

A

**PROJECT
PURPOSE &
METHODOLOGY**

THE STRATEGY

The Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy (OSS) will guide the provision, protection, planning, design and management of open space in the municipality.

The Future Directions Paper, prepared in May 2017, contained an analysis of the existing supply and demand to informed preparation of this open space strategy. The project collated information from several projects undertaken by Council from 2014-present, to confirm the vision, principles and actions for this Strategy, as well as the proposed capital works and key projects (to be confirmed in the next version of this document).

WHY DO WE NEED AN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY?

The Open Space Strategy (OSS) is Council's key strategic document guiding the provision, protection, planning, design and management of open space in Hobsons Bay.

Hobsons Bay City Council last developed an Open Space Strategic Plan in 2005. Over the past decade the community has grown, demographics and recreation trends have changed and climate change impacts are better understood.

Over the past two years, Council has undertaken a range of investigations and research to ensure that the new strategy reflects current open space challenges, strategic directions and the needs of the Hobsons Bay community.

BACKGROUND

In December 2015, Council prepared an *Open Space Strategy Discussion Paper* about existing open space provision in Hobsons Bay and the need to prepare for the future of existing and new spaces across the municipality.

The *Discussion Paper* reported on findings from a detailed public consultation period that was conducted over 18 months in 2014-15. The discussion paper outlined a draft organisational vision, goals and service standards for Hobsons Bay and proposes municipal-wide actions, and precinct-focussed actions responding to local conditions. This project has built on that work to deliver the draft OSS.

THIS PROJECT

Planisphere has been engaged by Council to finalise the Open Space Strategy, in partnership with InsideEdge and Urban Enterprise. The project has been conducted over the following stages:

1. Baseline analysis to review existing work and undertake an audit of existing Council-owned open spaces within the municipality.
2. Future Directions Paper
3. Draft Open Space Strategy (this document)
4. Final Open Space Strategy.

While this work was underway, InsideEdge conducted an audit of all existing active open spaces (e.g. sports facilities, ovals and stadiums) to understand the sports needs for Hobsons Bay.

At the same time, Urban Enterprise reviewed the existing development contributions framework, to help Council plan a way to manage and fund existing or new open spaces into the future, using planning policy mechanisms. A draft open space contributions framework will be presented in the next stage of this document.

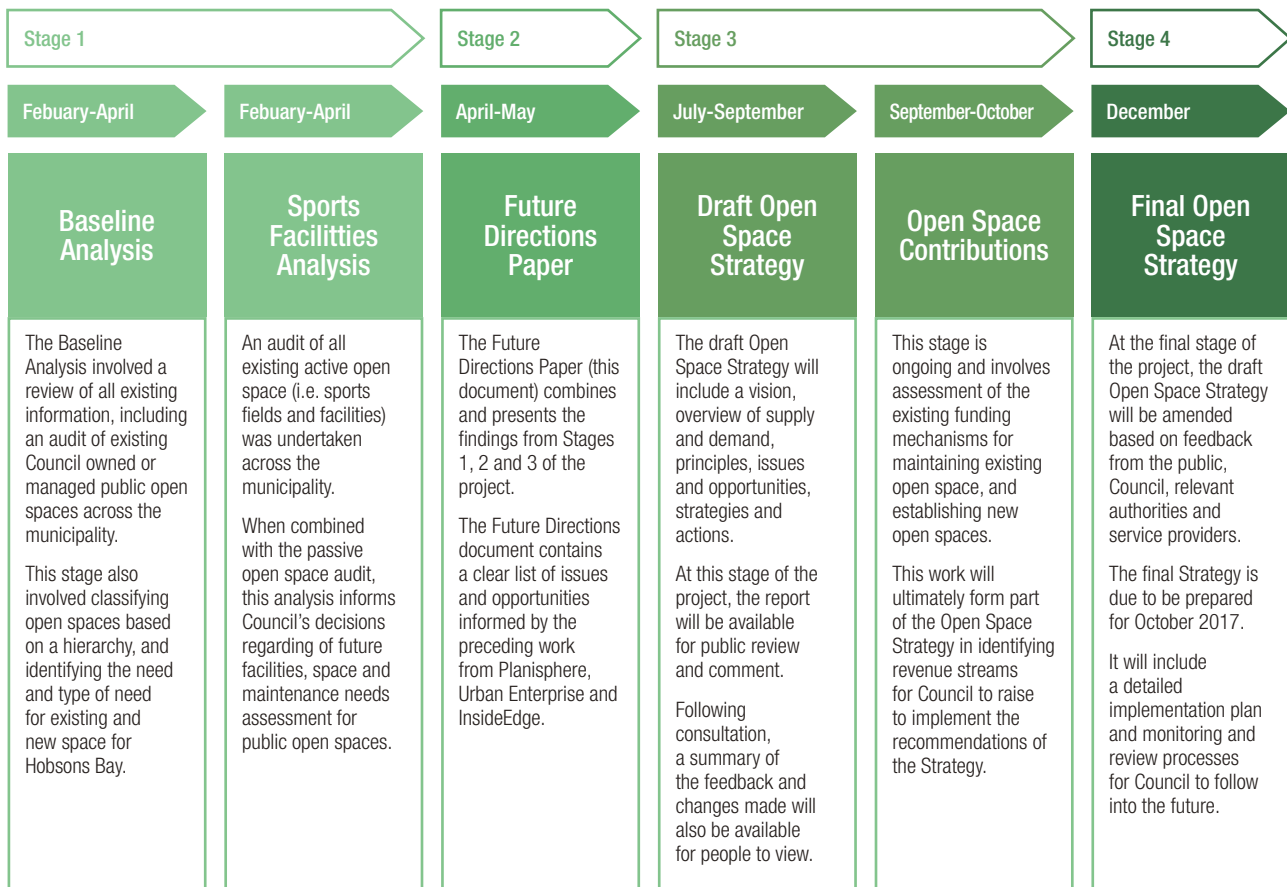
The Open Space Strategy:

- Determines how much open space is needed and where it should be located,
- Determines the level and standard of development and maintenance required to make spaces attractive and accessible,

- Guides the successful planning and management of spaces,
- Guides the protection and appreciation of open space values,
- Recognises the environmental function and potential of open spaces, and
- Guides the responsible and equitable investment of Council funds in open space.

Importantly, the Open Space Strategy provides the strategic justification for open space contributions to ensure the network meets the needs of the future population.

Figure 1. Project Methodology





B

**COMMUNITY
PROFILE**

COMMUNITY PROFILE

HOBSONS BAY TODAY

Council's background research for the HBOSS Discussion Paper (2015) used population projections and a demographic profile based on 2011 Census data. This section updates the community profile for Hobsons Bay based on data prepared by Population .id forecasts. Population .id uses Census and other State and local government data to better understand demographic information relevant to an area. However, it is noted that the updated projections continue to be based on data collected in 2011.

In June 2017, it is anticipated that updated data from the 2016 Census will be released, at which point the OSS to be revised to reflect the most recent data trends. Where possible, additional information collected for the 2030 Community Vision Plan (February 2017) has also been added to this discussion, however many figures are also based on 2011 data.

How many people are there?

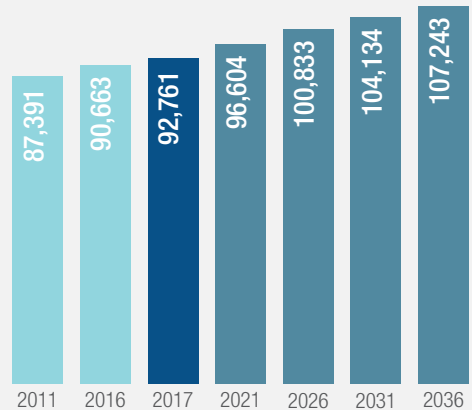
According to the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision Plan (February 2017), the current population is estimated at 92,761. If current trends continue, by 2030 the municipality will grow to 103,531 people; an additional 10,770 people.

Altona North, Spotswood and South Kingsville are expected to experience the largest proportion of population growth across the municipality. Currently, Altona Meadows has the highest share of population (22%), while Brooklyn has the lowest (3%).

In addition to migration (e.g. people moving into the municipality) and births, population increases can also be affected by the release of new land for development (i.e. strategic redevelopment sites). This, coupled with an existing trend towards population growth in

the municipality will mean greater demand for high quality open spaces now and into the future.

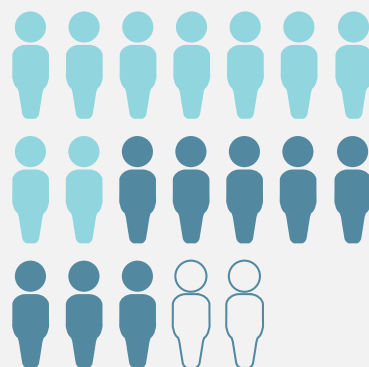
Figure 2. Estimated Population Growth (2011 Census)



LEGEND

- Current population estimate
- Past population
- Future population projection

Figure 3. Population Profile (x5,000)



LEGEND

- Female (50.4%)
- Male (49.6%)
- Future Population (+10,000 approximate)

How old are people in Hobsons Bay?

The Hobsons Bay community is made up of a larger proportion of middle age and senior age ranges than Metropolitan Melbourne more broadly. The region has a smaller proportion of young workers and students than the Greater Melbourne average.

Notably, the largest changes in age structure from 2011-2016 occurred in the 50+ age ranges. This increase consisted of older workers and pre-retirees along with empty nesters and retirees.

Into the future, Hobsons Bay residents will place a different demand on services and facilities than currently occurs. For example, 1,700 additional people were aged 50 to 59 in 2011 when compared to 2006, and 1,150 fewer people were aged between 15-17. This will have implications for the design of open spaces and the public realm more broadly across the municipality, as well as placing a different demand on services and facilities.

As the community ages, Hobsons Bay will need to ensure its open spaces are safe and accessible to cater for these changes.

Figure 5. Age Structure (%)

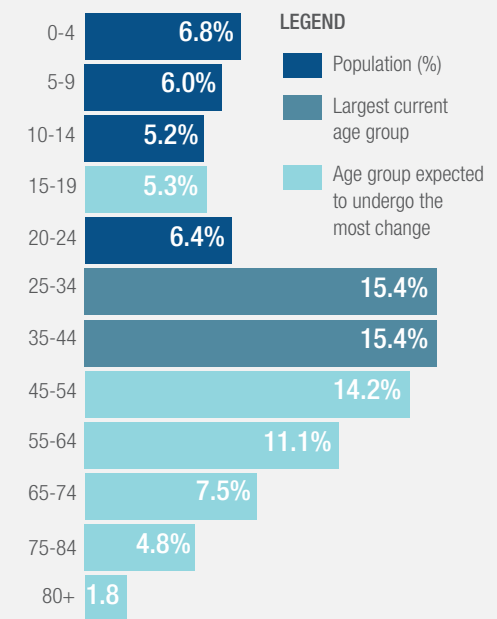
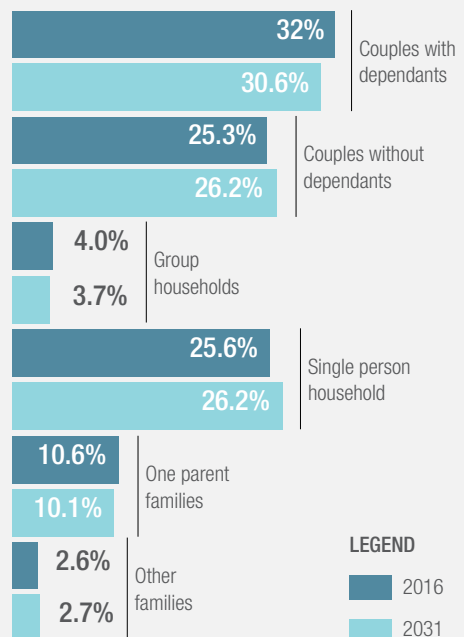


Figure 4. Household Types (%)



How do people live?

The most common household types within Hobsons Bay are couples with dependents (#1), single occupant households (#2) and couple households (#3).

It is forecast that from 2016-2031, the fastest growing household type will be the 'single occupant'.

By 2031, the predominant household type will continue to be couples with dependents, suggesting that open spaces will need to continue to meet the needs of families, despite an ageing population and fewer young people. However, as the single person household type increases, open spaces will also need to provide flexible recreation opportunities for a variety of people's needs.

Council's current projections suggest that an additional 5,561 houses will be needed to cater for an additional 13,471 people by 2031 (Community 2030 Plan). If the single person household continues to grow as projected and smaller or more medium-density houses are built to cater for this trend, a greater demand for public open spaces may emerge.

Where were people born?

The majority (64.4%) of people living in Hobsons Bay were born in Australia, while 46.3% of residents have parents who were both born overseas. This diversity in people's backgrounds forms the basis of a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community.

Public open spaces in Hobsons Bay must be designed to ensure that they are accessible to people from CALD backgrounds, to provide safe and welcoming spaces for all residents and visitors.

What do people earn?

Hobsons Bay has a median weekly income of \$595, slightly higher than the median for both Victoria and Australia. Family incomes are significantly higher at \$2,292 than both the Victorian and Australian averages.

However, it is important to highlight that socio-economic situations vary across the municipality, with some areas being more vulnerable than others. It is important that all areas benefit from the same level of access to a variety of well-designed public open spaces.

Figure 6. Country of Birth (%)

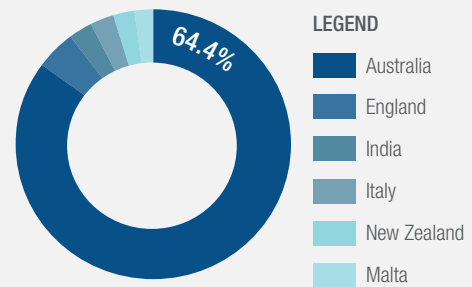
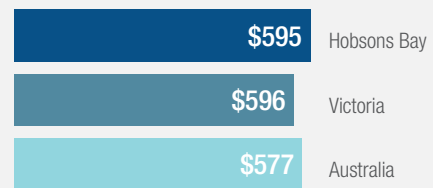


Figure 7. Median Weekly Income



What do people do?

Hobsons Bay has a larger percentage of residents who work full time (61.75%) than the Victorian (59.2%) and Australian (59.7%) averages.

The unemployment rate for Hobsons Bay (5.4%) is in line with the State average, but just below the national average of 5.6%.

The following is a breakdown of the type of work people do in Hobsons Bay (five most common occupations):

- Professionals (22.8%)
- Clerical and administrative workers (15.9%)
- Technicians and trades workers (13.5%)
- Managers (12.4%)
- Labourers (8.8%)

Figure 8. Journey to Work

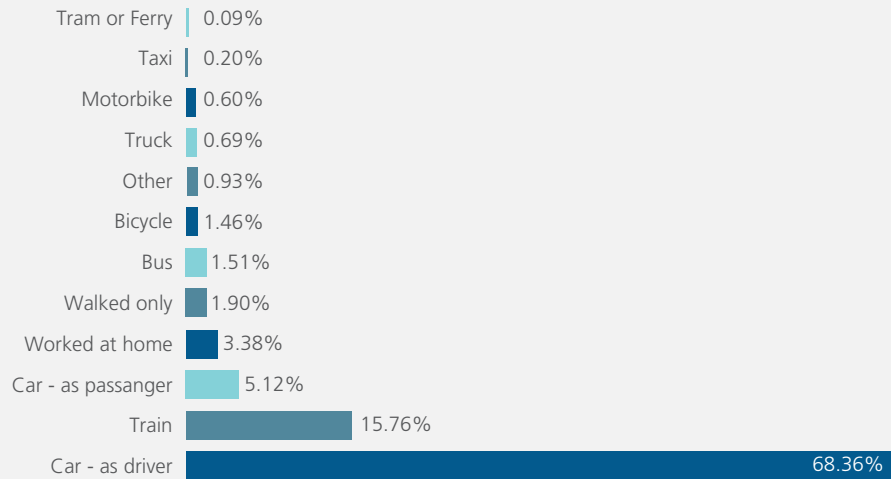
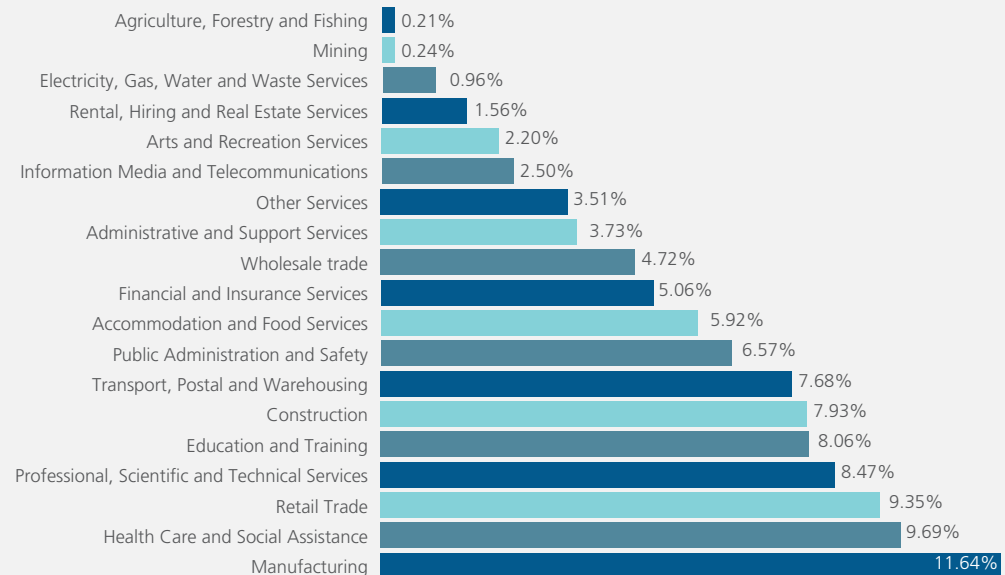


Figure 9. Type of Work (By Sector)





C

**POLICY
FRAMEWORK**

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

STRATEGIC AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Hobsons Bay's Local Planning Policy provisions (LPP) set out the local and regional strategic policy context for Hobsons Bay. The policy comprises a Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and specific local planning policies. The current MSS contains an extensive statement about open space and environmental values, and also notes the need to review the 2005 Open Space Plan. The open space and environment sections of the MSS will be updated once the final Open Space Strategy is adopted by the Council.

Development of an Open Space Strategy is also a key action in the delivery of Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan (2017-2030), which sets out Council's statutory obligations to 'protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing' under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. It is also part of the delivery of State policy at Clause 11 of the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme, which requires councils to plan for the existing and future open space needs of the community.

The Open Space Strategy has strong links to many other Council policies and strategies relating to public art, economic development, play, sport and recreation, ageing well, access and inclusion, youth and climate change adaptation (see **Figure 34** on the following page). Those most relevant to the current project are outlined over the following pages.

Planning Practice Note 70: Open Space Strategies (PPN70)

This is a practice note provided by the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure to provide guidance to councils on preparing an Open Space Strategy (OSS). It covers the reasons for preparing an OSS and the possible inputs and outputs of the process.

Plan Melbourne (2017)

An updated Plan Melbourne was released in February 2017. It is the State government's key metropolitan planning strategy to guide the city's growth towards 2050.

The plan has an aim to achieve 20-minute neighbourhoods with good access to open space within walking distance and support for protection of native vegetation and water sensitive cities. For new development, Plan Melbourne highlights the need to achieve value uplift from rezonings and new residential developments (Policy 2.3.4), where:

Urban renewal precincts and sites offer significant opportunities to deliver tangible broader public benefit through their rezoning for social or affordable housing, as well as local assets such as open space and community facilities.

While Hobsons Bay does not have any specifically identified 'growth areas', it does have strategic redevelopment sites where such value uplift could be captured. Part of this project is to also identify ways that Council can harness such uplift potential to capture space or financial contributions from new development for its public open spaces.

Plan Melbourne also highlights the need to protect and enhance metropolitan water's edge parklands, such as those open spaces around Port Phillip Bay (Policy 4.1.4); some of which are a key open space asset for Hobsons Bay.

Victorian Coastal Strategy (2014)

The Victorian Coastal Strategy was developed under the Coastal Management Act 1995. It is a key strategic document relevant to the management of the foreshore and development of any facilities. A focus of the strategy is improving access and managing climate change impacts.

Healthy Waterways Strategy (2013)

The Healthy Waterways Strategy articulates Melbourne Water's role in managing rural and urban runoff. Together with the Stormwater Strategy (Melbourne Water) this plan focuses on integrated water cycle management to achieve multiple outcomes for the community including healthy waterways and bays, improved wellbeing and amenity, alternative water supply and public health benefits.

Metropolitan Open Space Strategy (Currently under development)

This document is currently being prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). The aim of the strategy is to:

Achieve an integrated and accessible open space network that facilitates high quality and affordable communities, maximises the community benefit of all available public land and underpins and strengthens Melbourne's liveability, resilience and biodiversity.

The Metropolitan Open Space Strategy will:

- Identify opportunities for new open space and new connections.
- Clarify government roles and responsibilities.
- Set out principles for good network design.
- Identify sustainable and appropriate funding arrangements for open space.

To achieve the aim and objectives outlined above, the strategy will contain six key principles:

- **Equitable Distribution:** Ensuring open spaces are within a safe 5 minute walk of 95% of residents.

- **Access and Connectivity:** Ensuring open spaces are well connected, safe and co-located with community infrastructure where practical.
- **Quality:** Ensuring that open spaces are designed to optimise capacity and resilience, along with enhancing community appreciation.
- **Quantity:** Providing enough open space to cater to a diverse range of community uses.
- **Diversity:** Delivering a variety of open space types that provide for a range of uses, and offer differing levels of amenity.
- **Sustainability:** Creating a network of open space that supports biodiversity and is resource efficient.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

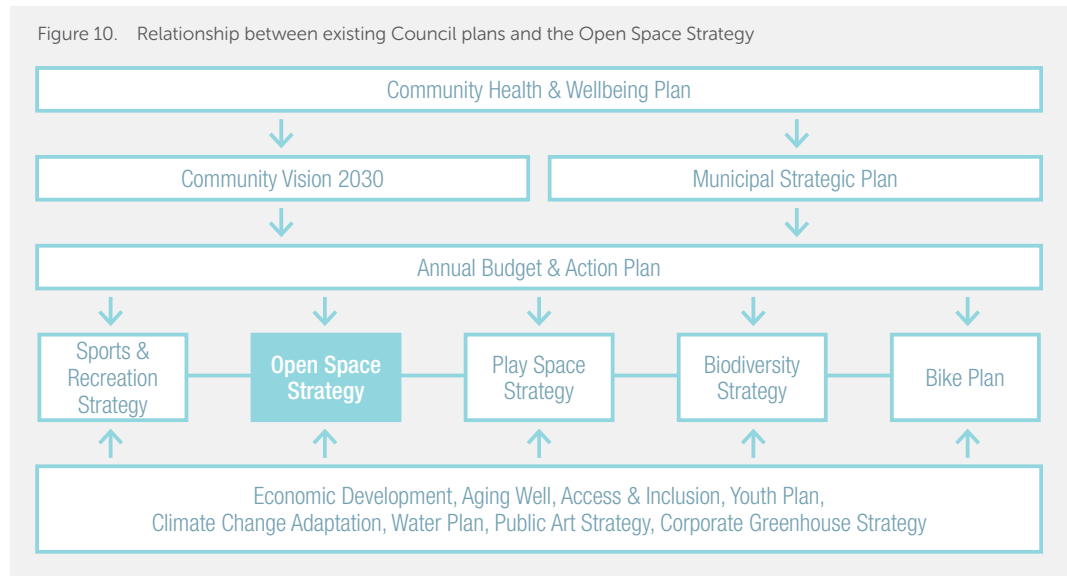
The following Victorian government Acts will also affect the open space strategy in the long-term, by influencing how policies and decisions are made regarding subdivision, expenditure and implementation of planning policies.

- Planning and Environment Act (1987)
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988)
- Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994)
- Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006)
- Subdivision Act (1988)
- Local Government Act (1989)

More detail on the strategic context of the Open Space Strategy can be found at Appendix 1 Background Research and Discussion Paper (2013).

COUNCIL STRATEGIES

As outlined on the previous page, there are a number of Council strategies that have direct implications for the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy. A summary is outlined below.



Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision (2017)

This plan contains a long term community vision for the municipality, along with six priorities for achieving that vision. They are:

- Smarter urban planning;
- Community wellbeing and interconnection;
- Growth through innovation;
- Expansion and enrichment of the natural and urban environment;
- Sustainable practices; and
- An accessible and connected community.

The vision notes the importance of public open spaces when it comes to creating safe and vibrant spaces for shared community activities. Community satisfaction with provision and maintenance of open space is identified as a key indicator of the success of Council meeting its goals.

The plan places a strong focus on proactive enrichment, expansion and conservation of the natural and urban environment. This includes diversifying flora and fauna in open spaces and providing more shared bike/walkways between natural areas. It also emphasises the importance of linking bike paths with community and transport hubs. The vision notes a direct connection between walking paths and recreation opportunities to preventing many health issues currently experienced by Hobsons Bay Residents.

Climate change is identified as a potential threat to unique flora and fauna of Hobsons Bay.

Draft Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy, 2017-2022 (February 2017)

In 2014, Council prepared a discussion paper for the Biodiversity Strategy. Through the draft Strategy (February 2017), Council has committed to the following actions over the next five years:

- Strengthen land use planning practices to better protect connectivity and biolinks as well as other biodiversity values within the planning scheme.
- Utilise mapping and monitoring tools to enhance Council's capacity to effectively deliver biodiversity management.
- Strengthen partnerships with neighbouring land managers to better coordinate weed and pest animal management activities.
- Strengthen the connection between biodiversity management and open space planning, through the Open Space Strategy, to preserve both biodiversity and recreational values and manage conflicting uses.
- Review Council's conservation engagement events to ensure maximum value for the natural environment and local community.
- Engage with traditional owners and incorporate the actions identified in the draft Reconciliation Action Plan into conservation activities.

Consultation with the community, undertaken as part of the development of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision, Council Plan 2013-17, draft Open Space Strategy and in preparation for the Biodiversity Strategy, has shown that Hobsons Bay's coastline, waterways and natural environment are important to the community and should be conserved and protected for current and future generations.

The draft strategy directly references the current and previous Open Space Strategy work, and highlights that the two strategies will work together to achieve common goals.

Hobsons Bay Sports & Recreation Strategy (2014)

The Sports and Recreation Strategy (2014) guides the planning, development and delivery of sport and recreation infrastructure, services and programs for the Hobsons Bay community.

Community consultation revealed that maintenance and improvement of existing open space should be a key focus of the sports and recreation strategy. The strategy also identified that the quality of open spaces used for sports and recreation a key factor in encouraging participation in sports and recreation across the municipality.

The strategy highlights that the community of Hobsons Bay highly value open spaces that are considered to be key sports and recreation destinations such as the Altona Coastal Park, Cherry Lake Reserve and Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

According to the discussion paper (2014), 14% of Council's 10-year capital works program (2014-2019) is allocated to play spaces, open spaces and foreshore works (\$2,356,343).

Importantly for the current project, the strategy notes that the significant ageing community will place increased demand on passive recreation areas, meaning that improvements to park pathways, furniture and shelter will be required.

It also highlights the importance of connecting cycling and walking trails, particularly along Kororoit and Laverton Creeks. The strategy identifies the installation of outdoor gym equipment along trails or in parks as a way to increase the diversity of uses within them.

The Sports and Recreation Strategy contains a number of detailed appendices which look at the state of play for certain sports, feasibility for new facilities, and the status of masterplanning for some reserves.

Hobsons Bay Strategic Bicycle Plan 2013-2017 (2013)

The Hobsons Bay Strategic Bicycle Plan is an operational plan that was established to guide future capital and operational works programs and deliver on- and off-road bicycle infrastructure.

The plan outlines projects of high priority including completion of the Bay Coastal Trail, Laverton Creek Trail and Skeleton Creek Trail. It notes that inadequate directional and user etiquette signage on shared trails is a key issue in linear open spaces. It also highlights that there is has been an increase in the number of cyclists using the Hobsons Bay bicycle network, which has led to come conflicts between cyclists and other open space users in shared spaces.

The plan seeks to build on the existing bicycle path and trail assets to develop a highly connected bicycle network. It notes that the busiest cycling routes/sites in 2012 were the Bay Trail in two sections: adjacent to Douglas Parade in Spotswood, and adjacent to The Strand/Ferguson Street in Williamstown.

The plan notes that there is some variation in open space quality for cycling routes:

- Some asphalt sections of the Hobsons Bay Coastal trail are in poor condition;
- Skeleton Creek requires resurfacing around the Lan Ave footbridge;
- Laverton Creek Trail requires resurfacing and a new trail connection; and
- Kororoit Creek trail yet to be constructed to an appropriate standard.

Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2013-2023 (2013)

Council's current Play Space Strategy (2013) assessed all play spaces in Hobsons Bay, including playgrounds, skate and BMX facilities, fitness equipment and other informal sporting facilities such as multi-sport courts. Its scope was limited to Council-owned or managed land.

The Play Space Vision for Hobsons Bay is:

Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to providing a diverse range of accessible, attractive, challenging and well maintained play spaces offering experiences to residents and visitors of all ages and abilities within a sustainable natural setting.

The plan is underpinned by the values of accessibility, quality, diversity, equity, safety and sustainability. It sets out design and development guidelines for spaces based on a classification of "local" or "destination" play space and includes a budget estimate for expenditure on spaces based on their classification.

A detailed implementation plan is included in the report, and the document also defines the play features, planning/landscape, access arrangements, facilities and amenities that should be provided based on whether a space is planned to be "local" or "destination".

The Play Space Strategy will need to be revised following the completion of the Open Space Strategy to ensure consistency across documents.

STRATEGIES AND REPORTS

Other Strategies

A range of other documents relevant to the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy have been reviewed and are summarised in the table below:

DOCUMENT	CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS
Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision (2017)	Provides a long term community vision for the municipality, along with 6 priorities for achieving that vision. These include; smarter urban planning, community wellbeing and interconnection, growth through innovation, expansion and enrichment of the natural and urban environment, sustainable practices and an accessible and connected community.	<p>Notes the importance of public open spaces when it comes to creating safe and vibrant spaces for shared community activities.</p> <p>Community satisfaction with provision and maintenance of open space a key indicator of the success of Priority 1 (smarter urban planning) & 4 (expansion and enrichment of the natural and urban environment).</p> <p>Strong focus on proactive enrichment, expansion and conservation of the natural and urban environment in priority 4. This includes diversifying flora and fauna in open spaces and providing more shared bike/walkways between natural areas.</p> <p>Priority 6 (accessible and connected community) outlines the importance of linking bike paths with community and transport hubs.</p> <p>Notes that climate change poses a threat to unique flora and fauna of Hobsons Bay</p> <p>Outlines a direct connection between walking paths and recreation opportunities to preventing many health issues currently experienced by Hobsons Bay Residents.</p>
Foreshore Infrastructure Discussion Paper (2016)	<p>This paper defines the existing foreshore infrastructure and property governance arrangements as understood by Council.</p> <p>The purpose of this paper was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define current foreshore issues Establish a prioritised capital works program to address immediate risks and Collate property management arrangements for the purposes of further advocacy to state government and the respective agencies. 	<p>Bates reserve foreshore at risk of erosion, protective works will be required.</p> <p>Notes that sections of the Altona Coastal Park are of national significance due to the diversity of birdlife, regional significance due to the salt marsh and mangrove vegetation.</p> <p>Altona Boat Ramp of regional significance, and currently over capacity during peak season.</p> <p>Highlights a key precinct issue in that the management responsibilities of many open spaces are not fully known.</p> <p>Contains detailed list of required infrastructure works for foreshore open spaces.</p>
Open Space Strategy 2016-2036 (2016) Volume 1: Discussion Paper and Community Open Space Survey Outcomes	<p>This documents includes two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Strategy Discussion Paper which defines the role of or vision of open space in Hobsons Bay, goals and precinct actions. Community open space survey outcomes which details outcomes from each of the consultation and research methods. 	<p>Notes that an open space strategy is integral in meeting the needs of the future population.</p> <p>Outlines the need to diversify the uses of many existing open spaces.</p> <p>Emphasises removing barriers to encourage more usage of open space.</p> <p>Establishes a hierarchy of different open space catchments.</p> <p>Notes that there are significant gaps in current open space distribution.</p> <p>Identifies opportunities for open space to contribute to improving biodiversity.</p>

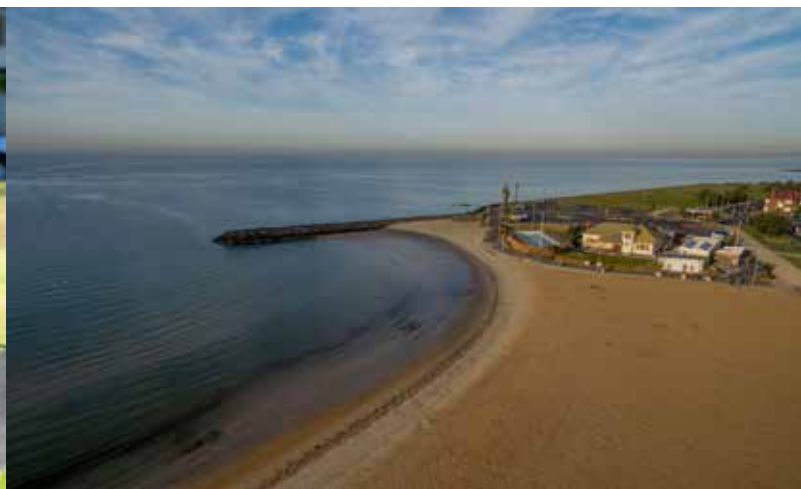
DOCUMENT	CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS
Western Metropolitan Region Football Facilities Strategy (2016)	Outline a process for advocating the outcomes and recommendations of the Western Metropolitan Region Football Facilities Strategy to key stakeholders to assist in the delivery of the facility recommendations.	<p>Establishes a hierarchy of classifications for AFL facilities.</p> <p>Increase in participation will put pressure on existing facilities.</p> <p>State level facilities such as Chirside Park and Whitten Oval require improvements to amenities to bring them in line with state level standards.</p> <p>W.L.J. Crofts Reserve is currently considered to be below the regional standard.</p> <p>Findings indicate that the region has the lowest provision of facilities per head of population in the metropolitan area.</p> <p>Key objective in the need to plan for and develop new facilities in key growth areas to cater for rising demand.</p> <p>Outlines the positive social, health, community and economic outcomes that investment into football clubs can achieve.</p>
Outdoor Sports Facilities – Levels of Service Guiding Principles Discussion Paper (2016)	Guide Council's future investment in the capital development of sporting reserves, this discussion paper proposed Council establish defined levels of service or standards.	<p>Identifies an escalation of investment into sporting reserves over the next 10 years.</p> <p>Defines 'core' and 'non-core' infrastructure for sporting reserves.</p> <p>Notes that many sports clubs significantly contribute to the costs of maintaining the facilities.</p> <p>Outlines the guiding principles that have been established as a framework to guide the design of the new JT Gray Reserve pavilion. These guidelines support the development of an integrated facility that is capable of catering to multiple different uses.</p>
Precinct 15 – An analysis of active sports ground use and capacity (2016)	Provides current usage data, future demand and capacity of all sportsgrounds in Hobsons Bay within a 10 minute drive of Precinct 15, providing the justification for the recommended development of two sports grounds to service Precinct 15.	<p>Notes that a number of sports reserves within Hobsons Bay are not fit for purpose for different levels of sports, e.g. under 11 – 13 cricket, senior cricket. This results in limited capacity to increase participation within certain age groups/skill levels.</p> <p>Outlines the projected population growth for all suburbs within Hobsons Bay. Notes that there will be insufficient capacity to cater for demand in sports such as football unless significant investment is made into the improvement of the sports reserves.</p> <p>Also notes the importance of sports reserves being able to cater to multiple user types.</p>
Capital Works and Asset Management Progress Report (2015)	This Council Briefing Report provided an update on Council's Asset Management and planning status to inform the development of the 2016/2017 capital works program.	<p>Notes that sections of the Skeleton Creek trail are located within the 1:10 year flood level.</p> <p>A number of public toilets within open spaces that need to be replaced or upgraded including Burgoyne Reserve, Ransom Reserve and Fearon Reserve. Funding issues are obstructing this.</p> <p>Capital works provision for sporting clubs is not keeping pace with either club expansion plans or the deterioration of assets.</p> <p>Playgrounds should be significantly renewed after 15 years.</p> <p>Open space development allocated an approximate \$800 000 annually.</p>
Reserve Master Plan Status Spreadsheets (2015)	The updated collated master plan status report for all sportsgrounds and other reserves identifies the actions as defined in the reserve master plans, completed and outstanding works.	Multiple open spaces throughout Hobsons bay are listed within these tables, along with their relevant master plans. From this it can be seen what kinds of improvements are scheduled to be constructed within the open spaces, and what improvements are yet to be started (as of 2015).

DOCUMENT	CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS
<p>Western Metropolitan Region Trails Strategic Plan Draft Report (2015)</p>	<p>A strategic project defining regional shared trails to service the Western Metropolitan Melbourne region, comprising the six local government areas, of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham. This plan provides the priority trail gaps for the region together with strategic direction to develop and establish a regional approach to trail branding and marketing.</p>	<p>Kororoit Creek Trail improvement listed at number 6 out of 10 top priorities, along with other trails throughout the western metropolitan area.</p> <p>Outlines the health benefits to communities that regional trails can have.</p> <p>Suggests that a well located and well connected trail can provide great opportunity for people to integrate healthy transport into their lives.</p> <p>Identifies factors that are likely to positively influence trail usage.</p> <p>Community identified issues with the trails that mostly concerned poor connections between trails, and poor directional signage.</p> <p>Details trail infrastructure standards and guidelines that are appropriate for regional level open space trail networks.</p> <p>Details the communications and marketing strategies for trail networks that could also be applicable to other types of open space. These strategies include a social media presence, a hard copy regional trails map, a hard copy brochure and smart phone applications.</p> <p>Notes that there is currently no agreement on classification of regional trails, or their definition or function as being key issues.</p> <p>Highlights another key issue in that existing open space networks are not comprehensively integrated.</p>
<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy (2014) Appendix 1 – Discussion Paper June 2014</p>	<p>The Sport and Recreation Strategy 2014 guides the planning, development and delivery of sport and recreation infrastructure, services and programs for the Hobsons Bay community supported by guiding principles.</p>	<p>Identifies that outdoor spaces including parks, the foreshore, sports fields and reserves are the primary settings for sports and recreation activities.</p> <p>Community consultation revealed that maintenance and improvement of existing open space should be a key focus of the sports and recreation strategy.</p> <p>Outlines that the community of Hobsons Bay highly value open spaces considered to be key sports and recreation destinations such as the Altona Coastal Park, Cherry Lake Reserve and Williamstown Botanic Gardens</p> <p>Physical geographical barriers such as highways and rail lines, individual mobility and public transport availability identified as factors that impact on participation in sports and recreational activities.</p> <p>Ageing facilities in open spaces not able to cater for a diversity of uses.</p> <p>Quality of open spaces used for sports and recreation a key factor in encouraging participation.</p> <p>14% of 10 year capital works program (2014-2019) allocated to play spaces, open spaces & foreshore (\$2,356,343)</p>
<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy (2014) Appendix 2 – State of Play of Tennis in Hobsons Bay June 2014 Appendix 3 – State of Play of Netball in Hobsons Bay June 2014</p>	<p>The Strategy is supported by a range of State of Play Reports which review the status of specific sporting codes and defines the sports future infrastructure and operational priorities. These SOP reports are referenced in Appendixes 2-3.</p>	<p>Flags the potential development of two additional tennis courts at Dennis Reserve to meet the needs of the WCTC.</p> <p>Bryan Martyn Oval and Railway Avenue Netball courts identified as key training areas for netball.</p> <p>Netball clubs expressing concern at the cost of hiring courts at venues such as the Altona Sports Centre</p>

DOCUMENT	CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS
<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy (2014)</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Hobsons Bay Parks and Reserves Master Plans June 2014</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Hobsons Bay Sport and Recreation Master Plans June 2014</p>	<p>The Status of Master Plans collates the formal master plans completed for major sporting precincts and reserves within Hobsons Bay defining works completed or outstanding as outlined in the respective master plans.</p>	<p>Multiple open spaces throughout Hobsons bay are listed within this table, along with their relevant master plans. From this it can be seen what kinds of improvements are scheduled to be constructed within the open spaces, and what improvements are yet to be funded (as of 2014).</p>
<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy (2014)</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Synthetic Sports Fields Feasibility Study 2013</p>	<p>The Synthetic Sports Surfaces Feasibility Study is to provide strategic direction for the future provision and management of synthetic sports surfaces in Hobsons Bay.</p>	<p>The effects of climate change including prolonged drought and recent heavy rainfalls have negatively impacted many natural turf playing fields.</p> <p>Mentions the development of a fully costed plan to renew and install floodlighting across council reserves and sports grounds that prioritise winter sports.</p>
<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy (2014)</p> <p>Appendix 7 – Preface to Sport and Recreation State of Play Report, 2013</p>	<p>This preface updates the information contained in the Sport and Recreation State of Play Report (SOPR) and should be read in conjunction with the SOPR.</p>	<p>Suggests that grouping the Council Area into smaller precincts will help to better understand the sport and recreation provision and demand.</p>
<p>Sport and Recreation Strategy (2014)</p> <p>Appendix 8 –Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013</p>	<p>The Sport and Recreation Strategy evidence document includes the findings from the consultation, identified gap analysis, precinct based recommendations and action plan.</p>	<p>Mentions Healthy Parks Healthy People, and that it emphasises the link between the health of people and the health of open spaces. Notably; Parks are integral to healthy people and a healthy environment, human health depends on healthy ecosystems, parks conserve healthy ecosystems, parks contribute to economic health and wellbeing, parks contribute to cohesive, vibrant and healthy societies.</p> <p>Mentions that children who do not have a park near to their home were less likely to walk or cycle in their local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Notes that the significant ageing community will place increased demand on passive recreation areas, meaning that improvements to park pathways, furniture and shelter will be required.</p> <p>Notes that the inter relationship between open space and sport and recreation cannot be overstated.</p> <p>Highlights the importance of connecting cycling and walking trails, particularly along Kororoit and Laverton Creeks.</p> <p>Identifies the installation of gym equipment along trails or in parks as a way to increase the diversity of use within them.</p> <p>Notes that most of the Kororoit Creek trail is set within the industrial area, meaning limited passive surveillance. This leads to the perception that the trail is a safety risk.</p>

DOCUMENT	CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS
<p>Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy Discussion Paper (2014)</p>	<p>Discusses key biodiversity assets and identifies the ongoing challenges for managing biodiversity within the urban context.</p>	<p>Notes that protecting wildlife habitats within conservation areas is not enough, and sustainable use and management of all land and water bodies will need to be ensured to protect the biodiversity of Hobsons Bay.</p> <p>Identifies a lack of clear enforceable guidelines for open space contributions from industrial estates to provide a buffer from residential areas.</p> <p>Highlights a number of bushfire prone areas within Hobsons bay that include Cherry Lake Reserve, Laverton Grassland and Skeleton Creek.</p> <p>Notes that the municipality's network of open space provides health benefits to both the community and to tourism.</p> <p>Discusses the importance of understanding which open space sites are of high conservation significance, and whether they would benefit from becoming restricted access sites.</p> <p>Notes that the open space strategy currently under development will need to provide a hierarchy of sites based on the values that they provide to the community.</p>
<p>Hobsons Bay Strategic Bicycle Plan 2013-2017 (2013)</p>	<p>The Hobsons Bay Strategic Bicycle Plan is an operational plan that was established to guide future capital and operational works programs that deliver on bicycle infrastructure both on and off-road.</p> <p>The plan seeks to further build on the existing bicycle network to develop a highly connective bicycle network.</p>	<p>Notes that inadequate directional and user etiquette signage on shared trails is a key issue.</p> <p>Also notes the increase of cyclists using the network as a key issue, due to conflicts between cyclists and other users.</p> <p>Outlines projects of high priority including: completing the Bay Coastal Trail, the Laverton Creek Trail and the Skeleton Creek Trail.</p> <p>Highlights issues with funding the development of missing bicycle connections, mostly due to the many stakeholders that would be involved.</p> <p>Notes that busiest cycling routes/sites in 2012 were: the Bay Trail adjacent to Douglas Parade Spotswood and the Bay Trail adjacent to The Strand/Ferguson Street Williamstown.</p> <p>Varying level of quality in open space cycling routes: Hobsons Bay Coastal trail features certain sections asphalt surfaces that are in poor condition, Skeleton Creek trail requiring surface replacement around the Lan Ave footbridge, Laverton Creek Trail requiring resurfacing and a new trail connection and the Kororoit Creek trail yet to be constructed to an appropriate standard.</p>

DOCUMENT	CONTEXT	IMPLICATIONS
<p>Hobsons Bay Open Space Plan (2005)</p> <p>This plan will be superseded by the Open Space Strategy in 2017.</p>	<p>Outlines the priority actions for open space in Hobsons Bay, along with a list of issues and an overarching vision.</p> <p>Proposes to provide one accessible, high quality park in each neighbourhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCormack Park (Laverton) • Newport Lakes Reserve (Newport West) • Homestead Run (Seabrook) • Cherry Lake (Altona Industrial) • McLean Reserve & Edwards Reserve (Spotwood/South Kingsville) • Community Centre Reserve (Altona Meadows) • Long Reserve (Williamstown North) • Paisley Park (Altona North) • Logan Reserve (Altona) • Brooklyn Reserve (Brooklyn) • Williamstown Beach & Hatt Reserve (Williamstown) • Armstrong Reserve (Newport East). 	<p>Actions include encouraging participation, providing a linked system of open space, encouraging native flora and fauna to flourish and incorporate environmentally sustainable design into parks.</p> <p>Outlines the health benefits of open space</p> <p>Discusses key open space network issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable amount of equitable, accessible and well distributed parks and open spaces within the municipality • Many parks lacking basic facilities including seating, paths and shelter • There is a need to provide recreation opportunities for a greater diversity of users and for growth in particular sports • Many people unaware of the number and diversity of parks in Hobsons Bay. • Vision for Hobsons Bay open space includes linking network of open space, recognition of habitats of conservation significance, high quality and accessible parks to enable participation and the protection of significant conservation areas.
<p>Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2013-2023 (2013)</p>	<p>Council's current Play Space Strategy (2013) assessed all play spaces in Hobsons Bay, including playgrounds, skate and BMX facilities, fitness equipment and other informal sporting facilities such as multi-sport courts. Its scope was limited to Council-owned or managed land.</p> <p>The Play Space Vision for Hobsons Bay is:</p> <p>Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to providing a diverse range of accessible, attractive, challenging and well maintained play spaces offering experiences to residents and visitors of all ages and abilities within a sustainable natural setting.</p> <p>The plan is underpinned by the values of accessibility, quality, diversity, equity, safety and sustainability. It sets out design and development guidelines for spaces based on a classification of "local" or "destination" play space and includes a budget estimate for expenditure on spaces based on their classification.</p> <p>The plan proposes five new play spaces, in Seabrook, Altona Meadows, Altona, and Altona North (x2).</p>	<p>A detailed implementation plan is included in the report, and the document also defines the play features, planning/landscape, access arrangements, facilities and amenities that should be provided based on whether a space is planned to be "local" or "destination". The definitions are:</p> <p>Local play space:</p> <p>Small in scale with simple play opportunities targeting a specific age group and their carers.</p> <p>Provide basic facilities that cater for short duration and more frequent visits.</p> <p>Primarily service a 500 metre catchment.</p> <p>Local residents will primarily walk or ride to the play space.</p> <p>A diversity of local play spaces should be planned for within each precinct.</p> <p>Budget Estimate \$50-70,000.</p> <p>Destination play space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger in scale with a diversity of play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities. • Provide facilities and amenities that cater for a large number of long duration visits. • Provide facilities and amenities to meet the needs of parents and carers. • Primarily service a 2 kilometre or precinct catchment. • Parents, carers and older children will use local transport, their car, walk or ride to the play space. <p>The budget allocation for these spaces will reflect their increased scope of provision and may well be developed in a staged manner over a period of years. Budget Estimate \$150,000 - \$500,000.</p>



HOBSONS BAY PLANNING SCHEME

The planning scheme manages land use and development planning in Hobsons Bay. It contains a number of State-wide policies, as well as locally tailored regulations designed to address specific issues within Hobsons Bay.

State Planning Policy Framework

Clause 11.03-1 (Activity Centre Network) sets out ways to create diverse and integrated networks of services and facilities, including providing public open spaces that meet the needs of the community. This should be achieved by:

- Planning for regional and local open space networks for both creation and conservation of natural environments
- Ensuring that open spaces are linked through walking and cycling trails, and incorporate links between other major parks and activity areas
- Ensuring that land use adjoining regional, national and conservation open spaces are complementary in terms of visual and environmental impacts.
- Improving the quality and distribution of open space
- Ensuring that open space is designed to accommodate people of all abilities, ages and cultures
- Provide new parkland in growth areas and in areas that have an under-supply of parkland.

For open space management and new development, the State policy also encourages:

- Management plans or explicit statements of management objectives for urban parks to be developed
- Provision of buildings and infrastructure that is consistent with the management objectives of the park.
- Public access to open space that is not prevented by development.

Local Planning Provisions

Within the local planning provisions for Hobsons Bay there are a number of objectives that reference public open space, how Council plans to manage with current spaces and provide new spaces into the future. Policy objectives for new developments include:

- Provide adequate open space and continue to develop a variety of open spaces to provide for a range of experiences and leisure opportunities that are accessible for all people
- Enhance the quality of diverse leisure opportunities available in the open space system throughout the municipality'
- Develop the Kororoit Creek corridor as a major focus for recreation and community activities.

The Open Space Strategy will add to this local policy by identifying where new open space and recreation/leisure opportunities should be located, and establishing a framework for their implementation.

According to its policy, Council must also:

- Ensure effective open space assessments are undertaken in the process of changing uses, assessing development proposals and the potential rationalisation of open space in the municipality
- Allocate and spend the open space funds collected under the subdivision act in accordance with the open space needs of future residents, opportunities to link existing open space and improving the usability and quality of open space
- Provide open space in areas identified as having a deficiency
- Develop a range of active and passive open space throughout the municipality based on needs
- Provide facilities to encourage greater usage by people of all age groups and abilities.

Zones and Overlays

There are a variety of planning zones and overlays in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme that are used to identify open space, manage land use within open space and to provide development mechanism for new and improved open space.

Open spaces are generally be zoned Public Parks and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), open spaces with a conservation focus are generally be zoned Public Conservation and Resources Zone (PCRZ). Land used for open space may also have a variety of other zoning provisions applied, including but not limited to: the Special Use Zone (SUZ), Public Use Zone (PUZ) and Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ).

A number of overlays are applied to open spaces in Hobsons Bay to identify and manage the environmental and biodiversity significance; social and cultural heritage; and drainage functions of open spaces, these include the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO), Heritage Overlay (HO), Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and Special Building Overlay (SBO).

The Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO) and Development Plan Overlay (DPO) seeks to manage the impacts of new development in Hobsons Bay.

Particular Provisions

Under Clause 52.01 contributions towards open space must be made by a person who proposes to subdivide land. As part of this policy, two-lot subdivisions are exempt from public open space contribution if council considers further subdivision to be unlikely.

As highlighted earlier in this document, a specific public open space contribution can be sought under Clause 52.01 when new subdivisions are proposed, based on local needs. At present, as Council has not set a specific rate, the State-wide default applies and the open space contribution for new subdivision is calculated on a case-by-case basis.

Figure 11. Existing Hobsons Bay Zones

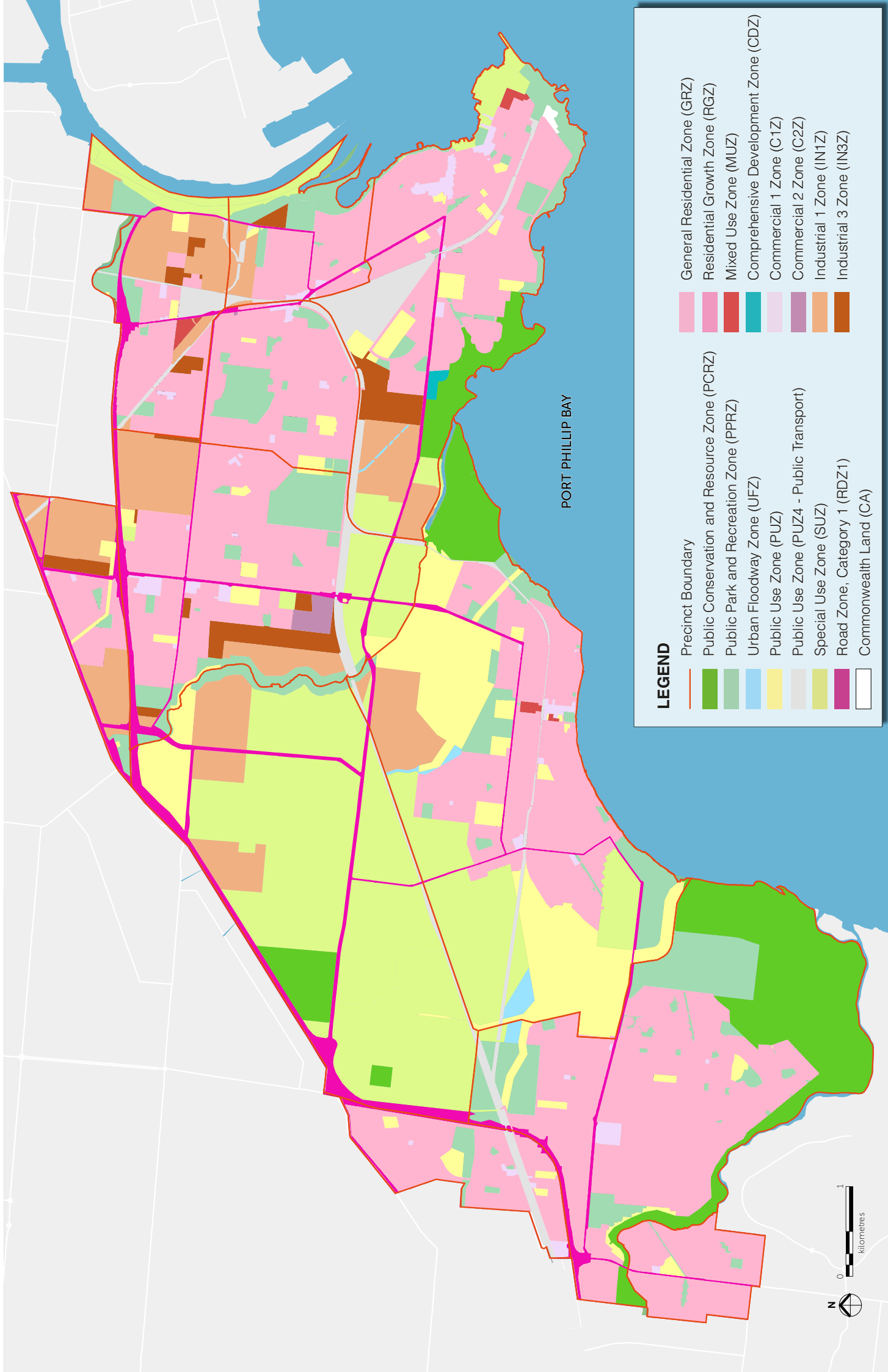


Figure 12. Existing Hobsons Bay Overlays

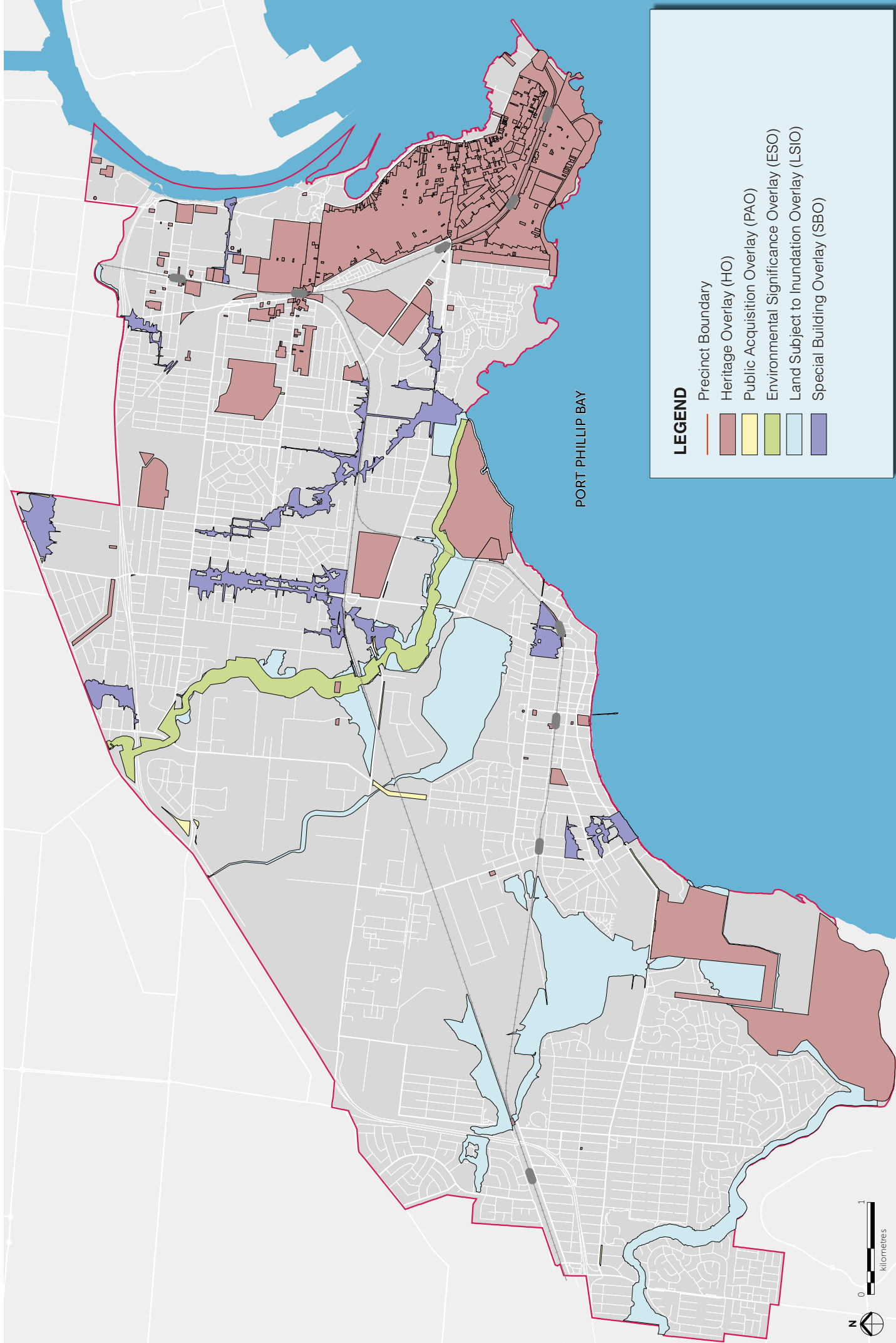
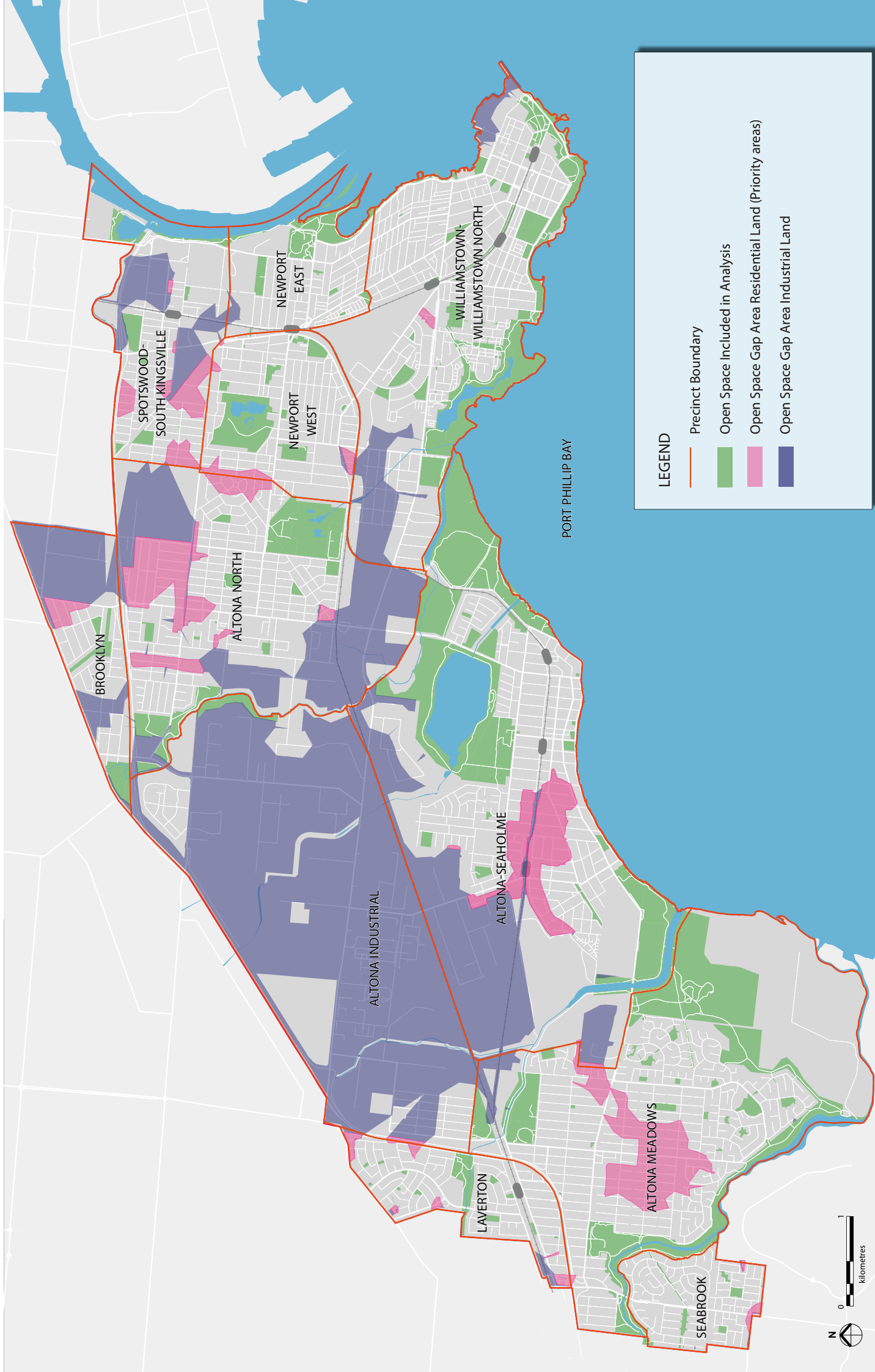


Figure 13. 400m Walkability Map



Figure 14. Gaps in the open space network





D

**CONSULTATION
SUMMARY**

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

COMMUNITY SURVEY

In 2014, Council surveyed its residents and workforce, seeking input to preparation of the OSS. The purpose of the survey was to understand:

- What people value about open spaces in Hobsons Bay;
- Existing patterns of use; and
- Key issues that the community would like addressed in open space.

In total, 966 residents and workers were surveyed, from a variety of age groups (see **Figure 37**).

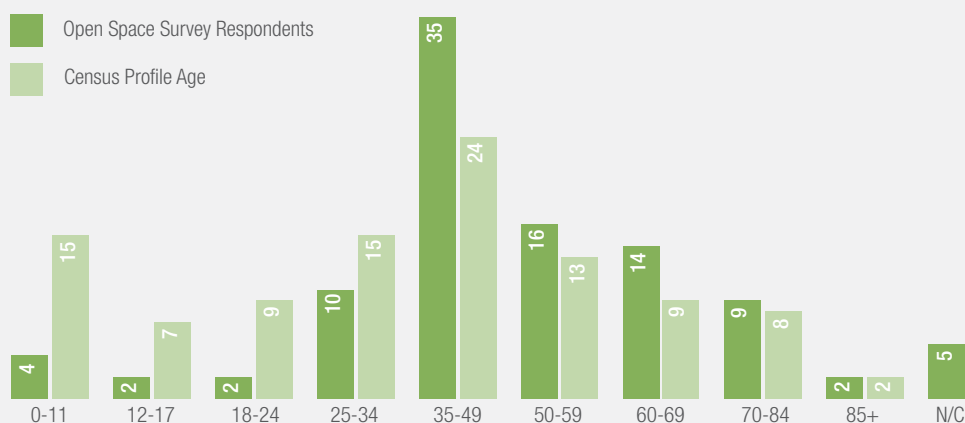
The key findings were:

- People value spaces that are close to home or work and have flexible functions.
- The spaces people were most likely to visit frequently were located within walking distance from their homes or workplaces.
- People were most likely to use open spaces for walking (20%) or dog walking (15%).

- Other popular reasons for visiting included for “views and vistas” (10.5%), exercising or cycling (both 8%), playgrounds or relaxation (both 8%).
- For spaces located beyond walking distance from home or work, people’s reasons for visiting were similar to the above, with dog walking and walking among the most popular attractors.
- People’s top reasons for not visiting open spaces were a lack of time, lack of facilities, a lack of safety or that spaces seemed ‘uninviting’.

According to the survey results, Hobsons Bay residents valued close by (proximate) local open spaces that have flexible functions associated with them. The diagrams over the following pages show top results that may influence the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy.

Figure 15. Survey Respondent Age Range (%)



Most Popular Open Spaces

People were asked the spaces they would most like to visit but can't, their favourite spaces, and those they visit the most. Among these three questions, survey respondents highlighted Altona Beach Reserve, Cherry Lakes Reserve and Newport Lakes as three key spots they like visiting, or want to visit. Kororoit Creek and Trugagnina Park were also places people want to visit more but have difficulty accessing.

Figures 38 and 39 show that waterfront open spaces such as the Altona Beach Front Reserve, Williamstown Beach and Foreshore, and the Commonwealth Reserve are among the most visited open spaces beyond walking distance.

Figure 17. Most frequently visited open spaces beyond walking distance (top 10 responses)

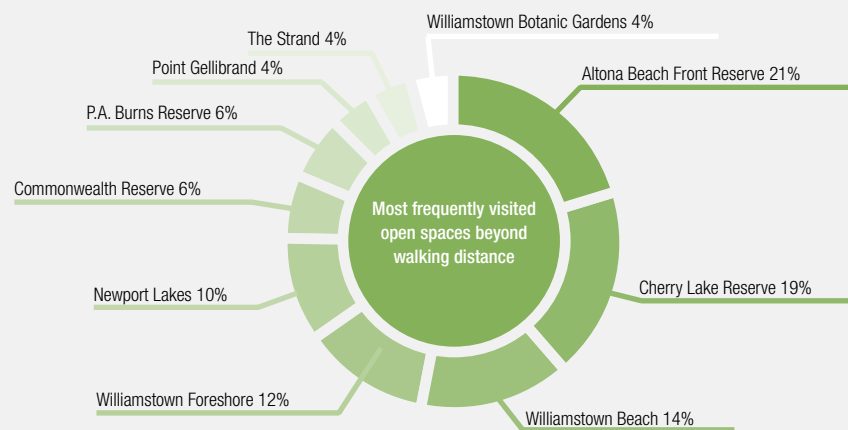
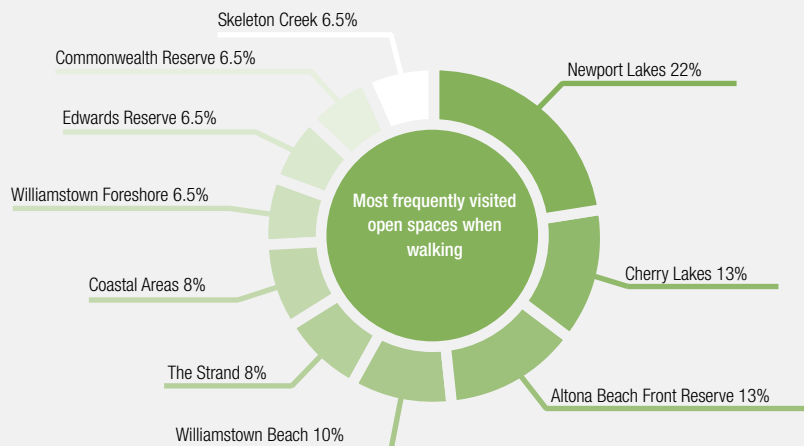


Figure 16. Most frequently visited open spaces (top 10 responses)



Reasons for Visiting Public Open Spaces

The survey results shown in **Figure 40** suggests that local open spaces are used for a wide range of activities, including for playgrounds, walking and cycling. The reasons shown in the diagram relate to functions sought out by people within walking distance from their house or workplace.

Figure 41 shows a similar range of functions is sought out by people visiting open spaces that are beyond walking distance. When accessing spaces that are further away (e.g. beyond walking distance), people indicated that they are prepared to travel to open spaces that provide “unique qualities and uses.” The diagram also shows that unique qualities like views and vistas, and uses such as swimming at the beach are special activities that will entice people to travel to access an open space that is further away or less convenient to access.

Figure 18. Reasons for Visiting open spaces within Walking Distance from home or work (top 10 responses)

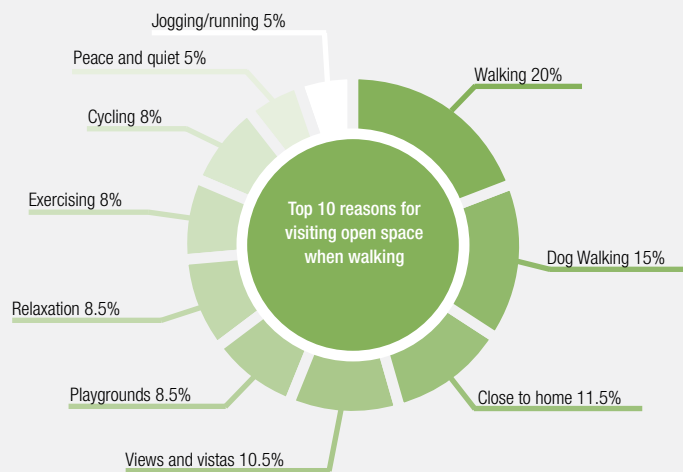
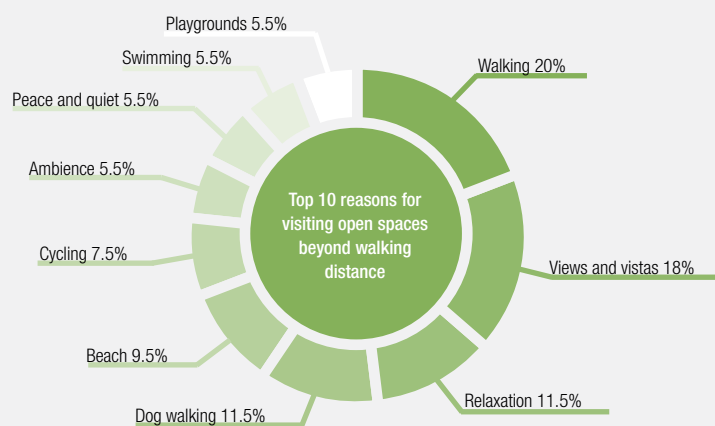


Figure 19. Reasons for visiting open spaces that are Beyond walking distance (top 10 responses)



Reasons for Not Visiting Public Open Spaces

As part of the survey, people identified a number of open spaces that they would like to visit but are unable to, and listed reasons why they will not visit an open space.

Figure 42 identifies spaces such as Newport Lakes, Cherry Lake Reserve and the Kororoit Creek Trail as being among the open spaces respondents would most like to visit.

Reasons for not visiting open spaces as outlined in **Figure 43** included having a lack of time, feeling unsafe or uninviting, or a perception that the spaces are too far away from where they live or work.

Specific access issues are also detailed in the survey outcomes, with busy roads and railways identified as a significant access barrier for some. The responses also highlight that spaces being closed to the public (e.g. requiring membership fees) is another significant barrier to access.

Figure 20. Open spaces respondents would like to visit but are unable to (top 10 responses)

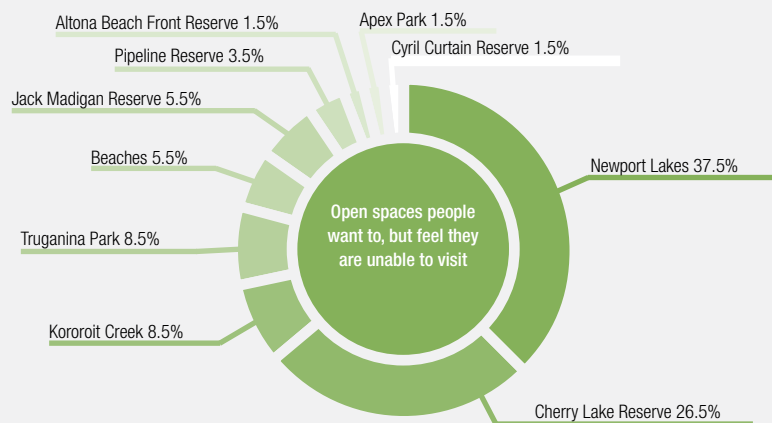
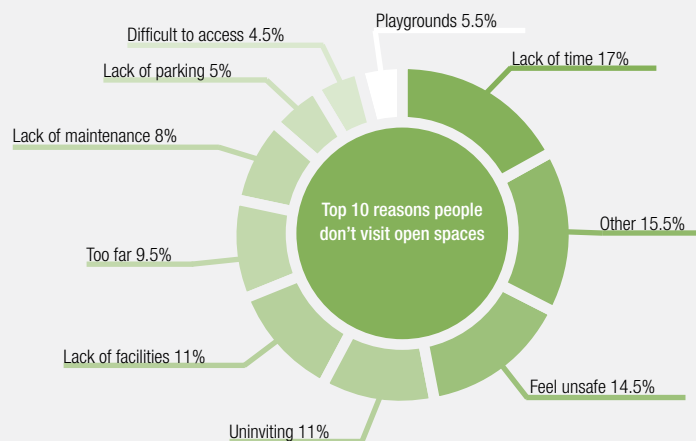


Figure 21. Reasons for not visiting open space (top 10 responses)



COMMUNITY VISION PLAN: HOBSONS BAY 2030

Council has recently prepared its latest community plan, called the Hobsons Bay 2030 Plan. The plan is a long-term vision for Hobsons Bay and explores everything from sport to the environment, health to the economy. Key findings from the community engagement undertaken for the plan have been outlined below, adding to the open space and recreation consultation from 2014. Engagement took place from February until June 2016 and overall, 2,500 people participated in various ways during the consultation period.

What Do people like about Hobsons Bay?

In the survey, people's favourite things about Hobsons Bay relate very strongly to this strategy:

- Coast, beach or bay (#1)
- Natural environment and open spaces (#2).

According to the engagement summary report, responses identified the great amount of open space Hobsons Bay has to offer. Key features of the open space mentioned included the coast, parks and gardens and the diverse natural environment.

According to the consultation report, 22% (or 178 people) of those who participated in the Annual Community Survey pointed to parks, gardens and green spaces among the top things (rated fifth overall) they value about living in Hobsons Bay.

Businesses engaged through the Economic Development Strategy 2015-20 consultation also identified the natural environment as one of the main advantages of doing business in Hobsons Bay, with particular mention of the beaches, parks and open space.

What do People Want in the Future?

In response to the question 'what do you want to see in Hobsons Bay by 2030', top responses included:

- Have more parks and recreation options (#2)
- Protect the natural environment (#6)
- Greater focus on climate change (#8)
- Preserve heritage/history/neighbourhood character (#12)
- Walkable (#21)

According to the survey results, 14.6% of people called for more parks, open spaces and recreation options. These primarily related to more sporting facilities including, swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts.

Other recreation options which received a number of mentions included BMX tracks and skate parks.

In relation to parks and open spaces, comments centred around improving playgrounds and planting more trees. A couple of comments called for having more to do at Cherry Lake. Quite a few comments called for more toilet facilities in parks and more dog off-leash parks.

'Put more funding on fixing and updating public places like park and playgrounds'

'Be a healthy and liveable municipality with public open green spaces within neighbourhoods for encouraging a variety of physical activity, such as more active transport, i.e. cycling and dedicated bike paths'

'Have additional significant open spaces for each square metre of development/apartments'

'Have adequate, good standard sporting facilities for our youth'

'An increase in sporting recreational and open spaces seen to be necessary if the population continues to increase'

It should also be noted that 6.4% (or 51 responses) of those who participated in the Annual Community Survey pointed to parks, gardens and open space maintenance and increased provision as the aspect they would most like to see changed about where they live into the future (rated fifth overall). A further 6% (49 responses) mentioned street trees (rated sixth overall).

Consultation on the Multicultural Policy 2016-20 also highlighted access to sporting facilities and activities as a gap for CALD communities, including for some established and new and emerging communities.

What needs to Change to Achieve the Vision?

Top responses to this question were:

- Increased investment in parks and recreation (#4)
- Improvement to public spaces (#8)
- Greater support for climate change (#10)
- Preservation of natural environment (#14)

The majority of responses called for revitalization of parks and playgrounds through better investment. In particular, more shade for playgrounds, more seating and trees. A range of suggestions were also put forward for greater recreation options within the municipality including a 50 metre swimming pool, exercise and gym equipment in parks and upkeep of grounds.

'Revitalise community parks and playgrounds. There are no park benches, no tables for picnics nor any shaded areas to be able to stay in these parks for very long. Without seating, new mothers cannot breastfeed their new babies in the parks, or grandparents cannot sit down while taking their grandkids to the park'

'There are many things that could change to make Hobsons Bay more enjoyable for families and children who want to lead an active lifestyle. For example, a new 50 metre swimming pool (I don't think there are ANY in Hobsons Bay Willi/Newport area at present), more play equipment built to utilise

green open spaces (currently they are all very outdated and lots of open spaces are bare), add shade sails to parks to make them more usable all year round and to provide protection from the sun (much like many of the new parks in Maribyrnong Council provide)'

'A beach gym, more gym stuff in parks, exciting equipment like the ones in Los Angeles. Then it's free, and inspiring and fits with what I already love about this area. The beach, make exercise part of playing with kids at the park & beach'

'Higher budget for parks and gardens'

The majority of responses put forward suggestions for improvements to public spaces across the municipality. Commonly these included more investment in beautification of certain areas of the municipality, more tree planting and fixing of footpaths.

'Beautification of public spaces - that engages community participation'

'Hobsons Bay should be a green city with robust, cohesive and equitable spending on streetscapes and parks in line with works already done in surrounding municipalities'

'Concentration of investments in the less resourced areas of the municipality'

'Fix the footpaths not with tar with concrete make them wider level continual maintenance'

'Footpaths and nature strips need urgent repairs'

'More investment in public spaces'

Engagement with Children and Young People

Hobsons Bay is a great community but I believe we can make it better

We can make it better by looking after our lakes and beaches and loving our parks

We need plenty of sport and libraries and care for all the animals

We want great food

There are places that children highlighted they love

A healthy, happy community

Key Quotes from People's Feedback for the 2030 Plan

'[Hobsons Bay] has fantastic open space with great natural values'

'We have everything, parks, gardens, beach, wetlands, walk and bike paths and not hemmed in by other suburbs, plenty of spaces!'

'It is such a beautiful area to live in as well as explore. Amazing parks and wetlands (reserves) for our native animals as well as being a great place to lose yourself in thought as you take it all in'

'All of the green areas - park lands; the pines along the foreshore plus the beach area and also the bike tracks'

'The wonderful open spaces, Coastal Park, Skeleton Creek, Jawbone Reserve, Newport Lakes, 100 Steps, Altona Coastal Park, Altona Beach, Cherry Lake and they are looked after'

'Lots of public open space, great walks and natural beauty not otherwise found in Melbourne suburbs'

'It affords myself and my family a wonderful lifestyle. We are very lucky to live close to the beach, beautiful parkland, libraries a skate park, playgrounds, primary schools and in a great community'

'I see pelicans and lots of swans when I ride to school along The Strand'

'I'm living in Altona because of its natural open spaces. Because of the close proximity to the city, and because it has good facilities for its residences to live a healthy and active life'

Implications for the Open Space Strategy

The findings from the Hobsons Bay 2030 Plan reinforce the need for protection, maintenance and enhancement of the existing open space assets across the municipality.

Based on the feedback, it is clear residents and workers in Hobsons Bay would like to see:

- High quality, well-maintained open spaces;
- Spaces that are beautiful, have scenic qualities and provide opportunities for quiet relaxation;
- Spaces that are designed for specific uses (e.g. dog off-leash areas, community gardens and various sports facilities);
- Spaces that are designed for people of all ages and abilities;
- Spaces that have natural features and enable active recreation (e.g. walking or cycling tracks along the foreshore or rivers);
- Environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

Over the following sections, a list of issues and opportunities has been drafted based on feedback from community consultation, site visits, background research and discussions with Hobsons Bay Council.

After community engagement has occurred for this report, the issues and opportunities will be refined as the basis for priority-setting within the draft Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy.

E

**SPORTS NEEDS
ANALYSIS**

OVERVIEW OF SPORT IN HOBSONS BAY

Hobsons Bay is an active sporting community that offers a range of formal and casual sporting opportunities for its residents. The city also provides a generous provision of open space and natural assets that encourage residents to engage in sport and recreation activities to improve their health and wellbeing.

More than 10,000 local Hobsons Bay residents of all ages participate in a diverse range of sporting activities on a weekly basis via the hundreds of local sporting clubs and venues provided across the municipality. In addition, more than another 10,000 additional residents from neighbouring municipalities (particularly Wyndham and Maribyrnong) visit Hobsons Bay facilities to participate in regular sporting activities.

The focus of the Sports Facility Needs Analysis is to understand the needs of existing sporting clubs and organisations, and to deliver a facility improvement plan for Council owned and managed sporting infrastructure to support clubs and venue operators to deliver sport sustainably and effectively.

26 indoor and outdoor sports and related activities have been considered within the Sports Facility Needs Analysis and form the basis for recommended priorities. A range of information including facility audits, participation analysis, demand assessments and club and peak sporting body consultation have informed strategic directions and recommendations.



54 Tennis Courts



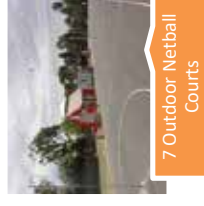
19 Soccer Fields



3 Rugby League Fields



6 Indoor Netball Courts



7 Outdoor Netball Courts



2 Athletic Fields



5 Touch Rugby Fields



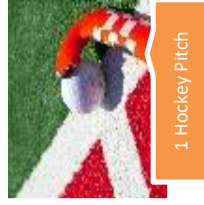
2 Rugby Union Fields



3 Baseball Diamonds



2 Croquet Lawns



1 Hockey Pitch



2 Callisthenics Venues



6 Lacrosse Pitches



1 Gymnastics Facility



2 Swimming Pools



17 Football Ovals



12 Badminton Courts



3 Golf Courses



14 Lawn Bowl Greens



2 Life Saving Clubs

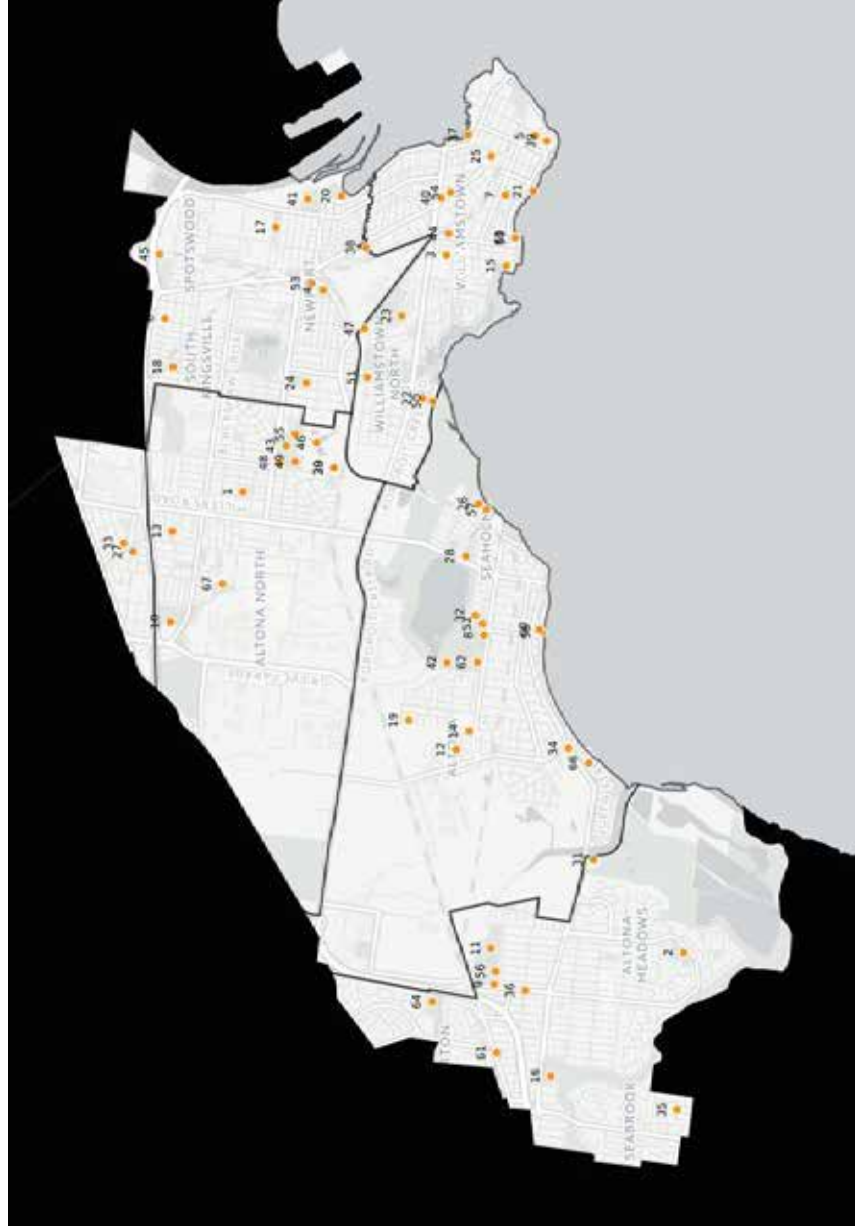


6 Indoor Basketball Courts



49 Cricket Ovals

EXISTING SPORTING FACILITY DISTRIBUTION



The map above illustrates the existing spread and distribution of sporting facilities across Hobsons Bay.

Hobsons Bay Facilities

- 1 - LANGSHAW'S RESERVE
- 2 - ALTONA GREEN PARK
- 3 - BAYSIDE SECONDARY COLLEGE
- 4 - BRYAN MARTYN OVAL
- 5 - WILLIAMSTOWN CRICKET GROU...
- 6 - DW McLEAN RESERVE
- 7 - FEARON RESERVE
- 8 - J.K. GRANT RESERVE
- 9 - LAVERTON PARK
- 10 - CROFTS RESERVE
- 11 - A.B. SHAW RESERVE
- 12 - A.H. FORD RESERVE
- 13 - A.W. BOND RESERVE
- 14 - ALTONA COLLEGE P-9
- 15 - BAYVIEW SECONDARY
- 16 - BRUCE COMBEN RESERVE
- 17 - DIGMAN RESERVE
- 18 - EDWARDS RESERVE
- 19 - F. RUSH RESERVE
- 20 - GREENWICH RESERVE
- 21 - HATT RESERVE
- 22 - J.T. GRAY RESERVE
- 23 - K.C. WHITE RESERVE
- 24 - LOFT RESERVE
- 25 - MAX ROBERTSON RESERVE
- 26 - PA BURNS RESERVE (ALTONA S...
- 27 - DUANE RESERVE
- 28 - HC KIM RESERVE
- 29 - PAISLEY PARK
- 30 - S.J. CLEMENT RESERVE
- 31 - ALTONA SPORTS CENTRE
- 32 - ALTONA TENNIS CLUB
- 33 - BROOKLYN TENNIS CLUB
- 34 - HD GRAHAM RESERVE
- 35 - HOMESTEAD RUN RESERVE
- 36 - LAVERTON TENNIS CLUB
- 37 - LUSTON TENNIS CLUB
- 38 - POWER STREET TENNIS CLUB
- 39 - WILLIAMSTOWN TENNIS CLUB
- 40 - WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL TEN...
- 41 - NEWPORT PARK ATHLETICS TR...
- 42 - GEORGE NEVITT ATHLETICS TR...
- 43 - ALTONA BADMINTON CENTRE
- 44 - WILLIAMSTOWN CROQUET CL...
- 45 - WESTGATE GOLF CLUB
- 46 - ALTONA LAKES GOLF CLUB
- 47 - SOUTH PACIFIC HEALTH CLUB
- 48 - BAYFIT LEISURE CENTRE
- 49 - PJ LYNCH RESERVE
- 50 - KOROROIT CREEK ANGLING CL...
- 51 - WILLIAMSTOWN HORSE & PO...
- 52 - ALTONA BOWLING CLUB
- 53 - NEWPORT BOWLS CLUB INC.
- 54 - WILLIAMSTOWN BOWLING CL...
- 55 - ALTONA NORTH BOWLS CLUB
- 56 - LAVERTON BOWLING CLUB
- 57 - ALTONA SPORTS CLUB
- 58 - ALTONA LIFESAVING CLUB
- 59 - WILLIAMSTOWN SWIMMING &...
- 60 - WESTERN SUBURBS TRIATHLO...
- 61 - NEWPORT CALISTHENICS CLUB
- 62 - ALTONA YOUTH CLUB CALISTH...
- 63 - WILLIAMSTOWN LIFESAVING C...
- 64 - LAVERTON SWIM & FITNESS CE...
- 65 - KOORINGAL GOLF CLUB
- 66 - BMX TRACK
- 67 - MALTESE BOCCIE, SOCIAL & RE...

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hobsons Bay City Council is developing a Sports Facility Needs Analysis that will assist in determining the future planning and development of Council's sporting infrastructure and identify priorities for the effective and sustainable delivery of sport facilities within the municipality. The Needs Analysis will inform a strategic framework to guide improvement, upgrade or renewal of Council's sports facility assets and provides information on the future demand for new and/or improved sporting facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of the active local community.

The purpose of the Sports Facility Needs Analysis is to provide information to Council on key sport related issues and findings identified from desktop research, stakeholder consultation and facility auditing of existing sports facilities.

This Sports Facility Needs Analysis (Draft Report) has been informed by a sports participation assessment of 29 individual sports, analysis of 68 local online club surveys and feedback from Council and regional and State Sporting Association (SSA) stakeholders. The report has been developed to highlight short, medium and longer-term priorities for identified sports and to seek feedback from Council, the local community and sporting stakeholders on how best to implement priorities. 10-year priorities costed within this Report total an estimated \$75,690,000. When Council's annual sports renewal allocations for sports grounds, floodlights, cricket nets and sports pavilions in its 10-year capital works program are added to this figure, the total investment is estimated to be \$95,500,000.

Formalised sport is an integral part of the local community and has a strong future focus across the inner western region of Melbourne. A review of previous research and current Council documentation has identified that a number of sports are experiencing growth and diversification of their participation.

Netball, Basketball, Tennis, Football (Soccer), Cricket and Australian Rules Football have identified high growth rates, current waiting lists and restrictive competition formats as key indicators of the need for additional or improved infrastructure to support the future demands of their sports.

This expressed demand and identified need is also compounded by the emergence of new sports and activities (e.g. Sepak Takraw) and the sustained participation in other key local sports including Hockey, Baseball, Badminton, Lacrosse, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Touch Football – all highly demanded activities within Hobsons Bay. In addition, more than 56% of online club survey respondents indicated that demand for their sport 'was strong' and projected increases in demand within the next five years.

To ensure an evidence based approach to the future planning and development of sports facilities, detailed audits of all sporting infrastructure has been undertaken. Some audits have been completed directly by the Project Team, while others have been previously facilitated through other local, regional and state-wide planning studies in partnership with the peak bodies of Australian Rules football, Cricket, Soccer, Tennis, Rugby Union, Hockey, Baseball, Basketball and Netball.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The audit process included a mix of physical onsite audits, club meetings and desktop analysis and have confirmed that the majority of local facilities are *generally meeting the minimum or basic requirements of sports to facilitate local level competition and sport specific activities*. Subsequent online club surveys indicated that approximately half of the respondent clubs believe *'capacity is being exceeded'* now, with a further 20% indicating that *'their club/facility is approaching capacity'*. In addition, the quality of playing areas was generally considered by clubs to be *'more adequate in meeting expectations'* than associated off-field amenities such as pavilions and change areas.

34 State Sporting Associations (SSAs) were invited to participate in the project, with extensive participation data collection, cleansing and analysis process undertaken with 29 SSAs to inform the Sports Facility Needs Analysis. The sports included are listed in the adjacent table. These sports were selected based on their participation levels within the local community, as well as their current identified access to Council owned and/or managed sporting facilities.

However, due to varying levels of organisational resources and capacity to respond, four sports and activity providers that were invited to participate have not been able to respond (Angling, Boating and Game Fishing, Bocce, Combat Sports, Equestrian and Sepak Takraw).

A high-level analysis of sports participation data and facility needs has highlighted some interesting and unique findings for local sports:

- Hobsons Bay provides a **good range and variety of formal sporting and competition opportunities** via established club networks.
- Local clubs, venues and providers currently **offer a good range of competition levels across the mix of available sports**, with most sports providing pathway opportunities from introductory levels through to semi-professional sport.
- In general terms, the **quality of community and club level sporting venues is adequate to service the basic needs** of clubs and sports. Individual venue and sport specific needs and issues have been highlighted within Section 3 of this report.

The following sports have had detailed participation analysis conducted to inform the Sports Facility Needs Analysis.

Sport	Sport
Australian Rules Football	Lawn Bowls
Athletics	Lifesaving
Athletics & Little Athletics	Netball
Badminton	Rugby League
Baseball	Rugby Union
Basketball	Soccer
Callisthenics	Softball
Cricket	Squash
Croquet	Swimming
Cycling	Table Tennis
Golf	Tennis
Gymnastics	Touch Football
Hockey	Triathlon
Lacrosse	Volleyball

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Across all sports data available for this study, **51% of registered sporting participants (associated with local clubs) live and play sport within Hobsons Bay.**
- Local clubs and sports are **impacted by resident populations in Point Cook and the southern areas of the City of Maribyrnong.** These areas are also under-provided for in a range of sporting facilities, particularly indoor sports courts.
- Local participation and facility use in all core or traditional competition sports is strong - **Basketball and Netball (indoor sports), Soccer and AFL (winter sports) and Cricket and Tennis (summer sports).** Collectively these sports cater for over 13,000 individual participants weekly during their competition season.
- In addition, **club participation in other sports including Lacrosse, Baseball, Hockey and Athletics is also popular** and the presence of all rugby codes (League, Union and Touch) assists to grow the range of participation options.
- Interestingly, **Hobsons Bay provided 25% of the total number of all registered Lacrosse Victoria players.** The next closest municipality was Boroondara with 6% of total Victorian registrations.
- Junior participation in basketball is significant with **7.5% of Hobsons Bay residents aged 14 and under participating in Basketball.** This is the highest penetration rate of all local sporting activities.
- In terms of junior sports participation, **the top five sports penetration rates for players aged 14 and under in Hobsons Bay** are Basketball (7.484%), Netball (6.403%), Soccer (5.971%), Australian Rules football (4.890%) and Lifesaving (2.885%). **Collectively these five sports provide 4,550 participants in this age group.**
- In terms of overall participation of Hobsons Bay residents, **the top five most participated sports** are Gymnastics (2,522 participants), Netball (2,180), Basketball (2,111), Australian Rules football (1,861) and Soccer (1,410).
- Calisthenics (100% female participation), Netball (93%), Swimming (51%) and Lifesaving (50%) **are the only sports where female participation of local residents is greater than male participation.**
- Respondent clubs via the online club survey identified **'junior' (under 11) and 'youth' (12-17) aged participation activities** were the most likely to experience the strongest future demand and increase within the next five years.
- 17% of clubs responding to the online club survey indicated they **provided formal participation opportunities for people with a disability.**
- **A further 17% of respondent clubs indicated they provided formalised participation opportunities for the CALD community,** with Badminton, Lacrosse, Croquet and Cricket highlighting their provision of activities.
- **Indoor sports courts are identified as the 'most under provided' facility** within the municipality to meet existing and projected future demand, which is significantly impacting participation in Basketball and Netball. The *Altona Sports Centre Feasibility Study* has identified a 4-court expansion of the Altona Sports Centre to provide 10 indoor courts to help address gaps in provision.
- **Outdoor sportsgrounds are also in high demand,** with more grounds identified for Soccer (4-6) and Australian Rules football (1-2) over the next 10 years. Additional synthetic cricket pitches are also required for Cricket in order to balance the high volume of turf wicket grounds provide within the municipality.
- Registered participant numbers in **Squash (23), Table Tennis (21), Softball (21) and Volleyball (20)** are considered very low – none of these sports have access to dedicated facilities within Hobsons Bay.

WHY WE NEED A STRATEGY

Hobsons Bay provides a range of indoor and outdoor sporting facilities that cater for a significant number of formal and informal activities and participation opportunities. Council has a responsibility to deliver facilities and services that promote and encourage community interaction and health and wellbeing outcomes through sport.

The Hobsons Bay community places a high value on the provision and participation in local sports and the physical, social and community outcomes it provides. With over 20,000 active registered participants in formal sporting competitions and activities that are conducted weekly at Hobsons Bay clubs and venues, continued investment into sport and associated facilities and venues by Council, users and partners will be essential in supporting their use and facilitating further participation growth.

Community trends and recent shifts towards more informal and social sport over traditional structured sport will be a key consideration for Council when planning for future facilities in Hobsons Bay. Through research into participation, future demand and existing venue utilisation, Hobsons Bay will be well placed to plan for and manage the balance between high levels of demand for formal sporting activity and the community demands for informal activities within local reserves, parks, open spaces, foreshore areas, shared trails and waterways.

Recently documented and projected future growth in female participation and the need to provide more universally designed, programmed and managed facilities that cater for multi-purpose and shared use community sports facilities, will also have a significant influence on future facility development.

There is opportunity for Hobsons Bay to provide quality sporting facilities to meet the expectations of its changing community, and Council, through this project, has recognised the opportunity to align sports infrastructure provision with the identified range and diversity of sporting activities.

STRATEGIC PROJECT DRIVERS

The following key strategic drivers from the Sports Facility Needs Analysis project brief have also been used to develop the future priorities:

- Alignment of a range of municipal and sports planning studies to define direction of facilities, investment and future needs.
- Addressing the outcomes from the 2016 Mayoral Sports Forum.
- Alignment of sports needs research and planning with Council's concurrent Open Space Strategy development.
- Alignment of State and National sporting body standards and requirements for future facility provision and development.
- Supporting joint local government and sport planning to align objectives for servicing and supporting the industry.
- Supporting sporting activity in specific demographics as the community changes, leading to more targeted approaches.
- Acknowledging that a number of existing sports are growing, some remain stagnant and new sports are also emerging, creating demand for resource reallocation.
- Acknowledging that the current funding and resource environment suggests that Council needs to maximise what it currently has as a first priority.
- Acknowledging that new government investment is focused on multi-sport / activity provision, over single sport / focus outcomes.
- Identifying greater opportunities to partner with the education and private sector on shared facility developments where mutual Council, community and user benefits can be achieved.

SPORTS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

The following planning and development principles have been used to guide the interpretation, consideration and preparation of strategic directions and will underpin future sports facility development priorities in Hobsons Bay. The principles align with Council's 2030 priority for visionary, vibrant, accountable urban planning for community spaces that cater for shared activities and services.

1. MAXIMISE USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

- 1.1 Prioritise projects that maximise use of existing assets through more efficient user groups, playing area and building allocation (e.g. club allocation processes, overflow facilities).
- 1.2 Prioritise projects that will have an immediate impact on participation growth, promote year round facility usage and/or increase the existing capacity of playing areas and off-field support amenities (e.g. floodlighting, synthetic surfaces).
- 1.3 Provision and allocation of sporting facilities should maximise shared usage and flexibility to sustainably meet changing Hobsons Bay needs and aspirations (e.g. multi-use indoor courts).
- 1.4 Future sports facilities will be developed to be fit-for-purpose for their intended use (e.g. meeting field-of-play competition dimensions).
- 1.5 Future sporting facilities will be universally designed to provide inclusive opportunities and sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS

- 2.1 Promote and facilitate facility improvements that increase participation opportunities for girls and women, young people, older adults and those not traditionally engaged in sport.
- 2.2 Maintain facility distribution that maximises access to all Hobsons Bay residents and reduces travel time for training and competition activities.
- 2.3 Promote facility provision locations and improvement opportunities that support localised demand and catchments.
- 2.4 Continue to plan and develop high quality sporting facilities and amenities that provide and support a diversity of winter and summer sporting activities.

3. FACILITY SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 Ensure facility improvement priorities contribute to the viability and sustainability of Hobsons Bay sporting clubs and provide opportunities to improve management and operational efficiencies.
- 3.2 Promote projects that maximise value for money and support the delivery of Hobsons Bay community, peak sporting body and other broader government objectives for sport and physical activity.
- 3.3 Identify shared facility provision and investment opportunities through partnership approaches with neighbouring local government authorities, the education sector, all levels of government and venue users.

SPORTS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The following provides a summary of the short, medium and longer-term development priorities for Hobsons Bay’s sporting facilities and related infrastructure.

Priorities have been identified from detailed sport specific summaries and related data analysis, facility audits and online club survey responses. Priorities are provided to assist Council and the local sporting community in their budgeting process, investment attraction activities and future decision making.

Priorities and recommendations are also based on the sports facility development principles provided above and on meeting the overall identified future demands and trends in sport and local Hobsons Bay sporting clubs.

The following guide is provided to support the interpretation of how the project team have determined each priority meets or delivers on identified sports facility development principles.

MEETS GUIDING PRINCIPLES		
1	2	3

1	Column refers to principles of maximising use and access of existing facilities
2	Column refers to principles of participation and access
3	Column refers to principles of facility sustainability
	Refers to priorities that meet or exceed each of the identified principles
	Refers to priorities that address most but not all of the identified principles
	Refers to priorities that can deliver on one or two of the identified principles, but not all

Priorities reflect key infrastructure directions and projects by sport and are not designed to provide individual recommendations for each and every sporting club venue.

If a sport does not appear in any of the following tables, it can be assumed there is no corresponding short, medium or long-term (i.e. high priority infrastructure priorities) associated with that sport or activity.

Priorities identified are not the sole and only source of sporting infrastructure projects that will be undertaken by Council over the next 10-years. These priorities, along with others identified within Council’s *Sports Ground Floodlighting Renewal Program (\$4.288 million currently budgeted to 2026/27)*, *Sports Ground Renewal Program (\$11.480 million budgeted)*, *Building Sports Pavilion Renewal Program (\$2.500 million budgeted)* and *Cricket Practice Net Renewal Program (\$1.645 million budgeted)* will inform Council’s future budgets.

In many cases, more planning, detailed design and master plan works will need to be completed to support the implementation of priorities identified within this report. However, it is anticipated that the actions identified within the collective \$19.9 million worth of allocated funding for these current programs will also provide opportunity to address a range of priorities identified within the following pages.

SPORTS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Priorities have been categorised into the following program types to help identify key areas of responsibility for stakeholders.

FUNDING PROGRAM	PROJECT DEFINITION AND PROGRAM TYPE
PLANNING	An action that requires more consideration, research and consultation in order to identify the best future option(s) to support a relevant sport or infrastructure project. Many of these priorities are not yet budgeted, however some are currently in development or have secured investment.
NEW DEVELOPMENT	Construction project that includes the development of new facilities or amenities either at an existing facility location or within a new site. These priorities are not yet budgeted and collective stakeholder funding is required in order to implement priorities.
UPGRADE / RENEWAL	<p>Construction project that involves the improvement or expansion of an existing facility or asset. Many minor projects will be funded from Council's existing <i>\$2.5m Building Sports Pavilion Renewal Program</i>, which typically includes the refurbishment of sports pavilions to address gaps in unisex and gender inclusive (i.e. female friendly) player and umpire change rooms, club storage requirements. Items such as multi-use line marking of hard courts for tennis or netball and introduction of automatic gate access technology for tennis venues would also fall into this funding category.</p> <p>Additional identified Cricket practice wicket renewal projects will also be addressed via Council's existing <i>\$1.645m Cricket Practice Nets Renewal Program</i>.</p> <p>Projects that specifically involve the improvement to existing or installation of new outdoor playing area lighting for training or competition purposes will be funded by Council's existing <i>\$4.288m Sports Ground Floodlighting Renewal Program</i>.</p> <p>Projects that are dedicated to improving sports ground playing surfaces, including drainage, irrigation, surface works and associated sports infrastructure (e.g. cricket pitches) will be funded by Council's existing <i>\$11.48m Sports Ground Renewal Program</i>.</p>

In the context of this Sports Facility Needs Analysis, the following timeframes have been used to define short, medium and long-term priorities.

- **Short-term** – within 2 years
- **Medium-term** – within 3-5 years
- **Long-term** – within 6-10 years.

SPORTS FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY COSTS

Costs associated with short, medium and long-term priorities have also been estimated to provide a guide as to the scale and funding required in order to support their implementation.

Costs have been based on previous similar projects conducted by Council, provided via existing designed projects or feasibility studies and from project team expertise. Costs remain a guide only and detailed estimates will need to be obtained at the time of implementation.

Overall estimates have identified a budget in the area of \$75,690,000 will be required to implement all priorities identified in the following pages. The total cost to implement priorities on the following pages, and those allocated in Council's 10-year capital works program for sports grounds, sports ground lighting, sports pavilion and cricket nets renewal programs is \$95,500,000.

The following table provides a breakdown of costs for each of the short, medium and long-term priorities incorporating all estimated budget allocations.

PRIORITY	ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COST
SHORT-TERM	\$32,500,000
MEDIUM-TERM	\$19,500,000
LONG-TERM	\$43,500,000
ALL PRIORITIES TOTAL	\$95,500,000

The following table provides a breakdown of the estimated budget costs by program type.

PROGRAM TYPE	ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COST
PLANNING	\$310,000
UPGRADE / RENEWAL	\$44,190,000
NEW DEVELOPMENT	\$51,000,000
ALL PRIORITIES TOTAL	\$95,500,000

Attracting investment from external sources must form part Council's future advocacy of the Sports Facility Needs Analysis. Attracting investment also plays a significant role in reducing Council's overall cost of asset renewal and capital development.

A funding and investment strategy for the implementation of priorities will be an important element in the delivery of this strategy. Engaging with other state and local government partners, state and national sporting bodies, clubs, venue operators and schools will form part of the process for implementing recommendations.

To ensure funding opportunities are maximised and aligned with potential partners, review of priorities and available investment should be conducted in alignment with priority timelines, being in 2 years, 5 years and 10 years time.



F

**CONTRIBUTIONS
FRAMEWORK**

OVERVIEW

Urban Enterprise was engaged by Planisphere and the City of Hobsons Bay (Council) to prepare an assessment of open space funding to inform the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy (HBOSS).

This Open Space Contributions Framework Report (Framework Report) will be followed by a Contributions Report which includes recommendations and calculations relating to open space funding and contributions.

OPEN SPACE FUNDING AND OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS

Local open space is funded from a range of sources drawn from the public and private sectors. Three main mechanisms are available to Council to levy contributions from the private sector towards the cost of providing open space as follows:

- Open space contributions collected through a Schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Planning Scheme;
- Open space contributions collected under the Subdivision Act 1988; or
- Development and infrastructure contributions collected through a Development Contributions Plan or Infrastructure Contributions Plan incorporated in a Planning Scheme.

Open space contributions are payments (or a contribution of land or works in lieu of payment) made to Council by a proponent of a subdivision for the purpose of improving the open space network. Contributions are designed to enable Councils to deliver new and improved open spaces to meet the additional demand for open space generated by development. In this way, open space contributions are a form of 'user payment' for public infrastructure.

CURRENT APPROACH TO CONTRIBUTIONS IN HOBSONS BAY

Open space in Hobsons Bay is funded through a mix of open space contributions, development contributions, general rates revenue and contributions from user groups.

The Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme does not currently include a Schedule to Clause 52.01 – therefore, subdivisions are required to make a public open space contribution to Council of up to 5% under the Subdivision Act.

The use of the Subdivision Act to collect open space contributions on a case by case basis can be resource intensive and can result in a degree of uncertainty for Council and the development industry given that individual assessments can be challenged at VCAT.

In 2015/16, Council collected \$2.67m in open space contributions through the Subdivision Act. The Open Space Contributions Reserve had a balance of \$4.34m at the end of 2015/16. The Contributions Report will assess the extent to which future open space contributions revenue will be able to fund the projects identified in the HBOSS as required to meet the needs of current and future users.

Council currently has one active DCP, and may have the opportunity to apply Infrastructure Contributions Plans to Strategic Redevelopment Areas in the future. Major development areas often require specific assessments of open space needs that warrant exclusion from standard open space contributions rates which could apply to other parts of a municipality.

APPROACH TO CONTRIBUTIONS IN INNER MELBOURNE

Established municipalities in Melbourne are increasingly using Clause 52.01 of the Planning Scheme to collect open space contributions instead of the Subdivision Act. Of the 14 inner Melbourne municipalities, only three do not currently collect open space contributions through Clause 52.01: Hobsons Bay, Banyule and Boroondara.

Most inner municipalities apply a single open space contributions rate to all subdivisions of between 5% and 5.7%. The main exceptions are higher rates of up to 8% that are applied to selected areas expected to experience major urban renewal.

The main options for introducing a new rate into Clause 52.01 include:

- A flat rate across the municipality;
- A variable rate by suburb;
- A variable rate for high growth areas or urban renewal areas;
- A variable rate for different land use types (i.e. industrial); or
- A combination of the above.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLYING A NEW OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS RATE

There is a lack of guidance specific to the introduction of a new Schedule to Clause 52.01 in the Victorian Planning Scheme. To justify the inclusion of a new rate in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme, it is considered important that the HBOSS is underpinned by analysis which:

- Quantifies the level of need for open space;
- Identifies gaps in the current network,
- Costs and prioritises works required to ensure a suitable standard of provision over the Strategy period; and
- Equitably apportions those costs to existing and new residents and workers.

The selection of an appropriate method for levying open space contributions and the calculation of an equitable open space contributions rate (or rates) will have regard to a range of considerations and calculations that will draw on the findings of the HBOSS, including:

- The total cost of open space improvements and land acquisition required to implement the HBOSS;
- The catchment areas for proposed open space works and acquisitions;
- The extent to which proposed open space works and acquisitions are required to meet the needs of future residents as opposed to addressing existing backlogs relating to demand by existing residents and other users;
- The need to exclude any specific areas or precincts from open space contributions due to pre-existing arrangements or opportunities for future DCPs or ICPs;
- The likely open space contributions revenue that would be collected under alternative contributions rate options, based on current and projected land values and the number and location of subdivisions expected over the HBOSS planning period; and
- A reasonable apportionment of the cost of delivering the HBOSS between existing and new residents.

These considerations will be investigated and quantified in the Contributions Report, drawing on the findings of the Draft HBOSS.



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