **multiple** markets for aquatic facilities and that, for both equity and commercial reasons, new and wider **services** must be provided.

Indeed, the successful management of modern facilities requires that as many market segments as possible are catered to. Doing this will ensure that financial returns are maximised *and* that, at the same time, there is balance between meeting market driven demands and the Shire's wider community welfare needs.

The core market groupings are listed in Table 10.3

³⁵ P Fitzgerald & S Dreyfus, *Drowning by Numbers*, 1994; Centre for Environmental & Recreation Management, Performance Indicators Project, Annual Surveys 1995-2000).

Table 10.3: Target Markets for Aquatic/Leisure Centres

Broad Grouping	Market Segment
RECREATION MARKET	Families Children Seniors groups Holiday programs Childrens' parties
HEALTH / FITNESS MARKET	Adult lap swimming Corporate fitness Rehabilitation programs Aqua-aerobics Long term inactive (ie 'fit and fat loss')
EDUCATION MARKET	School programs Learn to swim Stroke correction
SPORTS MARKET	Carnivals / competitions Club training Swim squads Aquatic sports (scuba diving, water-polo, hockey, canoeing, synchronised swimming)
PUBLIC SAFETY MARKET	Life Saving training

The above markets are expanded considerably where **dry** recreation facilities are provided in association with wet facilities. Additional key markets for integrated wet/dry facilities include those for a range of indoor court sports and **gym/fitness** activities.

Current levels of service

The existing aquatic centres are receiving relatively high levels of use but, at the Hornsby and Epping outdoor centres, the use is concentrated in the summer months (with up to 75% of visits occurring in the October-March six months).

The centres, collectively, are providing a wide diversity of high quality opportunities to the 'health and fitness', 'sports', 'education' and 'public safety' markets - including squads, swim schools, lap swimming, school programs and life-saving training.

The 'leisure-recreation' market, however, is not so well provided for – due to the lack of indoor, heated leisure pools in the more populated areas of the Shire. This is

particularly the case during the cooler months. The number of casual visits to the three centres in 2001 was collectively only around 150,000 – or less than one visit per capita within the catchment³⁶. Only 31,000 or 20% of these visits occurred in the winter months (between April and September).

Consistent with this, the current study has identified a strong demand within the community for upgraded, heated year round swimming facilities.

The Community Survey, for instance, identified widespread use of Council's pools – with 50% of respondents using at least one of the pools in the previous 12 months. The pool was the favourite leisure facility/setting for 9% of respondents but levels of dissatisfaction were relatively high – with 29% of respondents 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied' with Council's pools. (This was the second highest dissatisfaction score).

The Community Survey also found a high level of unmet demand for 'swimming/aquatic activities' – with 11% of respondents expressing a need for more participation in such activities. (This was the highest score for unmet demand). Associated with this was a high ranking for 'swimming facilities' in Council's future spending priorities – with 19% of respondents giving pools their number one expenditure priority.

The Organisations' Survey echoed the above findings in identifying widespread needs for facility upgrading – particularly in regard to pool and plant upgrades and the provision of additional shade and shelter. Epping and Hornsby Pools also received several 'poor' and 'average' condition ratings from user groups (including schools and swim clubs).

At the Sports Stakeholder Meeting, strong support was expressed for the upgrading of Council's aquatic facilities – in accordance with requirements that had been identified ten years previously (in the 1993 Leisure Needs Study, for example).

Finally, the focus group meetings all expressed a strong view concerning the need for 'modern' swimming facilities. This was particularly seen as a critical issue in the provision of an adequate range of facilities for youth – as well as opportunities for families to do leisure activities together.

Needs met by aquatic centres in surrounding local government areas

A relatively high proportion of Shire residents use pools in surrounding local government areas – as identified in the community survey.³⁷

³⁶ This can be compared, for example, with the 110,000 average annual 'wet area' casual visits to the Prairiewood Leisure Centre (comprising indoor heated 25 m & leisure pools) in Fairfield

³⁷ 8% of respondents indicated that they had used pools outside the Shire in the previous 12 months and half of these were regular users (ie more than 7 times)

This use is a product of multiple factors- including relative proximity, ease of access, comparative attractiveness of facilities (including relative crowdedness), friendliness/helpfulness of staff, entry fees and suitability of programs.

Only one pool – the Baulkham Hills Memorial Pool – has a primary catchment area that extends into Hornsby Shire but other pools in the wider region– particularly the Ryde Leisure Centre and the Sydney International Aquatic Centre at Homebush – have unique features that draw users from a very large catchment.

While the Ryde Leisure Centre, for example, is nearly seven kilometres from the Shire's closest boundary, it is a modern, attractive, fully integrated **wet/dry** centre with a strategically sound location (on Victoria Road, close to its junction with Church Street/Lane Cove Road). It is well placed to attract users from a very **wide** catchment area - including residents in the Shire's southern suburbs.

10.7. Recent and Current Strategies to Improve Aquatic Facilities

Several strategies and studies undertaken over the past ten years have proposed substantial improvements to the Shire's aquatic facilities. The proposals have included operational changes, facility upgrades and the provision of new pools (both at existing centres and at new locations).³⁸

Many of these proposals – such as the redevelopment of the **Hornsby** Pool into a 'regional indoor aquatic leisure centre', the provision of indoor swimming facilities at Dartford Road (Thornleigh) and the provision of a heated pool at Berowra and an additional heated pool at **Galston** – have not as yet been taken up by Council.

Other proposals have, however, been adopted by Council and implemented during the past ten years. These have included the following:

- Transfer (in 1993) of pool management from lessees to Council
- Heating of pools at **Galston** and **Hornsby**
- Provision of fitness gyms at Epping and **Galston**
- Provision of a heated (11.5 x 5.7m) learn to swim pool at Epping Aquatic Centre

Current improvement strategies – proposed for implementation during this or next financial year – include:

- Renovation of main pool at **Hornsby** Aquatic Centre

³⁸ Recreation Needs Study, Manidis Roberts (1991); Swimming Pool Strategy Plan (1993); Aquatic Centres Strategy Review. RMP & Associates (1995); Swimming Pool Business Plans, RMP & Associates (1995); Hornsby Open Space Plan, Hassell (1997); Berowra Aquatic & Recreation Centre Feasibility Study, Jenny Rand & Associates (1999)

- Provision of additional equipment at the Epping and Galston gyms
- Investigation of options for an additional heated pool at Galston (pending resolution of the Cherrybrook pool proposal – see below)

Additionally, the Carlyle Swimming Organisation is currently preparing a development application of an indoor heated pool at Cherrybrook.

10.8. Conclusions – Aquatic Facilities Assessment

The Shire has one 25 metre indoor heated pool and two outdoor heated pools at three locations – Epping, Hornsby and Galston. Two of the centres – the Epping and Galston centres – also have gym facilities. Collectively, the three centres serve a regional catchment population of around 200,000 people and generate around 430,000 visits per year.

As indicated in section 10.4, above, this is a relatively low level of use according to national benchmark data.

The catchment population provides a large potential market for indoor sport and aquatic facilities but a large proportion of this potential is not being realised because the existing facilities are regarded as unsuitable, unattractive and/or unsafe and required facilities (such as modern indoor leisure centres) do not exist.

It is probable that the relatively low levels of use are a consequence of the current condition and presentation of assets and the absence of key facilities (such as indoor heated 'leisure pools').

While the existing pools provide a range of high value aquatic opportunities, this is mainly for structured programs (learn to swim, squad training, aquarobics, school programs) and lap swimming – and less so for informal play and leisure use.

Not surprisingly, given this lack of wider opportunity, the study has identified a strong need for upgraded, heated year round swimming facilities.

The reviews detailed above – on the quantity, condition and use of current facilities, market segment size and type and local expressions of need – all lend support to the requirement to further upgrade the Shire's aquatic facilities.

Based on the experience of modern centres, appropriately upgraded facilities will cater more effectively to the full range of potential users (or markets segments) at a lower unit cost to Council.

There is a particular need for a regional scale wet-dry centre – such as those provided at Willoughby, Lane Cove and Ryde. The combination of facilities – indoor heated pool(s), gym/aerobic space, catering (and, in larger centres, sports halls) – in

the one integrated centre would provide extensive synergies in use and the potential for "cross fertilisation" between activities.

The twin benefits of providing an integrated centre are greater levels of participation in recreation and a far better financial performance than is possible at Council's existing centres (as demonstrated in the annual CERM centre performance surveys).

Additionally, an integrated centre would provide a major focus (identity) for leisure and recreation in the community.

11. Facilities Assessment – Halls & Community Centres

11.1. Introduction

Meeting space is needed for a wide variety of leisure and cultural activities and for other purposes (including support groups, training sessions, seminars, information sessions and the like). Having adequate space for meetings is a basic prerequisite for every community.

Meeting space is often available in licenced clubs and commercial conference facilities but these may be too large and/or unaffordable for many community-based organisations.

Within this context, purpose built community centres and school, church and other halls provide important sites for community based leisure activity.

There are 95 halls and community centres within the Shire (26 Council and 69 non-Council). This chapter focuses on the leisure and recreation aspects of these centres. Specifically, it identifies facility components, leisure activities, current use, and (where relevant) future development plans.

The chapter also assesses the adequacy of the centres within the context of the demonstrated needs for such facilities.

11.2. Council Managed Facilities

There are 26 Council-managed community centres and halls within the Shire. Three of these are managed directly by Council and ~~twenty-three~~ indirectly via S377 management committees.

The facilities are used by a large number of organisations – both on a regular and casual basis - for a wide range of cultural, recreation, education, health, welfare and social activities. Current community use, for each of the centres, is detailed at Attachment I. The range and type of uses occurring at the centres is summarised in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1: Type & Range of Use - Council Managed Community Centres & Halls

Type of use	No. of user groups	% User groups
Cultural		
Dance schools	17	8.3
Dance groups	14	6.9
Musical groups/societies	4	2.0

Type of use	No. of user groups	% User groups
Drama schools/groups	6	2.9
Art/Craft groups	20	9.8
Physical Recreation		
Marial arts	12	5.9
Tai chilyogalgentle exercise	12	5.9
Physical culture	4	2.0
Aerobics/kindygym	3	1.5
Recreation/hobby groups	21	10.3
Seniors groups/lactivities	7	3.4
Youth activities	2	1.0
Playgroups/pre schools	12	5.9
Schools/1 evening coilegelmaths coaching	9	4.4
Support/self help groups/counseling	16	7.8
Ethnic/national groups/societies	6	2.9
Religious	17	8.3
Poitiicallinterest/lobby groups	15	7.4
Service organisations/clubs	4	2.0
Health services	3	1.5
TOTAL	204	100.0

Table 11.1 illustrates the importance of Council's community centres in providing venues for a wide range of leisure-related groups and activities. Thus, 60% of the approximately 200 groups currently using the centres are engaged in cultural, physical recreation, hobby recreation or seniors and youth activities. (The other 40% comprises an array of 'non-leisure' organisations – including religious, welfare, political and health interests).

Many of the leisure related groups are also amongst the more regular users of the centres.

Levels of capacity utilisation for each centre – in terms of regular user bookings - are summarised in Table 11.2.³⁹ The figures do not include casual bookings of the centres for one-off meetings and social functions such as parties, weddings and other events. These vary from month to month at all centres, with average use ranging from two to around eight bookings per month.

³⁹ Based on the centre use statistics gathered as part of the Community Centre Survey undertaken by Council's Parks and Landscape Branch in March 2001.

Table 11.2: 'Regular user' utilisation of Council Managed Community Centres & Halls

Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Use Hrs/week	No. user groups	Capacity utilisation (%)				
				W/day AM	W/day A/noon	W/day evening	Sat	Sun
PD 1								
Epping Community Centre	4	71	15	4	10	39	21	21
Epping Creative Centre	3	57	18	35	20	35	7	0
W Epping Community Centre	1	64	4	90	92	50	57	0
Beecroft Community Centre	2	33	6	18	4	36	30	0
Roselea Community Centre	2	37	2	18	5	56	14	0
PD 2								
Pennant Hills C Centre	3	140	31	59	27	68	57	36
Thornleigh Community Centre	3	47	13	28	15	29	0	0
Thornleigh W P School CC	1	13	4	0	12	25	0	29
Hawkins Hall	1	25	3	60	23	28	0	0
PD 3/9								
Willow Park Comm Centre	2	69	22	54	33	38	29	14
Library Meeting Rooms	2	15	6	6	0	26	7	0
Womens Rest Centre	1	34	7	50	42	21	45	4
Asquith Community Centre/Sports Club Inc	1	26	7	30	28	30	11	27
PD 4								
H Heights Community Centre	No data available							
Mt Kuring-gai C Centre	1	22	4	55	20	8	21	0
Mt Colah Community Centre	2	35	13	32	8	18	0	38
PD 5								
Berowra Community Centre	3	38	12	3	6	18	6	40
Berowra District Hall	1	16	3	4	20	45	0	0
Cowan Community Centre	1	9	2	45	0	0	0	0
PD 6/7								
W Ferry Community Centre	2	27	5	34	18	0	2	7
Glenorie Community Centre	1	7	2	0	5	16	29	0
Galston Community Centre	1	21	3	0	26	34	0	0
Arcadia Community Centre	1	10	1	11	10	9	0	0
Dangar Island Hall	1	3	2	1	0	7	14	0
PD 8								
Gumnut Community Centre	1	49	2	61	49	39	0	29

Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Use Hrs/week	No. user groups	Capacity utilisation (%)				
				W/day AM	W/day A/noon	W/day evening	Sat	Sun
Ch'brook Community Centre	3	108	17	38	40	43	43	36
TOTAL	44	976	204					

Based on a theoretical capacity of 98 hour per week (ie 4 hours/morning, 6 hours afternoon, 4 hours evening x 7 days)

Table 11.2 indicates that the 44 halls/rooms within Council's 26 community centres/meeting places are used for a total of nearly 1,000 hours per week by regular users – or an average of 22 hours per hall/room. Irregular and ad hoc bookings would, on average, add another 3 to 6 hours to this total.

While this use is relatively high – particularly during weekday mornings and evenings – it is still, at most centres, well under 50% of theoretical capacity at most times of the week. This is illustrated in Table 11.2 which shows capacity utilisation ranging between 0-92% for different 'time slots' at the various centres.

While full capacity use is unlikely and unachievable in most situations, due to the nature of bookings⁴⁰, it is reasonable to argue that time slots at centres being used at less than 40% theoretical capacity are underutilised – to some extent at least. This is particularly true for time slots being used at less than 20% of theoretical capacity.

On this basis, and allowing for the ad hoc use of centres, it appears that several centres have considerable excess capacity – as summarised in Table 11.3.

Table 11.3: Capacity utilisation of Council's Community Centres & Halls

Time zone	Capacity Utilisation (Number of centres)		
	Less than 20%	Between 20-40%	Greater than 40%
Weekday AM	9	6	10
Weekday afternoon	12	9	4
Weekday evening	5	10	10
Saturday	16	5	4
Sunday	17	4	4

Table 11.3 shows that a majority of centres are used at less than 20% theoretical capacity during weekends and nearly half are used at this level during weekday afternoons. On the other hand, around 40% of the centres are being very well used at

⁴⁰ Thus, monthly bookings in a particular space may preclude a range of weekly bookings in that space – due to the disruption caused by the one 'unavailable week'. Again, a part-session booking (say 9.00-10.30am) will reduce the usability of residual times within that session (ie between 8.00-9.00am and 10.30-12.00pm).

peak use times (ie weekday mornings and evenings).

Only seven centres – West Epping CC, Pennant Hills CC, Hawkins Hall, Womens' Rest Centre, Willow Park CC, Gumnut CC and Cherrybrook CC – are well used (ie at more than 40% theoretical capacity) at most times of the week.

While under-utilisation is not really an issue in the rural and isolated areas (where meeting places are justified for relatively small populations on need criteria), it is an issue for centres in the urban/suburban districts.

With respect to this, the relatively low use of several centres – Epping CC, Beecroft CC, Thornleigh CC, Thornleigh West Public school CC, Mount Colah CC and Berowra CC - needs to be addressed in the management planning process.

11.3. Non-Council Halls

A large number of community organisations – including schools, churches, scouts and guides, service organisations and licenced clubs - own halls and meeting places and many of these are available for community use.

Details on the type and number of halls are summarised in Table 11.4 (The specific facilities and details on current types and levels of utilisation are listed at Attachment J).

Table 11.4: Type and Number of non-Council Halls

District	School Halls	Church Halls	Scout/Guide Halls	Other	Total Halls
PD 1	5	9	3	0	17
PD 2	5	6	5	1	17
PD 3 & 9	4	3	0	2	9
PD 4	2	4	3	0	9
PD 5	2	1	1	0	4
PD 6	4	2	2	0	8
PD 7	0	0	1	0	1
PD 8	2	1	0	0	3
TOTAL	24	26	15	3	68

The use of these facilities for general community purposes is constrained, to varying degrees, by their primary functions. School halls, for example, are unavailable during school hours and also at other times due to school requirements. Church halls are similarly unavailable – particularly on Sundays but also at other times due to various parish activities (such as youth groups, prayer groups and counseling).

The use of school and church halls is further constrained by insurance issues – with most schools and church groups requiring users to carry substantial public liability insurance.

Notwithstanding these constraints, the utilisation of 'available time' at the facilities is generally quite high. Thus, 60% of both church and school halls indicated that they had nil or very little spare capacity. Many also indicated that they were taking no more regular bookings due to the constraining impact on school or church activities.

It is noted also that most school and church halls regularly receive requests from community groups for meeting space that they are *unable* to accommodate. Thus, around 10 schools and churches are receiving between 4-10 requests a month which cannot be met. Many others receive at least 4 requests per annum for meeting space. Most of these unmet requests occur in the established areas – particularly within Cherrybrook and parts of PD's 1 and 2.

The close to full utilisation of community based halls is an interesting distinction to the relative under use of Council's halls and community centres.

11.4. Overall Provision of Community Centres and Halls

On a per capita basis, and as illustrated in Table 11.5, the distribution of community centres and halls in the Shire is quite even – except for the relatively high provision in the rural areas and, conversely, the very low provision in the Cherybrook/Castle Hill area (PD 8).

Table 11.5: District Distribution of Community Centres and Halls

District	Pop*	Community Centres	Halls (Council)	Halls (Community)	Population per facility
PD 1	29,972	5		17	1,362
PD 2	26,845	3	1	17	1,278
PD 3 & 9	18,823	1	2	9	1,569
PD 4	19,071	4		9	1,467
PD 5	8,678	2	1	4	1,240
PD 6 & 7	10,308	5		9	736
PD 8	22,695	2		3	4,539
TOTAL	136,392	22	4	68	1,451
* 1996 Census					

Overall, the Shire has one centre/hall per 1,451 people with the respective amounts in the planning districts ranging from 114,539 (in PD 8) to 11736 (in PD's 6/7).

11.5. Adequacy of Community Centres/Halls

The adequacy of community centres and community based halls – in terms of meeting community needs for meeting and assembly space – can be assessed according to planning benchmarks, the expressed needs of residents and community organisations and the levels of use of existing facilities.

Planning benchmarks

Local purpose built community centres/halls are normally justified at 1:3,500-10,000 people. At the other end of the scale, regional/LGA wide multipurpose community centres are justified at 1:20-30,000 people.⁴¹

Council's 26 community centres and halls represent a current provision level of one centre per 5,600 people. On this basis, and given the very large provision of (partly available) community halls, the Shire has a sufficient quantity of halls and community centres.

The distribution of these halls, as indicated above is not fully equitable. Thus, Cherrybrook has only one community centre per 11,500 people and only three other community-based halls – all of which are fully utilised.

While the rural and isolated areas (PD's 6 and 7) have a relatively high per capita number of centres, the required provision is more related to isolation, community demand and topographic/transport catchments than it is to absolute threshold populations. Around 500 people is a typical threshold for the provision of simple hall/meeting places in 'isolated' communities.

Expressed Needs

Needs in regard to additional and/or upgraded community centres/halls were identified in the consultations undertaken for the Social Plan 2000-2005 and also in the consultations (including the community and organisations' surveys and the submissions) undertaken for the current study.

Some of the Community Think Tank meetings — undertaken in preparation of the Social Plan — identified needs for additional community meeting 'space'. Not surprisingly, given the existing supply of facilities, these included those in PD's 319 and 8. The need was also expressed for a community hall in PD 7.

The Community Survey found that 39.7% of respondents had used an indoor community or arts centre within the Shire within the previous 12 months. (How much of this related to Council's community centres/halls is not, however, clear).

The survey also found that 87% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with 'community centres' (compared, for example, to a 97% satisfaction level for bushland — which was the top ranked program area). A relatively high 13% of respondents were therefore dissatisfied with these facilities.

The Organisations' Survey identified fairly high levels of satisfaction with community centres and halls. Respondents were asked to rate the quality of facilities used on a

⁴¹ Local Government and Shires Association of NSW, 1998, Planning Benchmarks and Standards

scale from 'very poor' to 'very good'. Nominated facilities included 14 of Council's community centres and halls and these were rated by a total of 30 organisations. Nineteen (or 63%) of the ratings were 'good' or 'very good' and only two (or 7%) were 'poor' or 'very poor'.

Both of the latter two ratings related to the Berowra District Hall.

Notwithstanding these relatively high ratings, the survey also identified considerable demand for facility upgrades (including air conditioning, heating, larger rooms, parking, ~~more~~/improved furniture, disabled access) and additional meeting space.

In fact, the need for more ~~and/or~~ more suitable meeting space ~~was~~ - in being nominated by 10% of respondent organisations- the most commonly expressed need for additional facilities.

As detailed in section 5.5, above, a submission was received from the Hornsby Zone of Playgroups. The group uses six of Council's centres and is satisfied with their suitability and quality. However, the submission also articulated a strong need for a suitable facility in the Hornsby CBD area – and requested consideration of a multi purpose facility within an existing ~~park~~/playground area.

Current use

As identified in sections 11.2 and 11.3, above, current levels of use of community centres and halls is variable – with apparent underutilisation of many of Council's facilities but with close to optimal use of school, church and other community halls.

The 'excess' demand for community-based halls in many areas may, in fact, suggest that the relatively low use of many Council facilities is more a product of scheduling, management ~~and/or~~ the poor presentation of some buildings than it is of low demand. (This however would need to be validated by a more detailed investigation of management and booking systems than was possible in this study).

Nevertheless, the high use of community-based facilities and the relatively high use of Council facilities in some areas (Hornsby CBD, Cherrybrook, Pennant Hills and West Pennant Hills) point strongly to a need for additional facilities in at least those areas.

11.6. Current Policies/strategies on Community Centres

In late 2000, Council officers undertook a review of Council's 25 community centres and halls in accordance with the Social Plan 2000-2005 recommendation that 'Council develop an integrated plan for the management of its community facilities'.

The purpose of the review was to identify options for the more effective management of the centres and to seek Council's endorsement of a preferred management option.

The review included a consultant's report – Review of Management Models for Community Centres and Halls in *Hornsby* Shire (Peak Creations, September 2000).

The review canvassed a wide range of management issues including management models, 377 committee issues, employment practices, bookings, utilisation, asset management and access and equity.

Findings of particular relevance to the current study - included the following:

Management responsibility for centres was spread over several Council branches and this was excluding 'the establishment of a comprehensive standard system or series of protocols'

- There was 'lack of community knowledge regarding the extent and availability of community facilities'
- There were no 'documented, clearly articulated objectives for the centres/halls'
- Booking systems were not always accessible
- Utilisation levels were an identified 'critical issue'

The Peak Creations report did not identify centre utilisation levels – but did hint at under-use due to the lack of appropriate promotion and marketing. The main problems were perceived to be:

- A reliance on local knowledge about the existence of centres and who to contact for bookings⁴².
- Difficulties in contacting booking officers in standard office hours (with only one facility listed under the Hornsby Council section of the telephone directory, many facilities not listed individually and some having the centre's – rather than the booking officer's - phone number details)⁴³.
- The lack of written materials for marketing and promotion of the centres (While a brochure was recently produced by the Community Services Branch for the purpose of increasing community awareness, more is needed. For example written material showing the different facilities and amenities available at centres would be more informative.

The review invoked Council's charter (section 8 of the Local Government Act, 1993) and recommended strategies to ensure the effective and efficient management of the centres.

Council received the review report at its meeting of 13th December 2000 and resolved, amongst other things, to 'note recommendations 1-22 [in the Peak

⁴² Feedback from Council's Social Plan Community Think Tanks found that "knowledge regarding the extent and availability of community facilities in the Shire was limited with many participants expressing a lack of awareness of well established local facilities

⁴³ This is an inherent problem with volunteer positions – especially with personnel often changing regularly. Council has addressed this issue in part with the preparation of a contact list insert for its community centres brochure

Creations report] on the basis that further reports will be *provided* to Council addressing *specific* matters raised within the recommendations'.

The recommendations within that report of particular relevance to the strategic concerns of the current study – and progress with their implementation – are summarised below.

Recommendation	Implementation
That Council adopt objectives for what it would like its Centres and Halls to achieve either individually, as a categorised groups (small, medium and large facility size) or as a whole (recommendation 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress
That based on the objectives and the range and analysis of options provided in this discussion paper, Council adopt its preferred management model/s to achieve those objectives (reco 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council resolved "in June 2001 -,to keep S377 Committees as the preferred option (and also adopted guidelines - the Procedures Manual – for the management of halls/centres run by the Committees)
That if the Committee management model is retained, the contact hours for booking and viewing of facilities be considered in relation to improving the level of customer service and accessibility, particularly for those facilities with limited access times for Booking Officers (reco11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to booking officers has been improved (via a new brochure that indicates times to contact Council Officers and S377 Committee volunteers. The brochure also explains that some of the booking officers are volunteers who may not always be available during 'normal' office hours)
That if Committee management or Council management models are adopted, a centralised computerised booking system be introduced to improve customer service (reco12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Facilities under direct Council control are now on a centralised computer booking system ■ Not yet actioned for Committee-managed facilities Implementation requires ongoing support and training.
That systems to collect data on the number, type, frequency of use and the level of customer/community satisfaction with the Centres and Halls be developed (reco15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This information is available for Council managed Centres ■ Not yet actioned for Committee-managed facilities. Implementation requires ongoing support and training.
That links be made with national performance indicator systems to enable comparisons regarding the operation of Council's Centres and Halls and that these systems form the basis for establishing an evaluation mechanism for assessing the performance of these facilities (i.e. Centre for Environmental and Recreation Management, University of South Australia) (reco16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no national Performance Indicators relating to volunteer management models for the management of community centres/halls

Recommendation	Implementation
Marketing and promotional materials giving an overview of the facilities be developed for the Centres and Halls as a tool to increase community knowledge on what is available at each facility and the accessibility of the given facility (reco17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing & promotional materials have been improved. A new brochure (with an updateable insert) has been developed. It is distributed with all new residents kits and displayed in all halls and centres. Council's Web Page has been updated to reflect the new information in the brochure. Local media advertising of halls and centres is undertaken bi-annually

11.7. Conclusions – Community Centres/Halls

A place of some kind for the community to meet is considered a basic prerequisite for community development. As identified in Council's Social Plan 2000-2005:

"Community facilities were deemed [in the Community Think Tank meetings] as important as they provide meeting places, function venues, venues for religious worship and centres for community activity in the Shire."

The need for meeting and assembly space in the Shire is met, as indicated above, by Council's purpose built community centres and by a large number of church, school scout and other community based halls.

The adequacy of these facilities – in terms of meeting needs – was assessed according to planning benchmarks, the expressed needs of residents and community organisations and the current levels of use of existing facilities.

According to planning benchmarks, the Shire has an overall adequate supply of community centres and halls. But this disguise's supply gaps in some areas - particularly Cherrybrook and the Hornsby CBD. The need for additional facilities in these areas – and perhaps also in Pennant Hills and West Pennant Hills – is also supported by the outcomes of the community consultations and current levels of use.

The community consultations also point to the need to upgrade and/or reconfigure many facilities - to make them more suitable to a wider range of existing and potential users.

With respect to this, the outcomes of the Organisations' Survey – detailed at Attachment C – provide a basis for identifying suitable upgrading projects. These would need to be discussed and refined in discussions between Council officers and management committees prior to their inclusion in appropriate capital improvement programs.

A key issue identified in this chapter is the apparent under-use of many of Council's community centres and halls. Utilisation levels were previously identified as a 'critical issue' - in the Peak Creations report of September 2000 and the subsequent report to Council in December 2000.

The Peak Creations report recommended several initiatives to improve the promotion, marketing and booking of halls - all of which are supported by the findings of this report and all of which have the potential to increase access to, and use of the centres.

While Council did not adopt these recommendations, it did resolve to receive further reports on them in the future. To date, only the matter of the appropriate management model for centres has been further considered and resolved.

It now appears appropriate to further consider the recommendations of the Peak Creations report on the promotion, marketing and booking of the centres.

12. Assessment – Youth Facilities & Services

12.1. Introduction

As indicated in chapter 3, participation by young people (up to **25** years) in most leisure and recreation activities – including organised sport and physical activities, social life and entertainment - is significantly higher than it is for older age groups.

Nevertheless, as was also indicated, increasing numbers of young people are not particularly attracted to 'mainstream' or 'structured' sport and recreation activities. They prefer to spend their leisure time 'hanging out' with friends.

The scope of this chapter covers the full range of leisure opportunities - both 'structured' and 'unstructured' - available to young people in the Shire^M.

The focus, however, is on non-mainstream youth facilities and services – including 'youth friendly' public spaces, youth centres and skateboard facilities. Mainstream opportunities - in sport, cultural activities, libraries etc - are covered in detail in other chapters.

12.2. 'Youth-friendly' public spaces

The informal use of public space such as shopping centres is a major form of unstructured youth recreation. This has generated conflicts with other members of the community and has been the subject of substantial research in recent years. Some of this research is reviewed in Attachment J. Findings of relevance to the current study include the following:

- There is a view that much of the conflict between young people and other users of public spaces is a consequence (at least in part) of failure to adequately address the social/recreation needs of young people⁴⁵.
- The 13 to 17 years age group is the major needs group. Unlike those aged over 18 years, they cannot attend licensed premises, they have few financial resources and, apart from the traditional facilities, have no affordable social venues to meet at.
- The studies highlight a widely held view in many communities that there are not enough accessible, low cost recreation and social opportunities for young people-

⁴⁴ Structured opportunities include indoor and outdoor sport, scout and guide activities, church activities and a range of indoor activities conducted in local halls and community centres. Unstructured activities include 'hanging' with friends, skating and bike riding, attending movies/other commercial venues and going to the beach.

⁴⁵ Other problems - including drug and alcohol abuse - may also be partly attributable to a lack of appropriate youth leisure opportunities

particularly affordable, youth-friendly places for young people to gather and socialise.

- This lack of opportunity is both inequitable in ignoring the needs of a large proportion of the population and socially disruptive in that it contributes to the use conflicts being experienced in many suburban and CBD shopping centres.
- Some of the studies propose the urgent need for youth specific places and centres both for social equity reasons and to minimise the current conflicts.

Responses to these needs and issues have been at least twofold. One approach has been the establishment of 'drop in' type youth centres – four of which currently exist within the Shire. These are discussed in detail in the following section.

The other response has been the design and development of more 'youth friendly' public places – in accordance with the State Government's "Urban Design Guidelines with Young People in Mind" Proposed initiatives include the provision of more seating in less confrontational locations within town and shopping centres and increased provision of walkway/cycleway links (for bikes, skateboards and scooters) as a means of transport for young people around towns and between various activity foci.

12.3. Youth Centres

There are six youth-specific centres within the Shire. All provide a variety of youth services and opportunities – four at the district (and regional) scale and two at the local (or neighbourhood) level.

Two of the centres – the PCYC facility in Hornsby and the YMCA in Epping – are also general community indoor sport and recreation centres. These were reviewed in detail in chapter 8, above.

This section describes the basic features and use patterns of the other four youth centres (which are smaller than the PCYC and YMCA facilities and more focused on social and non-physical recreation than on indoor sport). Specifically, it identifies the four centre's facility components, available opportunities, current use and future development plans (if any).

The section also assesses the adequacy of the youth centres within the context of the demonstrated needs for such facilities.

The Shire's four existing youth centres are listed in Table 12.1 according to their purpose and location:

Table 12.1: Existing Youth Centres x Purpose and Location

Centres	Purpose	Location
<u>District/Regional Scale Centres</u>		
Hornsby Youth centre	To provide 'traditional' youth centre functions (drop in & recreation programs) and specific support services	Cnr Muriel and Burdett Streets. Hornsby
<u>Neighbourhood Facilities</u>		
"The Shack"	To provide information, support, referral and advocacy to young people – particularly youth at risk	St Alban's Church, Pembroke Street Epping
Jack's Island Cafe - Fusion	To provide meals, drop in leisure programs and general support for 12-18 year olds	Hornsby
The Gatehouse	To provide information, support and drop in and holiday programs for 12-20 year olds (originally, to get kids off the streets)	Berowra

The 'facilities and **services/activities** provided at these centres are listed in Table 12.2:

Table 12.2 – Existing Centres x Facilities x Services

Centres	Facilities	Services/activities
Hornsby Youth Centre	Drop in space, meeting room, kitchen, art & craft materials, pool and table tennis tables, resource library, reference materials. disabled toilet. internet	Drop in, health clinic, leisure programs (ceramics, art classes), job seeking skills, referral, support. information, outreach and networking
Jack's Island Cafe- Fusion	Drop in space, kitchen, art & craft materials, pool table, playstation	Food and drinks, drop in, art & craft classes, referral. accommodation advice & referral, general support, information
The Shack	Very small drop-in space, computers, TV/video, pool table, tealcoffee facilities	Drop-in, annual 10 day camp, around 6 events per year (skate days, band nights, football, pool competition), outreach, counseling, information, support, advocacy, research, referrals

Site	Facilities	Services/activities
The Gatehouse	Established in a disused shop One large room for 'drop in' (with pool table, video/TV, hi fi, air hockey, lounges, tealcoffee facilities), office, storerooms x 2, kitchen.	Drop in , holiday programs. support, conselling, suicide prevention, referrals (re drugs, accommodation, employment assistance etc)

Other relevant details on the functions and use of the centres are summarised below:

Hornsby Youth Centre (HYPE)

The Hornsby Youth Centre opened in Youth Week 2000. It is a multi-purpose facility, providing drop in, leisure programs and various support services – 'including a medical clinic and a study centre (run by the TAFE Outreach Program). Various short-term programs (such as young achievers and a **department/self** esteem program for young women) have also been provided.

Planned programs include a five-week short film workshop, a visual arts program, an Artstart mural project and a pre-traineeship course in retail operations. Proposed facility improvements include the provision of a basketball court and performance space in the grounds surrounding the Centre

Staffing comprises two full time and one part time youth workers who provide supervision and support services – including referral and advocacy roles. Other staff include 8 volunteer GP's and various other volunteers.

The Centre is open Wednesday to Friday afternoons/evenings, throughout the year. Opening hours are 3.30 to 6.30pm Wednesday, 3.00 to 9.00pm Thursday and 3.00 to 10.00pm Friday. The Centre provides health and outreach services as well as recreation and social programs. The latter include drop-in and arts programs.

The drop-in program averages about 40 users per week (over the three sessions) or 2,000 per annum. Activities include pool and table tennis competitions, cooking and budgeting workshops and video nights.

Centre activities and promotions were hampered in the first year of operations due to various difficulties filling positions in the youth services team. The key focus this year (2002) is on building the Centre's profile and promoting higher levels of use.

The Shack

The Shack is a youth outreach centre, located in a disused scout hall within the grounds of St Albans Church. It was established in 1992 by a group of concerned residents, churches and businesses.

The Shack has one full time youth development officer and two assistants who engage in research, advocacy, networking and some activity programming. Counseling and home visits account for most of the youth officer's time.

The centre also has a small drop-in area for in-house recreation/social programs and via a youth committee, organises a range of out-of-centre programs (annual camp, skate days, football competitions etc).

The centre is open Monday to Friday between 10.30 and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year. Average attendance is around 11 per day, with a total of 2,700 visits in the past year. The majority of users (68%) were aged 14-18 years and most (about 75%) accessed the centre for drop in (rather than counselling or other welfare purposes).

Jack's Island Cafe - Fusion

Jack's Island Cafe is a cafedrop-in centre for high school-aged children. It is located at 238 Pacific Highway, Hornsby, adjacent to the Hornsby railway station. It was established by Fusion Sydney North – a non-denominational Christian youth and community organisation⁴⁶.

The Cafe is open between 3.00pm and 6.00pm, Tuesday to Thursday; throughout school terms and sometimes during school holidays – depending upon the availability of volunteer staff.

The Cafe has a small drop-in area – with a pool table, playstation and meals area. Organised programs include craft classes and out-of-centre programs (two or three annual camps, day trips every two months and gym activities every Friday afternoon at the Millenium Fitness Centre at Waitara). The Cafe has three youth workers on duty at all times.

Average attendance at 'drop in' is around 6-10 per session, with a total of around 1,000 visits in the past year. Users are spread evenly across the 12-18 years age groups with a balance between males and females. Average attendance at the gym sessions is around 30.

The Cafe's clients live throughout the Shire – but predominantly within close proximity to the Hornsby CBD.

⁴⁶ Fusion also runs other youth services including a youth housing service, camping & school holiday programs, community family festivals and liaises with local schools on youth issues.

The Gatehouse

The Gatehouse is a youth drop in and outreach centre, located in a disused shop at 136 Berowra Waters Road, Berowra Heights. It was established in 1996 in response to the large number of teenagers hanging around the streets. It is a community facility heavily supported by the Berowra RSL and local churches.

The Gatehouse is open for 'drop in' on Friday and Saturday evenings, between 6.30-11.30pm, throughout the year. At other times, the centre is open irregularly, as required, for up to a further 20 hours per week.

Average attendance at drop in is 30-40 on Friday evenings and around 20 on Saturdays. The average age of visitors is 14-15 years, with older youth more likely to attend later in the evening.

Holiday programs comprise up to two or three activities per week during school holidays – including craft, camps and outings. More than 100 young people may attend some of these activities. The range of programs is limited by the availability of volunteers to organise and run programs.

12.4. Skateboard facilities

Skateboard facilities (and basketball half courts) provide one of the major opportunities for youth and older children for 'unstructured' play within the parks and open space system. They are a 'playground equivalent' for children over nine or ten years of age.

There are currently only two skateparks in the Shire – the highly successful skate bowl in Greenway Park, Cherrybrook and another smaller facility at Brooklyn Oval in Brooklyn. These function both as venues for skateboarding and also as gathering and meeting places for young people.

Other facilities are proposed – as indicated in section 12.6 below – but Council's attempts to provide additional facilities have so far been thwarted by the difficulties of finding a suitable site.

Several possible sites within Pennant Hills Park were abandoned (in June, 2001) due to strong local opposition. Other sites under current investigation include the Dartford Road (Thornleigh) site and Hornsby Park.

12.5. Adequacy of Youth Leisure Services

The adequacy of youth related leisure services in general and youth centres in particular are reviewed, in turn, in the following sub-sections.

Youth Services – general

There are strong perceptions in the community – clearly demonstrated in the consultations undertaken for both this and previous studies – that youth specific recreation opportunities in the Shire are inadequate.

The consultations undertaken for the Youth Services Strategic Plan, for example, identified needs for:

- more skate board facilities in isolated areas and improved promotion of existing facilities
- improved dissemination of information on recreation opportunities available
- more things to do – cinemas, band nights, under 18 dance parties, pool parlours, places to 'hang out'
- appropriate venues to run such activities – that are close to public transport and not expensive
- a local 'youth venue'
- more suitable youth centres (with Cherrybrook Youth Centre– now closed - and the Hornsby HELP centre not being perceived as suitable)
- safety in public places such as railway stations
- more prompt response to graffiti in public spaces– as it discourages the utilisation of those areas

The 'community think tank' meetings undertaken in preparation of the Social Plan 2000-2005 came up with similar findings. Recreation and entertainment opportunities were seen 'as limited' and 'inadequate in relation to the needs of local young people'

These views were further confirmed during the course of the current study. Participants in the young person's focus group, for example, expressed the view that there was little to do in Hornsby and that the things that are available are either 'run down' (the PCYC), too expensive, too crowded or boring.

The focus group participants suggested many options for making Hornsby a better place for recreation - including more entertainment opportunities, indoor heated pools, indoor sports centres, more adventure activity opportunities and better and more reliable public transport.

In the community survey respondents were asked to prioritise specific areas of Council expenditure. Expenditure on 'youth facilities/entertainment' was ranked number one priority by 25% of respondents. Overall, it was equal with 'library facilities and services' at number two priority (behind only 'bushland management').

Finally, a submission was received from SK8 North – calling for additional skate park facilities in the Shire – for reasons and at various proposed locations 'identified in section 5.5, above.

Youth Centres

The four existing youth centres in the Shire are providing valuable recreation opportunities (including drop in, camps, excursions and art/craft activities) as well as other important support services.

They cannot, however, due to their modest size and resourcing, provide all the services that are currently needed – and that are in fact provided by 'best practice' district and regional scale youth centres elsewhere.⁴⁷

According to the experience of these other centres (and the research summarised in Attachment J), the 'best' youth centres provide a wide range of activities and services for young people. These include recreation activities, information, referral and counselling, creative activities (such as music, arts and crafts, aerosol art), youth cafe (with pool tables), concerts/band nights and facilities for informal sport (basketball courts, skateboard/roller blade).

Best practice centres are also "friendly to young people's needs", provide young people with "space of their own" and are appropriately designed and managed (with a 'cool', distinctive design, variety of activities, youth-friendly management).

Hornsby CBD is a sub-regional centre with a catchment population approaching 200,000. Given the size of this catchment and the demonstrated need for additional youth activities in the Shire, it is probable that a well run district/regional scale youth centre in Hornsby would be viable. Desirably, such a centre would provide for the full range of needs articulated by young people - a place to 'hang out', cultural activities, music/entertainment activities, physical recreation and various support services.

12.6. Current Policies/Strategies on Youth Services

Council has two current strategies on youth facilities and services – a Strategy for the Provision of Skateboard Facilities in *Hornsby Shire* (1998) and Youth Services Strategic Plan 2000-2003.

The skateboard strategy identifies the need for and potential sites for future skateboard facilities (following on from the success of Council's first facility in Greenway Park in Cherrybrook).

The need for additional facilities was based on community demands (as indicated in the 1997 Open Space Plan consultations and various representations to Council over the previous 5 years), safety issues and relative access to existing facilities.

The study identified the relative benefits of different facility designs, site selection and development criteria and regulation/control issues.

⁴⁷ Such as the Wollongong Youth centre, Waverly Action for Youth Services (WAYS) at Bondi and Blackbutt Youth Centre at Shellharbour

Twelve potential sites within existing parks – throughout the Shire – were identified as suitable locations for new facilities. Several sites (such as Old Man's Valley in Hornsby) were deemed suitable for a regional scale facility.

The suitability of a site within Hornsby Park for skate facilities is currently being assessed.

The Youth Services Strategic Plan documented the needs of young people with respect to a range of critical issues – including recreation and leisure, youth venues and entertainment and safety in public spaces..

Specific leisure-related issues and needs were identified in section 12.5, above.

For each critical issue area, a set of objectives, strategies and outcomes were established in the Plan. Strategies of particular relevance to the current study – and progress with implementation of the strategies – is detailed below:

Strategy	Implementation
Consider the recreation needs of young people in the design and/or upgrading of parks and open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Services staff advocacy of young people's needs in the planning process for the Hunter Street Mall
Develop a model for a multi purpose youth centre	HYPE youth centre in the Hornsby CBD (the model is currently under evaluation and review)
Centralise Council's youth services to a Hornsby CBD venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HYPE youth centre
Expand Youth Week activities and other large scale events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Week 2002 - will include the first dance party run by Council
Develop a partnership approach with other agencies – re the centralisation of youth services and the staging of large scale youth events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Youth Services works with Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ryde Division of General Practitioners, Northern Sydney Area Health. Aids Council of NSW (ACON). PCYC. FUSION (Sydney North). Hornsby TAFE
Improve the promotion of youth-related holiday programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ no holiday programs offered currently
Investigate feasibility of under 18's night club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunity exists to explore option with the proposed redevelopment of the PCYC
Improve young people's access to events by providing detailed information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular school visits have helped promote Council's Youth Services & events, as well as mail outs & a media promotion strategy

Strategy	Implementation
Provide events in isolated locations of the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Service in research and development phase
Organise promotional events at completed skate board facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skate facility events will be promoted as part of the proposed Outreach Service
Identify community organisations interested in developing 'cross-generation' activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no progress at this stage
Development of a graffiti management strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Beat Graffiti will be launched in April 2002 as a part of Youth Week
Identify resources to further research into the recreation needs of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no progress at this stage

12.7. Conclusions - Youth Leisure Services

This chapter has identified significant gaps in the provision of leisure services to young people in the 12 to 20 years age range – particularly for those young people not interested in or engaged in 'mainstream' activities.

While there are some facilities and **services** specifically geared to the 'unstructured' leisure needs of young people – such as the four youth centres and the Greenway Park skate facility – these are not sufficient.

The Shack and the Gatehouse youth centres are providing valuable **services** at the neighbourhood and district scales. However, due to their locations they cannot service the 'higher level' needs of the 'regional' youth population.

The Hornsby Youth Centre, Jack's Island Cafe and the PCYC are also providing valuable opportunities. They are also more centrally located - and have greater potential therefore to provide for the social, cultural and recreation needs of the regional youth population. However, in their current form – due to limitations of space and other resources **and/or** cultural **perceptions**⁴⁸ - they cannot do this adequately.

A regional scale youth centre (of the type described in section 12.5, above) could – by providing a suitable venue for band nights, under 18 dance parties and other entertainment events - meet many of the needs identified by young people in the consultations.

The viability of such a centre would need to be confirmed, however, via a detailed feasibility study.

⁴⁸ eg police culture within PCYC is a barrier for some young people

Other strategic response requirements include the further implementation of the Skateboard Strategy and Youth Services Strategic Plan, the development of 'youth friendly' public places (in accordance with the Urban Design Guidelines with Young People in Mind), the provision of indoor heated pools and indoor sports centres and improved public transport.

13. Facilities Assessment – Seniors' Centres

13.1. Introduction

There are six senior citizen's centres within the Shire. This chapter focuses on the leisure and recreation aspects of these centres. Specifically, it identifies facility components, role and functions and current use of the centres.

The chapter also assesses the need for and adequacy of the centres, their relevance to the leisure needs of older people in general and Council's current strategies for their future use and development.

13.2. Existing Senior Citizens' Centres

The Shire's six existing senior's centres are located at Epping, Pennant Hills, Hornsby (Willow Park), Asquith, Berowra and Brooklyn.

The centres are well distributed around the Shire – with most potential users being within a reasonable travel distance of at least one centre. However some centres (such as Willow Park) are at some distance from a railway station – making access difficult for those without a car.

Two of the centres (Pennant Hills and Brooklyn) are within recycled buildings, one (Willow Park) occupies an extension to an existing building and three (Epping, Asquith and Berowra) are purpose built. Two of the latter (Epping and Berowra) are co-located with other community buildings.

Table 13.1 details the establishment dates, locations and available facilities at each of the existing centres.

Table 13.1 – Existing Senior's Centres x Facilities

PD	Centres	Establishment	Facilities
1	Epping Senior Citizens' Centre	Established 1975. Co-located with the Epping Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large hall (12 tables; carpet bowls area; table tennis & card rooms separated off) • Billiards room • Large kitchen • Small office • Men's and women's toilets
2	Pennant Hills Senior Citizens' Centre	Established 1969 – in old Pennant Hills Kindergarten building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One L-shaped room (part lunch/tea room; part for indoor bowls) ■ Kitchen • Store rooms (x2) ■ Toilets
3/9	Willow Park Senior Citizens' Centre	Established in 1986 – as an extension to (but fully separate from) the Beatrice Taylor Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior citizens' hall • Piano, tables, chairs • Beatrice Taylor Hall (on Tues) • Kitchen • Storage ■ Toilets (including disabled)
4	Asquith Senior Citizens' Centre	Established 1980 – for the Asquith Senior Citizen's Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Activities hall (for carpet bowls and cards) • Day room (TV, piano, radio, books) • Kitchen • Office • Store
5	Berowra Senior Citizens' Centre	Established 1980 – co-located with the Berowra Community Centre and branch library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities hall • kitchen • toilets
7	Brooklyn Senior Citizens' Centre	Established in 1976 – in a Council owned (previously residential) house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting room • Store rooms (x2) • Toilets • Kitchen • verandah

13.3. Purpose and Functions of Centres

Three of Council's centres – the Epping, Asquith and Berowra Centres - were established with two-thirds of the costs provided by the Commonwealth Government under the State Grants (Home Care) Act 1969-78⁴⁹.

The Commonwealth Governments' involvement from 1969 - via the grants program - brought with it changed expectations about the roles and functions of senior citizens' centres in the delivery of aged services.

Prior to 1969, most Councils had informally relied on senior citizen's clubs to manage the centres and arrange activities and programs. Such programs were typically (but not always) confined to social and recreation programs for the 'well aged'.

From 1969, however, seniors' centres would be regarded as:

"central points in the community to which aged persons can turn not only for activities to relieve their loneliness and for services such as meals, laundry and chiropody, but also as a centre for the coordination and in some cases the provision of a variety of domiciliary and other supportive services."

The centres were, in other words, to provide a much broader range of welfare and support services (including leisure) to the 55+ year's population (encompassing both the 'well' and 'frail' aged).

Despite these changed expectations, most senior citizens centres in NSW have *not* broadened their roles in the ways envisaged. While there are models of good practice (such as the Dougherty Centre in Chatswood), most centres are still *mainly* – and in some cases exclusively - used by senior citizens' clubs for a limited range of social and recreation programs.

This is certainly true of Hornsby Shire's six centres. In fact, all of the centres were established in response to needs articulated by the clubs and, in all cases, seniors' clubs were provided with sole (or preferential) occupation of the centres.

A consequence of this has been increasingly low levels of utilisation of the centres – as detailed in the following section.

13.4. Current Use of Centres

Current community use and levels of unutilised capacity at these facilities is summarised in Table 13.2.

⁴⁹ The other three - Brooklyn, Pennant Hills and Willow Park Centres - were established solely with Council funds.

Table 13.2: Utilisation of Senior Citizens' Centres

Centre	User Group	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
PD 1			
Epping	Epping Citizens' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon, Tue, Thurs & Sat 10-3.30pm: carpet bowls, dancing, singing, bingo, gentle exercise, snooker, table tennis and/or cards • Wed & Fri: special functions or bus trip (3rd Fri each month) 	Medium
	Library – Childrens' Craft Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice/month 	
PD 2			
Pennant Hills	P Hills Senior Citizens' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 9.00am-1.00pm: indoor bowls 	Medium
	P Hills Girl Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon, Wed and Fri 4.00-9.00pm 	
	St Agatha's Gathering Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wed 9.30am-4.00pm 	
	Dutch Instuif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ One meeting a week 	
	Australian Chinese Community Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fri 9.00am-4.00pm 	
	P Hills View Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Occasional (once a month) 	
PD 3/9			
Hornsby	Willow Park Senior Citizens' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon 9.00am-3.30pm (if sufficient interest): cards ■ Tues 9.00-12.00pm: indoor bowls • Wed 9.00am-3.30pm: cards ■ Sat 1.00-4.30pm: dancing 	High
PD 4			
Asquith	Asquith Senior Citizens' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fri and Sun 8.30-11.30am and Tues 8.30am-1.30pm: carpet bowls and/or cards 	High
	Neighbourhood Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting every two months 	
PD 5			
Berowra	Berowra Senior Citizens' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
PD 7			
Brooklyn	Brooklyn Senior Citizens' Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sat 1.00-4.00pm (fortnightly): bingo • 2nd Tues each month 1.30-3.30: committee meeting • Day trips: 8/9 per year 	High
	Sydney Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional public information sessions 	

Table 13.2 illustrates the low levels of use and narrow range of activities at most centres. In fact, use ranges from an average of 2 hours to just under 50 hours in a typical week – as shown in Table 13.3.

Table 13.3: Senior Citizens' Centres - Hours and Capacity Used

Centre	Hours Used Weekly	% Capacity Used*
Epping	25	35
P Hills	35	49
Willow Park	15	21
Asquith	11	15
Berowra		
Brooklyn	2	3
* Based on average capacity of 12 hours a day or 72 hours/week		

Table 13.2 also indicates that, with the exception of the Pennant Hills Centre, the facilities are used almost exclusively by the senior citizens' clubs.

It is important to note that, with respect to this use, the membership levels of most clubs are low – currently ranging from 9 to 150 people. Total membership of all clubs is 330 people (with 244 aged over 75 years). Therefore, only 1% of the Shire's 55+ years' population and 3% of the 75+ years' population are members of the clubs. (This was down from 2.3% of the 55+ years' population and 6% of the 75+ years' population in 1992).

Additionally, the number of people participating in any one seniors' club activity is usually quite small - often well under ten (particularly at those centres with very low membership numbers such as Brooklyn and Pennant Hills).

13.5. Relevance of Seniors' Centres to the Leisure Needs of Older People

Local and national level surveys have consistently found that only a small minority of older people use senior citizens' centres.

As indicated above, only 1% of the Shire's 55+ population are currently members of seniors' clubs. And a recent survey of older people in the Shire (part of a Senior Citizens' Centres Review – discussed below in section 13.6) found that 89% of respondents were not even aware of the existence of Council's six senior citizens' centres.

Echoing the Hornsby findings, a recent survey of SEPP housing residents in Kur-ring-gai⁵⁰ found that only 8% of respondents use senior citizen's centres (compared to 42% for libraries, 37% for parks and 26% for cultural centres).

While the centres are very important to small minorities of older people, the overwhelming majority of older people are more interested in 'mainstream' facilities and activities - including walking for pleasure, golf, lawn bowls, gardening, hobbies, reading, licenced clubs, concerts and visiting galleries.

⁵⁰ a survey of 100 SEPP 5 Housing residents - undertaken in June 2001 –for the Kur-ring-gai SEPP Housing Study

This has been confirmed in most local and national surveys (including those identified in Chapters 3 and 5, above).

The studies also indicated that the expressed needs of older people for additional facilities also mainly related to mainstream facilities and activities (including indoor swimming pools, adult education programs, social clubs/interest groups, more 'gentle exercise' and other fitness programs and regular events (such as walks, movies, concerts and lectures).

13.6. Current Policies/Strategies on Seniors' Centres

In late 2000, Council officers undertook a review of the Shire's six senior citizens' centres in accordance with a recommendation in Council's Action Plan for Older People (Social Plan 2000-2005).

The purpose of the review was to identify options for shared – and therefore more effective - use of the centres:

The review was based on surveys of the centres, accessibility audits and a 'needs of older people survey' (with 113 respondents).

Key findings of the review included the following:

- Except for the Berowra Centre (which is managed by the Berowra Community Centre Management Committee), the centres are managed by the senior citizens' clubs
- None of these other five centres have management plans or management committees
- The seniors' clubs have assumed, in many cases, sole occupancy and control
- The clubs have used the centres primarily for social and recreation activities for the well aged
- Broader needs – including welfare programs for the frail aged and people with disabilities – as sought under the State Grants (Home Care) Act (and later the Home and Community Care **Act**) – have not been targeted
- Notwithstanding the near-exclusive use by the senior citizens' clubs, 'membership numbers are declining steadily
- There is a trend to older female members (74% over 75 years; 79% female)
- There is under representation of members from NESB backgrounds (7.5% of active club members)
- The centres have a limited range of activities and low utilisation levels
- Council has no input into the activities, operations or finances of clubs – due to the absence of accountability requirements

The review concluded that the centres are under-utilised because:

- They are used almost exclusively by the senior citizens' clubs,
- Club membership is declining,
- The clubs do not meet all the needs of older people in the community
- The centres are unattractive to potential users in the wider community
- Some clubs are unreceptive to other users
- Membership of clubs is usually required in order to use centres

The review recommended strategies to ensure effective and efficient management of the centres - including increased utilisation levels. In doing this, the review invoked Council's charter (section 8 of the Local Government Act, 1993) and the Ageing and Disability Department's 1997 policy statement on seniors' centres⁵¹

Council received the review report at its meeting of 12th December 2000 and resolved to undertake the following initiatives:

- Develop a management plan for the six centres (in conjunction with the Senior Citizens' Welfare Committee and other stakeholders)
- Further investigate opportunities for shared use of the centres
- Seek funding for the employment of a Senior Citizens Centre Project Officer
- Subject to obtaining a grant, play a greater role in centre programming
- Develop a marketing plan for the centres

Implementation of these initiatives by Council's Community Development Officer (Aged Services) commenced in 2000 but stalled following her resignation in October 2001. At that time, progress with the initiatives included the following:

- Commencement of the management planning process - with several consultations undertaken with the Senior Citizens' Welfare Committee and centre committees and discussion of relevant issues (but with no substantial agreement on the contents of the proposed management plan)
- Exploration of options for the shared use of centres such as licencing of the centres to the senior citizen's clubs at particular times - with the centres opened to wider use at other times
- Facilitation of negotiations to promote the shared use, by an Italian seniors group, of the Willow Park Centre
- Submission of a grant application under the HACC 2000 round of funding to employ a Senior Citizens Centre Project Officer (unsuccessful)

13.7. Conclusions - Seniors' Centres

Seniors' centres are a potentially valuable resource in the community but, in the main, the Shire's centres are operating at well below this potential. Council recognises this and has adopted a process to enhance the use and community value of the centres.

⁵¹ ADD, 1997, *Seniors' Centres: Part of Our History, Part of Our Future*

This process needs to be vigorously pursued – not just in terms of Council's obligations under the Local Government Charter but also with respect to meeting unmet demand in the community for indoor meeting space (as identified in chapter 11, above).

This chapter also identified the very low use of seniors' centres by older people. This suggests a need to broaden the appeal of the centres to a wider range of older people (and, again, Council has commenced a process to achieve this).

The very low use also suggests that the main emphasis, in improving leisure opportunities for older people, should be placed on improving the **accessibility** and relevance of 'mainstream' facilities – to make them more 'user-friendly', safer **and/or** more appealing to older people.

(This is not to deny the considerable importance of seniors' centres for some older people. But the overriding importance of 'mainstream' recreation opportunities to older people needs to be acknowledged).

The key issue, then, is the provision of a range of mainstream leisure facilities that meet the needs of all people – including older and disabled people. This requires the provision of relevant mainstream facilities in accordance with 'access for all' principles (covering the location, distribution, design, construction and management of those facilities).

The development of 'access for all trails' is a particularly important issue – given that walking is one of the most popular activities for older people (as documented in chapters 3 and 5, above).

In most circumstances, walking opportunities can be facilitated via the normal network of pathways and streets. Pathways are required, however, to be appropriately located (linking relevant points of interest – such as attractive and well-furnished parks) and to be constructed and maintained in accordance with recommended standards.

Specialist bushland walking tracks may also be appropriate for aged and disabled people.

Council has an active walking track and recreation trail development program (as detailed in section 8.6 above) but this mostly concerns **general-purpose** recreation trails in the steep bushland areas within the Berowra Valley Regional Park and the Lane Cove River and Cowan Creek catchment areas. Due to their steepness and ruggedness, most of these areas are inaccessible to frail aged and disabled people.

Investigations are required to identify **sites/trails** with the potential to provide nature and heritage based recreation experiences for frail aged and disabled people.

Additional 'one track for all' trails would complement the facilities already available in surrounding municipalities (such as the 'Senses Track' at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden in St Ives).

The trails must comply with the mandatory and advisory guidelines for people with disabilities and they must incorporate places and items of interest to frail aged and disabled people. Possible concept elements would include the following:

- one or two loop trails up to about one kilometre in length
- viewing platforms at relevant vantage point or places of interest
- shelters with wheelchair access picnic tables
car park with wide bays and easy access to trail
- signage with trail route, distances, directions and gradients
- environmental and/or heritage interpretation information
- accessible toilets at track head/car park area

14. Facilities Assessment – Libraries

14.1. Introduction

There are five (5) Council-operated libraries within the Shire – a central library within the Hornsby CBD and branch libraries in Epping, Pennant Hills, Galston and Berowra.

Established between 1972 and 1980, the libraries provide a range of information and leisure services to the Shire's entire population.

This chapter identifies the facility and program components of the library service, current use and (where relevant) future development plans.

The chapter also assesses the adequacy of the libraries – in terms of providing leisure related services – within the context of regional benchmarks and the expressed needs for such facilities.

14.2. Size and scope of the Existing Library Service

Table 14.1 identifies key statistics on the size and scope of the Shire's library service and how these compare to the average library service in NSW.⁵²

Table 14.1 – Council's Library Service – Key Indicators (1999/2000)

Item	Hornsby Shire		NSW
	Quantity	Per capita	Per capita
Resource Measures:			
Expenditure	\$4,209,629	\$28.20 (\$49.50 per registered borrower)	\$31.82 (\$63.68 per registered borrower)
Expenditure - salaries	\$2,122,832	\$14.22	\$15.42
Expenditure – library materials	\$483,680	\$3.24	\$3.64
Population/staff member		3.317	3,146
F/time librarians/technicians	21	0.14/thousand	0.16/thousand
Service points hours/week	222.5	1.49/thousand	2.32/thousand
Total stock	252,700	1.7	2.1
Total book stock	220,472	1.5	1.8
Total non book materials	20,961	0.14	0.16
Total serials	216	1.4/thousand pop	7.2/thousand pop
Acquisitions	25,745	0.17	0.21
Service Measures:			
Registered borrowers	85,000	56%	50.0%

⁵² Public Library Statistics, published by the State Library of NSW (latest edition 1999/2000)

Item	Hornsby Shire		NSW
	Quantity	Per capita	Per capita
Circulation	1,165,740	7.8	6.8
Turnover of stock		5.14 (per item)	3.32 (per item)

Table 14.2 demonstrates the relative efficiency and effectiveness of the Shire's library service. While the service has lower than State average resources **per capita** – in terms of expenditure, staffing, opening hours, book stock and other **materials** – it provides a larger than average service. This is evidenced in the much larger than average circulation and turnover of stock and the above average number of registered borrowers.

Turnover of stock, for example, is 50% higher than the State **average** – with items being borrowed an average of 5.14 times per year compared to the State average of only 3.32 times.

14.3. Location and Functions of Existing Facilities

The Hornsby Shire Library operates as a network with service points located at four branch libraries. These provide a range of information, borrowing and other services in locations accessible to the majority of potential users. Materials held in any of the libraries may be requested for pick-up at any nominated branch and, provided they have not been borrowed, are usually available within 48 working hours of the request.

The facilities and **services/activities** provided at the Shire's five libraries are listed in Table 14.2:

Table 14.2 – Existing Libraries x Facilities x **Services**

PD	Centres	Facilities	Services/activities
1	Epping Branch Library (Co-located with the Epping Senior Citizens' Centre - Established 1975)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 457m2 floor space • 48,565 stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Open 60.5 hours over 7 days ■ Information and borrowing services; story telling; holiday programs
2	Pennant Hills Branch Library (Established 1973. Relocated to Stage 1 of purpose built library in 1999)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 m2 floor space • 49,520 stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open 57.5 hours over 6 days ■ Information and borrowing services; story telling; holiday programs

PD	Centres	Facilities	Services/activities
3/9	Hornsby Central Library (Established 1972 and relocated to refurbished facility in 1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.500 m² floor space • 132.453 stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Open 65.5 hours over 7 days ■ Information and borrowing services; story telling; holiday programs; youth services: meeting rooms; local studies: family history; home library service: literacy collection: adaptive technology access. centre
5	Berowra Branch Library (Co-located with the Berowra Community Centre. Established 1960)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 120 m² floor space ■ 17,796 stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open 18.5 hours over 5 days ■ Information and borrowing services; story telling
6	Galston Branch Library (Established 1973. Relocated to current site in 1966)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68 m² floor space ■ 9.600 stock items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open 20.5 hours over 5 days ■ Information and borrowing services

Table 14.2 illustrates the predominant role of the Hornsby Central Library – with 67% of total floor space and 50% of total library stock. The Central Library also provides several services - youth services, meeting rooms, local studies, family history, literacy collection and the adaptive technology access centre – that are not available in the branch libraries.

14.4. Use of Existing Facilities

A recent survey of users at the Shire's libraries⁵³ identified that the key reasons for visiting libraries were for 'study/assignments', 'recreation/ fun/hobbies' and, to a lesser extent, 'for children or teenagers'.

The same study also found that the majority of library visitors (62%) visit the library at least once per fortnight – with 36% visiting weekly. Visitors to the larger libraries – Hornsby, Epping and Pennant Hills – were more likely to be frequent visitors (ie with weekly or fortnightly visits).

Relevant details on the use of the libraries are summarised in Tables 14.3 and 14.4⁵⁴

⁵³ UTS, Public Library Satisfaction Survey August 2000

⁵⁴ These are also based on Public Library Statistics, 1999/2000 and other information provided by Council's Library Services Manager

Table 14.3 – Visits to Council's Libraries

Location	No. of visits	% of visits	Catchment Population	Visits-per capita	Visits/m ²
Library visits - central	452,560	51	54,000	8.4	181
Library visits - branches	430,096	49	93,000	4.8	345
Library visits -total	882,656	100	147,000	6.0	236

Table 14.3 demonstrates the high use of library services – with a total of nearly 900,000 visits to the five libraries or 6 visits per capita.

The predominant role of the Hornsby central library is also illustrated in Table 14.3. The library accounts for more than 50% of total library visits and also experiences high relative use on a per capita basis (assuming a primary catchment population of 54,000).

(It is notable that, on a visits-per-square-metre basis, the use of the Hornsby library is significantly lower than that, collectively, for the four branches. This largely reflects the relative provision of floor space – with the central library close to, and the branch libraries significantly below, the recommended floor space standards).

Table 14.4 demonstrates the importance of the Shire's library services relative to other areas. Thus, 66% of the population are registered library borrowers, compared to the State average of 50%. The local annual circulation of library materials is also significantly higher than the State average – with, for example, 6.5 books per capita compared to 5.2.

Table 14.4 – Use of Library Materials

Item	Hornsby Shire		NSW
	Quantity	Per capita	Per capita
Circulation (all materials)	1,165,740	7.8	6.8
Circulation (books)	971,912	6.5	5.2
Registered borrowers	99,320	66.5%	50.0%

Council's 2001 Customer Satisfaction Survey found that library users were more prevalent in Planning Districts 2, 3, 4, and 9 – perhaps reflecting the proximity of these areas to the central library.

14.5. Adequacy of Library Facilities

This section assesses the adequacy of the current library service in terms of accepted standards and benchmarks and community attitudes and expressions of need (as identified in consultations conducted for this and previous studies).

Standards and benchmarks

The adequacy of library building floor space and materials can be evaluated via reference to industry standards and benchmarks.

Current library floor space standards are prescribed in *People Places: a guide for public library buildings in New South Wales* (Library Council of NSW, 2000). The standards include both 'service based' and 'population based' components.

The current Shire floor space provision is 3,745 m² – 2,500 m² of which is at the Hornsby Central Library. This falls well short of the standards based requirement of 6,064 m² - as detailed in Table 14.5.

Table 14.5: Library floor space – current and required

Name of Library	Population 2000	Population 2005	Current gross floor space (sq metres)	Floor space required 2000 (sq metres)	Floor space required 2005 (sq metres)
Hornsby Central	54,000	60,000	2,500	2507.4	2751
Epping	23,000	23,500	457	897	916.5
Pennant Hills	40,000	40,500	600	1400	1417.5
Galston	10,000	10,500	68	420	441
Berowra	20,000	20,500	120	840	861
Total	147,000	155,000	3,745	6,064.4	6,387

The Table indicates that, based on the accepted standards, the Shire has a current floor space shortfall of 2,320 m² – and this is projected to increase to 2,640 m² by 2005 in the absence of any floor space extensions.

It is noted that the State Library of NSW has adopted the standards. As well, the guidelines for Library Development Grants state that applications must clearly show the minimum size facility required according to the formulae in *People Places*, using both the service-based and the population-based benchmarks.

The generally accepted per capita standard for library stock – including books, videos, cassettes, discs, serials, local studies and reference materials – is two or three items per head but this varies depending on population, usage rates and special needs. It is necessary, for example, to have a higher per capita rate for libraries serving small populations - in order to provide an adequate range of titles.

The current NSW average per capita actual provision of library stock, of 2.1 items⁵⁵, is at the lower end of the accepted standard.

⁵⁵ State Library of NSW, 2000, *Public Library Statistics 1999/2000*

Based on the standard and the NSW average provision, the library service has adopted a per capita target provision of three items for the smaller branches (Epping, Galston and Berowra) and two for Hornsby and Pennant Hills.

The current stock requirement for the whole library service, based on this standard, is 347,000 items. But with only 258,000 items presently available in the five libraries, there is a shortfall of 89,000 items. This will increase to 111,000 items by 2005, in the absence of further acquisitions – as illustrated in Table 14.6

Table 14.6: Hornsby Shire Library Stock - current and required

Name of Library	Population 2000	Population 2005	Current stock items	Target book stock 2000	Target Book stock 2005
Hornsby Central	54,000	60,000	132,453	108,000	120,000
Epping	23,000	23,500	48,565	69,000	70,500
Pennant Hills	40,000	40,500	49,520	80,000	85,530
Galston	10,000	10,500	9,600	30,000	31,500
Berowra	20,000	20,500	17,798	60,000	61,500
TOTAL	147,000	155,000	257,936	347,000	369,030

Community needs and attitudes

Levels of satisfaction with the library service and perceptions of need have been identified in several surveys. Most important are the UTS Library Survey (August 2000), various focus groups undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the Library Services Strategic Plan, the Community Survey undertaken for this study and the 2001 Customer Satisfaction Survey.

The August 2000 UTS Public Library Satisfaction Survey was undertaken at a large number of public libraries across the State – including those in Hornsby Shire - and entailed a random face-to-face survey of library users aged over 12 years. In Hornsby, the survey included 408 respondents from across all branches.

The survey sought to identify levels of satisfaction with a range of library services and found, in Hornsby Shire, that levels of satisfaction are relatively high. For most service areas, more than 80% of respondents were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service⁵⁶ – as illustrated in Table 14.7.

⁵⁶ For Berowra and Galston the sample sizes were very small – with only one or two respondents answering some questions. The results need to be interpreted with caution

Table 14.7 – Library Satisfaction Survey, 2000 – services rated 'satisfied'/'very satisfied' x %

Service item	Library Branch				
	Hornsby	P Hills	Epping	Berowra	Galston
Opening hours	87	89	93	84	88
Layout of library	90	94	96	100	100
Catalogue	88	91	92	90	100
Materials					
Fiction	93	92	90	100	100
Non-fiction	91	79	95	100	100
Non-English materials	70	79	72	?	33
Videos	83	84	87	90	75
Cassettes	77	82	88	57	50
Children's books/magazines	86	88	100	100	50
Local history	91	92	90	100	100
Reference	89	94	100	100	100
Children's activities	84	66	100	100	100
Staff assistance	92	96	98	100	100

As also indicated in Table 14.7, however, there are some areas of dissatisfaction – particularly opening hours (at most branches) and the availability of non-English materials (at all branches), music cassettes (at Hornsby) and non-fiction items (at Pennant Hills).

The survey also gave respondents the opportunity to make general comments – and these are summarised in Table 14.8.

Table 14.8 – Library Satisfaction Survey, 2000 – General comments x number

Service item	Library Branch				
	Hornsby	P Hills	Epping	Berowra	Galston
Great library/satisfied customer	16	11	16	4	3
Improvement suggestions					
Longer opening hours	16	7	5	4	0
More/more up to date materials	28	14	7	2	1
More Chinese materials	3	0	0	0	0
Web/internet access	2	2	5	0	0
Access to computers	3	2	0	0	0
More space/study areas	3	4	0	0	0
Children's play area	0	1	0	0	0
More car parking	0	0	3	0	0
More staff	1	1	1	0	0
Better staff attitudes	7	0	0	0	0
Number of respondents	89	39	33	10	4

These comments detailed in Table 14.8 generally echo the 'satisfaction ratings' component of the survey – in highlighting the concerns of some users with respect to opening hours and the range and appropriateness of materials.

The **focus groups** included both staff and community groups and canvassed the strengths and weaknesses of the library service together with opportunities for improved service.

The 'community' focus groups indicated strong support for most existing programs and services but also perceived some service weaknesses and opportunities for improvements - included the following:

- more materials – books, music and video
- the establishment of advanced communication technologies – internet and web access - and facilitation of their use
- expansion of role – multi-role community centre, painting collection, internet cafe, coffeeshops
- more space and/or improved layout in some branches (particularly Galston and Berowra)
- extended facilities for disabled
- longer opening hours – particularly weekends at branches
- more staff and more customer service training for staff
- more promotion of the service

The results of the **Community Survey**, undertaken in **March/April 2001**, were documented in section 5.3, above. The Survey found that 78% of respondents had used a library within the previous 12 months (with only 2% of these using a library **outside** the Shire) and that 86% of these respondents were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service.

This finding corroborates and confirms the findings of the UTS Survey conducted one year previously and discussed above.

The **Customer Satisfaction Survey**, a random survey of 600 residents undertaken in September 2001, also found that residents had high levels of satisfaction with the library service.

Perhaps surprisingly, given the findings of the previous surveys, satisfaction levels with 'library opening hours' were very high – with Council's performance on this rated number 2 of 45 services across Council.

Other aspects of the library service to score relatively highly (on 'importance' and particularly 'performance') in the Survey included 'suitable **reading/study facilities**', 'provision of a range of up-to-date resources for leisure activities/interests' and 'provision of electronic information services'.

14.6. Current strategies

The current strategic framework is provided by the Strategic Plan for Library and Information Services 2000-2003, and also by the recommendations resulting from the review of the Galston Branch Library.

Strategic Plan 2000-2003

The Plan documents broad directions and action plans for the Library and Information Service for the 2000-2003 triennium.

The action plan – a set of 'key initiatives' and 'key actions' to be undertaken over the three year life of the Plan – are underpinned by a 'strategic focus', 'key goals' and 'strategies'.

While the strategies do not include specific programs for addressing the 'floor space' and 'library stock' shortfalls (identified in section 14.5, above), they do establish procedures for ensuring that these shortfalls are monitored and prioritised.

The strategies also include mechanisms for maximising the availability of resources for any expansion to the library service and address many of the issues – including improved technology, web access, improved range of 'more targeted' materials, promotion and staffing – raised in the various community and library visitor consultations.

Critical success factors in realising the aims of the Plan – appropriate staff levels, continuing State Government subsidies, additional support from Council for building and infrastructure improvements – are also identified.

Galston Library Review

The Galston Branch review - undertaken in the first half of 2000 – was the first of a series of intended library branch reviews. The purpose of the review was to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of branch operations within the context of significant declines in visitor numbers, loans and registered borrowers in the five-year period since 1994/95.

The number of visitors to the branch declined by 44%, loans by 25% and the number of registered borrowers by 18%. The average number of items borrowed by registered patrons declined by 20%.

The review concluded that the decline in use 'may be related to the re-location of the Hornsby Central Library to a site closer to the Hornsby CBD' and to various limitations in the scope of the service. These latter included a reduction of opening hours by four hours (with closure on Wednesday afternoons), materials, study space, and information technology - and poor signage.

The review report addressed the limited scope of the **service** and recommended the expansion of 'more relevant' materials, more rotation of stock between branches, increased use of technology, extended opening hours and improved **signage**.

Progress with the implementation of these recommendations includes the following:

- Provision of access to the Internet and other electronic information services
- Provision of videos and magazines
- Completion of collection evaluation and subsequent targeting of new purchases in identified interest areas
- Establishment of systems to provide greater rotation of materials across all libraries (including Galston)

14.7. Conclusions – Library Facilities

Council provides a comprehensive library service with one central library and four branches.

The libraries are well distributed around the Shire with very few residents' being more than 10-15 minutes drive from at least one library. The facilities are generally well regarded by the Shire population. As a consequence, the library needs of residents are almost entirely met by the facilities provided within the Shire.

The library service is clearly a well-used resource in the community. This is likely to increase in the future with further aging of the population (because older people tend to be the highest users of library facilities).

The major service gaps identified relate to shortfalls in the size of libraries (in terms of floor space) and in the quantity and range of library stock. These gaps were identified according to accepted standards *and* expressions of community need.

On the basis of standards, the gaps appear considerable. But on the basis of community expressions of need, they appear less so – given the relatively high satisfaction levels with current library services.

Nevertheless, current floor space is 38% **lower** than that specified **by** the standards and the current provision of library materials, at 1.7 items per capita, is well below the State average of 2.1 items.

The proposed stage 2 extension of the Pennant Hills Library will greatly improve the facility and make a significant contribution to improving the Shire's total library floor space (with a doubling of space at the branch from 600 m² to 1,200 m²). However Galston and Berowra will remain significantly below the standard.

The other major need area, for both existing and future populations, concerns the quantity and range of library stock. Given the high use (relative to other areas) of the Shire's library service, this needs to be progressively brought up at least to the State average provision of items – and then to the standard detailed in Table 14.6, above.

The home library service, which delivers to housebound readers, will **also** become an increasingly important facility as the population ages. Given the increasingly higher education of aging populations, it is likely that the **service** will also need to offer more than the selection and delivery of leisure materials (with information needs of this group also requiring basic medical, legal and other information).

Various other issues and concerns raised in the consultations (to do with opening hours, staff, layouts and other day to day operations) are being addressed via the strategies and on-going actions adopted in the Library Services Strategic Plan 2000-2003.

While the Strategic Plan clearly documents strategies to ensure that the library meets the changing needs of the community, most of the strategies remain unfunded. It will be possible to fund some strategies by shifting resources from existing programs- but this will not always be possible with the ongoing and rapid expansion of the community's needs.

15. Assessment – Cultural Development

15.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on key issues in community cultural development– on Council's roles in the promotion and facilitation of community arts and culture and on the functions and adequacy of cultural infrastructure.

Specifically, the chapter identifies Council's current and potential roles in community cultural development and the availability and current use of existing relevant facilities – for both 'visual arts and crafts' and 'performing arts'- and their adequacy within the context of the demonstrated needs for such facilities.

15.2. Community Cultural Development

The Local Government and the Arts Task Force has defined 'community cultural development' as 'an approach whereby the cultural identity of a local area is acknowledged and nurtured through a range of arts and cultural activities'.⁵⁷

The Task Force emphasised how local government, 'through recognition of arts and culture can stimulate a creative and culturally productive community. This, in turn, affirms and extends cultural identity and places value on access to diverse artistic and cultural production'.

The suggested possible benefits of such an approach included the following:

- community cohesion
- creation of a more interesting and diverse community life
- celebration of local community life
- economic spinoffs – such as greater business investment and tourism
- artistic spinoffs – such as unique and exciting arts products
- pride in local cultural identity

Council is currently involved in community cultural development in the following ways:

- the subsidisation of community centres – many of which are important locations for a range of art forms (including art and crafts, dance, drama and music)
- the subsidisation of art galleries (at Dangar Rd Brooklyn and the Meriton building in Hornsby)

⁵⁷ Local Government and Arts Task Force, 1991, Local Government's Role in Arts and Cultural Development, page 46. The Task Force is an intergovernmental body established to encourage greater activity by local government in arts and cultural development

- Contributions to the annual art awards (Aquisitive Art Prize and Youth Art Award) organised by the **Hornsby Art Society**
- Providing sites for 'public art' – such as the carillon sculpture in Florence Street mall
- Donations to community based cultural festivals and events (**\$4,750** in 200112 to carols by candle light, **Galston Country Music Festival**, **Mundowie Music Festival**)
- Donations to cultural organisations through Council's annual Donations Program (**\$6,500** in 200112 to dance, music, theatre, art, history and groups and activities)
- Support of local history through the library service

Council recognises, however, that it can do more in community cultural development. This is reflected in its Social Plan 2000-2005 which includes several strategies in regard to cultural development. These strategies – and progress with their implementation – are detailed below:

Strategies	Implementation
Council investigate the feasibility of employing a cultural development <i>officer</i> to facilitate and co-ordinate community events and activities in the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking into possible grant opportunities to fund the position such as Cultural Grants through the NSW Ministry for the Arts
Council's Planning, Community Services and other relevant staff work in conjunction with local residents in the design of welcoming public spaces throughout the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work not initiated to date
Council work with local arts and cultural groups to develop a program of performances in community spaces such as parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completed – performances in parkland – also Council has also run Movies under the Stars for the first time last year – successful. Galston Country Music Festival has a lot of Council support – yoga in the park planned – Council ran a photographic Competition and will again, previously involved with Mundowie Music Festival.
Council utilise a range of strategies for the dissemination of information about local community events, services and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■

The cultural development strategies adopted in Council's Social Plan will, if fully implemented, go far in promoting the Shire's cultural potential. But they are not comprehensive. There are many other possible cultural development strategies that Council could pursue in a broad range of program areas – including arts and entertainment development, 'place making', preservation of cultural heritage, local economic development, access and equity and cultural exchange and integration projects.

While the employment of specialist staff, such as the proposed cultural development officer, is not a pre-requisite for the implementation of a cultural development

approach, it is likely that, without such a position, progress with cultural development will be considerably slower than it could be.

15.3. Visual Arts/Crafts

There are a significant number of interest groups in visual arts within the Shire - including a small but growing number of professional, practising artists. Organisationally, the Hornsby Art Society Inc, a large number of craft groups and two photographic clubs represent their interests.

Many of the craft groups are based at the Epping Creative Centre (Stanley Street, Epping). This is the only specialist facility within the Shire for arts/crafts. The Centre provides workshop space for a diverse range of arts and crafts groups. It is located in a former bowls club/restaurant facility (on council land) and has been extensively repaired and refurbished by the managing 377 committee and associated volunteers.

Other groups utilise community centres and church, school or scout halls - as detailed in Table 15.1.

Table 15.1 - Use of community centres/halls by visual arts/craft groups

Facility	User Groups
PD 1	
Beecroft Community Centre	■ Northern Districts Lapidary Club
Beecroft presbyterian Church	■ Quilters & embroiderers
Epping Community Centre	• Epping Quilters
Epping Baptist Church	■ Craft group
North Epping Scout/Guide hall	Craft group
Epping Creative Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Knitters Guild NSW (Epping Branch) • Lace Guild ■ Gum Leaf Craft Group ■ Australian Batik & Surface Design Association ■ Epping Creative Quilters ■ Woven Tapestry group ■ Ceramic Study Group ■ Embroiderers Guild NSW (Epping Group) ■ Epping Weavers, Embroiderers & Spinners • Machine Knitters ■ MCC (Fabric Craft) • Leatherworkers Guild NSW ■ Smocking Arts Guild ■ Tatters Guild
PD 2	
Pennant Hills Uniting Church hall	• Quilters group
'The Shed' (Lilian Fraser Gardens)	• Quilters group
St Matthews Church hall (W P Hills)	• Art group
Thornleigh Community Centre	■ Wheel N' Weft

Facility	User Groups
Thornleigh Adventist Church Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creative Activities
St Lukes Church hall (Thornleigh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quilters and camera groups
PD 3/9	
Willow Park Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hornsby Art Society • Decorative Art (Barbara Matthews)
PD 4	
Mt Colah Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ H Heights Camera Club
Mt Colah Uniting Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craft group
PD 5	
Berowra Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Berowra Baptist Church Craft Group • Rotary Club of Berowra Art & Craft Show
PD 8	
Cherrybrook Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglican Ladies Craft Group

There are also four small commercial galleries within the Shire – Kenwick Galleries (Beecroft), Hillcrest Gallery (Cherrybrook), Old Northern Gallery (Dural) and Dangar Rd, Brooklyn – and several others close to the Shire boundaries within adjacent local government areas.

Additionally, a community-based gallery in the Hornsby CBD (on the ground floor of the Meriton building) is expected to open in March 2002 – as detailed in section 15.4, below.

There appears to be little formal coordination between these various arts groups. Despite the needs identified in both the current study and in the consultations undertaken for the Social Plan, there is no joint lobbying/advocacy for improved facilities and/or recognition of the visual arts.

With most arts activities occurring almost anonymously in various neighbourhood community centres and halls, public exposure to the visual arts is essentially confined to the limited number of small galleries and a few major exhibitions each year⁵⁸.

15.4. Performing Arts

There are no specialist performance venues in the Shire. Musical, dance and drama groups currently use a range of commercial club auditoriums and community, church and school halls – as detailed in Table 15.2

Table 15.2 – Use of community centres/halls by performing arts groups

Facility	User Groups
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⁵⁸ The Hornsby Art Society's annual Art Award Exhibition and Young Artists Exhibition (both supported by Council), the Rotary Exhibition at Berowra and the Studio Artes Northside exhibition at Hornsby TAFE.

Facility	User Groups
PD 1	
St Albans Church hall (Epping)	• Ballet group
Beecroft Community Centre	• Theatre groups x 2 (several evenings/year)
Beecroft Presbyterian Church hall	■ Beecroft Youth Orchestra
Beecroft Uniting Church hall	• Ballet school
Beecroft PS hall	• Drama group
Epping Community Centre	• Dance school
West Epping Community Centre	• Dance school x 2
Epping Uniting Church hall	• Theatre group
Epping Heights PS hall	• Drama group
Roselea Community Centre	• Ballet school
Cheltenham - Golden Kangaroos Hall	• Golden Kangaroos Band - rehearsals
Carlingford High School hall	• Ryde Eisteddfod (Jul-Aug)
PD 2	
Pennant Hills Uniting Church hall	• Ballet group
Pennant Hills Community Centre	• bush music club • children's drama ■ dance schools (2) • Gruppo Folklorico
St Matthews Church hall (W P Hills)	• Ballet group
West P Hills PS hall	• Indian dance group
Thornleigh Community Centre	• dance school • interactive music and drama
Normanhurst Uniting Church hall	• Ballet group
Normanhurst West PS hall	■ Youth theatre
PD 3/9	
St Peters Church hall	• Hornsby Musical Society
Hornsby Baptist Church hall	• Music school (30 kids - piano)
Waitara PS hall	• Ex-students band
Willow Park Community Centre	• folk club • dance school • drama school
PD 4	
Asquith Boys High School hall	■ Gang Show (in Jun-Jul)
Asquith PS hall	• Ballet school
PD 5	
Berowra PS hall	• Dance classes
Berowra District Hall	• Dance school
Berowra Community Centre	Drama • musical society
PD 6/7	
Galston community centre	• Ballet school

Facility	User Groups
Galston Uniting Church hall	■ Occasional use for concerts, eisteddfods
Arcadia Community Centre	• dance schools x 2
Dangar Island hall	■ weekend concerts (singer/performer)
PD 8	
Oakhill Drive P School hall	• Drama group
John Purchase P School hall	■ Dance studio
Chenybrook P School hall	■ Ballet group
Gumnut Community Centre	• Ballet school
Cherrybrook Community Centre	■ Drama school

Additionally, the community centres and halls are used by a large number of recreational dance groups – including highland, Scottish, Irish, ballroom, line, jazz, belly and bush dance.

Some groups do not regard the existing facilities as adequate- in terms of size, state of repair and/or appropriate facilities. For many groups, however, the facilities meet their needs adequately.

15.5. Recent Council & Community Initiatives on Cultural Development

Council and various community organisations have, over many years, been reviewing the need for and feasibility of major cultural facilities within the Shire.

In 1988, Council commissioned a feasibility study on the economic viability of a 450 seat Performing Arts Venue (to be sited at Kenley Park)⁵⁹. The study recommended that Council not proceed with the proposal due to insufficient demand. (Thus, 'while Council has received some requests and support for a performance facility, these are very small in both audience draw and actual booking potential in comparison to about 384 performance units available in a year in any venue).

The feasibility report concluded that, given the type and scale of demand in the Shire, refurbishment of the centrally located RSL Memorial Hall 'would seem to present a short term and more economic alternative: As expressed in the report, refurbishment would:

'meet the greater part of the community demand and local arts groups plus possibly provide a theatre of sufficient size to attract product similar to those produced at Glen Street and the Northside Theatre Company.....In this instance, use of the RSL Memorial Hall would be less of a capital drain (possibly well

⁵⁹ Stage by Stage Productions 1988, Feasibility Study into the Demand and economics of the Provision of a Performing Arts Centre in the Hornsby Shire

within \$2 million for an adequately equipped venue) but its size indicates that an annual subsidy towards running costs would still be necessary'.

Notwithstanding the outcomes of the feasibility study, community-based action groups (including the *Westside Committee*⁶⁰ and The *Hornsby Arts Society*⁶¹) have continued lobbying and campaigning for a regional arts centre in Hornsby.

The *Westside Committee* has, for several years, been lobbying for the establishment of an arts/cultural centre in Hornsby – 'ideally within the heritage precinct of the western side so that the centre will provide a much needed stimulus to the surrounding commercial activities'.

In its most recent submission to Council (6th March 2001), the *Westside Committee* identified the outcomes of a survey it had undertaken of 65 cultural groups within the Shire (28 of which responded). A key finding was a 'common requirement for places to exhibit works of art and good performing spaces...all groups surveyed said that their membership could be increased if these spaces were available and they would become more active:

The Committee also articulated its vision for the proposed cultural centre – a multi purpose cultural centre built around the existing *Odeon Cinema* associated with a town square at the southern end of Station Street (a magnificent community space...a place de *l'opera* in front of a cultural centre).

The *Hornsby Arts Society* has been lobbying Council for many years for the provision of a multi-purpose cultural centre comprising 'all the arts – visual, performing, musical, theatre, lectures and forums'. In last year's organisations survey, for example, the Society responded that 'the establishment of a cultural centre in the Shire of *Hornsby* is long overdue. It would be a great asset to the population of the Shire. Statistics show an ever-increasing interest in all aspects of cultural development:

Within the context of these campaigns, Council resolved (at its meeting of 30th August 2000) that:

Council, in consideration of any development of properties in the *Hornsby CBD*, investigate opportunities for a cultural centre, principally including a theatre suitable for musical and theatrical performances, storage space for cultural groups and use for public meetings.

⁶⁰ The *Westside Committee* was formed to promote the social and commercial interests of the CBD westside – in the wake of Westfield's plans to redevelop the eastside

⁶¹ The *Hornsby Arts Society* organises and conducts art classes, workshops and three major annual exhibitions. It has close links with the TAFE Art School at Hornsby and with local schools. The Society currently has a membership of 100.

A few months later, in a report to Council at its Meeting of 13th December 2000 (on the provision of a child care centre in the southern end of the Shire), reference was made to the potential 'cultural centre role' of the Epping Community Centre.

The Centre was noted as possible alternative accommodation for the Golden Kangaroos (if their current location at 179 Beecroft Road were used for the proposed child care centre) – but it was also suggested that the Centre 'has the potential to be *utilised* as an *arts/cultural* centre?

The report noted that 'while the facility would not be located in the *Hornsby* CBD [as per Council's Notice of Motion], it would be consistent with the remainder of the Notice of Motion: However, the suggestion to locate the centre at Epping was not seen as having the same advantages as a *Hornsby* CBD site – and was not taken up by Council.

To date, the matter of the 'performing arts oriented' cultural centre has *not* been further considered by Council.

Some progress has, however, been made in the establishment of CBD-based exhibition facilities.

Council recently acquired office space on the ground floor of the new Meriton apartment building (at 208-226 Pacific Highway, *Hornsby*) under Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and *Assessment* Act (*NSW*) 1979. The space comprises a 125 square metres office with basic fittings and attached kitchenette and WC amenities. It is dedicated "for public amenities and public services".

In the middle of last year Council called for expressions of interest for the community use of this space and subsequently resolved to sign a five-year lease with the *Hornsby* Art Society for its development as an *arts/exhibition* centre.

The Art Society's proposal is to provide exhibition, art practice and education opportunities within the space. The emphasis is on the visual rather than performing arts. Specifically, the Society has proposed that the Art Centre be in use for at least five days each week, including weekends and some evenings. The activities envisaged include:

- Regular exhibitions of paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints and photography by individuals and groups.
- Exhibitions by schools, TAFE students, Studio Artes Northside and the *Hornsby* Ku-ring-gai Community College.
- Day-time art tuition and discussion groups for women at home and the aged.

⁶² the facility 'seats 300 people, a performing stage, a number of rooms for use by *arts/cultural* groups, and a commercial kitchen, all in a central location close to public transport'.

- Special events organised through community leaders of social groups targeted in Hornsby Council's social plan (eg youth exhibitions, Asian painting classes).
- Education and tuition in basic art skills, art appreciation, tours to other regional galleries.
- Weekend workshops for adults and classes for children after school hours and in school holidays.

The proposed centre is to be run by the Society – but supported by Council in the form of subsidised rental.

Implementation of the proposal has been delayed by the requirement for a management plan to be prepared for the space – due to its classification as 'community' land under the Local Government Act, 1993 – and the need for disabled toilets. It is expected, however, to open in May 2002.

15.6. Adequacy of Cultural Facilities/Activities

As with other program area, the adequacy of cultural facilities and services is best assessed with multiple techniques - planning benchmarks, the expressed needs of residents and community organisations and current facility use.

Planning benchmarks⁶³

Small arts and *craft centres* – at the very local level - are normally justified at 1:2,000 people. At the district level, they are justified at 1:30,000 people.

Council's 17 *art/craft* facilities (mainly community centres and halls not used exclusively for arts/craft) represent a provision level of one centre per 8.800 people. On this basis, the Shire has a low provision of *art/craft* facilities.

The commonly accepted benchmark for art galleries is 1:20-30,000 people. The benchmark requirement for the Hornsby Shire is therefore 5-8 galleries. As indicated above, the Shire has four existing galleries and another soon to open in the **Meriton** building in Hornsby. On this basis, the Shire will have a provision of galleries at the lower end of the recommended benchmark.

Multi-purpose cultural centres are normally justified at 1:30,000 people (for smaller municipal-scale facilities) or 1:100-120,000 people (for regional-scale facilities). On this basis, the Shire's current population of 150,000 justifies the provision of a regional scale facility.

⁶³ The benchmarks identified in this section are all derived from the NSW Local Government and Shires Association's, Planning Benchmarks and Standards (1998)

Expressed needs

Needs in regard to cultural facilities were identified in the consultations undertaken for the Social Plan 2000-2005 and also in the consultations (including the community and *organisations' surveys* and the focus groups) undertaken for the current study.

Some of the Community Think Tank meetings — undertaken in preparation of the Social Plan – identified needs for additional cultural facilities and events – including multi-cultural festivals, community arts activities, **theatre/performance** space and a venue for major events (like the Hills centre in Baulkham Hills Shire).

The Community Survey found that 39.7% of respondents had used an indoor community or arts centre within the Shire within the previous 12 months. (But how much of this was for cultural purposes is not clear).

The survey also found that of the 36% of respondents who wished to participate in additional leisure activities, 1% wished to do more 'art and craft activities' and 1% wanted to attend more 'concerts/theatre'. The major reason for not doing these activities was 'lack of facilities'.

In terms of preferred future expenditure priorities, 12.1% of respondents ranked 'arts/cultural activities' as number one priority.

Most of the 25 cultural organisations that responded to the Organisations' Survey rated the facilities that they were using – including community centres, RSL Hall, school and church halls - as either 'good' or 'very good'.

Nevertheless, the survey also identified a fairly high need for additional cultural facilities. Thus, 49 (or 40%) of responding organisations expressed a need for additional facilities and 6 (or 12%) of these were for 'cultural **centres/performance** space'. The **Beecroft** orchestra for example, indicated that all the school and church halls were unsuitable for its activities.

A need has also been articulated for outdoor performance space - such as a bandstand in the **Florence** Street mall and an outdoor amphitheatre for live entertainment and multi-cultural activities.

Within the three focus group meetings, additionally, there were strong expressions of need for evening entertainment opportunities within the Shire and more cultural (including multi-cultural) events and activities.

15.7. Conclusions – Cultural Facilities

Despite the demonstrated high levels of interest in the arts within the Shire, **Hornsby** has few purpose-built cultural facilities. In lieu of this, local community centres and

halls are playing a very important role in providing convenient and affordable opportunities in a wide range of visual art, craft, musical, dance and performance arts activities.

These facilities are suitable for many community-based cultural activities– but not all. In both visual and performing arts, there is a strong expression of need for higher order facilities.

There is also a need for a specialist officer – such as the proposed cultural development officer – to facilitate and promote cultural activity and awareness generally within the community.

With respect to the expressed demand for a cultural centre, it is noted that Council's last detailed assessment of the feasibility of such a project was done 14 years ago. Circumstances have changed in the interim – including a substantial increase in the population.

It is noted also that the conclusions of the 1988 feasibility study were partly based on an assessment that 'local' demand was insufficient to justify the proposed 450-seat facility. However, the ability of the proposed centre to draw audience from a broader regional market was not assessed. With respect to this, other outer urban cultural centres – such as the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (in Liverpool) and the Riverside Theatres (in Parramatta) draw heavily from beyond their local government area boundaries.

It is appropriate to now revisit the feasibility issue– to prepare a brief for a new study to canvass the feasibility of a multi-purpose cultural centre (as either a new purpose-built facility or a refurbished existing building).

Without pre-empting the findings of such a study, it is likely that the desirable specifications for a facility are likely to include:

- multipurpose for music, drama and dance
- seating for 4-500 people
- contain full raked theatre seating and facilities including stage, wings, dressing rooms, and pit to accommodate an orchestra, choruses, ballet, drama, dance festivals, school eistedfodds etc
- provide both performance and rehearsal facilities, including workshop/studio space
- include ancillary facilities such as storage for groups, catering and refreshment facilities, bar, lounge, ticketing outlet and foyer
- be associated with or in close proximity to adequate parking
- accommodate a range of users, and possibly be available for hire for commercial functions and conferences
- be able to be used by all groups in the community

16. Service Gaps

16.1. Introduction

The previous chapters identified the current supply of leisure facilities – including parks and open space, community centres, swimming pools, libraries and cultural facilities – and the available evidence on the demand for and needs for those facilities.

The demand issues included the characteristics of the Shire population, trends in the demand for and supply of leisure opportunities and the specific aspirations of individuals and organisations in the community. The supply issues included the provision and roles of existing facilities, levels of use and an assessment facility adequacy.

This chapter identifies the key service gaps in the existing provision of leisure services in Hornsby in the light of the findings of the demand and supply assessments.

Service gaps are identified for both 'existing' and 'future' populations and according to the major program groupings – 'outdoor sport', 'outdoor informal recreation', 'indoor sport/recreation', 'aquatic recreation', 'libraries', 'youth' and 'senior's' facilities and 'cultural facilities'. Where relevant, gaps are also identified on a planning district basis.

16.2. Existing Population

Outdoor Sport

Issue	Rationale
A demonstrated need for additional soccer (senior), cricket and hockey facilities	Low provision of grounds according to planning benchmarks and regional comparisons
	Full or over utilisation of many existing grounds
	Strong expression of need from relevant stakeholder groups
	Above average proportion in Hornsby of 'high sports participation' age groups

<p>A need to upgrade sports grounds – both to increase amenity and capacity – by providing new and/or improved floodlighting, change facilities, parking drainage and irrigation</p>	<p>It is more cost effective to maximise the use of existing facilities than to build new ones</p>
	<p>Lighting and playing surface improvements will increase both the capacity and use of grounds – thereby delaying the need for expensive new facilities</p>
	<p>Of the issues raised in the community consultation programs, 36% were concerned with the upgrading of existing facilities</p>
	<p>In the 'organisations survey', one in six of the outdoor sports venues used by respondents were rated as either 'poor' or 'very poor' (and only one in fifteen was rated as 'very good')</p>
	<p>The need for upgraded facilities was identified in all previous studies</p>
<p>A need to improve the diversity and 'user friendliness' of some sports fields – via the co-location of high quality playgrounds and picnic facilities</p>	<p>The provision of playgrounds and/or picnic facilities adjacent to sports facilities will increase their appeal for family use</p>
	<p>Around 40% of Council's sportsgrounds are not currently associated with playgrounds</p>
	<p>The consultations identified a strong demand for a greater diversity of opportunities in parks</p>
<p>An expressed need for improved communication and coordination in sports management issues (between Council and sports groups and between different groups)</p>	<p>Improved coordination would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitate discussion and understandings on issues of concern to sports groups (including user fees, length of tenancies, facility maintenance, facility upgrade priorities and development approval processes) • improve the flow of information on Council's sports planning intentions to sports groups • facilitate joint approaches (grant applications, facility development programs) between different groups

Outdoor Recreation

Issue	Rationale
<p>Many parks are very small – with limited capacity for upgrading and/or further development</p>	<p>There is an imbalance in the supply of different types of open space – with large numbers of drainage1 screening1 amenity reserves and too few large local and district scale recreation parks</p> <p>Some small reserves - acquired as subdivision dedications – are low in quality, with limited recreation potential & little use</p>

Issue	Rationale
	Many parks are incapable of supporting 'kick about' areas for active informal ball games
A need for additional parks – in some areas in particular	While the consultations generally indicated that residents were more interested in improvements in the quality of existing parks, some areas (particularly in PD's 2, 5 and 8) do not have reasonable access to quality local parks
Need for a greater diversity of opportunities in parks	The community consultations highlighted the need to improve the range of recreation facilities and opportunities in parks - with equestrian facilities, dog 'off leash' areas, cycle and walking trails and more diverse play facilities being predominant requests
Need for park facility refurbishments and/or upgrades	The park facility condition audits (undertaken between 1997-2001) identified the need to upgrade play facilities, amenities buildings and park furniture
	The community consultations highlighted the need to improve the accessibility, safety and 'user friendliness' of parks -with shade, lighting, seating, accessible parking and toilets and enhanced design all gaining support.
	The increasing proportions of middle aged and older persons in the Shire require improved access and amenity in parks and open spaces
A need for more linkages and linear parks - with walking tracks and cycle routes	Many parks and open spaces are dispersed and fragmented —thereby reducing opportunities for trails and linkages
	Parks will be better used where linked to each other and to residential areas by walking and cycling facilities
	The desire for safe cycling facilities was articulated in a number of consultations undertaken for this study
	The provision of safe cycling facilities is a critical aspect of child safety
	Cycling is an increasingly popular recreation activity for families and older people
	Walking (for fitness and pleasure) is an increasingly popular activity – and remains popular with older age groups
More variety in play facilities	There is a limited range of playground 'types' in Hornsby – with most catering to the 2-8 years age group
	Apart from the skate park facilities at Cherrybrook and Brooklyn, there are no play facilities suitable for adolescents
	Need a hierarchy of local to district scale play facilities
Management of environmental open space	While Hornsby has an adequate supply of bushland open space. Council needs to strike a delicate balance between the conservation of environmental resources and access/interpretation
	There is more scope for linkages between developed parks and environmental open space (such as the current walkway initiative along Terry's Creek at Epping)

Issue	Rationale
	There is more scope for interpretation of natural areas – in terms of signage , brochures and interpretive trails

Indoor Sport & Recreation

Issue	Rationale
Existing indoor sport and recreation facilities fall well short of meeting current requirements	<p>There is no multi-court indoor public sports facilities in the Shire (making it very difficult for most indoor sports to conduct district scale competitions and impossible to run regional level events)</p> <p>Poor public access to most facilities (provided by schools and youth organisations)</p> <p>Unmet needs for indoor court space articulated strongly in the community consultations</p> <p>Low level of facility provision based on planning benchmarks and regional comparisons</p>
The proposed four-court facility at Dartford Road will meet most but not all current needs	<p>The current shortfall is a minimum of four courts – so the proposed facility will barely provide for backlog needs and will not have the capacity to cater to any significant growth in relevant sports</p> <p>The growth in the population and the increasing popularity of indoor sports is likely to increase demand in future years</p>
Need to identify options for upgrading existing PCYC, YMCA and/or school facilities	The Dartford Road facility will not be able to meet all indoor sport needs

Aquatic Recreation

Issue	Rationale
Council has 3 aquatic centres but they are not – in terms of both quantity and quality - adequately meeting the Shire Population's aquatic recreation needs	<p>Many areas of the Shire – Cherrybrook, Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills and the northern corridor from Mt Colah to Brooklyn – are outside the primary catchment areas of existing centres</p> <p>Only one of the centres has an indoor pool. One has no gym and the other two have only very small gyms and 'dry area' programs</p> <p>Based on national benchmark data, the collective use of the pools is low – particularly during the winter months – suggesting that the facilities/programs are not fully appropriate to people's needs</p>

Issue	Rationale
With respect to quality, there is a need to further upgrade existing centres	The <i>community</i> survey identified relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with existing pools
	In the organisations' survey many user groups rated Council's centres as 'poor' or 'average'. Desired improvements included general refurbishment, upgraded toilets, better starting blocks, replacement of tiles. upgraded filtration and more shade/spectator cover
With respect to quantity, there is a need to extend existing centres (through the addition of indoor pools and larger gyms) and/or provide a regional scale 'wet-dry' leisure centre	The Shire has only one indoor pool (at Galston) and this is perceived to be 'congested' for part of the year
	The consultations identified a strong demand in the community for modern indoor leisure centre facilities
	National benchmark 'catchment multiples' suggest that modern leisure centres attract 2-3 times more users than outdoor 'wet' only facilities – reflecting their relevance to a greater range of people

Community Centres and Halls

Issue	Rationale
While the Shire has an overall adequate supply of halls and community centres. there are supply gaps in some areas – Cherybrook, Pennant Hills and the Hornsby CBD area	Overall, Council has one centre/5,600 people – which is adequate according to commonly accepted standards
	The provision levels are significantly lower in Cherrybrook, Pennant Hills and the Homsby CBD
	The consultations identified a need for additional meeting space in the Homsby CBD
Need to upgrade and/or reconfigure the layout of some centres	Use of community hall meeting places is quite high – but there is under use of Council's community centres (except for those in the 'under-provided' areas)
	In the organisations' survey, 63% of respondents rated facilities as 'good' or 'very good' but still requested a wide range of improvements – heating, ventilation, larger and/or more rooms In the community survey, 13% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of community centres
Need for improved promotion, marketing and booking of Council's community centres	Underuse of many of Council's community centres
	Need for improved management and marketing identified in previous studies
Need to improve the relevance, appeal, accessibility and use of seniors' centres	High levels of unutilised capacity at most centres (despite the high use and limited capacity at many other types of community centre/hall)
	Use of the centres by only a very small proportion of older people within the Shire

Cultural facilities and opportunities

Issue	Rationale
Need for a community cultural development officer	<p>Demonstrated community benefits from the adoption of community cultural development approaches in physical and social planning</p> <p>Consultations identified strong community' demand for more cultural and entertainment events and activities and for more information on cultural matters</p>
Need to revisit the feasibility of providing a multi purpose cultural facility	<p>Most recent feasibility completed in 1988 (14 years ago)</p> <p>Consultations (community and organisations' surveys identified a significant demand for visual and performing arts facilities</p> <p>High use of (often unsuitable) halls and other community centres by cultural groups</p>
Insufficient library floor space and library stock	<p>LOW provision of floor space and library materials compared to relevant standards and state average provisions</p>
Need to address/review some aspects of library configuration and operations	<p>Consultations identified some level of dissatisfaction with library services – including staffing, layouts, use of technology, disability access, parking, quantity of non-English materials and opening hours</p>

All Program Areas

Issue	Rationale
Insufficient provision of youth specific leisure opportunities	Consultations identified concerns about a lack of opportunities for young people
	A large children cohort (0-12 years) is entering the teenage years
	A trend to more unstructured activities amongst young people – including 'informal' facilities in parks (basketball rings, skate facilities etc)
	Inadequate provision of youth oriented play facilities - skateboard parks, playgrounds for older children/youth, basketball rings
	Insufficient provision of safe routes for young people on bikes, scooters, skates and skateboards
	No regional scale youth drop-in and entertainment facility within the Hornsby CBD
	No suitable venues for band nights, under 18 years dance parties and other youth entertainment events

Issue	Rationale
	No indoor heated pools in more populous areas and insufficient indoor sports centres in the Shire,

Issue	Rationale
Application of 'access for all' principles to mainstream leisure facilities	Older people's interest in and involvement in a wide range of mainstream leisure activities is demonstrated in national and local research
	Maximising access - for aged and disabled people - to mainstream leisure opportunities is consistent with access and equity principles
More activity opportunities for older adults	Older age groups are forming an increasing proportion of the population
	Active involvement in recreation is of critical importance to maintaining health and independence into old age
Need for improved information on recreation opportunities	The community survey found that 'lack of facilities' was the major constraint to recreation participation - but given the range of facilities in Hornsby it may be that lack of adequate and/or understandable information about these opportunities may be a more significant constraint
	The focus groups identified 'lack of information' about opportunities as a major constraint to participation
Need for more market research	There is inadequate information on the use of local and district parks, aquatic centres and other leisure facilities - and the satisfaction levels of users
	Visitor information is critical to understanding whether or not facilities and programs are meeting people's needs - and an important determinant of upgrading priorities

16.3. Future Populations

The previous section identified existing gaps in the supply of leisure facilities and opportunities. Its focus was on the existing population. The focus of this section is on the *future* population. Specifically, it considers the impacts of population growth (to 2011) on existing leisure facilities and how these impacts have the potential to increase existing gaps in leisure services.

The section firstly reviews population growth and changes to 2011 and then forecasts the capacity of existing leisure facilities to absorb additional demands. Where it is probable that existing facilities will not be able to absorb additional demands, estimates are made of the likely need for extended **and/or** new facilities.

Population Growth and Change

Hornsby' population is expected to grow to more than 163,000 by 2011 - an increase of 12,000 (or 8%) on the current population. This new population will place significant additional demands on current leisure and recreation facilities and services. In fact,

assuming that the new population participates in leisure at similar rates to the existing population, leisure demands will also increase by around 8%.

But forecasting the specific impact of this population increase on the demand for particular activities is more complex. It requires a detailed assessment of future changes in the age structure of the population (and perhaps other matters such as household size, income distribution and education levels).

As indicated in section 4.5 above, the forecast change in the age structure of the Shire's population is at least as significant as the change in population size.

Unfortunately, age-based population projections for the Shire are not currently available. In the absence of these, the forecast future demand for leisure facilities to 2011 is based on the assumption that the Shire's population ages at the same rate as that projected for the NSW population as a whole.⁶⁴

The projected population age structure in 2011 - based on the 'average aging' assumption - is compared with the actual 1996 age structure in Table 16.1.

Table 16.1 - Age Profile of Hornsby Shire Population - 1996 and 2011

Age (Yrs)	1996		2011		Increase 1996-2011	
	(No.)	(%)	(No.)	(%)	(No.)	(%)
0 to 4	8,828	6.5	9,337	5.7	509	5.8
5 to 9	10,064	7.4	9,664	5.9	-400	-4.0
10 to 14	10,429	7.6	10,156	6.2	-273	-2.6
15 to 19	10,614	7.8	10,483	6.4	-131	-1.2
20 to 24	9,543	7.0	10,975	6.7	1,432	15.0
25 to 29	8,073	5.9	11,138	6.8	3,065	38.0
30 to 39	20,127	14.7	23,260	14.2	3,133	15.6
40 to 49	21,526	15.7	23,423	14.3	1,897	8.8
50 to 64	20,069	14.7	31,286	19.1	11,217	55.9
65+	16,586	12.1	24,079	14.7	7,493	45.2
	135,859		163,801		27,942	20.6

The population is projected to increase by 20% between 1996 and 2011 but - as illustrated in Table 16.1 - most of this growth will be in the 50 years plus age groups. There is also significant growth in the 20-39 year age groups with small declines in the 5-19 years age cohorts.

The population projections are used to forecast growth in the demand for leisure facilities over the next ten years and the anticipated additional demand is, in turn, used to forecast possible facility shortfalls (or surpluses) in the ten years (to 2011). This is illustrated in the following sub-sections - for sports grounds, parks, aquatic

⁶⁴ ABS. 2000. *Population Projections 1999-2101* (3222.0)

centres, indoor sports halls, community centres and halls, cultural facilities and libraries

Sports Facilities

In this section, sports facility surpluses or shortfalls are forecast to 2011 – based on 2011 population projections and a continuation of existing age-related participation rates.

In the first part of a two-stage process, the existing age-related sports participation rates are applied to the 2011 projected population to provide estimates of participant numbers in a range of sports.

These estimates indicate, notably, that the anticipated increases in sports participation are significantly less than the expected 8% population increase between 2001 and 2011 (due to the aging of the population and the lower rates of participation in most sport and physical recreation activities by older people). This is illustrated in Table 16.2 - with the forecast 10-year increases for many sports being less than 7% and with actual decreases in some sports (mini mod soccer and T-ball).

In the second stage of the process, the forecast participant numbers – in each sport – are related to the existing capacities and supply of facilities to determine (2011) facility surpluses or shortfalls.⁶⁵

The process is illustrated in Table 16.2 – which shows the expected increase in participation, in a range of sports, between 2001-2011 and the actual and forecast facility requirements for those sports in, respectively, 2001 and 2011.⁶⁶

Table 16.2: Estimated Sports Facility Requirements – 2001 & 2011

Facility	Participation			Available Facilities		Facility Requirements			
	Year		Increase 2001-2011 (%)	No.	Capacity	2001		2011	
2001	2011	No.				Surplus/ (Shortfall)	No.	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Indoor sports court	5,200	5,601	7.7	3.0		7	-4	7	-4
Athletics track	1,219	1,228	0.7	3.0	500	3	0	3	0

⁶⁵ These are theoretical surpluses or shortfalls that assume a constancy of age-related participation rates (which may, in fact, change with changing fashions and tastes) and no development of facilities or any expansion of their carrying capacities over the next 10 years.

⁶⁶ The demand estimates are based on average participation rates in NSW in 1999-2000 (ABS survey, Participation in Sport & Physical Activities, 1999-2000) and population forecasts to 2011 based on the likely scenarios for new housing development and trends in occupancy rates. The participation rates are average rates for NSW and may be higher or lower than those actually occurring in Hornsby (because of, for example, the availability or non-availability of opportunities and other competing interests). As well, they have been projected forward to 2011, although in reality participation rates may change in this period

Facility	Participation			Available Facilities		Facility Requirements			
	Year		Increase 2001-2011 (%)	No.	Capacity	2001		2011	
	2001	2011				No.	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	No.	Surplus/ (Shortfall)
Cricket	2,995	3,217	7.4	43.0	66	46	-3	49	-8
Baseball/T ball	1,040	1,034	-0.6	6.0	240	5	1	5	1
Softball	819	867	5.9	6.0	162	6	0	6	0
AFL	600	628	4.7	3.0	160	3	0	3	0
R League (senior)	910	962	5.7	8.0	240	7	1	7	1
R Union	710	773	8.9	6.0	280	4	2	5	1
Soccer (senior)	8,400	9,005	7.2	30.0	216	39	-9	42	-12
Soccer (mini)	2,100	2,031	-3.3	24.0	108	20	4	19	5
Hockey	1,079	1,134	5.1	2.0	280	4	-2	4	-2
Netball	3,500	3,763	7.5	32.0	162	22	10	24	8
Total	28,572	30,243	5.8						

Table 16.2 shows that some existing facilities (assuming that they are sufficiently upgraded to optimise their use capacity) may be able to absorb the increased demands to 2011. These include facilities for athletics, baseball, softball and rugby union and rugby league.

Table 16.2 also shows, however, that existing shortfalls (in the provision of cricket, senior soccer and indoor sports court facilities) have the potential to increase significantly by 2011. There could be, by then, a need for 11 additional soccer fields, 6 cricket fields and 4 indoor sports courts.

In the absence of any increase in the number of sports facilities, the per capita provision of facilities by 2011 would be as illustrated in the third column of Table 16.3. The table also compares these supply levels with current planning benchmarks in three other urban fringe local government areas.

Table 16.3: Per capita 2001 & 2011 supply of sports facilities & benchmarks

Sports Facility	Hornsby (Population per facility)		Benchmarks (Population per facility)		
	2001	2011	Fairfield Council (standard)	Blacktown Council (standard)	B. Hills Council (standard)
Soccer fields	3,750	4,075	2,000	2,500	2,200
Rugby League	18,750	20,375	8,500	9,000	17,000
Rugby Union	23,077	25,077	40,000	100,000	52,000
Australian Football	50,000	54,333		50,000	89,000
Hockey	50,000	54,333	60,250	70,000	30,000
Baseball diamonds	25,000	27,167	24,000	11,000	14,000
Softball diamonds	25,000	27,167	11,000	9,000	10,000
Cricket fields	3,488	3,791	2,600	4,000	3,000
Athletics	50,000	54,333	65,000	30,000	45,000
Netball courts	4,688	5,094	2,000	2,500	2,500

Table 16.3 indicates that Hornsby has a low comparative provision of some facilities (sóccer, cricket, netball, baseball and softball) and that this provision gap will increase substantially by 2011 – in the absence of further developments.

On the other hand, the Shire will still have – according to the benchmarks - a reasonable supply of rugby league and union. AFL, athletics and hockey facilities even in the absence of any further provision of these facilities between now and 2011.

It is noted, importantly, that the benchmarks need to be used with caution. There are local 'cultural' differences between areas - such as the greater interest in rugby union in Hornsby compared to the more western local government areas.

Having said this, it is clear from the above analysis that the existing provision of some sports facilities is barely meeting the needs of current populations and has little or no capacity, consequently, to absorb, the additional demands of future 'enlarged' populations. This is particularly the case with cricket and soccer fields and indoor sports courts.

Parklands

With respect to local and district parks, as with some sports facilities, there is limited capacity to absorb the demands of new populations.

As indicated in Section 8.3.1, there is an existing provision of 1.124 hectares of parks per 1.000 people within the Shire (compared to the traditional standard of 1.62 hectares11.000) and without additional acquisitions, this is expected to decline to around 1.12 hectares per thousand people by the year 2011.

The existing quantity of provision, then, is already below average - particularly in Planning Districts 2, 5 and 8. Without new acquisitions, the anticipated population growth will reduce provision standards to unacceptably low levels.

The Shire's extensive bushland areas provide some compensation for the low supply of local and district parks – in the form of significant 'passive' recreation opportunities. It is, nevertheless, considered reasonable to acquire local and district park open space in new development areas at least at the current per capita levels of provision.

The acquisition strategies for urban parks (to be developed in Stage 3 of this study) will pursue this principal objective.

Aquatic Centres

Aquatic centres are normally justified at around one 25-metre pool per 20-25000 population and one 50-metre pool per 40-50,000 population. With two 50 metre and one 25 metre pools (and two smaller program pools), Council's existing resources fall

a little short of meeting these nominal standards for the forecast 2011 (as well as the current) populations.

However, with five private program pools in the Shire and other nearby pools in surrounding municipalities (Baulkham Hills and Ryde), it is arguable that the quantity of pools is adequate for both the existing and 2011 populations.

But this is not so with respect to the quality and appropriateness of aquatic centres. For both the current and the forecast 2011 populations, the age and contemporary relevance of the existing centres are the critical issues. As indicated in chapter 10, this needs to be addressed via the 'modernisation' of centres – either at existing or alternative sites.

Indoor Sports Halls

As indicated in section 9.2, sports halls are normally justified at the rate of one basketball size court for every 10,000-15,000 people in the catchment area.

The Shire's forecast population of 163,000 in 2011 will therefore require 11-16 indoor sport courts – or one more than the current requirement.

The Shire has six courts currently with a further four to be built – next year - at the Dartford Road site at Thornleigh.

The expanded supply of ten courts would still fall short of requirements. This is particularly so given that four of the courts are school facilities (with limited community access) and six (the school courts and the PCYC and YMCA courts) are single-court only facilities – with limited usefulness for seasonal competitions and major events.

It is probable that the Shire's indoor sporting groups will require additional (publicly accessible) courts within the ten-year time horizon of this study – either as an extension to the Dartford Road facility or other existing facilities or a new facility (possibly co-located with an aquatic centre redevelopment).

This will need to be the subject of a detailed feasibility study – conducted 3-5 years after the opening of the Dartford Road centre.

Community Centres and Halls

The Shire currently has, according to commonly accepted planning benchmarks, a sufficient overall quantity of halls and community centres and this sufficiency is likely to remain at least to 2011.

As indicated in section 11.5, Shire facilities comprise Council's 26 community centres and halls and a very large provision of (partly available) community and school halls.

Council's facilities, alone, represent a provision of 1:5,600 people- compared to the standard for local purpose-built community centre/halls of 1:3,500-10,000 people. In the absence of new facilities being developed, the provision level will reduce to 1:6,200 people by 2011 – but even this is within the range prescribed.

As also indicated in section 11.5, needs issues are more to do with the distribution of halls and community centres – with some areas (Cherrybrook, Pennant Hills and Hornsby CBD) having a relative under supply of such facilities.

By 2011, the CBD area in particular will require additional meeting place facilities – because a large proportion of the Shire's forecast population growth will occur in the vicinity of the CBD.

Libraries

Current library services are deficient, according to industry standards and benchmarks, in terms of building floor space and library materials (as identified in section 14.3. above).

Thus the current Shire floor space provision is 3,745 m² compared to the standards based requirement of 6,064 m². Similarly, current library stock is 258,000 items (at the five libraries) – a shortfall of 89,000 items based on the generally accepted per capita standard for library stock.

In the absence of further provisions, and based on the above population forecasts, the floor space deficiency will increase, by 2011, to 2,971 m² and the library stock deficiency will increase to 130,000 items.

Cultural Facilities

As identified in section 15.6, the Shire has a comparative deficiency of most types of cultural facility (including arts and craft centres, art galleries and multi-purpose cultural centres) and that, without additional provisions, this deficiency will increase by 2011.

Multi-purpose cultural centres, for example, are normally justified at 1:30,000 people (for smaller municipal-scale facilities) or 1:100-120,000 people (for regional-scale facilities). As the Shire's current population of 150,000 justifies the provision of a regional scale facility, this will be even more the case by 2011.

17. Council's capacity to address service gaps

17.1. Introduction

Council is unlikely to ever have sufficient funds to *meet all* the leisure and recreation needs of its constituents. Nevertheless, it is incumbent on Council to *maximise* its capacity to meet these needs through effective and efficient management *practice* - including strategic asset management, the exploitation of resource sharing and multi-use opportunities and the allocation of funds to where they are most needed.

This chapter addresses key management issues of relevance to the effective and efficient provision of leisure services – including the optimisation of available funds, human resources and strategic asset management.

17.2. Optimising Funds

Maximising Council's ability to address service gaps requires the optimal use of all available funds – grants, user fees, sponsorship, S94 levies and general revenue. This is particularly so given the backlog in needed facilities and the continuing growth in demand.

With respect to this, various Council branches have been successful in gaining special *projects/capital* improvement grants (with 46 grants totalling \$1.1 million received over the past seven years⁶⁷). The grants have been provided by a range of trusts and State Government agencies - under 19 different programs - for a diversity of leisure purposes as detailed in Table 17.1

Table 17.1: Leisure-related grants received by Hornsby Council – 1995/1996 to 2001/2002

Program Area	Source of Funds	No. of Grants	value of Grants(\$)
Playgrounds	Dept of Sport & Recreation -Capital Assistance Program	12	148.851
Sportsgrounds	Dept of Sport & Recreation -Capital Assistance Program	10	90.820
	Dept of Sport & Recreation – Regional Sports facilities Program	1	39.000
Parks	Dept of Sport & Recreation -Capital Assistance Program	1	16.000
	OUAP - Metropolitan Greenspace	1	136.000
	Centenary of Federation	1	199.887
	Department of Local Govt - Companion Animals Fund	1	10,000
Bushland/natural areas	Natural Heritage Trust - Rivercare	3	77.475

⁶⁷ Not including annual operational subsidies – such as the library subsidy (\$276,000 in 2001/2002)

Program Area	Source of Funds	No. of Grants	Value of Grants(\$)
	Natural Heritage Trust - Bushcare	2	45,787
	Natural Heritage Trust - Biodiversity	2	35,000
	NSW Environmental Trust	1	98,880
	Hornsby Nepean Catchment Management Trust	1	5,000
	Lane Cove River Catchment Committee	1	3,000
	National Landcare	1	7,900
	Dept of Land & Water Conservation – Coastcare/waterways	2	124,000
Library – special projects	Library Council of NSW	7	56,356
Arts/cultural projects	Ethnic Affairs Commission	1	16,000
Aquatic facilities	Dept of Sport & Recreation - Capital Assistance Program	5	43,600
Youth projects	Department of Education, Training & Youth Affairs	6	22,000
	Dept of Sport & Recreation - Capital Assistance Program	1	6,323
Seniors projects	Department of Aging, Disability & Home care	4	9,500
Community centres	Department of Community Services	3	88,455
Cycleways	RTA – Regional Cycleway Network	1	45,000
		46	1,324,834

Additionally, over the past five years, grants totalling \$95,000 have been allocated to various community organisations under the Department of Sport and Recreation's Capital Assistance Program. The recipients - schools, playgroups, church groups and youth organisations - have received grants for a range of projects including playgrounds, sports courts (indoor and outdoor), sports amenities and disability access.

As useful and valuable as these funds have been, they have not been substantial – representing around \$1.30 per year per resident and about 1.5% of Council's leisure expenditure over the seven-year period.

It is clear, also, that under some of these programs, Council has not received an equitable proportion of available funds. In the five year period since 1997/1998, for example, the Council area has received \$401,000 under the Department of Sport and Recreation's Capital Assistance Program (\$178,000 for Council projects and \$223,000 for other Shire-based agencies projects) and \$39,000 dollars under the Regional Sports Facilities Program.

While Hornsby's population accounts for 2.2% of the State total, the Department's grants to the Shire comprise only 1.3% of the funds allocated under these two programs in the last five years (\$440,000 of \$31.8 million). This appears inequitable.

The same appears true of some other grant programs – including the Cultural Grants Program of the NSW Ministry of the Arts.

It is noted also that other grant programs – such as DLAWC's Public Reserves Management Fund and the Australian Sports Foundation's donation program – are available and could be pursued more vigorously.

User fees are determined according to Council's 'pricing policy'. The policy is based on a number of principles and has several tiers of cost recovery – ranging from zero to more than full cost recovery. Partial and zero cost recovery fees are established for services – including most of Council's leisure services – with 'significant community benefits' or where the costs of collecting fees are greater than potential revenues.

With respect to open space, it is noted that the current fees for Council's sports grounds and parks recover, respectively, 18% and 9% of total operational costs^{K8}.

The recovery rate for sports grounds is relatively high and compares with the 15% recovery rate recommended by the Australian Leisure Institute.⁶⁹ The fees appear to be at reasonable levels – with little immediate potential as a source of significant additional revenue.

Other leisure-related user charges include the aquatic centre entry and program fees, library fees (reservations, inter library loans and late returns) and hall and community centre hire fees.

The aquatic centre entry and program fees are comparable with centres of similar age, condition and general amenity. The library and hall/community centre fees are in line with common practice..

It is noted, however, that the community consultations identified widespread concerns in the community about the level of user fees. There is a need, therefore, to clarify (to community organisations) the purposes and reasonableness of fees and the rationale behind their establishment.

Funding programs and options – including grants, sponsorships, S94, ratepayer levies and community group contributions – are discussed in more detail in the Stage 3 report.

17.3. Human Resources

Maximising Council's ability to address service gaps also requires that both the number and core responsibilities of staff positions – and the range and depth of the

⁶⁸ Budgeted non-sportsground fees are \$119,000 in 2001/02 – with entries to Fagan Park accounting for half of this and hire fees for weddings and other special events, the remainder
⁶⁹ Australian Leisure Institute 1997, Recommended Policy - Seasonal Fees and Charges
Municipal Sports Fields

competencies of incumbents – are consistent with community needs and Council's relevant strategic directions for leisure services.

Section 7.2.5 identified existing staff positions – in the Parks & Landscape, **Bushland & Biodiversity Management**, Community Services, Library & **Information Services** and Aquatics Centres branches – of relevance to Council's leisure services and programs.

These positions encompass a wide range of responsibilities and skills – but they do not cover the full scope of competencies required to achieve a comprehensive and fully effective leisure service. The key issues are identified in the following sections.

Park, open space and leisure planning

Effective service provision in parks and leisure - as in any industry - relies on a clear understanding of market needs, industry trends and best practice. It requires, in other words, a strategic planning and marketing approach.

But the existing parks and open space staff establishment is biased towards the horticultural and design fields. It has no current positions responsible for open **space** and leisure research, strategic planning, performance monitoring **and/or** inter-divisional and inter-agency coordination.

The key responsibilities to be included in a leisure strategic planning position would include at least the following:

- assessing the implications of demographic trends for leisure services
- undertaking research into community leisure needs and trends
- developing appropriate data bases and inventories – on leisure facilities and levels and types of facility/program use
- identifying and benchmarking best practice in the planning, design and management of leisure facilities, programs and services
- development of performance measures and indicators for the evaluation of leisure services
- monitoring the performance – and evaluating the appropriateness - of leisure facilities, programs and services
- developing strategies and action plans for the improvement of leisure facilities and services
- reviewing the feasibility of leisure facility development and upgrading proposals
- promoting (appropriate) community involvement in the planning and management of leisure facilities
- coordinating the leisure and recreation input into strategic land use **planning**
- establishing and maintaining inter and intra-organisational liaison and cooperation
- identifying and developing partnerships for the provision of leisure opportunities

Leisure Programming

Parallel with the lack of leisure strategic planning competencies is the absence of a clear focus – via a dedicated position – on leisure programming.

Council does organise and conduct some leisure programs – principally through the Aquatic Centres, the Library Service and the Children's and Youth Services teams – but the scope of these programs is not broadly based across the leisure spectrum.

A 'leisure programmer' position would encompass program planning, information, community development initiatives, access and equity initiatives and the marketing and promotion of leisure opportunities.

The focus of the position would not necessarily be on the organisation and direct delivery of leisure activities and programs. Community organisations (such as the YMCA, PCYC, clubs and associations) may be better placed to do this. The major focus is more likely be in the support of other agencies – through various community development initiatives (including volunteer skill development), encouragement, partnering and small grants.

Key responsibilities would include the following:

- developing and maintaining a data base on leisure and recreation programs and events in the Shire
- disseminating information in a variety of forms (directory, brochures, web site etc) on leisure activities and programs
- providing advisory and educational services on the organisation of events and activities – including the enhancement of volunteer skills and capacities in clubs and management committees
- establishing and servicing inter-agency and community liaison mechanisms
- applying access and equity strategies (encompassing transport, specialist information, disability access and funding assistance)
- assisting with and/or facilitating the provision of leisure programs for special needs groups (including frail aged, people with disabilities, non-English speaking, unemployed, youth, women, single parents)
- promotion of the benefits of leisure activity in the community generally
- marketing and promotion of specific leisure facilities, activities and events
- developing appropriate pricing structures for Council's recreation services

Cultural Development

There is also a lack of focus in the cultural development area – despite the widespread community interest in cultural activities and issues.

The need for a cultural development officer was identified and recommended in Council's Social Plan 2000-2005 and discussed further in chapter 15 of this report.

As indicated in chapter 15, such a position could facilitate and promote cultural activity and awareness generally within the community. Possible initiatives would include the following:

- Arts policy development
- Assistance with and/or sponsoring festivals and cultural events
- Coordinating artist-in-residence projects
- Coordinating small grants and in-kind assistance to arts and craft groups
- Assistance with the development of artists studios and the encouragement of artistic production
- Promotion and coordination of 'public art' (murals, sculptures, place-making, signage)
- Promotion of cultural links between cultural organisations, schools, businesses and other community organisations
- Assistance with the development and operation of galleries, museums, performing arts venues and other cultural infrastructure

17.4. Strategic Asset Management

17.4.1. Why Asset Management?

Strategic asset management is also a critical element in the optimisation of Council's ability to address service gaps and requirements.

Strategic asset management seeks to ensure that facilities are both relevant to current and emerging needs and provided at the lowest possible life cycle cost. It seeks, therefore, to optimise the 'whole of life' efficiency and effectiveness of assets.

The approach focuses on all those aspects of asset creation and management that determine the life cycle costs (and benefits) of assets - including acquisition, maintenance, utilisation and (perhaps eventual) disposal.

The following sections identify recent Council initiatives in asset management and possible future directions for continuing these initiatives.

17.4.2. Recent Council Initiatives in Asset Management

In 1999, Council adopted a report entitled 'Review of The Environment Division (Indec 1999). This led to the adoption of an asset management approach within the Division, particularly in regard to the management of facilities in public reserves.

The approach was subsequently adopted more broadly. In its 2000-01 Management Plan, Council provided the following commitment to asset management:

*"In order to maintain an appropriate **portfolio** of community assets over time, a comprehensive asset management strategy will be developed which will include application of explicit asset standards across Council, assessment of utilisation and changing needs, risk assessment, whole-of-life project costing and asset rationalisation, where appropriate."*

The Parks and Landscape Branch has, to now, focused on the establishment of systems for monitoring asset conditions and identifying works needed to **maximise** the economic life of assets. The Branch has made substantial progress with this first stage of asset management implementation - with the following key initiatives:

- Development of a parks assets register linked to Council's MapInfo GIS system (comprising a comprehensive set of data on parks assets - including condition assessments and valuations of all park furniture and fixtures)
- Benchmarking of the Shire's park maintenance **budget/asset** values ratio with a range of other agencies - with a confirmation that the Shire's ratio is comparatively low (5% compared to 8% for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Identification of downward adjustments in recent years to levels of service - 'to meet budget constraints (with, for example, grass cutting maintenance being reduced from 22 to 16 cuts per annum and irrigation and drainage systems not being installed in all sports ground facilities)
- Identification of backlog capital works needed to bring assets up to a safe and acceptable condition (\$3.6 million on sportsgrounds and \$528,000 on playgrounds)
- Allocation of \$0.8 million in the 200112 budget for high priority park upgrading works (including asset maintenance on sports fields, sealing of carparks, irrigation, floodlighting, drainage, building management, water and sewerage works and pathways)
- Identification of a need to continue this level of funding in future years to enable completion of the critical backlog works
- Initial consideration of options for increasing park maintenance/upgrading budgets - including revenue from disposal of low value assets, **\$94**, savings from reduced levels of service in some areas (turf wickets), higher use fees, leisure/recreation ratepayer levies and capital contributions from sports associations.

The stage one implementation has given Council an improved basis for determining priorities in park upgrading works - by providing information on relevant matters such

as asset age and life expectancy, compliance with safety and design standards, fitness for purpose and levels of use.

In later stages, systems will be developed to ensure that assets are provided or retained only to meet the demonstrated requirements of users and other identified service needs in the Shire.

17.4.3. Future Directions in Asset Management

Possible future directions and priorities in asset management in parks and open space are noted below – in regard to asset acquisition, maintenance and disposal. All of these initiatives have the potential to increase the effectiveness of asset management – thereby increasing Council's capacity to address current service gaps.

Asset acquisition

Given the large number of relatively small and 'low value' open space sites within the Shire, there is an arguable need for a formal process for managing the reservation and allocation of open space in the subdivision of land. The process is to ensure that only land for recreation purposes is dedicated to Council and should include at least the following:

- consultation with Parks and Landscape Branch staff on reserve location, design, condition and rehabilitation requirements
- the formulation and adoption of performance benchmarks/standards on location, quality, size, shape, terrain and accessibility
- improved communication between relevant Council departments

Asset Presentation and Maintenance

As indicated in the previous section, and in a series of reports to Council over the past two years, open space maintenance and levels of development are perceived as major issues – with significant gaps between the actual and required levels of service.

Limited funding – as reported to Council – was seen as the major constraint. But other relevant factors include the large number of small pocket parks (which are inefficient and relatively expensive to maintain), the layouts of some parks (which add to maintenance costs) and high community expectations.

It is evident that maintenance costs will need to be reduced and maintenance priorities redefined if Council is to undertake the level of development of its open space network desired by the community.

The achievement of further maintenance efficiencies will 'release' funds for the design and development of parks and open space across the Council area – making such space more effective in meeting people's needs.

Possible strategies for improving maintenance efficiencies include:

- Minimising the amount of lawn areas and obstructions to maintenance vehicles.
- Investigating open space modification (to remove excessive lawn areas and possibly replace with native vegetation).
- Reduction of irrigated areas (where not justified by the level and type of use)
- The introduction of self-sustaining vegetation (ie local indigenous species) in more areas
- The expansion of mulched areas – particularly on roadside verges
- The sale, where appropriate, of small, surplus parcels of land where they have no significant open space function.
- Minimising the subdivision dedication of small parks⁷¹.

Asset disposal

The previous section identified the sale of small open space parcels – with no significant open space functions - as a potential strategy in the improvement of open space maintenance efficiencies.

The disposal and/or recycling of low value and underperforming assets, such as these small parcels of land, is a key component of strategic asset management.

The potential of open space disposal and rationalisation has, in fact, been put to Council - in two 2001 reports on asset management." Report EN30101 in July 2001 (Parks Asset Infrastructure Budget 200112002 and Future Capital Expenditure Planning) canvassed future budget options – including the need to investigate park rationalisation opportunities.

Council subsequently resolved that 'the Parks Assets Branch continue to investigate future funding options for Assets Management:

Report EN571011 in October 2001(Parks Rolling Asset Management Program) then emphasised that:

⁷⁰ Neighbourhood parks in new development areas should be a minimum of 5.000 square metres – unless they are important for environmental or other reasons or form an extension to existing open space

⁷¹ Executive Manager's Report No. EN30101 (11th Jul 2001) & Report No. EN571011 (10th Oct)

*'A major part of the needed investigation relates to community land, which, due to its size, shape or location, may be unsuitable for its intended purpose as a public reserve, or which may be surplus to requirements. Certain land of this nature, of residential lot size, 'may be suitable for reclassification and possible sale, with the proceeds invested to **provide** a revenue stream to fund asset management works in remaining parks, and therefore move towards financial sustainability.'*

*This investigation had not been completed at the time of writing – but the objective of funding needed works from the proceeds of underperforming assets is supported **by** the findings of this report.*

ATTACHMENT A

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

ATTACHMENT A: DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

1. POPULATION SIZE & GROWTH

In 1996 the Shire had a population of 136,746 persons – up 1.4% per annum (compared with 1% per annum growth for the State overall) from 127,699 in 1991. The largest growth area between 1991 and 1996 was Planning District 8, with an increase of 33.5%, followed by Districts 3, 7 and 9 (all of which experienced increases in excess of 10%).

Just over 70% of the population (or 96,453 persons) in 1996 lived in the older established areas between Epping and Hornsby. The rural areas comprised just 11,275 persons (or 8.2% of the population).

The 1991-96 growth rate of 1.4% represented a slight decline on the average annual growth rate between 1976-96 of 1.5%.

2. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Age Profile

Hornsby Shire has a fairly average age profile compared with Sydney and NSW as a whole. The main differences are a slightly above-average proportion of children/youth aged 0-19 years (29.2% compared to 28.3% in NSW and 27.5% in Sydney) and a below average proportion of young adults 20-40 years (27.6% compared to 32.5% and 30.6%).

The proportion aged over 65 years is average at 12.1% (compared to 12.7% for NSW and 11.8% for Sydney).

Table A1.1 - Age Profile of Hornsby Shire, Sydney SD & NSW (ABS Census 1996)

Age (Yrs)	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	(No.)	(%)	(%)	(%)
0 to 4	8,828	6.5	7.0	7.1
5 to 9	10,064	7.4	6.8	7.2
10 to 14	10,429	7.6	6.8	7.1
15 to 19	10,614	7.8	6.9	6.9
20 to 24	9,543	7.0	7.9	7.3
25 to 29	8,073	5.9	8.2	7.5
30 to 39	20,127	14.7	16.4	15.8
40 to 49	21,526	15.7	14.5	14.3
50 to 64	20,069	14.7	13.7	14.1
65+	16,586	12.1	11.8	12.7
TOTAL	136,746	100.0	100.0	100.0

While the proportion of young adults is relatively low, there are significantly more households with children in Hornsby Shire (54% of households) than Sydney generally (47%). This is reflected, perhaps, in the relatively high proportion of those aged 40-60 years.

A population's age and family structure is a key determinant of the level and type of demand for recreation opportunities and services. Very youthful populations have a greater need for child and family oriented opportunities while those with a large proportion of families with teenagers seek sporting and social opportunities to a greater extent.

Ageing populations may well use many of the same facilities but will also require more support services and programs and participate at far lower rates than do young people.

Hornsby's population age profile, being relatively average, is likely to generate an average demand for open space and outdoor recreation facilities. (The low proportion of 'young adults' offsets the high demand implications of the relatively high proportion of children/youth).

It is noted also that the relatively large numbers of children and youth (together with the average numbers of older people) suggests a larger than normal requirement for accessible, close to home, non-commercial and affordable recreation opportunities.

Household Characteristics

Hornsby Shire has a high proportion of couple families with children – as illustrated in Table A1.3. Such families comprise 45.7% of families, compared to 36% in Sydney and NSW in general.

As indicated in the previous section, this high proportion of families with children implies a larger than average need for and use of local open space– including both passive parklands and sports facilities.

Table A1.3 - Household Type - Hornsby Shire, Sydney SD & NSW (ABS Census 1996)

	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	No.	%	(%)	(%)
Couple family with children	20,687	45.8	36.7	35.7
Couple family with out children	10,719	23.7	21.8	23.6
One parent family	3,637	8.0	10.0	10.1
Lone person house hold	7,792	17.2	21.7	22.2
Other	2,377	5.3	9.8	8.4
TOTAL	45,212	100.0	100.0	100.0
At same address 5 ears ago		57.5	57.1	57.0

There are lower than average proportions of 'one parent families' and 'lone person' households in Hornsby Shire – reflecting the large number of 'family home' areas.

There is an average proportion of couple families without children (23.7% compared with 23.6% in NSW).

Resident mobility is average - with 57.5% of residents living at the same address five years previously compared with 57.0% for both Sydney and NSW.

Ethnicity

Hornsby Shire has an average level of ethnic diversity - with 17.1% of residents born in a non-English speaking country (compared with 15.8% in NSW and 22.5% in the Sydney SD) and a further 10% born overseas in an English speaking country.

Table A1.2 – Ethnicity – Hornsby Shire, Sydney SD & NSW (ABS Census 1996)

Place of Birth	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	No.	%	(%)	(%)
Born Australia	95,486	69.8	65.3	73.3
Born overseas				
English speaking	13,860	10.11	8.51	7.4
NESB	23,363	17.11	22.51	15.8
Total	37,223	27.2	31.0	23.2
English proficiency				
Not well	2,209	6.1	12.0	10.8
Not at all	487	1.3	2.7	2.3
Total	8,381	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Shire has a moderately high English proficiency with only 7.4% of the overseas born population speaking English 'not well or 'not at all' – compared to 14.7% for the Sydney SD.

The ethnicity of the population is important because people from different cultural backgrounds have different preferences and interests in recreation and leisure activities. This has been identified in both national and local level surveys.

The ABS 1993 *Survey of Involvement in Sport* found, for example, that people born in Australia were far more likely to play sport than people born overseas (40% of men and 27% of women born in Australia compared to 24% of men and 13% of women born overseas).

The findings of recent research conducted in Fairfield LGA (Recreation Needs Study and Strategy Plan and and Redevelopment Feasibility Study for the Cabramatta Pool) and other local areas (eg Hornsby Shire Shire's 1999 Recreation Participation Survey) have also demonstrated this trend. In these studies people from NESB

backgrounds were found to have lower than average participation rates in swimming and traditional team sports (but a higher than average preferences for indoor court sports).

Socio-Economic Characteristics

An area's socio-economic status is a reflection of its residents' education levels, occupations and incomes. High-income earning individuals have large disposable incomes and a greater ability to engage in a wider array of leisure and recreation activities. More options are available across a wide activity spectrum - including home-based recreation, culture and entertainment and travel and tourism. (There may, of course, be time constraints due to the busy work and family lives of many people in these groups).

People in lower socio-economic groups have fewer options. Relatively small disposable incomes may limit the affordability of many recreation activities (including public activities). This may restrict some residents to team sports and lower cost social and home-based activities.

Key economic indicators for Hornsby Shire are compared with those for Sydney and NSW in Table A1.4.

Table.A1.4-Economic Indicators - Hornsby Shire, Sydney SD & NSW (ABS Census 1996)

INDICATOR	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	No.	%	(%)	(%)
Income				
Personal income < \$200/week	32,150	30.0	33.1	36.0
Personal income > \$700/week	26,320	24.5	17.8	15.3
Total persons over 15 years	107,314			
Household income < \$500/week	9,883	21.7	29.71	35.4
Household income > \$1,500/week	11,254	24.71	15.91	12.2
Total Households	45,554			
Qualifications				
Degree/diploma	32,478	30.3	20.3	17.4
Trades	14,410	13.4	13.4	14.1
Qualification not stated	11,005	10.3	13.2	12.8
No qualifications	47,877	44.6	53.1	55.7
Labour Force status				
Employed	67,120	62.5	56.9	54.3
Unemployed	2,756	2.6	4.6	5.3
Total in Labour Force	69,876	65.1	61.5	59.6
Not in Labour force	35,223	32.8	35.8	37.9
Unemployment rate		3.9	7.4	8.8

INDICATOR	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	No.	%	(%)	(%)
Occupation				
Manager/professional	33,971	50.6	39.2	38.2
Trades	6,080	9.1	12.0	12.7
Clerical/service workers	20,126	30.0	31.3	29.8
Production/transport	2,526	3.8	7.9	8.5
Labourers	3,153	4.7	7.0	8.2
Inadequately described/not stated	1,244	1.9	2.5	2.6

In 1996, households in Hornsby Shire had slightly above average individual incomes but well above average household incomes - reflecting the high labour force participation and high number of two or more income households.

Table A1.4 shows that 30.0% of individuals earned less than \$200 per week - moderately lower than the 33.1% for the whole of Sydney. But the table also shows that nearly 25% of households earned more than \$1,500 per week - significantly higher than the 16% in Sydney and 12% in NSW generally.

Other key indicators illustrated in Table A1.4 include the following:

- A high 30.2% of the population (aged 15+ years) had a degree or diploma compared with 17.4% for the State. A slightly lower proportion had a trade qualification (13.4% compared with 14.1%);
- A high percentage of the population is in the labour force (with only 25.7% *not* in the labour force compared with 37.9% in NSW);
- The unemployment rate of 3.9% was less than half that of the State (8.8%);
- Younger males (15-24 year olds) have the highest unemployment rate (at 8.3%) but this is relatively low compared with NSW as a whole (16.3%).
- There was a significantly higher proportion of **professional/managerial** employees (50.1%) and a lower proportion of trades persons (9.1%) compared with NSW (38.2% and 12.7% respectively)

The income, labour force and occupation indicators imply that Hornsby residents may have a greater than average capacity to travel or pay for more expensive pursuits - and have less than average reliance on local and lower cost opportunities. Many will also have less than average difficulty in affording membership and/or use fees for sport and other recreation facilities.

Militating against these benefits, however, is the likelihood that many residents are 'burdened' by large mortgage repayments, household establishment and/or child raising costs.

As well, there is still a significant proportion of households with very low incomes (ie more than 20% with less than \$500 per week).

These latter households are an important target market for Councils' sport and leisure facilities. Councils have community service obligations to provide basic recreation opportunities to the whole of their respective communities. The implication is that use fees for sport, cultural and leisure facilities should incorporate appropriate concession fees – for at least some activities -for those with a limited ability to pay.

Vehicle Ownership

Car ownership is an important issue with respect to access to recreation facilities - particularly for people who live at some distance from regular public transport services.

Households without a car are particularly constrained but households with more than one adult and only one car may not be much better off. If a main breadwinner uses the car to travel to and from work every day, those left at home become, essentially, members of a household without a car. Only in households with two or more cars can a high level of mobility be guaranteed.

Table A1.5 indicates that vehicle ownership is significantly higher in Hornsby (than it is in Sydney and NSW generally). Only 8.9% of households in Hornsby have no car (compared to 15.4% in Sydney and 14% in NSW) and nearly 50% of households own two or more vehicles compared to the Sydney and NSW average of 38%.

Table A1.5 – Motor Vehicles – Hornsby Shire, Sydney SD & NSW (ABS Census 1996)

No. of vehicles	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	No.	%	(%)	(%)
Nil	4,079	8.9	15.4	14.0
1	17,224	37.4	40.9	42.1
2 or more	22,961	49.8	37.7	38.4
Not Stated	1,816	3.9	6.0	5.5
Total	46,080	100.0	100.0	100.0

Despite this, a large proportion of households - the 47% that have only one or nil cars - may still experience access difficulties.

Again, there are implications for the planning and management of recreation facilities. Key issues include car parking, public transport routing and timetables and the possible provision by Councils of subsidised transport **services** for users with special access needs.

Housing Characteristics

Housing characteristics – such as type of dwelling structure, occupancy ratio and tenure – can influence leisure demands and needs. Those living in flats with children will be particularly reliant, for example, on close to home outdoor play space. Changes in occupancy ratios will change the number of people within the catchment areas for particular facilities. Again, those paying off homes may have limited disposable incomes – which could restrict leisure expenditures.

Table A1.6 indicates that Hornsby has a high proportion of separate houses (77.4 % compared to 70.2% in NSW), a high rate of home ownership (75% owned/being purchased compared to 65% in Sydney) and a higher than average occupancy ratio (2.80 people per dwelling compared to 2.67 in NSW).

Table A1.6 – Housing – Hornsby Shire, Sydney SD & NSW (ABS Census 1996)

Indicator	Hornsby Shire		Sydney SD	NSW
	No.	%	(%)	(%)
Dwelling Structure				
Separate house	37,710	77.4	63.5	70.2
Semi detached/townhouse/villa	3,410	7.0	10.1	8.2
Flat - 3 stories or less	3,709	7.6	15.1	12.4
Flat – 4 stories or more	2,268	4.7	7.6	4.8
Other/not stated	1,643	3.4	3.8	4.4
Occupied private dwellings				
Occupancy ratio		2.80	2.72	2.67
Tenure				
Households Owned (%)	22,000	47.7	41.6	43.3
Households being purchased (%)	12,300	26.7	23.7	23.3
Households Renting (%)	8,919	19.4	29.2	27.3

3. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS BY PLANNING DISTRICT

In this study, leisure needs and issues are analyzed on both a Shire-wide and planning district basis – according to Council's nine S94 Plan districts.

The major demographic characteristics of each district are detailed in Table A1.7 (on page 221). The key measures and differences between districts include the following:

Planning District 1 (Eastwood, Epping, North Epping, Carlingford, Cheltenham, Beecroft)

- In 1996 PD 1 had a population of 29,972 (22% of the Shire population).
- The population decreased slightly – by 0.5 % between 1991-96.
- Above-average aged population with 14.2% of the population aged 65+ compared to 12.1% in the Shire and 11.8% in Sydney.

- One of the lowest proportions of children 0-14 years- with 18.1% of the population aged 0-14 years compared to 21.5% in the Shire as a whole
- Above-average overseas born NESB population (19.9% compared to 17.1% for Hornsby Shire)
- Slightly above average household incomes
- Lower than average proportion of couples with children families – and very high house ownership
- Lower than average mobility – with 57.2% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously (53.8% in the Shire).¹

Planning District 2 (Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills, Westleigh, **Thornleigh**, Normanhurst)

- In 1996 the population of PD 2 was 26,845 (19.8% of the Shire population).
- The population decreased slightly – by 0.9% between 1991-96.
- The district has an average population age profile with 42.3% of the population aged between 0-29 years (20.8% between 0-14 years) and 11.8% aged 65+
- Below-average overseas born NESB population (13.4% compared to 17.1% for Hornsby Shire)
- Moderately above average household incomes
- Higher than average proportion of couples with children families – and above average house ownership
- One of the lowest mobility rates in the Shire– with 59.1% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously (53.8% in the Shire).

Table AI.7 Kev Demographic Indicators by District

SELECTED INDICATORS	PD1	PD 2	PD 3&9	PD 4	PD 5	PD 6	PD 7	PD 8	LGA
Demographic Summary									
Total Persons	29,972	26,845	18,823	19,071	8,678	9,393	915	22,695	136,746
Summary									
0-4 years	1,525	1,686	1,145	1,475	707	515	71	1,629	8,828
0-4 years (%)	5.1	6.3	6.1	7.7	8.2	5.5	7.9	7.2	6.5
5-14 years	3,951	3,890	2,051	3,124	1,483	1,542	100	4,262	20,493
5-14 years (%)	13.1	14.5	11.0	16.3	17.1	16.4	11.1	18.8	15.0
65+ years	4,284	3,162	3,041	1,626	501	906	121	2,896	16,586
65+ years (%)	14.2	11.8	16.3	8.5	5.8	9.6	13.5	12.8	12.1
Ethnicity Summary									
Australian born (%)	68.9	74.5	62.4	73.4	77.7	76.0	78.4	62.7	69.8
Overseas born – NESB (No.)	5,989	3,585	4,275	2,434	607	1,001	48	5,393	23,363
(%)	19.9	13.4	22.9	12.7	7.0	10.6	5.3	23.8	17.1
Labour Force Summary									
Employed	14,810	13,607	8,900	9,879	4,708	4,781	464	9,834	67,120
Unemployment Rate	3.90	3.80	5.24	3.61	3.15	3.61	5.88	3.86	3.9
Participation Rate	63.0	66.6	60.3	70.8	74.9	67.6	66.3	61.1	65.1
Income Summary									
Household Income < \$500/wk (No.)	2,254	1,720	2,158	1,151	441	670	130	1,310	9,883
(%)	21.3	19.5	30.3	18.6	16.0	22.6	35.1	19.7	21.7
Household Income > \$1,500/wk (No.)	2,811	2,397	2,811	1,493	642	642	39	2,132	11,254
(%)	26.5	27.1	8.5	24.1	21.7	21.6	10.5	32.0	24.7
Household Summary									
Couples with children (%)	42.6	47.2	29.9	50.6	56.6	46.2	29.8	57.3	45.7
Couples without children (%)	26.3	24.8	23.4	23.5	23.5	24.1	24.8	18.8	23.7
One parent family (%)	7.5	8.4	10.6	8.6	7.5	8.2	7.4	5.5	8.0
Lone person households (%)	17.5	14.9	28.6	12.7	9.7	15.4	28.8	14.9	17.2
Households Owned (%)	57.0	53.1	37.2	47.9	43.6	53.5	41.3	41.0	48.4
Households being purchased (%)	20.6	28.3	16.6	37.4	44.1	21.1	25.1	32.9	27.1
Households Renting (%)	19.1	14.6	40.0	11.4	10.0	15.4	25.6	17.4	19.5
2 or more of vehicles	48.5	52.9	28.6	51.9	56.4	65.9	27.8	60.6	50.0
Same address 5 years ago	57.2	59.1	42.8	58.7	59.9	59.2	52.5	43.4	53.8
Dwelling Summary									
Separate Houses (%)	78.6	86.1	46.0	91.5	93.0	90.1	87.4	72.7	78.3
Semi detached (%)	5.4	8.7	6.5	1.9	2.1	3.5	0.0	16.2	6.7
Flats 3 storeys or less (%)	5.7	2.7	27.9	2.0	0.9	0.9	4.7	6.1	7.5
Flats 4 storeys or more (%)	9.4	0.8	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	4.6
Other Dwellings %	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.8	0.4	2.7	6.6	0.0	0.6
Occupancy Ratios									
Occ Private Dwellings – O/Ratio	2.8	3.0	2.6	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.4	3.4	2.8

Planning Districts 3 & 9 (Hornsby, Waitara, Wahroonga)

- In 1996 the population of PD 3 & 9 was 18,823 (13.8% of the Shire population).
- The population increased significantly (by 11.7%) between 1991-96 with the rapid development of medium density housing in this precinct.
- The district has an 'older' age profile with only 17.1% of the population aged between 0-14 years (21.5% in the Shire) and 16.3% aged 65+ (12.1% in the Shire)
- Well above-average overseas born NESB population (22.9% compared to 17.1% for the Shire)
- The district has a very high proportion of households in low-income categories. In 1996, 30.3% of households earned less than \$500 per week compared to 21.7% for the Shire.
- Much higher than average proportion of lone person households (28.6% compared to 17.2% in the Shire) and above average proportion of one parent families (10.6% compared to 8.0%)
- The district has a much higher than average proportion of households renting dwellings (40.0% compared to 19.5% for the Shire).
- The highest mobility rate in the Shire – with only 42.8% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously.

Planning District 4 (Asquith, Berowra Creek, **Hornsby** Heights, **Mt Colah**, **Mt Kuring-gai**)

- In 1996 the population of PD 4 was 26,845 (19.8% of the Shire population).
- The population has been increasing steadily – by 4.6% between 1991-96.
- The district has a much 'younger' than average population age profile with 24% of the population aged between 0-14 years and only 8.5% aged 65+
- Below-average overseas born NESB population (12.7% compared to 17.1% for **Hornsby** Shire)
- Moderately above average household incomes
- Higher than average proportion of couples with children families (50.6%) – and average levels of house ownership
- One of the lowest mobility rates in the Shire – with 58.7% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously (53.8% in the Shire).

Planning District 5 (Berowra, Berowra Waters, **Milson's** Island, **Milson's** Passage, **Cowan**, Berowra Heights)

- In 1996 the population of PD 5 was 8,678 (6.3% of the Shire population).
- The population has been increasing steadily – by 4.5% between 1991-96.
- The district has the 'youngest' age profile in the Shire – with 25.3% of the population aged between 0-14 years (21.5% for the Shire) and only 5.8% aged 65+ (12.1% in the Shire)
- Well below-average overseas born NESB population (7.0% compared to 17.1% for the Shire)
- The district has a lower than average proportion of households with high incomes (1996, 21.7% of households earned more than \$1,500 per week compared to 24.7% for the Shire).
- Much higher than average proportion of couples with children families (56.6% compared to 45.7% in the Shire) and lowest proportion of lone person households (9.7% compared to 17.2%)
- The district has the highest proportion of households being purchased (44.1% compared to 27.1% for the Shire).
- The lowest mobility rate in the Shire – with 59.9% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously.

Planning District 6 (Glenhaven, Dural, Arcadia, **Galston**, Mid Dural, Berrilee, Maroota, Wiseman's Ferry, Glenorie, Forest Glen, Fiddletown, Canoelands, Singleton's Hill, Laughtondale)

- In 1996 the population of PD 6 was 9,393 (6.9% of the Shire population).
- The population increased slightly (by 1.1%) between 1991-96.
- The district has a slightly 'younger' than average population age profile with 21.9% of the population aged between 0-14 years and 9.6% aged 65+
- Well below-average overseas born NESB population (10.6% compared to 17.1% for Hornsby Shire)
- Moderately below-average household incomes
- Average family type profile (46.2% couples with children families) – and higher than average proportion of households owned
- One of the lowest mobility rates in the Shire– with 59.2% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously (53.8% in the Shire).
- One of the highest occupancy ratios in the Shire (3.2%)

Planning District 7 (Brooklyn, Dangar Island)

- PD 7 is the smallest district with only 915 population in 1996 (0.7% of the Shire population)
- The population increased by 10% (80 persons) between 1991-96.
- The district has an 'older'than average age profile in the Shire– with,19% of the population aged between 0-14 years (21.5% for the Shire) and 13.5% aged 65+ (12.1% in the Shire)
- The lowest proportion of overseas born NESB population (5.3 % compared to 17.1% for the Shire)
- The district has the lowest households incomes (35.1% of households earned, less than \$500 per week compared to 21.7% for the Shire).
- The highest proportion of lone person households (28.8% compared to 17.2% in the Shire) and lowest proportion of couples with children families (29.8% compared to 45.7%)
- High proportion of households being rented (25.6% compared to 19.5% for the Shire).

Planning District 8 (Cherrybrook, Castle Hill)

- In 1996 the population of PD 8 was 22,695 (16.6% of the Shire population).
- The population increased significantly (by 33%) between 1991-96 – with the precinct being the main location for new estate housing development.
- The largest proportion of children in the Shire – with 26% of the population aged between 0-14 years (21.5% for the Shire)
- A slightly above average proportion of older people (12.8% aged 65+ compared to 12.1% in the Shire)
- Well above-average overseas born NESB population (23.8% compared to 17.1% for the Shire)
- The district had the highest proportion of households with high incomes (32% of households earned more than \$1,500 per week compared to 24.7% for the Shire).
- The highest proportion of couples with children families (57.3% compared to 45.7% in the Shire) and lowest proportion of one parent families (5.5% compared to 8%)
- The district has an above average proportion of households being, purchased (32.9% compared to 27.1% for the Shire).
- One of the highest mobility rates in the Shire– with only 43.4% of the population living at the same address in 1996 as they were 5 years previously – reflecting the newness of much of the housing

4. POPULATION GROWTH AND TRENDS

Growth over Time

Population growth in Hornsby Shire between 1986 and 1996 was relatively high compared to the average in the Northern Sydney Region and in NSW – as illustrated in Table A1.8. The Shire's growth was particularly rapid between 1986-91.

Table A1.8: Population Growth, 1986-1996

Area	1986	1991	1996	Change 1986-91	% Change 1986-91	Change 1991-96	% Change 1991-96	Change 1986-96	% Change 1986-96
Hornsby Shire	117,565	127,672	136,746	10,107	8.6	9,074	7.1	19,181	16.3
Northern Sydney Region									4.4
NSW	5,401,881	5,732,032	6,038,696	330,151	6.1	306,664	5.4	636,815	11.8

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, Table T01

Table A1.8 also shows that growth in Hornsby (and NSW) had slowed in the last intercensal period from rates of growth previously experienced. The intercensal growth rate in Hornsby, however, remained at an above average 7.1%.

Distribution of Growth by Locality

Population growth has occurred unevenly across the Shire - as illustrated in Table A1.9 below. Some areas have experienced exceptionally high growth while others have actually declined. The fastest growing areas have been the Cherrybrook and Castle Hill areas (PD 8) - which have increased by more than 30%. Other areas have either increased modestly or – in the case of the established areas in PD's 1 and 2 – have experienced small population declines.

Table A1.9: Population Growth by Locality, 1986-1996

	1986*	1991	1996	% Change 1986-1996
PD 1		30,118	29,972	-0.5
PD 2		27,081	26,845	-0.9
PD 3 & 9		16,850	18,823	11.7
PD 4		18,226	19,071	4.6
PD 5		8,307	8,678	4.5
PD 6		9,290	9,393	1.1
PD 7		832	915	10.0
PD 8		16,995	22,695	33.5
Hornsby Shire		127,699	136,392	6.8
Change				8,693
% pa growth				1.36
* not currently available				

The older established 'southern' suburbs have experienced steady or declining populations. Most of the intercensal growth occurred in PD 8 (Cherrybrook/Castle Hill) and in the Hornsby CBD area.

Growth Characteristics

The significant growth within Hornsby Shire over the last two decades is mainly attributable to the release area developments (at Cherrybrook, Dural, Castle Hill and Glenhaven) but also to the construction of large apartment buildings close to the Hornsby CBD and to infill residential developments within established areas.

To a large extent these housing developments reflected a significantly higher demand for smaller dwellings (as a result of population ageing and trends to smaller families). Thus, while the Shire population increased 16.3% between 1986-96, the number of private dwellings increased by a much higher 22.1%. As a consequence, the proportion of 'separate house' private dwellings declined from 85% in 1986 to 79% in 1996.

The growth also reflected significant demands from migrants from non-English speaking countries. The number of NESB people more than doubled between 1986-96 (from 11,368 to 23,363) with many settling in Cherrybrook and other release areas. The main countries of origin include Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea and China.

Growth Strategy

The *Hornsby* Shire Housing Strategy (Stages 1 and 2) was prepared in response to the State Government's requirements and approach to urban consolidation. Specifically, Council chose to prepare its own strategy to enable exemption from State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 53 - Metropolitan Residential Development. The Strategy builds upon existing provisions - which permit multi-unit housing - in the Hornsby Shire Local Environmental Plan 1994.

The Strategy's key objectives are to:

- support ongoing population growth - consistent with natural increase and 'a fair and equitable amount of Sydney's immigration' and within limits defined by land capability and carrying capacity
- encourage housing styles that reflect population profiles and needs
- promote a concentrated rather than dispersed model of urban consolidation - and one that conforms with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and Total Catchment Management and gives adequate consideration to 'sensitive urban land' and heritage issues.
- encourage housing in commercial districts and underutilised commercial and special use zones
- discourage urban expansion into rural areas

With respect to recreation issues, the guiding principle for infrastructure required that additional housing should only be provided in areas with adequate infrastructure -

including 'open space/parkland' and 'recreation opportunities' - or in areas where adequate infrastructure can be provided.

In accordance with the adopted principles, the proposed strategy replaced the previous 'dispersed' multi unit strategy with a 'concentrated' strategy – including the identification of specific districts suitable for the development of multi-unit housing and the encouragement of high density multi-unit housing in these districts.

A series of 'neighbourhood design principles' were established to guide the development of multi-unit housing within the nominated districts. Amongst other things, these principles addressed access to community and recreation facilities and services.

The Strategy has short, *short/medium*, medium and long term strategies.

The short-term strategy promotes development within the existing high-density multi-unit housing precincts at Hornsby and Waitara. It also promotes multi-unit housing development within the Duffy Avenue (Conference Centre) precinct. This part of the Strategy is estimated to result in the development of 1414 dwellings.

In the *short/medium* term a key component is the rezoning of eight (8) precincts - from Berowra in the north to Epping in the south - to permit medium, medium-high and high-density multi-unit housing. The LEPs associated with these rezonings were gazetted on 16 July, 1999 (with Council exempt from the provisions of SEPP No. 53). This component of the Strategy is estimated to result in the development of 1,166 dwellings.

With respect to the medium term strategy, Council progressed (in 1999) the preparation of a detailed environmental investigation and planning strategy to permit higher density housing at number of properties in Westleigh. This component of the Strategy was estimated to result in the development of 1048 dwellings. The estimated yield has subsequently been revised to 323 dwellings to have regard to the planning strategy and development consents issued.

The long-term strategy includes the ongoing review of planning instruments and opportunities to provide for 270 multi-unit dwellings per annum between 2006 to 2021.

The Housing Strategy Stage 1 Report also indicated an average approval of 150 single dwellings per annum, over the period 199:-1995, excluding the urban release areas and rural areas of the Shire. The long-term strategy expects this rate of infill housing development to continue.

Population Projections

Council does not currently possess a detailed set of age-related population projections. The only projections available, in fact, are those to the year 2005 included in the S94 Plan. These are broken down for each planning district and are detailed in Table A1.10

Table A1.10: Population Growth by Planning District, 2000-2005

PLANNING DISTRICT	YEAR		POPULATION GROWTH 2000-2005	
	2000	2005	No.	%
PD 1	30,935	31,706	771	2.5
PD 2	26,706	29,085	2,379	8.9
PD 3 & 9	20,573	23,560	2,987	14.5
PD 4	20,122	20,657	535	2.7
PD 5	9,702	10,139	437	4.5
PD 6	9,627	9,899	272	2.8
PD 7	1,228	1,282	54	4.4
PD 8	26,603	27,056	453	1.7
Hornsby Shire	147,495	155,383	7,888	5.3

Source:

Table A1.10 indicates that 68% of the forecast population growth to 2005 is expected to occur in planning districts 2, 3 and 9. This is consistent with the Housing Strategy's identified districts for multi-unit housing.

Based on the ABS estimated residential population at June 2001 (of 151,529) and current 'net dwelling stock increase' estimates⁷¹ – between June 2000 and the end of 2005¹⁶ – the above forecasts seem reasonable. The dwelling increase forecasts are illustrated in Table A1.11

Table A1.11: Hornsby Shire - Population Growth Forecast, 2005¹⁶

Development Area	Net Dwelling Increase		Occupancy Rate	Population Increase 2001/2 – 2005/6
	2000/01 (Actual)	2001/2 to 2005/6 (Forecast)		
MUDP Precinct				
7A	256	1,930	*1.9	3,667
7B	127	240	**2.70	648
7C	91	220	2.70	594
7R	78	100	2.70	270
UDP Release Area				
Rogan's Hill	95	260	2.70	702
TOTAL	647	2,750		5,881

⁷² 2001 Regional Consultations – Metropolitan Urban Development Program and Urban Development Program. DUAP August 2001

Development Area	Net Dwelling Increase		Occupancy Rate	Population Increase 2001/2 - 2005/6
	2000/1 (Actual)	2001/2 to 2005/6 (Forecast)		
* Based on likely occupancy rate of higher density, multi-unit housing that comprises the majority of growth in the 7A precinct ** Based on average occupancy rate at 1996 census data and trend over previous inter censal periods				

Based on the dwelling increase and occupancy assumptions used in the above table, the estimated June 2006 population is 157,410 (151,529 plus 5,881). This represents an average 0.82% annual increase between 2000 and 2006.

If this average rate continues, the population will reach 163,800 by 2011. This figure, however, must be used with caution. The actual figure may be higher or lower - depending upon the State Government's future Metropolitan Urban Development Program requirements and the Shire's capacity to accommodate those requirements.

ATTACHMENT B

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The leisure and recreation needs of residents in Hornsby Shire:

A draft report on the findings from a resident survey.

Report to Rob Parsonson,
Recreation Planning Associates

Report prepared by:

David Archer, Monique Huyskens and Megan Vacaflores

2 August, 2001.

Survey Methodology

A survey of Homsby Shire residents was undertaken to determine the leisure and recreation needs and activities of residents. A range of different survey methodologies were considered for use bearing in mind the scope and resource limitations associated with the project, and the trade-off between various advantages and disadvantages of each survey method. In order to obtain the most representative sample possible from the population of Homsby Shire residents, the collection of data via a postal survey was deemed to be the most appropriate and practical method.

Homsby Council provided a mailing list of approximately 45,000 household addresses within the Shire, of which 3,000 addresses were then randomly selected using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) computer program.

Questionnaires were mailed to the list of 3,000 randomly generated addresses with a cover letter signed by the Mayor of Homsby Shire describing the study and the importance of their views on the subject. A reply-paid envelope was included to facilitate the easy return of questionnaires. To assist in maximising the response rate, reminder letters were sent 14 days after the initial mail out. In addition, an incentive prize of two gift vouchers was offered for completing and returning the questionnaire within a specified time.

Sample size and characteristics

On completion of the data collection, 766 completed questionnaires were returned and a response rate of 26 percent was achieved.

All sample surveys are subject to a margin of *statistical error* (Veal, 1997:215). An important point to remember is that margin of error is calculated based on absolute sample size not response rate. The margins of error, or *confidence intervals*, for the present survey have been calculated and are presented in Table 1:

Table 1: Confidence Intervals

Findings from the survey	95% confidence intervals
50%	53.6%
40/60%	53.5%
30/70%	±3.3%
20/80%	52.9%
10/90%	52.2%
5/95%	±1.6%

To help explain how to interpret this table, an example follows: suppose that 50 percent of the total sample were found to have a particular characteristic – say, they had used public swimming pool facilities within Homsby Shire at least once during the past 12 months – then there is a 95 percent chance that the true population percentage lies in the range $50 \pm 3.6\%$, that is, between 46.4 and 53.6 percent. These margins of error have been taken into account in the analyses of the data collected in this study.

Resident Survey Results

Demographic Profile of Sample (Questions 13-20)

The demographic characteristics of the sample are shown in Table 2. Where practical, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1996 census data for the Hornsby Statistical Local Area have been included (percentages in brackets) for comparison to the study sample characteristics.

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of survey sample

Demographic characteristics	2001 Hornsby Study %
Gender (1996 census data)	
Male	40.2 (48.2)
Female	59.8 (51.8)
Age (1996 census data)	
15-24 years	8.8 (18.8)
25-34 years	16.6 (16.2)
35-44 years	28.3 (20.0)
45-54 years	18.9 (18.1)
55-64 years	14.6 (10.7)
65-74 years	9.5 (8.1)
75+ years	3.3 (7.3)
Highest education	
School certificate (Year 10)	9.1
Higher school certificate (Year 12)	11.4
Trade/technical certificate	7.3
TAFE certificate/diploma	21.1
Undergraduate university degree	28.5
Postgraduate university degree	16.4
Other	6.2
Employment status (1996 census data)	
Full-time work	42.8 (42.2)
Home or family duties	13.6
Part-time/casual work	19.6 (19.3)
Full-time student	6.3
Retired or not looking for work	15.6
Unemployed	0.7 (2.6)
Other	1.5
Born in Australia (1996 census data)	
Yes	72.6 (69.8)
No	27.4 (30.2)
If not born in Australia, country of birth (1996 census data)	
Oceania and Antarctica	9.9 (7.5)
North-West Europe	46.2 (29.2)
Southern and Eastern Europe	4.9 (7.0)
North Africa and Middle East	6.0 (4.9)
South-East Asia	7.1 (8.9)
North-East Asia	13.7 (18.5)
Southern and Central Asia	5.5 (6.4)
Americas	1.1 (4.2)
Sub-saharan Africa	5.5 (3.6)
Self identification of having permanent disability	
Yes	6.1
No	93.9
Disability Type	
Physical	92.5
Sensory	5.0
Psychological	2.5

Dwelling/Residence Type (1996 census data)	
Separate house	89.2 (84.2)
Semi-detached, townhouse	4.1 (5.5)
Flat, unit or apartment	6.7 (7.7)
Other dwelling	0.0 (<1]
Household Type (1996 census data)	
Couple with no children	17.2
Couple with no dependent children	16.2
Couple with dependent children	47.9 (45.7)
Single parent with dependent children	4.0 (8.0)
Related adults	3.9
Live alone	8.0 (17.2)
Group household (eg. flatmates)	1.9 (2.7)
Other	1.1

Leisure/recreation activities undertaken in last 12 months (Question 1)

To develop an understanding of the range of leisure and recreation activities participated in by residents, survey respondents were asked to indicate how often they participated in various activities. Table 3 below provides a complete summary of results while Table 4 includes the 10 most popular leisure and recreation activities for Hornsby Shire residents. A complete summary of results by gender and age is located in Appendix A.

Table 3: Participation rates in leisure/recreation activities in last 12 months

Activity	Frequency of participation in last 12 months (%)				Total
	Never	1-6 times	7-20 times	>20 times	
Aerobics/gym	71.5	12.0	4.6	11.9	100%
Bushwalking	31.0	44.0	14.8	10.2	100%
Camping	84.3	14.2	0.7	0.7	100%
Cycling	63.0	19.9	8.4	8.7	100%
Dancing	73.9	18.5	5.4	2.3	100%
Dining out	4.8	35.9	36.8	22.4	100%
Driving for pleasure	25.0	36.4	22.8	15.8	100%
Fishing	69.7	22.4	5.6	2.3	100%
4 wheel driving	86.9	9.4	1.8	1.9	100%
Golf (social)	77.1	13.0	5.2	4.8	100%
Horse riding	90.3	7.0	0.4	2.2	100%
Informal games e.g. kites	51.2	29.1	13.8	5.9	100%
Jogging/running	57.3	17.4	10.1	15.2	100%
Martial arts	94.4	2.9	0.9	1.8	100%
Mountain bike riding	85.7	7.7	3.4	3.2	100%
Orienteering	95.7	4.0	0.1	0.1	100%
Personal hobbies	32.2	24.5	17.9	25.4	100%
Photography/painting	61.8	20.8	9.7	7.7	100%
Picnics/BBQs	21.3	48.7	21.9	8.1	100%
Rock climbing/labseiling	88.8	9.4	1.2	0.6	100%
Sailing/boating/canoeing	76.8	15.3	4.2	3.6	100%
Scouts/guides	93.1	2.2	0.9	3.8	100%
Shopping for pleasure	13.6	22.8	26.3	37.3	100%
Skateboarding/hollerblading	86.0	9.0	3.2	1.8	100%
Swimming (social)	40.9	28.4	15.3	15.5	100%
Taking kids to playground	34.3	27.2	17.5	21.0	100%
Tennis (social)	69.6	17.4	5.1	7.8	100%
Tenpin bowling	67.5	29.9	1.9	0.7	100%
Trail bike riding	93.5	4.6	0.9	1.0	100%
Visiting friends/relatives	4.4	18.1	26.4	51.1	100%
Visiting museums/galleries	58.8	32.0	5.9	3.2	100%
Visiting parks/gardens	11.4	46.1	25.5	17.0	100%
Walking/walking the dog	24.7	11.1	13.3	51.0	100%
Waterskiing	94.7	2.8	0.9	1.6	100%

The most popular leisure/recreation activities undertaken in the last 12 months were visiting friends and relatives, dining out, visiting parklands and gardens, and shopping for pleasure.

The least popular leisure/recreation activities were those that typically require a specific setting such as rock climbing, mountain bike riding, waterskiing, trail bike riding, horse riding, orienteering, and those activities aimed at youths such as scouts/guides and skateboarding/rollerblading.

Table 4: Top 10 most popular leisure/recreation activities undertaken in last 12 months

Activity	% of sample
Visiting friends/relatives	95.6
Dining out	95.2
Visiting parks/gardens	88.6
Shopping for pleasure	86.4
Picnics/BBQs in public areas	78.7
Walking/walking the dog	75.3
Driving for pleasure	75.0
Bushwalking	69.0
Personal hobbies	67.8
Taking kids to parks/playgrounds	65.7

Males were more likely to have participated in activities such as cycling, dancing, driving for pleasure, fishing, golf, and mountain bike riding than females. Females, on the other hand, were more likely to have participated in shopping for pleasure, taking the kids to a park or playground, and **walking/walking** the dog than males.

A comparison of **leisure/recreation** activities by age group indicates that participation rates for more passive activities such as driving for pleasure, photography/painting, and visiting parks and gardens generally increased with age. Activities of a more 'physical' nature such as cycling, **aerobics/gym**, jogging, informal games, swimming, **picnics/BBQs**, and shopping for pleasure, were more popular with people under 45 years. Not surprisingly, people in the 25-44 years age group were more likely to regularly take children to parks or playgrounds.

A comparison by country of birth, and dwelling type revealed no significant differences in participation rates.

Organised sporting activity participation in last 12 months (Question 2)

Survey respondents were asked to list up to a maximum of six organised sporting activities that they had participated in during the last 12 months within Homsby Shire, and to indicate how often they took part and their type of involvement.

255 respondents (33.3% of total sample) indicated that they had participated in at least one organised sporting activity in the last 12 months. The most popular organised sporting activity participated in by respondents in Homsby Shire was soccer, followed by netball, tennis, **rugby league/union/touch**, cricket and outdoor bowls. As shown in Table 5, residents participated in organised sporting activities on a regular basis (at least seven times throughout the last 12 months), which reflects the seasonal and organised structure of most sports activities.

Table 5: Frequency of participation in organised sporting activities in last 12 months

Sporting Activity	Frequency of participation in last 12 months (%)			Total
	1-6 times	7-20 times	>20 times	
Athletics	33.3		66.7	100%
Aussie Rules	10.0	60.0	30.0	100%
Baseball/softball/T-ball	13.6	63.6	22.7	100%
Basketball		14.3	85.7	100%
Swimming/water polo	6.7	13.3	80.0	100%
Cricket	18.5	40.7	40.7	100%
Golf	28.6		71.4	100%
Hockey	20.0	20.0	60.0	100%
Indoor cricket			100.0	100%
Netball	12.5	27.1	60.4	100%
Outdoor bowls	25.0	12.5	62.5	100%
Rugby league/union/touch	12.5	31.3	56.2	100%
Soccer	17.0	33.0	50.0	100%
Squash		18.2	81.8	100%
Tennis	8.8	23.5	67.6	100%
Other	13.0	19.6	67.4	100%

Type of participation in organised sporting activities in last 12 months

As well as **specifying** organised sporting activities participated in, survey respondents were also asked to indicate the type of participation whether it be as participant, spectator or **organiser**. In general, most people were participants in organised sporting activities (**56.4%**), followed by spectators (39.2%) and **organisers** (4.4%).

Use of public leisurerecreation facilities or settings outside Hornsby Shire (Question 3)

Survey respondents were asked if they had used public leisurerecreation facilities or settings outside Homsby Shire in the last 12 months. Table 6 shows that the majority of residents had done so.

Table 6: Percent of residents who use leisurerecreationfacilities outside Homsby

Response	% of sample
Yes	66.9
No	33.1

A comparison by gender revealed no significant differences, however when analysed by age group, it emerges that use of leisurerecreation facilities outside the Homsby Shire is highest among residents between the ages of 15 and 44 years, with use decreasing substantially among those aged 45 years and over.

Type of leisurerecreation facilities and settings used outside Hornsby Shire

Those survey respondents who stated that they had used leisure/recreation facilities outside Homsby Shire were then asked to list and indicate how often they had used the facilities in the last 12 months. Table 7 shows that the most popular **leisure/recreation** facility or setting used outside Homsby were beaches/waterways/foreshores, followed by parklands and formal gardens, bushland, and national parks. Included prominently in 'other' facilities outside Homsby Shire were museums and galleries, swimming **pools/facilities**, and restaurants.

Table 7: Public leisure/recreation facilities and settings **used** outside Homsby

Leisure facility/setting	% of sample (n=493)
Bushland	15.5
Cycleway/bicycle path	6.3
Indoor community and arts centre	3.4
Library	2.0
Tennis court	3.0
Netball/basketball court	2.4
Golf course	5.8
Outdoor playing field	9.1
Parkland/formal garden	30.8
Picnic/BBQ area	8.1
Playground	0.2
Beach/waterway/foreshore	49.0
National park	12.7
Indoor sports centre	11.3
Shopping centre	7.3
Other	52.4

Table 8 shows that, outside of Homsby Shire, most regular use (at least 7 times in last 12 months) was made of shopping centres, library facilities, tennis and netball courts, and indoor sports centres.

Table 8: Frequency of use of leisure/recreation facility or setting outside **Hornsby**

Leisure/recreation facility	Frequency of use in last 12 months (%)			Total
	1-6 times	7-20 times	>20 times	
Bushland	46.4	34.3	19.3	100%
Cycleway/bicycle path	38.6	35.2	26.1	100%
Indoor community and art. centre	55.3	29.8	14.9	100%
Library	16.7	43.3	40.0	100%
Tennis court	20.5	41.0	38.5	100%
Netball/basketball court	28.6	35.7	35.7	100%
Golf course	47.3	27.0	25.7	100%
Outdoor playing field	39.8	41.8	18.4	100%
Parkland/formal garden	47.6	35.9	16.6	100%
Picnic/BBQ area	48.6	26.7	24.8	100%
Playground		100.0		100%
Beach/waterway/foreshore	45.7	34.9	19.5	100%
National park	47.7	38.9	13.4	100%
Indoor sports centre	33.6	27.5	38.9	100%
Shopping centre	25.2	33.0	41.7	100%
Other	40.6	36.0	23.4	100%

As relatively few respondents who answered this question actually specified the location of the facility or setting, a complete breakdown of where leisure/recreation settings outside Hornsby Shire were used was not possible. However, 245 respondents did specify the location, with most situated in **neighbouring** Shires. Results, shown in Table 9 indicate that use of public **leisure/recreation** facilities and settings by residents of **Hornsby** Shire was highest in Ryde Shire, followed by Gosford, Kuring-gai, and Pittwater Shires. **Hornsby** residents do however seem prepared to travel **further** for leisure/recreation purposes to locations elsewhere in Sydney and regional areas.

Table 9: Location of public leisure/recreation facilities used outside Hornsby Shire

Location	% of sample (n=245)
North Sydney Shire	1.2
Willoughby Shire	2.4
Kuring-gai Shire	7.3
Ryde Shire	14.7
Baulkham Hills Shire	4.5
Parramatta Shire	4.1
Gosford Shire	8.6
Pittwater Shire	5.7
Lane Cove Shire	3.7
Elsewhere Sydney	33.9
Elsewhere Other	13.9

Use of private leisure/recreation facilities in last 12 months (Question 4)

Survey respondents were asked how **often** they used their own, their **friends** or their relatives' private leisure and recreation facilities in the last 12 months. As Table 10 shows, 70% of the sample used private gardens for leisure, while 68% used private swimming pools.

Table 10: Use of private leisure/recreation facilities

Private Facility	Frequency of use in last 12 months (%)				Total
	Never	1-6 times	7-20 times	>20 times	
Basketball hoop	76.8	12.7	6.2	4.2	100%
Computer games	48.2	21.8	11.7	18.3	100%
Garden for leisure	30.3	18.9	16.9	33.9	100%
Gymnasium	77.0	9.8	4.4	8.9	100%
Internet for leisure	34.8	14.8	16.9	33.5	100%
Swimming pool	31.6	27.8	16.8	23.8	100%
Tennis court	70.2	19.2	4.9	5.7	100%
Other	*	48.0	16.0	36.0	100%

In general, the use of basketball hoops, computer games and the internet was most popular with those between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Private swimming **pools** were popular with residents aged between 15 and 44 years, while spending leisure time in gardens was most popular with

those aged between 55 and 74 years. No significant differences were evident between males and females.

Activities that respondents would like to do within Hornsby Shire but do not (Question 5)

Survey respondents were asked to indicate whether there are any **leisure/recreation** activities that they would like to do within Homsby Shire but do not, and if so, were then required to list them and state the reasons why they did not participate in them. 641 respondents answered this question with 42.9% indicating that there are **leisure/recreation** activities they would like to do within Homsby but currently do not. Table 11 shows that swimming/aquatic activities received the highest response with 11%, followed by **cycling/mountain bike riding (6%)**, **aerobics/gym (3%)** and **jogging/walking for pleasure/walking the dog (3%)**. These activities are notable for their 'active' nature rather than more **passive** pursuits. Multiple responses were allowed hence percentage total does not add up to 100%.

Table 11: Leisure/recreation activities not currently participated in within Homsby Shire by some residents

Leisure/recreation activity	n	% of respondents	% of total sample
Dining out	13	4.8	1.7
Dancing	6	2.2	0.8
Visiting pubs/clubs	4	1.5	0.5
Visiting library	3	1.1	0.4
Driving for pleasure	4	1.5	0.5
Swimming/aquatic activities	85	31.6	11.1
Tennis	16	5.9	2.1
Golf	13	4.8	1.7
Motorcross	8	3.0	1.0
Cycling/mountain bike riding	49	18.2	6.4
Martial arts	6	2.2	0.8
Table tennis	4	1.5	0.5
Skateboarding	8	3.0	1.0
Rock climbing/abseiling	4	1.5	0.5
Horseriding	12	4.5	1.6
Jogging/walking for pleasure/walking the dog	24	8.9	3.1
Yoga	5	1.9	0.7
Concerts/theatre	7	2.6	0.9
Going to the cinema	3	1.1	0.4
Visiting parks/playgrounds/picnic areas	10	3.7	1.3
Art/craft activities	8	3.0	1.0
Bushwalking	14	5.2	1.8
Aerobics/gym	24	8.9	3.1
Basketball	6	2.2	0.8
Shopping	3	1.1	0.4
Other sports	20	7.4	2.6
Other	2	<1	0.3

Respondents who identified one or more activities were then asked to provide reasons for their non-participation within Hornsby Shire. Table 12 lists the reasons given, with lack of facilities cited most often (25%), followed by a lack of time (4%) and no child-care facilities available (4%).

Table 12: Reasons (constraints) for not participating in listed activities within Hornsby Shire

Reason (Constraint)	n	% of respondents	% of total sample
No-one to participate with	1	<1	<1
Physical problems	3	1.2	0.4
Age	1	<1	<1
Lack of time	34	13.3	4.4
Financial costs	20	7.8	2.6
Lack of understandable information	8	3.1	1.0
Lack of facilities	194	75.8	25.3
Don't know what's available	8	3.1	1.0
Don't know how to get involved	1	<1	<1
Lack of public transport	1	<1	<1
Don't think I'll enjoy activities	1	<1	<1
Feel unwelcome	1	<1	<1
Feel insecure/unsafe	6	2.3	0.8
Dogs are not allowed	12	4.7	1.6
Distance	23	10.5	3.0
No child care available	27	11.2	3.5

Preferred public leisure/recreation setting or facility (Question 6)

Survey respondents were asked to name a public **leisure/recreation** setting or facility within Hornsby Shire that they especially enjoy using. As shown in Table 11, **parklands**, playgrounds, **picnic/BBQ** areas, and **bushland** settings were most cited by residents. These public settings support the results contained in Table 13, which show high use of these types of settings among residents.

Table 11: Preferred public leisure/recreation setting or facility

Public setting/facility	% of sample
Parks, gardens, playgrounds, ovals, picnic areas	18.1
Berowra Waters	4.7
Bobbin Head	5.8
Bushland	7.8
Crosslands	3.3
Dence Park/Epping Pool	2.3
Fagan Park	9.7
Galston Pool	1.5
Greenway Park	1.4

Gym	1.7
Hawkesbury River	1.8
Hornsby Aquatic Centre	3.3
Shopping Centres	2.1
Kuring-gai National Park	1.8
Libraries	3.2
North Epping Oval	2.3
Pennant Hills Park	3.8
Ruddock Park	3.2
Local Community Halls	1.4
Berowra Valley Bushland	1.8
Swimming Pools	1.8
Clubs	1.7
Brooklyn	1.4
Other	14.0

Reasons for using preferred public leisure/recreation setting or facility (Question 7)

In order to understand the type of experience sought from their preferred public leisure/recreation setting, survey respondents were asked to indicate the importance of a range of reasons for using such settings. Tables 12 and 13 show that the reasons identified most often by residents as 'extremely important' and 'very important' were 'to do something easily accessible', followed by 'to be with and do things with family and friends', 'to rest and relax' and 'to do something relatively inexpensive'.

Table 12: Reasons for using preferred public leisure/recreation setting

Reason	Level of importance (%)				
	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Of little importance	Not important
To develop personal skills	13.4	21.6	22.1	18.6	24.2
To be with and do things with family/friends	43.3	33.4	13.5	3.8	6.1
To learn about nature	14.4	22.6	29.0	14.6	19.4
To be close to nature	24.7	30.4	20.6	9.0	15.3
To experience excitement	9.7	17.0	25.8	27.1	20.4
To experience solitude	13.6	21.8	27.9	16.5	20.2
To test and use recreational equipment	9.3	15.4	20.9	19.9	34.4
To meet other people	9.8	18.1	26.2	22.3	23.6
To view the scenery	27.0	31.0	19.6	8.4	13.9
To do something creative	5.7	10.7	14.3	22.9	46.5
To think about who I am	7.3	13.2	22.7	19.8	37.0
To keep physically fit	29.3	29.7	20.3	9.0	11.6
To be away from crowds of people	20.5	24.4	27.5	12.0	15.6
To get to know the area	12.8	20.2	29.2	15.6	22.3
To get away from the usual demands of life	31.7	34.2	22.4	6.8	4.9
To rest and relax	36.4	37.0	18.8	4.7	3.1
To do something different	19.4	30.7	27.4	12.6	9.9
To do something relatively inexpensive	39.2	33.6	19.2	5.0	3.1
To do something easily accessible to me	47.7	36.7	12.8	1.4	1.3

Table 13: Ranked reasons for using preferred public leisure/recreation setting

Reason	% citing as extremely or very important	Rank
To do something easily accessible to me	84.4	1
To be with and do things with family/friends	76.7	2
To rest and relax	73.4	3
To do something relatively inexpensive	72.8	4
To get away from the usual demands of life	65.9	5
To keep physically fit	59.0	6
To view the scenery	58.0	7
To be close to nature	55.1	8
To do something different	50.1	9
To be away from crowds of people	44.9	10
To learn about nature	37.0	11
To experience solitude	35.4	12
To develop personal skills	35.0	13
To get to know the area	33.0	14
To meet other people	27.9	15
To experience excitement	26.7	16
To test and use recreational equipment	24.7	17
To think about who I am	20.5	18
To do something creative	16.4	19

Use of public leisure/recreation settings and facilities in last 12 months (Question 8)

As shown in Table 14, **bushland** was the setting most used by residents followed by parklands and formal gardens, libraries and **picnic/BBQ** areas. These settings support a number of the most popular **leisure/recreation** activities identified by respondents (*i.e.* visiting parks and gardens, **picnics/BBQs**, walking, and bushwalking).

In general, **bushland** was most popular with those between the ages of **25** and **54** years. Parklands and formal gardens were most popular with residents between the ages of 25 and 44 years, while libraries were most popular with residents born overseas, those aged between **35** and **44** years, females and parents with children. Picnic and BBQ areas were most popular with females and those aged between 25 and 44 years, while playgrounds were particularly well used by those between the ages of 25 and 44 years and females. Public swimming pools were most popular with females and residents aged between 15 and 44 years, while indoor **community/arts** centres were used more frequently by residents born overseas and females.

It is appropriate here to highlight an important issue raised from the results contained in Table 14. Although it appears that there is little interest on the part of respondents in the use of **cycleways/bicycle** paths (with 62% of respondents indicating that they had not used these facilities during the last 12 months), the reverse might be true. This is evidenced by the general comments made by respondents (contained in Appendix B) with many mentioning the general lack of **cycleways/bicycle** paths within Homsby Shire and expressing an interest in using such facilities if they were available.

Table 14: Use of public leisure/recreation settings and facilities

Setting/Facility	Frequency of use in last 12 months (%)				Total
	Never	1-6 times	7-20 times	>20 times	
Bushland	16.2	40.7	22.8	20.2	100%
Cycleway/Bicycle path	62.0	22.3	8.6	7.1	100%
Indoor Community Centre	60.3	29.5	4.6	5.6	100%
Library	22.4	35.8	23.7	18.1	100%
Tennis court	68.7	17.1	6.9	7.3	100%
Netball/basketball court	84.8	6.7	3.6	4.9	100%
Golf course	80.3	11.7	4.2	3.8	100%
Outdoor playing field	41.8	26.0	15.1	17.1	100%
Parkland/formal garden	19.4	44.7	23.9	12.0	100%
Picnic/BBQ area	22.7	46.1	21.8	9.5	100%
Playground	38.8	28.7	16.3	16.2	100%
Public swimming pool	49.3	26.6	12.1	12.1	100%
Waterway/foreshore	36.1	36.4	15.2	12.2	100%
Other	•	60.0	20.0	20.0	100%

Overall resident satisfaction with public leisure/recreation settings and facilities used in last 12 months (Question 9)

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with those leisure/recreation settings and facilities they used in the last 12 months. As Table 15 shows, in general, residents were most satisfied with bushland, followed by parklands and formal gardens, waterways and foreshores, and outdoor playing fields. Most dissatisfaction was shown with cycleways/bicycle paths, public swimming pools, and netball/basketball courts.

Table 15: Overall satisfaction with public leisure/recreation settings and facilities

Setting/Facility	Overall Satisfaction (%)				Total
	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	
Bushland	34.8	62.4	2.5	0.3	100%
Cycleway/Bicycle path	12.1	52.8	25.3	9.8	100%
Indoor Community Centre	11.1	76.0	8.8	4.2	100%
Library	32.5	53.4	12.0	2.0	100%
Tennis court	21.1	67.9	8.6	2.4	100%
Netball/basketball court	17.7	62.8	13.3	6.2	100%
Golf course	21.3	65.4	10.3	2.9	100%
Outdoor playing field	17.6	71.9	9.0	1.5	100%
Parkland/formal garden	23.6	70.5	4.8	1.1	100%
Picnic/BBQ area	23.3	65.1	10.7	0.9	100%
Playground	19.3	67.9	11.5	1.4	100%
Public swimming pool	10.2	61.0	22.6	6.2	100%
Waterway/foreshore	23.0	68.8	7.7	0.5	100%
Other	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0	100%

Barriers to participation in leisure/recreation activities within **Hornsby** Shire (Question 10)

Tables 16 and 17 show that the main barrier or constraint affecting residents was a lack of time due to work commitments which affected close to 80% of respondents. Not knowing what activities are available and a lack of time due to family commitments were also identified as frequent barriers to participation in leisure/recreation activities.

Table 16: Barriers preventing participation in leisure/recreation activities

Barrier/Constraint	Barrier Frequency (%)			Total
	Always	Sometimes	Never	
No one to participate with	3.5	42.8	53.7	100%
Physical problems	2.9	26.2	70.9	100%
Age	2.0	18.4	79.6	100%
Lack of time due to work commitments	21.4	57.8	20.8	100%
Lack of time due to family commitments	13.3	52.9	33.8	100%
Financial costs	8.0	50.6	41.4	100%
Lack of understandable information	3.5	26.2	70.3	100%
Lack of provision of facilities, services	7.9	52.3	39.8	100%
Don't know what's available	11.8	57.1	31.1	100%
Lack of necessary skills/abilities	3.3	38.0	58.6	100%
Don't know how to get involved	4.6	37.4	58.0	100%
Lack of private transport	3.6	12.9	83.5	100%
Lack of public transport	7.5	25.8	66.6	100%
Don't think I will enjoy new activities	1.6	32.4	66.0	100%
Activities available are not meaningful	3.4	38.5	58.1	100%
Activities available are not appealing	3.6	53.9	42.5	100%
Difficult to communicate with others	1.4	13.4	85.1	100%
Language barriers	1.0	7.1	91.9	100%
Difficult to mix with others	1.7	15.9	82.4	100%
Feel uncomfortable with social environment	1.4	19.3	79.3	100%
Feel uncomfortable with cultural difference	0.9	9.7	89.5	100%
Feel unwelcome	1.0	18.0	81.0	100%
Lack of sense of belonging	1.3	21.6	77.1	100%
Feel insecure	1.6	17.9	80.5	100%

Table 17: Top 10 barriers preventing participation in leisure/recreation activities

Barrier/Constraint	% of sample
Lack of time due to work commitments	79.2
Don't know what's available	68.9
Lack of time due to family commitments	66.2
Lack of provision of facilities, services	60.2
Financial costs	58.6
Activities available are not appealing	57.5
No one to participate with	46.3
Don't know how to get involved	42.0
Activities available are not meaningful	41.9
Lack of necessary skills/abilities	41.4

Not surprisingly, further analysis indicated that lack of time due to work commitments mainly affected those of working age (i.e. between the ages of 15 and 54 years) and residents with dependent children, while lack of time due to family commitments mainly affected those aged between 35 and 54 years and females. Not knowing what activities are available was indicated mainly by residents between the ages of 15 and 44 years.

Leisure/recreation expenditure priorities of residents (Question 12)

To establish expenditure priorities, survey respondents were asked to prioritise areas of council leisure/recreation expenditure. Respondents were asked to select the five most important areas from a list and then rank those five areas from 1 through to 5. Table 18 shows the selected top priority areas (ranked 1 by respondents) as well as ranked average priority overall (based on the rankings from 1 to 5).

Overall, highest priority for council expenditure by residents was given to **bushland** management, followed by library facilities and services, and youth facilities/entertainment.

A comparison by gender reveals no significant differences except for males giving significantly higher priority to expenditure on sports fields/facilities than females. A comparison by age group indicates that council expenditure on **bushland** management was given highest priority by those aged between 45 and 64 years, while those aged 45 years and over gave high priority to funding of libraries. Interestingly, those aged 65 years and over gave highest priority to funding of youth facilities/entertainment.

Table 18: Leisure/recreation expenditure priorities of respondents

Area of expenditure	Top priority (%)	Overall priority
Bushland management	38.7	1
Libraries	25.4	2
Youth facilities/entertainment	25.2	3
Sports fields/facilities	19.5	4
Playgrounds	21.2	5
Parklands and gardens	16.1	6
Cycleways/bicycle paths	14.6	7
Swimming pools	18.5	8
Indoor sports facilities	14.0	9
Leisure activity courses/programs	7.8	10
Seniors centres	12.3	11
Arts and cultural activities/facilities	12.1	12
Community halls	4.0	13
Information services/interpretation	6.3	14

Additional comments (Question 21)

Survey respondents were provided with the opportunity to comment on opportunities to participate in **leisure/recreation** activities within Homsby Shire, and also to give any suggestions as to how Council may better provide for the **leisure/recreation** needs of its residents. Forty-eight percent of respondents (n=370) accepted the opportunity to provide more detailed feedback and comment. The majority of respondents commented on the existing condition of **leisure/recreation** facilities and the need for additional or improved facilities and settings. A more detailed **summary** of these comments is included in **Appendix B**, while the most frequently cited **comments** (in order of frequency) are detailed below in **Table 19**.

Table 19: General comments on leisure/recreation activities, facilities, and settings

Need for an indoor swimming pool/aquatic centre in Municipality. Existing facilities are inadequate.
More information needed on what's available. This information needs to be made available regularly. Information could be included with rates notices, advertised in local papers or placed on the Internet. Information booklets that outline all leisure/sport activities and facilities in the Shire would be of enormous benefit to local residents, especially to those that have recently moved to the area. Directory of Services.
More cycle ways needed in Shire. Existing facilities are grossly inadequate. Existing cycle ways are unsafe-major improvements are needed. Better linkages between cycle ways are needed. Provision of safe cycle ways reduces reliance on private transport, reduces pollution and promotes healthier individuals.
Better maintenance of outdoor facilities, parks/playgrounds, public toilets. In regular removal of graffiti and litter.
Improved playgrounds needed. Especially lighting, fencing, equipment safety and maintenance.
More facilities for youth needed. E.g. unstructured environments such as bush parks, night clubs, indoor sports centres and sporting facilities
Better management/conservation of bushland areas
More open space/parkland/bushland needed
Homsby Aquatic Centre needs major upgrading. It needs to be enclosed to allow year round use and have more shaded areas and improved parking.
More updated books and resources in library. More funding for libraries. Books in foreign languages.
Need for swimming pool at Berowra
More BBQ areas/picnic tables and rubbish bins/recycling facilities needed in local parks/playgrounds/sporting grounds
More accessible recreation facilities
Improved recreation facilities. Create access problems for the disabled and parents with prams
Indoor Sporting Complexes needed in Municipality

Appendix A

Study Findings

Comparison of leisure/recreation activity participation rates by gender and age

Activity	Gender (%)		Age group (%)						
	Male	Female	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years
Aerobics/Gym	24.5	31.8	52.3	37.1	29.2	24.0	22.6	12.9	4.5
Bushwalking	68.1	69.5	66.7	75.2	74.3	72.6	59.8	56.1	45.8
Camping	18.7	14.0	37.1	12.9	19.6	14.4	8.2	6.5	-
Cycling	42.0	33.4	53.3	41.0	53.8	29.8	17.6	10.0	9.1
Dancing	31.3	22.8	66.1	32.2	21.8	19.0	18.5	18.0	17.4
Dining out	95.3	95.0	96.9	96.7	95.2	96.3	92.4	92.8	92.0
Driving for pleasure	79.5	71.6	59.4	70.7	73.9	79.4	78.7	83.3	75.0
Fishing	35.3	26.5	41.3	27.6	36.8	26.5	21.2	21.9	14.3
4 wheel driving	14.4	12.2	14.1	13.9	14.6	11.1	9.5	15.4	4.5
Golf (social)	33.2	15.4	31.2	25.6	23.4	22.1	24.4	9.4	21.7
Horse riding	7.7	10.9	11.1	12.0	14.2	8.4	2.4	3.2	-
Informal games e.g. kites	44.8	51.7	71.9	55.5	68.6	38.5	20.9	21.9	9.1
Jogging/running	45.0	40.9	83.1	52.5	53.2	27.3	25.6	12.3	9.1
Martial arts	4.4	6.5	12.5	10.3	7.7	2.5	-	-	-
Mountain bike riding	17.9	11.9	21.9	23.3	18.2	11.6	4.8	1.6	-
Orienteering	4.4	4.3	7.8	3.4	5.1	5.0	-	6.3	-
Personal hobbies	65.1	69.5	75.0	71.7	69.9	58.3	61.9	69.2	73.9
Photography/painting	41.2	36.5	34.4	35.7	34.0	35.0	38.6	62.5	45.5
Picnics/BBQs	75.2	81.3	71.9	87.3	87.4	75.2	69.1	70.3	54.2
Rock climbing/abseiling	12.8	10.4	34.4	10.3	14.9	8.4	2.4	1.6	-
Sailing/boating/canoeing	23.9	22.9	39.1	12.0	26.3	23.3	11.8	18.7	4.5
Scouts/guides	6.2	7.3	10.9	4.3	10.7	8.2	2.4	-	-
Shopping for pleasure	78.4	91.4	86.2	90.9	90.2	85.9	85.0	80.9	52.2
Skateboarding/rollerblading	11.4	15.8	28.1	15.7	21.5	10.1	3.5	-	-
Swimming (social)	55.7	61.4	68.3	56.4	77.1	53.6	39.3	43.1	29.2

Comparison of leisure/recreation activity participation rates by gender and age (con't)

Activity	Gender (%)		Age group (%)						
	Male	Female	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years
Taking kids to playground	57.7	70.6	40.6	63.2	88.0	54.4	51.6	67.6	40.9
Tennis (social)	31.6	29.6	50.8	25.0	37.1	30.8	24.4	17.5	-
Tenpin bowling	28.4	35.2	57.8	27.4	47.5	30.8	10.7	10.9	4.5
Trail bike riding	7.4	5.8	12.5	4.3	9.2	7.6	2.4	-	-
Visiting friends/relatives	95.0	96.0	96.9	94.3	96.7	96.4	95.2	91.3	96.0
Visiting museums/galleries	41.5	40.6	32.8	28.2	40.7	47.5	41.4	55.4	45.5
Visiting parks/gardens	86.3	90.2	82.8	92.4	90.6	86.2	88.3	88.2	80.0
Walking/walking the dog	69.8	79.1	78.5	80.0	87.6	72.2	77.5	64.2	65.2
Waterskiing	6.7	4.5	12.7	6.9	6.6	3.4	2.4	-	-

Comparison of leisure/recreation activity participation rates by country of birth and dwelling type

Activity	Born in Australia (%)		Dwelling Type (%)		
	Yes	No	Separate house	Semi-detached, townhouse	Flat, unit or apartment
Aerobics/Gym	28.5	29.1	28.8	25.9	27.7
Bushwalking	69.9	65.8	69.4	60.0	62.5
Camping	16.6	14.0	16.4	7.7	14.9
Cycling	36.7	37.1	37.6	37.0	30.4
Dancing	27.4	23.8	25.4	29.6	37.0
Dining out	95.3	94.6	95.7	90.0	90.0
Driving for pleasure	73.6	78.1	75.4	70.4	66.0
Fishing	29.3	32.8	30.0	29.6	25.5
4 wheel driving	12.7	14.0	13.9	3.7	8.7
Golf (social)	21.8	25.0	23.9	17.9	15.2
Horse riding	10.7	6.2	10.1	-	6.5
Informal games e.g. kites	50.1	45.1	50.9	22.2	38.3
Jogging/running	39.5	50.3	41.8	46.4	48.9
Martial arts	5.3	6.7	6.5	-	-
Mountain bike riding	15.3	11.8	14.1	11.1	19.1
Orienteering	3.6	6.2	4.1	-	8.5
Personal hobbies	64.8	76.1	69.1	51.9	59.6
Photography/painting	65.7	46.4	39.2	25.9	32.6
Picnics/BBQs	79.3	77.2	80.3	60.7	65.2
Rock climbing/abseiling	13.0	6.8	12.1	11.1	4.3
Sailing/boating/canoeing	25.3	17.2	24.2	3.7	16.7
Scouts/guides	6.9	6.6	7.4	3.7	-
Shopping for pleasure	85.5	88.7	86.6	77.8	85.7
Skateboarding/rollerblading	15.7	9.6	14.8	7.4	8.5
Swimming (social)	57.1	64.2	59.4	55.2	50.0

Comparison of leisure/recreation activity participation rates by country of birth and dwelling type (con't)

Activity	Born in Australia (%)		Dwelling Type (%)		
	Yes	No	Separate house	Semi-detached, townhouse	Flat, unit or apartment
Taking kids to playground	64.3	67.9	66.1	60.7	53.2
Tennis (social)	31.6	27.2	30.3	29.6	31.9
Tenpin bowling	32.7	31.7	33.0	33.3	25.5
Trail bike riding	6.5	6.3	5.9	18.5	4.4
Visiting friends/relatives	95.4	96.1	95.9	93.3	91.8
Visiting museums/galleries	37.7	50.3	41.0	35.7	38.0
Visiting parks/gardens	87.7	90.7	88.8	86.2	86.0
Walking/walking the dog	77.2	69.1	75.6	66.7	72.0
Waterskiing	6.3	2.8	5.9	-	-

Comparison of *reasons* for using preferred leisure/recreation setting by gender and age

Percentage of respondents who cited reason as either 'extremely', 'very' or 'moderately' important

Reason	Gender (%)		Age group (%)						
	Male	Female	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years
To develop personal skills	58.3	55.9	56.5	55.5	59.9	56.4	56.4	52.8	47.1
To be with/do things with family	85.3	93.1	91.9	85.0	94.8	91.0	85.9	88.5	80.0
To learn about nature	54.4	74.0	45.2	67.6	68.3	67.3	74.1	59.6	63.1
To be close to nature	69.8	79.6	56.4	76.6	77.3	76.3	79.0	79.3	72.2
To experience excitement	52.6	52.0	75.9	64.6	52.1	51.6	31.1	41.1	5.9
To experience solitude	60.8	64.7	53.4	64.2	63.8	67.2	60.9	58.5	68.5
To test/use recreational equipment	38.6	50.6	56.4	54.2	57.5	33.6	31.5	24.1	20.0
To meet other people	50.5	56.1	66.2	50.4	52.8	49.5	51.3	63.1	50.0
To view the scenery	72.4	81.1	58.1	75.8	78.5	80.3	84.3	78.3	79.0
To do something creative	23.2	36.0	21.0	28.0	26.2	32.2	41.0	46.4	20.0
To think about who I am	38.1	46.5	42.0	44.2	44.4	43.0	43.0	37.5	27.9
To keep physically fit	75.4	82.0	79.0	77.7	81.4	81.6	76.6	81.7	50.0
To be away from crowds of people	70.9	73.2	66.1	68.3	72.6	74.2	75.0	81.0	47.4
To get to know the area	53.4	67.3	48.4	55.0	66.9	70.9	59.1	55.3	52.6
To get away from demands of life	88.3	88.2	87.0	90.9	88.6	89.4	89.6	79.4	79.0
To rest and relax	91.0	93.1	87.1	91.7	92.2	96.0	93.5	86.7	95.0
To do something different	71.9	80.9	75.4	78.2	82.2	77.5	69.5	76.7	57.9
To do something inexpensive	86.3	95.6	93.5	92.6	92.7	91.2	93.5	91.6	68.4
To do something easily accessible	95.6	98.2	98.4	97.5	95.8	99.2	98.9	96.6	85.7

Comparison of use of private leisure/recreation facilities by gender and age

Private leisure/recreation facility	Gender (%)		Age group (%)						
	Male	Female	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years
Basketball hoop	22.3	24.3	56.5	16.8	33.9	20.5	6.0	8.1	
Computer games	49.3	53.7	83.6	59.7	64.1	41.0	32.6	27.4	5.3
Garden for leisure	65.6	73.0	36.9	72.3	74.0	68.7	76.8	77.6	69.6
Gymnasium	23.8	22.7	39.7	30.5	23.3	21.9	15.7	10.2	5.3
Internet for leisure	67.3	64.3	85.7	77.1	72.2	64.5	54.0	39.1	10.0
Swimming pool	64.2	71.4	85.7	71.2	79.2	62.9	56.4	47.7	38.1
Tennis court	21.2	28.5	54.8	22.6	24.7	30.8	22.0	16.7	-

Comparison of use of *public* leisure/recreation facilities by gender and age

Public leisure/recreation facility	Gender (%)		Age group (%)						
	Male	Female	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years
Bushland	83.4	83.9	81.8	87.0	90.5	81.2	80.8	76.1	60.0
Cycleway/bicycle path	38.9	37.3	43.9	43.0	54.7	32.0	18.6	16.7	4.3
Indoor community centre	32.5	44.4	37.9	34.1	46.6	35.9	40.9	39.7	26.1
Library	74.7	79.8	84.4	70.7	81.8	77.5	73.7	77.6	79.2
Tennis court	31.9	30.7	51.6	26.4	37.8	33.3	22.7	15.5	
Netball/basketball court	13.4	15.9	38.1	11.5	25.9	5.9	3.5		
Golf course	28.1	13.4	28.1	20.9	21.9	16.1	18.9	10.2	17.4
Outdoor playing field	56.5	59.0	86.4	63.4	81.3	38.5	28.4	27.4	31.8
Parkland/formal garden	79.9	81.1	73.8	87.9	87.5	74.6	76.0	75.8	62.5
Picnic/BBQ area	73.7	80.0	81.8	83.9	87.2	71.1	66.7	66.2	47.8
Playground	49.1	69.0	66.7	66.7	81.8	42.4	43.2	52.3	21.7
Public swimming pool	42.8	55.8	71.2	52.9	68.9	42.5	29.2	25.0	4.3
Waterway/foreshore	60.5	66.2	60.6	63.9	65.1	59.7	67.7	68.2	54.2

Comparison of barriers to participation in leisure/recreation by gender and age

Barrier/Constraint	Gender (%)		Age group (%)						
	Male	Female	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75+ years
No one to participate with	38.9	51.2	60.6	52.8	41.5	49.2	32.9	37.9	62.5
Physical problems	27.8	29.9	24.2	18.9	19.6	28.0	39.3	54.1	90.0
Age	21.9	19.4	7.6	3.3	9.0	18.5	29.4	67.7	100.0
Lack of time due to work commitments	76.0	81.3	93.9	86.3	89.2	88.7	63.6	24.6	26.7
Lack of time due to family commitments	57.8	72.2	60.6	62.3	82.9	74.6	56.8	35.0	29.4
Financial costs	46.8	66.2	80.3	69.7	62.4	53.5	43.2	35.0	44.4
Lack of understandable information	29.9	29.3	37.9	28.3	28.6	38.9	20.2	22.4	5.9
Lack of provision of facilities, services	56.8	62.2	63.6	65.8	66.7	64.8	45.2	35.1	41.2
Don't know what's available	65.4	71.3	87.9	75.6	73.8	69.0	54.0	47.5	37.5
Lack of necessary skills/abilities	31.2	48.5	44.6	32.5	37.8	48.4	41.7	45.8	58.8
Don't know how to get involved	36.7	45.7	62.1	50.4	40.3	45.7	28.7	24.1	17.6
Lack of private transport	11.1	20.1	48.5	10.6	14.4	12.9	9.5	15.3	21.1
Lack of public transport	27.7	36.4	63.6	31.1	29.0	30.7	26.5	28.8	33.3
Don't think I will enjoy new activities	32.0	35.2	33.3	32.2	27.9	41.3	32.9	38.6	43.7
Activities available are not meaningful	42.3	41.3	42.4	36.1	34.7	46.0	51.2	51.7	50.0
Activities available are not appealing	57.2	57.5	65.2	54.9	52.5	61.9	57.8	60.3	56.2
Difficult to communicate with others	14.3	15.2	21.2	12.3	13.3	21.1	7.1	8.8	29.4
Language barriers	8.2	7.6	6.1	4.9	7.9	12.5	3.5	5.2	23.5
Difficult to mix with others	15.0	19.4	19.7	12.3	18.2	25.8	15.1	5.2	23.5
Feel uncomfortable with social environment	17.1	23.2	21.2	16.4	18.7	26.9	23.3	13.6	29.4
Feel uncomfortable with cultural differences	10.3	10.6	13.6	4.1	11.3	15.7	5.8	10.3	11.8
Feel unwelcome	14.2	22.4	22.7	17.4	19.2	19.5	19.8	11.9	29.4
Lack of sense of belonging	19.3	25.6	22.7	20.7	22.3	24.8	24.1	17.2	35.3
Feel insecure	13.2	23.8	21.2	23.1	17.8	23.3	12.8	15.3	23.5

Comparison of barriers to participation in leisure/recreation activities by country of birth and dwelling type

Barrier/Constraint	Born in Australia (%)		Dwelling Type (%)		
	Yes	No	Separate house	Semi-detached, townhouse	Flat, unit or apartment
No one to participate with	45.4	48.4	44.8	60.7	53.2
Physical problems	30.7	25.3	29.2	32.1	27.7
Age	20.7	19.7	20.4	25.0	19.6
Lack of time due to work commitments	79.5	78.1	78.3	86.7	85.1
Lack of time due to family commitments	65.7	67.9	67.8	60.0	54.3
Financial costs	60.2	53.2	57.9	69.0	61.7
Lack of understandable information	25.7	39.6	38.6	32.1	36.2
Lack of provision of facilities, services	59.9	60.2	59.1	65.5	71.7
Don't know what's available	68.5	69.8	68.3	63.3	80.4
Lack of necessary skills/abilities	39.1	48.1	40.7	48.3	45.7
Don't know how to get involved	39.8	47.6	40.5	53.6	54.3
Lack of private transport	16.0	18.1	15.6	27.6	21.7
Lack of public transport	30.7	38.8	32.2	37.9	40.4
Don't think I will enjoy new activities	31.9	38.9	34.6	34.5	23.9
Activities available are not meaningful	40.1	46.1	41.8	34.5	47.8
Activities available are not appealing	55.3	63.0	57.7	57.1	56.5
Difficult to communicate with others	12.8	20.4	14.3	20.7	13.0
Language barriers	6.2	12.4	7.3	13.8	8.5
Difficult to mix with others	15.4	23.7	16.5	27.6	23.9
Feel uncomfortable with social environment	18.9	25.7	20.6	24.1	19.6
Feel uncomfortable with cultural differences	6.4	21.4	9.9	13.8	13.0
Feel unwelcome	17.8	22.7	18.0	31.0	26.1
Lack of sense of belonging	20.8	29.0	22.5	24.1	26.1
Feel insecure	19.3	20.1	19.3	24.1	19.6

Type of participation in sporting activities by sport

Sporting Activity	Participant		Spectator		Organiser	
	n responses	%	n responses	%	N responses	%
Athletics	1	33.3	1	33.3	1	33.3
Archery	1	100	-	-	-	-
Aussie Rules	2	20.0	5	50.0	3	30.0
Baseball/softball/T-ball	9	40.9	11	50.0	2	9.1
Basketball	8	53.3	6	40.0	1	6.7
Comp swimming/water polo	7	50.0	7	50.0	-	-
Cricket	8	53.3	6	40.0	1	6.7
Golf	13	100	-	-	-	-
Hockey	1	25.0	2	50.0	1	25.0
Indoor Cricket	6	100	-	-	-	-
Netball	21	45.7	20	43.5	5	10.9
Outdoor Bowls	18	78.3	4	17.4	1	4.3
Rugby league/union/touch	8	26.7	21	70.0	1	3.3
Soccer	30	32.6	54	58.7	8	8.7
Squash	9	90.0	1	10.0	-	-
Tennis	28	90.3	3	9.7	-	-
Other	37	86.0	4	9.3	2	4.7

Comparison of number of responses of sporting activities participated in last 12 months (N=378)
Some survey respondents gave more than one sporting activity for this question.

Sporting Activity	Number of responses	% of responses	% of total sample
Archery	1	<1	<1
Athletics	3	<1	<1
Aussie Rules	10	2.6	1.3
Baseball/softball/T-ball	22	5.8	2.9
Basketball	15	4.0	2.0
Comp swimming/water polo	14	5.5	1.8
Cricket	15	4.0	2.0
Golf	13	3.4	1.7
Hockey	4	1.1	<1
Indoor Cricket	6	1.6	<1
Netball	46	12.2	6.0
Outdoor Bowls	23	6.1	3.0
Rugby league/union/touch	30	7.9	3.9
Soccer	92	24.3	12.0
Squash	10	2.6	1.3
Tennis	31	8.2	4.0
Other	43	11.4	5.6

Appendix B

General Comments

Children/playgrounds	Comment	Tally
	Improved playgrounds needed. Consider shading, seating, fencing, equipment safety and maintenance. Berowra especially lacks facilities.	27
	Consider the needs of children and young adults	
	Enforce 'no dogs' legislation in playgrounds	
	Give children/youth every opportunity to participate in sport and recreation activities	
	Make playgrounds from natural materials	
	More equipment in parks for older children, e.g basketball hoops to avoid vandalism to childrens play equipment	
	Provide food and beverage outlets at playgrounds	

Environmental Management	Comment	Tally
	Bener management/conservation of bushland areas	21
	Better management of waterways and foreshores	6
	Council to organise regular volunteer cleaning bees in bushland areas	
	Classes on caring for the environment needed	

Parking	Comment	Tally
	Better parking and access to facilities	7
	Inadequate parking at Hornsby Pool	6
	Additional parking required at Pennant Hills Park	5
	Urgent need for more disabled parking	3
	Reserved parking for Dangar Island residents at Brooklyn	

Youth	Comment	Tally
	More facilities for youth needed. E.g. unstructured environments such as skate parks, night clubs, indoor sports centres and sporting facilities	27
	Lack of managed leisure activities for teenagers in Berowra	
	Make a safer environment - no kids in streets after dark	
	More organised activities for youth	
	Need for a youth centre that isn't run by religious groups	
	With dual occupancy housing youth facilities should be a priority	
	Jocks Island Cafe is great venue but often closed	

Elderly	Comment	Tally
	More passive recreation facilities for elderly	4
	Meeting place for elderly in library	
	Safety of elderly and disabled is compromised by poor conditions	
	Social activities for elderly people e.g. Sunday afternoon speaker/bands in the Park.	

Corporate/Bureaucratic	Comment	Tally
	Adequate leisure facilities exist already Council should get priorities right Roads and drainage are priorities	
	Amalgamate with neighbouring Councils to increase capacity for provision of leisure and recreation needs	
	Construction of new parks takes a long time ie Franklin Rd Open Space Area	
	Cooperation between neighbouring Councils - provide more details of whats on in wider area	
	Council has had good success with Catchment Remediation Rate Review Committee-set up similar one for leisure	
	Council should consider establishing a Sporting, Leisure and Recreation Review Committee with community members to provide grass roots input	
	Council should mobilize popular participation in parkland and bushland management Promoting the recreational and environmental purposes of such an activity	
	Money raised for indoor sports complex was spent on other things	
	Resources are unfairly directed towards more affluent areas	

Transportation/ Access	Comment	Tally
	Improved footpaths. Create access problems for the disabled and parents with prams.	12
	better public transport needed to improve access to facilities	5
	Better access to national park/bushland trails (parking close by)	
	Council could provide vehicle and driver to take nursing home residents to places ie Fagan Park at a low cost Vehicle to have wheelchair access	
	Difficulties accessing Epping and Pennant Hills Libraries	
	Improved access to Marra Marra National Park	
	Problems accessing Dence Park Pool	
	Provide facilities for launching kayaks in Hawkesbury	
	Provide more recreational activities near public transport	
	Shortage of marina space hampers access to waterways	

Expense/Cost	Comment	Tally
	Cost is a big factor in participation. Prices need to be affordable	4
	Bobbin Head entry fee is too expensive	
	Community halls need to be affordable to hire/access	
	Don't introduce parking fees at boat ramps	
	Macquarie Community College courses great but too expensive	
	Provide Internet access and services affordable for retired people	

Maintenance	Comment	Tally
	better maintenance of outdoor playing fields, parks/playgrounds, public toilets. Includes regular removal of graffiti and rubbish.	28
	Bener drainage at outdoor sporting grounds	3
	More facilities for disposal of dog stools in parks and gardens	2
	Better lighting and security surveillance needed in car parks, stations and shopping centres	
	Concerned about materials used for soft fall in playgrounds They attract dust in summer and become bog in winter. Consider using other alternatives if available	
	Impose tighter restrictions on soccer training in wet weather	

Information	Comment	Tally
	More information needed on what's available. This information needs to be made available regularly. Information could be included with rates notices, advertised in local papers or placed on the Internet. Information booklets that outline all leisure/sport activities and facilities in the Shire would be of enormous benefit to local residents, especially to those that have recently moved to the area. Directory of Services.	30
	Better education/signage to promote cleaner parks and gardens	5
	Booklet/signage of local walks desperately needed People often don't feel confident walking in Hornsby. Ensure maps are more easily accessible.	2
	Reinstate Hornsby Information Centre present facilities in library totally inadequate	2
	Council needs to employ a trained and experienced cultural officer. Research environmental design and cultural needs within Shire	
	Immigrants are not aware of facilities. Also include information on the availability of public transport to facilities	
	More signs on walking tracks, including names trees etc.	
	Wider distribution of Bush Telegraph	

Facilities-General	Comment	Tally
	More BBQ areas/picnic tables and rubbish bins/recycling facilities needed in local parks/playgrounds/sporting grounds	13
	Additional lighting to improve security at Parsley Bay and Berowra boat launching ramps	
	Boat ramp at Brooklyn needs widening	
	Install lights at BBQ facilities	
	More hot showers at Dence Park Pool	
	More showers in female toilets required at Galston Pool	
	More toilets needed at Pennant Hills Park	
	Need to install payphones in Cherrybrook Community Centre	
	Upgrade and promote existing facilities	
	Upgrading toilets in playgrounds and sporting grounds	

Facilities-Arts	Comment	Tally
	Arts/cultural centre/community hall needed, especially to accommodate live performances	7
	Lack of provision for the arts, especially theatre	4
	Cinema in Epping/Eastwood needed, especially showing multicultural films	
	Establish cultural centre in the Hills Centre	
	Further development of Berowra Community Centre	
	Greater use of community facilities for exhibitions/shows (cultural focus)	
	Host more outdoor concerts	
	More cultural activities to strengthen relationships within cultural groups	

Facilities-Cycle ways	Comment	Tally
	More cycle ways needed in Shire. Existing facilities are grossly inadequate. Existing cycle ways are unsafe-major improvements are needed. Better linkages between cycle ways are needed. Provision of safe cycle ways reduces reliance on private transport, reduces pollution and promotes healthier individuals.	29

Facilities-Sport	Comment	Tally
	Need for an indoor swimming pool/aquatic center in Shire. Existing facilities are inadequate.	34
	Hornsby Aquatic Centre needs major upgrading. It needs to be enclosed to allow year round use and have more shaded areas and improved parking.	17
	Need for swimming pool at Berowra	14
	Indoor Sporting Complex needed in Shire	11
	More outdoor sporting grounds needed and basketball courts	6
	Better and safer areas for horse riding	5
	Facilities and land needed for trail bike/BMX Club	3
	More (free) tennis courts needed	3
	Public squash facilities needed	3
	Outdoor sporting grounds are below standard.	2
	Make more use existing recreational/sports facilities e.g. Pool at Loreto	2
	Need for facilities for golf practice	2
	Extended opening hours for swimming pool to accommodate commuters	
	Indoor tennis courts needed	
	More aerobic facilities needed	
	Recreation precinct needed in Berowra – including aquatic center and new community RSL	
	Refer to Mildura's new aquatic centre for a good example of a pool designed to meet needs of entire community	

Facilities-Leisure	Comment	Tally
	More open space/ parkland/ bushland needed	18
	More updated books and resources in library. More funding for libraries. Books in foreign languages.	16
	More areas to exercise dogs off-leash	13
	Skate facilities needed	6
	More bike tracks needed	6
	More al fresco dining areas needed	6
	More bush tracks for walking and establish walking groups	5
	More fetes/market days	2
	Canoe hire on Hawkesbury river	
	Fresh food markets once a month.	
	Homsby west side to be modified to encourage outdoor community activities such as cafes, art gallery, meeting places	
	Leisure and recreation provision in Canoelands and other fringe areas is grossly inadequate	
	Libraries need to be readily accessible to the more isolated communities, eg Brooklyn/Dangar Island	
	Mobile phones strictly prohibited in libraries	
	More community gardening activities ie 'Victory Gardens'	
	More computer courses needed	
	More indoor adults craft classes	
	More jogging tracks	
	Most leisure courses run at night-inaccessible for single parents Need to run on weekends or during work days to accommodate more people	
	Need local yoga and tai chi classes in Epping	

Miscellaneous	Comment	Tally
	Don't over develop Berowra Waters and surrounding areas	2
	Agree with need for development of park and oval facilities but only for supervised activities	
	Community Colleges offer good, relatively affordable range of leisure/sporting activities	
	Concerns about ethnic diversity within the population	
	Consider needs residents before tourists	
	Don't over develop	
	Don't use public land for development.	
	Facilities in Baulkham Hills Shire are of a higher standard therefore we use their facilities	
	Facilities in Hornsby Shire are inadequate and sub-standard	
	Install signs at Warrigal Drive to stop trail bikers using Council land	
	'Large print' books in Library appreciated	
	Local facilities should suit needs residents	
	Loss of heritage! Stop development!	
	Not enough groups for Australians to attend-cater for non-Aussies	
	Organise community outdoor BBQ's to promote togetherness	
	Preserve Homsby West side as is	
	Prohibit cats from driving on courts at Storey Park.	
	Proposals from private operators should be considered enhancements rather than threats to existing facilities	
	Protest closure of Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust	
	Publish results of the survey	
	Roselea Community Hall attracts vandals and drug-dealers used by people outside HSC therefore waste tax payers money	
	Whole family approach to leisure services provision needed	
	Wisemans Ferry is underestimated as a leisure and recreation area	
	With the installation of new parking meters at shopping centres charging \$150 per hour the Council will have plenty of money to spend on leisure facilities	
	Would like access to local Theological Library	
	Youth are very important	

TOTAL 531 RESPONSES (COMMENTS)

SUMMARY TABLE OF KEY RESPONSES

Need for an indoor swimming pool/aquatic centre in Shire. Existing facilities are inadequate.	34
More information needed on what's available. This information needs to be made available regularly. Information could be included with rates notices, advertised in local papers or placed on the Internet. Information booklets that outline all leisure/sport activities and facilities in the Shire would be of enormous benefit to local residents, especially to those that have recently moved to the area. Directory of Services.	30
More cycleways needed in Shire. Existing facilities are grossly inadequate. Existing cycleways are unsafe-major improvements are needed. Better linkages between cycleways are needed. Provision of safe cycleways reduces reliance on private transport, reduces pollution and promotes healthier individuals.	29
Better maintenance of outdoor playing fields, parks/playgrounds, public toilets Includes regular removal of graffiti and rubbish.	28
Improved playgrounds needed. Consider shading, seating, fencing, equipment safety and maintenance. Berowra especially lacks facilities.	27
More facilities for youth needed. E.g. unstructured environments such as skate parks, night clubs, indoor sports centres and sporting facilities	27
management/conservation of bushland areas	21
recreation space/parkland/bushland needed	18
Hornsby Aquatic Centre needs major upgrading. It needs to be enclosed to allow year round use and leisure/recreation areas provided parking.	17
More updated books and resources in libraries. Funding for new books in foreign languages.	16
Need for swimming pool at Berowra	14
More BBQ areas/picnic tables and rubbish bins/recycling facilities needed in local parks/playgrounds/sporting grounds	13
More areas to exercise dogs off-leash	13
Improved footpaths. Create access problems for the disabled and parents with prams.	12
Indoor Sporting Complex needed in Shire	11
Total Responses	310

ATTACHMENT C

ORGANISATIONS SURVEY

ATTACHMENT C: ORGANISATIONS SURVEY

ATTACHMENT D

FOCUS GROUPS

ATTACHMENT D: FOCUS GROUPS

STUDY DESIGN

The group discussion technique was used in this study because of its flexibility and its ability to tap into a range of diverse opinions. The technique is exploratory and diagnostic in nature. It has inherent advantages over questionnaire surveys in that it allows group participants to range freely over subjects, at their own pace and using their own terms. In this way, key matters of interest **and/or** concern to the participants are likely to be covered. As well, the researcher can prompt, thereby ensuring that any relevant aspects of the subject, not covered by spontaneous comment, are raised for consideration.

In this study the technique enabled a 'search' to be made of attitudes and values in regard to leisure opportunities in the Shire and needs and requirements with respect to those opportunities.

Focussed discussions of 1.5 hours duration were held with three groups of people at the Hype Youth Centre (Muriel Street, **Hornsby**) on 10th and 11th December 2001. All respondents lived within the Shire (in both the established and newer areas). Group participants were recruited at random by a market research recruiter. The groups were as follows:

- Group 1 – Young people aged 15 to 19 years
- Group 2 – Adults with one or more children aged 2-12 years
- Group 3 – People born in a non-English speaking country

Random selection of the participants allows for a broad cross section of community interests to be represented and avoids the possibility of over-representation of personal **and/or** sectional agendas. Participants receive a small financial reward to cover travelling and other costs – to ensure that those with less means are not under-represented.

The following research questions were adopted for the groups:

- What do you do in your leisure time?
- Are you satisfied (happy) with these activities? Would you prefer to be doing other things? What?
- What stops you from doing the sorts of things that you want to do? (eg does anything need to be **provided/changed** to make your leisure time more enjoyable?).
- How much of your leisure time do you spend in the **Hornsby** Shire area? How much outside **the Shire**?

Is the Shire a good place for leisure and recreation? **Why?/Why not?**

How could the Shire be made a better place for leisure and recreation?

Each group comprised 8 participants. This allows for an intimate conversation and avoids concurrent conversations occurring between individuals. The 1.5-hour time period was considered an appropriate duration for participants to remain engaged.

The discussions were recorded to enable the facilitator to remain engaged in the conversation without the distraction of note taking. A background tape recorder is also less intrusive than a note taker and thereby facilitates a setting more conducive to open and honest communication.

STUDY FINDINGS

The outcomes are qualitative descriptions of leisure time engagements in the Shire and their perceptions of issues, problems and needs. The outcomes cannot, in quantitative terms, be generalised to the whole Shire population. They are, however, indicative of the values, attitudes, perceptions and behaviours of a cross section of people in the Shire, of relevance to the study.

Participant responses in regard to each research question are summarised below:

Q What do you do in your leisure time?

The young (15-19 years) people had a diverse range of leisure time interests. 'Hanging' with friends was probably the major leisure interest of most participants. Other activities of importance to one or more participants included football, boxing, swimming, going to the beach, shopping, movies, computer games and watching TV.

The 'parents of children 2-12 years' group were more **sports/outdoor** recreation oriented - with major leisure time activities including golf, tennis, walking, bush walking and team sports (soccer and cricket). Watching kids play sport was also a major activity. Reading and some indoor activities (gym and dancing) were also represented in the group.

The 'non-English speaking background' group was also outdoor recreation oriented - but with more of an emphasis on 'unstructured' outdoor activities rather than structured sport. Popular activities included walking, bush walking, swimming, cycling, going to the beach, gardening and picnicking. Other activities included playing with kids, reading, volunteering, shopping, day trips and movies.

The nominated activities indicate a diversity of leisure interests and suggest that the focus group participants are broadly representative of the wider population of the Shire.⁷³

⁷³ While **creative/cultural** activities were not well represented in any of the groups - this is also reflective of the 'minority' interests in such activities in the wider community.

Q: Are you satisfied (happy) with these activities? Would you prefer to be doing other things? What?

Some young people were reasonably happy with their current leisure time activities, but most feel that they would like to do more – to have more variety and diversity in their leisure time.

For the parents group, responses to this question were mixed. Half - generally those with older children **and/or** spouse support – were happy with their leisure time activities. The other half would generally like to do more – to have more leisure time – but are constrained by child raising responsibilities.

In the NESB group, most participants were generally happy with outdoor recreation opportunities – particularly the natural environment - and kid's activities. Most, however, also wanted improvements in the range **and/or** quality of at least one type of leisure facility (**particularly** swimming pools, but also indoor sports centres, libraries and safer cycling).

Q: What stops you from doing the sorts of things that you want to do?

The major reasons cited were insufficient time, the lack of facilities, the poor quality of some facilities and cost.

For the parents group, the lack of time and inadequate facilities (particularly heated, indoor swimming facilities and night time entertainment facilities) were the major issues. In regard to some facilities, costs were also an issue – particularly the entry fees to Bobbin Head and parking fees at Westfield.

For the NESB group, the main issues were lack of some facilities (heated, indoor swimming facilities, larger central library, facilities in parks for older children and night time entertainment facilities) and inadequate public transport. Costs were also an issue for some participants – particularly the entry fees to Bobbin Head.

For the young people's group, cost appeared to be the major constraint – particularly for those members of the group who were still students or otherwise without an income. Other important constraints included poor public transport **services** late at night and to the beach, insufficient information about opportunities, lack of some facilities (indoor sport, night time entertainment and, before Greater Union, the movies).

Q: How much of your leisure time do you spend within the Shire? For what leisure purposes do you travel outside the Shire?

The young people spend most of their leisure time within the Shire – because of their lack of mobility and resources and because most of their friends also live within the Shire. Those who participate in sport do so mainly within the Shire.

While the new **Westfield** has increased the appeal of the local area, most young people would still prefer to spend more of their leisure time away from the Shire – particularly in the city - because of the greater range of opportunities available.

Young people in the 'southern' sections of the Shire, in particular, appear to use centres other than the **Hornsby** CBD (particularly Parramatta CBD, Macquarie Centre **and/or** Sydney City) for their social and entertainment leisure.

While many of the *NESB* group are regular users of local facilities (including parks, libraries and pools) most also travel outside the Shire to use facilities not available within the Shire.

The latter facilities include beaches, the Sydney International Aquatic Centre (at Hornebush Bay), cinemas (at Castle Hill or Chatswood) before opening of new Westfield facility, skate facilities (at St Ives), specialist childrens' facilities (such as Lollypop Land in Castle Hill), theatre (city and Marian Street theatre) and night life generally.

The parents – particularly those with younger children -spend most of their leisure time within the Shire. Children's sport, for example, mainly takes place at local facilities. Activities pursued outside the Shire include adult team sports, entertainment, city museums and galleries, trips to the beach and going to movies (before the new Westfield opened).

Q Is the *Hornsby* Shire a good place for leisure and recreation? *Why?/Why* not?

The young people's responses were mixed. Some perceived the Shire as an unattractive place to spend their leisure time - because of the lack of interesting, 'unstructured' things to do.

Other young people, however, regarded **Hornsby** as a good place for recreation and referred, variously, to ten pin bowling, movies, PCYC and Jack's Island Cafe in support of this.

The parents group generally regarded the Shire as a good place for recreation. Positives included the good quality sports facilities ('better than in Ryde'), friendly environment, number and quality of parks, good library **service**, festivals and the **Hornsby** Market. The key negatives were the **lack** of quality aquatic and entertainment opportunities.

The NESB group mostly believed that the Shire was a very good place for recreation. The environment, the range of facilities, access to the city and the 'friendly atmosphere' were cited in support of this. (One participant – a long term resident – noted however, the transience of the population and the resulting **difficulty** in building strong groups and networks).

Q: Is the *Hornsby* Shire a good place for leisure and recreation for children? *Why?/Why* not?

The parents group generally regarded **Hornsby** as a good place for children's leisure. The quality and range of both outdoor and indoor sport and recreation opportunities were noted in support of this. Issues included the lack of some key facilities (sufficient bike tracks, play equipment in parks for older kids, toilets in parks and indoor sports facilities) and the maintenance of some parks.

The NESB group viewed **Hornsby** as a generally good place for children's recreation but not so good for teenagers. With respect to the latter, the lack of appropriate facilities – including skate facilities, play facilities for older children and suitable entertainment activities – was seen to be the major problem.

The consequences of insufficient opportunity for teenagers were being seen in increases in youth related vandalism.

Q: How could leisure and recreation opportunities in the Shire be improved?

Most participants believe that the Shire can be made a better place for leisure and recreation and have strong views on how this can be achieved.

Priorities for the young people's group generally involved more 'places to go' and 'things to do'. Priorities included entertainment opportunities (Timezone or **Lazerzone**, youth nights, night spots for under **18's**, open air cinema, later opening cafes, fun and computer game parlours), a modern leisure pool, indoor sports centre and various adventure activities (rock climbing, go karts etc).

Also important for young people was improved information on currently available opportunities.

While the parents group generally believed that the Shire was very good for recreation, they did identify some priority improvements. These mainly involved the provision of more **and/or** upgraded facilities – including heated indoor swimming pools, indoor sports facilities, bike facilities, more evening entertainment and more variety in playgrounds.

The parents also identified a need for more parking in the **Hornsby** CBD, lower parking fees at Westfield and some improvements in park maintenance.

While the **NESB** group felt that the Shire was already very good for recreation, it also identified priorities for further improvements – covering facilities, activities, access and management.

Suggested facility improvements included safer cycling opportunities, more diverse playgrounds and indoor heated swimming pools. Activity suggestions included more local cultural events, more activities for teenagers and more multi-cultural festivals. Access and management improvements included better public transport, design for safety (night lighting etc), more bush regeneration and policing of drug related issues within the Brooklyn and Dangar Island areas.

A key concern of the **NESB** group participants was the establishment and promotion of more opportunities for families to do things together.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS –ADULTS WITH CHILDREN, 2-12 YEARS

Issue	Responses
Current leisure and recreation activities	<p>H Heights – golf, children</p> <p>Berowra – reading, bushwalking</p> <p>North Epping – dancing, gym</p> <p>Mt Colah – cricket, soccer, jogging</p> <p>H Heights – watching kids play, walking</p> <p>Mt Colah -tennis, walking</p>
Are you satisfied (happy) with your current leisure activities? Would you prefer to be doing other things? What?	<p>'Wish I could do more...did gymnastics before having a child...but being a single parent have no time or money'.</p> <p>'I'd like to do more...but I do like doing what I'm doing'..I'm lucky that the 2 sports I like doing (soccer and cricket) are summer and winter sports...and my wife lets me do them'</p> <p>'I'd like to do anything...'</p> <p>'My husband's plays tennis and golf...he needs sport..I can mpe in different ways...I don't need to do it physically...I can chat to my friends. For my husband recreation is a necessity but for me its for fun which is on hold until me kids are old enough...I don't feel comfortable leaving the kids in a creche...'</p> <p>'Could not play tennis because my toddler son would scream whenever I went on the court...he now goes to pre-school one day a week...its my time off...and my husband plays golf in the afternoon...its our day of</p> <p>'My wile and I have mme to the conclusion that this is the time that we can't do much exercise and activity (although being in sales I can get out and play golf during the week...that's my activity)</p> <p>'My youngest is now 12 years old and I have 4 children...and I have been through years traipsing around football fields and other sporting activities...winding down a lime bit now...so getting bad; towalking.</p> <p><u>Summary:</u> half have a balance (older children and/or spouse support) and half are seriously constrained by child-raising lime constraints (and accept this)</p>

Issue	Responses
<p>What stops you from doing the leisure activities you would like to do?</p>	<p>Major constraint is lack of ha – but on prompting, lack of facilities and cost and were also identified as significant constraints</p> <p><u>Lack of facilities:</u></p> <p>Most important issue for most participants was need for heated indoor swimming pools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'asthmatic son needs heated pool in winter...go to Homebush sometimes...but long way to travel...Willoughby and Lane Cove pools too far away' • Galston indoor pool 'no way you would go to Galston Pool from N Epping'. 'I would drive to Galston from Mt Colah but because I've been told they do so much squad training there they keep the water at 26C...which is the same at the bigger pool in Hornsby. Children need 30C or more...that's me only reason I don't go there'. 'Avoid the trip through the [Galston] Gorge like the plaque'. • 'North Epping's very, very boring...I'm on a street where a lot of older people are...that whole area...there's not a lot of children my son's age...or my age.. I think we need a few more leisure centres in there... I have to drive out...like to Homebush to go swimming...my son begins swimming lessons this summer...don't know where to take him other than Homebush...' [donotknow about Epping Pool]. <p>Lack of night-time entertainment facilities is the major issue apart from aquatic facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Other than restaurants, there isn't really anything else...you can't go to a piano bar or a cocktail bar in this area'. • 'it's pretty dead isn't it actually?' 'You have to drive to city or Parramatta'. • 'It's like a ghost town after 9.30 at night' • 'don't go out much at night due to lack of local opportunity and significant travel distance to city and other opportunities' • 'would go out more often if there were things locally' <p><u>Cost</u></p> <p>Money – \$12 to go to Bobbin Head – 'its fantastic for the whole family...it's a great facility...but its \$12...you don't go...you go down to Crosslands which costs you nothing...it's got half the facilities and isn't as safe...but doesn't cost anything'</p> <p>'[if Bobbin Head did not cost so much] we'd be there every second weekend without fail (in summer)...you can stay there all day...it suits the whole family...you can have a little pretend bushwalk...the kids can play safely...you don't even have to follow them around in the play area...you can sit there on your picnic blanket and have an adult chat and watch them playing safely...its fantastic'</p> <p>'But the barbecue section's a bit dodgy...we had a birthday down there and the kids were funning out on the road constantly...that little main mad (here'</p> <p>'I've always had the pass [to Bobbin Head]...it's the playground I've always wanted first...but I know a lot of people who do not go down there because of that charge'</p> <p>Many families with children do not have \$60 for the pass or \$12 every weekend to go for a day at the park'</p>

Issue	Responses
	<p>Parking fees at Westfield too high – insufficient time for leisure (coffee, lunch etc) – 'everybody I know feels the same'</p>
<p>How much of your leisure time do you spend within the Shire? For leisure purposes do you travel outside the Shire?</p>	<p>For most participants, mostly within the Shire – to some extent depends on age of children</p> <p>'I still play sports where I used to [in Ryde Council area] before moving to Hornsby Shire'</p> <p>'My children are still young...we go to the parks around here...when they get older... I'd say it's still here too because they'll hopefully...whatever they'd like to do...there's enough here as well'</p> <p>Time in the car with young children is never fun...so if you can walk there or a five minute drive it's the one'</p> <p>The Shire is a sporty, active area – so much leisure time is focussed around the kid' sport – and most is available within the Shire (except those with private school kids who play all over Sydney)</p> <p>'Local parks at weekends...and nights generally hanging about with people our age...going to dinner parties and things like that'</p> <p>Tend to go to the city – for entertainment...mainly because I'm new to the area [single parent]</p> <p>'During weekdays...local...and at weekends we tend to go to the central coast (have family, used to live up there, free parking) or into the city (Darling Harbour or lunch out museums, ferry rides – things you can't do in Hornsby)</p> <p><u>Outside Shire:</u></p> <p>Trafalgar Square Spots Centre (Marsden) – small place – used to be a spa – squash, basketball, rock climbing, gym, dancing – twice a week</p> <p>Museums/galleries: 'specifically travel to city for these – better and more interesting in the city as there's more things to see'</p> <p>Before new Greater Union cinema – only the Odeon Cinema – so often had to travel to Chatswood or Castle Hill...but long way to travel...so older kids now have more leisure opportunity.</p>
<p>Is Hornsby Shire a good place for leisure and recreation? Why? Why not?</p>	<p>General response is that the area is a good place for recreation – apart from aquatic and entertainment issues.</p> <p>Also 'depends what age group you're talking about'</p> <p>Not so good for teenagers – only the cinemas and McDonalds – 'there's no discos...I went to the one at the RSL...it was so appalling...not worth going to'</p> <p>Sports facilities are better here than they are in Ryde...still some things that can be improved...but we're very lucky I think...we have a lot of park space... there's a lot of children I've seen out playing in parks. I'd hate to see Council knockdown some parks and build something on them...'</p> <p>Five years we've been here in H Heights...one of the reasons that we chose [to live here] was because it was so family friendly...there's parks everywhere...you drive down the road and round the corner and there's another one...it's fantastic.</p>

Issue	Responses
	<p>I live in East Mt Cobb...and there's only one park there (near the station) and nothing in it for young children...the only park we did have got knocked down about 2 years ago...just an empty space now...no walk-to park on that side of Mt Colah...need something there</p> <p>We have to drive to access a child friendly (ie fenced) park - Park (Hart?) Reserve on west side of Mt Colah</p> <p>'Very pleased that a large off-leash dog area has been established in Berowra - a big bonus - its packed every Sunday - there's even a roll of plastic bags</p> <p>'The library's a good service...the Berowra Library is small but networked with the other branches...a good service'. 'They've got videos and CD's and stuff as well...it's great.' 'If you're strapped you can still get a video for the kids without having to pay for it'. 'The people in there are so nice...they never get cranky'.</p> <p>'I like the Mundowie Music Festival, fetes, things like that...! Let's have a concept...somewhere you can take the kids...listen to music but also the jumping castle and that sort of thing...'</p> <p>The other thing we like doing is the Hornsby Market...go wandering around then go for coffee then go home...it's a good Sunday outing'.</p>
<p>Is Hornsby Shire a good place for leisure and recreation for children? Why?/Why not?</p>	<p>Generally yes</p> <p>Sports facilities are very good - there is a lot of choice for younger age groups - they can do 'anything you can think of...golf, tennis, that sort of thing'</p> <p>'And then there's the ballet, jazz, gymnastics, martial arts etc'</p>
<p>What stops them from doing the things they want to do?</p>	<p><u>Lack of facilities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bike tracks - need for more - most kids have bikes but not big enough yards to ride them in. 'Rofe Park's great but there's not enough'. 'There's also a good one at Wharoonga' [Jubilee Park in Ku-ring-gai]. U12 kids can now ride on footpaths - but still not safe. Tracks in parks are safe...kids can ride, roller blade, smoter, skateboard all on the same track...and adults use them for walking backs. 2. Plenty of parks - but most are tailored either to little kids or to older kids - but if you have a mix of ages there are problems. (eg Rofe Park - perfect for 3 yr old, but my 5 and 7 year olds are bored silly. If we go to Montview, the older ones love it but I've got to follow the 3 yr old around as he's going to fall off the edge'. 'Need for more diverse parks like Willow Park...it's got everything...you can take them all to the one park and they're all happy...' 3. Not enough toilets in parks - difficult with very young children who must 'go now' 4. Not enough indoor facilities - PCYC appears overutilised...you can never get a park down there'. 'Basketball's the thing...everyone's always going off about needing a basketball court around this area...if you get a basketball court then you've got volleyball, indoor soccer etc...' 'It's a very strong basketball community'. 'Something like the YMCA up this way is needed

Issue	Responses
	<p><u>Facility mainlenanca</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I found a syringe in the little reserve near my place [in N Epping]...sodon'tgo there any more...the place where I do go to is ELS Hall (Camp Rd. Ryde), a big park with ovals etc..that's where I have to travel to. 2. I was told that syringes are always being picked up in Willow Park...and there was a flasher when I did go to the park ...so I don't go there 3. But maintenance at the small kids parks is quite good – eg Hunt Reserve and the little park at Asquith near the Boy's Hi h School down the Highway...always ckan...syringes not a problem (even on Saturday mornings) 4. Toilets in parks – 'don't tend to use them because they're usually fithy'
<p>How could recreation opportunities in the Hornsby Shire area be improved?</p>	<p>Generally, Hornsby Shire was seen as very good for recreation – priority needs include:</p> <p><u>More/upgraded facilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heated, indoor swimming pools • centres like the Marsden sports centre – with swimming and sports activities – something for everyone in the family • squash courts – used to be big everywhere • better designed playgrounds ■ impmved mainlenanca of playgrounds and parks ■ more safe bike backs & bike lanes on roads • improved parking in CBD area (not just for Westfield – also for gym, library etc) • more evening entertainment opportunities <p><u>Fees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ reduce fees at Westfield car park

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS –NESB GROUP

Issue	Responses
<p>Current leisure and recreation activities</p>	<p>Hornsby Heights – swimming, walking, playing with children Berowra – nature and silence Berowra – not much time for leisure - walking in bush, take kids to bowls, gardening Hornsby – reading, movies, 'malling', trips, walking Mt Colah – swimming, cycling, water sports Dural – walking, bush walking W Pennant Hills – outdoors, bushwalking, picnicking, kid's activities, reading Pennant Hills – beach swimming, Baptist church volunteer</p>
<p>Are you satisfied (happy) with your current leisure activities? Would you prefer to be doing other things? What?</p>	<p>More swimming – in indoor, heated 50 m pools – Hornsby Pool too cold [participant from Indonesia – feels cold]; Galston Pool too small – use Homebush Aquatic Centre instead (near work) – kids like swimming but sometimes complain pools are too cold (even Hornsby Pool which 6 heated) Swiss participant – from different climate... 'I find it fantastic'... at 26 degrees, the pools are 'quite warm' For cycling: 'I do a lot of cycling... we go through Bobbin Head and sometimes up to Mt White... compared to other areas. I think we have it pretty good here in Hornsby... because we have a couple of nice areas down at Berowra Waters and soon... still cyclists have a bit of a problem on the road by not really being accepted on the road... overall it's not bad... we have beautiful ways to go... but I'd like to see it a bit more safe' 'I do 'malling'... it's not something I do every weekend... if there's something else... like the cycling... the groups are already established... maybe they meet every weekend and go cycling... how to find a group that you can join... you need information but it also depends on the individual... if you really want to find a group you will find it' A sporting centre for adults... for sports not so popular here... archery, sling shots, shooting... but not with difficulties of being in a club... just temporary licence for shooting for lets say 2 hours [Croatian participant]. Also facilities needed for volleyball, handball... indoor or outdoor... preferably bath Generally happy with outdoor and kid's activities – but we like reading... we really enjoy the library... we come to the Hornsby one quite often... would be nice if it could be as big as the one on the north shore [North Sydney]. Would be nice if we could have a very big Me in the Hornsby Shire district so we can centralise and get the books that we want..'</p>

Issue	Responses
<p>What stops you from doing the leisure activities you would like to do?</p>	<p>Main problems are transport, lack of some facilities and 'broken promises'</p> <p>Heated swimming pools, large library – as indicated above</p> <p>Insufficient areas for walking dogs (can't go in national parks)</p> <p>Facilities in parks for older children – 'plenty of parks for younger children but (re 12 year son) 'now that they have bikes and skateboards here is a problem...they can't go skateboarding here...you don't want them on the road...where do they go...BMX bikes</p> <p>Public transport – bus service between Dural and P Hills station needs to be expanded – too irregular</p> <p>Public transport very poor in Berowra area – last bus soon after 5.00pm – so have to drive everywhere</p> <p>Rail ok but difficulties away from the railway line (to walk, taxis refusing fares, irregular buses)</p> <p>Language difficulties not perceived as a problem – if problems can seek help from friends</p> <p><u>Broken promises</u></p> <p>Berowra swimming pool – promised by Council staff over many years – have to travel to Hornsby to swim – a fair way to travel</p> <p><u>Cost</u></p> <p>'Everywhere you go now you have to pay...even a permit to picnic in the park'. 'Bobbin Head is very expensive for single trips but if you get an annual pass and use it a lot you get good value'</p>
<p>How much of your leisure time do you spend within the Shire? For what leisure purposes do you travel outside the Shire?</p>	<p>Yes and no</p> <p>Some travel regularly outside the Shire – due to facilities not available in the Shire eg beaches, swimming pools (Homebush Aquatic Centre), cinema (Chatswood before opening of new Westfield facility), theatre (city and Marian Street theatre) and night life generally</p> <p>'Its terrible – we'll probably never leave home anymore' [recent observation by participant's 22 year old daughter in regard to new cinema complex at Westfield]</p> <p>Night life prompt: opportunities are hanging...because we have the big shopping centre and restaurants...night life is improving'</p> <p>Cultural facilities/activities prompt 'no where to go in Hornsby'. 'Limited and poor quality in Hornsby'. 'I think people tend to travel to the City'. 'if we want to be culturally entertained... I don't mind going into the city... it's a beautiful city...it's quite nice to have an outing in the city'</p> <p>Participant from Dural with two children (3 and 6): have to leave area for 'children's facilities' – 'there's only a little steam train at Dural...in Fagan's Park...we have to go to other places...Lollypop Land (in Castle Hill) for 3 yr old and put-put golf and bowling (Castle Hill) for older child'. Participant does use local parks – 'there's one that's very popular... Erlestoke Park [in Cherrybrook]...which we make use of all the time...until</p>

Issue	Responses
	<p>someone stole my mobile phone there...I got a bit put off...we go there often because of the bike path facilities...a lot of playmups meet there...mums like it because its enclosed and the kids can't get into the streets...and we all like Lollypop Land as well for the younger kids as its all safe...'</p> <p>Skateboard facility at St Ives (have to drive kids there)</p>
<p>Is Hornsby Shire a good place for leisure and recreation? Why?/Why not?</p>	<p>'We're very blessed with all the national park around...you can go walking, fishing, cycling, playing with the children...'</p> <p>'The possibilities to go into the City...its not all that far...and also to go across Berowra Waters and you feel like you're in the country...so you got a little bit of everything...its quite attractive'</p> <p>Observation from participant who has lived in P Hills for 40 years – transient population – 'can't build any clubs or anything...even the church' – same thing in the street – we are so liquid – we are becoming nomads – nothing's stable'</p> <p>Berowra – 'still very friendly atmosphere – several street parties every year'</p>
<p>Is Hornsby Shire a good place for leisure and recreation for children? Why?/Why not?</p>	<p>Generally good for children but not so good for teenagers</p> <p>Plenty of opportunities for them to do all sorts of things...but some of the more recent end fashion things...like the skateboards and all that...I think we are a lime bit behind...you see areas that have great places...we don't want the kids in the mall...we should offer them somewhere to go...not to St Ives or Arcadia...but round here'</p> <p>'recent prevalent vandalism in Cherrybrook and W P Hills...a lot of young families came in a couple of years ago...but these kids have grown and there's not enough for them to do. The parents are at work or wherever...they're not supervising the kids...there's no where for them to go...things for them to do. And this is going to happen with my kids generation...I would hate to hear that they are going out vandalising other people's things 'cause they're bored stiff...we need to have a lot of recreations for the kids to do...'</p> <p>H Heights – kids vandalising mail boxes for 5 years</p> <p>'When they come into a certain age group...teenagers...they have to go out of the Shire...I don't want my daughter to take the train home...so would be better if there was something here in the area...'</p> <p>'18 year old daughter...every Friday night she and her friend go to the city for a disco...I say why do you go to the city...they say there's no where to go to... nothing in Hornsby, nothing in Berowra...'</p>
<p>What stops them from doing the things they want to do?</p>	<p>Lack of specialist facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. skateboard facilities 2. major playground (as per facility at Wamambool in Victoria – recently seen on holidays by one participant: 35 hectares...all for free...maze...three different sections...one for 3's, one for 5-8 yrs and one for 9+ yrs...we have a lot of facilities in the Hornsby area to

Issue	Responses
	<p>do that sort of thing... 'cause we've got bush and land... it one the Victoria best park... it was beautiful... had a little lake...dud; feedings...barbecue area...children and teenagers were using it)</p> <p>3. entertainment facilities for youth – zero opportunities for teenagers at night in Berowra area (once or twice a year a blue light disco) or wider Hornsby area</p>
<p>How could recreation opportunities in the Hornsby Shire area be improved?</p>	<p>!</p> <p>More opportunities for families to do things together – eg cyclist participant reluctant to cycle on mads with 12 yr old daughter – would welcome more safe off-road opportunities</p> <p>Play facilities such as the Warrambul park – for all different ages... families can get together on Saturdays and Sundays... and playgroups...'</p> <p>More for teenagers... so that when my kids grow up they have something to grow in to... so they don't have to travel to the city... 'establishing them to be 'cool' from now on' – outdoor and indoor and entertainment</p> <p>For my children, bike riding opportunities... use Rofe Park... but not really special... used more for skateboards... I've seen a good one in Gladesville [Ryde Council area]</p> <p>Indoor, heated pool</p> <p>Restoration of beach area in Cowan Creek (at Bemwra Waters) – big tourist attraction in 1930's – beautiful holiday spot</p> <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>More locally available cultural opportunities (music shows etc) – preference for local</p> <p>More multi-cultural festivals – in parks etc – would promote cultural understanding as well as providing attractive weekend leisure opportunities</p> <p>Regular weekend entertainment opportunities for young people – Fri or Sat nights each week – perhaps in a youth centre – but away from residential area where they can impact badly on residents</p> <p><u>Access</u></p> <p>Improved public transport – opportunities have to be accessible</p> <p>Improved design for safety – night lighting [older 60+ years participant – feeling more vulnerable with age]</p> <p><u>Management</u></p> <p>Management and policing of drug problem at Brooklyn/Dangar Island – 'pretty dangerous for kids there... a beautiful spot but drug addicts live there... danger from used syringes... and Brooklyn has a reputation for violence'</p> <p>Cleaning up the bushland – regeneration</p>

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS –YOUNG PEOPLE 15-19 YEARS

Issue	Response
<p>What do you do in your leisure time?</p>	<p>H Heights – football, boxing Westleigh – watching TV Epping – computer games Thomleigh – movies, going out with friends Asquith – parties, hanging out with friends ? - PCYC, bushfire brigade Normanhurst – swimming, lime with friends, computer games, sports (for the girl participants, in particular, Westfield is a major new leisure lime attraction)</p>
<p>Are you satisfied (happy) with your current leisure activities? Would you prefer to be doing other things? What?</p>	<p>Happy with current activities [movies, hanging with friends] but 'would like to do more...like sport and things...but just can't find the time.. I'm interested in boxercise but I don't know much about the activities on offer...I've never heard much about the PCYC 'Would like to go to gyms but they're too expensive and have contracts...that's why I do the boxercise because it's cheaper and there's no contract'...with contracts difficult to go the same time each week...things m e up... but you still have to pay'. Also like to do more swimming, but do not have the lime' 'With the gym, I find it better to buy book of ten tickets...it's expensive but no contract...can then drop off after a couple of months...to study Would like to do some more things...but I'm just lazy' There's a lot of stuff I'd like to do...but being a student...the costs...don't have the money...some places don't account for students...the movies do but not that much...with more money would do more dining, movies, horse riding (but \$40 for half hour) 'Since I've had a job I have more money...but spend it on clothes and shoes rather than a gym membership'</p>
<p>What stops you from doing the things you want to do?</p>	<p>Cost appears to be major constraint – particularly for students/those not working Also, difficulties with transport...too much of a hassle so I stay at home...have to get a train and a bus to get anywhere' 'Night rider' trains terminate at Hornsby station – nothing to Berowra area - 'you see a lot of people walking home and that's dangerous' (may be a trial run to Berowra area – should be made permanent) Difficult to access the beach – train to Chatswood or Pymble, then bus to beach – no direct bus service (would visit beach more often if direct service available)</p>

Issue	Response
	<p>Some of those over 18 have access to can (friends with P's) so less transport constraints</p> <p>Information – eg PCYC – 'I don't know anything about it... need to advertise it and say what they offer... because more people would go there... I would use it... now that I've heard about it'</p> <p>Lack of facilities – 'could be more facilities like the PCYC'. 'I think there's enough facilities... cost is the main thing... like \$10 to hire tennis courts for half hour... there's an indoor centre at Thornleigh... its about \$10 half hour as well.' 'Not too expensive... but it just adds up'</p> <p>Accessing cinemas was also difficult before opening of new Westfield cinemas</p> <p>Crime/violence prompt: 'It worries me... but to date I really haven't seen that much crime here... but I think its growing... there's been a few rapes', 'At Westfield, there's a few gangs... its kind of threatening... it hasn't totally affected me yet... but it does worry me'</p>
<p>How much of your leisure time do you spend within the Shire? For what leisure purposes do you travel outside the Shire?</p>	<p>Most leisure time spent within the Shire – but leave Shire for: 'really nice places to go out to dinner? dubs, bars and beach; trips to the City at night... 'don't hang around Hornsby at night at all'... visit City around twice/month; just for a change'; City is a good meeting place when you have friends dispersed around the metropolitan area [as one participant did]</p> <p>[The few sports participants in the focus group mainly participated within the Shire]</p> <p>One participant: 'use park across the road sometimes... visit with lime sister (when people are not playing cricket or netball)... otherwise at home playing nintendo etc... leave Shire to shop at Parramatta... I guess I know Parramatta'</p> <p>Impact of Westfield: 'I used to go to Chatswood a lot... but now [since opening of Westfield] I stay here', More likely to meet in Hornsby during day... but at night still go into City.</p> <p>Some occasional visits to local regional parks – some have visited Fagan Park ('its nice', 'its good for families'); Crosslands ('dirty');</p> <p>Participant from Epping rarely visits Hornsby CBD or surrounding areas – more oriented to Parramatta... 'I know it a lot better... know what to do... not bothered to check out Hornsby.' Most friends from Epping area tend to visit the City... Town Hall/Central area... don't know anyone who comes to Hornsby.'</p> <p>Two participants visit the Parramatta municipal pool rather than the Shire's pools (because of diving pool and where friends are)</p>
<p>Is Hornsby Shire a good place for leisure and recreation for young people? Why?/Why not?</p>	<p>'Its good... its got the movies and the closest bowling centre around... which young people go to...'</p> <p>'I've seen better' [female participant who has lived in Shire for 2 months] 'There's things to do... but it's organised... you can't just go round town... walk past the ten pin bowling centre and say 'I'll just drop in there and have a game' [ie not good for casual visits – doing things on the spur of the moment]</p> <p>'No... where I live [Epping] you can't really hang out... 'cause pretty much there's a train station. two streets of shops... that's pretty much it...'</p> <p>'Yes [its good] but it gets boring sometimes... you go bowling... you go the next week... you run out of options after awhile... nothing to do'</p> <p>'I agree with that' [the female participant that mainly watches TV]</p> <p>Hornsby has a lot going for it... there's a lot of things we can do but no one knows about them... Like the PCYC has great things... and Jack's</p>

Issue	Response
	<p>Island Café..</p> <p>PCYC is good – cheap, accessible. 'good stuff to do'</p>
<p>How could Hornsby Shire be made a better place for young people's leisure and recreation?</p>	<p>Need for more information on currently available opportunities (eg PCYC and Hornsby Youth Centre)</p> <p>Need a Timezone or Lazerzone</p> <p>Youth entertainment nights within Hornsby CBD...get the radio station to come down...could be at Westfield ..could be bands or DJ</p> <p>More night spots for u18's (ok for over 18's because they can go to the Cay...' but still annoying as can take an hour to get home..if there was a decent club in Hornsby you might stay here sometimes')</p> <p>Since the new Westfield opened, a lot of under-agers hang out here..that could cause some problems sometimes...there should be a place where they can go' [most participants were not aware of the Hornsby Youth Centre – some thought it was still a child care centre]</p> <p>[None of the respondents currently use youth centres but centres regarded as 'a good idea..just stops...gives people something to do...you just see some walking around...they get bored...' Some of my mates have had help from counsellors...a good resource...helps with problems)</p> <p>Healed indoor pool prompt: 'actually...yeah..it would be good to have a waterslide'. 'a lot of people would use it because Homebush is so far from here'...' would be a good thing'...'water parties at pools...with a DJ...a lot of people are interested in that...' better than existing pools...crowded..boring...just for lap swimming'</p> <p>Indoor sports centre prompt general agreement with need... the PCYC is pretty run down... a new modern place would get more people in</p> <p>Open air cinema – youth oriented movies</p> <p>Later opening of cafes..'something for the night time'</p> <p>Computer game parlours...like Global Gossip(?) (a chain..everywhere in the city)</p> <p>Mini golf park/fun parlour'</p> <p>Adventure activities... like a 'skirmish' park, rock climbing etc</p> <p>A go kart centre</p>

ATTACHMENT E

USE OF SPORTS GROUNDS

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS										
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours	
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours		
ASQUITH OVAL	Summer												
	Northern Dist Cricket Club	Cricket	12	23	276	var	5	44	12	1	12		332
	Sydney Women's Cricket	Cricket					7	5	35				35
	Fox Valley Cricket Club	Cricket					6	2	12				12
	HKHDCA	Cricket					7	1	7				7
	Asquith High	School sport							2	20	40		40
	Casual bookings	Cricket							60	1	60		60
Summer Total			12		276		20		98		74		486
	Winter												
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	8	49	13	25	313		574
	Asquith R League	R League							4	25	100		100
	Asquith High	School sport							2	20	40		40
Winter Total			9		213		8		49		19		714
TOTAL			21		489		20		147		93		1,200
ARCADIA OVAL	Summer												
	HKHDCA	Cricket	12	23	276								276
	Galston High	School sport					2	19	29	2	20	30	59
Summer Total			12		276		2		29		94		335
	Winter												
	Galston High	School sport			0		2	21	32	2	20	30	62
TOTAL			24		552		5		89		96		396
BEROWRA OVAL	Summer												
	RBC Rangers	Baseball							10	25	250		250
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276	var	7	53	8	26	195		524
	Fox Valley Cricket Club	Cricket					6	7	42				42
	Asquith High	School sport							2	20	40		40
	Berowra Christian School	School sport							9	21	189		189
Summer Total			12		276		6		95		29		1,045

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	6	31	14	25	338	581
	Asquith High	School sport						2	20	40	40	
	Berowra Christian School	School sport						9	21	189	189	
	School carnivals	School sport						5	2	10	10	
	Winter Total		9		213	0	6	31	30		577	820
	TOTAL		21		489	6		126	58		1,251	1,865
	BERRY PARK -											
	Summer											
	Asquith High	School sport						2	20	40	40	
	Mt Colah Public	School sport						2	20	40	40	
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276	6	3	18	3	26	78	372
	Summer Total		12		276	6	3	18	7		158	452
	Winter											
	Asquith High	School sport						2	20	40	40	
	Mt Colah Public	School sport						2	20	40	40	
	Chase Softball	Softball						10	25	250	250	
	Hornsby Touch	Touch F'ball						3	18	54	54	
	KDSA	Soccer	4	25	100			5	25	125	225	
	Winter Total		4		100	0		0	22		509	609
	TOTAL		16		376	6		18	29		667	1,061
	BOOTH PARK -											
	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	4	23	92				3	26	78	170
	Cheltenham Girls	School sport						2	20	40	40	
	Arden	School sport						2	20	30	30	
	Beecroft Public	School sport						3	20	60	60	
	Summer Total		4		92	0		0	10		208	300
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225				4	22	88	313
	Cheltenham Girls	School sport						2	20	40	40	

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri		Total Hours	
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks		
	Arden	School sport							2	20	30	30
	Beecroft Public	School sport							3	20	60	60
Winter Total			0		225	0		0	11		216	443
TOTAL			13		317	0		0	20		426	743
BROOKLYN OVAL	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276				6	26	156	432
	Casual bookings	Cricket				8	1	8				8
	Casual bookings	Soccer				10	1	10				10
Summer Total			12		276	8		18	6		156	450
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	2	13	2	25	50	276
	Brooklyn Public	School sport							5	1	5	5
Winter Total			0		213	26		13	7		55	281
TOTAL			21		489	26		49	13		211	713
CAMPBELL PARK -	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276	6	5	30	18	23	403	709
	P Hills High	School sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			#REF!		#REF!	58		30	19		433	739
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	var	2	17	15	25	375	617
	P Hills High	School sport							2	20	30	30
	West P Hills Public	School sport							2	10	20	20
Winter Total			0		225	0		17	19		425	667
TOTAL			#REF!		#REF!	58		47	38		858	1,406
CARLINGFORD No. 1	Summer											
(small soccer)	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	4	23	92				5	26	117	209
Summer Total			4		92	#REF!		#REF!	5		117	209

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

QVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS								
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri		Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	
	Winter										
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225			20	25	500	725
	Winter Total		9		225	0	0	20		500	725
	TOTAL				317					617	934
	CARLINGFORD No. 2										
	(large soccer)	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	10	23	230		6	26	156	386
	Summer Total			10		230		6		156	386
	Winter										
	St Gerard's Rugby	R Union						6	25	150	150
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225			17	25	425	650
	Winter Total		9		225	0	0	23		575	600
	TOTAL		19		455	#####	#####	29		731	1,186
	CARLINGFORD No. 3										
	(rugby)	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	10	23	230					230
	Summer Total			10		230		0		0	230
	Winter										
	Arden Anglican School	School sport	4	20	80						80
	St Gerard's Rugby	R Union						3	25	75	75
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	5	25	125			17	25	425	550
	Winter Total		9		205	0	0	20		500	705
	TOTAL		19		435	#####	#####	20		500	935
	THOMAS THOMPSON										
	Summer										
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276			18	23	403	679
	Cherrybrook Tech High	(Schoolsport						3	20	50	50
	Cherrybrook Public	School sport						1	20	25	25
	Summer Total		12		276	#REF!	#REF!	21		478	754

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours
	Winter											
	W P Hills/Cherrybrook Soccer	Soccer							2	25	50	50
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225			0	15	25	375	600
	Cherrybrook Tech High	School sport							3	20	50	50
	Cherrybrook Public	School sport							1	20	20	20
	Winter Total		9	25	225	0	0	0	21	70	500	725
	TOTAL		21	25	501	#REF!	#REF!	42	42	978	1,479	
CHELTENHAM OVAL	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	10	23	230	var	6	42				272
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket							3	23	69	69
	Epping YMCA Jr Cricket Club	Cricket							16	23	368	368
	Cheltenham Girls	School sport							2	20	40	40
	Arden	School sport							2	12	24	24
	Beecroft Public	School sport							3	20	60	60
	Epping Heights Public	School sport							2	20	40	40
	Summer Total		10	23	230	0	42	42	28	601	873	
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	9	2	17	12	25	300	542
	Cheltenham Girls	School sport							2	20	40	40
	Arden	School sport							2	12	24	24
	Carlingford High	School sport							2	20	40	40
	Beecroft Public	School sport							3	20	60	60
	Epping Heights Public	School sport							2	20	40	40
	School carnivals	School sport							5	1	5	5
	Winter Total		9	25	225	9	17	17	28	500	761	
	TOTAL		19	25	455	9	59	59	56	1,110	1,624	
COWAN OVAL	(Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276				7	26	169	445
	Summer Total		12	23	276	0	0	0	7	169	445	

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213				17	22	363	576
	Winter Total		9		213	0		0	17		363	576
	TOTAL		21		489	0		0	23		532	1,021
DURAL PARK No. 1	Summer											
	Hornsby Dist Softball Assoc	Softball	11	23	253				7	26	169	422
	Galston High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Summer Total		11		253	0		0	8		199	452
	Winter											
	Hills Hawks R L	R League	5	25	125				10	25	250	375
	N Sydney Jun R League	R League				var	5	39				39
	Dural RU	R Union	4	25	100				10	25	250	350
	Galston High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Winter Total		9		225	0		39	22		530	794
	TOTAL		20		478	0		39	30		729	1,246
DURAL PARK No 2	Summer											
	Hornsby Dist Softball Assoc	Softball	11	23	253							253
	Galston High	/School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Summer Total		11		253	0		0	2		30	283
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225				15	25	375	600
	Dural RU	R Union							5	26	130	130
	N Sydney Jun R League	R League				var	5	41				41
	Galston High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Winter Total		9		225	0		41	22		535	801
	TOTAL		20		478	0		41	23		565	1,084
EDWARD BENNET OVAL	Summer											

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276			0	18	23	403	679
	St Matthews Touch Football	Touch							3	23	58	58
	Cherrybrook Tech High	School sport							3	20	50	50
	Cherrybrook Public	School sport							1	20	25	25
Summer Total			32		754	0		0	1		25	811
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	var	2	15	15	25	375	615
	St Matthews Touch Football	Touch							3	26	65	65
	Cherrybrook Tech High	School sport							3	20	50	50
	Cherrybrook Public	School sport							1	20	25	25
Winter Total			9		225	0		15	21		515	755
TOTAL			41		979	0		15	23		540	1,566
EPPING ATHLETIC FIELD	Summer											
Summer Total			0		0	0		0	0		0	0
	Winter											
	(Cumberland Ryde Athletics Club)	Athletics							15	26	390	390
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	3	15	15
Winter Total			0		0	0		0	20		405	405
TOTAL			0		0	0		0	20		405	405
EPPING OVAL	Summer											
	Epping Dist Cricket Club	Cricket	6	23	138	var	14	80	5	23	115	333
	Casual bookings	Cricket							9	1	9	9
	Epping Boys High	School Sport							2	12	24	24
	Our Lady of Help	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			6		138	0		80	18		178	396
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225			0	15	25	375	600
	Epping Boys High	School Sport							2	9	18	18

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Hours	Hours	Weeks	Hours	
	Our Lady of Help	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Epping Public	School Sport						4	20	80	80	
	School carnivals	School Sport						5	2	10	10	
Winter Total			9		225	0		0	23		513	736
TOTAL			9		225	0		0	45		691	1,134
NORTH EPPING OVAL	Summer											
	Epping Dist Cricket Club	Cricket	6	23	138	var	5	28	5	23	115	281
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket				9	2	16				16
Summer Total			6		138	8		44	5		115	297
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	var	3	20	16	25	400	645
	Epping North Public	School Sport							2	5	10	10
Winter Total			9		225	0		20	18		410	655
TOTAL			15		363	8		63	23		525	951
WEST EPPING OVAL	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	10	23	230	8	7	56				286
	Epping YMCA Jr Cricket Club	Cricket							20	23	460	460
	Carlingford High	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	West Epping Public	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			10		230	8		56	24		530	816
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	var	4	24	15	25	375	624
	Carlingford High	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	West Epping Public	School Sport							0	2	30	30
Winter Total			9		225	0		24	19		445	694
TOTAL			19		455	8		80	42		975	1,510
FOXGLOVE OVAL 1	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276				4	24	96	372

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS											
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours		
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours			
	Normanhurst Soccer Club	(Soccer				var	3	19						19
Summer-Total	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50			50
	Winter				276	0								
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	2	17	11	25	275			504
	Hornsby Touch	Touch F'ball							3	25	75			75
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50			50
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	5	25			25
Winter Total			9		213	0		55	22		425			654
TOTAL			21		489	0		55	28		571			1,095
FOXGLOVE OVAL 2	Summer													
	ND Little A	Athletics	4	22	88				4	22	88			176
	Normanhurst Soccer Club	Soccer				var	3	19						19
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50			50
Summer Total			4		88	0		19	7		138			245
	Winter													
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	6	43	4	28	112			367
	Hornsby Touch	Touch F'ball							5	25	113			113
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50			50
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	5	25			25
Winter Total			9		213	0		81	16		300			555
TOTAL			#REF!		#REF!	0		81	23		438			800
FOXGLOVE OVAL (minis)	Summer													
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276				4	24	96			372
	ND Little A	Athletics							4	22	88			88
	Normanhurst Soccer Club	Soccer				var	3	19						19
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50			50
Summer Total			12		276	0		19	11		234			529
	Winter													
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	4	1	4	4	28	112			329
	Hornsby Touch	Touch F'ball							5	25	113			113

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	5	25	25
Winter Total			9		213	4		42	16		300	516
TOTAL			21		489	4		42	27		534	1,045
HAYES OVAL (Galston)	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276				4	24	96	372
	H Heights Baseball Club	Baseball	7	23	161				14	25	350	511
	Galston High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Marion College	School Sport							1	10	10	10
	Dural Public	School Sport									0	0
	Hills Zone Touch Comp	School Sport							2	10	20	20
Summer Total			#REF!		437	0		0	19		410	943
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225				15	25	375	600
	Casual	Soccer				9	1	9				9
	Galston High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Marion College	School Sport							1	10	10	10
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	2	10	10
Winter Total			9		225	9	1	9	23		425	659
TOTAL			#REF!		662	9	1	9	41		835	1,602
GLENORIE OVAL	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276				4	24	96	372
Summer Total			12		276	0		0	4		96	372
	Winter											
TOTAL			24		552	0		0	4		96	372
GREENWAY No.1	Summer											
	Greenway Giants	Baseball	14	25	350	11	24	252	24	25	600	1,202
	Cherrybrook Tech	School sport							3	20	50	50

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	John Purchase Public	School sport							2	20	40	40
Summer Total			14		350	11		252	29		690	1,292
	Winter											
	Greenway Giants	Baseball				11	3	32	8	25	188	219
	P Hills-Cherrybrook RLFC	Rugby L							4	25	100	100
	Westbrook Jnr AFL	AFL	9	25	225	7	1	7	10	25	250	482
	Cherrybrook Tech	School sport							3	20	50	50
	John Purchase Public	School sport							2	20	40	40
Winter Total			9		225	18		39	26		628	891
TOTAL			23		575	28		291	50		1,228	2,093
GREENWAY No.2	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300							300
	Cherrybrook Little Athletics	Athletics							26	22	572	572
	Cherrybrook Tech	School sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			12		300	0		0	29		622	922
	Winter											
	P Hills-Cherrybrook RLFC	Rugby L							15	25	375	375
	North Sydney Jun RL	/RugbyL	9	25	225	var	7	51				276
	Cherrybrook Little Athletics	Athletics							2	23	46	46
	Cherrybrook Tech	School sport							3	20	50	50
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	7	35	35
Winter Total			9		225	0		51	25		606	782
TOTAL			18		450	0		0	53		1,128	1,704
HEADEN PARK	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	6	47				347
	St Leos	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	Normanhurst Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			12		300	0		47	6		110	457
	Winter											
	Gordon Rugby	R Union										

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	Beecroft-Cherrybrook RU	R Union							2	25	50	50
	Hornsby RU	R Union	6	25	150				2	25	38	188
	St Leos	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	Normanhurst Boys High	School Sport		20	0				3	20	50	50
Winter Total			6		150	0		0	9		198	348
TOTAL			6		150	0		0	15		308	804
JAMES PARK	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300				6	26	156	456
	Barker	School Sport							5	20	100	100
	Waitara Public	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			12		300	0		0	14		306	606
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	4	1	4	4	22	77	294
	Barker	School Sport							5	20	100	100
	Waitara Public	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Winter Total			9		213	4	1	4	11		227	444
TOTAL			21		513	4	1	4	25		533	1,050
JAMES HENTY DRIVE OVAL	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300				10	24	240	540
	W P Hills/Cherrybrook Soccer	Soccer				8	4	32				32
	Cherrybrook Tech	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			12		300	8	4	32	13		290	622
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	8	1	8	2	18	41	274
	Cherrybrook Tech	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Winter Total			9		225	8	1	8	5		91	324
TOTAL			21		525	16	5	40	17		381	946

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS											
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours		
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours			
MILLS PARK (Sen)	Summer													
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	4	23	92									92
	Nsw Churches Cricket Assoc	Cricket	5	23	104									104
	Asquith boys High	School Sport							2	20	40			40
	St Patricks Primary	School Sport							12	20	240			240
	Summer Total		9		196	0		0	14		280			476
	Winter													
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	3	14	4	10	43			269
	Chase Softball	Softball							4	25	100			100
	Asquith boys High	School Sport							2	20	40			40
	St Patricks Primary	School Sport							12	20	240			240
	Winter Total		9		213	var	3	14	22		283			649
	TOTAL		43		1,012	0		28	36		703			1,125
MILLS PARK (minis)	Summer													
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	4	25	100									100
	Nsw Churches Cricket Assoc	Cricket	5	23	104									104
	Summer Total		9		204	0		0	0		0			204
	Winter													
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	5	2	10	4	10	43			265
	Chase Softball	Softball							4	25	100			100
	Winter Total		9		213	5	2	10	8		143			365
	TOTAL		43		1,036	10		20	8		143			569
MONTVIEW OVAL 1	Summer													
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	8	60	3	16	40			400
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40			40
	Summer Total		12		300	var	8	60	5		80			440
	Winter													
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	8	42	16	25	388			642
	H Heights Soccer Club	Soccer				10	1	10						10
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40			40
	Hornsby South PSSA	School Sport							5	4	20			20

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
Winter Total			9		213	10		82	23		448	754
TOTAL			106		2,584	30		112	52		955	1,152
MONTVIEW OVAL 2	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	7	53	3	16	40	361
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40	40
Summer Total			12		300	0		53	5		80	401
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	3	21	16	25	388	621
	H Heights Soccer Club	Soccer				10	1	10				10
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Hornsby South PSSA	School Sport							5	4	20	20
Winter Total			9		213	10		31	23		448	691
TOTAL			21		513	10		84	27		528	1,092
MONTVIEW OVAL (minis)	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300				3	16	40	340
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40	40
Summer Total			12		300	0		0	5		80	380
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	2	12	2	20	40	265
	H Heights Soccer Club	Soccer				10	1	10				10
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Hornsby South PSSA	School Sport							5	4	20	20
Winter Total			9		213	10		22	9		100	334
TOTAL			21		513	10		22	14		180	714
MT KU-RING-GAI OVAL	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	11	76				376
	Casual	Cricket				11	1	11				11
Summer Total			12		300	11		87	0		0	387
	Winter											

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	var	8	32	8	25	200	444
	Casual	Soccer				9	1	9				9
Winter Total			21		513	120		127	8		200	453
TOTAL			33		213	30		127	8		200	840
NORMANHURST OVAL												
	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	8	58				358
	St Leos	School Sport							4	20	70	70
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	Normanhurst West Public	School Sport							6	20	120	120
Summer Total			45		300	30		58	13		250	608
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	6	2	12	21	25	513	750
	St Leos	School Sport							4	20	70	70
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	Normanhurst West Public	School Sport							6	20	120	120
Winter Total			9		225	6		12	33		763	1,000
TOTAL			66		825	36		70	46		1,013	1,608
OAKLEIGH OVAL												
	Summer											
	Thornleigh Sports Club	Baseball	11	24	264	5	26	130	16	25	400	794
	Thornleigh West Public	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			11		264	5		130	21		490	884
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225	6	1	6	15	25	375	606
	Thornleigh Soccer Club	Soccer				var	3	26				26
	Thornleigh Sports Club	Baseball							1		0	0
	Thornleigh Sports Club	Softball				5	4	20	2		0	20
	Thornleigh West Public	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Noprmahurst Boys High	School Sport							2	20	40	40

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Hours	Hours	Weeks	Hours	
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	1	5	5
Winter Total			9		225	11		62	29		510	787
TOTAL			20		489	16		182	50		1,000	1,671
PARKLANDS OVAL												
	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	10	86	10	24	240	626
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							5	20	90	90
Summer Total			12		300	0		86	15		330	716
	Winter											
	KDSA	Soccer	9	25	213	9	25	213	5	25	125	550
	Asquith RL	R League							15	25	375	375
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							5	20	90	90
Winter Total			9		213	9		213	25		590	1,015
TOTAL			21		513	9		299	39		920	1,731
PENNANT HILLS No. 1												
	Summer											
	P Hills Cricket Club	Cricket	10	23	219	var	15	147	3	23	69	435
	Sydney Oztag	Oztag							6	23	127	127
	St Agathas	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							4	20	70	70
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			10		219	0		147	15		326	691
	Winter											
	Beecroft-Cherrybrook RU	R Union	9	25	225	9	1	9	12	25	300	534
	St Agathas	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							4	20	70	70
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Hornsby Girls High	School Sport							1	20	20	20
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	4	20	20
Winter Total			0		0	0		0	25		470	704
TOTAL			9		225	9		156	40		796	1,395

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
PENNANT HILLS No. 2												
(Ern Holmes Oval)	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	7	25	175				3	16	40	215
	Casual	Cricket				var	3	28				28
	Sydney Oztag	Oztag							6	23	127	127
	Pennant Hills AFL	Touch				3	4	12				12
	Hornsby District Athletics	Athletics	4	22	88				7	22	154	242
	Hornsby District Athletics	Athletics							3	3	9	9
	St Agathas	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			11		263	3		40	24		450	752
Winter												
	Pennant Hills AFL	AFL	9	25	225	var	5	24	18	25	450	699
	Oztag	Oztag							4	17	68	68
	St Agathas	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Hornsby Girls High	School Sport							1	20	20	20
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	4	20	20
Winter Total			9		225	0		24	34		678	927
TOTAL			20		488	3		63	58		1,128	1,679
PENNANT HILLS HOCKEY												
	Summer											
	St Agathas	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			0		0	0		0	6		120	120
	Winter											
	N Shore Womens Hockey	Hockey							4	6	24	24
	N Dist Junior Hockey	Hockey	4	25	100	3	1	3	12	25	300	403
	St Agathas	School Sport							2	20	30	30

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Hornsby Girls High	School Sport							1	20	20	20
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	1	5	5
Winter Total			4		100	3		3	28		469	572
TOTAL			4		100	3		3	34		589	692
PENNANT HILLS SOCCER	Summer											
	Pennant Hills AFL	Touch				3	2	6				6
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	50	50
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Summer Total			4		100	6		9	4		80	86
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer							15	25	375	375
	Pennant Hills AFL	Touch							4	25	100	100
	Pennant Hills Soccer Club	Soccer				9	1	9				9
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	50	50
	P Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
	Hills Zone PSSA	School Sport							6	10	55	55
Winter Total			6		200	11		17	29		610	619
TOTAL			4		100	17		23	33		690	705
ROFE PARK	Summer											
	Rangers Baseball	Baseball	11	25	275	11	24	264	15	25	375	914
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Hornsby North Public	School Sport							4	20	70	70
Summer Total			11		275	11		264	24		545	1,084
	Winter											
	Mornsby Dog Training Club								2	26	52	52
	Hornsby Dist Aust Rules	AFL	5	25	125				8	24	192	317
	Rangers Baseball	Baseball	4	25	100	var	6	62	4	25	100	262
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	60	60

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	St Leos	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Hornsby North Public	School Sport							4	20	70	70
	Winter Total				225	0		62	23		514	601
	TOTAL		20		500	11		326	46		1,059	1,885
ROSELEA OVAL	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	4	25	100				10	24	240	340
	Carlingford High	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Summer Total		4		100	0		0	12		280	380
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	5	25	125				17	25	425	550
	St Gerards R League	R League							6	25	150	150
	ARDEN	School Sport	4	25	100							100
	Carlingford High	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Winter Total		9		225	0		0	25		615	840
	TOTAL		13		325	0		0	37		895	1,220
RUDDOCK PARK	Summer											
	Thornleigh Sports Club	Baseball	5	25	125				4	25	100	225
	Cherrybrook Tech High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
	Summer Total		18		450	0		0	7		150	275
	Winter											
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225				4	10	43	268
	Thornleigh Sports Club	Softball/baseball				var	4	16				16
	Cherrybrook Tech High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
	Winter Total		9		225	0		16	16		293	334
	TOTAL		32		800	0		16	22		443	609
SOMERVILLE OVAL	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket				var	7	65				65
	Epping Dist Cricket Club (Jns)	Cricket							15	23	345	345

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS										
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours	
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours		
	P Hills Cricket Club	Cricket	10	23	219	10	1	16				235	
Summer Total			10		219	10		16			15	345	645
	(Winter												
	Epping RU	R Union	9	25	225				18	25	450	675	
	N Sydney JRL	R League				var	6	43				43	
Winter Total			9		225	0		43	18		450	718	
TOTAL			19		444	10		124	33		795	1,362	
STOREY PARK	Summer												
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	6		10	24	240	540	
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50	
	PSSA	School Sport							2	20	40	40	
Summer Total			12		300	0		0	15		330	630	
	Winter												
	Asuith RL	R League							25	25	625	625	
	NSW Jun RL	R League	9	25	225							225	
	N Sydney Jun R League	R League				8	5	43				43	
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50	
	PSSA	School Sport							2	20	40	40	
	St Leos	School Sport							4	10	35	35	
Winter Total			9		225	8		43	33		750	1,018	
TOTAL			21		525	8		43	48		1,080	1,648	
THORNLEIGH OVAL	Summer												
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	6	5	43				343	
	Thornleigh Sports Club	Cricket							3	23	58	58	
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60	
	Pennant Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30	
Summer Total			12		300	14		85	7		148	490	
	Winter												
	Kissing Point Softball Club	Softball							8	20	160	160	

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	Kissing Point Baseball Club	Baseball							3	25	75	75
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	9	25	225				10	25	250	475
	Normanhurst Boys	School Sport							3	20	60	60
	Pennant Hills High	School Sport							2	20	30	30
Winter Total			21		525	14		85	26		575	800
TOTAL			30		750	34		213	33		723	1,290
WAITARA OVAL	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300				6	23	138	438
	Northern Dist Cricket Club	Cricket				11	23	253				253
	Hornsby Girls High	School Sport							2	10	20	20
	Waitara Public	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			12		300	11		253	11		208	761
	Winter											
	N Sydney RL Referees Assoc	R League							2	24	48	48
	Hornsby R League	R League							6	25	150	150
	N Sydney Jun R League	R League				4	9	36				36
	NSWJRL	R League							3	18	45	45
	Hornsby R Union	R Union	9	25	225				6	25	150	375
	Hornsby Girls High	School Sport							2	20	40	40
	Waitara Public	School Sport							3	20	50	50
	St Leos	School Sport							3	20	55	55
	School carnivals	School Sport							5	6	30	30
Winter Total			9		225	4		36	29		568	829
TOTAL			21		525	15		289	39		776	1,590
WARRINA STREET 1 (Small)	Summer											
	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	5	40	10	24	240	580
	Wideview Public	School Sport							5	20	105	105
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			12		300	0		40	18		395	735
	Winter											

COUNCIL SPORTSGROUNDS

OVAL	HIRER	SPORT	BOOKINGS									
			Saturday			Sunday			Mon-Fri			Total Hours
			Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	Hours	Weeks	Tot Hours	
	KDSA	Soccer	4	23	92				9	25	225	317
	Wideview Public	School Sport							5	20	105	105
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Winter total			4		92	0		0	17		380	472
TOTAL			16		392	0		40	35		775	1,207
WARRINA STREET 2	Summer											
(Large)	HKH District Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	25	300	var	5	40				340
	Wideview Public	School Sport							5	20	105	105
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Summer Total			32		784	0		40	8		155	495
	Winter											
	Berowra R League	R League							25	25	625	625
	N Sydney Jun R League	R League	9	24	216	var	6	44				260
	NSW JRL	R League										0
	Wideview Public	School Sport							5	20	105	105
	Asquith Boys High	School Sport							3	20	50	50
Winter Total			9		216	20		44	33		780	1,040
TOTAL			53		1,300	0		123	33		935	1,535
WOOD STREET OVAL	Summer											
	Northern Dist Cricket Assoc	Cricket	12	23	276	var	3	12				288
	Epping Dist Cricket Club (Jns)	Cricket							15	23	345	345
	Casual	Cricket						9	1	9		9
Summer Total			12		276	9		21	15		345	642
	Winter											0
	Gladesville-Hornsby FA	Soccer	4	25	100				2	20	40	140
	Berowra Rovers	Soccer						9	1	9		9
Winter Total			4		100	9		9	2		40	149
TOTAL			16		376	18		30	17		385	791

ATTACHMENT F

SCHOOL OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

7

ATTACHMENT F: SCHOOL OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

School	Sports Facility		Current community use
	No.	Type	
PD 1			
Epping North P School	1	soccer field (junior)	Rangers Soccer Club (clinics, weekend games) in winter; N Districts Cricket Association (junior cricket) in summer
	1	netball court	nil
Epping West P School	1	soccer/cricket field (junior)	YMCA (N Districts Cricket Assoc competition)
	1	netball court	nil (poor condition)
St Gerard's School	1	netball court	used by a mother's group
Arden Anglican Girl's School	1	tennis court	nil
PD 2			
Pennant Hills Public School	1	cricket nets	school families after school
West P Hills P School	1	cricket field (junior)	nil
	2	cricket nets	nil
	1	multi purpose court	netball training
St Agatha's School	1	multi purpose court	nil
Pennant Hills High School	1	rugby field	rugby training; occasional soccer training camps
	1	cricket field (junior)	HKH District Cricket Association
	2	tennis court	nil
	1	basketball court	nil
Normanhurst Boys H S	1	rugby field	Hornsby Rugby Club (pre season and season overflow) and Knox Grammar
	3	tennis courts	nil
	4	basketball court	nil
Normanhurst P School	2	cricket nets	Loreto College
North West P S	1	soccer field (junior)	occasional use (eg kanga cricket)
	1	netball court	OOSH program
Thornleigh West P S	1	basketball court	OOSH program
Loreto Normanhurst	2	multi purpose sports fields	nil
	2	tennis courts	nil
	3	multi purpose courts	nil
PD 3/9			
Hornsby Girls H School	1	Soccer/hockey field	nil – but soon to call for expressions of interest
	2	Netball courts	nil
Hornsby North P School	1	soccer/rugby field (junior)	occasional community use
Hornsby South P School	1	soccer field (junior)	Barker College in summer (t-ball and softball); no winter use currently - but has been soccer use in past
	1	netball court	netball club training

School	Sports Facility		Current community use
	No.	Type	
Barker College	1	Oval	nil
	2	rugby/cricket field	nil
	1	hockey (all weather)	nil
	6	tennis courts	nil
	2	netball court	nil
Waitara Public School	1	netball court	nil (poor condition)
St Leo's College	1	rugby/cricket field	Barker College in summer (cricket) and winter (rugby union)
	1	rugby/cricket field (junior)	Barker College in summer (cricket) and winter (rugby union)
	3	cricket nets	Barker College
	3	multi purpose courts	Barker College
PD 4			
Asquith Boys H School	1	soccer field	Barker College (Sat – winter)
	2	Multi-purpose courts	nil
	1	Basketball courts	nil
Asquith Girls H School	1	soccer field	Asquith Soccer Club - some mid week training
	2	tennis courts	nil
	2	netball court	nil
Hornsby Heights Public School	1	cricket field	local cricket club on Saturdays; annual soccer presentation day
St Bernard's Primary School	1	cricket field	nil
Mt Colah Public School	1	oval	nil
	2	cricket nets	local cricket club
PD 5			
Berowra Public School	1	multi purpose court	nil
Wideview Public School	2	cricket nets	occasional community use
	1	multi purpose court	occasional community use
Cowan Public School	1	multi purpose court	nil (poor condition)
PD 6			
Dural Public School	1	soccer field (junior)	nil
	1	multi purpose court	junior netball (Fri afternoon)
Galston Public School	1	multi purpose court	occasional use by netball group
	2	cricket nets	local junior cricket group
Galston High School	1	rugby union field	nil - but has been use in the past (two years ago)
	3	multi purpose court	nil
Oakhill Drive P School	1	netball court	nil
Hills Grammar School	1	cricket field (junior)	nil (use policy being reviewed)
	2	tennis courts	nil
Pacific Hills Christian School	1	soccer field	home ground for Pacific-Dural Soccer Club
	1	basketball court	nil

School	Sports Facility		Current community use
	No.	Type	
PD 7			
Brooklyn Public School	1	soccer field (junior)	Saturday morning by junior teams
PD 8			
John Purchase P School	1	netball court	nil (poor condition)
Cherrybrook Technology High School	1	Soccer field	t-ball group (overflow from Greenway Park) - has been more use in the past
	1	netball court	nil
	1	basketball court	nil
Oakhill Drive Public School	1	netball court	nil
Tangara School for Girls	1	basketball court	nil

ATTACHMENT G

SPORTS FACILITY CAPACITIES

ATTACHMENT G: SPORTS FACILITY CAPACITIES

Activity	Facility Unit	Season	Seniors				Juniors				All	All
			Length of game (hrs)	Average available Hrs/week	No. in game	Weekly capacity (No. of players)	Length of game (hrs)	Average available Hrs/week	No. in game	Weekly capacity (No. of players)	Total Weekly capacity	Adj Weekly capacity
Indoor Sport												
Basketball	M/purpose indoor court		1.0	30.0	15	360	0.75	20.0	7.5	200	650	
Volleyball	M/purpose indoor court		1.0	100.0	16	1280					1600	
Indoor Soccer	M/purpose indoor court		0.6	50.0	14	933					1201	
Outdoor Sport - fields												
Athletics	Athletics field (grass)	S	3.0	6.0	100	200	3	3.0	500	500	700	
Cricket	Cricket wicket	S	4.0	8.0	22	44	3	3.0	22	22	66	
Softball	S'ball diamond	S	1.5	4.5	18	54	1	6.0	18	108	162	
Australian Football	Senior field	W	2.3	9.3	40	160	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	160	
Australian Football	Junior field	W	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	7.0	30	210	210	
R Union	Rugby field	W	1.2	6.0	30	150	0.75	6.0	24	240	390	
R League	Senior field	W	1.5	9.0	40	240	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	240	
R League	Mod field	W	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1	4.0	40	160	160	
R League	Mini field	W	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0.75	4.5	28	168	168	
Soccer	Soccer field	W	2.0	6.0	28	84	1	6.0	22	132	216	
Soccer	Junior/mini field	W	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0.75	4.5	18	108	108	
Hockey	Hockey field - synthetic	W	1.5	13.5	28	252	1.5	7.5	28	140	392	
	Hockey field - grass	W	1.5	9.0	28	168	1.5	4.5	28	84	252	
Baseball	B'ball diamond	W	2.0	6.0	26	78	1.25	6.0	26	124.8	203	
Outdoor Sport - courts												
Netball	Netball court	W	1.0	4.0	18	72	1	5.0	18	90	162	
Tennis	Tennis court (floodlit)		1.0	25.0	4	100	1	10.0	4	40	140	70*

* Assumes average club member plays twice per week

ATTACHMENT H

SPORTS PARTICIPATION LEVELS

ATTACHMENT H: SPORTS PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Activity	Facility Unit	Theoretical Age Related Participation (No.)							Total	Reg Players	Facility Requirements			
		5-14 yrs	15-17 yrs	18-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45+ yrs	Facility capacity*			Facilities required	Facilities Available Council	Private	Surplus/ (Shortfall)
Indoor Sport														
Basketball	M/purpose indoor court	1,332	420	891	366	258	47	3,313	1,500	650	5.1			
Volleyball	M/purpose indoor court	133	90	274	191	140	62	890	?	1600	0.6			
Indoor Soccer	M/purpose indoor court	225	71	151	122	21	47	638	1,000	1201	0.8			
Sub-total											6.5	0.0	3.0	-3.5
Outdoor Sport														
Athletics	Athletics field	881	161	82	17	21	47	1,211	1,219	500	2.4	3.0		0.6
Cricket	Cricket wicket	1,394	394	740	574	387	95	3,583	2,995	66	45.4	43.0		-2.4
Baseball/T ball	B'ball diamond	697	48	27	35	43	0	850	1,040	240	4.3	6.0		1.7
Softball	S'ball diamond	471	39	69	104	86	47	816	819	162	5.1	6.0		0.9
AFL	AFL field	86	16	34	26	0	0	163	600	160	3.8	3.0		-0.8
R League	Senior L field	1025	300	589	287	32	71	2,305	910	240	3.8	8.0		4.2
R Union	Rugby U field	348	110	233	157	32	71	951	710	280	2.5	6.0		3.5
Soccer	Soccer field	1,195	516	795	348	344	166	3,365	8,400	216	38.9	28.0	2.0	-8.9
Soccer	Mini/mod soccer field	956	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	956	2,100	108	19.4	24.0		4.6
Hockey	Hockey field	430	1361	301	104	107	0	1,079	200	280	3.9	2.0		-1.9
Netball	Netball court	1,373	420	849	6271	408	71	3,748	3,500	162	21.6	32.0		10.4
Tennis	Tennis court	2,377	749	1,589	1,706	1,954	2,042	10,4181	?	130	80.1	78.0		-2.1
Total		12,925	3,470	6,624	4,665	3,834	2,769	34,288	24,993					

ATTACHMENT I

USE OF COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRES

ATTACHMENT I: USE OF COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRES

Location (District)	Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
PD 1				
Epping	Epping Community Centre	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: cultural groups (quilters, Irish dance, Scottish dance, ballroom dance, dance school). RSL youth club, easy slim, tae kwon doe, AA, masons, meditation (Mon-Fri); church group, stamps, A4 (weekends) Casual use: community group meetings, social functions 	<p>Medium (Sat & m/week evenings)</p> <p>High (other times)</p>
	Epping Creative Centre	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: 14 craft groups, bridge, toastmasters, computer pals Casual use: seminars – mostly for craft groups (1 or 2 per year) 	<p>Low/medium (week days)</p> <p>High (weekends)</p>
West Epping	W Epping Community Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users (pre school, dance academy, school of dance, Macquarie Evening College (Mon-Fri) and dance academy (Sat)) Casual use: weekend functions; community group 8 government agency meetings 	<p>High (Sundays & Sat evenings)</p> <p>Very low (other times)</p>
Beecroft	Beecroft Community Centre	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: physical culture, scottish dance, ballroom dance, tai chi (Mon-Fri) and ballroom dance (Sat) Casual use: weekend functions; 2 theatre groups – several evenings/once a year 	<p>Medium (Saturdays)</p> <p>High (other times)</p>

Location (District)	Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised capacity.
Carlingford	Roselea Community Centre	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: ballet school, dance groups (2), bridge, karate, garden group, vega centre, boating group (Mon-Fri); ballet school, tai chi (weekends) Casual use: community group meetings, social functions 	<p>Low (weekday evenings)</p> <p>High (other times)</p>
PD 2				
Pennant Hills	Pennant Hills C Centre	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: cultural (line dance, bush music club, bush dance, children's drama, Irish dance, dance schools (2), Gruppo Folklorico); recreation (gentle exercise, yoga, tai kwon do, physical culture, bridge, martial arts); education (HK Community College, kumon, U3rd Age); health (w watchers, physio, blood bank), children (kindy gym, play group) (Mon-Fri); church groups (Sun) Casual use: social functions 	<p>Low/medium (week days)</p> <p>High (weekends)</p>
Thornleigh	Thornleigh Community Centre	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: cultural (dance school, interactive music and drama, line dance), karate, aerobics, yoga, car club, self help/support/networking groups (Mon-Fri) Casual use: social functions 	<p>Low/medium (week days)</p> <p>High (weekends)</p>
	Thornleigh W P School CC	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: jazz dance, physical culture, tae kwon do (Mon-Fri); church group (Sun) Casual use: community group meetings, social functions 	<p>Low/medium (week day)</p> <p>High (weekend)</p>

Location (District)	Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Hawkins Hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: play groups, pony club meetings (Mon-Fri); Casual use: social functions – mainly children's parties 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
D 3/9				
Hornsby	Willow Park Comm Centre	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: recreation clubs (fishing, dogs, model engineers, garden, canoe. car), political and community groups, cultural groups (folk club, dance school. Hornsby Art Society) (Mon-Fri): church group, Ceylon Society, drama school, counseling (w/ends) Casual use: community group meetings 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
	Library Meeting Rooms	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: OMNI, yoga. H/K Community College. rostrum, North Sydney Health (Mon-Fri); yoga (weekends) Casual use: community group & government agency meetings, staff training 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
	Womens Rest Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: CWA, youth group. Liberal Party, family history group, communication group (Mon-Fri) and highland dance, conservation group and church group (Sat-Sun) Casual use: group meetings 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekend: :)
	Asquith Community Centre/Sports Club Inc	1		

Location (District)	Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
PD 4				
H Heights	H Heights Community Centre			
Mt Kuring-gai	Mt Kuring-gai C Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: pre school, mothers' group, yoga (Mon-Fri); AA (weekends) Casual use: social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
Mt Colah	Mt Colah Community Centre	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: cultural (dance group, drama school), play group, aerobics, tae kwon do, church group, school, community group meetings (Mon-Fri); church group, tai chi (weekends) Casual use: social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
PD 5				
Berowra	Berowra Community Centre	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: cultural groups (drama, musical society, craft group, annual art/craft show), garden group, physical culture. ALP (Mon-Fri): blue light disco, church group (weekends) Casual use: social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
	Berowra District Hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: dance school. Lions Club, probus (Mon-Fri) Casual use: community group meetings, social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
Cowan	Cowan Community Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: play groups (2) Casual use: social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)

Location (District)	Centre	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
PD 6				
W Ferry	W Ferry Community Centre	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: pre school, 'mums and tots', smart steppers (Mon-Fri); church group, AA (weekends) Casual use: community group meetings, fund raising activity 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
Glenorie	Glenorie Community Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: conservation group, karate (Mon-Fri); Casual use: social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
Galston	Galston Community Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: ballet school, kumon, garden club, North west Community College (Mon-Fri); Casual use: week end social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
Arcadia	Arcadia Community Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: dance schools (2), spinning group, residents association (Mon-Fri) Casual use: community group meetings, social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
PD 7				
Dangar Isd	Dangar Island Hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: singer/performer (Mon-Fri); film society (weekends) Casual use: social functions 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)
PD 8				
Cherrybrook	Gumnut Community Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular users: pre school, ballet school, ballroom dance, neighbourhood watch (Mon-Fri) and church group (Sun) Casual use: weekend social functions - birthdays, christenings etc; 	Low/medium (week days) High (weekends)

Location (District)	Centre	No. of halls/ rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Ch'brook Community Centre	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular users: play groups, line dance, jazz ballet, aerobics, martial arts, drama school, probus, kumon (Mon-Fri); church groups, Italian class, martial arts (weekends) • Casual use: community group meetings, social functions 	<p>Low/medium (week days)</p> <p>High (weekends)</p>

ATTACHMENT J

USE OF NON-COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRES & HALLS

ATTACHMENT J: USE OF NON-COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENTRES/HALLS

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
PD 1				
Epping	St Albans Anglican	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Thurs: regular users (carpet bowls, English conversation, weight watchers, line and swing dancing, ballet, Horticultural Society) • Fri-Sat: frequent functions, Taiwanese Church) 	Nil
	Lutheran Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attached to church, so not well suited to regular outside activity • High use by church community • Regular user groups are language schools (Finnish, Swedish) 	Low
	Uniting Church	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Fri: regular users (tai chi, meditation, RSL's Granny Smith leisure program for aged people, old time dancing): theatre group 2/3 nights over ¼ six week periods per year • Sat: theatre group • Holiday programs – 2 week drama programs 	Low
	Baptist Church	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Thurs: regular users (playgroups, English conversation, aerobics, craft); monthly use by probus, friendship group; 3 monthly blood bank use • Fri: Church youth group • Sat: regular one-off bookings (lunches, seminars, 2¹st parties, basketball) 	Nil
	Epping Heights P School hall	2 class rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Fri: regular users (drama group, kindy gym, Hills District Punjabi Society) • Weekend: Chinese Christian Church; Presbyterian Church 	Medium

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/ rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Guide hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Guide unit Community users (Macquarie Evening College, karate, dance group) 	Medium
Epping North	All Saints Anglican	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current use (out-of-the-way location) Would consider use by suitable groups with adequate insurance 	High
	Epping North P School hall	1 (small. no stage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Thurs: regular users (yoga) ; expression of interest by meditation group Sun: Chinese church 	High (but not big enough for most uses)
	Scout-Guide hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 guide, 2 scout units community users (model train group. craft group) 	Medium
West Epping	Epping Scout-Guide hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Guide/scout units Community users (Macquarie Evening College) 	Low
Beecroft	Presbyterian	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (Beecroft School – before school activities. Beecroft Youth Orchestra, orchid society, quilters & embroiderers, dance group, Civic Trust meetings) High 'in-church' use 	Low
	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (commercial ballet school x 5 afternoons, play group, Beecroft Garden Club. Civic Trust) Very busy church program (leisure programs for aged, youth groups etc) 	Low
	St Johns Anglican Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low current use due to insurance requirements Playgroup (Fri morning) only regular user 	High

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Beecroft P School hall	1 (300 capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Thurs: regular users (drama group, ballroom dancing, scottish dance, jazz ballet, karate, church group) • Sat-Sun: casual bookings, church group (Sun), 	Low
Carlingford	Baptist Church	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Fri: regular users (play group most mornings, kid's club, boys brigade, girls brigade) • Fri night: youth club ■ Irregular – parties, wedding breakfasts 	Low
	Carlingford High School hall	1 (concert/hall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Fri: community use not encouraged due to security issue (fees do not wver cost of care-taking) • Sat: Ryde Eistedfod (Jul-Aug) ■ Sun: church group 	Low
	Roselea Public School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon and Fri: school/ P&C use • Tue-Thurs: regular users (karate, tap dance, belly dance) • Sat: no current use • Sun: karate 	Low (except Sat)
PD 2				
Pennant Hills	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Fri: regular users (quilters, 'leisure learning' group (computers, bowls, history, ballet), model trains, kids club) • Sat: nil ■ Regular church use 	Low
	Scout hall			
	'The Shed' (Lilian Fraser Gardens)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Sun: regular users (quilters group, several Bahai groups, self help group – Serenity, P Hills Civic Trust). Also irregular and occasional uses 	Medium

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
West P Hills	St Matthews Anglican	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Thurs: regular users (English conversation, older people's group, boy's and girl's groups, karate, cubby club, art group, Chinese ladies group) ● Fri evening: youth group ■ Sat: occasional hire (ballet) 	Low
	West P Hills P School hall	2.5 class rooms (new hall in 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mon-Fri: dance, tae kwon do ■ Sat: Dance groups (x 2) ■ Sun: church group, Indian dance group 	Nil
	Scout-Guide hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2 Guide units; ? scout units ● Community users (casual leases for parties) 	Low
Normanhurst	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Thurs: regular users (ballet x 16 hrs, occasional functions/parties) ● Fri evening: church youth group ■ Sat: occasional use by dance group (for toddlers); church use 	High (mid week day time) Low (other times)
	Normanhurst Boys H S hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Limited use due to safety and security issues – confined to local sports club presentation nights, Council public meetings 	Low
	Normanhurst P School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mon-Fri: regular users (jazz ballet, square and line dancing) ● Sat-Sun: church groups x 2 ● Sun: church group 	Low
	Normanhurst West P S hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mon-Fri: regular users (jazzercise, jazz ballet, tae kwon do, school band) ● Sat: youth theatre, jazzercise, occasional evening functions ● Sun: church group 	Nil
	Scout hall (Harris Rd)			
	Scout hall (Dartford Rd)			

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
Thornleigh	St Lukes Anglican Church	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly used for parish related activities: ESL classes, Chinese fellowship, play group, after school program, outdoor recreation group, men's evening, quilters group, camera group 	Nil
	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 2002 commencing \$2.4 m church/community project – include sanctuary area, hall/activity area (suitable for dance, martial arts, cultural activities) and youth area 	Nil during re-development
	Baptist Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High use by church – will restrict non church use in 2002 Mon Fri: regular users (drug self help group, basketball – until recently, play group) Sat: 3 to 4 functions/month – parties, 21sts, weddings 	Nil
	Scout hall			
	Thornleigh West P S hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (dance group, tae kwon do, physical culture, sports club meetings) Fri-Sat evenings: one off functions – parties. Sun: church group 	Very low
PD 3 & 9				
Hornsby	St Peter's Anglican Church	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (Hornsby Musical Society, bridge, ESL classes, girl guides, dance); occasional users (Red Cross, View Club, TAFE, SES) Fri evening: church fellowship Sat: bridge 	Nil
	Baptist Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very low community use due to insurance issues. Music school (30 kids – piano) only regular use. Occasional functions (but associated with church) 	low
	Hornsby War Memorial Hall			
	CWA rooms			

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Hornsby Girls H School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not readily available due to high school use – discourage regular bookings Mon-Fri: dance groups, meetings of organisations Sun: church group 	Low
	Hornsby North P School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (YMCA gym, exercise classes, vacation care programs, ballroom dancing) Sat-Sun: occasional bookings 	Medium
	Hornsby South P School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Thun: regular users (Hornsby Community College, karate) Fri: available for suitable social events Sun: church group. Hornsby Community College 	Low
Waitara	Anglican Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small hall - not suitable for many community uses Fri: play group (only non-church group currently) Persian language group - 2 evenings may commence 	High
	Waitara Public School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Thurs: regular users (tae kwon do, dance, school band, ex-students band) Fri-Sun: not currently used 	Medium
PD 4				
Asquith	Church of Christ	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon: 'easyslim' group Tue-Thurs: no use Fri & weekends: high use by church Sat: x 6 times/year – uni student computer group 	Medium
	Asquith Boys H School hall	1 (concert hall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not readily available due to high use by school – discourage regular bookings Mon-Fri: regular users (local feeder schools concerts; Gang Show in Jun-Jul; private shows) Sat: Chinese multicultural group Sun: Uniting Church (until recently) 	Low

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Asquith Public School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (ballet school, tae kwon do, karate, belly dancing, some other schools) Sun: church group 	Low
H Heights	Baptist Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low community use due to insurance requirement Mon: (tae kwon do - only regular user group. Aerobics discontinued due to insurance) Other evenings: church activities (except Wed) 	High
	St Lukes Anglican Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constraints – insurance issues (only use by insured groups) & hall requires upgrading Only two regular non-church users: ballet (Sat morning), neighbourhood watch (mid week) 	High
	Guide Hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Guide units Community users (Irish dance group) 	High
	Scout Hall			
Mt Colah	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri: regular users (long day care centre – during school terms, craft group) Mon-Sat evenings: one-off events (parties, meetings) 	High (in evenings)
	Guide hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Guide unit Community users (occasional casual use) 	Medium
PD.5 Berowra	Anglican Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use restricted to church members and associated activities – insurance issues Play groups only regular outside use Church related groups include boys society and girls friendly society 	Low
	Scout hall			

Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
	Berowra Public School hall	1 (small hall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Fri: karate, dance classes 	Medium (suitable for small groups only)
B Heights	Wideview Public School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tue-Thurs: regular users (YMCA gymnastics, line dancing, tae kwon do, Kung Fu) • Sat: fitkids ■ Mon, Fri, Sun: no current use • Occasional social events, parties. drama rehearsals 	Medium
PD 6				
Dural	St Judes Anglican Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No non-church use currently – but only available for insured groups ■ Church use only on Tue, Fri and Sun 	High
	Dural Public School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Thurs: regular users (dance group – one evening); occasional use (elections, music/band groups) 	High
	Scout hall			
Galston	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low demand due to number of other facilities in area • Currently several uses/month – mainly schools, concerts, eistedfods. weddings 	High
	Galston High School hall	1 (sports hall size)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fri evening: youth group 	High
	Guide hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Guide unit • Community users (Macquarie Evening College, karate, dance group) 	Low
Castle Hill	Oakhill Drive P School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Fri: regular users (tae kwon do. dance group, karate, drama) ■ Sat: Karate, judo, church group • Sun: church group 	Nil

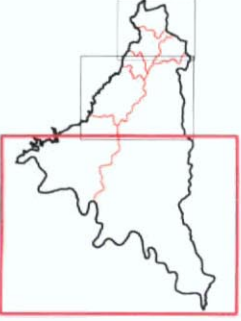
Location (District)	Institution	No. of halls/rooms	Current Community Use	Unutilised Capacity
Arcadia	Northholm Grammar hall	1 (sports hall size)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be available for community use but such use not approved under DA – also not close to population centres 	High
PD 7				
Brooklyn	Brooklyn Hall (ex Guide hall)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon-Fri: regular users (play group) 	High
PD 8				
Cherrybrook	Uniting Church	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very small hall (capacity 20 people) ■ Mon-Thurs: regular users (yoga, dance group, play group, kids club) 	Medium (day) Low (evening)
	John Purchase P School hall	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Thurs: regular users (dance studio, church youth groups, karate, drama) • Sat: Dance studio; casual bookings for suitable evening activities ■ Sun: church group 	Low
	Cherrybrook P School hall		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mon-Fri: regular users (ballet, Macquarie Evening College, karate, drama) ■ Sat: occasional parties • Sun: church group 	Low

ATTACHMENT K

MAPS

FIGURE 1
OPEN SPACE SYSTEM
(NORTHERN DISTRICTS)

KEY MAP



NORTH

LEGEND

- LGA Boundary
- Planning District Boundary
- Creeks
- Roads

Open Space Classification Key

- Acillary
- Community Purpose
- Natural Area (Council CCM*)
- Natural Area (National Park)
- Park
- Proposed Open Space
- Sportsground
- Various

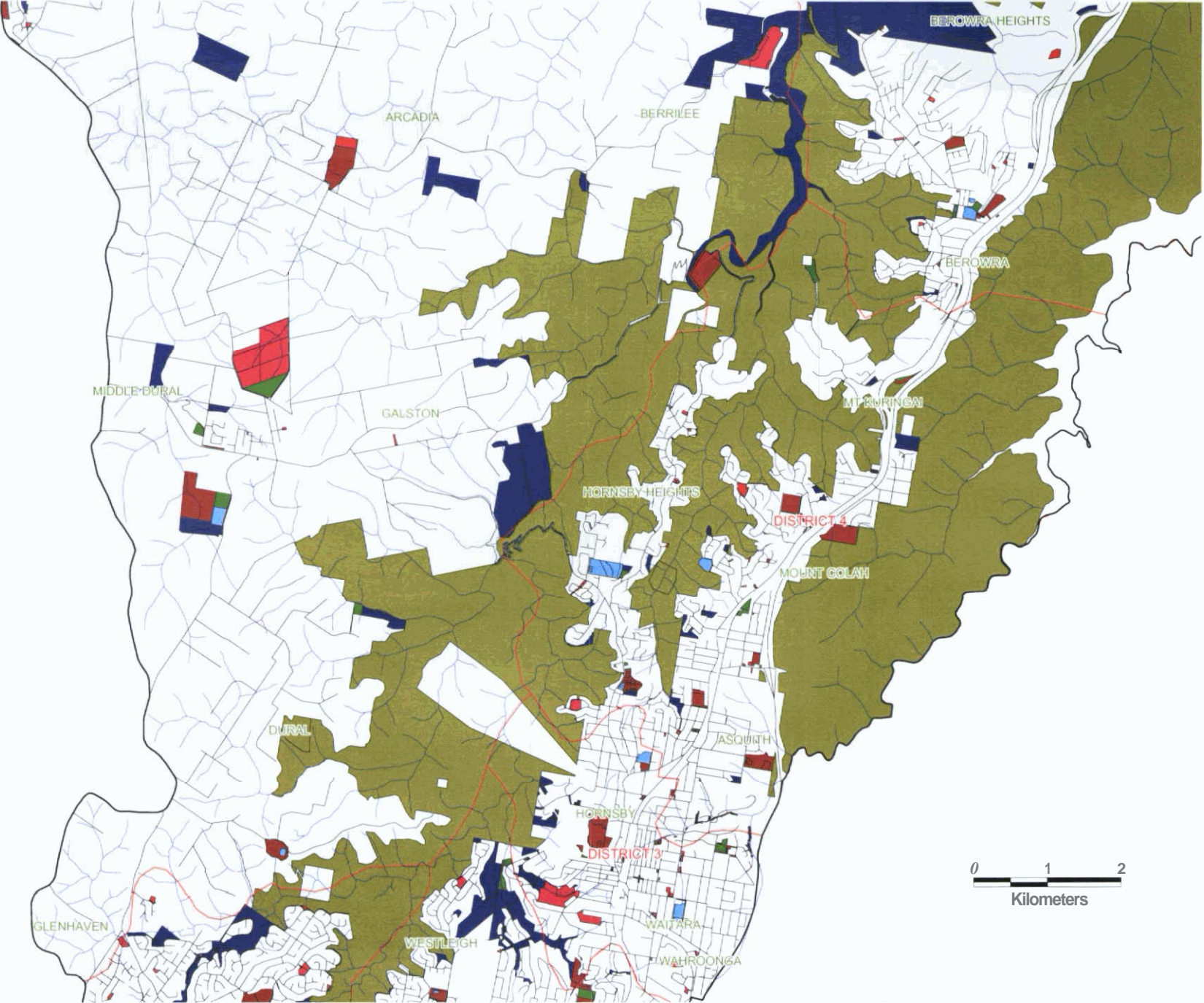
* Care Control and Management



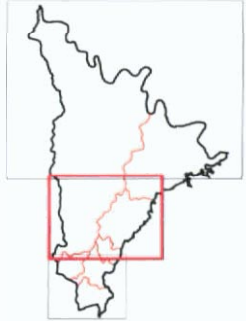
Hornsby Leisure Strategic Plan, July 2002



**FIGURE
OPEN SPACE SYSTEM
(CENTRAL DISTRICT)**



KEY MAP



NORTH

LEGEND

- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary

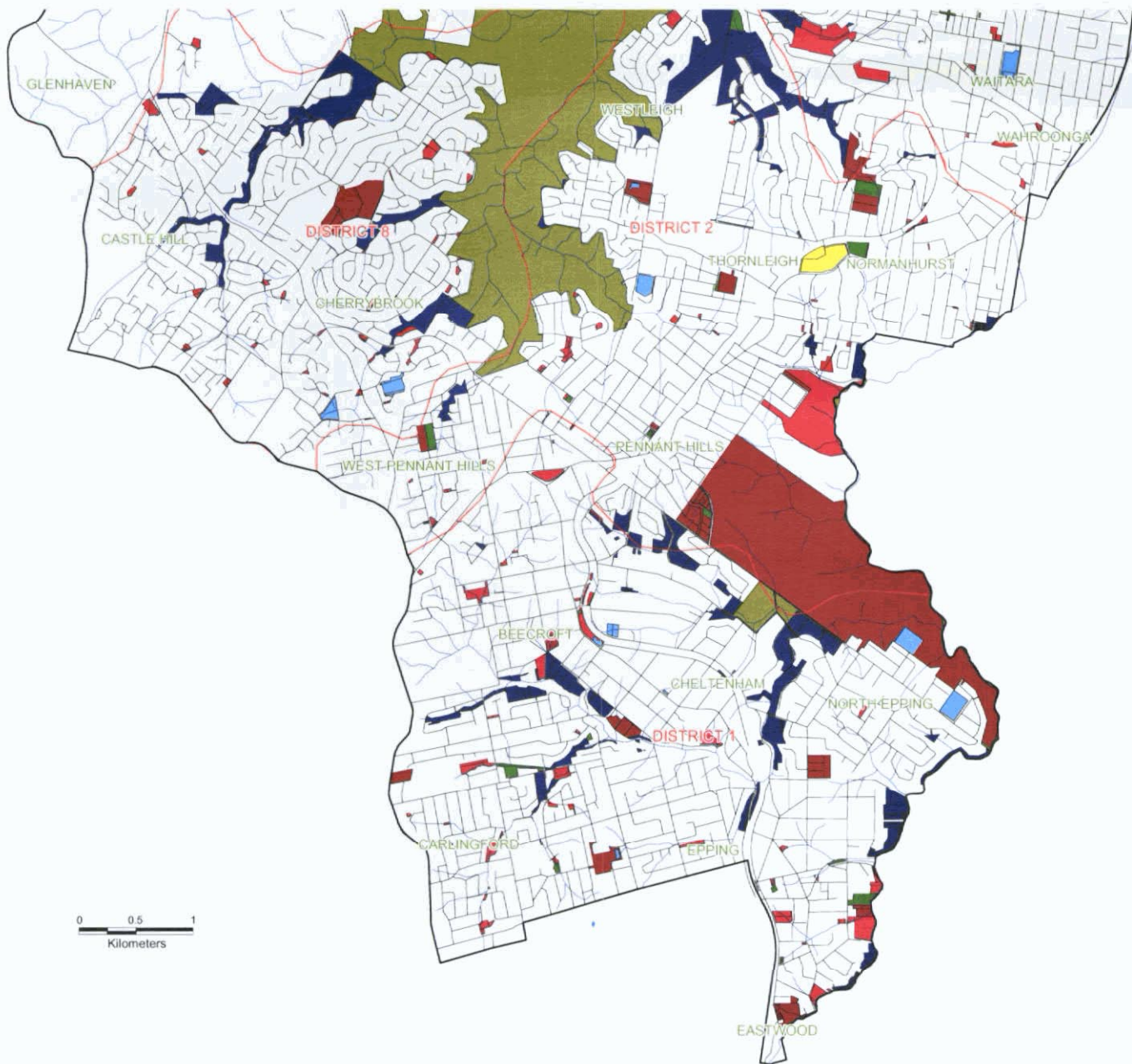
Open Space Classification Key

- Acillary
- Community Purpose
- Natural Area (Council CCM*)
- Natural Area (National Park)
- Park
- Proposed Open Space
- Sportsground
- Various

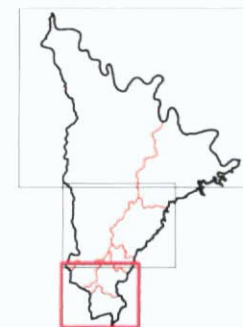
* Care Control and Management



FIGURE 3
OPEN SPACE SYSTEM
(SOUTHERN DISTRICTS)



KEY MAP



LEGEND

- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary

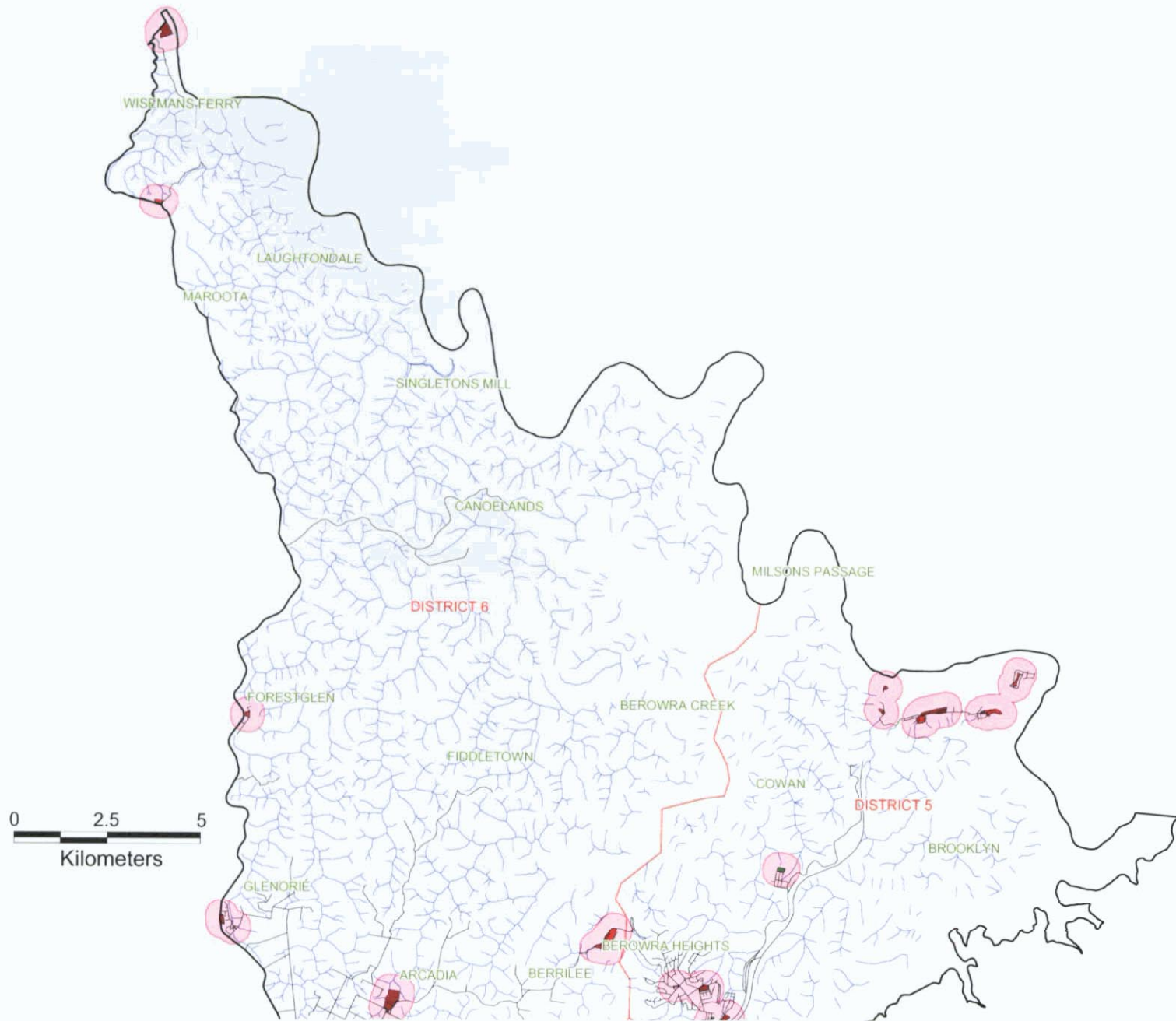
Open Space Classification Key

- Acillary
- Community Purpose
- Natural Area (Council CCM*)
- Natural Area (National Park)
- Park
- Proposed Open Space
- Sportsground
- Various

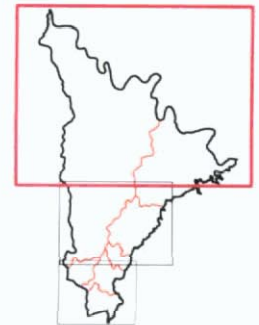
* Care Control and Management



FIGURE 4
URBAN PARK CATCHMENT ZONES
(NORTHERN DISTRICTS)



KEY MAP



LEGEND

- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary

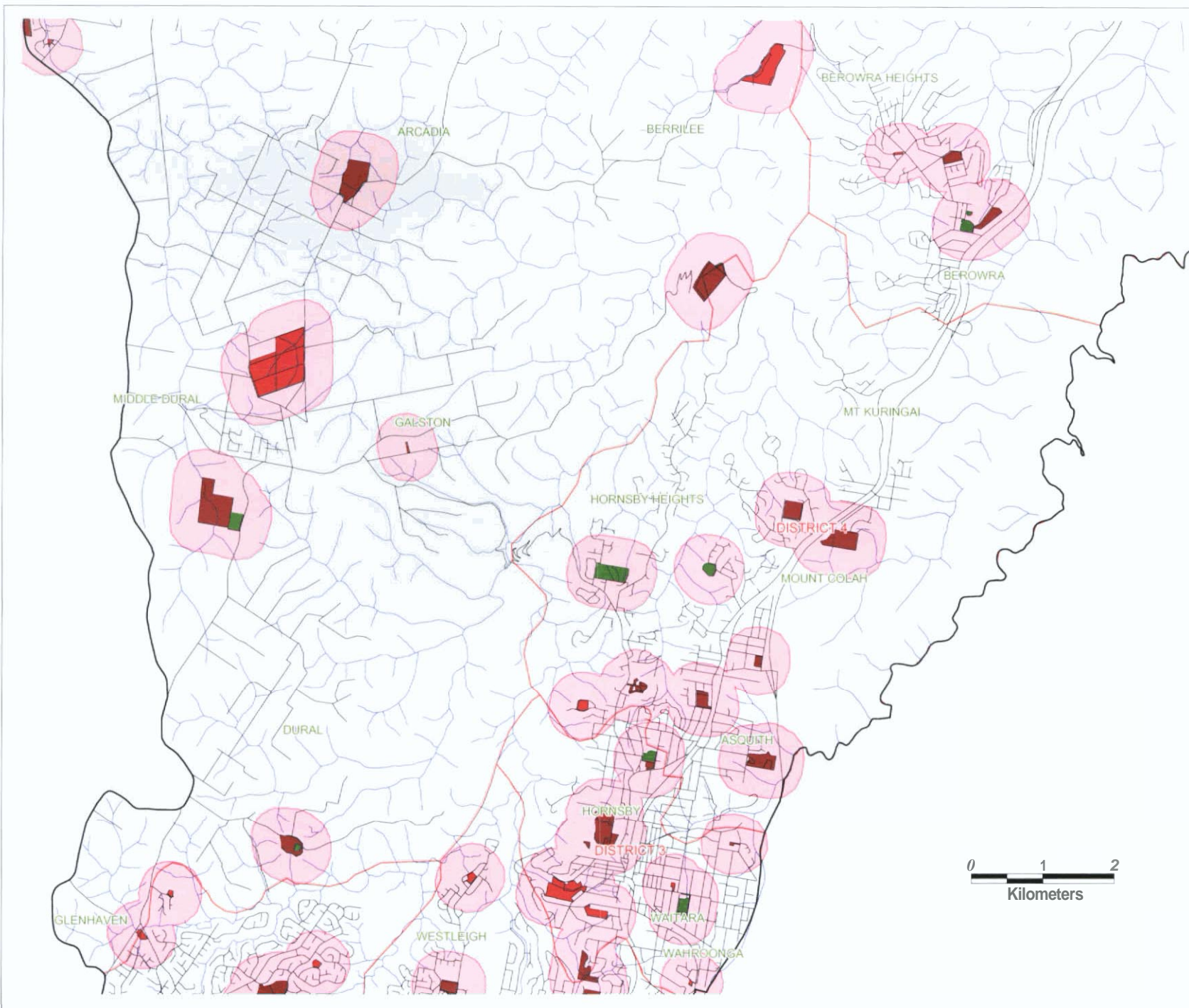
- 400m Urban Park Catchment Zone

Urban Parks Over 3000 sq m

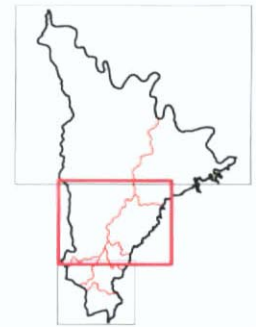
- Park
- Sportsground
- Various (including "Park" and or "Sportsground" component)



**FIGURE 5
URBAN PARK CATCHMENT ZONES
(CENTRAL DISTRICTS)**



KEY MAP

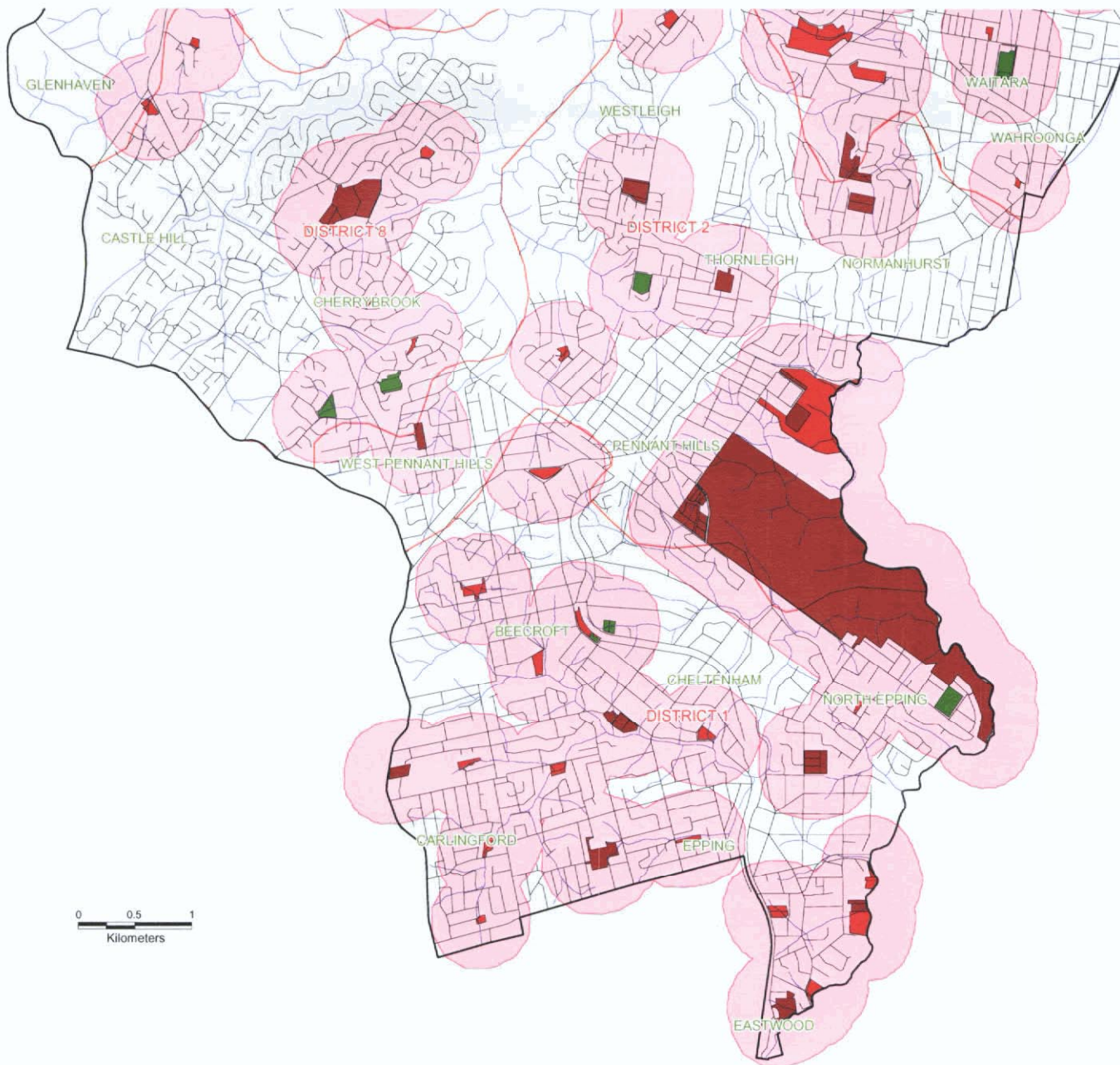


LEGEND

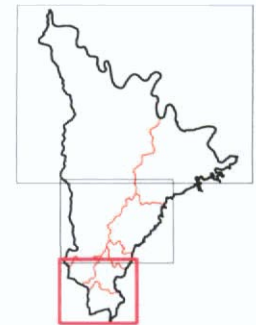
- Roads
 - Creeks
 - Planning District Boundary
 - LGA Boundary
 - 400m Urban Park Catchment Zone
- Urban Parks Over 3000 sq m
- Park
 - Sportsground
 - Various (including "Park" and or "Sportsground" component)



FIGURE 6
URBAN PARK CATCHMENT ZONES
(SOUTHERN DISTRICTS)



KEY MAP



LEGEND

- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary
- 400m Urban Park Catchment Zone

Urban Parks Over 3000 sq m

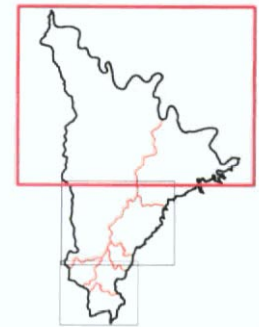
- Park
- Sportsground
- Various (including "Park" and or "Sportsground" component)



FIGURE 7
LEISURE 6 COMMUNITY FACILITIES
(NORTHERN DISTRICTS)



KEY MAP



LEGEND

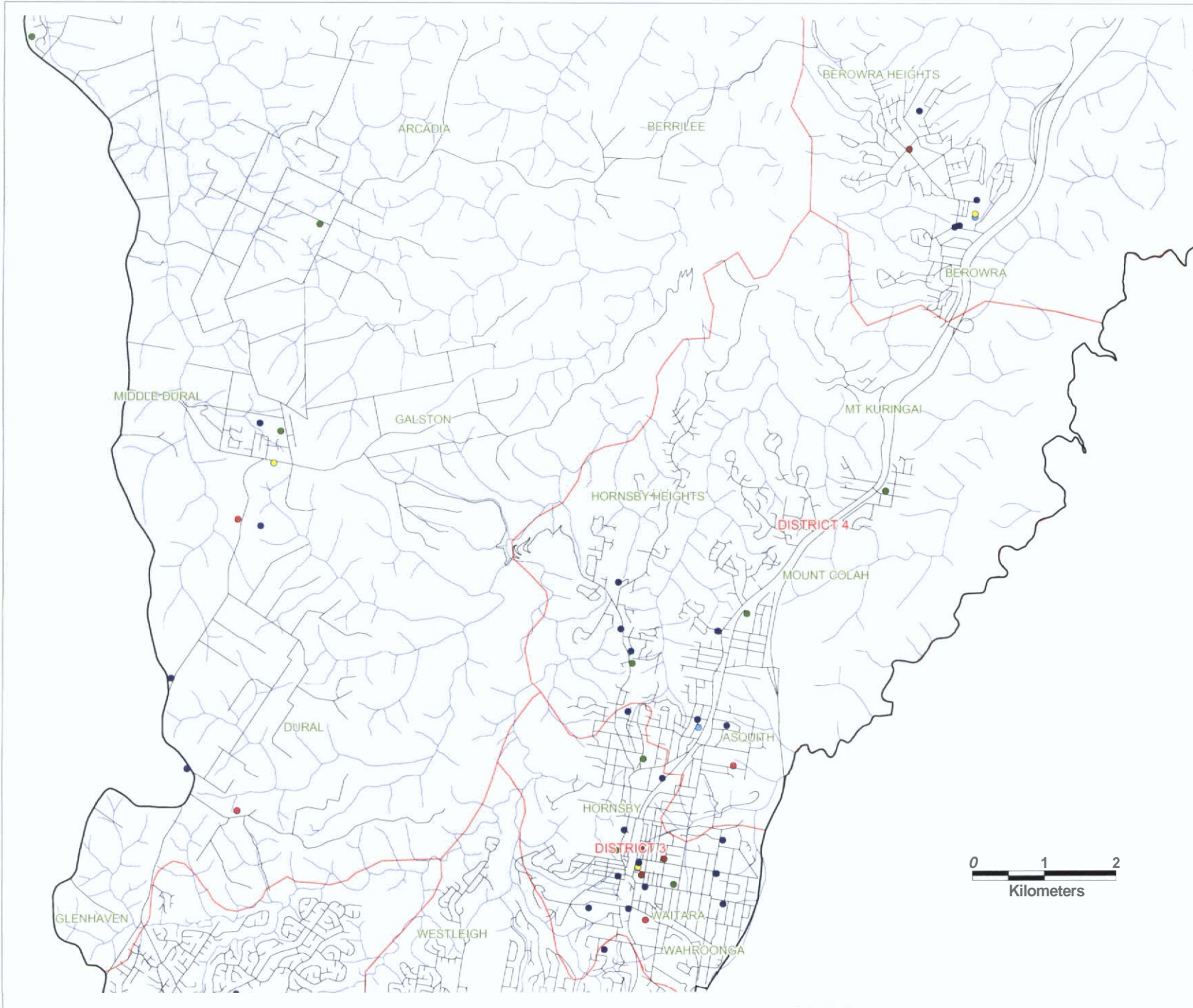
- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary

Leisure and Community Facilities Key

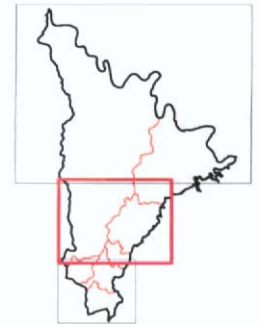
- Aquatic Centre
- Community centre
- Hall/meeting place
- Indoor Sports Centre
- Library
- Seniors' centre
- Youth centre



**FIGURE 8
LEISURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES
(CENTRAL DISTRICTS)**



KEY MAP



LEGEND

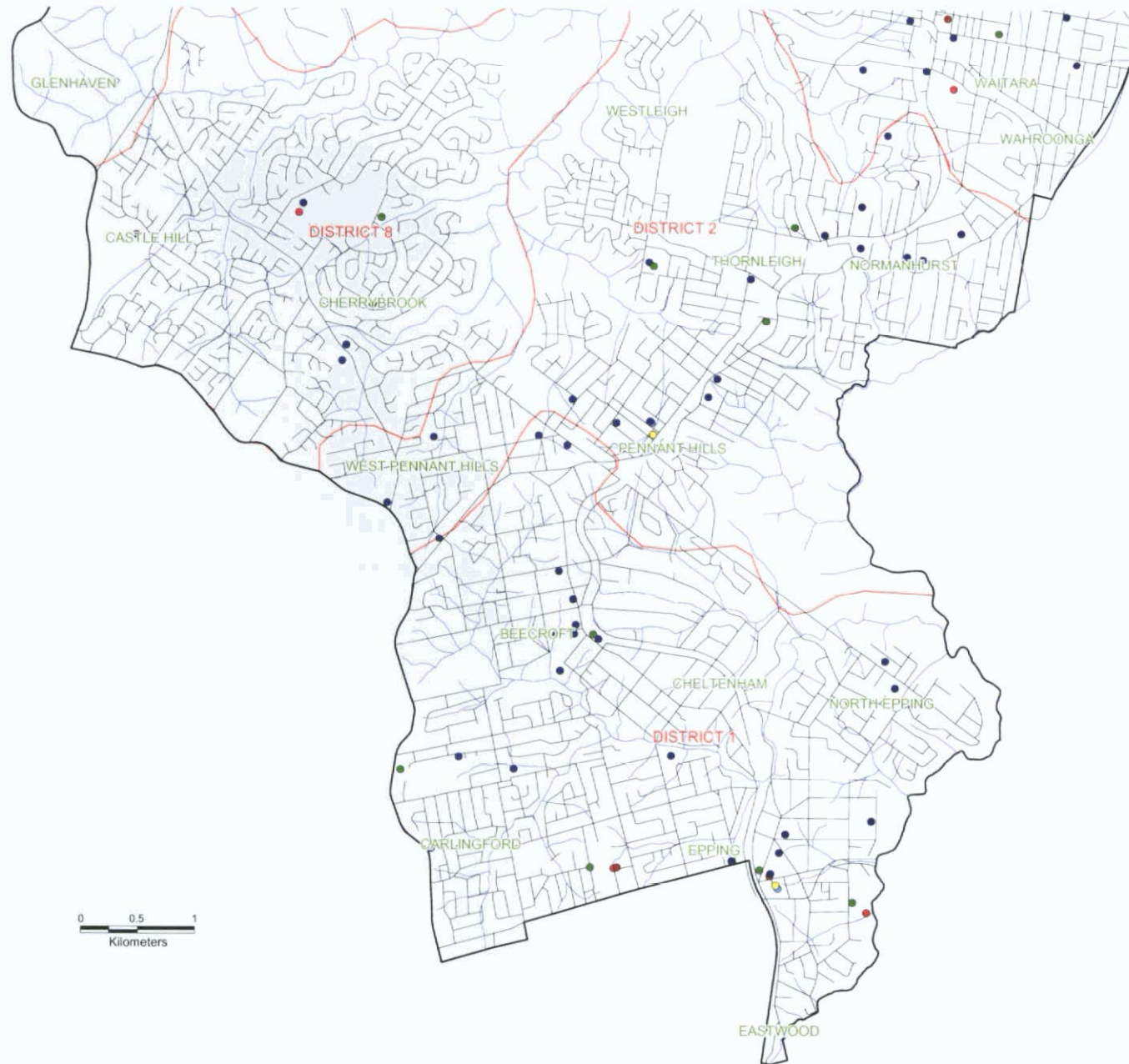
- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary

Leisure and Community Facilities Key

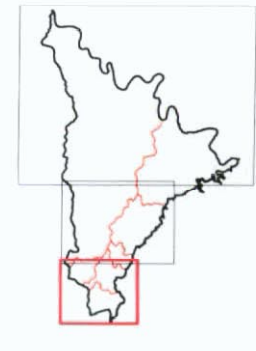
- Aquatic Centre
- Community centre
- Hall/meeting place
- Indoor Sports Centre
- Library
- Seniors' centre
- Youth centre



FIGURE 9
LEISURE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES
(SOUTHERN DISTRICTS)



KEY MAP



LEGEND

- Roads
- Creeks
- Planning District Boundary
- LGA Boundary

Leisure and Community Facilities Key

- Aquatic Centre
- Community centre
- Hall/meeting place
- Indoor Sports Centre
- Library
- Seniors' centre
- Youth centre

