

LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY – SUMMARY REPORT



APRIL 2021

LAKE
MACQUARIE
CITY

Prepared by Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd
www.otiumplanning.com.au

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Planning group
SPORT + LEISURE

Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd

Head Office:

304/91 Murphy Street
Richmond VIC 3121
ABN: 30 605 962 169
Phone: (03) 9698 7300
Email: info@otiumplanning.com.au
Web: www.otiumplanning.com.au

The Plaza, 13.03/87-95 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Contact: Jason Leslie | Director
Phone: 0437 334 375
Email: jason@otiumplanning.com.au
Or
Contact: Brad Billett | Associate
Phone: 0433 305 930
Email: brad@otiumplanning.com.au

Otium Planning Group has offices in:

- Auckland • Brisbane • Cairns • Christchurch • Melbourne • Perth • Sydney

OPG, IVG and PTA Partnership has offices in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing.

Document History				
Document Version	Date	Checked	Distribution	Recipient
1.0	30/10/2020	JL	Email	S Cowen
2.0	19/4/2021	BB	Email	S Cowen
3.0	29/4/21	BB	Email	S Cowen
4.0				

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We remember and respect the Ancestors who cared for and nurtured this Country. Dhumaan ngayin ngarrakalu kirraanan barayidin.

It is in their footsteps that we travel these lands and waters. Ngarrakalumba yuludaka bibayilin barayida baaduka.

Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges the Awabakal people and Elders past, present and future. Lake Macquarie City Council dhumaan Awabakala ngarrakal yalawaa, yalawan, yalawanan.

Wording by the Aboriginal Reference Group and translated by Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Strategy

The purpose of the Lake Macquarie Sports Strategy (the Strategy) is to plan for and enhance the sporting experience for current and future residents and visitors of Lake Macquarie. The objectives are to:

1. Provide a strategic framework for the future use, enhancement, development, management and promotion of sports facilities and initiatives across the LGA.
2. Identify and appropriately respond to challenges, constraints and opportunities.
3. Identify the adequacy (or otherwise) of the condition and supply of existing sports facilities to meet current and projected future needs.
4. Identify and respond to the existing unmet needs and identify the potential future needs of sports codes and the broader community and in relation to indoor and outdoor sports facility provision, management and maintenance.
5. Engage with the sporting community and key stakeholders via a genuine consultative process.
6. Review existing and identify preferred facility management models, including models which support sustainable partnerships, capital investment, management and the co-sharing of facilities.
7. Identify, quantify and prioritise the actions that will be required over a 10-year period to provide, develop and deliver initiatives to meet community needs.

1.2 Study Approach

Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd (OPG) was appointed by Lake Macquarie City Council (Council) to complete the Strategy. The project methodology adopted by OPG to complete the study requirements is below:

Figure 1: The Study Approach



1.3 What is covered by this Strategy?

The Lake Macquarie Sports Strategy includes local, district and regional indoor and outdoor sports facilities, sportsgrounds and associated facilities including amenities buildings, floodlights, cricket nets etc.

Whilst a key focus of this Strategy is on Council owned and managed infrastructure, the Strategy also considers privately owned and/or managed facilities.

Sports covered by this Strategy include archery, basketball, netball, gymnastics, volleyball, futsal, badminton, equestrian, martial arts, dance, roller derby, AFL, football (soccer), tennis, cricket, rugby, rugby league, touch football, athletics, hockey, lawn bowls, croquet, softball, baseball and BMX racing.

This Strategy excludes sports and activities traditionally provided by private providers such as golf, indoor rock climbing, gyms/fitness centres. It also excludes active recreation pursuits such as mountain biking, cycling, outdoor rock climbing, trail running, skateboarding, yoga, sailing, kayaking, swimming, surf lifesaving.

1.4 Strategic Context and Alignment

The Lake Macquarie Sports Strategy aligns with a range of government strategies, policies and guidelines. These are summarised below.

Table 1: Strategic context and alignment of the Lake Macquarie Sports Strategy.

Level	Document
International	World Health Organisation: Global recommendations on physical activity for health International Olympic Committee – The New Norm
Commonwealth	Sport Australia – Sport 2030 Sport Australia – Australian Physical Literacy Framework Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines
NSW Government	Premier's Priorities Office of Sport - Strategic Plan Office of Sport- State Sport Infrastructure Strategy Sport NSW- Future Directions
Regional Plans	Hunter Regional Plan Lower Hunter Regional Strategy Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan Draft Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan Greater Newcastle Sport Infrastructure Plan
Local Plans	Imagine Lake Mac Council's Community Strategic Plan Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement Revised Delivery Program 2017-2022 and Operational Plan 2020-2021 Asset Management Strategy and Plans Local Environment Plans Developer Contribution Plans and Voluntary Planning Agreements Various sport facility masterplans

Refer appendix for summary review of the above strategies and plans.

1.5 The Value of Sport

Sport is a valuable part of life in Lake Macquarie. It not only promotes active lifestyles, but helps develop valuable social networks and contributes to liveability of communities. Benefits of sport include:

Health benefits

Regular activity improves physical and mental health and reduces the risk of obesity and lifestyle related illnesses. An active lifestyle contributes to general wellbeing, productivity, and performance. Research shows that the benefits of physical activity extend to mental health, community wellbeing and social capital. Sport can help people to feel a part of their community.

Economic benefits

Sport and active recreation is a growing industry that creates jobs and attracts visitors. An active population leads to improved productivity and assists in reducing preventative health costs.

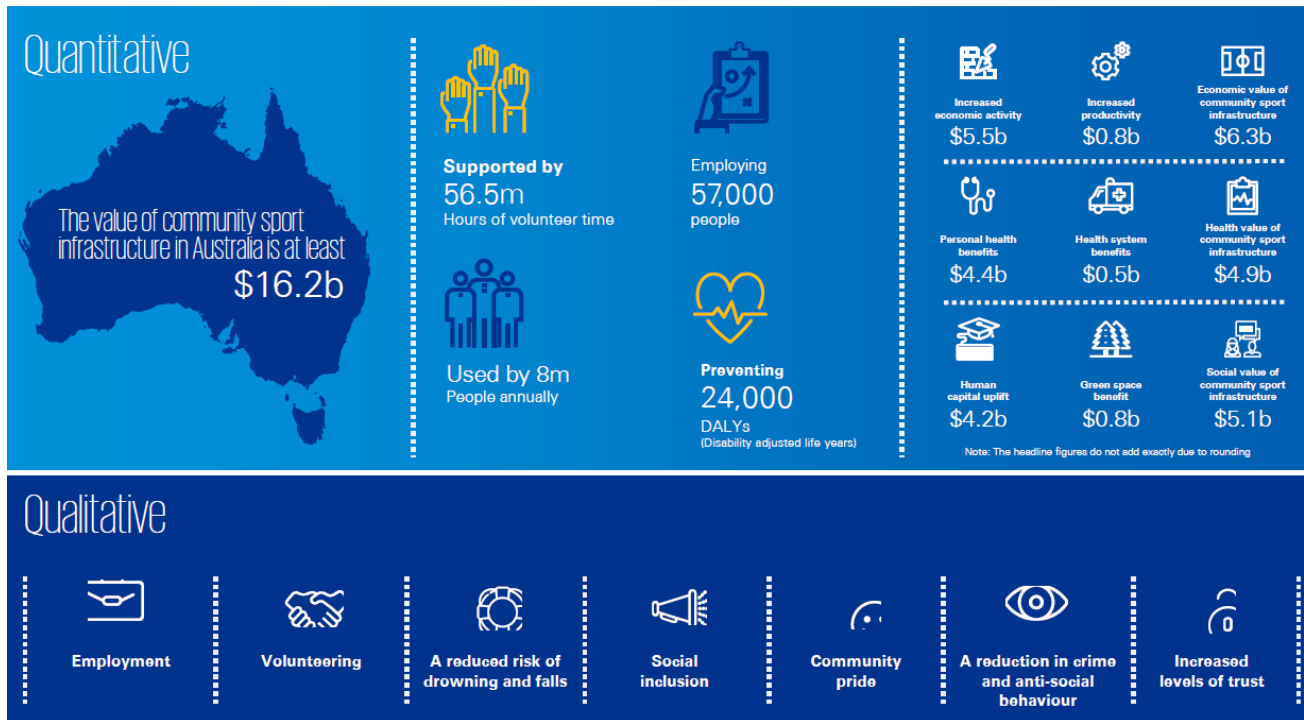
Social benefits

Sport brings people and communities together contributing to a stronger, more inclusive society. Sport creates connections within a community and offers a way to drive inclusion and acceptance in society. Participant diversity makes sport an ideal forum to reach people from every age group, cultural background, demographic and socio-economic group. Government and non-government policies for community development and social inclusion often use sport as a mechanism to drive change.

1.5.1 Benefits of sport infrastructure

In 2018, Sport Australia partnered with KPMG and La Trobe University to investigate the value of community sport infrastructure to Australia. The study quantified the value of community sport infrastructure across Australia to be at least \$16.2b.

Figure 2: Summary of the Sport Australia report into the value of community sport infrastructure

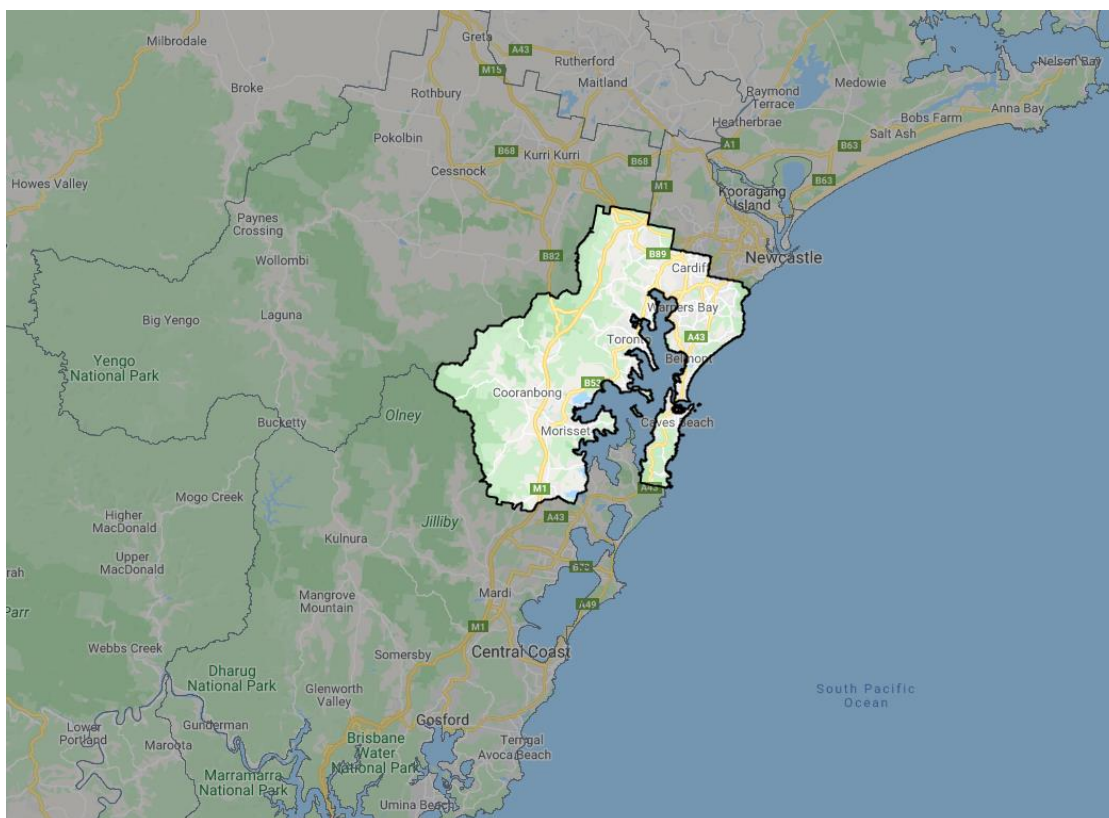


2. About Lake Macquarie and our Community

2.1 About Lake Macquarie and Regional Context

The City of Lake Macquarie is located in the Hunter Region of New South Wales. It is approximately 2 hours drive north of Sydney and around a 20 to 30-minute drive south of Newcastle. The City is made up of nine town centers circling the lake including Belmont, Cardiff, Charlestown, Coorabong, Glendale, Morisset, Swansea, Toronto and Valentine. The largest of these population centers is Charlestown. The LGA is bordered by Newcastle to the North, Maitland to the North-West, Cessnock to the West and the Central Coast to the south.

Figure 3: Location of Lake Macquarie



2.2 Lake Macquarie Demographics

Population and Recent Growth

As of 2019 there are an estimated 205,901 residents living within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. This is an increase of 6.36% from 193,585 residents in 2009. The following table shows the comparative population growth rates for the surrounding council areas since 2009.

Table 2: Population Growth Rates

Council Area	2009 Population	2019 Population	10 Year Population Change	10 Year Growth Rate
Lake Macquarie	193,585	205,901	12,316	6.36%
Central Coast	316,796	343,968	27,172	8.58%
Newcastle	151,895	165,571	13,676	9.00%
Cessnock	50,218	59,985	9,767	19.45%

Lake Macquarie has experienced lower population growth over the last decade in comparison to surround Local Government Areas.

Age Breakdown

The table below provides a summary of the Lake Macquarie age profile with a comparison to Regional NSW.

Table 3: Lake Macquarie Age Profile

Age	Lake Macquarie Population #	Lake Macquarie Population %	Regional NSW %	Difference
0 to 4 years	11,874	6.0%	5.8%	+0.2%
5 to 9 years	12,306	6.2%	6.4%	-0.2%
10 to 19 years	24,171	12.2%	12.1%	+0.1%
20 to 29 years	21,282	10.8%	11.1%	-0.3%
30 to 39 years	22,504	11.4%	10.9%	+0.5%
40 to 49 years	25,542	12.9%	12.5%	+0.4%
50 to 59 years	26,560	13.5%	13.9%	-0.4%
60 to 69 years	25,069	12.7%	13.1%	-0.4%
70 to 79 years	17,270	8.8%	8.7%	+0.1%
80 to 89 years	8,981	4.6%	4.4%	+0.2%
90 and over	1,794	0.9%	0.9%	+0.0%

The age breakdown for Lake Macquarie closely matches the age breakdown of regional New South Wales. The largest difference between Lake Macquarie and regional New South Wales is in the 30 to 39-year-old age cohort, in which Lake Macquarie has an additional 0.5% of the population within this bracket.

A key age metric is the number of residents within an area who are aged between 5 and 19 years. This is the age group that are most likely to make regular use of sport facilities and accounts for 18.4% of the Lake Macquarie population.

The Next 10+ Years

According to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the population of Lake Macquarie is expected to increase to an estimated 223,777 residents by 2031 at an annual average rate of growth of 0.7%. The largest driver of increasing population growth is predicted to be migration from other parts of New South Wales, other Australian states or overseas.

The New South Wales Government have predicted 10,600 persons will migrate to the City of Lake Macquarie by 2031. The segment of the population that is predicted to grow by the largest amount is the 75 years and older. This is closely followed by 60 to 74 years old age group. This represents an aging of the population which is in line with the trends being predicted and observed across regional New South Wales.

Diversity

As of the 2016 census, **14.2% of the population within Lake Macquarie were born overseas**. This is higher than the average proportion of residents in regional New South Wales who have been born overseas, which sits at 11.2%. The most common place of birth for residents of the city other than Australia is England, with 2.6% of the population being born there.

Similarly, 8.4% of the population spoke a language other than English at home. This is a considerably higher proportion than in regional New South Wales, where an average of 5.7% of residents speak a language other than English at home. The most common language other than English that is spoken at home in Lake Macquarie is joint between Mandarin and Italian at 0.28% of the population.

Disadvantage and Social Capital

The SEIFA score of relative disadvantage aims to show the level of relative advantage and disadvantage across LGAs within Australia. A higher score on the index corresponds to a lower level of disadvantage, whereas a lower score represents a higher level of disadvantage. Lake Macquarie received a score of 996 in the 2016 results. This is the 355

highest score within Australia out of 544 LGAs. The average score for regional New South Wales is 971, meaning that the level of disadvantage within Lake Macquarie is lower.

The following table outlines the weekly income for the residents of Lake Macquarie broken down into different weekly income bands, also compared to regional New South Wales income levels.

Table 4: Weekly Income in Lake Macquarie

Wage Band	Lake Macquarie Population	%	Regional NSW %	Difference
Nil Income	11,646	7.0%	7.1%	-0.1%
\$1 - \$149	6,946	4.6%	4.0%	+0.6%
\$150 - \$299	11,720	7.0%	7.7%	-0.7%
\$300 - \$399	17,234	9.8%	10.8%	-1.0%
\$400 - \$499	16,820	9.6%	10.3%	-0.7%
\$500 - \$649	13,938	8.2%	8.7%	-0.5%
\$650 - \$799	12,962	7.7%	8.3%	-0.6%
\$800 - \$999	13,264	7.8%	8.2%	-0.4%
\$1,000 - \$1,249	13,521	8.0%	7.6%	+0.4%
\$1,250 - \$1,499	8,509	5.4%	4.8%	+0.6%
\$1,500 - \$1,749	7,289	4.8%	3.9%	+0.9%
\$1,750 - \$1,999	5,144	3.7%	2.8%	+0.9%
\$2,000 - \$2,999	9,195	4.7%	3.7%	+1.0%

From the table there is a lower proportion of residents who earn a low weekly income within the City of Lake Macquarie and a higher proportion of residents who earn a high income. This indicates a higher capacity to access structured sport and other pay for use recreation activities.

Key Findings from Resident Profile

The population of Lake Macquarie is predicted to grow by 14,999 from 205,901 in 2019 to 220,900 in 2031. This increase in population is likely to result in continued and increased demand for a range of sport infrastructure and services.

The expected general aging of the population is in line with other regional New South Wales population centers. This is likely to see a change in sport participation trends, with greater emphasis on physical health and social participation rather than participation for competition. This may result in ongoing demand for sports that traditionally cater for a wide range of age groups such as tennis and golf. Some sporting codes have introduced modified competitions that seek to encourage ongoing participation. This includes 'Walking Netball' and 'Walking Football'. Sport infrastructure will need to continue to evolve so that it is inclusive and accessible, ensuring barriers to participation are reduced.

Cultural diversity within the city is higher than the average across regional New South Wales with a larger proportion of the population being born overseas. Consideration into sport infrastructure provision to meet the needs of the diverse Lake Macquarie is therefore required. Ongoing engagement with all members of the community will play a central role in ensuring adequate provision of sport infrastructure and services.

Lake Macquarie has a higher SEIFA index and personal weekly income levels in comparison to regional NSW. This indicates the potential to access to a wide range of sport and recreation opportunities including structured and pay for use activities and services.

2.3 Planning Catchment Areas

The Lake Macquarie Local Government Area is divided into five planning catchment areas. These planning catchments as shown in the figure below including 2021 population data and 2031 population forecasts.

Figure 4: Map of planning catchment areas with 2021, 2031 and 2041 population data.

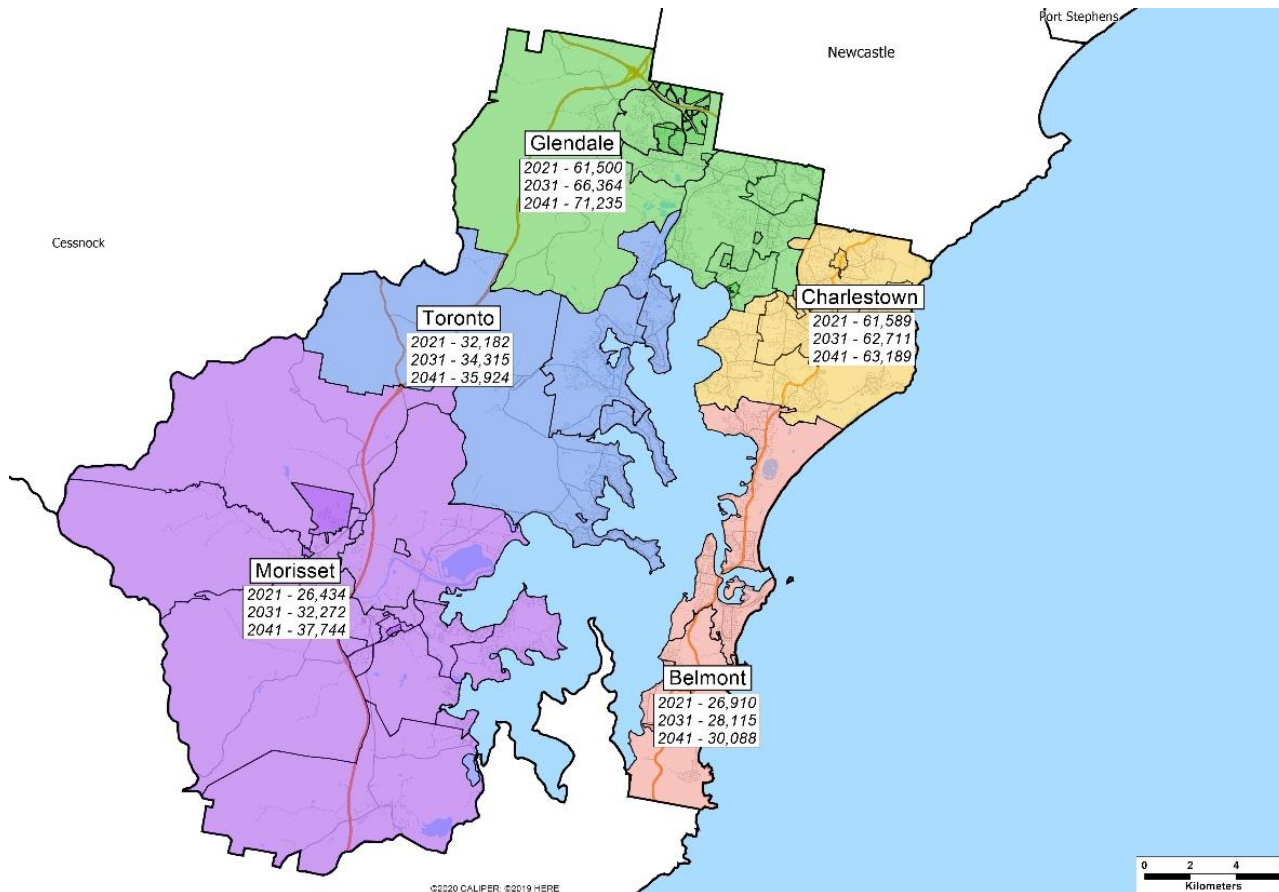
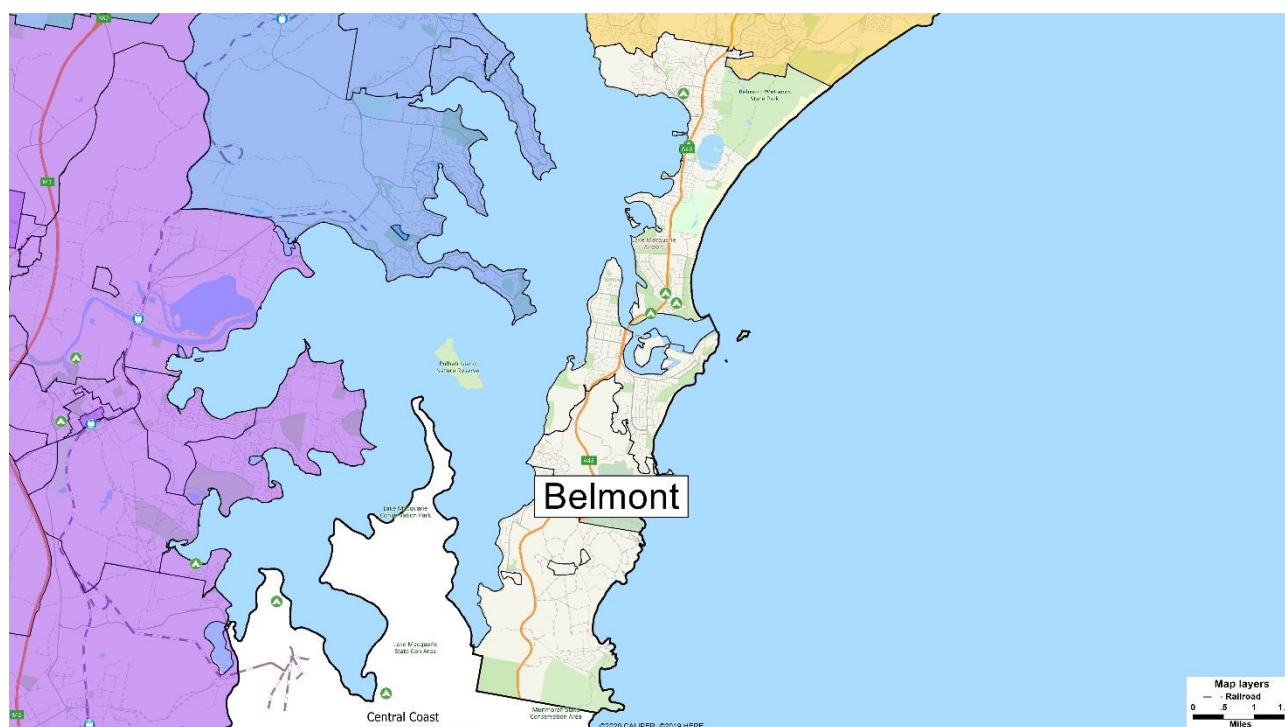


Table 5: Planning catchment summary

Catchment Area	2016 Population (ABS)	2021 Population (REMPAN)	2026 Population (REMPAN)	2031 Population (REMPAN)	Growth Change 2021 to 2031	Percentage Change from 2021 to 2031	2041 Population (REMPAN)
Belmont	26,558	26,910	27,440	28,115	1,205	4.48%	30,088
Charlestown	61,467	61,589	62,056	62,711	1,122	1.82%	63,189
Glendale	58,443	61,500	63,866	66,364	4,864	7.91%	71,235
Morisset	24,225	26,434	26,163	32,272	5,838	22.09%	37,744
Toronto	31,639	32,182	33,373	34,315	2,133	6.63%	35,924
Total	202,332	208,615	212,898	223,777	15,162	7.27%	238,180

2.3.1 The Belmont Catchment



Belmont is the planning area for the east and south-east of Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Belmont, Belmont South, Moonee, Nords Wharf, Catherine Hill Bay, Pinny Beach, Murrays Beach, Swansea, Caves Beach, Blacksmiths, Pelican, Marks point, Swansea Heads, Little Pelican and Cams Wharf. The 2016 census estimates that Belmont has a population of 25,893 residents. The table below shows the predicted growth in the catchment based on New South Wales planning department projections for the municipality.

The Belmont planning catchment has an **estimated 26,910 people in 2021**. The following table outlines the age breakdown of the catchment as well as how the population age makeup will change over the next 10 years.

Belmont	2021	2031	Growth Change 2021 to 2031	Percentage Change from 2021 to 2031
0 to 14 years	4,454	4,305	-149	-3.34%
15 to 24 years	2,940	2,763	-177	-6.01%
25 to 44 years	5,313	5,665	351	6.61%
45 to 54 years	3,483	3,650	167	4.81%
55 to 74 years	7,444	7,381	-62	-0.84%
75+ years	3,231	4,306	1,075	33.28%
TOTAL	26,864	28,070	1,206	

Note- The sum of age groups population data provided varies slightly from the overall population data sets due to rounding of percentage calculations.

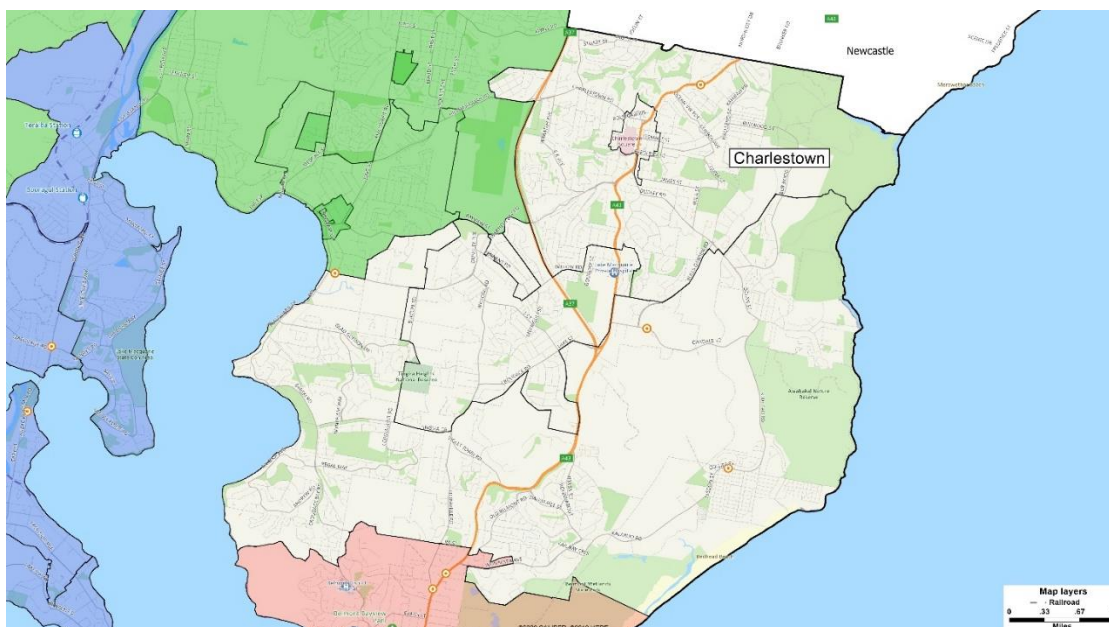
From the analysis of the age groups it can be seen that Belmont has a large population aged 54 years and older which is the proportion of the population that is expected to grow at the fastest rate over the next 20 years. This represents a gradual aging of the population, a trend seen across many LGAs in New South Wales and Australia.

Based on the 2016 census there are an estimated 985 residents who identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island decent.

Cultural diversity is also relatively low within the catchment with 8.8% of the population being born overseas and 3.04% of the population speaking a language other than English at home.

The average weekly wage within Belmont is \$530 per week and this is the lowest average weekly wage of the 5 planning areas. This can be attributed to the unemployment rate within Belmont being estimated at 7.66% and the Labour force participation rate being 50.94%. This is the second highest unemployment rate within the LGA and the lowest labour force participation rate. In addition to this, the SEIFA index of relative advantage and disadvantage gives Belmont a score of 966. This is the lowest score and shows that there is a relatively high level of disadvantage within the planning area.

2.3.2 The Charlestown Catchment



Charlestown is the planning area for the north-east of Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Belmont North, Floraville, Valentine, Eleebana, Tingira Heights, Mount Hutton, Charlestown, Kotara South, Highfields, Whitebridge, Kahibah, Redhead, Jewells, Bennetts Green, Windale, Gateshead and Dudley. The 2016 census estimates that Charlestown has a population of 61,530 residents, which is the largest in terms of population. The table below shows the predicted growth in the catchment based on New South Wales planning department projections for the municipality.

Charlestown is the most populated planning catchment in Lake Macquarie with an **estimated 61,520 people in 2021**. The following table outlines the age breakdown of the catchment as well as how the population age makeup will change over the next 10 years.

Charlestown	2021	2031	Growth Change 2021 to 2031	Percentage Change from 2021 to 2031
0 to 14 years	11,715	10,785	-930	-7.94%
15 to 24 years	7,184	7,081	-103	-1.44%
25 to 44 years	14,404	14,383	-20	-0.14%
45 to 54 years	7,941	8,036	95	1.19%
54 to 74 years	14,121	14,003	-119	-0.84%
75+ years	6,155	8,330	2,175	35.33%
TOTAL	61,521	62,618	1,098	

Note- The sum of age groups population data provided varies slightly from the overall population data sets due to rounding of percentage calculations.

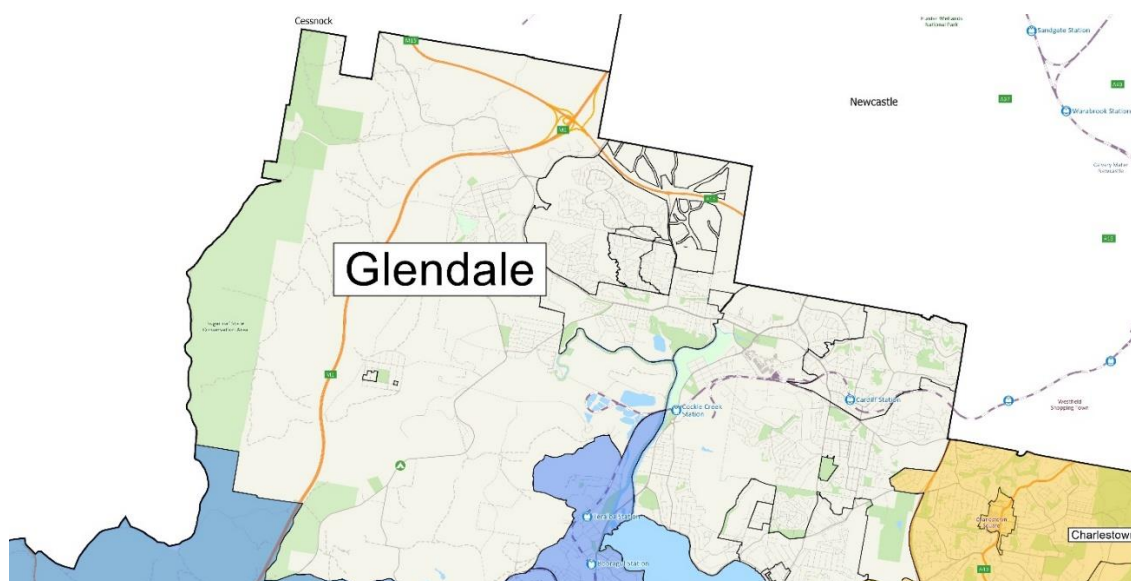
From the analysis of the age groups it can be seen that Charlestown has a large population of 0 to 14 year olds as well as a large population between the ages of 25 and 44. This suggests a large number of young families live within the catchment. Similarly, there is a large proportion of the population aged 54 years and older which is the proportion of the population that is expected to grow at the fastest rate over the next 20 years. This represents a gradual aging of the population, a trend seen across many LGAs in New South Wales and Australia.

Charlestown has the second highest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the Lake Macquarie council area. Based on the 2016 census there are an estimated 2,130 residents who identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island decent.

Cultural diversity is also high within the catchment with 9.83% of the population being born overseas and 4.90% of the population speaking a language other than English at home.

The average weekly wage within Charlestown is \$665 per week. The unemployment rate within Charlestown is estimated at 6.34% and the Labour force participation rate being 58.46%. This is the lowest unemployment rate within the LGA and the second labour force participation rate. In addition to this, the SEIFA index of relative advantage and disadvantage gives Charlestown a score of 1010. This is the highest score and shows that there is a relatively low level of disadvantage within the planning area.

2.3.3 The Glendale Catchment



Glendale is planning area for the north of Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Warners Bay, Wakefield, Killingworth, West Wallsend, Seahampton, Cameron Park, Edgeworth, Holmesville, Barnsley, Teralba, Speers Point, Hillsborough, Garden Suburb, Cardiff Heights, Glendale, Argenton, Boolaroo, Cardiff South, Lakelands, Macquarie Hills, Cardiff, New Lambton Heights and Elmore Vale. The 2016 census estimates that Glendale has a population of 55,506 residents. The table below shows the predicted growth in the catchment based on New South Wales planning department projections for the municipality.

Glendale is the second most populated planning catchment in Lake Macquarie with an **estimated 61,450 people in 2021**. The following table outlines the age breakdown of the catchment as well as how the population age makeup will change over the next 10 years.

Glendale	2021	2031	Growth Change 2021 to 2031	Percentage Change from 2021 to 2031
0 to 14 years	12,166	11,819	-347	-2.85%
15 to 24 years	7,517	7,955	438	5.83%
25 to 44 years	16,361	17,630	1,269	7.76%
45 to 54 years	7,787	8,107	320	4.11%
54 to 74 years	12,972	13,875	903	6.96%
75+ years	4,647	6,909	2,262	48.68%
TOTAL	61,450	66,295	4,845	

Note- The sum of age groups population data provided varies slightly from the overall population data sets due to rounding of percentage calculations.

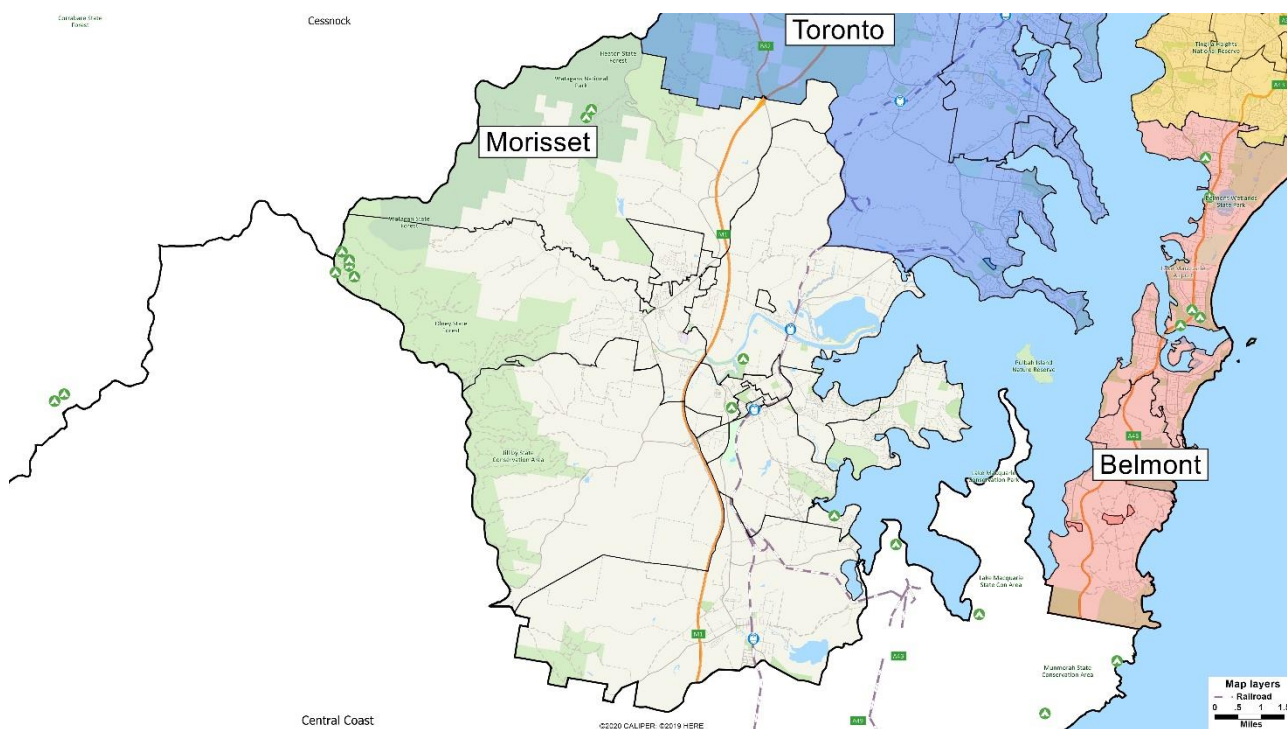
From the analysis of the age groups it can be seen that Glendale has a large population of 0 to 14 year olds as well as a large population between the ages of 25 and 44. This suggests a large number of young families live within the catchment. Similarly, there is a large proportion of the population aged 54 years and older which is the proportion of the population that is expected to grow at the fastest rate over the next 20 years. This represents a gradual aging of the population, a trend seen across many LGAs in New South Wales and Australia.

Glendale has the highest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the Lake Macquarie council area. Based on the 2016 census there are an estimated 2,258 residents who identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent.

Cultural diversity is also high within the catchment with 9.65% of the population being born overseas and 5.29% of the population speaking a language other than English at home.

The average weekly wage within Glendale is \$808 per week and this is the highest average weekly wage of the 5 planning areas. This can be attributed to the unemployment rate within Glendale being estimated at 6.80% and the Labour force participation rate being 62.61%. This is the second lowest unemployment rate within the LGA and the highest labour force participation rate. In addition to this, the SEIFA index of relative advantage and disadvantage gives Glendale a score of 1001. This is the second highest score and shows that there is a relatively low level of disadvantage within the planning area.

2.3.4 The Morisset Catchment



Morisset is the planning areas for the south-west of Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Cooranbong, Martinsville, Mandalong, Wyee, Wyee Point, Morisset, Dora Creek, Eraring, Bonnells Bay, Brightwaters, Sunshine, Mirrabooka, Silverwater, Morisset Park, Windermere Park, Yarrowonga Park, Balcolyn. The 2016 census estimates that Morisset has a population of 23,672 residents. It is the least populated planning catchment in Lake Macquarie. The table below shows the predicted growth in the catchment based on New South Wales planning department projections for the municipality.

The Morisset planning catchment has an **estimated 26,400 people in 2021**. The following table outlines the age breakdown of the catchment as well as how the population age makeup will change over the next 10 years.

Morisset	2021	2031	Growth Change 2021 to 2031	Percentage Change from 2021 to 2031
0 to 14 years	4,759	5,966	1,207	25.36%
15 to 24 years	3,108	3,794	686	22.07%
25 to 44 years	5,864	7,680	1,816	30.97%
45 to 54 years	3,093	3,613	520	16.81%
54 to 74 years	6,428	7,109	681	10.59%
75+ years	3,148	4,062	914	29.03%
TOTAL	26,400	32,224	5,824	

Note- The sum of age groups population data provided varies slightly from the overall population data sets due to rounding of percentage calculations.

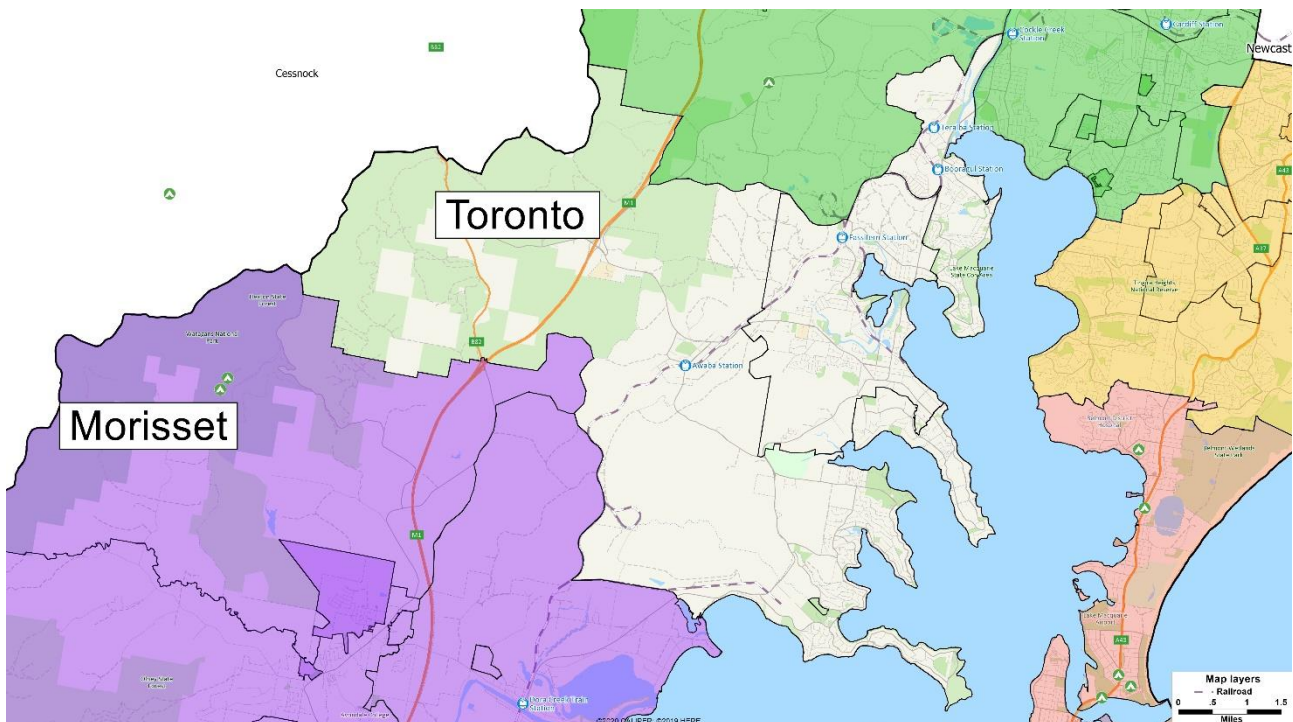
From the analysis of the age groups it can be seen that Morisset has a high population of 25 to 44-year olds as well as a large population aged between 54 and 74 years old. The population is expected to grow the most in the older age groups This represents a gradual aging of the population, a trend seen across many LGAs in New South Wales and Australia.

Based on the 2016 census there are an estimated 904 residents who identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island decent living within the Morisset planning area.

Cultural diversity is the highest within Lake Macquarie with 13.21% of the population being born overseas and 4.49% of the population speaking a language other than English at home.

The average weekly wage within Morisset is \$560 per week. Morisset has the highest unemployment rate within Lake Macquarie being estimated at 7.72% and the Labour force participation rate being 50.21%. This is the highest unemployment rate within the LGA and the lowest labour force participation rate. In addition to this, the SEIFA index of relative advantage and disadvantage gives Morisset a score of 982. This shows that there is a relatively high level of disadvantage within the planning area.

2.3.5 The Toronto Catchment



Toronto is the planning areas for the west of Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Freemans Waterhole, Ryhope, Awaba, Blackalls Parl, Toronto, Fennell Bay, Marmong point, Booragul, Bolton Point, Woodrising, Fassifern, Kilaben Bay, Coal Point, Carey Bay, Rathmines, Balmoral, Fishing Point, Arcadia Vale, Buttaba, Wangi Wangi and Myuna Bay. The 2016 census estimates that Toronto has a population of 30,796 residents. The table below shows the predicted growth in the catchment based on New South Wales planning department projections for the municipality.

The Toronto planning catchment has an **estimated 32,145 people in 2021**The following table outlines the age breakdown of the catchment as well as how the population age makeup will change over the next 10 years.

Toronto	2021	2031	Growth Change 2021 to 2031	Percentage Change from 2021 to 2031
0 to 14 years	5,434	5,615	181	3.33%
15 to 24 years	3,556	3,719	163	4.58%
25 to 44 years	6,602	7,347	745	11.28%
45 to 54 years	3,965	3,982	17	0.43%
54 to 74 years	8,840	8,124	-716	-8.10%
75+ years	3,748	5,456	1,708	45.57%
TOTAL	32,145	34,243	2,098	

Note- The sum of age groups population data provided varies slightly from the overall population data sets due to rounding of percentage calculations.

From the analysis of the age groups it can be seen that Toronto has a high population of 25 to 54-year olds as well as a large population over the age of 54. The population is expected to grow the most in the older age groups This represents a gradual aging of the population, a trend seen across many LGAs in New South Wales and Australia.

Based on the 2016 census there are an estimated 1,583 residents who identify as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island decent living within the Toronto planning area.

Cultural diversity is also high within the catchment with 9.86% of the population being born overseas and 3.11% of the population speaking a language other than English at home.

The average weekly wage within Toronto is \$562 per week. Toronto has one of the highest unemployment rates within Lake Macquarie being estimated at 7.66% and the Labour force participation rate being 50.94%. This is the second highest unemployment rate within the LGA and the second lowest labour force participation rate. In addition to this, the SEIFA index of relative advantage and disadvantage gives Glendale a score of 972. This is the second lowest score and shows that there is a relatively high level of disadvantage within the planning area.

3. Sports Trends

A review of trends has been undertaken to assist in understanding the issues that will impact sport and recreation into the future. This includes localised sporting participation as well as broad national trends that impact the sporting landscape as well as and trends.

3.1 Local Trends and Data Insights

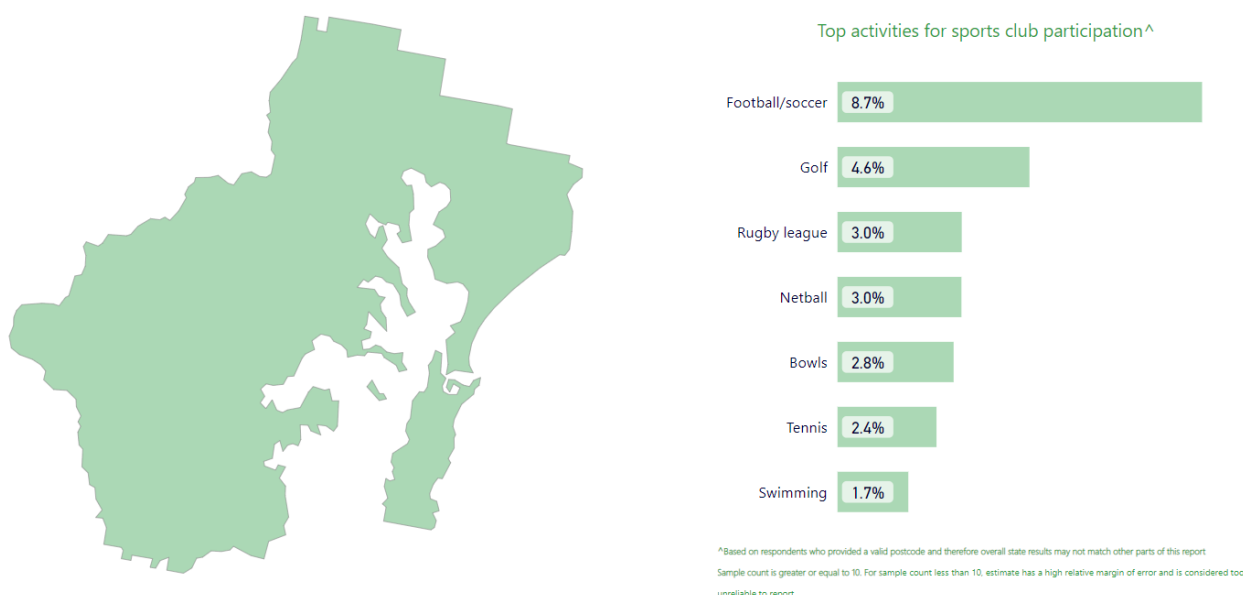
3.1.1 Ausplay Insights

Sport Australia conducts the Ausplay survey – a national survey to track the sporting behaviours and activities of the Australian population. **Over the last three years in NSW, Ausplay participation data has highlighted:**

1. Walking (recreational) continues to be, by far, the most popular activity (42.9% in 2019). This is consistent with previous trends.
2. Fitness/ Gym, Swimming, Athletics, Cycling, Football/ Soccer and Bushwalking have consistently rated as the top seven activities since 2017.
3. Only minor changes in participation are evident between 2017 and 2019:
4. Participation has increased slightly in seven of the top 15 activities, with the largest increases being in Fitness/ Gym (↑2.0%) and Walking (↑1.0%).
5. Minor decreases were evident in five of the top 15 activities, with the largest decreases being in Golf and Surfing (↓0.8%).
6. Netball replaced Cricket in the top 15 most participated sports in 2019.

The Ausplay survey provides the following specific data for the **Lake Macquarie Local Government Area**.

Figure 5 - Ausplay 2020 survey results for the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area

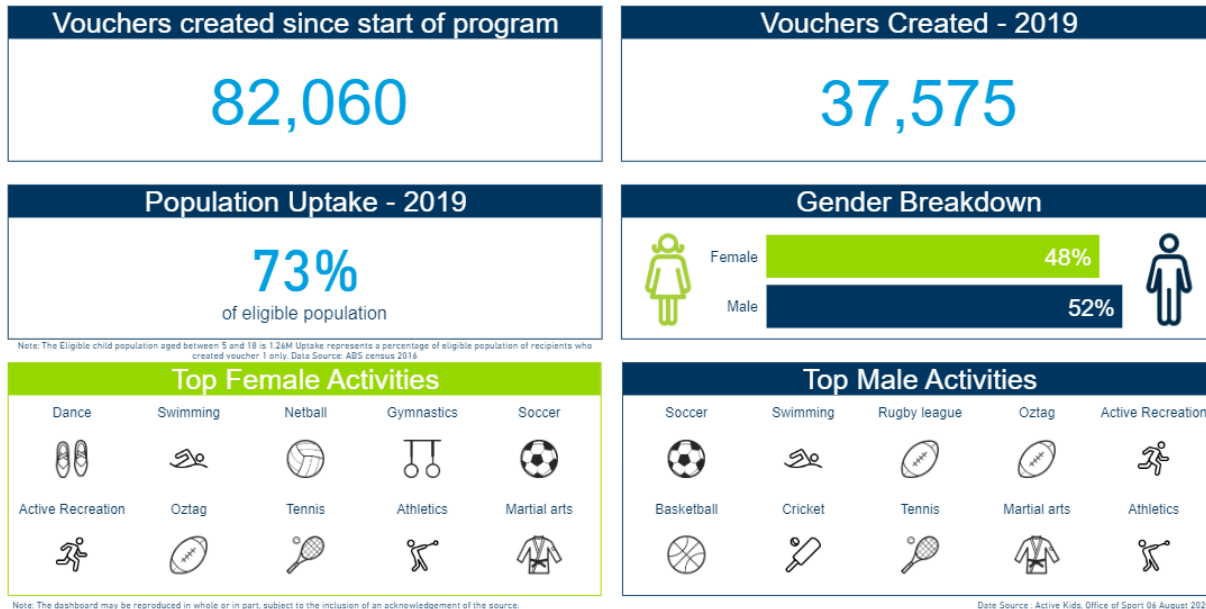


As can be seen, the highest sport club participation found through the Ausplay survey was Football. This is almost double the second highest sport activity recorded being golf.

3.1.2 NSW Active Kids Insights

The NSW Active Kids Voucher provides up to two \$100 vouchers per household for school aged children to help with the costs of participating in sport. Results for Lake Macquarie in 2019 are outlined below:

Figure 6 - Active Kids Voucher 2019 data for the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area



The top three Active Kids activities for females were dance, swimming, and netball, whilst the top three activities for males were soccer, swimming and rugby league.

3.1.3 ActiveXchange Insights

ActiveXchange is a data science organisation that focus on sport and leisure analysis. Within NSW, ActiveXchange have agreements with various State Sporting Organisations which allow affiliated membership with these organisations to be compared to between areas. It also provides the capacity to map demand in relation to population data to help identify priority areas for both Council and sporting codes.

Of the sports available, the following had higher rates of participation from Lake Macquarie residents compared to the NSW average participation rates:

- Football – 5.08% compared to the NSW average of 3.65%
- Netball – 2.04% compared to the NSW average of 1.54%
- Rugby League – 1.65% compared to the NSW average of 1.32%
- Gymnastics – 1.34% compared to the NSW average of 0.92%
- Athletics – 0.78% compared to the NSW average of 0.56%

It is noted that ActiveXchange does not currently have agreements with all sports in NSW.

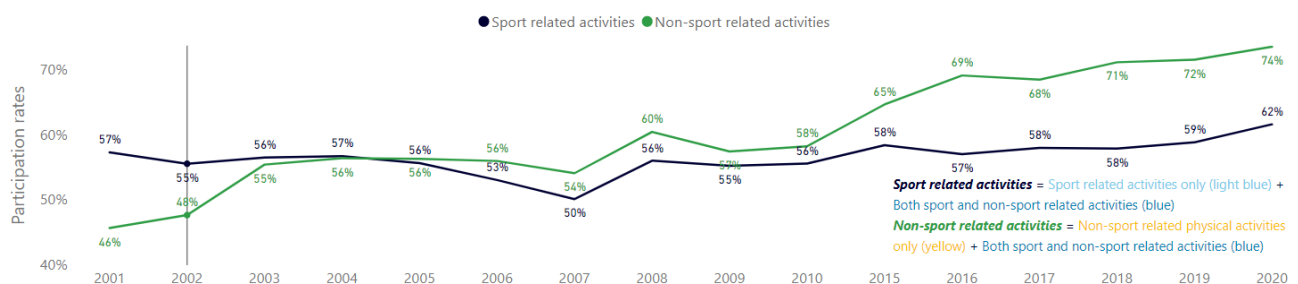
3.2 National trends

As identified by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, six megatrends – an important pattern of social, economic or environmental change - are likely to shape the Australian sports sector over the next 30 years:




- **A perfect fit** – Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise. People are fitting sport into their increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles to achieve personal health objectives.
- **From extreme to mainstream** – This megatrend captures the rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular with younger generations. These sports typically involve complex, advanced skills and have some element of inherent danger and/or thrill-seeking.
- **More than sport** – The broader benefits of sport are being increasingly recognised by governments, business and communities. Sport can help achieve mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development and international cooperation objectives.
- **Everybody's game** – Australia and other countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development face an ageing population. This will change the types of sports we play and how we play them.
- **New wealth, new talent** – Population and income growth throughout Asia will create tougher competition and new opportunities for Australia both on the sports field and in the sports business environment.
- **Tracksuits to business suits** – Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport in the future. Loosely organised community sports associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems in light of market pressures. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.

3.2.1 National participation trends

Data insights provided by Sport Australia demonstrate that participation and physical activity has increased since 2001. Majority of this growth has occurred through non-sport physical activities such as walking and attending the gym. This is shown in the graph below.









The top 10 most popular club sports according to Sport Australia are illustrated below.






Total			Adults (15+)			Children (0 - 14)		
	Football/soccer 1,145,988 Participants	4.6% Participation Rate		Golf 678,087 Participants	3.3% Participation Rate		Football/soccer 586,207 Participants	12.4% Participation Rate
	Golf 701,202 Participants	2.8% Participation Rate		Football/soccer 559,781 Participants	2.8% Participation Rate		Australian football 347,855 Participants	7.3% Participation Rate
	Australian football 692,602 Participants	2.8% Participation Rate		Tennis 412,584 Participants	2.0% Participation Rate		Netball 277,377 Participants	5.8% Participation Rate
	Netball 662,751 Participants	2.6% Participation Rate		Netball 385,375 Participants	1.9% Participation Rate		Basketball 272,537 Participants	5.7% Participation Rate
	Tennis 623,069 Participants	2.5% Participation Rate		Australian football 344,746 Participants	1.7% Participation Rate		Swimming 271,761 Participants	5.7% Participation Rate
	Basketball 582,828 Participants	2.3% Participation Rate		Cricket 316,781 Participants	1.6% Participation Rate		Cricket 212,284 Participants	4.5% Participation Rate
	Cricket 529,065 Participants	2.1% Participation Rate		Basketball 310,291 Participants	1.5% Participation Rate		Tennis 210,485 Participants	4.4% Participation Rate
	Swimming 371,755 Participants	1.5% Participation Rate		Bowls 209,806 Participants	1.0% Participation Rate		Gymnastics 168,999 Participants	3.6% Participation Rate
	Touch football 285,720 Participants	1.1% Participation Rate		Touch football 207,872 Participants	1.0% Participation Rate		Running/Athletics 147,317 Participants	3.1% Participation Rate
	Running/Athletics 271,171 Participants	1.1% Participation Rate		Hockey 137,269 Participants	0.7% Participation Rate		Rugby league 112,492 Participants	2.4% Participation Rate

3.3 Drivers of sport participation and social trends

Sport Australia’s ‘Drivers of Participation’ outlines broader social trends and how these influence trends in sport participation and subsequently, sport facility provision.

 Share economy: Consumers are becoming less attached to the ownership of goods, and are more frequently renting or sharing services through peer-to-peer platforms.	 Virtual is reality: Consumers are increasingly moving online to connect, deliver and access services, obtain information, perform transactions, and work.	 Experiences and personalisation: Consumers are increasingly seeking experiences over products with an expectation for these experiences to meet individual needs and wants.
 Convenience is king: Consumers expect instant gratification through the rise of on-demand services built upon speed and accessibility.	 Lifestyle and community: Consumers want to be a part of something and are attracted to products that define them and their lifestyle or community.	 Holistic health: Consumers are increasingly seeking out healthier lifestyles with a focus on measuring and maintaining optimal physical and mental health.

These social trends translate to the following current sport trends:

 New technologies: Technology is having a major influence on how spectators, participants and home-viewers observe, engage and consume sport.	 eSports: eSports is a significant contributor to the sport sector with approximately one-fifth of the world actively playing video games at a value of \$194m.	 Sport to get fit: Consumers are increasingly engaging in modified sport products designed to get fit whilst participation rates in traditional organised sports have declined.
 Less time more options: Consumers have less time to spend on sport and recreation yet have a greater range of options and opportunities to participate in.	 Adapted offerings: Sports are being challenged to capture the interest and involvement of diverse audience with many developing and modifying products to meet new consumer needs.	

3.4 Changing Participation and Emerging Sports

Shifting Social Factors

The last 10 years has seen some significant shifts in the social factors affecting sport and recreation participation. These include:

- A generally ageing population and growing population of active and financially independent retirees who readily participate in outdoor recreation and travel.
- Increasing densities in larger cities and increasing take up of medium and high density living for young couples and families with young children.
- Declining housing affordability pushing many aspiring homeowners and renters to urban fringes, greenfield development fronts and regional areas.
- Increased “seachange and treechange” activity with lifestyle and affordability driving interstate migration (along with employment).
- Rapid change in employment structures with increased prevalence of part time work and rising participation in the 24-hour economy. More than half of working Australians are now in part time or casual and insecure work.
- High correlation between low socio-economic areas and worsening health outcomes due to lifestyle related illness. This issue is driving an imperative to improve urban design outcomes to encourage more active lifestyles and reduce social isolation and disadvantage.
- Increasingly multi-cultural society. A greater variety of recreational activities reflecting a wide range of interests is desired.

These shifting social factors are impacting on the sport participation landscape in various ways, including:

- A higher demand for convenience focused offerings that can be undertaken at times that suit the individual.
- A greater number of offerings and adapted formats of sport to encourage ongoing participation.
- A greater presence of commercial sport providers with convenience focused adapted offerings.
- A shift away from traditional sporting seasons.
- Declining volunteerism and changing sport governance structures.
- Increased use of technology to access and facilitate participation in sport and physical activity. One in five Australians (19%) use apps for tracking activity or training.

Emerging Sports

The sporting landscape in Australia is unique in its diversity, providing a large range of opportunities to participate in a wide range of activities. As our communities continue to evolve and diversify, so too does the demand for sport and other forms of recreation. A challenge for local government is responding to the shifting participation landscape including new or emerging sports. Disc Golf, Pickleball and Roller Derby are examples of emerging sports that may require consideration in the future. However, their growth and continued operation is largely dependent on localised demand and sustainable club governance.

Due to the nature of new/emerging sports, it is not possible to have a definitive list of all new/emerging sports that Council’s may be requested to assist in the future. Emerging sports should be considered and catered for within the existing sport infrastructure network where possible. This could involve activating un-used spaces, adapting existing facilities and/or re-allocating users to accommodate such activities.

4. Research and Best Practice

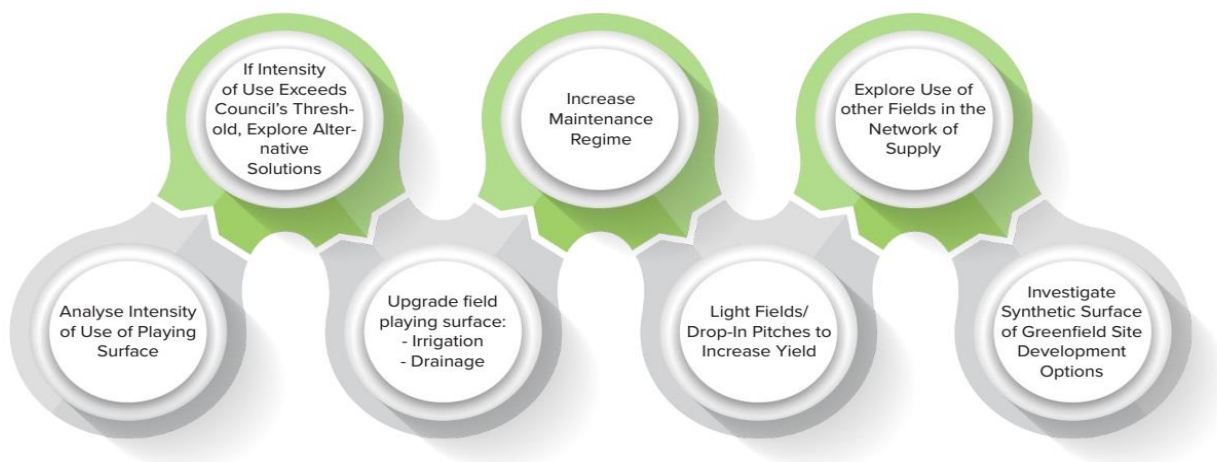
4.1 Outdoor Playing Fields

- Single playing field facilities do not support effective competition outcomes and are costly to maintain within the overall network of sportsgrounds.
- Sports fields are increasingly being located as part of a larger, multi-use sport and recreation precinct providing opportunities for formal and informal activity.
- Capturing accurate and reliable data in respect to playing field utilisation provides a strong foundation for facility allocations and planning for infrastructure upgrades. Introduction of online booking systems assist facilitate data capture and analysis.
- Designing and maintaining playing surfaces to maximise their sustainability is important as the intensity of use of playing surfaces increases.
- Lighting of playing fields, compliant with Australian Standards and/ or sport-specific standards and increasingly the desire for Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting to enhance cost savings is increasing in importance.
- The way people utilise sportsgrounds is changing, and people are now relying on open space for an increasingly diverse array of activities. Coupled with increasing cultural diversity, this means that sportsgrounds need to accommodate diverse activities to meet a variety of needs, including for both formal and informal playing opportunities.
- Participation in traditional sports and competitive sport overall is changing with stronger growth in social and casual participation. Many sports are responding with increased provision of social and modified versions and with strategies that open the sport to new markets (e.g. women's AFL).
- Increasing commercial provision of casual and social sport, which is resulting in a more consumer focused approach where participants do not have to volunteer at any club and can just turn up "Pay and Play" and get away.
- Strategies to maximise the yield from the existing supply of sports fields can include:
 - Increase the field maintenance regime in order to maintain a higher standard of surface through high intensity of use periods.
 - Provision of efficient irrigation and drainage solutions to maximise the surface integrity and performance.
 - Provision of lighting to support expanded capacity into evening hours.
- The importance of school fields as part of the solution to the increasing pressure on supply, is increasingly being recognised by State and Local Governments. Access to school facilities is becoming targeted within those localities that have the higher shortfall of supply. Should Lake Macquarie experience a significant shortfall in a specific area, investigations into joint and share use agreements are to be explored.

4.1.1 Management of Sports Field Demand Model

Summarised below is the step-by-step best practice process of strategies to address demand of sports fields.

Figure 7: Sports Field Demand Management Model



4.2 Synthetic Playing Fields

Population growth, extreme climatic conditions, and a shortage of affordable land for sports fields in some urban centres are contributing to increases in the intensity of use of outdoor playing fields. This often results in overuse of fields and adversely impacts on the standard and usability of playing fields. Synthetic surfaces are increasingly being examined as a solution to these challenges.

Historically used only for hockey in Australia, synthetic surfaces are becoming popular among many Council's to support a variety of sport and recreation activities.

Several factors need to be considered in developing a synthetic surface:

- The cost of developing synthetic fields is relatively high for one playing field
- Regular cleaning and preventative maintenance is required to protect the integrity of the synthetic surface
- Similar to any playing field/ court, the standard of playing field is directly related to the quality of the base underneath the carpet (including road base and shock pad)
- The life of the surface is not unlimited and generally requires replacement every 7-10 years within a playing environment.

As identified in the Sports Field Demand Management Model, synthetic playing fields should be considered when other and more financially viable options have been progress. This includes re-allocation to ensure equitable spread of utilisation, providing drainage/irrigation, installing lighting to relevant standards, increasing maintenance regimes and using non-Council sports facilities through joint and share use agreements

4.3 Outdoor Courts

4.3.1 Tennis

Tennis courts provide a mix of formal, informal and commercial use. On this basis, main road frontage for tennis centres is preferred. Tennis centres should form part of a network of facilities from a regional, district and local perspective. Tennis Australia advise that a minimum 8 court, plus 4 hotshot court facility is required for a centre to be viable. Surfaces vary between hardcourt, synthetic grass, natural grass and clay. Hardcourt and synthetic grass are the most popular surfaces at district and local standard facilities. Hardcourts are typically preferred within centres that have a high level of player development and competitions, whilst synthetic grass surfaces are preferred at centres used by older adults due to the softer impacting surface.

4.3.2 Netball

Netball courts are typically being co-located within broader sport and recreation hubs. Where such multi-use precincts incorporate indoor courts, best practice design outcomes are to ensure close proximity between the two activity spaces. A minimum 8 court (preferably 12) netball facility is required to support effective competition management and viability. Larger court provision is required for facilities at a regional and above standard. Lighting of netball courts is considered essential to address trends for increased night competitions and training.

4.4 Indoor Sport Infrastructure

Indoor sport infrastructure provides all-weather opportunities for a diverse range of sporting codes. As our climate continues to change, and participants seek greater certainty of their sport activities, the demand for indoor sport infrastructure will continue to rise.

Indoor sport facilities are often highly adaptable, allowing for various sport activities. For example, indoor courts are able to cater for basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal and badminton. Program rooms can allow for martial arts and dance allow for broader recreation opportunities such as yoga and Pilates.

Indoor facilities are able to absorb greater participant use per square metre of space when compared to other sports facility types such as outdoor fields. Indoor sport facilities often allow for participation to occur for longer periods of the day, with some competitions occurring late into the evening. This contributes to their economic sustainability. They can be provided in various zonings and be co-located as a centralised activated community destination with other facilities such as aquatic/leisure centres, gymnastics, allied health, or libraries.

4.5 Changing Climatic Conditions

As a result of climate change, temperatures are becoming more extreme, droughts will be more prolonged and rainfall and storm events less frequent but potentially more severe. This will lead to a greater need to explore measures for adapting to a changing climate, so that sports infrastructure is still viable for its intended use and ensure opportunities for participation in sport continue.

Responding to our changing climatic conditions can take form in various ways. This includes but is not limited to:

- Providing lighting to allow for greater evening/night time use of sports facilities when temperatures are cooler
- Providing drainage and irrigation to help respond to rainfall variations
- Investigating use of water harvesting programs to enhance irrigation capacity
- Increasing natural and built shading to enhance user and spectator safety and comfort
- Increased planning and consideration of indoor facilities

The application of climate resilience measures are to be considered in the context of local conditions, facility supply, facility utilisation and economic viability. Climate resilience measures should be considered within the all sports facility development and upgrade projects.

4.6 Technology and Sport

Over recent years, a range of innovations and initiatives have been developed using technology to generate enhanced sports outcomes. These technologies are applicable to all aspects sport including participation, management and maintenance. Examples of recent innovations that use technology to enhance outcomes include, but not limited to:

- LED lighting, providing greater energy efficiencies whilst reducing adverse impacts such as light spill
- Remote lighting controls allowing flexibility to schedule lighting in correlation with bookings and ground closures

- Smart irrigation systems with sensors to optimise water efficiencies and turf outcomes
- Sensor lighting in amenities to reduce energy consumption
- Automated lux readers and line markers to help with assessments and maintenance
- Heat based sensors to capture high use areas on a playing field
- Electronic booking systems to provide greater control over asset utilisation and deliver data insights
- Use of software applications for scheduling, promotion and information sharing
- Data platforms to help understand participation rates and measure against other benchmarks
- Introduction of the latest synthetic surfaces

The challenge for local government and the sport sector is to understand the most suitable application of technology for the local landscape, and balance the introduction of technology in respect to other infrastructure and non-infrastructure priorities.

4.7 Importance of Physical Activity

Sport facilities are critical for community health and wellbeing. They ensure our urban environments support and sustain our communities through:

1. **Physical and mental health benefits:** Sport infrastructure and services promotes physical activity and active lifestyles. Direct benefits to health include: reduced risk of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, colon and breast cancer and diabetes; improved bone health; reduced risk of falls and fractures; assistance with weight management; enhancement of the immune system; and improvement of mental health and sense of wellbeing.
2. **Social benefits:** Public open space including sport facilities generate stronger and more connected communities with improved social interaction and inclusion through provision of active and vibrant community hubs, access to facilities and resources, opportunities for volunteering and involvement.
3. **Environmental benefits:** Health benefits associated with provision of parks and green environments including sport infrastructure include temperature reduction and mitigation of the urban heat island effect; air quality improvement; management of storm water reducing the incidence of flooding and water-borne disease; ecosystem support and biodiversity enhancement.
4. **Economic benefits:** Sport facilities and associated activities assists in reducing reduce health care costs through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction.

The National Heart Foundation of Australia has recently released its third edition of the Blueprint for an Active Australia. Some key evidence cited in this report includes:

- Heart disease remains the single leading cause of death in Australia
- Physical activity can significantly reduce heart disease risk and the burden of a range of other chronic diseases, as well as improve mental health
- “Nearly 6 in 10 adults, 3 quarters of seniors and over 8 in 10 children and young people are not active enough for good heart health. This ranks Australia among the world’s most inactive nations.”

The provision of sporting opportunities for the community play a critical role in assisting to combat the declining physical activity rates of our society. There is a need to provide accessible opportunities for formal and informal sports participation for our communities.

4.8 Value of Community Sport Infrastructure

In 2018, Australian Sports Commission and KPMG published a report titled: *The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure: Investigating the value of community sports facilities to Australia*. The headliner finding of the report was that annually Community sport infrastructure is estimated to generate more than \$16.2 billion annually to Australia. This includes:

- \$6.3 billion in economic benefits, including 33,900 FTE jobs and \$5.53 billion in increased productivity
- \$4.9 billion in health benefits including \$500 million in health system benefits and reduction of many personal health concerns, including reduction in chronic diseases, reduction of anxiety and depression
- \$5.1 billion in social benefits including \$4.2 billion in human capital uplift (improved educational and employment outcomes).

The report states:

In a competitive funding environment, proponents of community sport infrastructure projects must be able to demonstrate that their proposals will deliver value to their communities more broadly than only to direct interest groups (whether that be sports clubs, state sporting organisations, or other community groups).

The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure report outlines potential outcomes for the sector and policy makers. This includes:

- A shift from seeing provision of community sport infrastructure as a 'cost' to an 'investment, impact and value' to communities.
- Opportunity for further collaboration across all levels of government and government departments to deliver improved value to communities.

Three important factors to drive social benefits are:

- Management structures that are specifically designed to deliver the intended outcomes.
- Leadership and supervision of activities that facilitates positive and inclusive relationships between participants.
- Programming that promotes frequent participation and active engagement.

Limitations to optimising the benefits of community sport infrastructure may include:

- Single-use facilities (either by design or management/ use) as opposed to multi-use facilities.
- Constraints in fostering inclusive environments or to adopt universal design principles (often given the age of the infrastructure).
- Constraints imposed by the need to protect natural turf surfaces.
- Inadequate facilities (e.g. lack of female change facilities).
- Peak demand loads, particularly in the afternoon and evening.
- Imposed physical barriers to accessing facilities (e.g. fences).
- Historical lack of flexibility by sports to develop tailored programs and products to work within facility constraints.

4.9 Management of Community Sport Infrastructure

There is a wide range of management structures for community sport infrastructure across Australia. In general terms, this includes but is not limited to:

- Council in-house management of all facility bookings through hire applications by clubs. This includes both hard copy and electronic booking systems.
 - Type of bookings vary – from seasonal bookings covering seven days a week through to hourly bookings.
- Council in-house management with bookings of multiple facilities made to the Association. The Association is then responsible for the allocation of facilities to their affiliate clubs.
- Community management committees. In NSW, these are normally undertaken through delegated authority provided by S355 of the NSW Local Government Act. These are often referred to as 'Park Committees'.
- Delegating authority to an individual (normally incorporated) sporting club who manages the facility on behalf of Council.
- Leases and licenses. In NSW, these are typically authorised through S48 of the of the NSW Local Government Act and the Council's Sportsground Plan of Management.
- A separate entity such as a Sport Council that acts on behalf of Council to manage sport infrastructure across the LGA.

In areas of growing population and increasing sport infrastructure demands, there has been a shift towards greater Council management of facilities. This allows the facility owner to have greater control over facility allocations and can seek to apply booking systems that facilitate optimal use. In higher density areas such as the Eastern District of Greater Sydney, many Councils have moved away from blanket seasonal bookings and towards smaller booking allotments. This allows for greater control, increased use and often higher revenue.

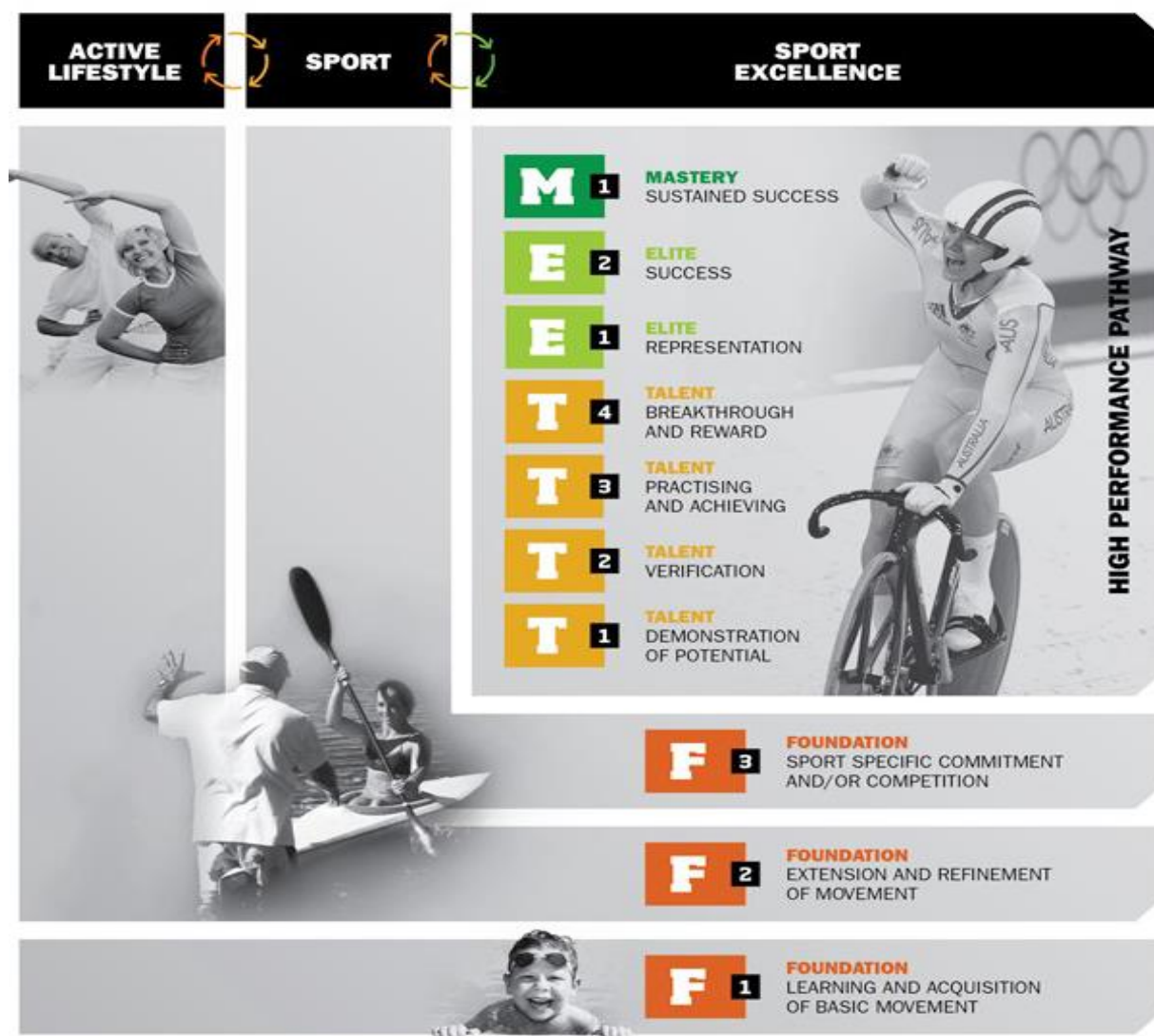
5. The Lake Macquarie Sporting Landscape

This section provides an overview of the sporting landscape within Lake Macquarie. It provides a high-level analysis of facility supply in relation to facility type, hierarchy and catchment area.

5.1 The performance pathway framework

The Foundation Training Elite Mastery (FTEM) Framework is founded on developing physical abilities and establishing a long term commitment to physical activity. FTEM assists in the management of an athlete's career development. Implementation of the FTEM system to support athletes and coaches depends on investment. Well planned sports facilities that provide up to date competition and training environments will improve overall athlete performance.

Figure 8: The FTEM Framework



5.2 Sport Infrastructure Network

The Office of Sport has developed a draft criteria for the sport infrastructure network across New South Wales. This has been used to categorise Lake Macquarie Sport Infrastructure, ensuring alignment with future government policy.

International, national and state facilities

International, national and state facilities are the highest-level facilities capable of hosting international events and competitions, national leagues, and state or national team training centres. These facilities promote sports, provide entertainment and encourage community access and pathway opportunities for participants.

NSW residents are the primary users of these facilities, however they also attract users and visitors from interstate and overseas. National and/or state facilities within NSW include the venues defined in the NSW Government's Stadia Strategy (2012).

Centres of excellence

Centres of excellence provide world-leading training and administration facilities so that clubs can build, attract and retain the best talent among athletes, coaches, executive and support staff. These facilities provide programs that identify and develop future elite players and help them achieve mastery in their sport. They are integral to talent and youth development pathways and may include an academy program.

A Centre of Excellence includes elite level training facilities, administration centre, and education and training rooms for codes and clubs. They may host games from junior level to professional, exhibition events and pre-season events. Centres of excellence give sport organisations a home base and can provide a competitive edge as they face greater competition and demands for better athlete services and better technology.

High performance centres

High performance centres provide world-leading training and administration facilities to develop, attract and retain the best talent among athletes, coaches and support staff. High performance sport and performance pathways drive participation in sport and attendance at major sporting events.

High performance centres should be adaptive and accessible, allow for flexible training methods, meet minimum competition standards, and encourage shared use across multiple sports. These spaces should also include relevant technological infrastructure that enables ongoing learning and analysis. Holistic education opportunities for athletes and coaches should be supported with education space or rooms that can be available to community groups and also available to athletes during and after their elite sport careers.

Regional facilities

Regional facilities integrate competition and recreation. They should be accessible, with links to transport, commercial and community centres. The primary catchment of regional facilities are local users with an extended catchment across multiple local government areas, primarily for competition and events. They include regional sporting hubs, regionally significant sport facilities, regional academies of sport and sport and recreation centres.

A regionally significant sports facility is typically a single sports facility that attracts participants, officials and spectators from across the region. Using the hub and spoke model regionally significant sport facilities will be in outlying towns and centres surrounding a regional sport hub location.

Regional sport hubs

Regional sport hubs focus on improving sport facility access between regional cities and centres giving communities and athletes access to quality facilities, coaching and training. Regional sport hubs are multiple sport facilities co-located on one site. They might include sub-elite sport support services and sport administration offices and could incorporate centres of excellence and community facilities. They can also bring new social or economic opportunities to a region, including:

- events
- new jobs in facility construction and operation or sport programs and administration
- more equitable access to sport infrastructure for regional communities
- training and education
- the ability to retain talented athletes and their families.



Source: <https://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/OoS-Regional-Sports-Hubs-Feb18.pdf>

Ideally, regional sport hubs are single precincts with all components on one site, depending on land availability. Alternatively, regional sport hubs could be a network of facilities and services in one regional town or city, with a main site or hub incorporating both core and support facilities. Regional sport hubs represent an integrated and coordinated approach to sport and recreation facilities, avoiding duplication and optimising investment.

District facilities

District facilities cater for association competition, hosting local finals or acting as a central venue for regular competition for multiple clubs and/or teams. They comprise a mix of recreational, competitive and program formats. The primary catchment area includes local communities within a large local government area or across multiple local government areas.

Local facilities

Local facilities service the needs of the local community and sporting clubs for home and away fixtures, social sport, training activities and participation programs. The primary catchment area includes single local government areas or multiple suburbs.

Neighbourhood facilities

Neighbourhood facilities are small sites in local communities that provide basic facilities and landscape treatments. They are typically provided in residential settings and have limited or constrained function for multiple activities. The primary catchment area is usually within walking distance of most users. The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of these facilities as a significant asset to the community. By providing these facilities within communities we can reduce the barriers to exercising and staying healthy.

6. Existing Supply

- Land area of properties with sport facilities: **549.72ha**
- Playing field area - **127.59ha** (fields only)
- **95 venues**
 - 63 venues with fields and ovals
 - 65 Cricket ovals with 20 turf wickets, 33 practice nets and 7 turf practice wickets
 - 25 rugby league fields
 - 5 rugby union fields
 - 5 Australian rules football ovals
 - 76 football (soccer) fields
 - 106 netball courts across 17 venues
 - 70 Council tennis courts across 23 venues
 - 32 lawn bowls greens across 19 venues
 - 9 croquet greens across 4 venues
 - 8 indoor sport facilities (one of which is proposed)
 - 1 competition-based BMX track
 - 5 venues with equestrian/ pony club facilities
- Over 150 community sport clubs (excluding dance and martial arts)

6.1 Playing Fields

There is a **total of 136 full sized equivalent (FSE) playing fields across the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area**. A summary of provision across the five planning catchment areas is provided below:

Table 6: Playing field supply by catchment

Catchment Area	FSE Fields
Belmont	22
Charlestown	34
Glendale	56
Morisset	8
Toronto	16
Total	136

Lighting

Winter sport codes such as the various codes of football have higher demand for lighting compared to summer sport codes. It is noted that there are 116 full sized winter fields across the Local Government Area. An initial assessment of lighting indicates 100 of these playing fields have some form of lighting. Approximately 35-50% of lit fields are to Australian Standards with the remaining 50-65% of lit fields unlikely to meet recommended Australia Standards.

Figure 9: Location of playing fields

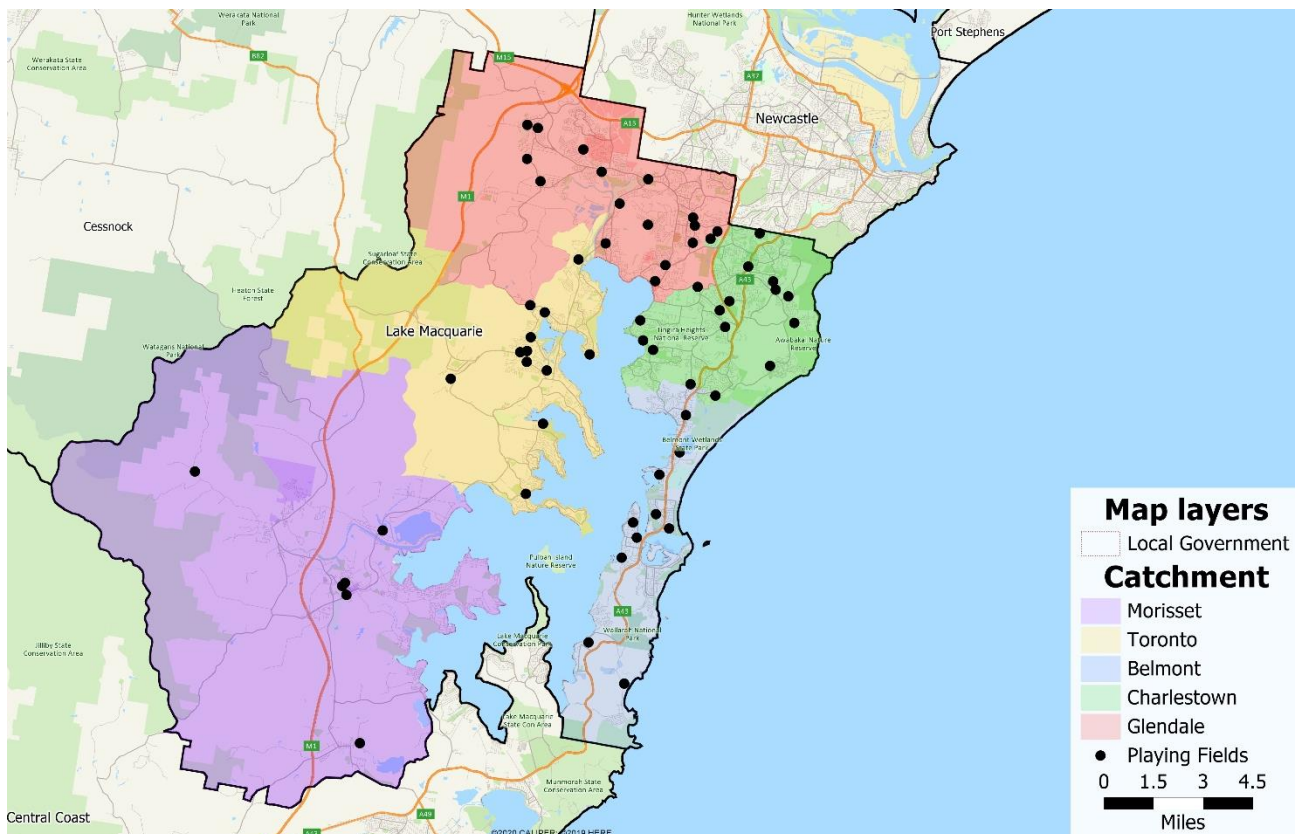


Table 7: Playing fields by catchment area

Facility Name	Fields	Separate Mini/Mod Fields	Football	League	Union	Aus. Rules	Cricket	Turf Cricket	Cricket Practice Nets	Turf Practice Cricket Wickets	Athletics	Baseball
Belmont Planning Catchment												
Barton Field	3			3			2					
Cahill Oval	1		1	1			1	1				
Lumsdon Field	2						2					1
Miller Field	1						1	1	2	1		1
Lenaghan Oval	1			1								
Marks Oval	2	1	2				1					
Beach Street Oval	1						1					
Blacksmiths Oval	1		1									
Baxter Field	1		1								1	
Nords Wharf Oval	1	2	1									
Aitchison Reserve	3		3				1					
Chapman Oval	3		3				1					
Parbury Park	2			2			1					
Quinn Park	1						1		2			
Pickering Oval	1		1				1					
Charlestown Planning Catchment												
Andy Bird Field	1	3	1									
Charlestown Oval	1		1				1	1				
Kahibah Oval	2		2				1	1	2	1		
St John Oval	2			2								
Croudace Bay Sports Complex	4	2	2	2			2		3			
Balcomb Field	1	1		1								
Lydon Field	1		1									
Reay Park	1						1					
Croudace Bay Park - Cricket	1						1					
Eleebana Oval	1		1									

Facility Name	Fields	Separate Mini/Mod Fields	Football	League	Union	Aus. Rules	Cricket	Turf Cricket	Cricket Practice Nets	Turf Practice Cricket Wickets	Athletics	Baseball
Alan Davis Field	2		2				1					
Carbeen Street Oval	2											2
Ernie Calland Oval	2				2		1					
Fred Wright Field	1		1									
Goundry Street Oval	1						1					
Harold Knight Oval	1		1									
Mick Middleton Fields	2		2				1					
Hillsborough Oval	2		1				1	1	1			
Holford Oval	1		1									
Liles Oval	3		3				2	1	2			
Lisle Carr Field	1		1									
Riawenna Park	1						1					
Bahloo Reserve	1						1		1			
Hunter Barnett Fields	2			2			1					
Michael Bird Oval	1			1								
Glendale Planning Catchment												
Jack Edwards	1		1									
Kindyerra Reserve		1										
Taylor Park	3		3				1					
Pasterfield	1					1	1	1				
Cardiff Ovals	3		1	1			3	2	2	2		
Evans Park,	2		2									
Edgeworth Oval #2	1		1									
Edgeworth Oval #3 (Athletics)	1						1		2		1	
Edgeworth Oval #4	2		2									
Jack McLaughlan Field	1		1									
Garden Suburb Reserve	2	2	2				1					
Bill Bower Ovals	3			3			1	1				

Facility Name	Fields	Separate Mini/Mod Fields	Football	League	Union	Aus. Rules	Cricket	Turf Cricket	Cricket Practice Nets	Turf Practice Cricket Wickets	Athletics	Baseball
Kevin Evans Oval	2		2				1					
Lakelands Oval	1		1									
Neegulbah Park	1										1	
Ulinga Park	4		4				2		2			
LM Regional Football Facility	3		3									
Macquarie Field	1		1									
New Tredinnick Fields	2	2	2				2					
Walters Park	2				2		1	1				
Feighan Oval	3					2	3	2	4			
John Street Oval	2		2				1					
Gregory Park	2		2				1	1				
Johnston Park	1		1									
Les Wakeman Field	1			1								
Morriset Planning Catchment												
Douglass Street Oval	3		2				2	1	2			
Martinsville Oval	1						1					
Auston Oval	1		1									
Bernie Goodwin Reserve	2	1	2				1					
Gibson Field	1				1							
Wye Oval	1						1					
Toronto Planning Catchment												
Robert Dutchy Holland Oval	1						1	1				
Finnan Oval	2	1	2				2		2			
Todd Street Oval	1						1					
Waterboard Oval	1	1					1	1	2			1
Pendlebury Oval	1						1	1				1
Croft Oval	2		2				1					
Fassifern Oval - Archery	1											

Facility Name	Fields	Separate Mini/Mod Fields	Football	League	Union	Aus. Rules	Cricket	Turf Cricket	Cricket Practice Nets	Turf Practice Cricket Wickets	Athletics	Baseball
Fishburn Fields	2	2	2				1					
Tulkaba Park no 1	1					1	1	1				
Tulkaba Park no 2	1					1	1					
Ron Hill Oval	1						1	1	4	3		
Toronto #1 (Peacock Field)	1		1	1								
Toronto Oval #2	1						1					
Toronto Oval #3	1			1								
Keith Barry Oval	2	1		2								
Wangi Oval	1			1							1	

6.2 Netball Courts

There is a **total of 106 netball courts across the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area**. There are three netball associations based in Lake Macquarie:

- Charlestown – 26 courts
- Westlakes – 12 courts
- Lakeside – 27 courts

Three netball associations within one local government area is unique, with many Councils providing for one to two associations.

A summary of netball court provision across the five planning catchment areas is provided below:

Table 8: Netball court supply by planning catchment

Catchment Area	Netball Courts
Belmont	34
Charlestown	36
Glendale	18
Morrisset	2
Toronto	16
Total	106

There is generally distribution of netball facilities across the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area resulting in high levels of access opportunities for regular training and competition.

Lighting

Of the 106 netball courts, 100 have some form of lighting. There are 42% courts are likely to comply with Australian Standards with a further 1% courts that possibly comply. 45% courts are not likely to comply with recommended Australian Standards.

Figure 10: Location of netball courts

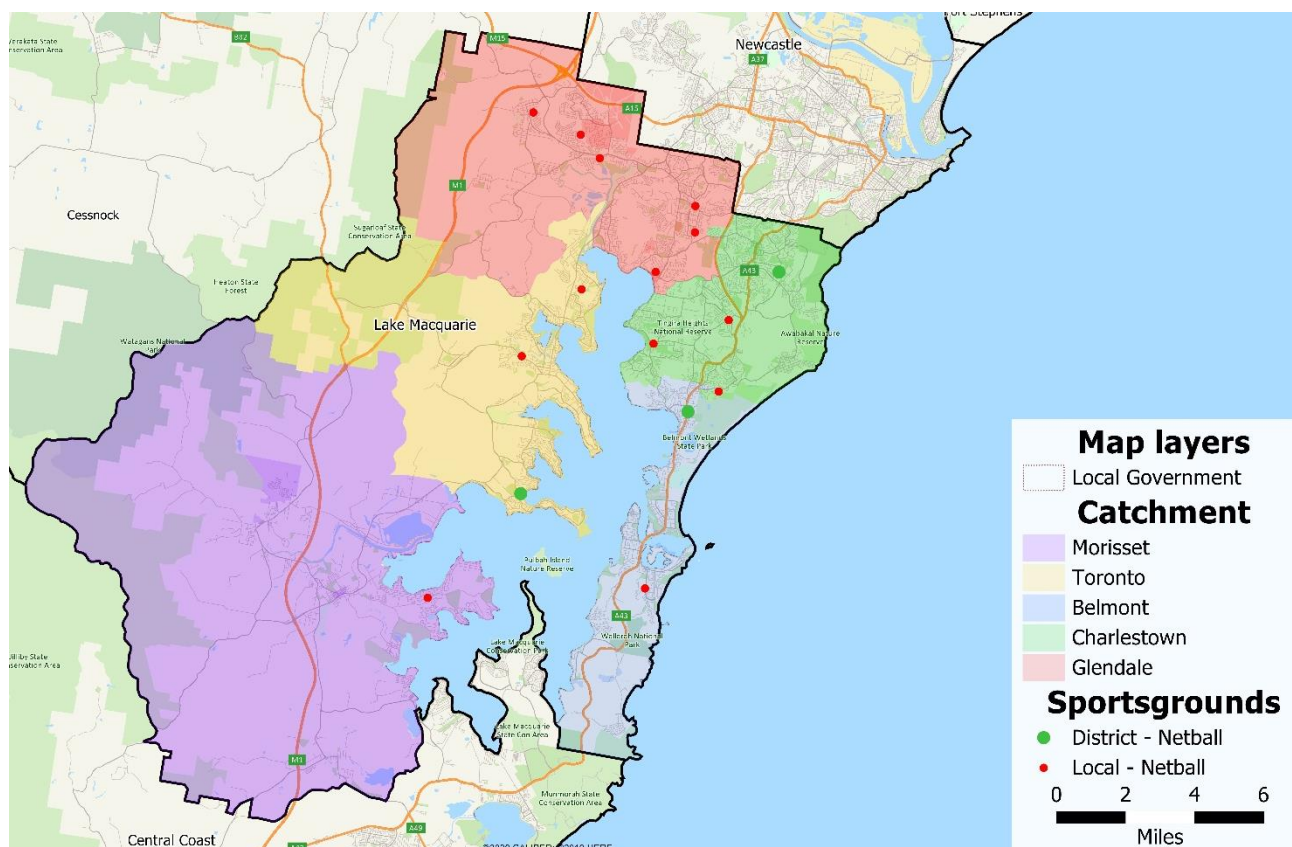


Table 9: List of netball courts by planning catchment

Facility Name	Suburb	Training or Competition	Number of Courts	Lighting
BELMONT PLANNING CATCHMENT				
Molly Smith Netball Courts	Belmont	Lakeside Association Competition Venue	27	Yes
Belmont North Netball Courts	Belmont North	Training Venue	3	Yes
Caves Beach Netball Courts	Caves Beach	Training Venue	4	Yes
CHARLESTOWN PLANNING CATCHMENT				
Jack Stewart Netball Courts	Charlestown	Charlestown Association Competition Venue	26	Yes
Croudace Bay Sports Complex Netball	Croudace Bay	Training Venue	5	Yes
Windale Netball Courts	Windale	Training Venue	2*	Yes
GLENDALE PLANNING CATCHMENT				
Pasterfield Sports Complex	Cameron Park	Training Venue	4*	Yes
Nancy Dwyer & Ken Booth Netball Courts	Cardiff	Training Venue	5*	Yes
Ulinga Park - Netball courts	South Cardiff	Training Venue	3	Yes
Edgeworth Netball	Edgeworth	Training Venue	3	Yes
Warners Bay Netball Courts	Warners Bay	Training Venue	4	Yes
West Wallsend Netball Courts	West Wallsend	Training Venue	2	No
MORISSET PLANNING CATCHMENT				

Facility Name	Suburb	Training or Competition	Number of Courts	Lighting
Bonnells Bay Netball Courts	Bonnells Bay	Training Venue	2*	Yes
TORONTO PLANNING CATCHMENT				
Woodrising Netball Courts	Boooragul	Training Venue	2	No
Ron Hill Oval Netball Courts	Toronto	Training Venue	2	No
Wangi Netball Courts	Wangi Wangi	Westlakes Association Competition Venue	12	Yes

* Donates venues that include 1 or 2 multi-purpose courts

6.3 Tennis Courts

There is a **total of 70 Council owned tennis courts across 23 venues within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area**. This includes 10 hard courts and 60 synthetic courts. It is noted that there are only two Council sites with six or more courts, being Belmont Macquarie (8 courts) and West Wallsend (6 courts).

A summary of provision across the five planning catchment areas is provided below:

Table 10: Tennis court supply by planning catchment

Catchment Area	Council Tennis Courts
Belmont	21
Charlestown	25
Glendale	11
Morisset	3
Toronto	10
Total	70

In addition, there are privately owned sites that are accessible to the community. This includes:

- Cardiff Tennis Academy – 4 courts
- Toronto Workers Club – 2 courts
- Bonnells Bay Tavern – 2 courts

Lighting

Of the 70 Council owned tennis courts, 63 have some form of lighting. However, up to 45 courts are not likely to comply with Australian Standards.

Figure 11: Location of tennis courts

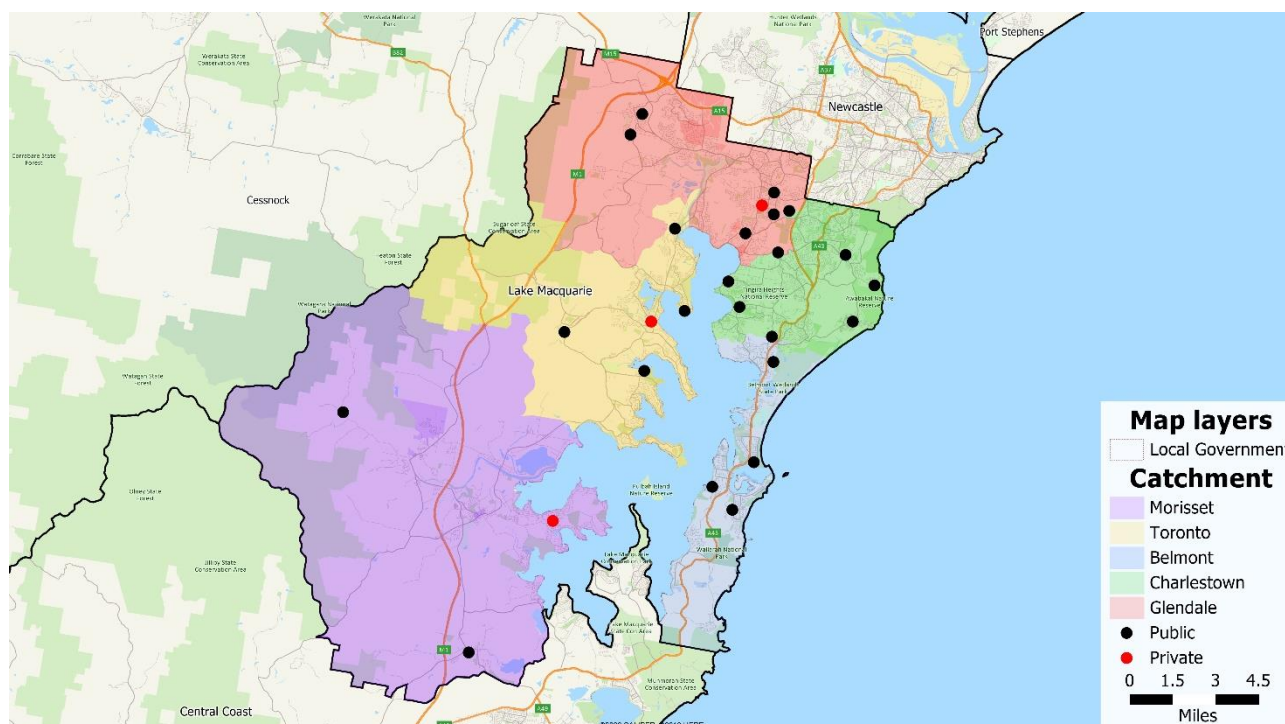


Table 11: List of tennis courts by planning catchment

Facility Name	Suburb	Number of Courts	Hard Courts	Synthetic Courts	Lighting
BELMONT PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Belmont Macquarie Tennis Courts	Belmont	8		8	Yes
Marks Oval Tennis	Belmont North/Florville	2	2		Yes
Blacksmiths Tennis Club	Blacksmiths	3		3	Yes
Caves Beach Tennis Courts	Caves Beach	4	3	1	Yes
Swansea South Tennis Courts	Swansea	4		4	No
CHARLESTOWN PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Croudace Bay Sports Complex	Croudace Bay	4	2	2	Yes
Reay Park	Dudley				Yes
Eleebana Tennis Courts	Eleebana	3		3	Yes
Hillsborough Tennis Courts	Hillsborough	3		3	Yes
Mount Hutton Tennis Courts	Mt Hutton	5		5	Yes
Redhead Tennis Courts	Redhead	4		4	Yes
Whitebridge Tennis	Whitebridge	2		2	Yes
GLENDALE PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Holmesville Tennis Courts	Holmesville				Yes
Lakelands Tennis Courts	Lakelands	3	3		Partial
Cardiff Park Tennis	Cardiff	4		4	Yes
Ulinga Park - Tennis	South Cardiff	2		2	Yes
West Wallsend Tennis Courts	West Wallsend	6		6	Partial
MORISSET PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Martinsville Tennis	Martinsville	1		1	Yes

Facility Name	Suburb	Number of Courts	Hard Courts	Synthetic Courts	Lighting
Wye Community Tennis Courts	Wye	2		2	Yes
TORONTO PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Teralba Tennis	Teralba	2		2	Yes
Bolton Point Tennis Courts	Bolton Point	2		2	Yes
Rathmines Tennis Courts	Rathmines	4		4	Yes
Awaba Tennis Courts	Awaba	2		2	Yes

6.4 Indoor Facilities

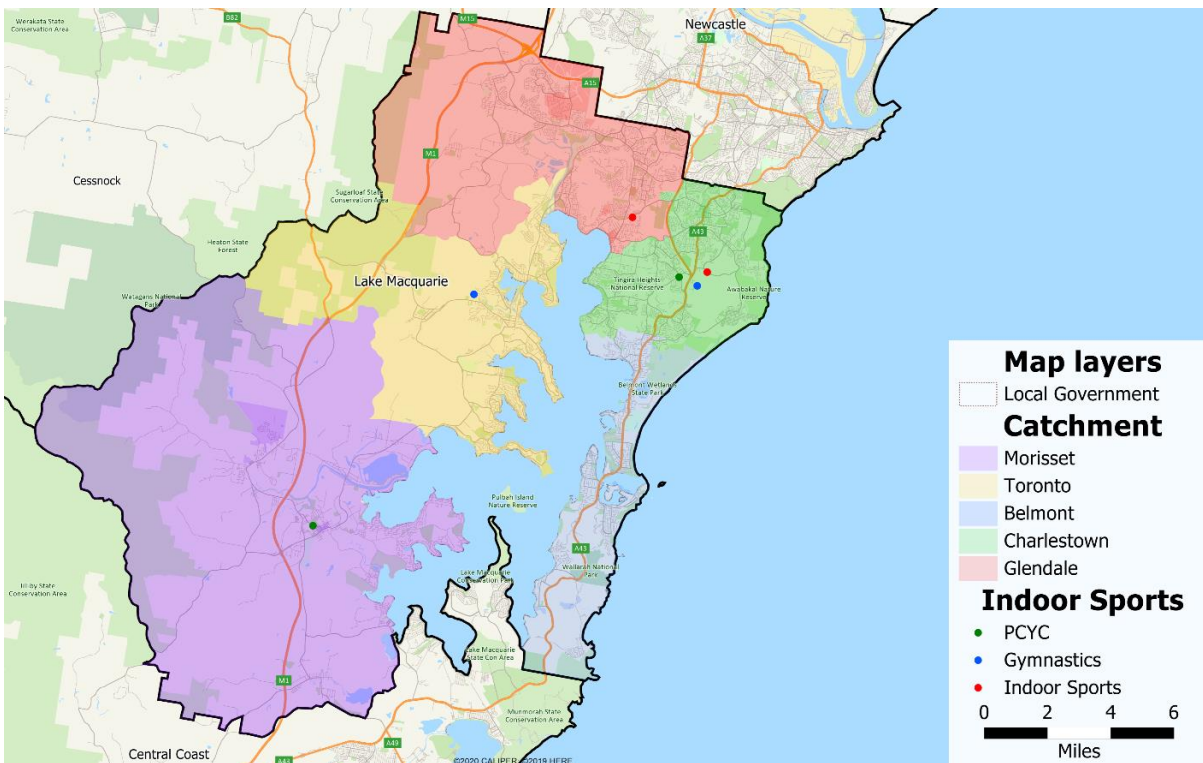
There is a range of indoor sport facilities catering for indoor court codes and gymnastics. These are summarised in the table below. This also includes a regional level, 10 court indoor facility at Hillsborough. It is noted that this excludes school indoor facilities and group exercise facilities used for martial arts, dance etc.

Table 12: Indoor sport courts and gymnastic facilities

Facility Name	Suburb	Catchment	Facilities	Ownership	Use
Newcastle Indoor Sports	Warners Bay	Glendale	3 indoor synthetic courts	Private	Indoor cricket, netball, futsal/soccer
Hunter Sports Centre	Glendale	Glendale	2,448 sqm gymnastics facility		Gymnastics
Gateshead Indoor Sportsworld	Gateshead	Charlestown	4 timber courts	Private	Indoor netball, futsal
PCYC Lake Macquarie	Windale	Charlestown	Gym, health and fitness (boxing room) gymnastics room, 1 x timber basketball court	Crown Lands and Council	Gymnastics, Boxing, Basketball, Futsal, floorball, volleyball
PCYC Morisset	Morisset	Morisset	1 multipurpose court	Crown Lands and Council	Futsal/Netball, Gymnastics, Basketball, Roller skating, Boxing
Blackert Gymnastics Academy	Bennetts Green	Charlestown	Gymnastics	Private	Kindergym, gymfun, gymskills, regional levels, competitive squads
Advance Academy of Gymnastics	Toronto	Toronto	Gymnastics	Private	Elite squads, foundations, gym skills, rhythmic, WAG NDP
Hillsborough Basketball Centre	Hillsborough	Charlestown	Proposed 10-court facility	Council	Basketball

It is acknowledged that there is a range of indoor facilities that cater for indoor sports such as martial arts and dance. These facilities are predominantly outside the control of Council (with the exception of community centres).

Figure 12: Location of indoor facilities



Note- the above map excludes the proposed 10 court Hillsborough Basketball Centre

6.5 Bowling Greens

There are 33 bowling greens located across 18 venues in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. Majority of these venues are privately owned. Majority (13) of the venues have two greens, four venues have one green, and one venue (Charlestown Bowling Club) has three greens.

Table 13: Bowling greens by planning catchment

Catchment Area	Bowling Greens
Belmont	6
Charlestown	13
Glendale	7
Morrisset	2
Toronto	5
Total	33

Figure 13: Location of bowling greens

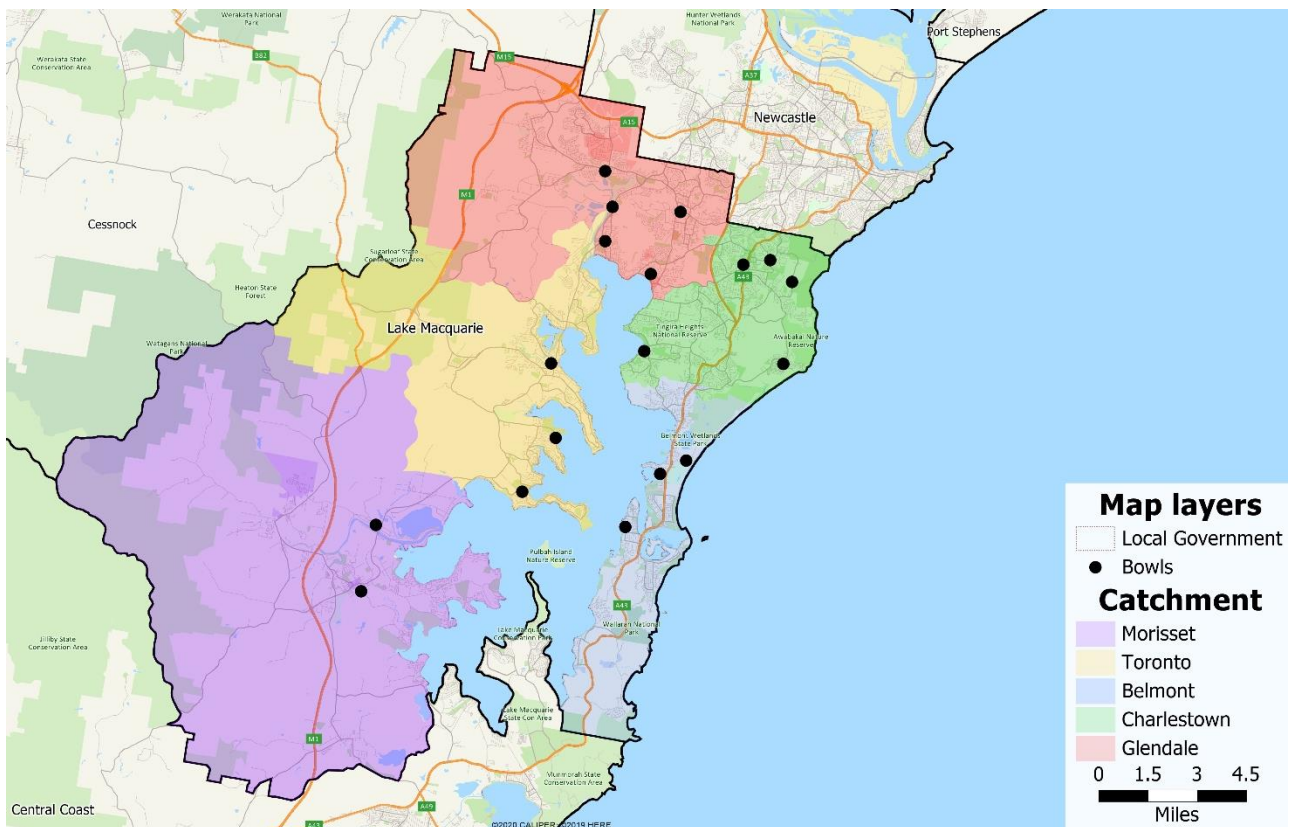


Table 14: Bowling greens by catchment planning

Facility Name	Suburb	Ownership	Greens	Grass Greens	Synthetic Greens
BELMONT PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Belmont Golf Club	Marks Point	Private	2		2
Marks Point Bowling Club	Marks Point	Private	2	2	
Swansea Workers Club	Swansea	Private	2		
CHARLESTOWN PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Charlestown Bowling Club	Charlestown	Private	3	2	1
Kahibah Bowling Club	Kahibah	Private	2	2	
Redhead Bowling Club	Redhead	Private	2		2
Valentine Bowling Club	Valentine	Council	2		2
Old Burwood Bowling Club (not operating)	Whitebridge	Local Aboriginal Land Council	2		2
GLENDALE PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Club Macquarie (Green unlikely used)	Argenton	Private	1		1
Cardiff Bowling Club	Cardiff	Council	2		2
Edgeworth Bowling Club	Edgeworth	Council	2	2	
Boolaroo Bowling Club	Speers Point	Private	2		2
Warners Bay Sports Club	Warners Bay	Council	2	2	
MORISSET PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Dora Creek District Workers Club	Dora Creek	Private	1		1
Morrisset Hospital	Morrisset	Private	1	1	
TORONTO PLANNING CATCHMENT					
Rathmines Bowling Club	Rathmines	Council	2	2	
Toronto Workers Club	Toronto	Private	1	1	
Wangi Bowling Club	Wangi Wangi	Council	2	2	

6.6 Other Sports

Croquet

There are nine croquet courts located across four venues within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. This includes both Council owned and private facilities as summarised below:

Table 15: Croquet provision

Location	Suburb	Catchment	Ownership	Courts
Aitchison Reserve	Pelican	Belmont	Council	2
Ron Hill Oval	Toronto	Toronto	Council	5
Boolaroo Croquet – located within Boolaroo Bowling Club	Speers Point	Glendale	Private	1
Sugar Valley Croquet	West Wallsend	Glendale	Council	1

Equestrian

There are five sites identified as catering for equestrian activities which as summarised below.

Table 16 : Equestrian facilities

Facility Name	Suburb	Catchment	Notes
Awaba Oval - Pony Club Area	Awaba	Toronto	Awaba Pony Club
Swansea Equestrian Ground	Caves Beach	Belmont	Swansea Horse Riders - Barrell Riding
Cooranbong Recreation & Equestrian Reserve	Cooranbong	Morisset	Cooranbong Rec & Equestrian Reserve
Other Equestrian			
Mount Sugarloaf Pony Club	Holmesville	Glendale	Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation Land
Morisset Pony Club - Morisset Showground	Morisset	Morisset	Recently Acquired by LMCC - Subject of current Master planning project.

BMX

There is one competition standard BMX facility located at Argenton which services the BMX demands of the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. This facility is leased to the Lake Macquarie BMX Club.

Archery

There is one archery facility located at Fassifern used by the Westlakes Archers and a private archery facility at Wakefield.

Hockey

There is currently no purpose-built hockey facility in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. The adjoining Council areas of the Central Coast, City of Newcastle and Cessnock provide hockey facilities.

Baseball

There are six baseball diamonds in Lake Macquarie, two each in Belmont, Charlestown and Toronto planning catchments. Carbeen Street Oval is only facility that solely supports baseball, other diamonds are at multiple use venues/ fields.

Softball

There is currently no softball association located within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. Residents can either travel south the Central Coast or north to Newcastle to access softball competitions. Belmont Softball Club train at various baseball grounds in Lake Macquarie.

Martial Arts and Dance Spaces

There are numerous facilities catering for martial arts and dance. Majority of these facilities are not owned or managed by Council. Typically, these activities are located in industrial areas or utilise school halls to operate. Some martial arts and dances hire Council community centres.

6.7 Supply Analysis – Existing

An analysis of key sport infrastructure has been undertaken in relation to the number of facilities compared to the 2016 ABS population data. This helps provide an early quantitative indicator in respect to provision of facilities in relation to the residential population catchments. These provision rates are expressed how many people one facility type currently provides for. For example, the current playing field provision for Belmont equates to 1 field for every 1,233 residents.

Table 17: High level supply analysis by catchment

Catchment Area	Fields	Field provision	Netball Courts	Netball Provision	Council Tennis Courts	Council Tennis Provision	Bowling Greens	Bowling Green Provision
Belmont	21	1,233	34	762	21	1,233	6	4,316
Charlestown	41	1,501	36	1,709	25	2,461	13	4,733
Glendale	48	1,156	18	3,084	11	5,046	7	7,929
Morisset	6	3,945	2	11,836	3	7,891	2	11,836
Toronto	20	1,540	16	1,925	10	3,080	5	6,159
Total	136	1,451	106	1,862	70	2,820	33	5,982

Key findings of the high-level supply analysis indicates:

- There is high level of provision of playing fields across the Local Government Area with 1 field to 1,451 residents. Other areas in the region such as Maitland currently provide one field to every 1,520 residents. In other regions such as Greater Sydney, the average player to field ratio ranged from one field to every 1,800 to over 5,000 residents in some Council areas.
- Relative even supply of playing field provision by population across each of catchments. The exception being the Morisset planning catchment area which has a lower provision rate at 1 field to 3,945 residents.
- There is high level of provision of netball courts across the Local Government Area with 1 court to 1,862 residents. This is a higher rate when compared against other Councils within and outside the Hunter region.
- There are three association-based netball facilities, this potentially a reflection of the large geographic area of the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area.
- There is a relatively low provision rate of tennis courts within the Morisset and Glendale planning catchment areas. These areas have historically included higher private provision of tennis in these catchments.
- Tennis facilities will require planning in relation to the number of courts per venue to ensure more sustainable operational models.
- Bowling green provision is lowest in the Morisset and Glendale planning catchment areas.

6.7.1 Facilities for Mass Participation Events and Tournaments

In reviewing the supply of existing sports infrastructure in Lake Macquarie, two key sites have been identified as opportunities to host mass participation events and tournaments:

1. **Belmont Sporting Precinct** – Council have undertaken significant planning at the Belmont Sporting Precinct. This includes a Council endorsed masterplan that when implemented, will provide opportunities for a range of mass participation events and tournaments across various sporting codes.
2. **Speers Point Sporting Precinct** – There is an opportunity to develop a masterplan to provide a strategic framework. This would assist articulate the relationship between various existing facilities, identify connections and provide a platform for future mass participation events and tournaments,

It is acknowledged that a range of other existing venues also provide opportunities for special event content. For example, Alan Davis and Ernie Calland Fields, St John Oval, Cahill Oval, Jack McLaughlin Field and Macquarie Field.

Attracting sports tourism and special event content requires strategic planning, engagement and funding allocation.

6.8 Supply – Undeveloped

There is a range of sites identified as future sport facilities. This includes a mix of greenfield sites as well as the redevelopment and/or extension to existing sites. These are summarised below.

Table 18: Undeveloped sport facilities

Name	Suburb	Catchment	Proposed Facilities	Funding
Cameron Park	Edgeworth	Glendale	4 x fields	S7.11
Cooranbong Park	Cooranbong	Morriset	2 x fields with cricket pitch, cricket nets, lighting and amenities. 2 x multi-courts to be provided as stage 2 works.	VPA
North Cooranbong land release	Cooranbong	Morriset	AFL/Cricket oval, lighting, and amenities with community centre	VPA
Wyee Sports Complex site	Wyee	Morriset	2 x fields with cricket, cricket nets, lighting, amenities, 2 x multi-courts	VPA
Mirrabooka Quarry Site	Mirrabooka	Morriset	2 x fields with cricket, cricket nets, lighting, amenities, 2 x multi-courts	S7.11
Morriset Showground Masterplan	Morriset	Morriset	Pending masterplan outcomes	To be determined
Harold Knight Field - Extension	Gateshead	Charlestown	Provision of one additional field as per endorsed masterplan	S7.11
Croudace Bay Sports Complex - Extension	Croudace Bay	Charlestown	Provision of one additional field as per endorsed masterplan	S7.11

6.9 Management and operations

6.9.1 Existing situation

LMCC operates its sport facilities through two modes:

- Community Operating Committees with delegated authority governed by Section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1933* to manage facilities with shared use amongst several user groups
- Incorporated clubs and associations manage facilities that are majority used by them/ the one club/ association.

As of October 2020, there were 29 Community Operating Committees and 62 Incorporated Clubs/Associations with delegated authority to manage sport facilities on behalf of Council.

In addition to these two modes, tennis facilities have a third option being a lease to a Professional Tennis Business Operator, which applies to facilities where the operator is coaching for more than 25 hours per week. Conditions of the lease include:

- payment to Council for use of the facility
- making the facility available to the public
- maintain and manage the facility under lease terms.

Council has developed an on-line facility management operation manual¹ for volunteers that manage community halls and sport facilities owned/ controlled by LMCC. The manual provides:

- Information on roles and responsibilities.
- Ability to update/ add committee members details.

¹ <https://facilitymanager.lakemac.com.au/page.aspx?vid=21>

- Detail and sample documents for operation and recording of meetings.
- Position descriptions for executive members.
- Range of reporting forms – either downloadable or completed/ submitted on-line.
- Safety and maintenance information and requirements.
- Council’s fees and charges and guidelines for facility management.
- Council officer contacts for various aspects of facility planning and management and after hours contact.

The Lake Mac Facility Manager Operational Manual identifies some key areas of responsibilities including:

- Hiring of facilities.
- Ground closures.
- Line marking.
- Turf management such as mowing, irrigation and top dressing.
- Removal of goal posts.
- Traffic management plans.
- Maintenance, including:
 - Ensuring kitchens and amenities are cleaned to maintain health standards.
 - Inspecting sporting fields to ensure they are safe for the activities carried out.
 - Ensuring all floodlights are in operation.
 - Removing graffiti if possible.
 - Arranging to have light globes, fuses and tap washers replaced as required.
 - Undertake low risk cleaning of the facility exterior.

Analysis

Community led management of sport facilities is not uncommon across New South Wales with numerous Local Government Areas operating similar models. This approach to the management of community infrastructure including sport facilities helps create a sense of pride and ownership. It can also assist with Council resourcing through the management of bookings, line-marking, facilitating ground closures, conducting facility inspections, basic maintenance and reporting illegal use, damage etc.

6.10 Promotion

Whilst the role of local government in respect to sport is typically centred on providing fit-for-purpose facilities and supporting infrastructure, promotion of sport and activation of sports facilities is an area that an increasing number of Councils are resourcing. This often includes providing a dedicated sports development officer who works with sporting clubs and other stakeholders to help promote sustainable sport outcomes for the community.

Lake Macquarie City Council currently undertakes a range of promotion initiatives including but not limited to:

- Providing a list of sport facilities and contact details on Council’s website
- Running the Sportsfest with the aim to drive memberships and registrations in the region’s sporting codes
- Providing sport specific awards through Council’s Award Program.

Consideration to the extent of sports promotion by Council is dependent on local participation rates and findings of detailed consultation and engagement. It is important to acknowledge that promotion requires adequate resourcing, both in relation to staffing and supporting budget allocations.

7. Summary Analysis

- The Development of the Lake Macquarie Sports Strategy will align with a range of government strategies, policies and guidelines – from international to local.
- Community sport infrastructure provides a range of health, economic and social benefits. The strategic planning for sport will ensure these benefits are realized and maximized.
- As of 2019 there are an estimated 205,901 residents living within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area.
- The age breakdown for Lake Macquarie closely matches the age breakdown of regional New South Wales. Majority of sport participation occurs between the ages of 5 and 19 years. There are over 36,000 Lake Macquarie residents within this age range.
- By 2031, the population of Lake Macquarie is expected to increase to an estimated 220,900 residents at an annual average rate of growth of 0.6%. Increased population result in increased demand for sport infrastructure and services.
- Lake Macquarie has five planning catchment areas with the following 2016 population base:
 - Glendale 55,506
 - Belmont 25,893
 - Toronto 30,796
 - Charlestown 61,530
 - Morisset 23,672
- Lake Macquarie Council provides a diverse range of sporting facilities including 144 playing fields, 106 netball courts and 70 tennis courts.
- The capacity of sport facilities varies depending on key attributes such as field/court lighting, playing field drainage and irrigation.
- The Morisset planning catchment area has a lower provision level for most sport facilities when compared to other planning catchment areas. Supply and capacity measures will therefore require consideration.
- A range of sports are provided for through dedicated and multi-use sport infrastructure. Some sports such as softball and hockey are currently provided for in adjoining areas such as Newcastle and the Central Coast.
- Majority of LMCC sport facilities are managed through Community Operating Committees and incorporated clubs and associations. Whilst this model has many benefits, the long term viability and potential risks associated with continuing this model requires consideration to ensure community sport outcomes can be maximised.

8. Appendix

8.1 Strategic Alignment Analysis

Table 19: Document review and Implications for LMCC Sport Strategy

Document	Relevant Themes/ Recommendations
<p>International</p> <p>World Health Organisation: Global recommendations on physical activity for health (2010)</p>	<p>Physical inactivity is now identified as the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality. Physical inactivity levels are rising in many countries with major implications for the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the general health of the population worldwide.</p> <p>The focus of the Global recommendations on physical activity for health is primary prevention of NCDs through physical activity at population level, and the primary target audience for these recommendations are policy-makers at national level.</p> <p>The recommendations address three age groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children and young people aged 5–17 years old physical activity includes play, games, sports, transportation, recreation, physical education or planned exercise, in the context of family, school, and community activities. In order to improve cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness, bone health, cardiovascular and metabolic health biomarkers and reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression, the following are recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily. • Physical activity of amounts greater than 60 minutes daily will provide additional health benefits. • Most of daily physical activity should be aerobic. Vigorous-intensity activities should be incorporated, including those that strengthen muscle and bone, at least 3 times per week. 2. Adults 18–64 years old physical activity includes recreational or leisure-time physical activity, transportation (e.g. walking or cycling), occupational (i.e. work), household chores, play, games, sports or planned exercise, in the context of daily, family, and community activities. In order to improve cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness, bone health and reduce the risk of NCDs and depression the following are recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or do at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity. • Aerobic activity should be performed in bouts of at least 10 minutes duration. • For additional health benefits, adults should increase their moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity to 300 minutes per week, or engage in 150 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity per week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity. • Muscle-strengthening activities should be done involving major muscle groups on 2 or more days a week. 3. Adults 65 years old and above physical activity includes recreational or leisure-time physical activity, transportation (e.g. walking or cycling), occupational (if the person is still engaged in work), household chores, play, games, sports or planned exercise, in the context of daily, family, and community activities. In order to improve cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness, bone and functional health, and reduce the risk of NCDs, depression and cognitive decline, the following are recommended:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or do at least 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity throughout the week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity. • Aerobic activity should be performed in bouts of at least 10 minutes duration. • For additional health benefits, adults aged 65 years and above should increase their moderate intensity aerobic physical activity to 300 minutes per week, or engage in 150 minutes of vigorous intensity aerobic physical activity per week, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous intensity activity. • Adults of this age group with poor mobility should perform physical activity to enhance balance and prevent falls on 3 or more days per week. • Muscle-strengthening activities should be done involving major muscle groups, on 2 or more days a week. • When adults of this age group cannot do the recommended amounts of physical activity due to health conditions, they should be as physically active as their abilities and conditions allow. <p>Overall, across all the age groups, the benefits of implementing the above recommendations, and of being physically active, outweigh the harms. At the recommended level of 150 minutes per week of moderate intensity activity, musculoskeletal injury rates appear to be uncommon. In a population-based approach, in order to decrease the risks of musculoskeletal injuries, it would be appropriate to encourage a moderate start with gradual progress to higher levels of physical activity.</p>
<p>International Olympic Committee – The New Norm (2018)</p>	<p>The Olympic Agenda 2020 was approved by the IOC in 2014 and provides strategic direction for a major review of all aspects of organising the Olympic Games; of 40 recommendations within Olympic Agenda 2020, six focused on aspects of the organisation of the Olympic Games, with the underlying goals being to simplify the Candidature process and create Games which are more flexible, less expensive and easier to operate, while unlocking more value for host cities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shape the bidding process as an invitation 2. Evaluate bid cities by assessing key opportunities and risks 3. Reduce the cost of bidding 4. Include sustainability in all aspects of the Olympic Games 12. Reduce the cost and reinforce the flexibility of Olympic Games management 13. Maximise synergies with Olympic Movement stakeholders <p>A main area of review has been undertaken of the Candidature Process and Host City Contract. Characteristics of the new Candidature Process include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-committal “dialogue” stage which explores options between possible hosts and the IOC • Shorter and lighter candidature phase with emphasis on alignment of Games proposals with city’s long-term local, regional and national development goals • IOC provided and supported technical experts (sports, venues, infrastructure, transport, accommodation, security, sustainability, legacy, finance and marketing) are available to all cities. • The IOC has reduced the number of requirements and guarantees that must be submitted, with the changes designed to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reduce the scope of work and associated cost for cities ○ achieve easier, lower-cost candidatures and Games plans that are better for the city and the Olympic Movement
<p>Commonwealth</p>	

<p>Sport 2030: Sport Australia (2018)</p>	<p>This strategy is Australia’s first national sport plan, is the vision and the plan for sport and physical activity in Australia over the next 12 years to be delivered in partnership with Australia’s sporting, physical activity, technology, education and corporate community. The Plan on a page summary:</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Australia: To be the world’s most active and healthy sporting nation, known for its integrity and sporting success.</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #002060; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #002060; color: white; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Building a More Active Australia</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Achieving Sporting Excellence</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Strengthening Australia’s Sport Industry</td> </tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>MISSION</p> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Reduce inactivity amongst Australians by 15% by 2030</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry</td> </tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>TARGET</p> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">More people of all ages engaged in sport and physical activity throughout every stage of their life</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">A world class high performance system that is empowered to achieve sporting success through tailored approaches for sports and athletes</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Australian sport is seen as safe, trustworthy and fair with secure, reliable systems for deterring, detecting and dealing with threats to competition</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">A strong, viable, contemporary and inclusive sports industry with high quality successful organisations driving economic and social benefits</td> </tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; text-align: center; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>OUTCOMES</p> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; background-color: #ffcc00; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Improved physical health</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Improved mental health</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Personal development</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Strengthening our communities</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Growing the economy</td> </tr> </table> <p>The impact/ effect of Sport 2030 on local government is within the first Strategic priority (Building a More Active Australia) with the role of local government being recognised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the sporting ecosystem A partner with Australian and state governments, non-government organisations and corporate sector that share the vision for a more active Australia Working alongside Australian and state government in funding infrastructure that meets the ever-changing needs of Australian communities Working with Australian government and national sporting organisations to create database of sports infrastructure and to develop a national approach to mapping infrastructure across the country. 	Building a More Active Australia	Achieving Sporting Excellence	Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport	Strengthening Australia’s Sport Industry	Reduce inactivity amongst Australians by 15% by 2030	National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success	A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption	A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry	More people of all ages engaged in sport and physical activity throughout every stage of their life	A world class high performance system that is empowered to achieve sporting success through tailored approaches for sports and athletes	Australian sport is seen as safe, trustworthy and fair with secure, reliable systems for deterring, detecting and dealing with threats to competition	A strong, viable, contemporary and inclusive sports industry with high quality successful organisations driving economic and social benefits	Improved physical health	Improved mental health	Personal development	Strengthening our communities	Growing the economy
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Improved physical health	Improved mental health	Personal development	Strengthening our communities	Growing the economy														
<p>Sport Australia Australian Physical Literacy Framework (2019)</p>	<p>Physical literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is lifelong holistic learning acquired and applied in movement and physical activity contexts. reflects ongoing changes integrating physical, psychological, social and cognitive capabilities. is vital in helping us lead healthy and fulfilling lives through movement and physical activity. 																	

A physically literate person is able to draw on their integrated physical, psychological, social and cognitive capabilities to support health promoting and fulfilling movement and physical activity – relative to their situation and context – throughout the lifespan

The Framework

- categorises a range of movement-related skills, knowledge and behaviours into interrelated domains, elements and stages
- helps identify a person’s capability across all four domains and allows people to make informed decisions about their physical literacy
- provides a common language around effective development of physical literacy
- accommodates the entire range of abilities, ages and backgrounds of all Australians.



This diagram demonstrates the four domains that the Framework is arranged around.

The role and relationship of community/ industry segments to the Framework is articulated; with Policy makers being the most relevant to this Strategy; and the Framework application to policy makers helps them embed physical literacy through systems and policies (health, education, sport and physical activity), using physical literacy as a tool to improve individual and societal health and well-being.

Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines

National Physical Activity, and Sedentary Behaviour for Children and Young People (5-17 years)

Physical Activity

- Accumulating 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day involving mainly aerobic activities.
- Several hours of a variety of light physical activities;
- Activities that are vigorous, as well as those that strengthen muscle and bone should be incorporated at least 3 days per week.
- To achieve greater health benefits, replace sedentary time with additional moderate to vigorous physical activity, while preserving sufficient sleep.

Sedentary Behaviour

- Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible.
- Limit sedentary recreational screen time to no more than 2 hours per day.
- When using screen-based electronic media, positive social interactions and experiences are encouraged.

Australia’s Physical Activity & Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for Adults (18-64 years)

Physical Activity Guidelines

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing any physical activity is better than doing none. If you currently do no physical activity, start by doing some, and gradually build up to the recommended amount. • Be active on most, preferably all, days every week. • Accumulate 150 to 300 minutes (2 ½ to 5 hours) of moderate intensity physical activity or 75 to 150 minutes (1 ¼ to 2 ½ hours) of vigorous intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination of both moderate and vigorous activities, each week. • Do muscle strengthening activities on at least 2 days each week. <p><u>Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the amount of time spent in prolonged sitting. • Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible.
NSW Government	
Premier's Priorities	<p>The Premier's key policy priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strong economy • highest quality education • well connected communities with quality local environments • putting customer at the centre of everything we do • breaking the cycle of disadvantage. <p>The Premier's Priorities, targets/ measures are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lifting Education Standards <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bumping up education results b) Increasing the number of Aboriginal young people reaching their learning potential 2. Keeping children safe <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protecting our most vulnerable children b) Increasing permanency for children in out-of-home care 3. Breaking the cycle <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reducing domestic violence reoffending b) Reducing recidivism in the prison population c) Reducing homelessness 4. Improving the health system <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving service levels in hospitals b) Improving outpatient and community care c) Towards zero suicides 5. Better environment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Greener public spaces b) Greening our city 6. Better customer service <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Government made easy b) World class public service
Office of Sport - Strategic Plan 2020-2024, (Feb 2020)	<p>The Office of Sport (lead NSW Government agency for sport and active recreation) aims to increase the levels of physical activity of the people of NSW by providing the leadership, policies, programs, funding and infrastructure necessary to enable higher rates of participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>Three outcomes are defined (social, health and economic) and four focus areas (participation, places and spaces, sector sustainability, partnerships and investment). Within each focus area</p>

	<p>a goal is outlined with measurable outcomes and actions (focus) to deliver the measurable outcomes.</p>
<p>Sport NSW- Future Directions</p>	<p>This document was developed in 2018 utilising a collaborative sector-wide process and is designed as a “sector plan for the sector”.</p> <p>Future Directions outlines an aspirational and inclusive approach to the delivery of sport and active recreation in NSW for the next four years. It takes a high-level whole-of-sector view to improving the Sector across four themes which are used as the organising structure for priority proposals:</p> <p>Collaboration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensuring partnership (Office of Sport and State Sporting and Disability Organisations) to reform and enhance collection of consistent and common key data sets, adding data from alternative sources (ie. LGAs and other government departments) to enable the calculation of major, influential metrics on the economic, health and social impact and value of the Sector. 2. Sport NSW to enhance its advocacy role, leading on behalf of the Sector to improve and enhance the relationship between the Sector and the whole-of government more consistently through an increased understanding of the priorities of government 3. Sport NSW lead discussions between sport and active recreation organisations identifying opportunities to collaborate with an increased focus on regional areas and working with the Office of Sport on implementation of the Regional Sport and Active Recreation plans <p>Capacity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSW Government to incorporate sport and active recreation organisations into government planning processes to ensure facilities are multi-purpose, inclusive, maximise participation opportunities and are sustainable. 2. The Sector to consider how they can develop a competitive edge by partnering with other organisations either in the sport and/or active recreation sectors to develop initiatives that grow their participation base, expand their product offering, reach new markets and/or improve facility utilisation. 3. Sport NSW to investigate the development of shared services models across the Sector to streamline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administrative tasks and functions. b. Athlete development. c. Training and education of officials and administrators. <p>Innovation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office of Sport to continue its relationship with the tertiary sector particularly the SPRINTER partnership (The University of Sydney) and consult the Sector on subjects where research is required. 2. The Office of Sport to expand its in-house research and data analysis capability to utilise the data collected and

advanced data analytic techniques to identify trends and opportunities across the Sector.

3. Sport NSW and the NSW Government to investigate the development of a universal sport registration system and a universal Sector insurance scheme.

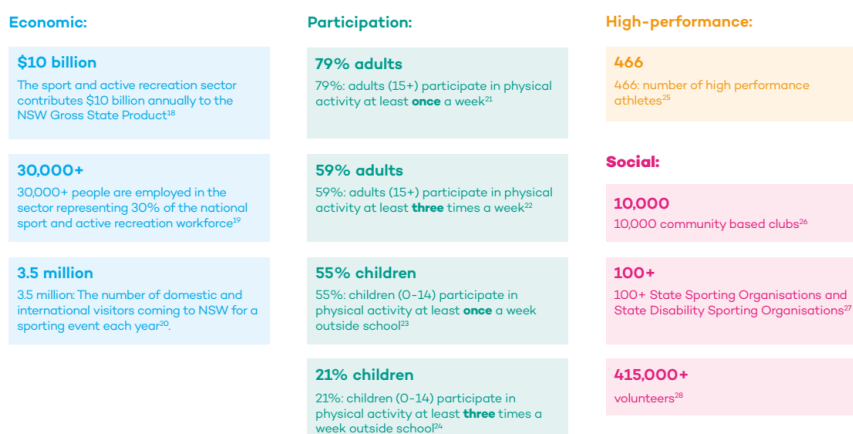
4. The Office of Sport to scope how an innovation fund could function that provides financial assistance to Sector organisations looking to develop innovative versions of their activities.

Engagement

1. NSW Government to fast track the development of new joint-use projects to enable school facilities to be used by the community for sport and active recreation.

2. Sector organisations to recognise the critical role they play in community outcomes, inclusion and building social fabric by providing ongoing training, education and assistance to volunteers to ensure that community sport and active recreation remains of critical importance to the health of society.

The document includes a summary of the sector in NSW:



Regional Plans

Hunter Regional Plan 2036 (NSW Government, Dept of Planning & Environment, 2016)

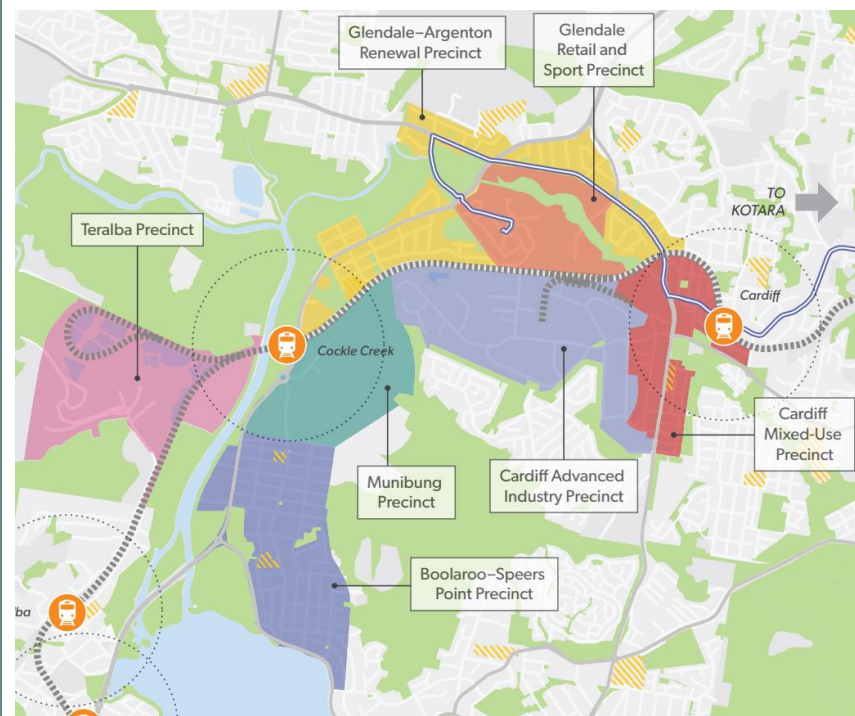
The Regional Plan includes 27 directions within 4 Goals and narratives for the local governments.

The four goals are:

1. The Leading regional economy in Australia
2. A biodiversity-rich natural environment
3. Thriving communities
4. Greater housing choice and jobs

The plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies Greater Newcastle as a key element in the future productivity of the Hunter Region and comprises the closely connected urban areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens local government areas commits to developing and delivering a Metropolitan Plan for Greater Newcastle <p>Specific Lake Macquarie and sport references/ priorities in the Regional Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Macquarie (waterway) supports important water-based recreational activities including both powered and nonpowered boating activities A network of walking, cycling and jogging opportunities provided by a number of scenic shared paths along the foreshores of Lake Macquarie, and includes the CycleSafe proposal, an initiative that aims to connect 90 kilometres of existing cycle paths with a 140-kilometre network of new construction to deliver a system of safe, easy-to-follow walking and cycling connections throughout Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. <p>Direction 18: Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open spaces 18.4 Assist councils to develop open space and recreation strategies that identify a range of accessible open space and recreation opportunities; integrate open space, active transport and recreation networks; and improve public foreshore access. 18.5 Implement actions and invest in boating infrastructure priorities identified in regional boating plans to improve boating safety, boat storage and waterway access</p>
<p>Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006-2031 (NSW Government, Dept of Planning)</p>	<p>This Regional Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to five LGAs of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland and Cessnock Represents an agreed NSW government position on the future of the Lower Hunter and for the region’s population over the 25-year period (2006-31) Is one of a number of regional strategies prepared by the Department of Planning. Identifies Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and Port Stephens as the faster growing areas (population) And will be reviewed every five years <p>The Regional Strategy does not contain any specific references to sport infrastructure development, except within the broader narrative of providing community access to recreation and open spaces.</p>
<p>Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 (NSW Government, Dept of Planning & Environment, 2018)</p>	<p>The Plan sets out strategies and actions to drive sustainable growth across Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City, Maitland City, Newcastle City and Port Stephens communities, which together make up Greater Newcastle.</p> <p>The Plan also helps to achieve the vision set in the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 – for the Hunter to be the leading regional economy in Australia with a vibrant new metropolitan city at its heart</p> <p>North West Lake Macquarie is indicated as one of 11 catalyst areas, and identified as a strategic gateway to Greater Newcastle.</p> <p>The Boolaroo-Speers Point Precinct outcomes relate to protecting and expanding recreational amenity of Cockle Creek and Speers Point foreshores and supporting the regionally significant Speers Point Park. Outcomes for the Glendale Retail and Sport Precinct include enhanced elite sports and casual sports and recreation facilities at Hunter Sports Centre.</p>



Draft Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan, 2018-2023

As part of a state-wide project, Office of Sport reviewed, with the intention to renew, the planning and delivery of sport and active recreation within defined regions of NSW. The plan is designed to be complementary to National Sports Plan (Australian Sports Commission) and the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 (Department of Planning & Environment).

The plan outlines the various roles of the partners in developing and delivering the plan. Six outcomes have been identified for the Hunter region:

- 1) *Increased participation* of adults and children in regular sport and active recreation
- 2) Improved *access* to sport and active recreation for everyone in the region, regardless of background or ability
- 3) *Integrated performance pathways* for participants in sport
- 4) *Fit for purpose facilities* in the region
- 5) *Valued regional sporting events* which are valued by the region
- 6) *Improved collaboration* within the sport and active recreation sector.

Within each outcome there are a number of strategies developed from a regional planning workshop. Strategies that are specifically relevant to this Sports Strategy include:

- 2.1 Partnering with schools in local areas to use their facilities to create more localised sporting and active recreation opportunities
- 2.3 Facilitate more recreational walking and cycling paths. Concepts to consider
 - Extend the Richmond Vale Trail
 - Extend the Great North Walk
 - Expand intra-regional and inter -regional walking and cycling links including the NSW Coastal Cycleway
- 4.1 Establish a Regional Sporting Hub at the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct at Broadmeadow and explore locations for sub-hubs
- 4.2 Establish Newcastle Sports Ground No 1 as a Regionally Significant Sports Facility (RSSF) and explore locations for other RSSFs
- 4.3 Establish a collaborative approach to facilities
- 4.4 Explore upgrades to existing facilities (making existing facilities multipurpose and upgrading auxiliary infrastructure)
- 4.5 Explore development of new facilities (multipurpose, indoor/ outdoor, linkages and based on community consultation and future population needs)

	<p>4.6 Establish Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre as a hub for waterskiing and other open water sports in NSW²</p> <p>4.8 Plan for female friendly sporting facilities</p> <p>5.1 Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting and active recreation events</p> <p>5.2 Support hosting of country championships</p> <p>5.3 Support hosting of adventure race / multi-sport events</p> <p>5.4 Host key events (e.g. Commonwealth Games/ Masters)</p> <p>A project is considered “regionally significant” if it meets the following broad facility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a sport or recreation facility of regional level significance to a State sporting organisation or local Council • Meets the standards required to host major regional, state or national level competitions, events and/or training • Provides a range of participation outcomes (community, competitions, events and talent development) • Caters for a broad catchment across multiple local government boundaries, and • Delivers flexibility of use, high quality amenity, management and service levels <p>The Hunter Region comprises 10 Councils. Along with Lake Macquarie, it also includes City of Newcastle, Mid-Coast, Dungog, Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland and Port Stephens.</p>
Local Plans	
Imagine Lake Mac	<p>Imagine Lake Mac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a high-level, long-term strategy that guides the growth and change of the City to 2050. • Identifies 7 aspirations expanding on the City Vision, with strategies to achieve the intended outcomes and identified change and growth areas <p>Detailed actions and priorities are included in Council’s Local Strategic Planning Statement (see below)</p> <p>Seven aspirations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A city of vibrant centres 2. A city to call home 3. A city of prosperity 4. A city of close connections 5. A city of progress and play 6. A city with a vast natural environment 7. A city of resilience
Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027	<p>Our Future in Focus</p> <p>The Vision for the City is supported by seven aspects that are valued. The Plan aligns with the NSW State Plan and Hunter Regional Plan and has been prepared with regard to the social justice principles of access, equity, participation and rights, and addresses social, environmental, economic and governance matters.</p> <p>The Plan is arranged into Key Focus areas, with objectives, strategies, partners and performance measures.</p> <p>Lifestyle and Wellbeing (focus area) includes a number of relevant strategies which aim to increase participation rates in sport and recreation activities:</p>

² The Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre was permanently closed because of an ‘intolerable’ and ‘unacceptable’ risk to life if seismic activity caused the coal ash dam wall to collapse. A preferred site for new/ replacement centre was announced in July 2020, with water access to Lake Eraring, 1km southeast of former Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sports and recreation facilities are available to meet community needs • Ensure public spaces and community buildings meet the needs of the community • Host and support a diverse range of festivals and events <p>Mobility and Accessibility (focus area) strategies include aim to increase number of accessibility upgrades at Council facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure community and transportation infrastructure are accessible for people with a wide range of abilities <p>Connected Communities (focus area) strategies aim to increase volunteer participation and proportion of walking and cycling trips and decrease energy, water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and review plans and strategies to support an inclusive community • Support volunteer and community groups to increase community capacity • Adapt our City to a changing climate • Empower our community to adopt sustainable behaviours • Encourage uptake of smart and sustainable infrastructure
<p>Lake Macquarie City Local Strategic Planning Statement (2019)</p>	<p>The aim of the planning statement is to influence public and private investment making Lake Macquarie City one of the most productive, adaptable, sustainable and liveable places in Australia. To achieve this, the Lake Macquarie Local City Strategic Planning Statement identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the community’s vision for future land use in the City • Seven Planning Priorities that articulate the special characteristics of the City • strategies that deliver on those priorities, as well as a list of actions • key Change and Growth Areas that provide visual cues of where certain types of development will be focused <p>It includes strategic actions that reinforce global, national and regional plans, including the Hunter Regional Plan and the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.</p> <p>Nine centres are indicated as being focus for change and growth: three strategic economic centres (Charlestown, Glendale and Morisset) and other economic centres at Belmont, Cardiff, Mount Hutton, Swansea, Toronto and Warners Bay. The areas in and around these centres will experience increased development and change.</p> <p>Planning Priority 5: <i>A City of Progress and Play</i> includes the following relevant principle: Enhance community access to sporting, recreational, cultural and community services and facilities</p> <p>Action 5.7 - Work with State Government and other Greater Newcastle councils to develop a Greater Newcastle sport and recreation facilities plan</p> <p>Sport specific actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elite sports, casual sports and recreation facilities at the Hunter Sports Centre are further developed • Speers Point Park is the premier park for the City, offering a range of high-level sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities
<p>Revised Delivery Program 2017-2022 and Operational Plan 2020-2021</p>	<p>This document outlines actions and strategies Council will undertake to achieve the objectives defined in the Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 (see above).</p> <p>The Delivery Program covers term of the elected Council and Operational Plan covers financial year program (actions and funding). Relevant actions are within Objective 2.2 – <i>Our Public Spaces Help us Feel Healthy and Happy</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Council for exhibition a draft Sports Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement smart sportsfield technologies at a priority site, based on the Edgeworth pilot project • Design Ulinga Sporting Facility improvements, Cardiff South • Commence design of the Belmont sports fields in accordance with the adopted master plan • Design the Hunter Sports Centre athletics warm-up and testing facility • Undertake feasibility and planning for the Harold Knight, Fred Wright and Mick Middleton fields, Gateshead • Undertake feasibility and planning for Mirrabooka Sporting Facility • Undertake feasibility and planning for a sport and recreation facility at Wyee • Undertake feasibility and planning for the Catherine Hill Bay Sportsground and Surf Life Saving Club sites • Complete court surface replacement at Awaba Tennis Courts • Complete amenities replacement at Jack McLaughlin Oval, Edgeworth • Complete the croquet courts at Swansea • Implement sports field floodlight upgrades at the Windale Junior Rugby League Hunter Barnett Field • Design the playing fields, tennis courts, netball courts, car park and amenities building at Croudace Bay Sporting Facility 												
<p>Asset Management Strategy 2010-2020 and Asset Management Plans (2013)</p>	<p>This document includes Council Asst Management Strategy, Policy, Action Plan and asset management plans for five asset classes: Roads and Infrastructure; Buildings; Parks and Reserves; Stormwater and Transportation.</p> <p>Assets delivering for sport are included in Buildings (multi-purpose buildings, aquatic and sporting buildings, public amenities) and Parks & Reserves (sport-specific structures and surfaces (e.g. netball and tennis courts, tiered seating, dug outs, sports lighting)) Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hunter Sports Centre is currently a highly regarded and certified athletic facility in the state and it is anticipated that this profile will continue over the next 10 – 15 years. The facility is positioned in an excellent growth region of the city with additional infrastructure planned to improve access and circulation over the next 5- 10 years. The possibility of exploring new diversified revenue streams are currently being investigated, as additional services and facilities is expected to increase the profit of the centre 												
<p>Belmont Sports Fields Master Plan (2017)</p>	<p>Belmont Sports Fields is a large site, approximately 570m north-south and 500m east-west, comprising several different sporting codes. Specifically, the site includes:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Cahill Oval</td> <td>Rugby league, soccer and cricket, Semi-enclosed with a grandstand, 2 amenities blocks, a scoreboard and a spectator hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Les Miller field</td> <td>Baseball and cricket Clubhouse, administration building and amenities block</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barton Field</td> <td>2 rugby league and 2 cricket fields</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lumsdon Field</td> <td>2 cricket fields and 1 baseball Amenities shared with Barton Field</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Molly Smith Netball Courts</td> <td>27 courts and clubhouse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tennis centre</td> <td>Eight courts and clubhouse</td> </tr> </table> <p>The intent of the master plan is to provide a large multi venue sport complex, that can be used for large code specific carnivals and events and multiple local seasonal users.</p> <p>Recommendations related to changes to fields (size, layout, grading); demolition and development of amenities, grandstand, car parking; improvements to transport links, signage,</p>	Cahill Oval	Rugby league, soccer and cricket, Semi-enclosed with a grandstand, 2 amenities blocks, a scoreboard and a spectator hill	Les Miller field	Baseball and cricket Clubhouse, administration building and amenities block	Barton Field	2 rugby league and 2 cricket fields	Lumsdon Field	2 cricket fields and 1 baseball Amenities shared with Barton Field	Molly Smith Netball Courts	27 courts and clubhouse	Tennis centre	Eight courts and clubhouse
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wayfinding, paths, new playgrounds; sustainability improvements, safety, improvements for access and disability.

Table 20: NSW State Sport Organisations State Facility Plans and Implications for LMCC Sport Strategy

Document	Relevant Themes/ Recommendations
<p>Netball in New South Wales – Statewide Facilities Strategy (2018-2033)</p>	<p>This facility strategy was developed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide the removal of facility related barriers to people in NSW accessing the sport of netball • Assist Netball NSW, affiliated Associations, Clubs and many other netball stakeholder groups throughout NSW to better plan for the future of their facility footprint, seek facility related grant funding <p>The strategy cites a benchmark of court provision of 1-court for 3,500 people and recognises that development of facilities should be supported by local need and demand assessment. Based on population, NSW requires 2,230 netball courts, and an additional 545 by 2033 to account for projected population growth.</p> <p>Strategy recommendations are provided within 5 focus areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Usage 2. Partnerships 3. Programs 4. Priority Places and Projects 5. People <p>There are three netball associations in Lake Macquarie City – Lakeside Netball, Westlakes and Charlestown Netball Associations - neither of which are specifically mentioned for consideration.</p>
<p>NSW Football Infrastructure Strategy: Local Government Workshop – Northern NSW Football, 2019</p>	<p>Presentation slides utilised at a workshop with Hunter Regional council officers in August 2019 by NSW Football aiming for development of State-wide football facility supply, demand and investment strategy for 2020-2030.</p> <p>The presentation covers the Statewide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facility audit process (supply, quality, ancillary facilities, lighting, synthetic pitches, drainage) • participation profiling • locations of clubs and facilities • snapshot of football performance measured as a % of demand conversion • areas with potential for growth and low facility provision • survey results (clubs, associations and councils) <p>Top 6 challenges identified by Associations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not enough fields with sports lighting that caters for competition 2. Securing funding for facility improvement 3. No synthetic playing field locally 4. Not enough fields with sports lighting that caters for training 5. Inadequate number of playing fields for football 6. Poor quality playing fields due to overuse, poor irrigation/drainage and maintenance practices <p>Top 6 facility-related demands identified by Councils:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of maintenance window where grounds are closed 2. On field game and training equipment storage 3. Upgrading sports lighting 4. Securing funding to address on field facility issues 5. Poor quality playing fields due to overuse

6. Inadequate number of playing fields

A summary of issues identified through the workshopping process:

- The need for easily assessable, factual data on football participation in each local Council area.
- Identifying the mix and hierarchy of facilities. Not every club can have an all year round facility – a mixture of seasonal natural grass, closed for maintenance, shared with other sports, synthetic and regional facilities required. Ideally all football stakeholders would recognise where they sit in the hierarchy.
- Articulate football needs and prioritise capital works in local areas in a transparent manner with local councils.
- Consistent messaging from Football NSW, Northern NSW Football, Football Associations and clubs in a one stop shop document.
- Funding assistance in rejuvenating ageing football infrastructure

Football NSW
Facilities Strategic
Plan 2014-2024

The purpose of the FNSW Facilities Strategy is to set out the long-term vision and plan to grow, develop and promote facilities to support football at all levels. FNSW intent is to provide support to enable local challenges to be resolved locally through a consistent approach.

Using population growth projections and ratio of football pitches per capita, the plan indicates a need for an additional 246 new pitches across the State by 2026 or 607 new pitches across the State by 2056.

A facility hierarchy and target number of facilities at each tier are outlined:

Facility Hierarchy	App #	Purpose
National (A-League)	2-3	Professional level football games
State (FNSW)	1	Headquarters for football in NSW and a centre of excellence for sports
Regional football complex	20	Home grounds for an Association. These facilities are normally a complex able to host large gala days, talent camps, holiday camps and regional final days.
Regional – Elite club facilities	50	Home grounds for teams in FNSW elite men’s and women’s competitions for: Premier League 1, Premier League 2, State League 1 and State League 2
Local Club facilities	700+	The Club ‘home ground’. Provides a base for club competition, administration and training
Local Facilities	1,500+	The many basic parks and pitches where football is played. Suitable for all forms of football; junior, senior, men’s and women’s
Local – School and Non-traditional	40++++	Alternative sites for football to meet demand. Can be training sites for 11-a-side football or training and competition for small-sided, futsal or 6-a-side.

The plan advocates that Facility Development plans are completed at an Association level.

NSW Football Infrastructure Strategy, 2020-2030

The Strategy identifies the key focus areas for the future planning and development of almost 1,000 community football facilities and over 272,970 active club participants across NSW. The Strategy is intended to provide a strategic framework to support football’s vision of connecting communities through well located, welcoming, accessible and sustainable football facilities.

Specific facility and infrastructure priorities are provided in 26 Football Area Summaries, comprising:

- 16 Metro Football NSW Associations
- 3 Regional Football NSW Branches, and
- 7 Northern NSW Football Zones

The Strategy identifies Lake Macquarie as number 10 of the future demand hot spots for football.

The Strategy identifies the following key pillars and associated objectives for guiding support and investment into community facilities:

- **Improve existing venue capacity:** Maximise the carrying capacity and activation of existing football grounds and venues.
- **Inclusive football facilities:** Support diversity of game formats and participants through inclusive facilities.
- **Homes of football:** Improve access to football programs, pathways and development services.
- **Planning for growth and demand:** Plan to maximise participation through new and innovative venue opportunities.
- **Partnerships and investment:** Develop and maintain relationships with all levels of government and industry partners.

The facility hierarchy outlined above has been modified:

Hierarchy level	Eg	Current	Target
National	Bankwest Stadium McDonald Jones Stadium	2 in Sydney 1 in Newcastle	
State HQ	Valentine Sports Park Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility	1 in Sydney 1 in Northern NSW	
NPL Venue	Marconi Stadium (Bossley Park)	86 in Metro / Regional NSW 11 in Northern NSW	Provision to meet NPL competition structures and venue capacity needs
Homes of Football	Proctor Park (Bathurst District FA)	8 in Sydney 4 in Regional NSW	1 in each Metropolitan Sydney Association (16) 1 in each Regional NSW Branch (3) 1 in each Northern NSW Zone (7)
Local Club	Caddies Creek Reserve	930+ venues state-wide	Provision to meet local club

	<p>(Hills Football Association)</p> <p>Playing/training spaces</p> <p>Charles Bean (UTS Ku-ring-gai)</p> <p>14 identified in NSW facility audit currently being accessed for football</p> <p>requirements and service competition structures</p> <p>School fields, open parkland, alternative sports fields with access to areas on an as-needs-basis</p> <p>Homes of Football and NPL Venues are (or can be) the same venue, where community and NPL activities are conducted at the same location.</p>
<p>NSW Basketball Facilities Strategy (2016)</p>	<p>A significant finding from this review was that the regions with higher facility provision rates have significantly higher registered player numbers and participation rates per capita.</p> <p>Based on 2011 population data, Regional East achieved a basketball participation rate of 0.67% of regional population. The overall review of BNSW participation rates by population across the State indicated the likely facility priority development being needed in low participation areas such as Regional East, with an estimated requirement for additional 5-7 courts; Lake Macquarie City is in Regional East region.</p>

9. Warranties and Disclaimers

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.