



INNER WEST COUNCIL

# Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

OCTOBER 2021 UPDATE





## **Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West**

**Client:** Inner West Council

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We acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of this land, and would also like to pay respect to Aboriginal Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their young people who will be our future leaders.

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# 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2021 UPDATE

Since releasing the *Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West* (RNS 2018) in 2018, several changes at the local, regional and state level have warranted an update to this document. These changes include:

- Population growth data has been updated to align with the forecasts included in the Inner West Local Housing Strategy (2020). See Chapters 5 and 6 of this Study for details on the revised population assumptions.
- The recreational demands of workers have been incorporated in this update to align with the employment forecasts included in the Inner West Employment and Retail Land Study (2020). Worker demands had not previously been analysed in the benchmarking process, see appendixes 4, 5, 6 and 7 for the detailed methodology used in this update.
- An evolved policy context – Since the 2018 Study was published, the NSW Government and Council have endorsed several new policies and strategies. This 2021 update expands on the previous Strategic Context Chapter (Chapter 3) and outlines the policy objectives in each.
- Inclusion of State Government open space as an Open Space Contributor – the 2018 RNS study did not include State Government-owned open space in benchmarking calculations. Council's approach has since changed, and has determined that State Government-owned open spaces (such as Callan Park) should be included in the revised benchmarking calculations.
- Adoption of a Planning Catchment approach – the Inner West Community Asset Needs Strategy (CANS) is currently in progress and has adopted a catchment-based approach. This revision of the RNS is to align with the same planning catchments. See Chapter 7 for more details about what a planning catchment is, and how the 4 catchments have been applied to the Inner West.

These updates and additions will provide more up-to-date guidance to Council as they amalgamate eight (8) development contributions plans to create a consolidated *Inner West Council Development Contributions Plan* under Sec 7.11 and Sec 7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (formerly s.94 and s.94A). Council will continually monitor growth data over time to ensure assumptions are as accurate as possible as part of Council's comprehensive reviews of its local infrastructure contribution plans.

Following on from the endorsement of the Recreation Needs Study in 2018, Council has developed a draft *Inner West Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-30* which provides the strategic direction for the next 10 years. This includes measurable and defined outcomes which provide direction to Council on key deliverables for activating Our Inner West 2036 – Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

## IMPACTS OF COVID-19

In addition to strategic and population changes since the previous RNS, we have experienced the impacts of a global pandemic. This has seen communities accessing public open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities more than ever.

Our public open spaces are more valued by communities since COVID-19, with increasing proportions of people using their local parks and streets for walking, cycling, social interaction and fitness. The way people use public open spaces and recreation facilities will continue to change over time for individual and small group activities, social cohesion and connection, health and wellbeing, and for informal recreation and access to nature.

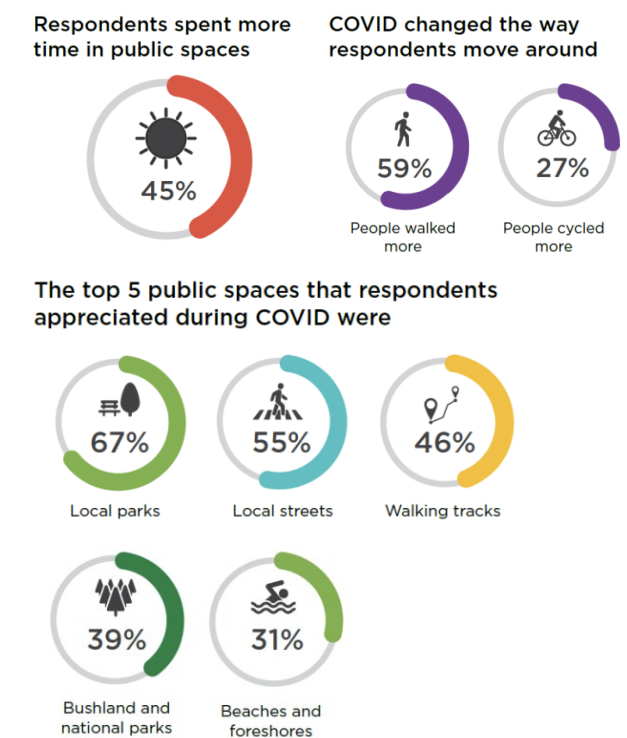


Figure 1 - Increase in participation in cycling and walking since COVID-19 (Source: NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment, *Public Spaces Streets as Shared Spaces Report*)



## BACKGROUND

Council plays an active role in encouraging participation in recreation activities by providing, planning, facilitating and advocating for recreation spaces and activities. The Recreation Needs Study – A Healthier Inner West (the Needs Study) provides an analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community.

For the purposes of this Needs Study, recreation is defined across a broad spectrum, ranging from unstructured activities like picnics, walking the dog and playing in parks, streets and laneways, to organised sport and everything in between. Participation in, and access to, recreation opportunities brings significant physical and mental health and social benefits to individuals, improved development outcomes for children and young people, and social benefits to the community.

## POPULATION AND DENSITY

The Inner West Council area (the Inner West) is a 3,519ha urban community with an estimated resident population of 192,022 residents (2016). As a result of major renewal projects, the area will undergo significant population growth and change, and increase population density over the next 10 to 20 years (see Figure 1). This growth presents challenges and opportunities for Council to provide for the community's recreation needs.

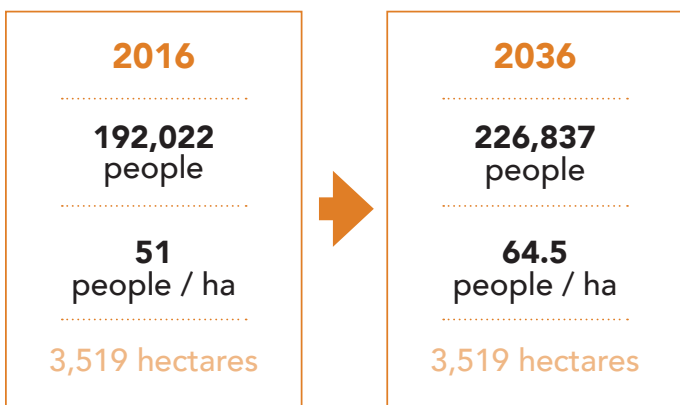


Figure 1 - Increasing population density over time

## PLANNING CATCHMENTS

The Inner West Local Infrastructure Contribution Planning Framework will adopt a catchment-based approach to assess the recreational demands to align with the approach taken for the Community Assets Needs Strategy 2021 (CANS). A catchment approach is a useful planning tool that aims to reflect patterns of community preference in accessing recreational space and facilities.

The four planning catchments are:

- Catchment 1 - North includes the suburbs of Balmain, Balmain East, Birchgrove, Rozelle and Lilyfield
- Catchment 2 - West includes the suburbs of Ashfield North, Ashfield South, Croydon, Summer Hill and Haberfield
- Catchment 3 - East includes the suburbs of Annandale, Leichhardt, Camperdown, Enmore, Lewisham, Newtown, Petersham and Stanmore
- Catchment 4 - South includes the suburbs of Marrickville North, Marrickville South, Tempe, Dulwich Hill and St Peters - Sydenham

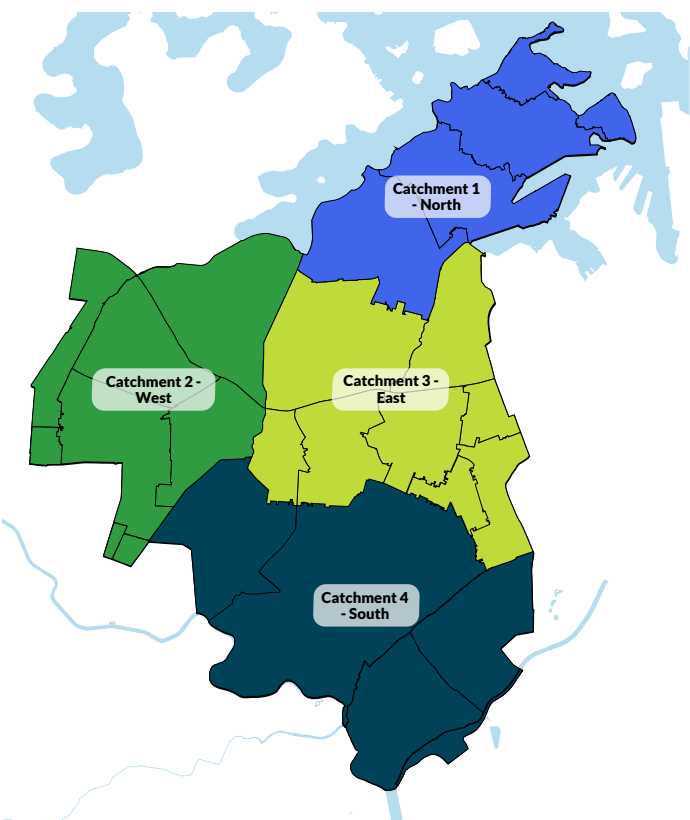


Figure 2 - IWC planning catchments

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION

The 2018 Needs Study was informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement (more than 2,000 points of engagement). Similar to national participation trends, engagement indicated that the most popular recreation activities in the Inner West are unstructured and informal, including walking (for fun, transport and with dogs), play, fitness, cycling and swimming (see Figure 3).

Local participation trends that align with national and international trends include:

- Increased demand for unstructured and informal participation in a more flexible setting
- Declining access for children to unsupervised play, particularly in natural environments
- Lower levels of participation in recreation activities for people with disability
- Less access to formal sporting opportunities and concerns about safety restricting women's and girl's participation

In the Inner West, parks are the most common types of facilities visited for recreation (80% of respondents visit parks weekly) followed by footpaths and streets (75%).

	Walking		Cycling
	Playing		Swimming
	Personal fitness/outdoor fitness		
	Walking the dog		
	Running		Team sports
	Relaxing in a park		
	Tai Chi, table tennis, and badminton are also popular activities amongst the older population of people who speak a language other than English at home.		

Figure 3 - Community engagement results - top recreation

## URBAN RECREATION TRENDS

In urban areas like the Inner West, where there is limited land but increasing residential growth and density, there are a number of key design and planning trends:

- Multipurpose and flexible design (making what we have work harder)
- Networked and connected recreation places and programs (connecting parks, sporting grounds, and users within a network)
- Sharing the city for recreation (learning to share space for competing needs)
- Inclusion and universality (inclusive and universal design and programming from 8 to 80 years of age)
- Connecting to nature and healthy built environments (biophilic design, nature and adventure play for children, supporting biodiversity, reducing climate impacts)
- Co-designing places and programs (working with communities, sporting groups and agencies to co-design future recreation settings and activities)

LGA-WIDE PROVISION & BENCHMARKING

Current provision

In total (including non-Council owned land), there is 321.6 hectares of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.1% of the total land area.

Based on the 2016 population, this equates to 16.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space provision per person. This rate presents a median and it should be noted that provision differs greatly across planning catchments with a high of 34.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space in Catchment 1 and a low of 7.6m<sup>2</sup> of open space in Catchment 3.

There are 278 Council-owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds, totalling 256 hectares. This makes up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West.

The Inner West has 28 sporting grounds, 11 outdoor gyms (plus 1 under construction at the time of updating this report), 126 play spaces, 18 community gardens, 16 creek corridor parks, 2 indoor recreation facilities, and 5 aquatic centres (including 3 with warm-water pools).

There are 4 State Government-owned parks and sporting grounds, specifically: Ballast Point Park, Callan Park, Enmore TAFE Park and Fraser Park.

State open space (66ha, 20%)

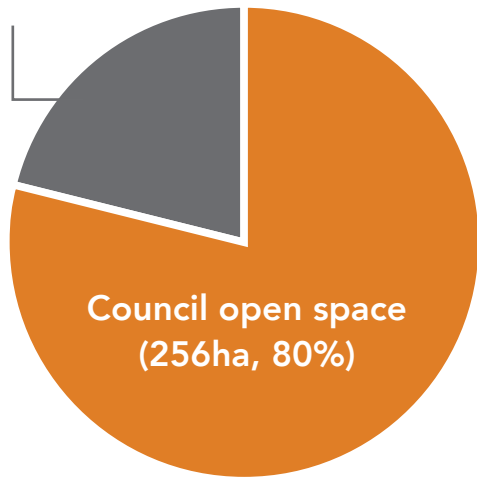


Figure 4 - Current open space ownership in the Inner West

Benchmarked demand

Population benchmark

If no new open space is provided as the population increases, the amount of open space per person for the whole LGA will decline from 16.4m<sup>2</sup> in 2016, to 15.4m<sup>2</sup> per person in 2026, and 14.3m<sup>2</sup> per person in 2036.

In terms of recreation facilities, based on industry benchmarks and forecast population growth, by 2036 there will be a need for an additional:

- 6 summer sporting fields
- 9 winter sporting fields
- 7 indoor multipurpose courts (MPC)
- 16 outdoor multipurpose courts (MPC)
- 1 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 1 indoor leisure centre (aquatic)
- 1 skate park/facility

Table 1 - Population Benchmarking - Recreation Facility Gaps\* (LGA Average)

	2016	2026	2036
Summer sporting fields	0	3	5.7
Winter sporting fields	1	5	9
Indoor MPCs	5	6	7
Outdoor MPCs	1	9	16
Indoor leisure centre (dry)	0.6	0.9	1.1
Indoor leisure centre (aquatic)	0.1	0.6	1
Skate facility / park	0.1	0.5	0.8
Playgrounds	0	0	0

Note: gaps have been rounded up to whole numbers

Proximity benchmarks

The Government Architect’s Draft Greener Places Guide and the Greater Sydney Commission also advocate for open space planning to take a proximity approach to open space to ensure all residents can access a local park within 400m<sup>2</sup> of their home, or for high-density areas, within 200m.

400m catchment to local parks

As shown in Figure 5, the following areas cannot easily access a local park within 400m<sup>2</sup> of their homes. These include:

- Parts of Leichhardt, Haberfield and Annandale - particularly along the Parramatta Road Corridor
- Parts of Croydon, Croydon Park, and Ashfield. There is a concentration of smaller Level 2 Local parks and Pocket parks in this area.

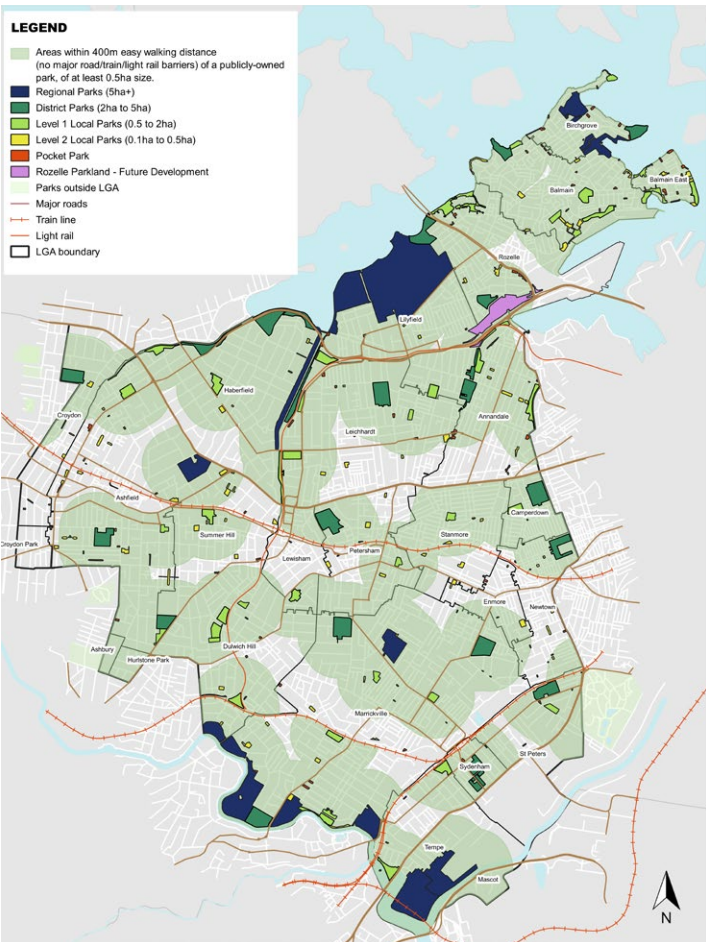


Figure 5 - Proximity to open space (400m walking catchment)

- Parts of Lewisham to the south of the rail line
- Parts of Enmore, Newtown and Stanmore between Enmore Road and the train line. There is a concentration of smaller Level 2 Local parks and Pocket parks in this area
- Industrial areas in St Peters
- Parts of central Tempe
- Parts of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, in a band along the northern side of the train line
- Areas of Lewisham south of the train line, and Marrickville north of the train line, are particularly impacted by pedestrian barriers. These locations are within 400m of at least Level 1 Local open space, but the train line forms a significant pedestrian barrier reducing access.

High-density areas (200m catchment)

Chapter 12 provides a proximity analysis of high density areas that are located further than 200m of park of a minimum size of 0.1ha.

Areas of Lewisham, Petersham and Dulwich Hill do not meet the benchmark requirement for access to open space and should be considered a priority for future planning.

Proximity benchmarks for recreation facilities including playgrounds

Proximity mapping can also be a useful tool in understanding the distribution of, and access to, various recreation facility types.

While population benchmarking shows no gap in provision of playgrounds, some areas of the LGA are outside of a 400m walk to a playground. The NSW Government’s Everyone Can Play Strategy recommends that all children should be able to access a playground in walking distance from home. Priority areas without walkable access to a playground include parts of Ashfield and Dulwich Hill.



# PLANNING CATCHMENT PROVISION AND BENCHMARKING

## Population growth

As shown in Table 2, Catchments 3 and 4 will have the highest population growth in terms of the number of people and proportional growth by 2036. However, the NSW State Government is continuing investigations into the redevelopment of the Bays West Precinct which could impact on forecasts for Catchment 1.

## Population characteristics

The characteristics of the current and future population will also impact on the open space and recreation needs for each catchment, including how dense the area is, the age and cultural background of residents, and also their income and ability to participate in activities or access open space.

- Catchment 1’s population is characterised by a concentration of affluent residents with some of the LGA’s highest levels of household income and higher education. This catchment also has a higher proportion of babies, pre-schoolers and school children. This catchment has the lowest forecast residential population growth compared to the other catchments.
- Catchment 2’s population is characterised by a higher proportion of people aged 18 to 34 years old and seniors and elderly people.

This catchment area has a considerable number of residents who were born overseas and speak a language other than English at home.

- Catchment 3’s population is the most densely populated catchment in the LGA and has the highest forecast growth of all catchments. This catchment has a high proportion of students attending university or TAFE, a high proportion of group households, and fewer families and children. It also has a very high proportion of same-sex couples.
- Catchment 4’s population is characterised by higher levels of relative social disadvantage, particularly in Marrickville South which has the lowest score Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) in the LGA, highest levels of youth disengagement, highest number of households without internet and high levels of social housing. It is also well-known for its alternative and community-minded residents. This catchment also has a very high proportion of same-sex couples and a higher proportion of people in need of assistance due to disability. This catchment has the second highest forecast residential growth of all the catchments and is also facing challenges of loss of industrial and creative spaces to residential renewal and gentrification.

Table 2 - Inner West LGA forecast population growth

Catchment	2016	2026	2036	Additional people 2016-36	Growth % 2016-36
1	34,050	34,864	38,959	4,909	14.4%
2	45,412	49,254	52,941	7,529	16.6%
3	61,937	67,568	73,140	11,203	18.1%
4	50,623	58,462	61797	11,174	22.1%
Total	192,022	210,148	226,837	34,815	18.1%

## Open space provision and benchmarking

As shown in Table 3, Catchment 2 and Catchment 3 currently have the lowest provision rate of open space per person.

Catchment 4 has the most significant population growth and the most significant change in provision from 20.7m<sup>2</sup> to 16.9m<sup>2</sup> by 2036.

## Recreation facility and benchmarking

Table 4 shows the above or below benchmarked demand of various recreation facility types in each of the four catchments.

Results in red indicate that there is an under-benchmarked demand in that catchment, while a result in black indicates that the supply is meeting or exceeding demand.

Table 3 - Open space provision rates (m<sup>2</sup> per person\*) by catchment

	Catchment 1 (C1)	Catchment 2 (C2)	Catchment 3 (C3)	Catchment 4 (C)	LGA
2016	34.4	10.1	7.6	20.7	16.4
2026	36.3	9.3	6.9	17.9	15.4
2036	32.5	8.7	6.4	16.9	14.3

\*Including worker demand equivalent

Table 4 - Population benchmarking - recreation facility gaps (by catchment)

		Summer sporting fields	Winter sporting fields	Indoor MPCs	Outdoor MPCs	Indoor leisure centre (dry)	Indoor leisure centre (aquatic)	Skate facility / park	Playgrounds
C1	2016	6.66	6.28	-1.74	-3.90	-0.46	1.10	0.28	9.63
	2026	6.52	6.08	-1.78	-4.26	-0.48	1.07	0.26	9.18
	2036	5.87	5.15	-1.99	-5.94	-0.53	0.97	0.17	7.08
C2	2016	-1.11	-4.27	-2.31	1.52	-0.62	-0.20	0.04	3.90
	2026	-1.71	-5.13	-2.51	-0.04	-0.67	-0.30	-0.04	1.95
	2036	-2.29	-5.97	-2.69	-1.54	-0.72	-0.40	-0.12	0.07
C3	2016	-5.73	-8.05	-3.16	-14.30	-0.84	-0.64	-1.32	11.38
	2026	-6.62	-9.34	-3.45	-16.61	-0.92	-0.79	-1.44	8.49
	2036	-7.50	-10.61	-3.74	-18.90	-1.00	-0.94	-1.56	5.63
C4	2016	0.00	5.45	2.40	15.20	1.31	-0.35	0.92	3.01
	2026	-1.23	3.67	2.00	12.01	1.20	-0.56	0.75	-0.99
	2036	-1.77	2.89	1.83	10.61	1.15	-0.65	0.68	-2.74

# NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Overview of needs and opportunities

Overall, this Needs Study has identified that Council aspires to continue to deliver increased and improved open space and recreation facilities to meet growth and change, and to maintain, where possible, the current provision rates for open space and recreation facilities. It aims to ensure that its community can lead a healthy lifestyle and be socially connected and resilient. COVID-19 has highlighted the basic need of all residents to access adequately sized and high-quality public open space near their homes.

This Study is based on analysis of needs across a range of indicators. This includes population growth and characteristics, strategic context, best-practice trends, participation trends, community engagement, and comprehensive auditing and benchmarking against industry standards considering proximity, population and comparative benchmarks.

It is important that this Needs Study responds to this aspiration and that it should not be discarded, despite the high likelihood that even with a suite of strategies some needs are unlikely to be fulfilled due to the limited opportunities to add to the existing open space network. The primary limitation is the limited availability and extremely high cost of land areas suitable for open space and recreation facilities.

If Council wants to see development and growth occur and have a greater quantity and quality of open space and recreation facilities for both the existing and new residents, a multi-pronged approach to address these needs is required.

Council also aspires to be led by best-practice approaches and participation trends to support a holistic approach to meet recreational needs. These include: improving our streets as shared spaces and playful recreational links, partnering with other landowners for shared and multi-use of their facilities, and ensuring that our increasingly high density population, including our children, have access to nature for their health and wellbeing.

### Summary of needs

This Needs Study has identified five overarching needs and opportunities to address:

- Plan to increase provision of open space and recreation facilities in areas with current and forecast gaps
- Increase the capacity of what we have to handle increased, multipurpose and diverse use
- Re-imagine our streets and laneways for open space and recreation, including for walking, running, cycling and play
- Partner with other agencies to share spaces that are inclusive to all
- Increase opportunities for our population to connect with nature

## Opportunities to address needs

- Maximising use of current public and private open space and recreation facilities through partnerships and agreements
- Requiring planning proposals to be supported by evidence-based open space and recreation studies, based on minimum-set benchmarking requirements
- Identifying any underutilised parcels of land that are well located for public open space (including NSW Government sites)
- Including open space and public squares in redevelopments of under-capitalised Council-owned land
- Targeted embellishment such as improved surfaces, improved amenities, synthetics and multi-use of existing open space areas funded by developer contributions
- Prepare plans to create 'linear green linkages' between existing significant parks (i.e. parks with an area >1ha). This may include reclaiming road space for pedestrians, cyclists and street trees / furniture, and strategic land purchases so that more direct links can be provided
- Open space minimum benchmarks in terms of open space size and proximity being applied to sites the subject of rezonings for increased density/intensity of development
- Re-development and masterplanned sites to facilitate the provision of functional and high-quality new open spaces – the size, shape and area of parkland being informed by the site size and the community needs
- Re-imagining single-use recreation areas as multipurpose spaces

- Where development sites are too small to accommodate both development and parkland, the Council and developer would negotiate a contribution extra to s7.11 that would enable delivery of high-quality linear open space/shared zones that connect to existing open spaces (i.e. linear green linkages)
- Re-thinking what open space is through activation of laneways, streets and roads as recreational spaces for informal recreation
- Better connections to district and regional open space and recreation facilities via linear parks

Detailed needs and opportunities for the LGA are provided in Chapter 12.

Detailed needs and opportunities by Planning Catchment are provided in Chapter 13.



## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

**This study has adopted a broad definition of recreation - ranging from unstructured activities like picnics, walking the dog and playing in parks, streets and laneways, to organised sport and everything in between.**

### BACKGROUND

#### Inner West context

The Inner West Council area (the Inner West) is an urban area with approximately 192,022 residents (2016), covering an area of approximately 36km<sup>2</sup> from Balmain in the north, Newtown in the east, Tempe in the south and Croydon in the west (See Figure 6). The traditional custodians of the area are the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora nation. Inner West Council was formed in May 2016 when the former Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils were amalgamated.

The Inner West is an increasingly urbanised, medium-density, inner-city area that is undergoing rapid change, including:

- Significant residential development with increasing density, including in mixed-zoned areas
- Major projects including the upgrades to the T3 Bankstown Metro Line in Sydenham, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, Westconnex, the Bays West Precinct, Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy, Callan Park and the Greenway
- Population change including an increasing resident population, changes in cultural groups, and an increasing proportion of older residents.

#### Council's role in recreation

Inner West Council (Council) plays an active role in encouraging participation in recreation by providing and planning for recreation settings and facilitating programs and services. Council's recreation spaces include parks, sporting grounds, facilities, community venues, streets and footpaths, cycle paths, aquatic centres, bushland and waterways. There are also numerous privately or State-owned/operated facilities available to users.

Recreation services and programs are provided directly by Council, Council-engaged service providers, community organisations and the private sector. Council plays a key role in facilitating recreation through partnerships with relevant organisations and the provision of funding through grants programs.

There are numerous other providers of recreation facilities, programs and services in the Inner West including private facilities (such as fitness gyms, rock-climbing centres, and private pools), community facilities (such as community centres and church halls), private providers (dance schools, personal trainers), schools, sports clubs, and the NSW State Government. The recreation sector as a whole is important in delivering for the recreation needs of the Inner West community.

#### Scope and aims of this Study

This Study will provide the evidence base to inform the development of Council policy and strategy in relation to the recreation needs of the Inner West to 2036. It investigates:

- The Inner West community and implications for recreation
- The current situation and future demand
- Recreation standards and benchmarks
- Urban recreation trends and best practice
- Recommended opportunities to meet future needs
- Ideas and applications for the Inner West
- Inform the development of an infrastructure works schedule for Council's future comprehensive section 7.11 local infrastructure contribution plan

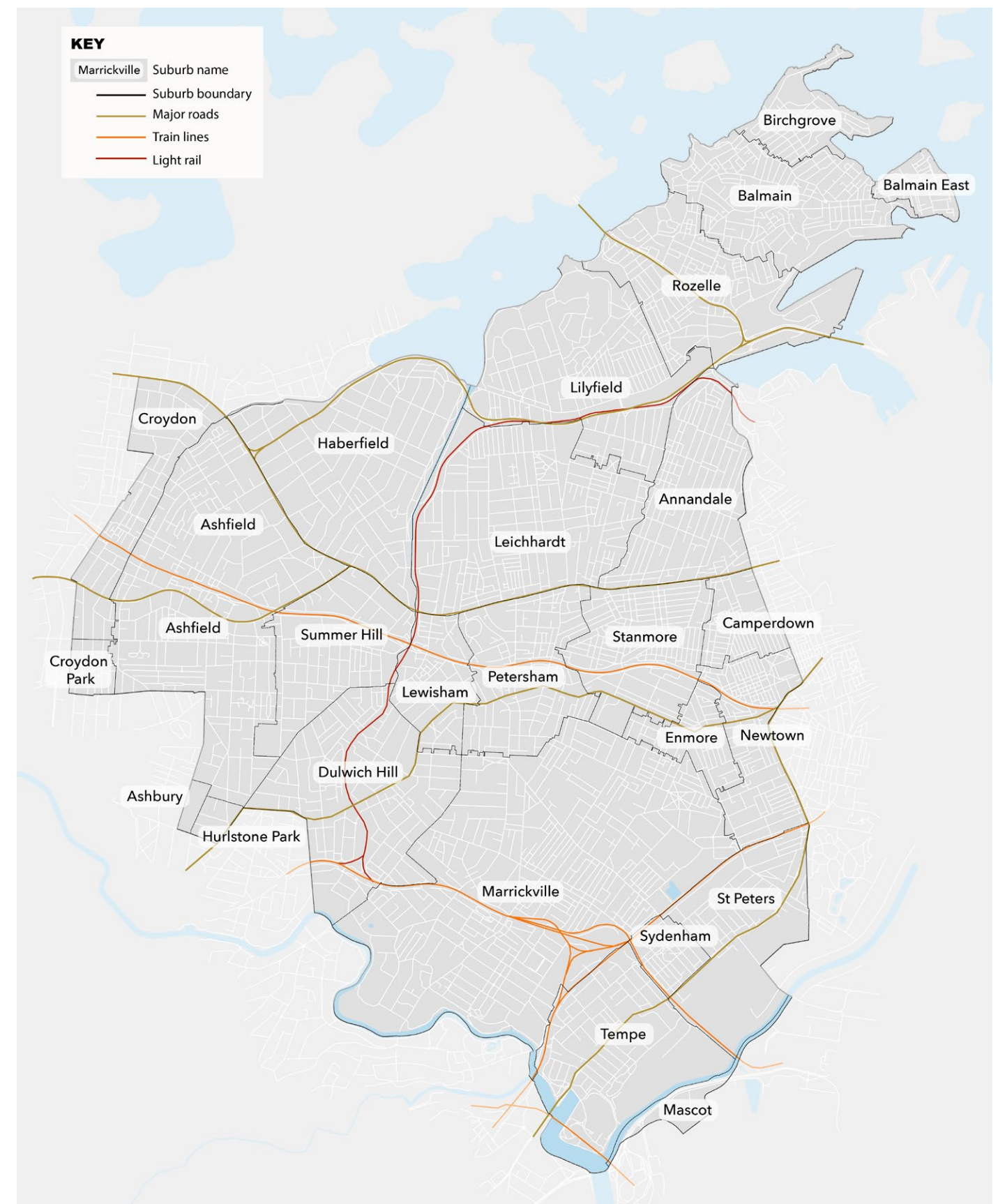


Figure 6 - Inner West Council area and suburbs



THE RECREATION SPECTRUM

As the population of the Inner West grows, and the urban landscape changes, people participate in, and experience, recreation across a broad range of activities and settings.

For the purposes of this Study, Council defines recreation as a broad spectrum, ranging from unstructured activities like picnics, walking the dog and playing in parks, streets and laneways, to organised sport and everything in between. This spectrum is shown in Figure 7.

Recreation can be undertaken indoors or outdoors, and covers a diverse range of activities that help us to stay physically and emotionally healthy, and to connect with our friends and families, our communities, and nature.

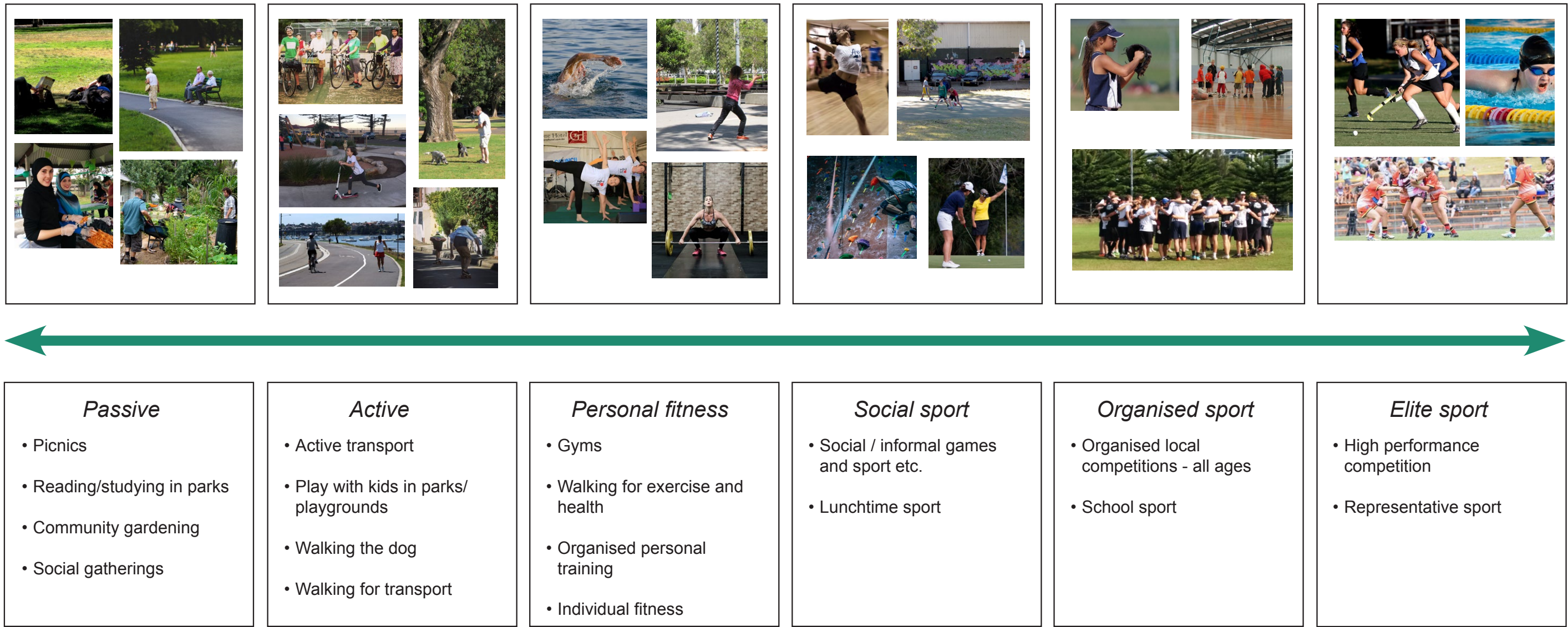


Figure 7 - The Inner West Recreation Spectrum



# 3.0 STRATEGIC AND PLANNING CONTEXT

This section reviews the key strategic drivers influencing recreation needs and planning in the Inner West, including strategic context at a local, regional, State and Commonwealth level and local major projects. Commonwealth, NSW, regional and local planning all impact on current and future recreation needs in the Inner West.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The provision of quality public spaces close to people’s homes is a priority for the NSW Government, who also acknowledge the role that streets and lanes can play in urban areas with limited land available for new public open space.
- The Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities identifies that high-density development (over 60 dwellings per hectare) should be located within 200m of quality open space, and all dwellings should be within 400m of open space.
- Walkable neighbourhoods (where the physical infrastructure encourages walking and cycling, where the streets are safe from traffic and are well connected, and where public spaces are fun to be in) provide access to recreation (eg. walking), as well as improving access to recreation opportunities in open space and other facilities. Street trees, increased walkability and the recreation opportunities of private and public spaces including helping to mitigate the urban heat island effect, and providing shade.
- Regional planning for the area emphasises the importance of providing a network of diverse, accessible, high-quality open spaces that meets a wide range of community needs, connected through the Green Grid, within the Inner West LGA and connecting to regional public open space and recreational opportunities in neighbouring LGAs.
- Major projects will have significant impacts on population growth and densities across the LGA. This will require Council to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils and State Government agencies to deliver increased recreation opportunities in an innovative way as the population and density increases, but not the land area.
- Council’s strategic and social planning identifies a need for:
  - Planning for recreation and environmental outcomes together
  - A connected cycling network
  - Walkable neighbourhoods and using the public domain for recreation
  - Increasing the capacity and amenity of existing facilities
  - Equitable access to public open space in all suburbs of the LGA, and affordable access to public open space and recreation facilities for lower income and disadvantaged residents.
  - Consideration of how public open space can support connection to Country outcomes and increased visibility of First Nations culture.
  - Recreation opportunities that are welcoming and meet the needs of the community - all abilities, sexual orientations, genders, and ages
  - Some new facilities, including indoor recreation, skate facilities and community gardens

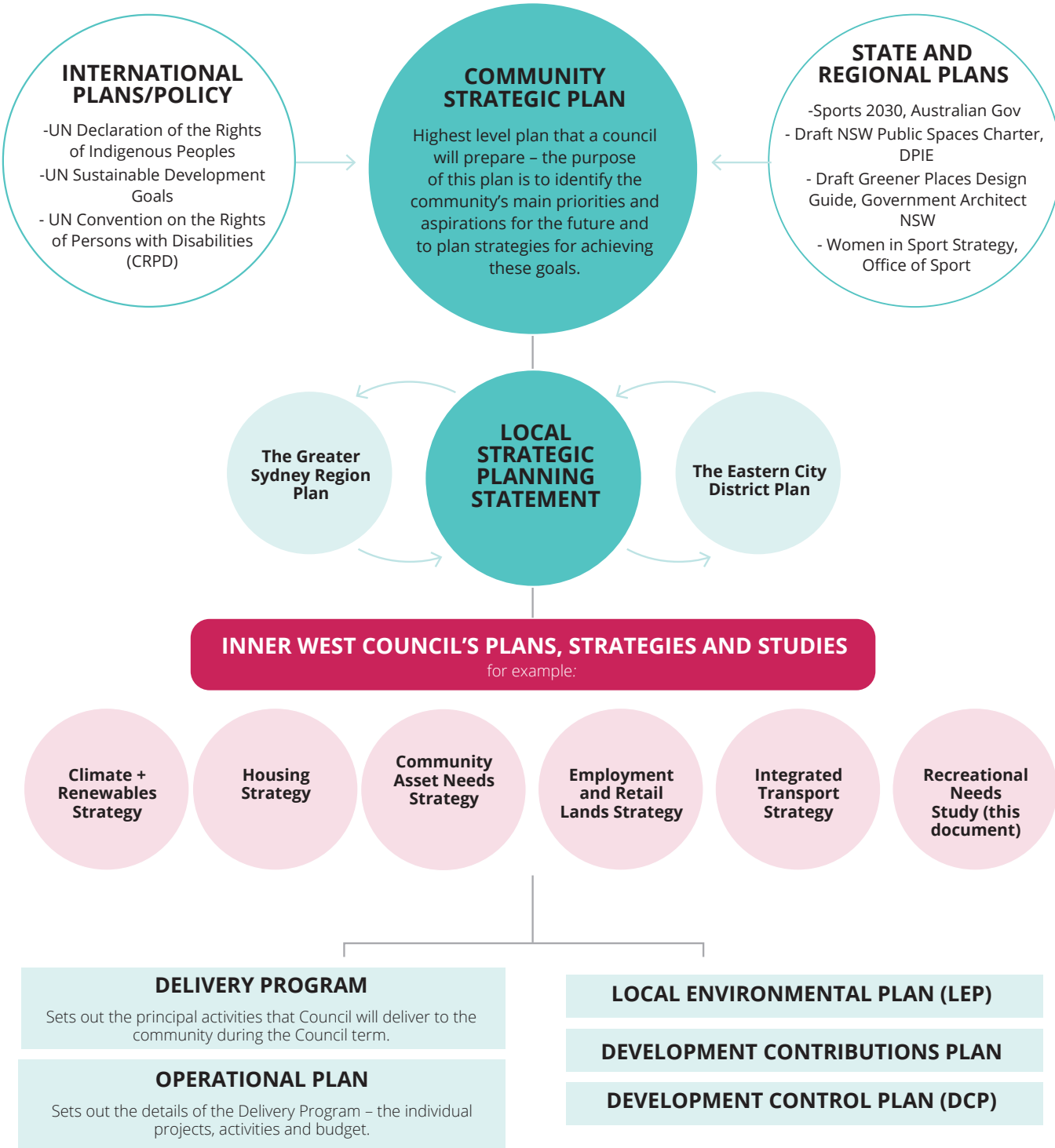


Figure 8 - Indicative strategic context document relationship

Note: Strategy documents included in this document are examples only and not an exhaustive list of strategic context for this Study.

## INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals recognise that access to high-quality public space (which includes public open space and recreation facilities) is critical to social, economic and environmental sustainability.



(Source: United Nations)

## NATIONAL DRIVERS

### National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011

The Framework provides a mechanism for the achievement of national goals for sport and active recreation. The Framework identifies the roles of Regional/Local Government as:

- Facilitating a strategic approach to the provision of sporting and active recreation infrastructure, including open space, and other needs
- Establishing local management and access policies to sport and recreation facilities
- Supporting and coordinating local and regional service providers (venues and programs)
- Liaising and partnering with State and territory governments on targeted program delivery
- Supporting and partnering with non-government organisations that enable sport and active recreation participation
- Incorporating sport and recreation development and participation opportunities in Council plans
- Collaborating, engaging and partnering across government departments on shared policy agendas
- Investment in sport and active recreation infrastructure

### Sport 2030

The vision for Australian sport in 2030 is: Australia is the world's most active, healthy sporting nation, known for its integrity and excellence. The target outcomes of the Strategy are to improve the physical and mental health of Australians, grow personal development, strengthen our communities and grow our economy. Principles include:

- Sport and physical activity for all, for life: every Australian, at all stages of their life, can undertake the exercise they need and want in a safe, fun and inclusive way, whether it is through sport or other types of activity
- A diverse sports sector, from the playing field to the boardroom: promote a diverse sector that represents our population. A varied range of sports opportunities has the greatest chance of getting more Australians active and producing better, well-rounded athletes

## NSW GOVERNMENT DRIVERS

### Premier's Priorities

Two of the Premier's Priorities focus on the delivery of quality green public open space.

**Greener Public Spaces** aim to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public spaces by 10% by 2023.

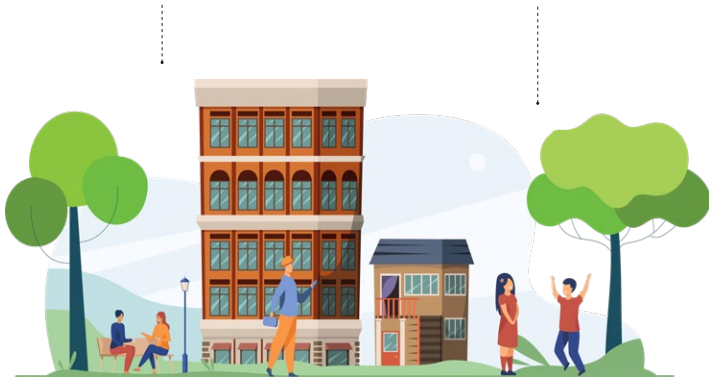
The Place Strategy will aim to investigate opportunities to improve movement outcomes which increase the population's access to high-quality green, open and public space. Delivering on this priority requires a local, place-based approach, considering opportunities to improve existing local assets, as well as identifying new opportunities to improve access and deliver additional public open spaces.

**Greening Our City** seeks to increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by one million trees by 2022.

The Place Strategy will aim to support this priority through the delivery of priorities to increase canopy cover in line with the NSW Government Architect's Greener Places Guide.

*10% increase in proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 2023*

*Increase the tree canopy and green cover planting by one million trees by 2022*





### Draft NSW Public Spaces Charter, DPIE

To support the *Greener Public Spaces Premier's Priority*, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is developing a *NSW Public Spaces Charter* (the Charter) outlining the Government's commitment to quality public spaces. It will sit alongside and complement other key NSW policies that support the planning and delivery of green, public and open space.

The draft Charter identifies 10 principles for quality public space, developed through evidence-based research and discussions with a diverse range of public space experts and closely aligned to the *UN Charter of Public Space*. These principles are intended to support all those who advocate on behalf of, provide advice on, make decisions about, or undertake planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in NSW.

NSW Government agencies will be asked to endorse the final Charter when it is released later in 2021 and to support planning, design, management and activation of public spaces in line with its principles. Local government, industry and other groups caring for, and using, public space across NSW will be encouraged to consider and apply the principles in their strategies and planning.

#### The NSW Public Spaces Charter principles are:

- 1 | Open and welcoming**  
*Public space belongs to everyone.*
- 2 | Community-focused**  
*Public spaces are where communities forge the ties that bind them.*
- 3 | Culture and creativity**  
*Public space is where we share our stories and values.*
- 4 | Local character and identity**  
*Public spaces make us proud of where we live.*
- 5 | Green and resilient**  
*Public space can help us adapt and thrive in a changing climate.*
- 6 | Healthy and active**  
*Public space supports healthy lifestyles and refreshes our spirits.*
- 7 | Local business and economies**  
*Public space supports more dynamic and exciting local economies.*
- 8 | Safe and secure**  
*Everyone should feel safe using public space at all times of the day.*
- 9 | Designed for people**  
*Public space that's flexible can meet the needs of our diverse population.*
- 10 | Well managed**  
*Public space is more inviting when it's well cared for.*

### Office Of Sport Strategic Plan

NSW Office of Sport has developed Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2020-24 aimed at increasing people's activity levels. The Office of Sport is working in collaboration with key partners, including councils, to develop a Sport and Recreation Participation Strategy and a Sport and Recreation Facility Plan for each Greater Sydney district.

Common opportunities include:

- Various site-specific opportunities in each LGA
- Partnerships with schools both public and private
- Increasing synthetic fields and multi-use specs
- Using non-traditional facilities for sport use
- Developing a district/regional booking system
- Increasing use at off-peak times
- New and expansion of indoor facilities
- Increasing opportunities at golf courses and private recreation sites
- Standardising terminology and benchmarking

### Everyone Can Play, DPIE

'Everyone Can Play' is a set of design principles and best practice recommendations for play spaces in NSW, focusing on inclusive play spaces. An inclusive play space invites people of all ages, abilities and cultures to come together to socialise and thrive. The principles focus on addressing three questions:

- Can I get there?
- Can I play?
- Can I stay?

### NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2016

*NSW Disability Inclusion Plan 2016* focuses on four areas for concentrated action identified by people with disability, the NSW Government and community stakeholders. They are:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment
- Improving access to mainstream services through better systems and processes

## Draft Open Space for Recreation Design Guide, GANSW

The *Draft Open Space for Recreation Design Guide* provides information on how to design, plan and implement green infrastructure in urban areas throughout NSW. The draft Guide provides a consistent methodology to help State and Local Governments, and industry, create a network of green infrastructure.

The Guide responds to the Premier's Priorities: *Greening our City*, seeking to increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by one million trees by 2022, and Greener Public Spaces, aiming to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas with 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public spaces by 10% by 2023.

Strategies recommended for providing open space and recreation include:

1. Improve the provision and diversity of open space for recreation
2. Understand the demands on existing open space, and plan for open space in new and growing communities
3. Improve the quality of open space for better parks and facilities
4. Use open space to connect people to nature
5. Link to the network of green infrastructure
6. Encourage physical activity by providing better parks and better amenities
7. Provide open space that is multifunctional and fit for purpose
8. Design versatile, flexible spaces
9. Consider life cycle costs, management and maintenance

The Design Guide advocates for quality of open space over quantum of open space

The Government Architect NSW has noted in its *Draft Open Space for Recreation Design Guide* that planning that relies on a spatial standard such as 2.8 ha/1000 people is not effective without high levels of quality control, and often works against opportunities for multiple use and innovative solutions – particularly in high-density urban areas (such as the Study Area) in small sites. A large amount of poor quality open space may not meet a community's needs as well as a smaller, high-quality open spaces.

Evidence from around the world indicates a focus on quality and accessibility to open space, including active recreation areas, green streets, and walking and cycling infrastructure will deliver improved health, social cohesion, vibrant local economies, productivity and environmental benefits.

The Guidelines further note that the quality of open space is key to its usability and attractiveness. Quality indicators can include:

- Amenity (e.g. maintenance, noise, facilities and equipment, aesthetics)
- Access (visual and physical access, disability access)
- Safety
- Size, shape and topography
- Vegetation and setting

## Better Placed, Government Architect NSW

Better Placed by Government Architect NSW is an integrated design policy for the built environment and underscores the importance of good design at the centre of all development processes, from project definition to concept design through to construction and maintenance. Better Placed is based around seven distinct objectives that together seek to create a “well-designed built environment that is healthy, responsive, integrated, equitable and resilient”. These are:

- Contextual, local and of its place
- Sustainable, efficient and durable
- Equitable, inclusive and diverse
- Enjoyable, safe and comfortable
- Functional, responsive and fit-for-purpose
- Value-creating and cost-effective
- Distinctive, visually interesting and appealing

## Draft Connecting with Country, Government Architect NSW

*Connecting with Country* is a draft framework for understanding the value of First Nations Peoples knowledge in the design and planning of places. It includes the Design Objectives for NSW.

*Connecting with Country* is informed largely by the experiences and knowledges of people who work on, and are from, Countries in and around the Sydney basin. As such, the principles and framework that follow reflect an emphasis on this part of NSW. We acknowledge that further work is required to determine the appropriateness of these principles and framework for the other Countries of NSW.

For Local Governments, the intent of *Connecting with Country* is to help them respond to, and advocate for, community needs in local planning policies and projects. The ambition of *Connecting with Country* is that everyone who is involved in delivering government projects will adopt the following commitment:

“Through our projects, we commit to helping support the health and wellbeing of Country by valuing, respecting and being guided by First Nations Peoples, who know that if we care for Country – it will care for us.”

The ambition of the commitment to improving health and wellbeing of Country is to help realise three long-term strategic goals:

Reduce the impacts of natural events such as fire, drought and flooding through sustainable land- and water-use practices.

Value and respect First Nations Peoples cultural knowledge with First Nations Peoples co-leading design and development of all NSW infrastructure projects.

Ensure Country is cared for appropriately, and sensitive sites are protected by First Nations having access to their homelands to continue their cultural practices.

*Connecting with Country* provides statements for commitment and principles for action to help project teams fulfill their commitment to Country. These are practical ways of implementing each of the seven commitments.



## Women in Sport Strategy, Office of Sport

The Women in Sport Strategy focus areas include participation; places and spaces; leveraging investment; and leadership. 'Places and spaces' acknowledges that facilities influence participation.

The Strategy encourages facility providers to apply a gender lens to the design of regionally significant facilities. Appropriate facilities are those that exhibit universal design principles, prioritise safety, have family-friendly social spaces and are clean and easy to access.

Improving the quality of existing surfaces, lighting and amenities is identified as the minimal critical strategy to reduce immediate barriers for women and girls.

Equitable allocation of playing spaces, training venues and other resources were also identified as key needs.

## NSW Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy 2013-2018

The goal of the Strategy is "To keep people healthy and out of hospital", with targets around obesity, increased participation in sport and recreation, and increased mode share of active transport trips. Strategic Directions include:

- Environments to support healthy eating and active living
- State-wide healthy eating and active living support programs
- Healthy eating and active living advice as part of routine service delivery
- Education and information to enable informed, healthy choices

## NSW Ageing Strategy

The NSW Ageing Strategy includes relevant priorities around health and wellbeing, getting around and inclusive communities. Key recreation needs include:

- Limited transport options is a major barrier, including living in an isolated area, cost, physical barriers, poor-quality footpaths and a lack of accessible parking
- Caring roles are associated with poor physical and mental health
- Social isolation and loneliness are growing concerns

## Joint Use of Schools Facilities and Land Policy, Department of Education

Inner West has a number of public and private schools with high-quality recreation facilities, including outdoor and indoor courts and sportsfields.

The Department of Education's Joint Use of School Facilities and Land Policy encourages shared use of school facilities (such as open space and sporting facilities), with significant investment in new, upgraded or maintained facilities.

'Joint use' is where the Department and other parties make significant investments (land and/or capital) in new facilities, upgrading facilities or maintaining facilities. The asset is typically shared between the school and the other parties over an extended period of time, or the lifetime of the asset. These projects are voluntary and intended to be of mutual benefit to all parties.

The Department recognises that all parties to a Joint Use Program Agreement must have mutually beneficial outcomes that meet their requirements in ways that build trust and openness.

Benefits of joint use agreements may include cost-sharing for maintenance of school grounds and buildings, and improved access to places so that families and individual community members become more physically active.

## Greater Sydney Green Grid

The Greater Sydney Green Grid is a long-term vision for a network of high-quality green spaces that connect communities to the natural landscape. It includes tree-lined streets, waterways, bushland corridors, parks and open spaces linked to centres, public transport and public places.

The Green Grid Project aims to enhance access to open space, provide routes for walking and cycling, conserve natural areas and provide opportunities for active and passive recreation. It also aims to support the management of stormwater, flood risk and water quality, while improving Sydney's landscape value and urban amenity.

Green Grid Principles include:

- The Recreation Grid: Increase access to open space; encourage sustainable transport connections and promote active living; create a high-quality and active public realm.
- The Ecological Grid: Conserve the natural environment; adapt to climate extremes, improve air quality and increase urban greening; promote green skills, improve management, maintenance and sustainable green space design.
- The Hydrological Grid: Utilise the network quality of the hydrological system; increase environmental quality; reduce infrastructure risk; reveal the unique character of Sydney's waterscapes; reframe waterways as connectors not barriers.
- The Agricultural Grid: The Values of the Metropolitan Rural Area of the Greater Sydney Region Report will form an important part of the Green Grid.

## GREATER SYDNEY & REGIONAL CONTEXT

### A Plan for Growing Sydney

The NSW Government's plan for the future of the Sydney Metropolitan Area over the next 20 years provides key directions and actions to guide Sydney's productivity, environmental management and liveability – including the delivery of housing, employment, infrastructure and open space. The plan includes directions to:

- Create a network of green and open spaces across Sydney
- Create healthy built environments, including providing access to the Harbour and its foreshores
- Match population growth with the delivery of social infrastructure, including recreation facilities, separated footpaths, cycleways and cycle infrastructure, and creative attractive public spaces to support physical activity and connect and strengthen communities

### Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities

The *Greater Sydney Region Plan* is built on a vision where the people of Greater Sydney live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places. The Plan includes a focus on universal design, healthy, resilient and socially connected communities with walkable streets, great places that bring people together, conserving environmental heritage, increasing the urban tree canopy cover, access to protected and enhanced open space, and delivering the green grid.

Objective 31 of the plan is that “public open space is accessible, protected and enhanced”. The plan also highlights that the key considerations for planning open spaces are quantity, quality and distribution, and provides the following insights:

- Access to high-quality open space is becoming increasingly important as higher housing densities, more compact housing and changing work environments develop
- Where land for additional open space is difficult to provide, innovative solutions will be needed, as well as a strong focus on achieving the right quality and diversity of open space
- Enhancing open space so it can meet a wider range of community needs is important in areas where it is difficult to provide additional open space. This can include better landscaping, more durable and high-quality facilities, better lighting and multi-use playing fields and courts
- Open spaces within school grounds are a potential asset that could be shared by the wider community outside of school hours
- The use of golf courses may also be examined to provide a wider range of sport and recreation facilities for local communities
- There may be opportunities to use surplus government-owned land as open space for sport and recreation facilities
- Urban renewal needs to begin with a plan to deliver new, improved and accessible open spaces that will meet the needs of the growing community, particularly where density increases
- High-density development (over 60 dwellings per hectare) should be located within 200 metres of quality open space, and all dwellings should be within 400 metres of open space

### Eastern City District Plan

The Plan aims to achieve the Vision for Greater Sydney in the Eastern City through:

- Nurturing quality lifestyles through well-designed housing in neighbourhoods close to transport and other infrastructure
- Sustaining communities through vibrant public places, walking and cycling, and cultural, artistic and tourism assets
- Aligning growth with infrastructure, including transport, social and green infrastructure, and delivering sustainable, smart and adaptable solutions
- Being innovative in providing recreation facilities and open space areas, and increasing urban tree canopy
- Building effective responses to climate change and natural and urban hazards

In terms of recreation infrastructure, the Plan identifies Green Grid priority projects, including the Iron Cove GreenWay and the Hawthorne Canal, and the Cooks River open space corridor.

The Plan also provides advocates for way to maximise the use of existing open space and protect, enhance and expand public open space by:

- Providing opportunities to expand a network of diverse, accessible, high-quality open spaces that respond to the needs and values of communities as populations grow
- Investigating opportunities to provide new open space so that all residential areas are within 400 metres of open space and all high-density residential areas (over 60 dwellings per hectare) are within 200 metres of open space
- Requiring large urban renewal initiatives to demonstrate how the quantity of, or access to, high-quality and diverse local open space is maintained or improved

- Planning new neighbourhoods with a sufficient quantity and quality of new open space
- Delivering shared and co-located sports and recreation facilities, including shared school grounds and re-purposed golf courses
- Delivering or complementing the Greater Sydney Green Grid
- Providing walking and cycling links for transport as well as leisure and recreation

The Eastern City District Plan also identifies the Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area as part of the innovation corridor, and one of the largest and most comprehensive health and education precincts in Greater Sydney. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) is a key anchor of this precinct. It is fundamental to the precinct being distinctive in world-leading education, health and training institutions. It is also key for providing opportunities for innovative health and medical-related commercial premises as well as complementary uses that support the hospital and benefit the Inner West community.





Figure 9 - "The Eastern City District Plan on a Page"  
(Source: Greater Sydney Commission)

## SSROC Liveability Indicator Mapping, 2017

The SSROC completed Liveability Indicator Mapping to baseline and understand the liveability performance of each area of the SSROC region against a range of indicators. Benchmarking identified that the existing provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities within an LGA should be used as the minimum benchmark to determine future supply as population grows. The Study identifies that the open-space challenge is very significant in this area and suggests three approaches:

1. More intervention in the way large sites are developed or smaller sites amalgamated for development. A much clearer approach to creating small communal open space areas and pocket parks, to which multiple development sites should contribute, is required. This will involve early structure planning guidance and intervention. The expectation should be that 5 to 10 percent of sites for development is provided for open space
2. There is a need for the multi-use of school playing fields. This has long been on the agenda but the security, cost and maintenance obligations to allow for greater community use of school and other institutional fields have been a barrier. A concerted effort to resolve these issues is necessary
3. The quality of streets and public domain is increasingly important where it is difficult to create new open space. New developments should contribute to quality of these assets, via coordinated guidance and funding obligations.

## INNER WEST COUNCIL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### Our Place Inner West – Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020

The Our Place Inner West – Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 (the LSPS) is a document to guide land-use planning and development for the Inner West LGA to 2036 and is informed by community values and priorities, by State Government plans and by evidence based studies and strategies.

The vision is for “a place of creative, connected, sustainable and productive neighbourhoods as vibrant, innovative and diverse as our community”.

The LSPS consists of Council’s vision and a set of planning priorities, objectives and actions under six themes. Relevant planning priorities to this RNS include:

#### *An ecologically sustainable Inner West*

- Planning Priority 1: Adapt to climate change
- Planning Priority 2: Inner West is a zero emissions community
- Planning Priority 3: A diverse and increasing urban forest that connects habitats of flora and fauna
- Planning Priority 4: Inner West is a water-sensitive city with clean waterways
- Planning Priority 5: Inner West is a zero-waste community

#### *Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods*

- Planning Priority 6: Plan for high-quality, accessible and sustainable housing growth in appropriate locations integrated with infrastructure provision and with respect for place, local character and heritage significance
- Planning Priority 7: Provide for a rich diversity of functional, safe and enjoyable urban spaces connected with, and enhanced by, their surroundings

#### *Caring, happy, healthy communities*

- Planning Priority 10: Recognise and sustain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories
- Planning Priority 11: Provide accessible facilities and spaces that support active, healthy communities

#### *Progressive local leadership*

- Planning Priority 13: Develop diverse and strong stakeholder relationships through collaboration with government, community and business to deliver positive planning outcomes and realise the benefits of growth
- Planning Priority 14: Deliver visionary long-term planning and responsible decision-making reflective of the Community Strategic Plan

### Inner West Employment and Retail Lands Strategy, August 2020

The Inner West Employment and Retail Lands Strategy 2020 provides an approach for managing land to maximise productivity and facilitate jobs growth, with both being important to the long-term prosperity of the LGA.

The vision: The Inner West LGA has a rich industrial and urban services economy and is a leading destination for creative industries and entrepreneurship. It leverages strategic connections from the Eastern City’s trade gateways and Harbour CBD. The thriving local economy provides a diversity of employment opportunities and services for local residents. The industrial precincts and employment corridors are productive and well managed, providing businesses with the confidence to invest and expand. The centres are enjoyable locations to visit, live and work in, with high amenity, quality services and strong transport connections supporting their growth.

Four principles support the vision, three of which are relevant to this Study:

- Principle 1 - Centres are distinctive and productive: Development in centres will prioritise employment and will be complemented by quality public space
- Principle 3 - Spaces for business are suitable and available: A pipeline of new, well-located suitable employment floor space will be delivered in employment corridors and key precincts
- Principle 4 - Planning framework is clear: The planning framework supports local business and minimises land use conflict

The findings and recommendations in this plan are discussed in more detail in Parts 6 and 7 of this report.

### Inner West Council Property Asset Management Strategy 2018-2028

The *Asset Management Strategy* was prepared to assist IWC in improving the services from its infrastructure including roads, bridges, footpaths, stormwater, fields, buildings, aquatic centres, sea walls, wharves and marine structures. These assets have a replacement value of \$1.8 billion as at 30 June of the 2017 financial year. The purpose of the asset management strategy is to:

- enable Council to show how its asset portfolio will meet the services needs of the community into the future
- enable Council’s asset management policies to be achieved
- ensure the integration of Council’s asset management with long-term planning

### Draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2021

The Draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2021 (LEP) consolidates all three former Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville LEPs. All existing principal development standards and controls are retained and the same floor space ratios, building heights and minimum lot size standards will continue to apply. Some alignment issues addressed as part of the Draft Inner West LEP include:

- rezoning of the central portion of Ashfield Town Centre from B4 Mixed Use to B2 Local Centre
- permitting light industries such as creative makers in some business zones
- ensuring centres have active uses at street level by restricting residential development to upper floors
- prohibiting dual occupancies in residential zones
- Develop village centre plaza/park space linked to streets that are usable for recreation and community events
- Use open space for community events and activities



## IMPACTS OF COVID-19

In addition to strategic and population changes, since the previous RNS we have experienced the impacts of an international pandemic, with all in our communities accessing public open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities more than ever.

Our public open spaces are increasingly valued by communities since COVID-19 with increasing proportions of people using local parks and streets for walking, cycling, social interaction and fitness. The way people use public open space and recreation facilities will continue to change overtime for individual and small group activities, social cohesion and connection, health and wellbeing, and for informal recreation and access to nature.

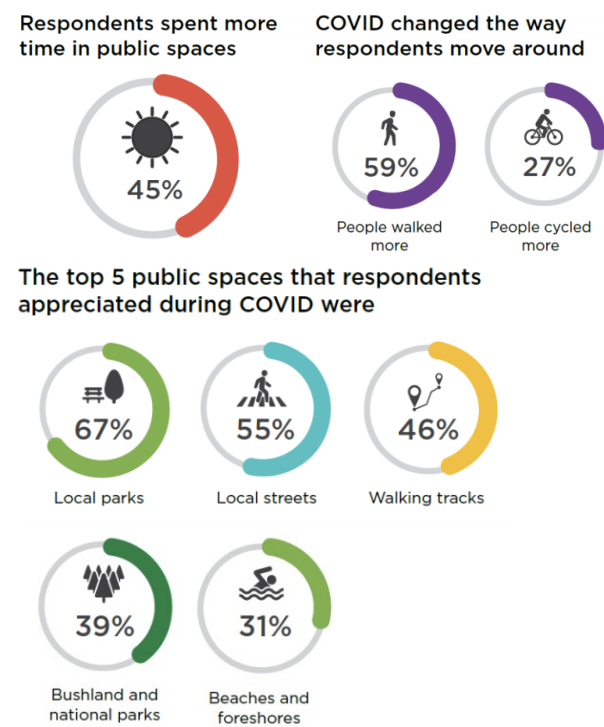


Figure 2 - Increase in participation in cycling and walking since COVID-19 (Source: NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment, *Public Spaces Streets as Shared Spaces Report*)

## MAJOR PROJECTS

In addition to ongoing infill residential development at a range of scales, there are four major NSW government development and infrastructure projects that will impact on recreation in the Inner West, and two current master plans for open space areas. The current understanding of these projects is outlined below. The implications of these projects for recreation is likely to become clearer as more information is made available by the NSW State Government.

### State Government-led projects

#### *The Bays West Precinct*

The NSW Government has prepared a draft Bays West Place Strategy to guide the transformation of Bays West into the future. The draft Place Strategy builds upon previous urban renewal work in the wider Bays West Precinct and was exhibited from 22 March 2021 to 29 April 2021.

The Bays West Precinct is divided into eight distinct but linked destinations, comprising 5.5km of harbourfront, 95ha of largely Government-owned land and 94ha of waterways in Sydney Harbour. The Plan includes:

- Providing 5.5km of public foreshore access
- Staging public access to previously excluded areas, starting with Stage 1, linking Blackwattle Bay to Pyrmont
- Providing benefits for existing and future businesses exposed to new pedestrian trade
- Reconnecting Balmain to Pyrmont by working towards the adaptive reuse of Glebe Island Bridge
- Increasing visual and physical links to Sydney Harbour
- Providing a mix of green shorelines and living sea walls

A number of these areas fall within the Inner West LGA.

IWC's priorities for the Bays West Precinct are:

- World-class public transport access
- Reopening of the Glebe Island Bridge to pedestrians and cyclists
- Public access to foreshore
- Up to 30% of all new housing to be affordable housing (on government owned land)
- New recreational facilities including an indoor sports centre and multiple outdoor sporting grounds

The White Bay Power Station is a key destination as part of the transformation of The Bays West Precinct. The NSW Government's objective for this precinct is to unlock the potential of the White Bay Power Station to recognise its history in an authentic way. Key features of this precinct include:

- Providing a hub for knowledge intensive and advanced technological industries
- Adaptively reusing the State Heritage-listed White Bay Power Station
- Providing housing choices to support and attract talent for a knowledge-intensive destination
- Merging with the Bays Waterfront Promenade in a new activated forecourt that provides access to the water
- Reviewing opportunities for a new ferry service

Renewal will largely take place following the construction of major projects in the area and linked with the proposed Bays Metro station (part of the Sydney Metro West project), which will be operational in the second half of the 2020s.

Rozelle Rail Yards will be the first piece of significant new open space for the community at Bays West, with up to 10ha of new parkland to be provided as part of the WestConnex M4-M5 Link.

Structural works will continue on the White Bay Power Station, a State Heritage-listed item and much-loved feature of Inner West.

### Callan Park Master Plan

Callan Park is 60ha of parkland at Iron Cove in Lilyfield, with a number of heritage buildings with community uses, including a former recreational hall which now houses the Community Refugee Welcome Centre.

Master planning of the site is a State Government responsibility, however the former Leichhardt Council took on this challenge as a result of many previous unsuccessful State Government attempts.

In September 2021, the NSW Government released the Draft Landscape Structure Plan for Callan Park. The Plan's key moves include removing intrusive buildings, relocating carparking from the waterfront and opening up the space for better pedestrian access.

### Westconnex

Westconnex is an ongoing road infrastructure project delivered by the NSW State Government.

Impacts of Westconnex on recreation in the Inner West, as currently known by Council, include:

- Acquisition and lease of Council land for the project including Reg Coady Reserve, Camdenville Park
- Possible funding for the upgrade of Camdenville Park in line with Council's adopted master plan once Stage 2 is completed
- Dedication of land to Council for open space when construction is finished, including in Haberfield, Rozelle and St Peters:
  - St Peters Interchange Recreation Area and associated land bridge
  - Rozelle Rail Yards recreation area (up to an additional 10ha of open space), and new north/south walk and cycle connections.



IWC-led projects

Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Alliance

IWC is working with the Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Alliance to meet the Collaboration Area Place Strategy productivity priorities for the Camperdown activity node. This work includes the current Inner West Council, City of Sydney Council, Sydney Local Health District (RPA) and the University of Sydney-funded *Camperdown Innovation Precinct Land Use and Strategic Employment Study*, which will underpin a master plan, planning controls and policies for this health and education precinct with its core biotechnology hub.

The Place Strategy identifies “the lack of, and growing demand for, local open space and community facilities and services, and limited capacity to provide these services and facilities” as a key challenge for this area. Preliminary findings of the *Camperdown Innovation Precinct Land Use and Strategic Employment Study* indicate the precinct needs shared/collaborative spaces for individuals and businesses to thrive as well as development contribution-funded social and open space infrastructure. The shared spaces should include seminar and conference facilities and meeting rooms for formal events, as well as cafes, restaurants and bars for more informal events and social activities. The draft Study recommends devising appropriate funding mechanisms for the development and long-term operation of such collaborative spaces.



Figure 11 - Camperdown-Ultimo Collaboration Area activity nodes

Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy

This Strategy is the NSW Government’s 30-year plan setting out how the Parramatta Road Corridor will “grow and bring new life to local communities living and working along the Corridor”. The Parramatta Road Corridor spans 20km from Granville in the west to Camperdown in the east. It comprises the land adjoining and at least one block back from Parramatta Road, as well as precincts that have been identified as focuses for future growth based on their different functions and characters.

Inner West LGA includes part of the “Corridor East” section of Parramatta Road and four precincts: Taverners Hill, Leichhardt, Camperdown and Kings Bay.

The *Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy* was finalised in November 2016, however it required further detailed traffic and transport modelling to be undertaken by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. This modelling is due to be completed by the end of 2021 and will enable further investigation work to commence in the four precincts within the Inner West LGA.

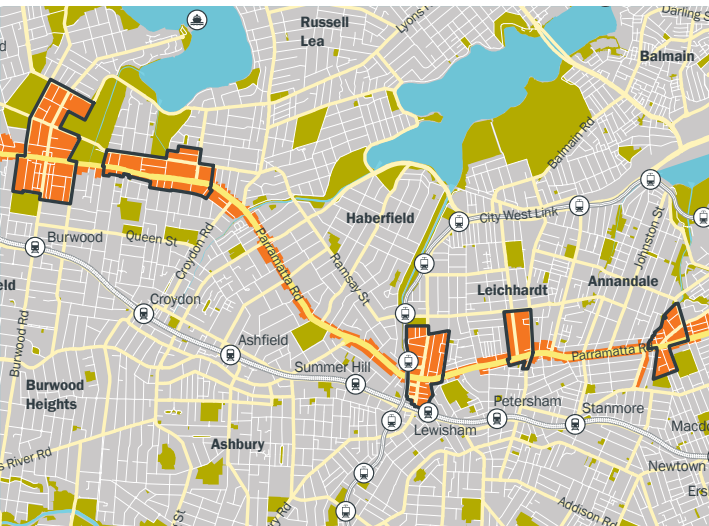


Figure 12 - Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation areas

Investigation areas for additional housing

The Inner West LSPS identifies the following investigation areas for additional housing. It is separated into two phases: the first from 2019 and the second from 2026 (see maps below).

The LSPS does not include the growth estimates for these investigation areas, rather these are available in the Draft Local Housing Strategy for each area identified, along with descriptions of the type and amount of growth envisioned. All growth estimates come with the preface that the additional growth is subject to refinement by further urban planning studies.

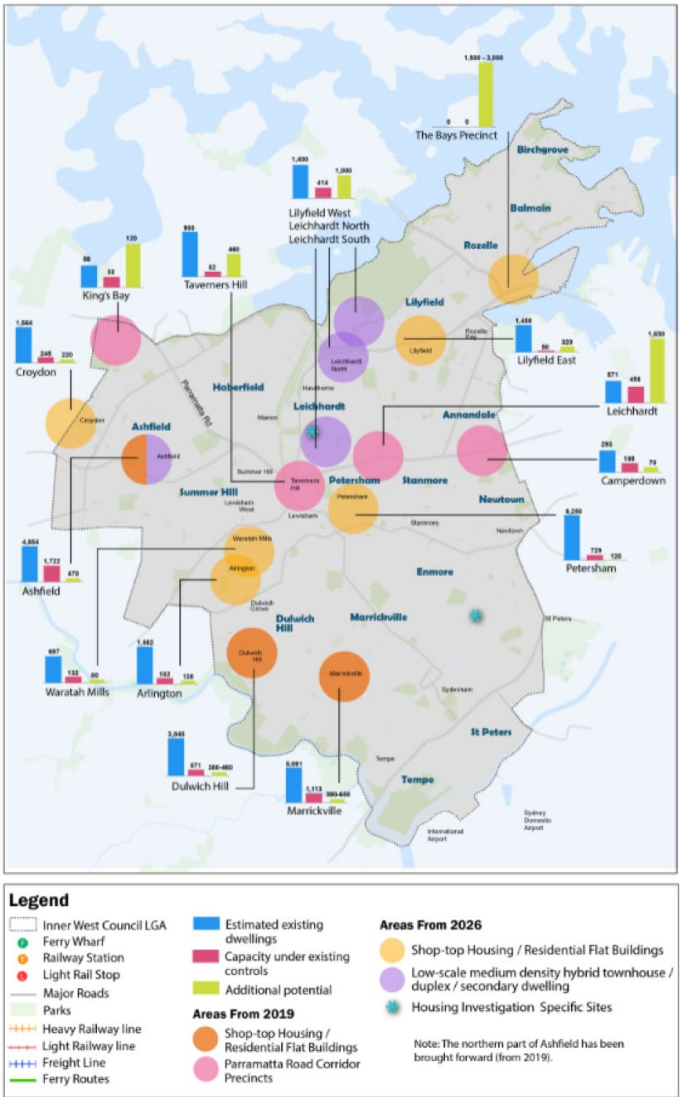


Figure 13 - Investigation areas for additional housing

South Area Urban Design Study

IWC has commenced its initial investigations of the *South Area Urban Design Study* (Dulwich Hill and Marrickville investigation area). The below map shows the South Area and the neighbourhoods for the purpose of the local character statements. There are draft statements for Marrickville and Dulwich Hill.

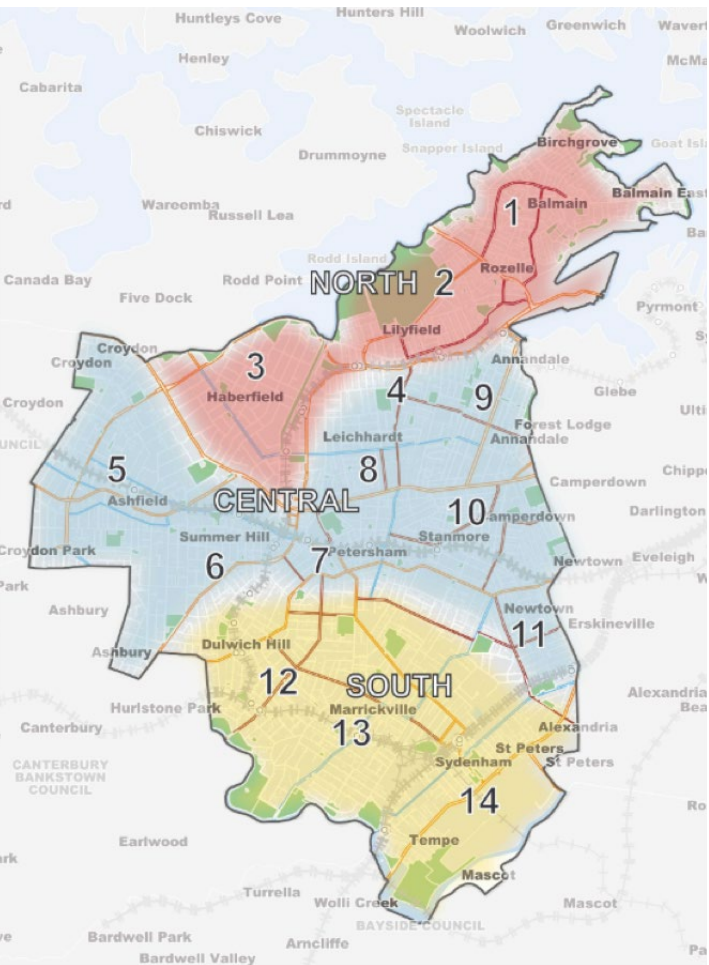


Figure 14 - Local character statement areas



## Iron Cove to Cooks River GreenWay

The GreenWay is a 5.8km environmental and active travel corridor linking the Iron Cove to the Cooks River. Following the route of the Inner West Light Rail, the GreenWay features bike paths and foreshore walks, cultural and historical sites, cafes, bushcare sites and a range of parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities.

The Inner West community and local councils have been campaigning for over 10 years to complete the GreenWay. The NSW Government and the new Inner West Council have announced a joint commitment of \$14.5 million towards the cost of completing the GreenWay missing links. A further \$8.8 million has been committed by the NSW State Government under the Parramatta Road Urban Amenity Improvement Program. This will unlock approximately 3ha of open space not currently accessible to the community.

Council is developing a Master Plan for the whole 5.8km GreenWay corridor. The GreenWay Master Plan will guide the delivery of landscaping and infrastructure within the GreenWay corridor over the next 10 years. The master planning process is currently underway but will likely include new open space, naturalised spaces, shared and separated bike paths, and upgrades to existing parks.

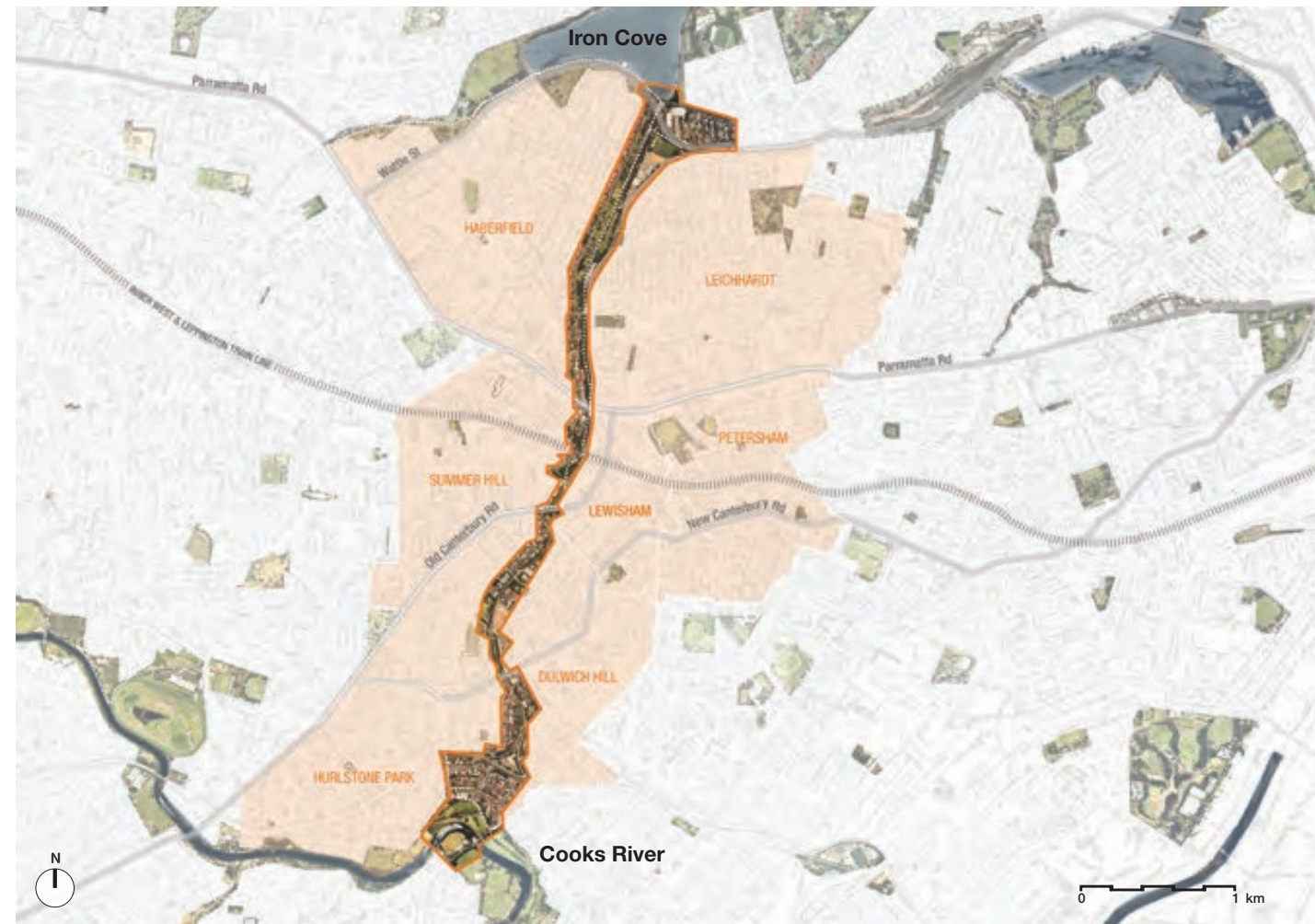


Figure 15 - Greenway Location Map (Source: GreenWay Master Plan, 2008)



Figure 16 - Artist impression (Source: GreenWay Master Plan, 2008)





## 4.0 RECREATION BENEFITS AND PARTICIPATION

**Participation in recreation has social and health benefits (both mental and physical) to the individual, and also contributes to community cohesion and connection, which is particularly important in dense urban areas. Recreation provides an opportunity for connection to nature, and for children to explore and take risks. The urban environment of the Inner West can support participation in recreation by providing spaces for flexible, informal recreation, such as streets for walking and running, natural spaces, and parks for outdoor fitness, as well as facilities for organised sport.**

### KEY FINDINGS

- Participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits to individuals, including mental health benefits and improved development outcomes for children and young people
- Recreation provides benefits at the community level, supporting community cohesion and community development, and public health benefits
- A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week
- Nationally, the most popular recreation activities include walking, fitness, swimming, cycling and running, and this is reflected by local participation trends in the Inner West
- The major change in participation in recreation is a trend to more flexible and non-organised participation
- Children have declining access to unsupervised participation in recreation activities, with Planet Ark estimating that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago<sup>1</sup>
- People with disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator

<sup>1</sup> Planet Ark, 'Climbing Trees: Getting Aussie Kids Back Outdoors', 2011, <https://treeday.planetark.org/documents/doc-534-climbing-trees-research-report-2011-07-13-final.pdf>

### BENEFITS OF RECREATION

#### Health & wellbeing

On an individual level, participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits, including:

- Physical health benefits such as reduced risk of heart disease and stroke; reduced risk of developing high blood pressure; prevention of some cancers; reduced risk of developing diabetes; better bone and muscle development and prevention of osteoporosis; improved muscle flexibility, strength and endurance; reduced risk of dying prematurely; reduced risk of falling, and improved mobility and strength for older adults; and improved quality of sleep<sup>1</sup>
- Social and mental wellbeing benefits including encouraging social interaction; improving concentration and learning; increasing personal confidence and self-awareness; reducing feelings of depression and anxiety; enhancing self-esteem; and improving quality of life<sup>2</sup>
- For children and young people, regular physical activity also helps to improve health, emotional wellbeing, mental health, concentration skills, social skills, learning outcomes, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Queensland Government, 'Benefits of being active', 2016, <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/health/get-active/benefits>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Western Australia department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, 'Benefits of Sport and Recreation', 2017, <http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/support-and-advice/research-and-policies/policies/benefits-of-sport-and-recreation>

<sup>3</sup> Queensland Government, 'Benefits of being active', 2016, <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/health/get-active/benefits>

#### Stronger communities

Recreation also provides benefits at the community level. As the Inner West community grows and changes, recreation can be an opportunity to support community development and cohesion.

The Clearinghouse for Sport research recognises the role of recreation in community development: it "can contribute to community identity, as a focal point for personal interaction and community engagement. The diversity of sports and sporting activities (including social sport and active recreation) make it an ideal medium to reach men and women from every age group, culture and socio-economic background. Sport can be used to address social inequities and disadvantage."

Recreation can support increased community capacity building and social, cultural and religious cohesion and sense of belonging, as well as reduction in youth offending, antisocial behaviour and crime, and improved early childhood development. Public health benefits include a reduced burden of disease, reduced cost of hospitalisation, faster hospital recovery times, and increased workplace productivity<sup>4</sup>.

Sport is one of the key sectors for volunteering in Australia. The Clearinghouse for Sport states that the labour input of Australian volunteers in sport has been estimated to be valued at AUD \$4 billion annually.

<sup>4</sup> Cred Consulting for the Greater Sydney Commission, 'Greater Sydney's Social Capital: Its Nature and Value', 2017, [https://gsc-public-1.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/social\\_capital\\_report\\_-\\_cred\\_-\\_october\\_2017.pdf](https://gsc-public-1.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/social_capital_report_-_cred_-_october_2017.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> NSW Government Office of Sport, 'Participation in sport and active recreation', 2017, <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/participation>



NATIONAL PARTICIPATION  
IN RECREATION

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) AusPlay survey tracks the physical recreation activities (both sport and non-sport) that Australians participate in. Some key trends are outlined below.

- A majority of Australians (61%) participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week. The most popular physical recreation activities were recreational: walking, fitness/gym, swimming and athletics (including running and jogging)
- 89% of Australians over the age of 15 participate in physical activity, 17% participate in sport-based activity only, 28% in non-sport related physical activity and 4% in both
- Participation in physical activity remains similar at all age groups. However, activity type changes with age towards non-sport related activities
- The major motivation for participation in physical activities is for physical health and fitness
- Not enough time, and poor health or injury, are the main barriers to participation
- Figure 17 shows the most popular recreation activities in NSW by participation rates for adults, children, males and females

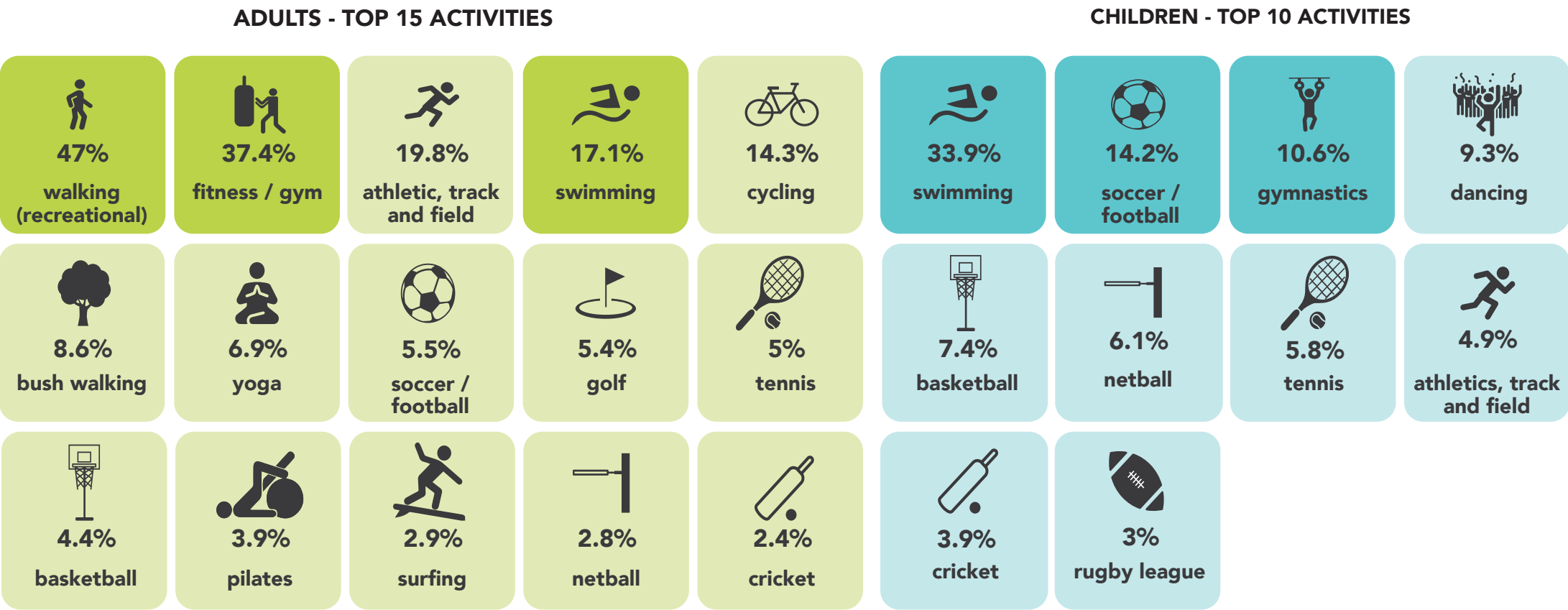


Figure 17 - Participation rates by recreation activity (Source: AusPlay NSW data tables 2020)

**FEMALES**

1. Walking (recreational) 55.9%
2. Fitness/gym 41%
3. Swimming 20.7%
4. Athletics, track and field (includes jogging/running) 17.1%
5. Yoga 12.7%
6. Bush walking 10.2%
7. Cycling 8.2%
8. Pilates 6.2%
9. Tennis 4.7%
10. Netball 4.2%
11. Football/soccer 4.2%
12. Golf 2.6%
13. Surfing 2.1%
14. Basketball 2%
15. Cricket 0.5%

**MALES**

1. Walking (recreational) 35.3%
2. Fitness/gym 34.9%
3. Athletics, track and field (includes jogging /running) 20.5%
4. Swimming 17.6%
5. Cycling 14.5%
6. Football/soccer 10.5%
7. Golf 9.5%
8. Bush walking 7.7%
9. Tennis 6.9%
10. Basketball 5.3%
11. Surfing 4.9%
12. Cricket 4.3%
13. Yoga 1.9%
14. Pilates 0.8%
15. Netball 0.7%

**GIRLS**

1. Swimming 37%
2. Dancing (recreational) 18.5%
3. Gymnastics 18.4%
4. Football/soccer 13.3%
5. Netball 10.7%
6. Athletics, track and field 6.7%
7. Tennis 5.2%
8. Basketball 4.2%
9. Tennis 3.2%
10. Cricket 1.3%
11. Rugby League 0.8%

**BOYS**

1. Swimming 37.5%
2. Football/soccer 29.6%
3. Rugby League 9.9%
4. Cricket 6.7%
5. Tennis 5.5%
6. Athletics, track and field 5.4%
7. Basketball 4.3%
8. Gymnastics 3.3%
9. Dancing (recreational) 1.1%
10. Netball 0.1%

## RECREATION PARTICIPATION TRENDS

### Children's participation trends

- In 2010, Planet Ark estimated that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago
- The ASC AusPlay survey found that 76% of children 0-14 years participate in physical activity, outside school, at least once a week. They are more likely to participate in sporting activities (rather than non-sport physical activity), and in organised sport
- 75% of children who have at least one active parent participate in organised physical activity outside school
- Children are more likely to participate in organised and physical school activity outside school hours if they have active parents, if they are from a high-income family and if they have 1 or 2 siblings
- Research by the University of British Columbia shows that risky play is associated with increased physical activity, social skills, risk management skills, resilience and self-confidence within children and plays an important role in their self-development<sup>1</sup>

### Participation by culturally diverse communities

- A 2020 survey conducted by the ASC shows that people from culturally diverse backgrounds have slightly higher levels of participation in organised physical activity, but are less likely to do organised physical activity with a sport club. They are more likely to be involved with fitness, leisure or indoor sports centres, recreation clubs or community programs

### Participation by people with disability

- A nationwide survey conducted by AusPlay in 2020 found that for 12% of people over 55 years disability is a barrier to participation

and for 48%, poor health or injury is the main barrier

- At least four in five Australians (79%) with long-term disability participate in some kind of sport or physical activity
- One of the key policy directions of the National Disability Strategy (2010-2020) is "Health and wellbeing: health services, health promotion and the interaction between health and disability systems; wellbeing and enjoyment of life."<sup>2</sup>

### Participation by women and girls

According to the ASC Women and Girls Participation report 2017, adult men and women participate in physical activity at similar levels across life stages. This contradicts the common perception that women and girls are less active than boys and men. However, some differences were that:

- Overall, women participate more in organised sport and physical activity than men. This changes during the years of 25-55, where men are more likely to participate in these activities. However, women of all age groups participate more than males in non-sport related physical activity
- Women were slightly more likely to participate because of health reasons (and to lose or maintain weight) than men and much less likely to participate for fun and enjoyment. 85% of women over 15 participate in physical activities for health and fitness reasons, including to lose or maintain weight and for psychological reasons
- The activities women are most likely to participate in are walking (especially in midlife – 45 to 64) and to a lesser extent gym or fitness activities (especially from 18 to 34). Women's participation in sport drops dramatically after

they leave school, as does participation in team sport. Whereas 65% of 15-year-old girls participate in team sports, only 17% of 25-34-year-old women do

Based on community engagement for this Study, in the Inner West, females were more likely than males to participate regularly in passive recreation, active recreation and personal fitness activities, while males were more likely to participate regularly in social sport, organised sport and elite sport

### Unstructured vs structured

The AusPlay survey shows that one of the major recreation participation trends is that non-sport physical activities have increased significantly (by more than 20% from 2001 to 2020), as people:

- "Are increasingly time poor, have limited budgets and are being inundated by new forms of entertainment
- "Have new preferences for greater flexibility, more tailored products and sport that works around people's busy lifestyles
- "Are increasingly favouring more flexible, non-organised forms of physical activity, such as running with headphones on and pursuing new adventure sports."

Running/athletics is catering to this change with 7.8% participation in 2001, to becoming the top recreational activity with 19.8% participation rate. Overall, fitness/gym participation has increased by almost 20% in 20 years, and golf and tennis have experienced the biggest declines.

Some sporting clubs provide both social and club/competitive leagues: for example, Inner West Ultimate has two social leagues and three club teams. There are also emerging community, organisation-based and private providers of social sport who offer beginner-friendly, recreation leagues of adapted sports, with short seasons and social events.

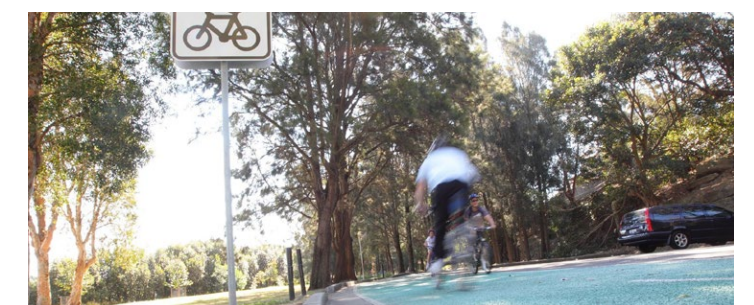
In urban environments such as the Inner West, where people rely on public spaces for recreation, this trend indicates a need for access to recreation activities in the evenings (with lighting and safety) as well as access to recreation spaces for informal and social recreation activities such as personal fitness activities and social pick-up games.

### Impact of COVID-19

More adults frequently participated in physical activities, and children participating in organised sports have decreased significantly due to the restrictions.

*"Australians are increasingly time poor, have limited budgets and are being inundated by new forms of entertainment. With these changes, new preferences are emerging; Australians want greater flexibility, more tailored products and sports that work for them."*

*- Australian Sports Commission, Corporate Plan 2017-2021*



<sup>1</sup> Brussoni, M. et al. (2012) 'Risky Play and Children's Safety: Balancing Priorities for Optimal Child Development', International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 9(9), pp. 3134–3148. doi:10.3390/ijerph9093134.

<sup>2</sup> Australia and Department of Families, H., Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (2011) National Disability Strategy 2010-2020: an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments. Canberra, A.C.T.: Council of Australian Governments.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community engagement completed for this Study investigated recreation participation in the Inner West. Local participation in recreation broadly corresponds to national and state participation trends - walking is the most popular activity at a local, state and national level.

Across the spectrum of recreation activities, people participated most often in “active recreation” activities, with 80% of survey respondents participating at least weekly.

This was followed by personal fitness, with 66% of people participating at least weekly.

In total, 4.5% of people engaged did not participate regularly (at least weekly) in recreation (of any kind), and an additional 1.4% participated regularly in “passive recreation” but not any other kind of recreation.

Figure 18 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.

	<b>Walking</b> (Most popular activity in the survey with 34% participating at least weekly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> most popular in the community map, 5 <sup>th</sup> in the school workshops, popular in the multicultural focus groups)
	<b>Walking for transport</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> in the survey with 24% participating at least weekly)
	<b>Playing in a playground/playing in a park/taking children to play</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> in the survey (24%), 5 <sup>th</sup> in the community map, 4 <sup>th</sup> in the school workshops, high in multicultural focus groups)
	<b>Personal fitness/outdoor fitness</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> in the survey with 23% participating at least weekly)
	<b>Walking the dog</b> (5 <sup>th</sup> most popular in the survey (23%), 4 <sup>th</sup> most popular in the community map, 6 <sup>th</sup> in the school workshops)
	<b>Cycling</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> in the survey (19%), 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the community map, 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the school workshops)
	<b>Swimming</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> in the survey (19%), most popular activity in the community map and school workshops)
	<b>Running</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> in the survey with 18% participating at least weekly)
	<b>Relaxing in a park</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> in the survey with 16% participating at least weekly)
	<b>Hockey*</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> in the survey with 13%). *It should be noted that the survey was completed by a high number of hockey players.)
	<b>Football</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> in the survey (10%), 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the school workshops)
	Tai Chi, table tennis, and badminton were also popular activities amongst the older population of people who speak a language other than English at home.

Figure 18 - Most popular recreation activities identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

The most popular recreation spaces in the Inner West identified through a range of consultation activities:

- Footpaths, streets and town centres
- Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- Cooks River foreshore path
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Enmore Park
- Ashfield Park

Key differences between different groups:

- Females used children’s playgrounds, aquatic centres and footpaths more often, while males used cycle paths, sporting fields and courts, and the Greenway more often than females.
- People who speak a language other than English at home used all facilities less regularly than the general community.

The most common types of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West:






	<b>Parks (80% of people using them at least weekly)</b>
	<b>Footpaths, streets and town centres (75% at least weekly)</b>
	<b>Sporting fields/courts (38% at least weekly)</b>
	<b>Aquatic centres/baths (37% at least weekly)</b>
	<b>Children’s playgrounds (36% at least weekly)</b>

Figure 19 - Most common types of facility that people used for recreation in the Inner West identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

## 5.0 CURRENT AND FORECAST COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section outlines the current community profile of the Inner West LGA by suburb and for key areas, using data from the LHS, ERLS, 2016 ABS Census and Profile.id. The Inner West Council area is home to a dense and diverse urban community. Analysis of census data shows changing demographics including an ageing population and new cultural groups. Providing for the varied recreation needs of a diverse community, with limited space, will mean that recreation spaces and activities have to support flexible uses, support sharing and conviviality, and reduce conflict between users.

### KEY FINDINGS

- The Inner West population is growing, and will increase by 34,815 people, from 2016 to 2036. This means that there are increasing and competing demands for limited open space and recreation facilities
- The Inner West is already dense, with a population of 54.5 persons per hectare (based on 2016 population figures), significantly higher than Greater Sydney at 5 persons per hectare. This means access to open space away from the home is of critical importance to the community's health and wellbeing.
- The Census shows how the 15 suburbs of the Inner West differ in their community makeup. This presents different place-based opportunities and challenges for recreation provision across the Inner West, and may also help Council identify priorities for the provision of accessible and inclusive recreation facilities that meet the needs of the community:
  - **An ageing population:** The Inner West has an increasingly ageing population, indicating a need for access to recreation facilities and programs that increase the health and wellbeing of older residents. This includes focusing on walkable streets, low-impact exercise equipment, and senior's programs in Council's indoor recreation and aquatic facilities.
  - **Students and young people:** There is a higher proportion of students and young people living within the Inner West than Greater Sydney, particularly in the suburbs of Newtown, Camperdown and Ashfield. This could indicate a need for passive recreation spaces for relaxing, reading, socialising and studying, as well as access to affordable, unstructured and informal recreation facilities such as outdoor courts and gyms.
  - **People with a disability:** 4.5% of the people living within the Inner West self-report a need for assistance in their day-to-day lives due to disability. However, there are some suburbs within the Inner West that have higher proportions, including Ashfield (South), Haberfield, Marrickville and Tempe. These areas also generally correspond to higher density, ageing populations and lower household incomes. While universal access is important across the whole of the Inner West, priorities for accessible upgrades to recreation facilities and spaces should be considered in the western portion of the city to ensure they meet the needs of the existing community. Furthermore, the 4.5% figure only represents people who need daily assistance – the highest level of daily needs – but it is broadly acknowledged that up to 20% of populations experience some level of disability.
- **A culturally and linguistically diverse community:** The Inner West is home to culturally and linguistically diverse communities, with a high proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home, largely living in the west portion of the LGA. Engaging this diverse community in the design and upgrade of recreation spaces is particularly important to ensure these spaces meet the community's needs, particularly within typically 'hard to reach' groups.
- **High rates of public transport use:** With a high proportion of households who do not have a private vehicle, particularly around Newtown, Ashfield, Enmore and Camperdown, access to a network of connected open spaces, as well as incidental opportunities for recreation throughout the neighbourhood's networks of streets and parks, is important to ensure easy and walkable access to recreation.
- **Pockets of disadvantage:** Within the Inner West there is a strong correlation between income and housing density, with some of the highest density areas also home to some of the lowest income households. This highlights the spatial inequality that can occur within cities, and the need to focus adequate, affordable and appropriate recreation opportunities within these parts of the Inner West.
- **Employment:** The Inner West Council's Employment and Retail Lands Study 2020 estimates that employment within the LGA is forecast to increase from 77,510 jobs in 2019 to 94,950 jobs by 2036. This represents +17,420 or 22% employment growth over the period. Key employment destinations include parts of Marrickville, Sydenham and Ashfield town centre. The largest industries are health care and social assistance (13.9% of jobs), retail trade (11.4%) and education and training (9%) and construction (9%). Workers are recognised as generating a demand for recreation facilities and open space.
- **Impact of COVID-19:** This report is not yet able to reflect the impact of COVID-19 on population and worker growth or participation trends across the community asset network (at the time of writing, these are unknown), IWC will be conducting a COVID-19 impact assessment over the next few years.



## CURRENT TOTAL POPULATION

### Population change 2011 to 2016

In 2016, the Estimated Resident Population of the Inner West (IWC) was 192,022<sup>1</sup> people.

As shown by Table 1, the total population of the Inner West increased by 11,729 people, or 6.5% between 2011 and 2016. This was a lower rate of growth than Greater Sydney (9.8%).

While the overall population of the IWC area increased by 6.5% between 2011 and 2016, population growth was uneven over the 5-year period across the Inner West with some suburbs experiencing higher growth. The suburbs with the highest growth between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Marrickville (+2,003 people or 8.1%)
- Leichhardt (+1,097 people or 8.1%)
- Ashfield (North) (+1,085 people or 9.0%)
- Balmain (+1,019 people or 10.5%)

The suburbs with the highest percentage growth between 2011 and 2016 were:

- Camperdown (+718 people or 25.4%)
- Lewisham (+382 people or 13.6%)
- Balmain (+1,019 people or 10.5%)
- St Peters – Sydenham (+403 people or 10.4%)
- Rozelle (+805 people or 10.1%)

Haberfield was the only suburb that had a decrease in population between 2011 and 2016 (-177 people or -2.7%).

### A note on population counts

Profile.id states: “The most comprehensive population count available in Australia is derived from the Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics every five years. However the Census count is generally an under-estimate of the actual population, due to people missed in the Census and people overseas on Census night. To provide a more accurate population figure which is updated more frequently than every 5 years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics also produces ‘Estimated Resident Population’ (ERP) numbers for the Inner West Council area.

“The Estimated Resident Population is the official Inner West Council population for 2016, based on the usual residence population and includes adjustments for Census undercount. Each year’s updates take into account births, deaths and both internal and overseas migration.”

However, as the Estimated Resident Population is not broken down into population characteristics such as birthplace, religion, industry or occupation, for all demographic information in this report, except for the overall Inner West LGA population, the Usual Residence Population (URP) has been used.

Table 5 - Total population (URP) (Source: Profile.id)

Area	2016	2011	Change #	Change %
Annandale	9,406	8,652	754	8.7%
Ashfield (North)	13,081	11,996	1,085	9.0%
Ashfield (South)	11,389	10,705	684	6.4%
Balmain	10,746	9,727	1,019	10.5%
Balmain East	1,940	1,859	81	4.4%
Birchgrove	3,231	3,129	102	3.3%
Camperdown	3,544	2,826	718	25.4%
Croydon	5,135	4,988	147	3.0%
Dulwich Hill	13,692	13,195	497	3.8%
Enmore	3,867	3,591	276	7.7%
Haberfield	6,471	6,648	-177	-2.7%
Leichhardt	14,623	13,526	1,097	8.1%
Lewisham	3,185	2,803	382	13.6%
Lilyfield	7,611	7,323	288	3.9%
Marrickville	26,602	24,599	2,003	8.1%
Marrickville South	10,213	9,574	639	6.7%
Newtown	7,927	7,281	646	8.9%
Petersham	8,101	7,557	544	7.2%
Rozelle	8,752	7,947	805	10.1%
St Peters - Sydenham	4,267	3,864	403	10.4%
Stanmore	7,858	7,417	441	6.0%
Summer Hill	7,300	6,840	460	6.7%
Tempe	3,552	3,302	250	7.6%
LGA (URP)	182,043	169,799	12,244	+7.21%
LGA (ERP)	192,022	180,301	11,729	+6.51%

<sup>1</sup> Inner West Local Housing Strategy 2021

## INNER WEST AGE PROFILE

Table 6 shows the age profile of the Inner West.

The median age in the LGA is 36, the same as Greater Sydney.

Overall, the IWC age profile is quite similar to the age profile of Greater Sydney, with slightly higher proportions of working age adults and slightly lower proportions of children and young people, in particular:

- A lower proportion of secondary school-aged people (12-17 years) (4.6% compared to 6.9%)
- A much higher proportion of young workforce-aged people (25-34 years) (20.3% compared to 16.1%)
- A much higher proportion of parents and homebuilder-aged people (35-49 years) (24.8% compared to 21.1%)

Table 6 - Age profile (URP) (Source: Profile.id)

Age group	2016			2011			Change 2011 to 2016
	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	10,743	5.9	6.4	11,761	6.9	6.8	-1,018
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	12,872	7.1	8.8	10,777	6.3	8.7	+2,095
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	8,292	4.6	6.9	7,201	4.2	7.4	+1,091
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	15,517	8.5	9.6	14,394	8.5	9.5	+1,123
Young workforce (25 to 34)	36,902	20.3	16.1	34,418	20.3	15.4	+2,484
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	45,205	24.8	21.1	44,528	26.2	21.9	+677
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	21,762	12.0	12.2	19,818	11.7	12.2	+1,944
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	15,636	8.6	9.5	13,352	7.9	9.0	+2,284
Seniors (70 to 84)	11,943	6.6	7.5	10,779	6.3	7.2	+1,164
Elderly aged (85 and over)	3,170	1.7	2.0	2,771	1.6	1.8	+399
Total LGA (URP)*	182,042	100	100	169,799	100	100	+12,243
Total LGA (ERP)	192,022			180,301			+11,729

\*See 'a note on population counts on the previous page.



## INNER WEST POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS BY SUBURB

Figure 20 and Figure 21 illustrate population characteristics within the Inner West that can influence recreation participation including key age groups (babies and children, young people and older people), people with a disability, and cultural diversity.

These characteristics influence recreation needs in each suburb; they also highlight the need for recreation to be inclusive of all cultures, abilities and ages.

### Service age groups

Figure 20 shows key age profile characteristics for each suburb within the Inner West, highlighting areas with high numbers or above the IWC area average proportions of children aged 0 to 11, young people aged 12 to 24, and older people 65+.

- Compared to the IWC area average, the north of the Inner West is characterised by high proportions of children and older people
- The east of the LGA is characterised by high proportions of young people and working age adults, and low proportions of children and older people
- In the south of the Inner West, there are high proportions of children and young people, while the western area has high proportions of children, young people and older people, and corresponding lower proportions of working-age adults

The suburbs with the lowest median age were:

- Ashfield (CBD) (30)
- Newtown (33)
- Camperdown (33)
- Ashfield (North) (33)

The suburbs with the highest median age were:

- Balmain East (43)
- Haberfield (43)
- Birchgrove (42)

### Student profile

Overall the Inner West has a slightly lower proportion of students than Greater Sydney, with lower proportions of primary and secondary school students and a higher proportion of university students.

- In 2016, 23% of people in the LGA attended an educational institution (39,268 people), slightly lower compared to 25% in Greater Sydney. The major differences between the LGA and Greater Sydney were a lower proportion of primary school students (6.5% compared to 8.1%) and secondary school students, (4.2% compared to 6.3%), and a slightly higher proportion of university students (7.6% compared to 6.1%)
- Camperdown had the highest proportion of people attending university in the LGA (14.2%), followed by Ashfield (North) (10.7%), and Newtown (10%). Ashfield (South) had the highest proportion of people attending TAFE, 2.5%, followed by Tempe (2.2%), and Ashfield (North) (2.2%).

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents

Overall the Inner West has a low proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, however there some areas with larger populations.

In 2016, 1.1% of the LGA's population identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (2,029 people), a lower proportion compared to 1.5% in Greater Sydney. Tempe (2.3%) and Lewisham (1.9%) had higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents than Greater Sydney.

### People with disability

The 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers survey (SDAC) indicated that almost one in five Australians reported living with a disability (18.3% or 4.3 million people), and that the majority (78.5%) of people with disability reported a physical condition, such as back problems, as their main long-term health

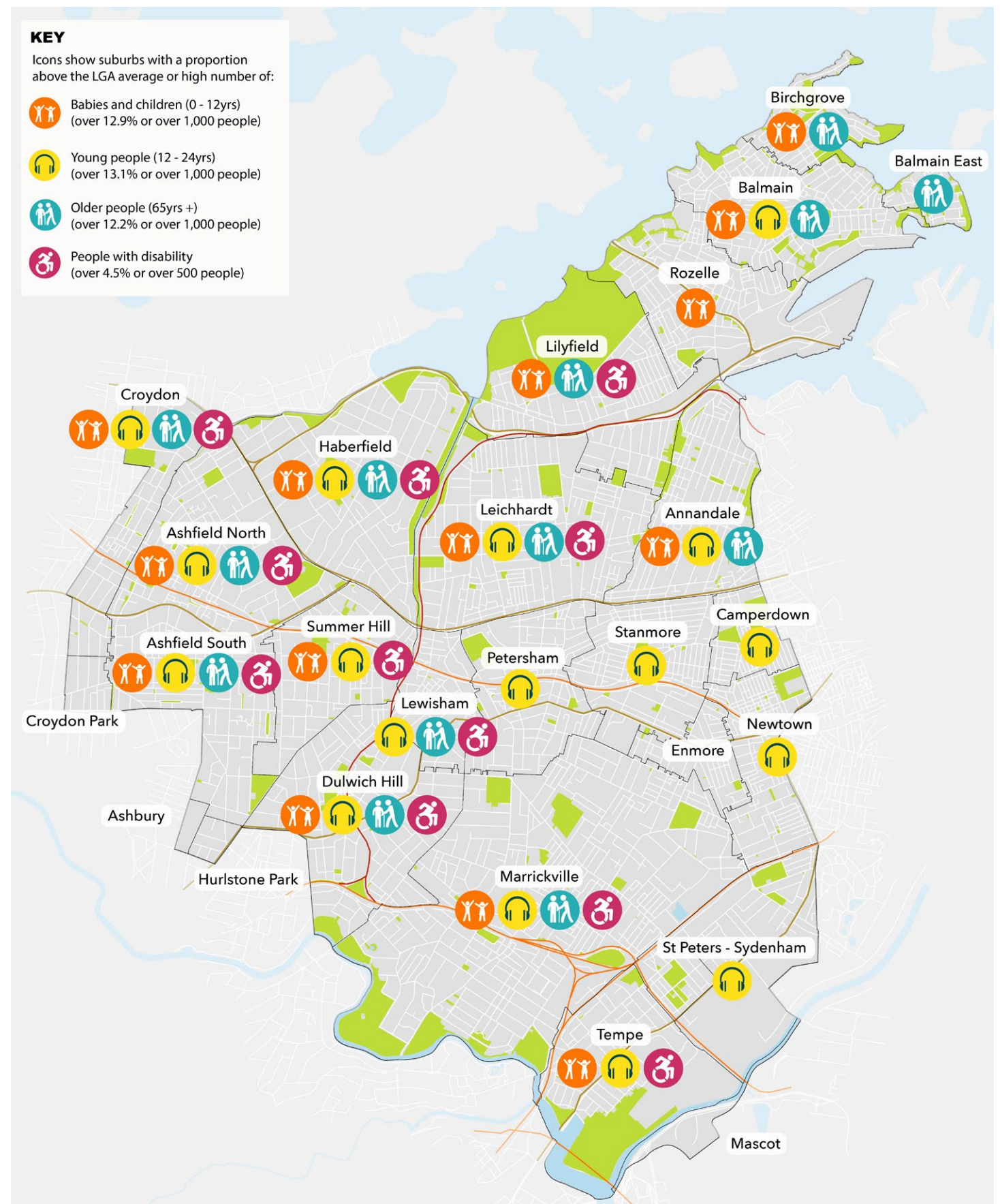


Figure 20 - Inner West Age and disability profile



condition. The other 21.5% reported mental and behavioural disorders. This data is not available at a local level, however the ABS Census collects information for people who report a need for assistance in their day-to-day lives due to a disability.

The Inner West has a slightly lower proportion of people who identified need for assistance with disability than Greater Sydney, however some suburbs have significantly higher rates of disability.

- In 2016, 4.5% of the LGA's population reported a need for assistance with day-to-day activities due to disability (8,168 people), a slightly lower proportion compared to 4.9% in Greater Sydney. Areas in the south and west had higher proportions/numbers of people reporting a need for assistance (Figure 20).
- The four suburbs with the highest proportion of people reporting a need for assistance were:
  - Ashfield (South) (7.3%)
  - Haberfield (6.8%)
  - Marrickville (6.5%)
  - Tempe (6.1%)
- Marrickville South\* also had a high proportion of people reporting a need for assistance (5.8%).

Note: The Census Data above relies on people evaluating themselves (or being evaluated by their carers), as being in need of assistance and cannot be relied upon to provide details as to the total number of people with disability. Furthermore, the 4.5% figure only represents people who need daily assistance – the highest level of daily needs – but it is broadly acknowledged that up to 20% of populations experience some level of disability.

It is also acknowledged that accessibility issues impact a far broader population cohort than people with disability statistics alone indicate, including family and those in caring roles.

## Cultural diversity

Overall the Inner West has a relatively low proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home, however some areas have very high non-English speaking populations.

Overall, 28.4% of the population of the LGA spoke a non-English language, a lower proportion compared with 35.8% for Greater Sydney. In 2016, the most common languages spoken at home were:

- Chinese languages (Mandarin: 3.6%, Cantonese: 1.9%)
- Greek (2.9%)
- Italian (2.8%)
- Vietnamese (2.0%)

The number of Greek and Italian speakers declined in the Inner West between 2011 and 2016 (Greek: -497 people or an 8.5% decrease; Italian: 506 people or a 9.1% decrease).

The fastest growing language groups in the Inner West were (between 2011 and 2016):

- Mandarin: +1,405 people or 27% increase
- Nepali: +610 people or 34% increase
- Thai: +554 people or 60% increase
- Vietnamese: +349 people or 10% increase
- Spanish: +342 people or 15% increase

Figure 21 shows areas with above IWC area average proportions, or high numbers of people speaking a language other than English at home:

- There are higher proportions of people speaking a language other than English in the south and west of the Inner West:
  - Ashfield (North) (55%) – Mandarin, Nepali and Cantonese
  - Ashfield (South) (52%) – Mandarin, Cantonese and Nepali
  - Croydon (44%) – Mandarin, Italian and Cantonese
  - Marrickville (37%) – Greek, Vietnamese and Arabic
  - Marrickville South\* (40%) – Greek, Vietnamese and Arabic

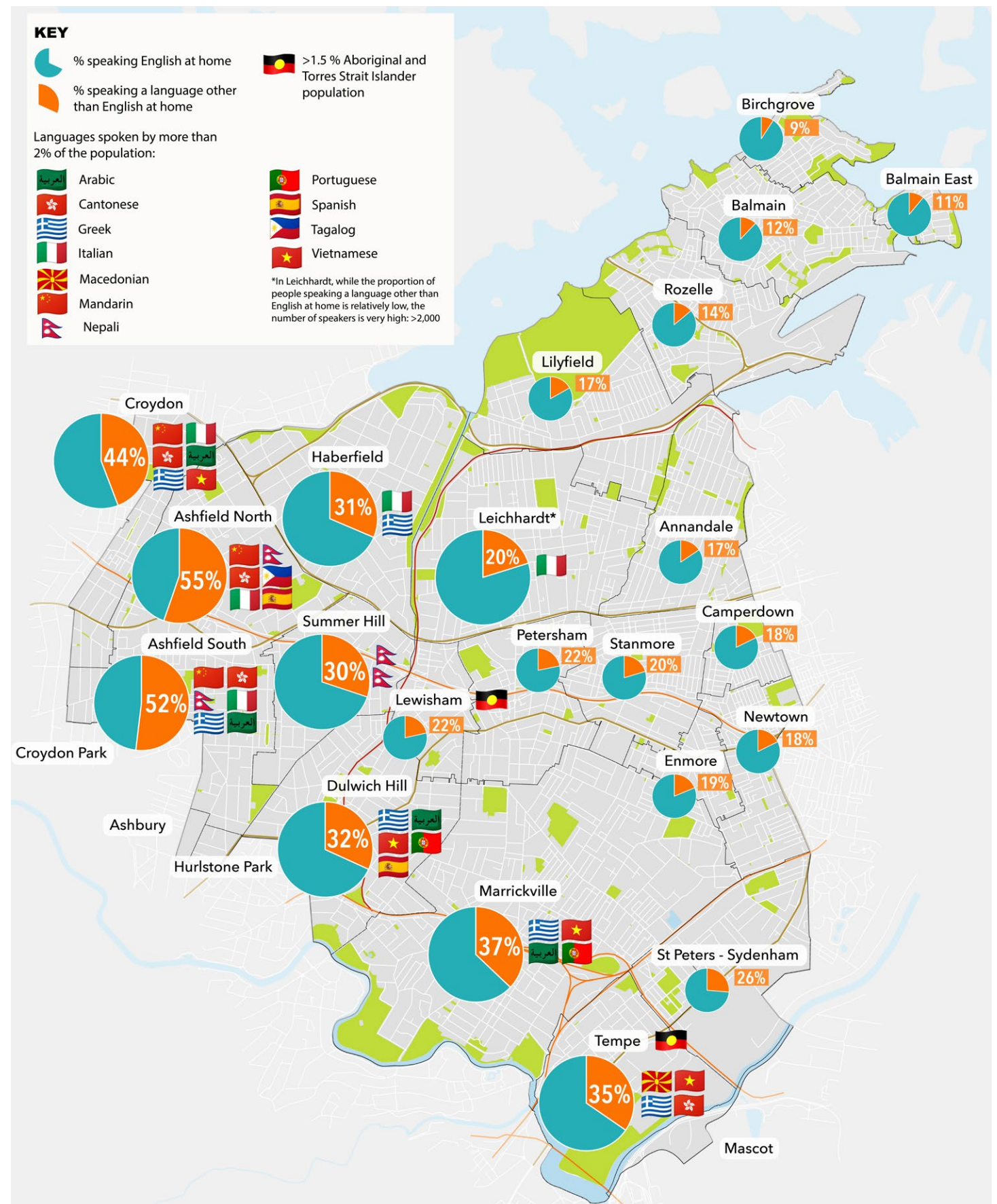


Figure 21 - Inner West cultural profile

\* Profile.id provides demographic data for the Marrickville South area (also included as part of Marrickville suburb). This has been highlighted throughout this section where significant.



## HOUSEHOLDS AND DENSITY

Figure 22 shows population size, income, car ownership, and dwelling type characteristics for each suburb in the Inner West:

- Most suburbs are characterised by medium-density dwelling types (eg terraces). Ashfield North has a majority of high-density dwellings
- The north of the IWC area has higher income areas while incomes are generally lower in the south and west
- Overall, there is low car ownership in suburbs along the train lines

### High population density

In 2016, the population density in the LGA was 51 persons per hectare, which is much higher than Greater Sydney (4 persons per hectare).

The suburbs with the highest population density were:

- Enmore (90 persons per hectare)
- Newtown (88 persons per hectare)
- Camperdown (85 persons per hectare)
- Ashfield (North) (83 persons per hectare)

The suburbs with the lowest population density were:

- Tempe (17 persons per hectare)
- St Peters – Sydenham (24 persons per hectare)
- Haberfield (27 persons per hectare)

### High proportion of medium- and high-density dwellings

In 2016, 73% of dwellings in the LGA were medium- or high-density dwellings, which is much higher compared to 44% in Greater Sydney.

The dominant dwelling type in the LGA was medium-density dwellings (47%), which includes townhouses, terraces, villa units and semi-detached dwellings, flats in single and 2-storey blocks and flats attached to houses.

The second most common dwelling type was high-density housing (27%), which includes flats in 3 or more storey blocks.

The areas with the highest proportion of high-density dwellings were:

- Ashfield (North) (59%)
- Camperdown (37%)
- Balmain East (37%)
- Dulwich Hill (35%)
- Marrickville (31%)

### Higher than average income overall, despite pockets of low income houses

In 2016, households in the LGA had a median weekly income of \$2,042. This is \$297 higher compared to Greater Sydney (\$1,745). Within the LGA, median household incomes range from a low of \$1,585 in Ashfield (South) to a high of \$3,267 in Birchgrove.

In 2016, 13% of the LGA's total households were low-income households (receiving less than \$650 per week (before tax in 2016), a lower proportion compared to 15% in Greater Sydney.

The four suburbs with the highest proportion of low-income households were:

- Ashfield (South) (17%)
- Lilyfield (17%)
- Croydon (16%)
- Ashfield (North) (15%)

Marrickville South also had a high proportion of low-income households: 16%.

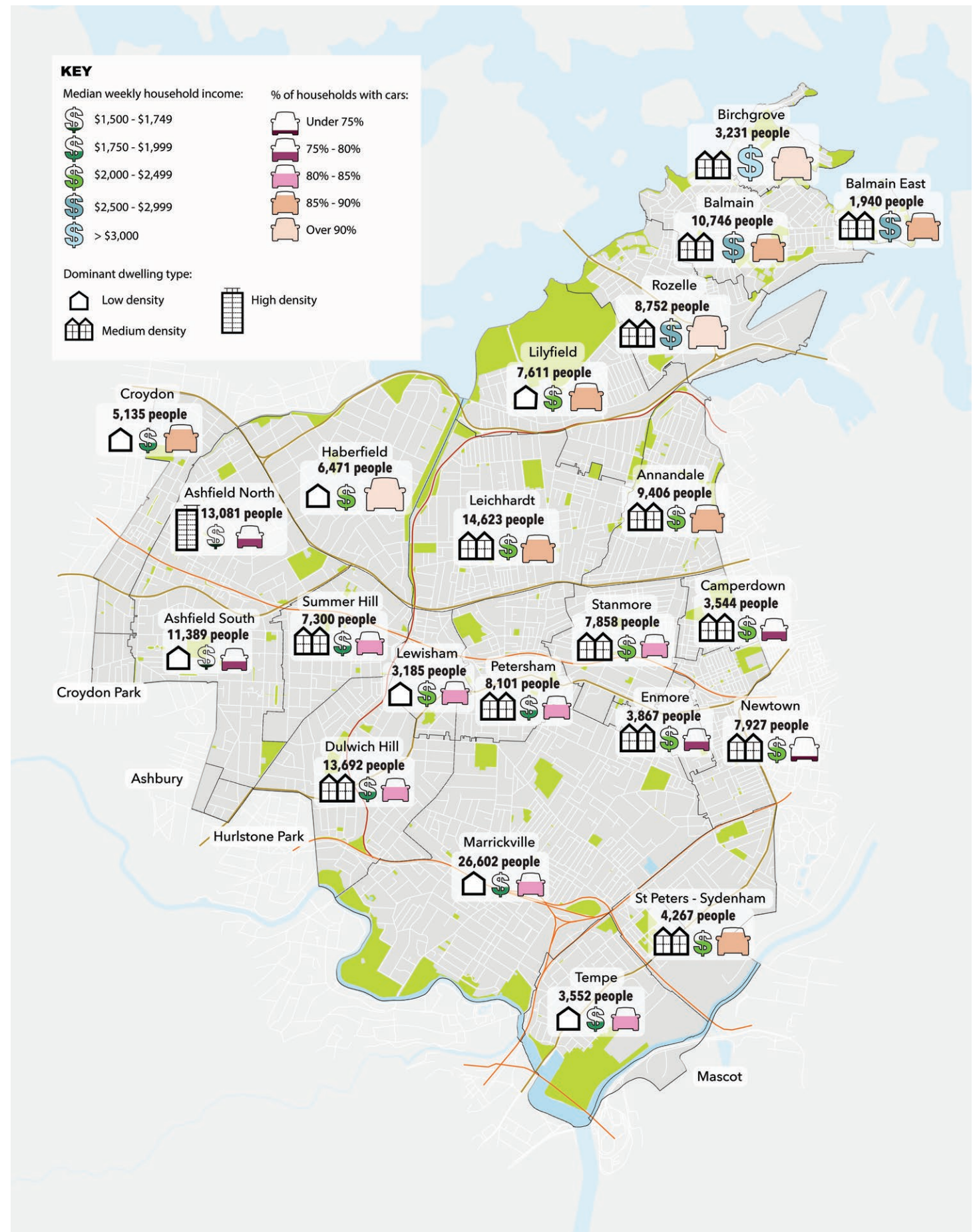


Figure 22 - Inner West density, income and housing profile



## Low car ownership in suburbs along the train lines

Car ownership is much lower in the LGA compared to Greater Sydney. For example:

- A higher proportion of households in the LGA did not own a car (16%) compared to Greater Sydney (11%)
- A lower proportion of households in the LGA owned at least 1 car (74%) compared to Greater Sydney (81%)
- A lower proportion of households in the LGA had access to 2 or more motor vehicles (28%) compared to 46% in Greater Sydney

The 5 areas with the highest proportions of households without a car were:

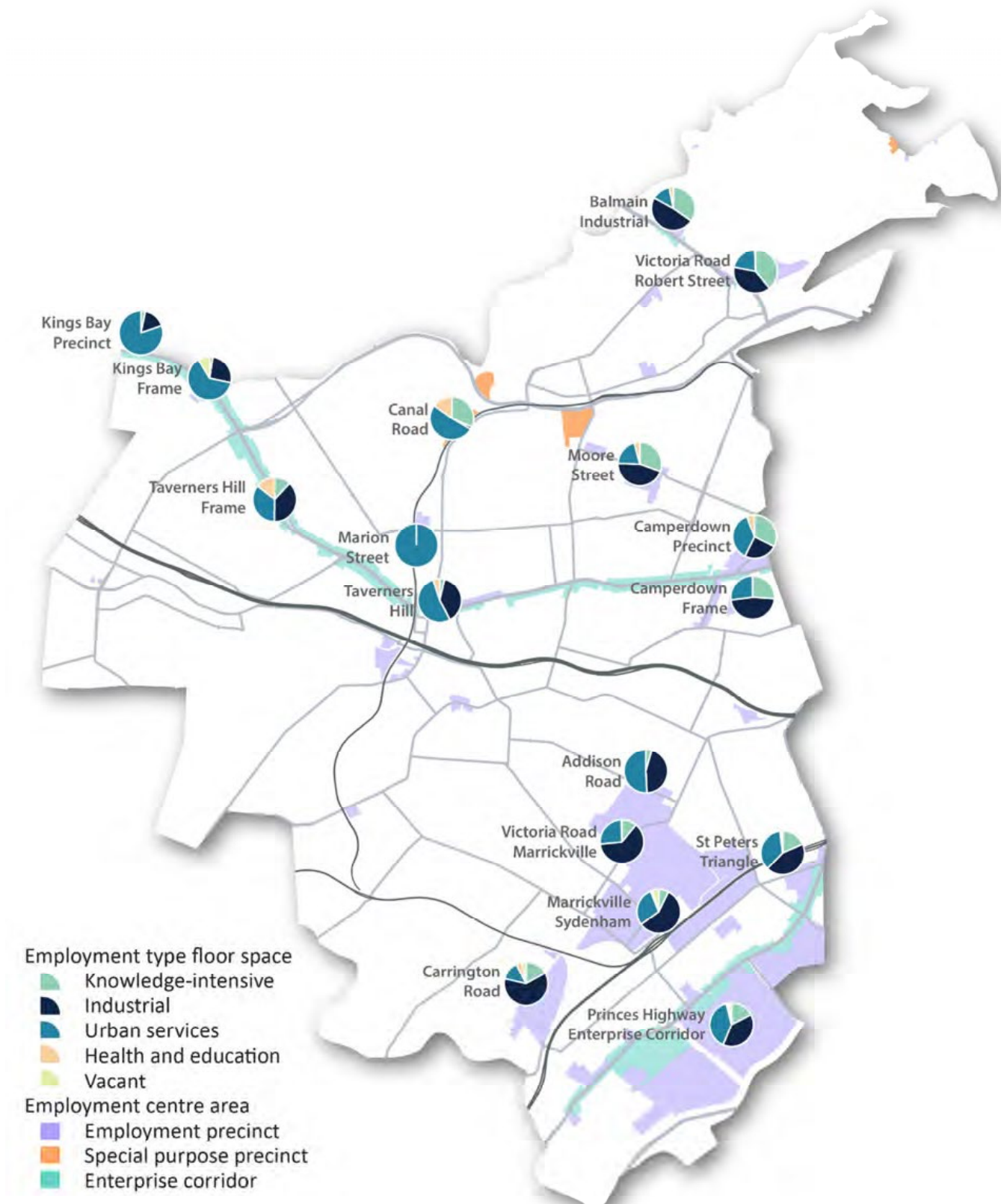
- Newtown (26.0%)
- Ashfield (North) (21%)
- Enmore (21%)
- Camperdown (21%)
- Ashfield (South) (21%)

The 5 areas with the highest proportions of households with 2 or more cars were:

- Haberfield (52%)
- Croydon (40%)
- Lilyfield (37%)
- Birchgrove (37%)
- Tempe (35%)

## Employment

- **Employment:** The Inner West Council's Employment and Retail Lands Study 2020 estimates that employment within the LGA is forecast to increase from 77,510 jobs in 2019 to 94,950 jobs by 2036. This represents +17,420 or 22% employment growth over the period. Key employment destinations include parts of Marrickville, Sydenham and Ashfield town centre. The largest industries are health care and social assistance (13.9% of jobs), retail trade (11.4%) and education and training (9%) and construction (9%). Workers are recognised as generating a demand for recreation facilities and open space. See appendix 7 for detailed employment data.



\*Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016, per destination zone (113261414 and 113281420), Economy.id

\*\*Australian Business Register -filtered counts, current at 3rd Dec 2018, per destination zone (113261414 and 113281420), Economy.id

Figure 23 - Employment precincts overview (Source: ERLS, 2020)



# 6.0 THE FUTURE INNER WEST COMMUNITY

This section outlines the future total population of the Inner West by suburb and planning catchment. Population projections show how the Inner West Council area will change over the coming decades. Becoming home to more people means that existing and new recreation spaces will need to innovate to support the growing community's needs.

## KEY FINDINGS

The Inner West’s increasing population and changing density will mean that recreation spaces will not only be in higher demand, but will also be increasingly important spaces for people to socialise, recreate and build a sense of community. While the delivery of recreation for an increased population and dense environment is a challenge, it also brings opportunities for innovation in service delivery. This includes the application of multi-use and multi-purpose spaces, universal design, creating networks of open space and sharing spaces - all approaches that allow Council to get more out of their existing and future recreation assets.

### Residential population growth update 2021

At the time of the 2016 Census, the Usual Resident Population (URP) of the Inner West LGA was 192,022 people. From 2011 to 2016, the total population grew by approximately 7%. This was a lower growth rate compared to Greater Sydney (10%). In 2019, the population was estimated to be 200,811 (Estimated Resident Population/ERP).

The Inner West Local Housing Strategy was adopted by Council in March 2020 and revises previous population assumptions used in the Recreation Needs Study 2018. Its population assumptions are shown in Table 7, the updated forecast expects a slower rate of growth to that of the RNS 2018.

The Inner West LGA is forecast to grow to a community of 226,837 by 2036. This is an estimated additional 34,815 people, or about 18% growth. This a lower forecast growth rate than Greater Sydney over the same period (+30%).

#### Growth by suburb

The suburbs with the highest forecast growth are:

- Marrickville (+7190 people, 25.7%)
- Leichhardt (+5,049 people, 33%)
- Ashfield South (+3,742, 32%)
- Dulwich Hill (+3,225 people, 23%)

The suburbs with the lowest forecast growth are:

- Balmain East (+4, +0%)
- Camperdown (+131 people, 4%)
- Enmore (+156 people, 4%)

Table 7 - Inner West forecast residential population - 2021 update (source: IWC)

Suburb	Updated LHS 2016	Updated LHS 2026**	Updated LHS 2036**	Additional people 2016-36	Growth % 2016-36
Annandale	9,973	10212	10543	570	5.7%
Ashfield	25,546	27,926	30,178	4632	18.1%
Balmain	11,146	11157	11434	288	2.6%
Balmain East	2,053	2052	2057	4	0.2%
Birchgrove	3,415	3400	3712	297	8.7%
Camperdown	3,689	3781	3820	131	3.6%
Croydon-Croydon Park	5,421	5831	6837	1416	26.1%
Dulwich Hill	14,295	16294	17520	3225	22.6%
Enmore	4,125	4249	4281	156	3.8%
Haberfield	6,779	7140	7536	757	11.2%
Leichhardt	15,514	16775	20563	5049	32.5%
Lewisham	3,383	4173	4474	1091	32.2%
Lilyfield	8,088	8596	9390	1302	16.1%
Marrickville	28,000	33,179	35,190	7190	25.7%
Newtown	8,411	8757	8773	362	4.3%
Petersham	8,522	10790	11555	3033	35.6%
Rozelle	9,348	9659	12366	3018	32.3%
St Peters-Sydenham	4,546	5042	5117	571	12.6%
Stanmore	8,320	8831	9131	811	9.7%
Summer Hill	7,666	8357	8390	724	9.4%
Tempe	3,782	3947	3970	188	5.0%
TOTAL	192,022	210,148	226,837	34,815	18.1%

\*\*The LHS assumes household size decline in its population forecasts that are aligned with the methodology used by the Department of Planning & Environment Projections.

Growth by catchment

The residential population projections in Table 7 have been categorised into their assigned Planning Catchments in Table 8 for comparison.

Catchment 1 will experience the slowest growth rate\* (14.4%) while Catchment 4 will experience the fastest (22.1%).

Catchment 3 and Catchment 4 are both forecast to be home to an additional 11,000+ each by 2036.

See Chapter 7 for a detailed explanation of Planning Catchments.

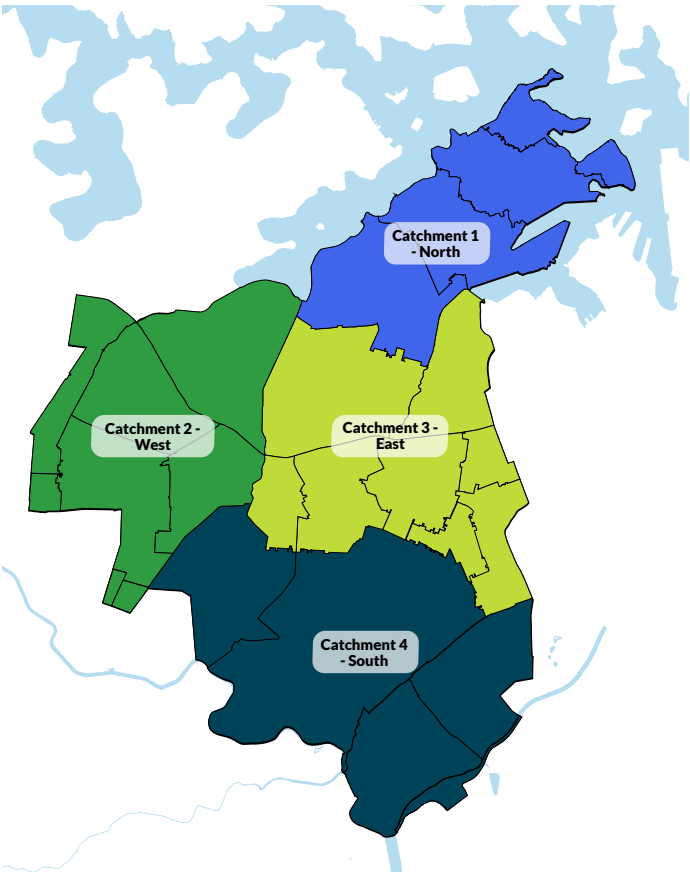


Figure 24 - Inner West Planning Catchments

Population density

The Inner West has a land area of 3,519 hectares, which will need to be shared amongst more people as the residential population continues to grow. The population density of the Inner West will increase from 54.5 persons per hectare in 2016, to approximately 64.5 persons per hectare in 2036.

The top four suburbs with the greatest projected percentage increase in population density from 2016 to 2036 are:

- Petersham +23.6 persons per hectare (66 persons per hectare in 2016, increasing to 89.9 in 2036)
- Leichhardt +19.5 persons per hectare (60 persons per hectare in 2016 to 80 in 2036)
- Lewisham +17.2 persons per hectare (53 persons per hectare in 2016 to 71 in 2036)
- Rozelle +16.8 persons per hectare (51 persons per hectare in 2016 to 69 in 2036)

With significant increases in the projected population densities within these suburbs, particularly Lewisham which is almost doubling the density, and Leichhardt which is increasing the population by one third, future development must take into account recreation needs and provision.

A consideration of worker growth, in addition to residential growth is discussed over the page, as workers generate a level of demand for open space and recreation facilities in addition to residents.

Table 8 - Residential Growth Forecasts by Catchment Area 2021 update (source: IWC)

Catchment	Suburbs	Updated LHS 2016	Updated LHS 2026*	Updated LHS 2036*	Additional people 2016-36	Growth % 2016-36
1*	Balmain Balmain East Birchgrove Rozelle Lilyfield	34,050	34,864	38,959	4,909	14.4%
2	Ashfield Croydon Summer Hill Haberfield	45,412	49,254	52,941	7,529	16.6%
3	Annandale Leichhardt Enmore Lewisham Newtown Petersham Stanmore	61,937	67,568	73,140	11,203	18.1%
4	Dulwich Hill Marrickville St Peters-Sydenham Tempe	50,623	58,462	61797	11,174	22.1%
Total	LGA	192,022	210,148	226,837	34,815	18.1%

\* The NSW State Government is continuing investigations into the redevelopment of the Bays West Precinct, the population and employment projections will be revised when the Governments' planning investigations are completed, and is likely to impact th forecast growth for Catchment 1.



## EMPLOYMENT GROWTH UPDATE & CONSIDERATION OF WORKERS IN RECREATION STUDY

*The 2018 IWRNS stated worker demands can be measured at 10% of residential demand, however it did not analyse the worker demands in its benchmarking process. This update provides revised benchmarking results, with the inclusion of non-resident worker demands on open space and recreation facilities.*

The Inner West Council's Employment and Retail Lands Study 2020 also identifies a *requirement for employment generating development to contribute to additional open space, cultural and recreational facilities for workers.*

The Inner West Council's Employment and Retail Lands Study 2020 estimates that employment within the LGA is forecast to increase from 77,510 jobs in 2019 to 94,950 jobs by 2036. This represents +17,420 or 22% employment growth over the period.

To accommodate this growth, the Employment and Retail Lands Study estimates that Council will need to provide approximately:

- 60,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional retail floorspace
- 176,000m<sup>2</sup> of additional commercial floorspace; and
- 218,000m<sup>2</sup> of industrial/large-format business floorspace by 2036.

The number of additional jobs this is expected to provide across the catchment areas is identified below:

- Catchment 1 – North is expected to accommodate approximately 3,627 additional jobs
- Catchment 2 – Central West is expected to accommodate approximately 2,423 additional jobs.
- Catchment 3 – Central East is expected to accommodate approximately 5,639 additional jobs.
- Catchment 4 – South is expected to accommodate approximately 5,857 additional jobs.

Appendixes 4-7 describe the methodology taken to derive at the additional floorspace and job estimates below for each catchment area.

### Consideration of worker-residents

To avoid double dipping in the future contribution plans, the number of workers that are also residents of the Inner West has been deducted from the employment demand analysis. In 2016, the current number of workers who also live in the LGA is 31.3%<sup>1</sup>. This percentage rate has been assumed to remain static through to 2036, although can be revised upon the release of new census data.

### Consideration of full-time and part-time labour force

In section 4.2 of the Employment and Retail Lands Strategy it is stated that the workforce is comprised of 64.8% full-time workers and 26.2% part-time workers in 2016 (the remainder 9% were described as 'away from work' or not stated). The Employment and Retail Lands Study states that 17,420 additional jobs will be created. It is not expressly stated by the Study if these are full-time jobs or are comprised of part-time jobs as well. For the purposes of this paper, 64.8% of the total jobs (17,420) will be assumed to be full-time workers, that is to say they will have 10% equivalent demand of a resident, and 26.2% will be assumed to be part-time workers, that is to say they will have 5% equivalent demand of a resident.

### Calculating worker demands by catchment

Table 9 over the page quantifies the additional demands made on recreational facilities by workers. Currently, workers generate a recreational demand that is equal to 5,087 additional residents across the LGA.

By 2036, this increases to an expressed equivalent of 5,085 additional residents (+939). These figures have been included in the benchmarking process in Chapters 8 and 9.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016. Compiled and presented in economy.id by id, the population experts. <https://profile.id.com.au/inner-west/workers> (accessed on 13 November 2020).

Table 9 - Number of workers and their recreational demands 2018-2036

Time	Catchment Area	No. of workers 2018	Reduction of worker-residents (31.3%)	No. of full-time workers (64.8%)	No. of part-time workers (26.2%)	Demand of full-time workers (10% of a resident) (expressed as additional residents)	Demand of part-time workers (5% of a resident) (expressed as additional residents)	Total additional worker demand (expressed as no, of additional residents)
2016	1	12,867	8,839	5,728	2,315	572	115	688
	2	14,718	10,111	6,552	2,649	655	132	787
	3	24,406	16,767	10,865	4,392	1086	219	1,306
	4	25,519	17,531	11,360	4,593	1,136	229	1,365
2026	1	14,680	10,085	6,535	2,642	653	132	785
	2	15,929	10,943	7,091	2,867	709	143	852
	3	27,226	18,704	12,120	4,900	1,212	245	1,457
	4	28,448	19,543	12,664	5,120	1,266	256	1,522
2036	1	16,494	11,331	7,342	2,968	734	148	882
	2	17,141	11,775	7,630	3,085	763	154	917
	3	30,046	20,641	13,375	5,408	1,337	270	1,607
		31,377	21,555	13,968	5,647	1,396	282	1,679



## 7.0 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

This section provides an overview of planning catchments, forecast growth methodologies and possible benchmarking approaches for recreation in the Inner West.

**Benchmarking is just one of the indicators that are used to understand the needs of a community - alongside other indicators such as community engagement, analysis of the community profile, best practice, and an understanding of the existing facilities and opportunities. Benchmarks should be applied with caution to ensure that they are relevant to the local context. For example, a more socially disadvantaged area may have a higher need for open space than benchmarking alone would indicate.**

### A PLANNING CATCHMENT APPROACH

The Inner West Local Infrastructure Contribution Planning framework will adopt a catchment-based approach to assess the recreational demands to align with the approach taken for the Community Assets Needs Strategy 2021 (CANS). A catchment approach is a useful planning tool that aims to reflect patterns of community preference in accessing recreational space and facilities. The catchments have been defined from the following considerations:

- The location of key urban centres
- Likely travel patterns
- Population and employment densities, both current and future (2036) across the LGA
- Natural barriers (eg waterways and topography)
- Built barriers (e.g. arterial roads and rail corridors)

Whilst not perfect, catchments remain a useful tool to consider the network provision of local

and district spaces across a large area, with Regional Assets more likely to service the LGA. A catchment approach facilitates a more equitable approach to community asset planning (understanding how supply, demand and quality are located across the LGA – rather than looking at the whole LGA as one). The catchments utilised for the CANS and RNS Update are shown in Figure 25.

The four planning catchments are:

- Catchment 1 - North includes the suburbs of Balmain, Balmain East, Birchgrove, Rozelle and Lilyfield
- Catchment 2 - West includes the suburbs of Ashfield North, Ashfield South, Croydon, Summer Hill and Haberfield
- Catchment 3 - East includes the suburbs of Annandale, Leichhardt, Camperdown, Enmore, Lewisham, Newtown, Petersham and Stanmore
- Catchment 4 - South includes the suburbs of Marrickville North, Marrickville South, Tempe, Dulwich Hill and St Peters - Sydenham

The following chapters apply the adopted benchmarks to each of the 4 catchments, as well as to the LGA overall.

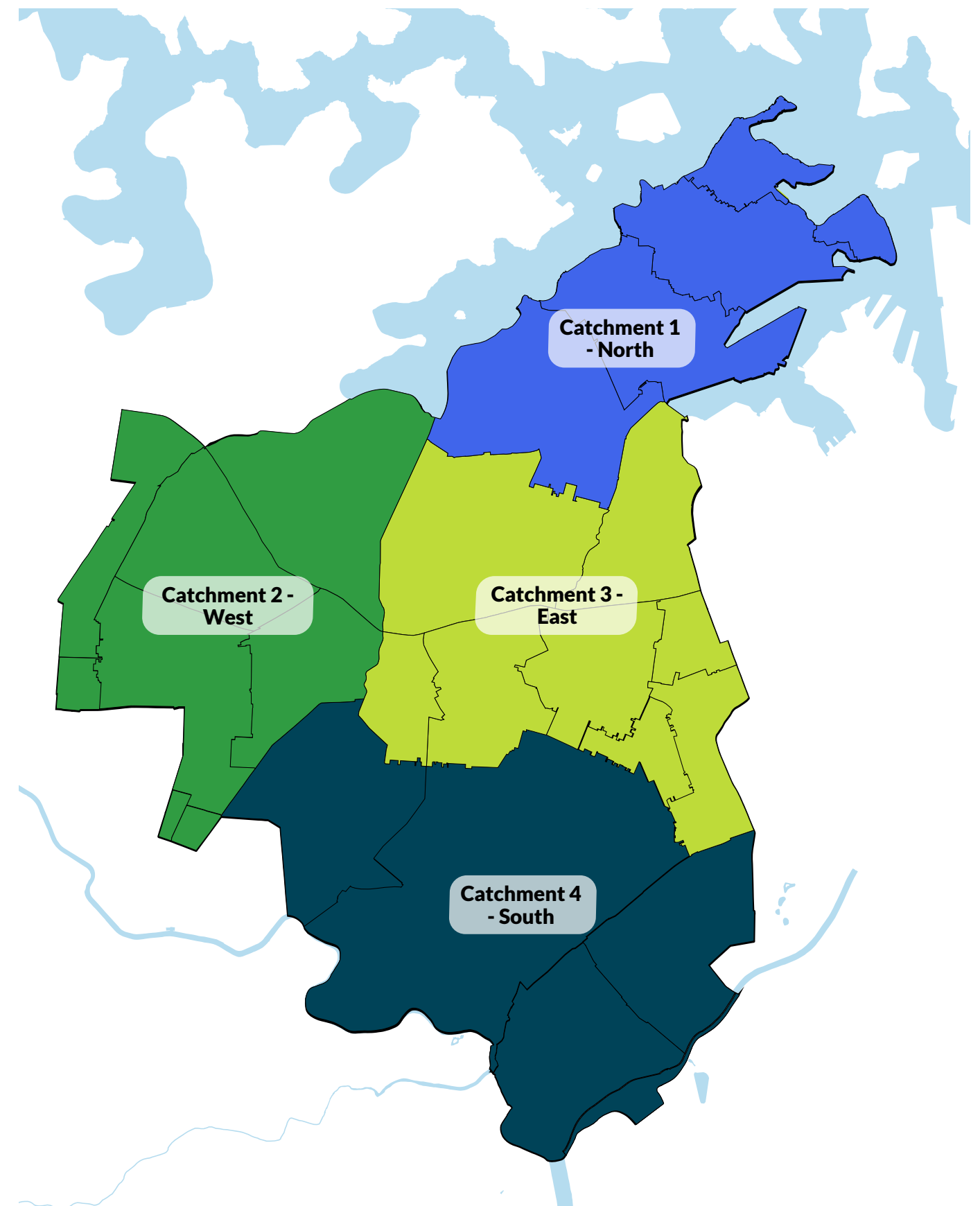


Figure 25 - Planning Catchment Areas

# OPEN-SPACE BENCHMARKING APPROACH

Current best practice is to use a range of benchmarks to understand demand for open space and recreation facilities as one of a number of indicators. Other indicators should include community engagement, analysis of the community profile, best practice, and an understanding of the existing facilities and opportunities. Benchmarks could include quantity per person or as a percentage of land area; proximity; quality; diversity; hierarchy and size. There is also a move to include a specific benchmark for the proximity to open space in high-density areas.

With increasing densities and declining land supply, the typical approach of setting aside a quantum of land as part of every development is no longer effective. Rather than focusing on quantity only, there is a need to consider what recreation opportunities are required and the strategies available to achieve them in innovative and efficient ways.

This RNS adopts four benchmarks to analyse and benchmark open-space provision now and into the future in the Inner West: quantity, hierarchy and size, proximity and quality.



## Quantity

- How much open space is there now?
- How much open space is there per person?
- How will this change as the population grows?



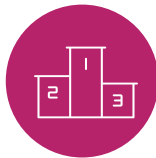
## Hierarchy and size

- How do different parks service different open-space needs?
- Are there diverse types of open space available to cater for different activities and functions?



## Proximity

- Can residents easily walk to a park?



## Quality

- What are residents' experience of open space and recreation facilities?
- Does the quality of open space and recreation facilities vary?
- Are there needs for improvements to increase capacity?

## Quantity

Quantity per person or 'quantum' of open space benchmark can provide a high-level indicator of how an LGA or planning catchment is performing in terms of the total amount of open space available per person living there. These benchmarks are commonly used to estimate the current and likely future demand for additional open space generated by a future population, and how the provision rate per person may change over time with population growth.

As a high-level indicator, quantum does not account for accessibility barriers that may be present – such as rail lines or highways/major roads – and must be read in conjunction with the other benchmarking approaches (hierarchy and size, proximity and quality). Despite this drawback, quantum is the primary tool used to establish minimum benchmarks for open space as future development occurs.

For Development Contributions plans, precedents from the Land and Environment Court have established that it is reasonable for Councils to at least seek to maintain the same quantum of open space post-development as there was prior to development.

Quantity is calculated per person (resident and equivalent worker demand) and the amount of Government-owned and managed, open space (RE1).

***The Inner West LGA has a current provision rate of 16.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person.***

Table 11 provides the 2016 population data (resident and non-resident workers) and quantum of open space used to calculate the benchmark standard.

## ***Inclusion of State Government-Owned open space into the benchmarking process***

There are 4 State Government-owned parks and sporting grounds in the Inner West LGA:

- Ballast Point Park, Birchgrove
- Callan Park, Lilyfield
- Enmore TAFE Park, Enmore
- Fraser Park, Marrickville

The State Government has also made a commitment to deliver an additional 10 hectares of open space at the Metro West Rozelle Interchange, expected for delivery around 2026.

The 2018 RNS did not include State Government- owned land, resulting in the 13.3m<sup>2</sup> benchmark. This 2021 revision now includes State Government-owned land, as well as the additional 10 hectares of open space into the benchmarking process to 2036. This has resulted in the open space per person increasing to a current provision of 16.4m<sup>2</sup>.



Hierarchy and size

Hierarchy approaches recognise that different parcels of open space should provide different levels of service, and is a useful approach to ensure different needs (eg for local community space vs major regional space) are met efficiently. Generally, public open space is classified into some form of a local, district and regional hierarchy, based on size and uses.

See Table 10 for examples of Inner West parks of all hierarchies.

Proximity

Proximity benchmarks can assess the geographic distribution of open space: the distance from home, work, or school required to travel to access open space. There may be different proximity benchmarks for different types of open space. For example, local open space should be within walking distance of most people, but regional open space could be further away. When applying proximity benchmarks, connectivity and access should be considered – how well connected is the open space to the surrounding area, and how walkable are the main access routes?

In NSW, there is a move towards proximity benchmarks for the provision of open space near high-density areas. Best practice research also recommends a benchmark for the provision of open space in vulnerable areas, for instance, areas with ageing populations and low income areas.

The Draft Greener Places Guide provides performance indicators for accessibility to open space in high-density areas (high density is considered to be areas that have 60 dwellings or more per hectare). See Table 12 for performance indicators adopted by this RNS.

Accessibility

Council has not completed an accessibility audit of its parks, sporting grounds or recreation facilities which can create a barrier for inclusion for mobility impaired persons. It is recommended that Council considers a future accessibility and inclusion audit of all recreational facilities and park plans of management. It needs to consider accessibility, disadvantaged populations, gender and multicultural diversity to promote Council’s strategic objective of facilitating a welcoming and inclusive community.

Quality

The quality of open space is key to its usability and attractiveness. Quality indicators can include amenity (maintenance, noise, facilities and equipment, aesthetics); access (visual and physical access, disability access); safety; size, shape and topography; vegetation and setting. A large, poor-quality open space may not meet a community’s needs as well as a smaller, high-quality provision.

Council is preparing Park Plans of Management for all parks across the LGA, which will include assessing their quality and identifying opportunities for embellishment. This study has not assessed the quality of parks in the LGA, however the community identified a number of parks with opportunities for improvement through the engagement process carried out in 2017.

Once Council has completed a comprehensive review of all plans of management in the LGA, a consolidated schedule of works should be prepared for the consideration of future local infrastructure contribution plans.

Table 10 - Adopted open space hierarchy/size and proximity benchmarks

Hierarchy	Proximity
Regional (5+ha)	All residents should be within 5-10km of a regional park
District (2-5ha)	All residents should be within 2km of a district park
Level 1 Local (0.5-2ha)	All residents should be within 400m of an area of high-quality open space of at least 0.5ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers
Level 2 Local (0.1-0.5ha) (High density and vulnerability)	In addition to the above, all residents living in high density or seniors’ housing should also be within 200m of an area of high-quality open space of at least 0.1ha, with walkable connections and no major barriers
Pocket park (less than 0.1ha)	n/a

Table 11 - Adopted open space quantity benchmark - current provision rate

	2016 res pop (LHS revision)	2016 non-residential worker pop equivalent (LHS revision)	2016 total pop (residential +worker)	2016 open space area m <sup>2</sup>	m <sup>2</sup> per person
LGA	192,022	4,148	196,170	3,215,794	16.4m <sup>2</sup>



\*Note: Open space includes Council and State-owned open spaces.

Table 12 - Draft Greener Places Accessibility to local open space performance indicators

Density	Proximity
High-density areas > 60 dwellings/ha	2-3 minutes walk / 200 m walking distance to a local park (barrier free)
Medium- to low-density areas < 60 dwellings/ha	5 minutes walk / 400 m walking distance to a local park (barrier free)



Table 13 - Examples of parks according to hierarchy and size benchmark

Pocket park (less than 0.1ha)	Darley St Playground, Newtown 235m <sup>2</sup>		Ashford St Reserve, Ashfield, 802m <sup>2</sup>	
	(Source: Kid Size Living)			
Level 2 Local park (0.1 to 0.5ha)	Federation Plaza Reserve, Haberfield, 3,203m <sup>2</sup>		Wangal Nura Park, Leichhardt 1,961m <sup>2</sup>	
	McNeilly Park, Marrickville, 11,400m <sup>2</sup>		Punch Park, Balmain, 8,677m <sup>2</sup>	
District (2ha-5ha)	Easton Park, Rozelle, 20,400m <sup>2</sup>		Marrickville Park, Marrickville, 44,900m <sup>2</sup>	
	Henson Park, Marrickville, 58,500m <sup>2</sup>		Ashfield Park, Ashfield, 61,700m <sup>2</sup>	
Regional (5ha+)				



RECREATION FACILITIES BENCHMARKING APPROACH

The SSROC Liveability Benchmark study recommends that local governments should plan for the supply of future recreation facilities based on maintaining the current provision of recreation facilities per person. However, in the Inner West the current provision of some types of recreation facilities is not meeting demand, and industry benchmarks are more appropriate.

Table 14 shows the proposed benchmarks for recreation facilities, based on industry benchmarks from Parks and Leisure Australia, and on the current provision of recreation facilities per person in the Inner West LGA.

Table 14 - Adopted recreation facility benchmarks

Type	Benchmark: Current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia
Summer sporting field (located in sporting grounds)	1:6,500 people
Winter sporting field (located in sporting grounds)	1:4,500 people
Indoor (multipurpose) courts (# of courts)	1:20,000
Outdoor (multipurpose) courts	1:2,500
Indoor leisure centre (dry)	1:75,000 (middle range of Parks and Leisure Australia benchmark: 1:50,000 to 100,000)
Indoor leisure centre (aquatic)	1:38,500
Skate park/facility	1:48,000
Play space (including district and regional provision)	1:2,000

# MONITORING TOOLS

There are a number of possible monitoring tools that could be used to measure and record how well the recreation needs of the Inner West community are being met in future years. These include objective measures as well as qualitative approaches. Recreation indicators should be simple to gather, record changes over time, and provide a basis for assessment and future planning for the provision of recreation spaces and programs.

Table 15 - Potential monitoring tools

Indicator	Source
Resident satisfaction with recreation opportunities	Community Satisfaction Survey - satisfaction with opportunities to participate in recreation
Resident access to recreation opportunities (affordability, disability inclusion)	Community Satisfaction Survey - access to recreation opportunities
Maintained or improved quality of life ratings	Community Wellbeing Survey / Community Capacity Survey - quality of life rating
Maintaining current provision per person (aiming to maintain a provision of 16.4m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Council mapping data - m <sup>2</sup> of open space per person.
Increased proportion of dwellings within benchmark proximity of open space	Council mapping data - all dwellings within 400m of open space of minimum 0.5ha.  All high-density dwellings or seniors' housing also within 200m of open space of minimum 0.1ha
Increasing capacity of sporting fields to address increased demand and reduce overuse	Council booking system - capacity of sporting fields vs utilisation
Securing new open space through development	% of new developments delivering high-quality new open spaces (privately owned, publicly manager, or dedicated to Council) that are publicly accessible
Number of people using recreation facilities	Entrance and booking data at aquatic centres and parks



## 8.0 OPEN SPACE - LGA-WIDE PROVISION AND BENCHMARKING

**This chapter provides an audit of open space currently available in the Inner West, and applies adopted benchmarks for open space and recreation facilities to estimate future demand and needs based on a range of indicators and benchmarks.**

### OVERVIEW

Open space is all publicly owned land with unrestricted public access that is managed for leisure, recreation and amenity purposes. It includes all parks, reserves, playgrounds and outdoor playing fields.<sup>1</sup> It also includes civic spaces in commercial centres, such as squares and plazas that are key community focal points for formal and informal gatherings. Open space does not include aquatic centres and indoor recreation spaces. These are considered recreation facilities, as described in later in this chapter.

Open space provides the setting for activities across the spectrum of recreation, from quiet reading to social gatherings to active sport. Local parks meet the needs of a local community, such as for playspace, space to walk the dog, or relief from the urban environment. Larger parks may meet a district or regional need, providing a range of uses for different groups, including space for community gatherings, sporting grounds, iconic spaces and major facilities.

<sup>1</sup> NSW Department of Planning, 'Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government' (2010).

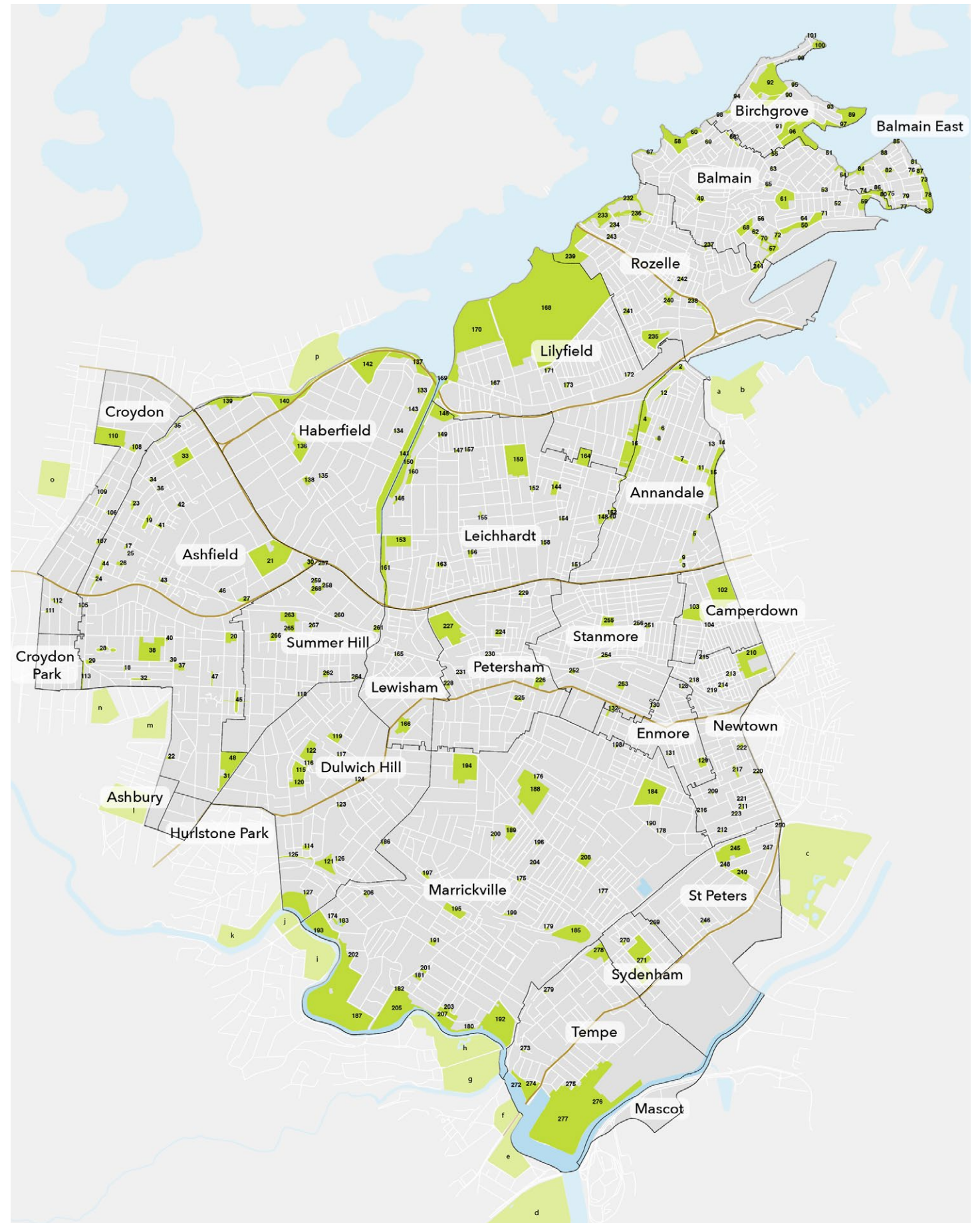


Figure 26 - Current Government-owned open space provision in the Inner West

CURRENT PROVISION

Overall, there is estimated to be 321.6 hectares of open space located within the Inner West LGA, currently supporting 192,022 residents and 59,277 workers.

Open space owned by Government

IWC is a major provider of open space and recreation assets across the Inner West LGA. This includes:

Open space

- 12 regional parks (5+hectares)
- 23 district parks (2-5 hectares)
- 45 local Level 1 parks (0.5-2 hectares)
- 86 local Level 2 parks (0.1-0.5 hectares)
- 117 pocket parks (less than 0.1 hectares)

Existing open space

The existing open space network contains a range of different-sized open spaces. Open spaces for the purposes of this Study are categorised as either pocket, local Level 2, local Level 1, district and regional open space, based on their size.

The total number and area of different types of open spaces in each catchment are summarised in Table 16. A map of the existing open space network is shown in Figure 26.

There is a total of 283 parks equaling 321.6 hectares across the 4 catchment areas that are covered by this plan, making up a total of 9.1% of the total land area of the LGA.

Figure 26 shows the overall locations of these open spaces, and appendix 3 provides a detailed audit.

Neighbouring open spaces

Residents of the Inner West may also use neighbouring council’s parks and open spaces, particularly near LGA boundaries. Figure 26 illustrates open space immediately adjoining the Inner West LGA boundary.

Ownership

Of the 321.6 hectares of Government-owned land, Council owns 256.08 hectares, and State Government owns 66 hectares (see Figure 27).

The 4 State Government-owned open spaces include:

- Ballast Point Park
- Callan Park
- Enmore TAFE Park
- Fraser Park

Future planned open space

There are two known open spaces that are planned for delivery by 2026. These include:

- Department of Defence subdivision - a subdivision in Haberfield has been enacted upon (from a consent issued in 2001). As part of the consent, the applicant will deliver an embellished park of 900m<sup>2</sup> and dedicate to Council
- Rozelle Interchange - The State Government has also made a commitment to deliver an additional 10 hectares of open space at the Metro West Rozelle Interchange, expected for delivery around 2026.

These additional open spaces will bring the total open space provision in the Inner West LGA up to 331.67 hectares.

Table 16 - Existing open space 2016 (Source: Inner West Council)

	Catchment 1		Catchment 2		Catchment 3		Catchment 4		ALL	
Type	Count	Area (ha)	Count	Area (ha)	Count	Area (ha)	Count	Area (ha)	Count	Area (ha)
Regional	4	86.15	2	12.78	0	0	6	66.89	12	165.82
District	5	11.5	6	18.39	6	24.38	6	22.05	23	76.35
Local level 1	13	14.14	6	8.16	13	16.69	13	14.82	45	53.80
Local level 2	27	6.34	25	5.96	24	5.34	10	2.29	86	19.99
Pocket	25	1.24	27	1.44	34	1.52	31	1.45	117	5.65
Total	74	119.44	66	46.72	77	47.92	66	107.5	283	321.6

State open space (66ha, 20%)

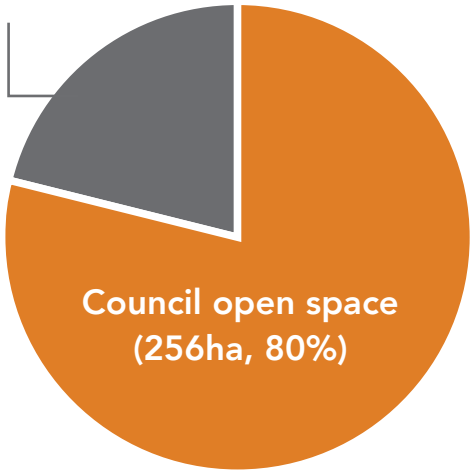
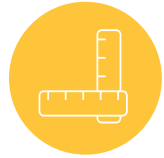


Figure 27 - Current open space ownership in the Inner West





Quantity of open space and provision per person

Currently the Inner West has an average of 16.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person. This Study assumes the delivery of 10 hectares of new open space at the Rozelle Parklands. However, even with the assumed delivery of this new open space, the provision rate declines to 15.4m<sup>2</sup> per person by 2026, and 14.3m<sup>2</sup> per person in 2036.

Currently, Catchment 2 and Catchment 3 have the lowest provision rate of open space per person (see Figure 28, Figure 29 and Figure 30).

Table 17 shows the current and forecast provision per person of Council-owned, publicly accessible open space.

Table 17 - Open space provision rates by Planning Catchment

		Catchment 1 (m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Catchment 2 (m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Catchment 3 (m <sup>2</sup> per person)	Catchment 4 (m <sup>2</sup> per person)	LGA (m <sup>2</sup> per person)
Open space (m <sup>2</sup> )	2016	34.4	10.1	7.6	20.7	16.4
	2026	36.3	9.3	6.9	17.9	15.4
	2036	32.5	8.7	6.4	16.9	14.3

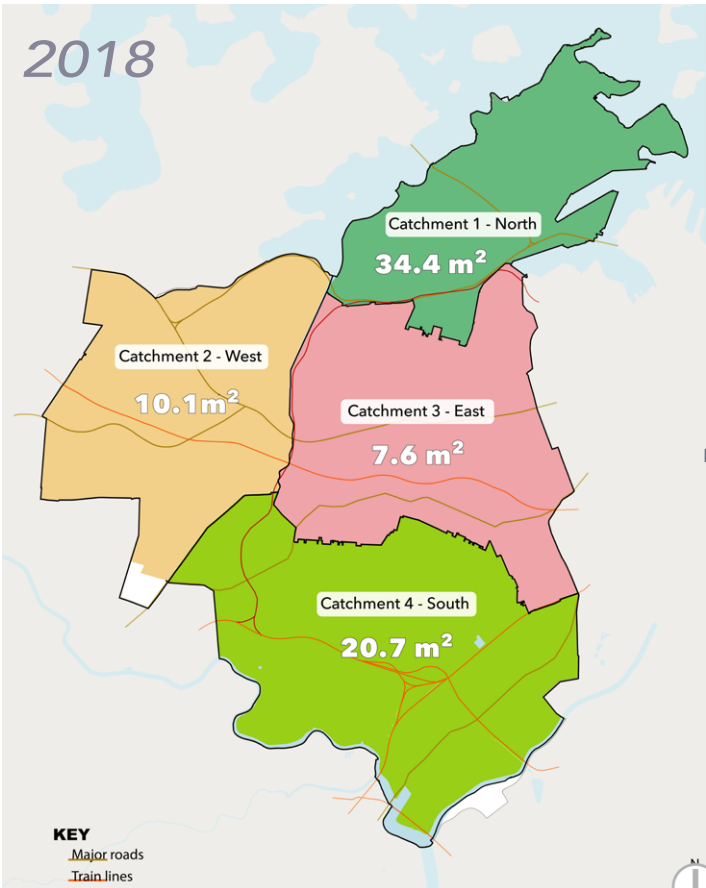


Figure 28 - Current provision per person 2018

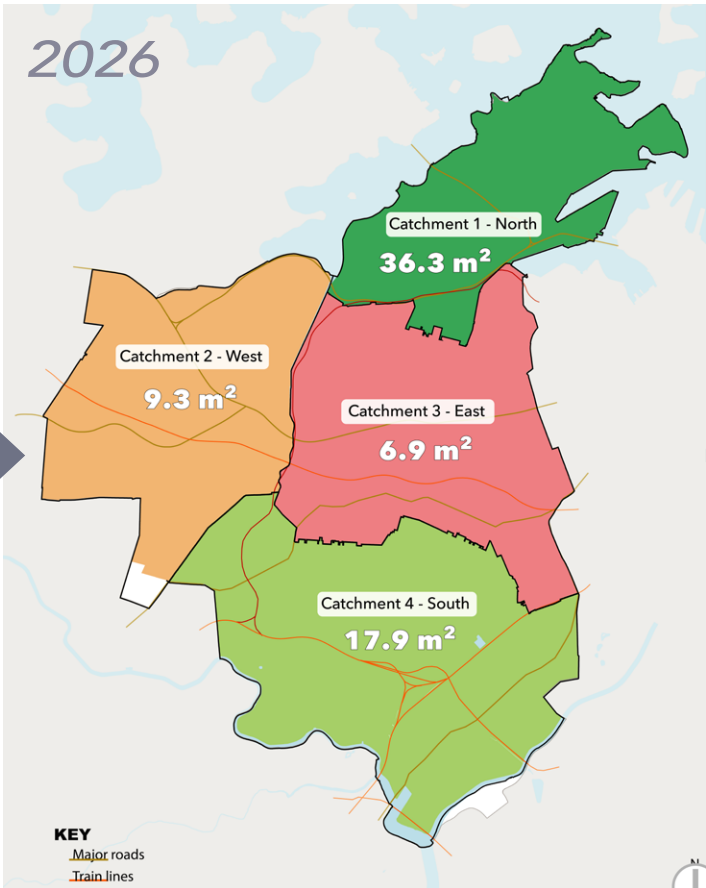


Figure 29 - Forecast provision per person 2026

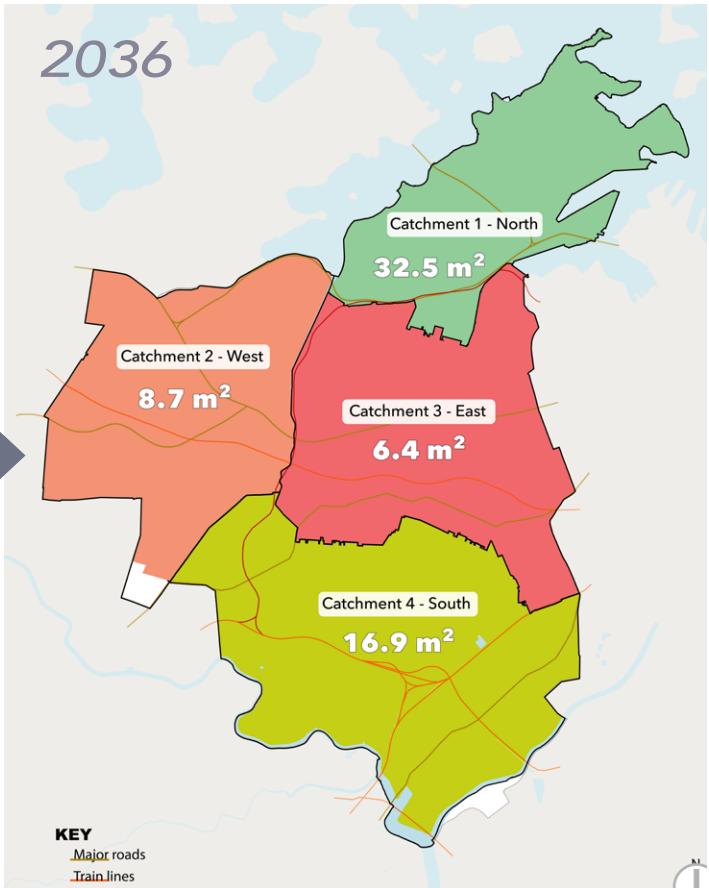


Figure 30 - Forecast provision per person 2036

## Population benchmarking

Table 18 shows the application of the open space current provision benchmark ratios adopted by the RNS 2018 (16.4m<sup>2</sup> per person), and applied to the 2016, 2026 and 2036 population, which is inclusive of worker considerations previously outlined.

In 2016, the equivalent resident population of the LGA was 196,170 and the open space provision was 321.6 hectares. This is equivalent to an average provision of 16.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space per person across the LGA.

By 2026, the LGA equivalent population will increase to 214,766 (an additional 18,596 residents between 2016-2026) decreasing the provision rate of open space to 15.4m<sup>2</sup> per person. The additional population would generate a demand for an additional 30.4 hectares of open space.

By 2036, the LGA equivalent population will increase to 231,924 (an additional 35,754 residents between 2026-2036) decreasing the provision rate of open space to 14.3m<sup>2</sup> per person. The additional population would generate a demand for an additional 28.14 hectares of open space.

The total demand generated by new residents (2016 to 2036 growth) in the LGA is equivalent to 58.64 hectares.

Table 18 - Catchment 2016 application of open space benchmark (revised 2021)

Catchment	Residential population 2016	Total recreation demand of workers (expressed as additional residents)	Total equivalent population 2016	Council-owned open space 2016 (m <sup>2</sup> )	State Government-owned open Space (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total open space (ha)	Benchmark 2016 m <sup>2</sup> per person
Catchment 1	34,050	689	34,739	558422	636000	119.4	34.4
Catchment 2	45,412	788	46,200	467266	0	46.7	10.1
Catchment 3	61,937	1,306	63,243	474535	4454	47.9	7.6
Catchment 4	50,623	1,366	51,989	1060377	14740	107.5	20.7
<b>LGA</b>	<b>192,022</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>196,170</b>	<b>2560599.63</b>	<b>655194</b>	<b>321.6</b>	<b>16.4</b>

Table 19 - Catchment 2026 application of open space benchmark (revised 2021)

Catchment	Residential population 2016	Total recreation demand of workers (expressed as additional residents)	Total equivalent population 2026	Council-owned open space 2026 (m <sup>2</sup> )	State Government-owned open space (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total open space (ha)	Benchmark 2026 m <sup>2</sup> per person
Catchment 1	34,864	786	35,650	558422	736000	129.4	36.3
Catchment 2	49,254	852	50,106	468165.63	0	46.8	9.3
Catchment 3	67,568	1,457	69,025	474535	4454	47.9	6.9
Catchment 4	58,462	1,522	59,984	1060377	14740	107.5	17.9
<b>LGA</b>	<b>210,148</b>	<b>4,618</b>	<b>214,766</b>	<b>2561499.63</b>	<b>755194</b>	<b>331.7</b>	<b>15.4</b>

Table 20 - Catchment 2036 application of open space benchmark (revised 2021)

Catchment	Residential Ppopulation 2016	Total recreation demand of workers (expressed as additional residents)	Total equivalent population 2036	Council-owned open space 2036 (m <sup>2</sup> )	State Government-Owned open space (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total open space (ha)	Benchmark 2036 m <sup>2</sup> per person
Catchment 1	38,959	883	39,842	558422	736000	129.4	32.5
Catchment 2	52,941	917	53,858	468165.63	0	46.8	8.7
Catchment 3	73,140	1,608	74,748	474535	4454	47.9	6.4
Catchment 4	61,797	1,679	63,476	1060377	14740	107.5	16.9
<b>LGA</b>	<b>226,837</b>	<b>5,087</b>	<b>231,924</b>	<b>2561499.63</b>	<b>740454</b>	<b>331.7</b>	<b>14.3</b>





Hierarchy and size of open space

Figure 31 shows existing parks categorised by hierarchy type (see Table 21 below for the hierarchy of parks and their size thresholds).

Larger regional parks are more likely to be located in a waterfront position (harbour foreshore or creek frontage).

Four suburbs have relatively high proportions of pocket parks. This size of park can struggle to deliver recreation benefits of space for social gathering, active recreation, relief from the urban environment and connection to nature, and space for community gatherings:

- Enmore
- Newtown
- Stanmore
- Summer Hill
- Ashfield

Table 21 - Current hierarchy including State-owned land

Type	Number of parks	Ha	% of all parks (as a % of total area)
Regional (5ha+)	12	165.8ha (including Callan Park (61ha)	52%
District (2ha to 5ha)	23	76.4ha	24%
Level 1 Local (0.5ha to 2ha)	45	53.8ha	17%
Level 2 Local (0.1ha to 0.5ha)	86	20ha	6%
Pocket park (<0.1ha)	117	5.65ha	2%

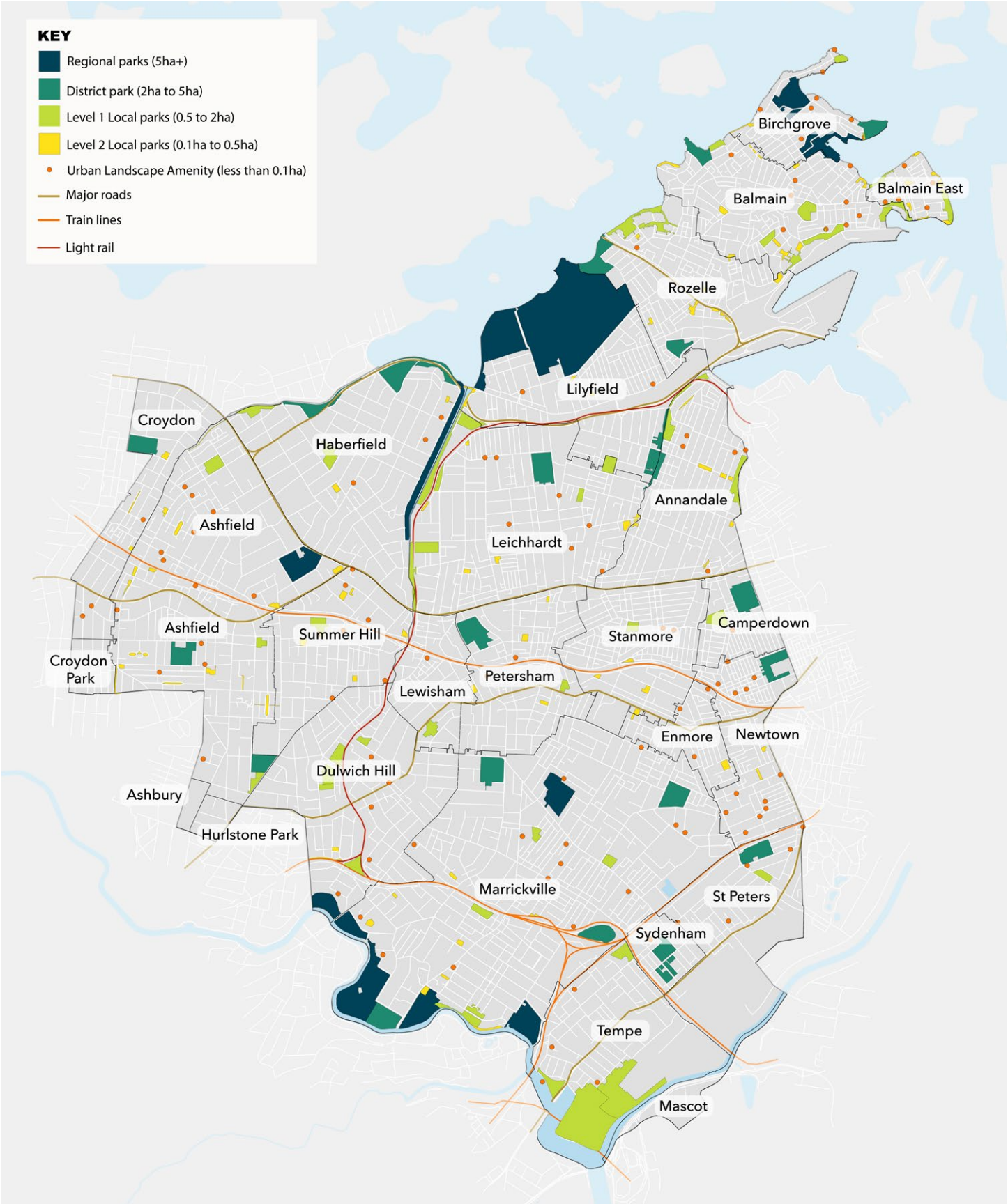


Figure 31 - Current provision by hierarchy type





## Open space proximity mapping

Figure 32 is an indicative map showing the catchment areas of existing open space throughout the Inner West to identify areas that have below benchmark access to open space. This is based on the proximity benchmark (all residents within 400m of at least Level 1 local open space). The catchment areas exclude areas that are across access barriers, such as major roads and above-ground train lines.

Key areas with below benchmark access to open space include:

- Glebe Island, White Bay Power Station and parts of Rozelle north of Victoria Road
- Parts of Leichhardt, Haberfield and Annandale - particularly along the Parramatta Road Corridor
- Parts of Croydon, Croydon Park, and Ashfield. There is a concentration of smaller Level 2 local parks and pocket parks in this area
- Parts of Lewisham to the south of the rail line
- Parts of Enmore, Newtown and Stanmore between Enmore Road and the train line. There is a concentration of smaller Level 2 local parks and pocket parks in this area
- Industrial areas in St Peters
- Parts of central Tempe
- Parts of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, in a band along the northern side of the train line

Areas of Lewisham south of the train line, and Marrickville north of the train line, are particularly impacted by pedestrian barriers. These locations are within 400m of at least Level 1 local open space, but the train line forms a significant pedestrian barrier, reducing access.

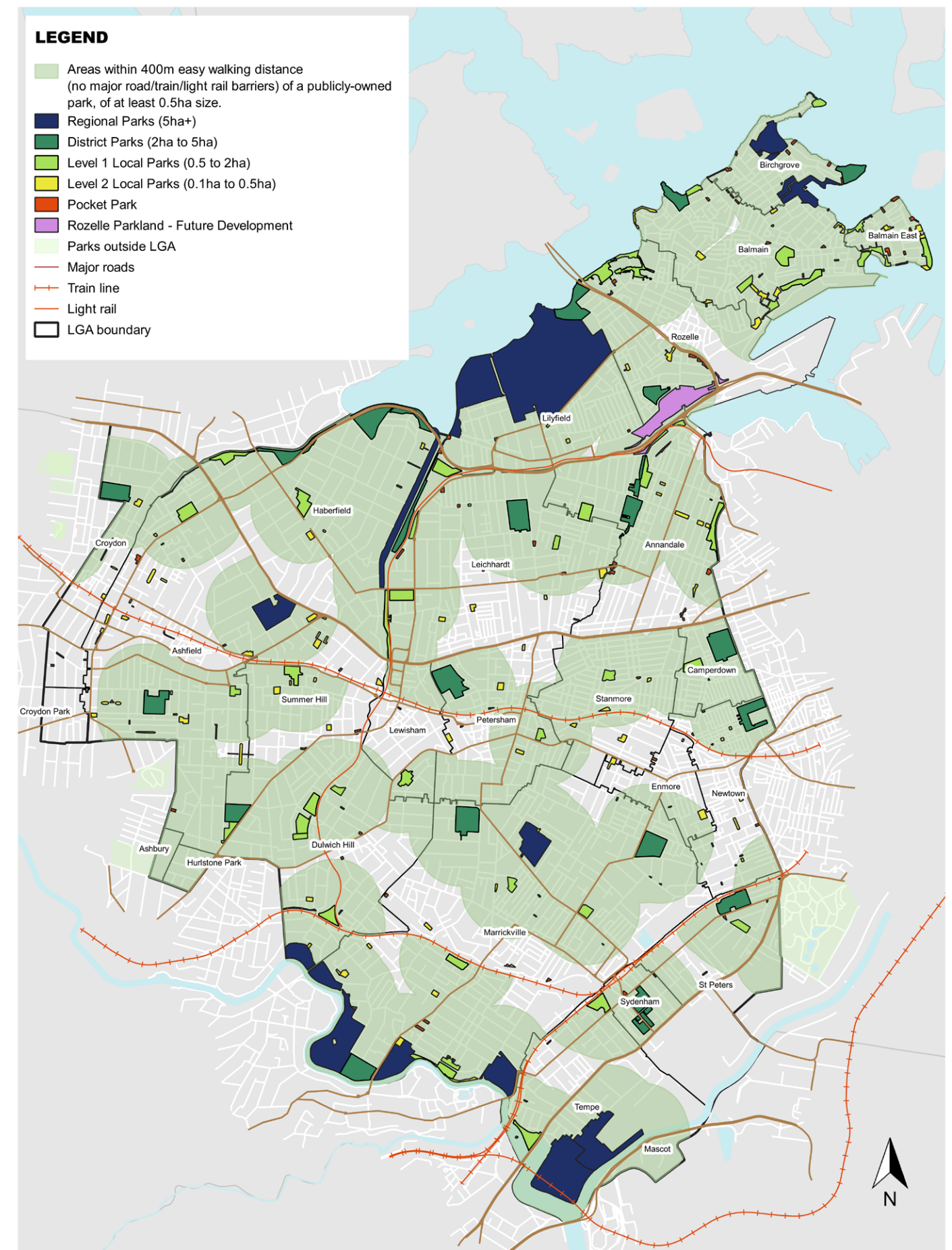


Figure 32 - Areas with below proximity benchmark access to open space (Source: Inner West Council, 2021)



### Access to open space in high-density zoned areas

Figure 33 shows a 200m catchment area around parks that are at minimum 0.1 hectare, and areas that are currently zoned for high-density residential areas (R4 High Density Residential).

The map indicates that there are areas currently zoned for high-density residential dwellings, that are not within 200m of at least 0.1 hectare of open space (shown in pink).

In particular, areas of Lewisham, Petersham, and Dulwich Hill do not meet the benchmark requirement for access to open space in high density and should be considered a priority for future planning.

While the former Ashfield and Leichhardt Council areas do not currently have any areas zoned R4 High Density Residential, there are areas and developments that could be considered high density (eg more than 60 dwellings per hectare). The high-density benchmark should be applied to all new high-density residential developments.

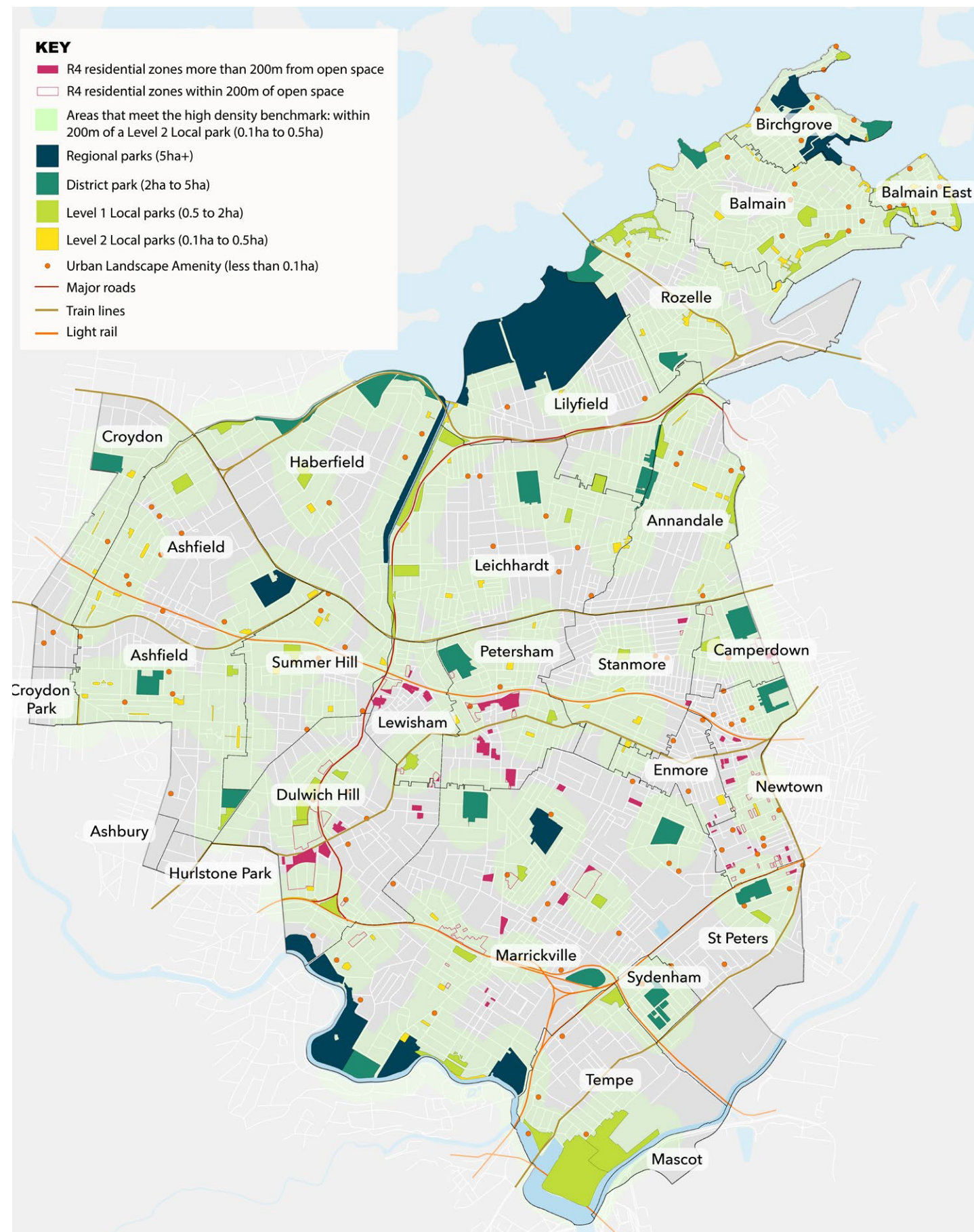


Figure 33 - Current provision in high-density zoned areas



### Quality of open space

The community engagement completed for this Study indicates that the most visited parks in the Inner West are:

- Steel Park
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Mackey Park
- Camperdown Memorial Rest Park
- Callan Park
- Ashfield Park
- Enmore Park
- Petersham Park
- Darrell Jackson Gardens, and
- Camperdown Park.

See appendix 2 for community feedback on the quality of parks in the Inner West.



## 9.0 RECREATION FACILITIES - LGA-WIDE PROVISION AND BENCHMARKING

**This chapter provides an audit of recreation facilities currently available in the Inner West, and applies adopted population based benchmarks to broadly estimate future demand for various types of recreation facility.**

### OVERVIEW

Open space and recreation facilities located in the Inner West LGA are owned and provided by IWC, the NSW State Government, the community sector and private providers.

Council plays an active role in encouraging participation in recreation by providing settings for recreation and facilitating recreation programs and activities. Council's recreation spaces include parks, sporting grounds, recreation facilities, natural areas and community venues. Increasingly in urban environments, streets and laneways are becoming places for recreation participation. There are also numerous privately or State-owned/operated facilities available to users.

Other providers of recreation spaces in the Inner West include private facilities such as gyms, yoga studios, dance studios, gymnastics facilities and rock-climbing businesses; schools (who are also regular users of Council's facilities); and providers who lease Council's assets, such as bowling clubs.

However, because these spaces are not owned or managed by Council, there is no guarantee they will continue to exist in the future. Therefore, Council will need to continue to play a role in providing and managing accessible, welcoming, affordable spaces for the local community, creatives, workers and visitors.

Residents of the Inner West may also use neighbouring Council's recreational facilities, in the same way people from around Sydney visit the Inner West for its recreation facilities.

### CURRENT PROVISION

IWC is a major provider of recreation facilities across the Inner West LGA. This includes:

- 32 summer sporting fields
- 45 winter sporting fields
- 5 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 77 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 2 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 5 indoor leisure centre (aquatic), and
- 5 skate park/spaces
- 126 play spaces

The delivery of a new skate park plaza (2,250m<sup>2</sup>) in Lilyfield is identified for delivery in Council's Delivery Program 18-22 and Operational Plan 2021-2022 over the next 1-5 years in Council. The delivery of the remainder of these items is discussed further in this section.



Sydenham Green Skate Park (Source: Cred Consulting)



Sports grounds

Council has 28 sporting grounds that provide for different sports, with facilities including sporting fields catering for different codes, courts, amenities and spectator infrastructure, and supporting facilities such as cricket nets (see Table 22).

Sporting grounds are vital social infrastructure for all of the community. They support formal and informal sport and recreation, and enable the community to lead healthy active lifestyles. Through sports clubs and organisations, a strong sense of community belonging and social cohesion can be built.

The full audit of Council’s sporting fields (many contained withing sports grounds) is provided in Table 22.

Table 22 - Sports grounds (Source: Inner West Council, 2021)

Sports grounds	AFL	Baseball/ softball	Cricket Wicket	Cricket Nets	Soccer/football	Rugby League / Union	Athletics Track	Basketball	Netball	Tennis	Multi-Purpose	Skating	Other
Algie Park					1								
Arlington Oval					1 synthetic								
Ashfield Park			1 synthetic (junior)		1								lawn bowls
Balmain Road					1								
Bill Peters Reserve								1					
Birchgrove Park	1*		1 turf	4	2*	2*				7 synthetic			
Blackmore Oval			1 synthetic (junior)	3		1							
Camdenville Oval					1								
Camperdown Oval			1 turf			1		2		3 synthetic	3 tennis/futsal		2 table tennis  roller derby
Centenary Park			2 synthetic	2	2  1 mini			1					
Cohen Park			1 synthetic (junior)	1	2 mini						2 tennis/ futsal/netball		
Darrell Jackson Gardens			1 mini					½	½	2		1	
Easton Park			1 synthetic (junior)	2	1			½					
Fraser Park (State owned)					1 synthetic 3 junior								2 bowling lawns

Sports grounds	AFL	Baseball/ softball	Cricket Wicket	Cricket Nets	Soccer/football	Rugby League / Union	Athletics Track	Basketball	Netball	Tennis	Multi-Purpose	Skating	Other
Gladstone Park											1 basketball/ futsal/netball		Lawn bowls
Glover Street	1 (junior)*	1 senior 1 Junior			2*								
Hammond Park			1 synthetic (junior)		1					1			
Henson Park	1*					1*				7 synthetic			
HJ Mahoney Memorial Reserve	1	2 (grass)									1 basketball/ netball/ handball	1	
Jack Shanahan Reserve											1 tennis/ ½ basketball	1	
Jarvie Park								1					
Johnson Park				2				1					
King George Park					1*	1*	1						
Lambert Park					1 synthetic								
Leichhardt Oval					1*	1*							
Leichhardt # 2						1							
Leichhardt # 3					2 mini								
Mackey Park			1 synthetic		3								croquet
Marrickville Park			1 turf	3		1				6 lawn 2 synthetic	3 tennis/ 1 basketball/ 1 netball		croquet
Mort Bay Park								1					
Petersham Park		1	1 turf										



Sports grounds	AFL	Baseball/ softball	Cricket Wicket	Cricket Nets	Soccer/football	Rugby League / Union	Athletics Track	Basketball	Netball	Tennis	Multi-Purpose	Skating	Other
Pratten Park			1 turf	2 synthetic 4 turf	1				1/2	4 lawn 2 synthetic			lawn bowls
Punch Park										1	1 tennis/ ½ basketball, /½ netball		
Richard Murden Reserve									6	4	3 basketball/ netball		
Simpson Park				1				1/2					
SSC Leichhardt Campus					1								
Steel Park			1 synthetic		3								
Sydenham Green								2			Roller derby	1	
Tempe Reserve			2 synthetic	4	4 turf	1 turf			11		1 synthetic football/ rugby league		
Waterfront Drive			1 synthetic	3	2								
Whites Creek Valley Park								1				1	
Wicks Park										4 synthetic			
Yeo Park			1 mini										
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

\*Only one of these sports can be played at a time at the sporting ground

### Capacity and Utilisation of Existing Sporting fields

In urban environments where there is limited space for new facilities, increasing the capacity of existing fields is a priority. The current capacity and utilisation of Council's existing sporting grounds is detailed in Table 23. The table provides an outline of the existing utilisation of sporting grounds in the Inner West, as well as their optimum capacity (the maximum amount of use per week that would still enable a useable surface condition).

Table 23 - Weekly sporting grounds and courts utilisation and capacity (winter 2021) (source: Inner West Council)

Field	Hours of use*	Capacity (hours)**	% of capacity currently used	Year of last upgrade
Algie Park	36	30	120	2016
Arlington Oval	41	41(as per current operational plan)	100	2020
Ashfield Park	36	30	120	2018
Balmain Road	36	30	120	Built in 2013
Birchgrove Oval	36	30	120	2014
Blackmore Oval	36	30	120	2015
Camdenville Oval	26	30	120	2023 scheduled
Camperdown Oval	36	30	120	2016
Centenary Park	36	30	120	2018
Cohen Park	32	30	120	2017
Easton Park	36	30	120	2000
Glover Street	36	30	120	Built in 2013
Hammond Park	28	30	93	2016 and 2018
Henson Park	30	30	100	2020
HJ Mahoney Memorial Re-serve	36	30	120	2007
King George Park	36	30	120	20+ years ago 2022 scheduled
Lambert Park	50	50	100	2013
Leichhardt #2	36	30	120	120
Leichhardt #3	32	30	93	2012
Mackey Park	36	30	120	2009
Marrickville Park	32	30	93	2009
Petersham Park	32	30	93	20+ years ago



Field	Hours of use*	Capacity (hours)**	% of capacity currently used	Year of last upgrade
Pratten Park	40	30	133	2016
SSC Leichhardt Campus	36	30	120	Built in 2011
Steel Park	36	30	120	2007
Tempe Reserve	36	30	120	2021
Waterfront Drive	36	30	120	2018

Notes:

\*Hours of use based on weekly winter bookings of seasonal hirers.

\*\* Does not include school bookings, fitness trainers and events bookings

Winter and summer sporting fields/  
outdoor and indoor (multipurpose)  
courts

Current provision

Currently, there are 30 summer sporting fields, and 43 winter sporting fields and 77 outdoor courts located within the Inner West.

Benchmarking

Table 24 is the application of the recreational facilities benchmark ratios adopted by the RNS 2018 (column 3) and applied to the 2016, 2026 and 2036 population. It is inclusive of worker considerations previously outlined.

The application of the adopted benchmark to the current and future additional population will create the demand for 6 new summer sporting fields, 9 new winter sporting fields, and 16 new outdoor courts by 2036.

While the adopted benchmarks for sportsfields are separated into winter and summer, it is recommended that all new sporting fields serve a dual purpose for both summer and winter sports, and existing fields are upgraded to multi-seasonal use where appropriate.

The provision of new summer sporting fields in Catchments 2 and 3 along the central corridor of the LGA is where demand is greatest and should be prioritised. High land costs and small lot site subdivision patterns are largely prohibitive to the acquisition of new land for sporting fields in this area.

However, opportunities exist for Council to explore partnerships or agreements with educational establishments to facilitate community use of sporting fields and multipurpose courts outside of hours of use in exchange for the maintenance and embellishment of grounds.

In addition, the Rozelle Interchange site is likely to facilitate an additional 1-2 new sporting ovals including a large format synthetic multipurpose field in the future (not included in the benchmarking process).

Table 24 - Recreational facilities benchmarks and gap analysis

Type	Catchment area	Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	Current Provision	Current GAP	2026 GAP	2036 GAP
Summer sporting field (located in sporting grounds)	1 - North	1:6,500 people	12	0	0	0
	2 - Central West		6	1.1	1.6	2.2
	3 - Central East		4	5.7	6.4	7.4
	4 - South		8	0	0.9	1.7
	LGA (average)		30	0.1	2.3	5.6
Winter sporting field (located in sporting grounds) (43)	1 - North	1:4,500 people	14	0	0	0
	2 - Central West		6	4.2	5.1	6.0
	3 - Central East		6	8.0	9.3	10.6
	4 - South		17	0	0	0
	LGA (average)		43	0.5	4.7	8.5
Outdoor (multipurpose) courts)	1 - North	1:2,500	10	3.9	4.2	5.9
	2 - Central West		20	0	0	1.5
	3 - Central East		11	14.3	16.6	18.9
	4 - South		36	0	0	0
	LGA (average)		77	1.5	8.9	15.8

<sup>1</sup> Benchmarks based on either current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia



Indoor leisure centres (dry) and indoor multipurpose courts

Current provision

Currently, there are 2 Council-owned indoor leisure centres located within the Inner West: the Debbie Abbey Borgia recreation centre and Robyn Webster Sports Centre. These are shown in Figure 34.

Together, they provide a total of 5 indoor multipurpose courts, and are both located in Catchment 4 - South.

The Robyn Webster Sports Centre is operated through an external provider (Sydney University Sport and Fitness and City of Sydney Netball Association). Community engagement indicates that the condition is passable, however court surface improvements could be worthwhile to increase utilisation and support a range of sports such as roller derby.

The Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation and Community Centre is operated by NSW PCYC through a service agreement with Council. In 2017, there were around 168,000 visits to the centre. Community engagement indicates that while it was built to a high standard in 2003, the facility, including the court surfaces, has aged. A particular issue is the lack of good ventilation or air conditioning.

On 27 October 2020, the Tempe Reserve Plan of Management was adopted by Council. It acknowledged the ageing nature of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre and recommended that it be replaced with a new indoor sports facility with spaces for arts and music, and community café.

Council may wish to consider the renewal of recreational centres as part of a future feasibility study into the location of a new aquatic centre as discussed on page 58.

Schools, universities and private sporting clubs in the Inner West are likely to have indoor recreation facilities, although none are currently available for hire and use by the general public.

Benchmarking

The application of benchmarks for indoor leisure centres (dry) in Table 25 shows that:

- Overall, there is an existing gap of 0.6 indoor leisure centres in the LGA
- By 2036, this gap will have increased to an average of 1.1 across the LGA
- A demand of 0.5 centres is generated by the additional population between 2016-2036

The application of benchmarks for indoor multipurpose courts in Table 26 shows that:

- There is an existing gap of 4.8 indoor multipurpose courts in the LGA
- By 2036, this gap will have increased to an average of 6.6 across the LGA
- A demand of 1.8 courts is generated by the additional population between 2016-2036

Table 25 - Indoor leisure centre (dry) benchmarking

Type	Catchment area	Benchmark: Current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia	Current Provision	Current GAP	2026 GAP	2036 GAP
Indoor leisure centre (dry)	1 - North	1:75,000	0	0.46	0.47	0.53
	2 - Central West		0	0.61	0.61	0.71
	3 - Central East		0	0.84	0.91	1.00
	4 - South		2	0	0	0
	LGA (average)		2	0.61	0.86	1.09

Table 26 - Indoor multi-purpose courts benchmarking

Type	Catchment area	Benchmark: Current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia	Current Provision	Current GAP	2026 GAP	2036 GAP
Indoor (multipurpose) courts (No. of courts)	1 - North	1:20,000	0	1.7	1.8	2.0
	2 - Central West		0	2.3	2.5	2.7
	3 - Central East		0	3.2	3.5	3.7
	4 - South		5	0	0	0
	LGA (average)		5	4.8	5.7	6.6



Debbie Abbey Borgia recreation centre (Source: IWC)

Aquatic facilities

Current provision

Swimming is one of the most popular recreation activities among adults and children. At least 37% of people consulted for this Study (2017) visit an aquatic facility weekly. Aquatics facilities form part of a diverse range of recreation opportunities that respond to the modern demands of Australian communities. These facilities provide services that promote physical fitness, water safety skills and confidence. They are a place for competition and play; a place to seek relief from the summer heat.

Figure 34, shows the 5 aquatic facilities and 2 indoor leisure centres (dry) currently located within the Inner West.

Attendance at Council’s aquatic facilities is detailed in Table 28.

As part of these facilities, Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre, Ashfield Aquatic Centre, and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre have warm-water program pools. The redevelopment of the Ashfield Aquatic Centre will also support warm-water aquatics therapy, with the current heated indoor pool integrating a new spa, steam and sauna. This will increase access to aquatics therapy including aqua classes, hydro classes, walking lanes and passive access.

Council provides 2 pools for water polo competitions (Ashfield Aquatic Centre and Dawn Fraser Baths), and an additional training pool at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. Private water polo facilities are also available at Newington College. Regionally, public pools for water polo competitions are also available at Sydney University, Lidcombe, and Drummoyne.

Benchmarking

The application of benchmarks (see Table 27) suggest that:

- By 2026 there will be demand for an additional 0.5 aquatic leisure centre
- By 2036 there will be demand for an additional 1 aquatic leisure centre

Catchments 3 and 4 are showing the strongest demand for an additional aquatic centre. Council has indicated an interest in investigating a location that could benefit neighbouring LGAs to the south of Cooks River.

A future feasibility study could explore the potential for cross boundary contribution arrangements to be developed with neighbouring council areas. A focus on an integrated provision model of aquatic centres and recreational indoor facilities could also be further explored.

Non-Council aquatic facilities

There are number of non-Council-owned aquatic options within the LGA with varying degrees of public access for the community, including:

- 6 private Learn to Swim operators (including JUMP! Swim Schools in Leichhardt and Rozelle, Col Jones Swim Centre in Tempe, NewSPORT Swim School in Stanmore, Future Swim in St Peters and Little Monsters in Ashfield)
- School facilities
- Commercial fitness clubs
- Commercial rehabilitation and wellness businesses
- Private/communal swimming pools – backyard or within residential developments

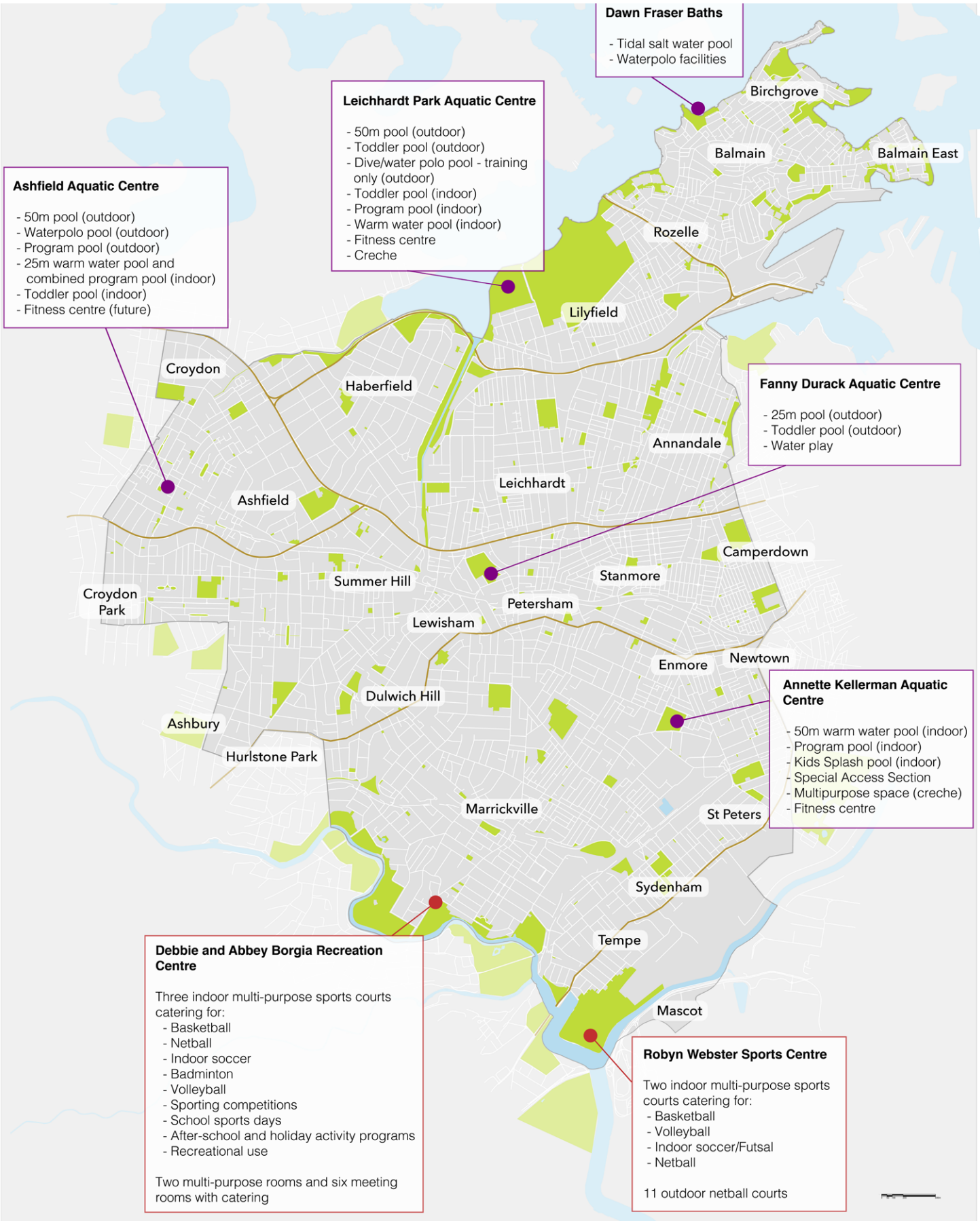


Figure 34 - Council’s aquatic centres, baths, and indoor recreation centres



Table 27 - Indoor leisure centre (aquatic) benchmarking

Type	Catchment area	Benchmark	Current provision	Current GAP	2026 GAP	2036 GAP
Indoor leisure centre (aquatic) (5)	<b>1 - North</b> · Dawn Fraser Baths · Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre	1:38,500	2	0	0	0
	<b>2 - Central West</b> · Ashfield Aquatic Centre		1	0.2	0.3	0.4
	<b>3 - Central East</b> · Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre		1	0.6	0.8	0.9
	<b>4 - South</b> · Anette Kellerman Aquatic Centre		1	0.3	0.5	0.6
	LGA (average)		5	0	0.5	1.0

Table 28 - Aquatic centre annual attendance (Source: Inner West Council, 2021)

Centre	Target	Projected	Actual
Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre	Maintain at 430,000 each year	480,000- achieved as pre-COVID-19 attendances	Attendance at the AKAC has risen to 480,000 in the last full operating year prior to the COVID 19 disruption.
Ashfield Aquatic Centre	Increase, after opening of the new centre in 2021/22 to 475,000 from 315,000 in 2016/17	576,000- predicted annual attendance for current first 12 months of operation	The AAC has not yet been open for 12 months, however the initial opening monthly average tracks the attendance projections at 576,000 for the first 12 months. This far exceeds initial projections of 475,000 attendances. A great opening success.
Dawn Fraser Pool	Maintain at 38,000 each year	Predicted to return to 38,000 attendances post opening	The DFB receives approximately 38,000 visits per year as an average. The DFB has been closed for 2 seasons, however the prediction is that it will return to full former usage from summer 2021 and will experience 38,000 visits.
Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre	Maintain	Information not available	Information not available.
Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre	Maintain at 55,000 each year	51,000 visits achieved in FY 20/21	The DFB experienced 51,000 visits in the 20/21 summer season. Whilst there has been a small variation, the outdoor pool is subject to weather-driven variations and the attendance may fluctuate year on year, however average attendance over several years remains at approx. 55,000 per annum.
Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre	Maintain at 700,000 each year	800,000 achieved in 19/20 financial year	Visits in the last full year of operation (pre-COVID-19 disruption totaled 800,000 visits per year. This was for the 2019/20 financial year.
Overall - Inner West Aquatic Centres	Increase, after opening of new Ashfield Aquatic Centre in 2021/22, to 1,700,000 (1,500,000 in 2016/17)	1,949,000 adjusted for projected full year attendance tracking once operations are return to normal post-COVID-19 disruption	Current adjusted averages using pre-COVID-19 pandemic attendance data combined with AAC actual data has provided projected total attendances of 1,949,000. This exceeds attendance targets of 1.7 million by 250,000. It is projected that attendance will return to full and former levels post-COVID-19 disruption.

Outdoor gyms

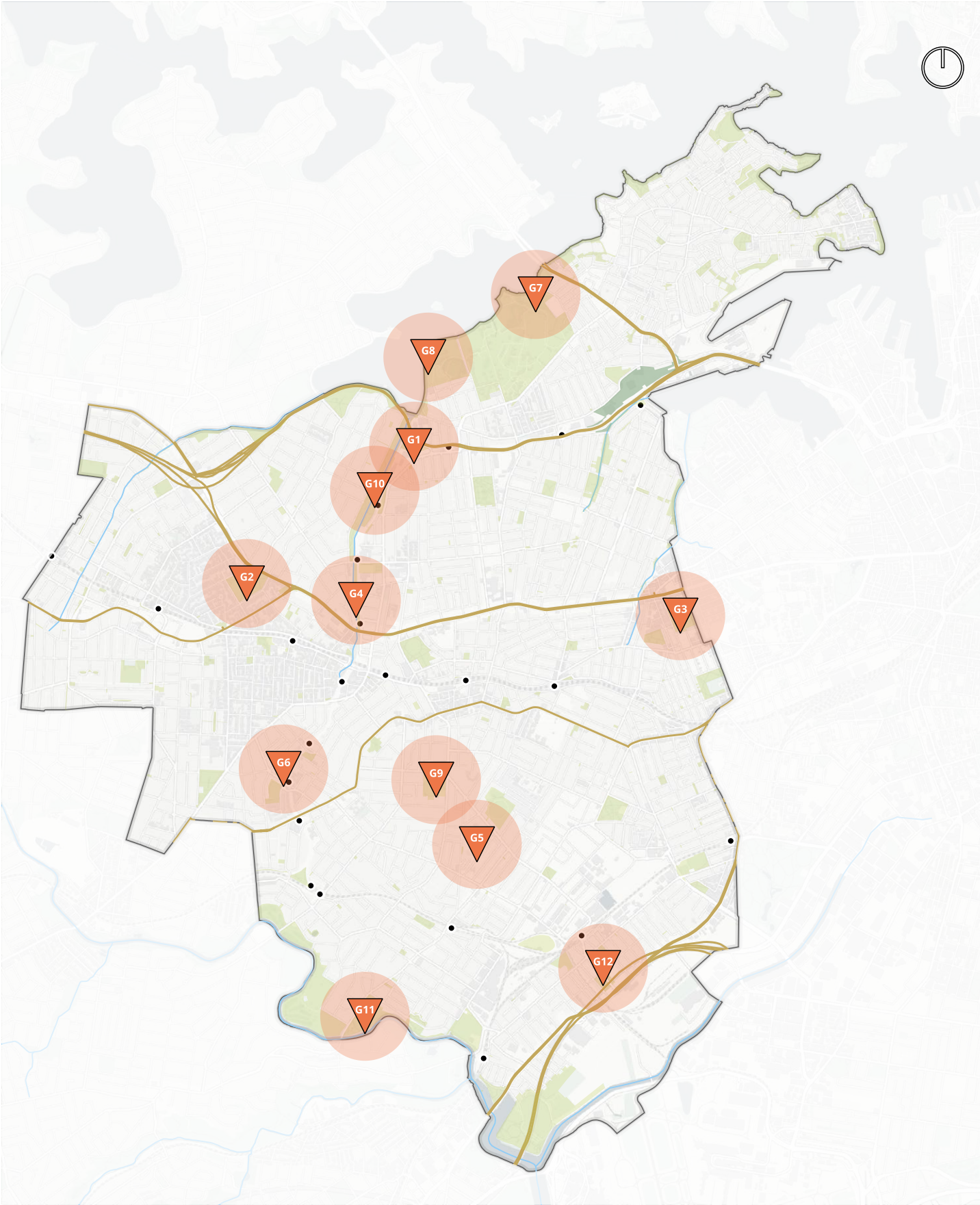
Current provision

Council provides 11 outdoor gyms in parks across the LGA, and 1 new station is currently under construction. These include spaces for personal fitness as well as gentler seniors' exercise. Outdoor gyms include:

- Ashfield Park
- Blackmore Park
- Camperdown Park
- Greenway (Bay Run) – under development
- Jarvie Park
- Johnson Park
- King George Park
- Leichhardt Park
- Marrickville Park
- Richard Murden Reserve
- Steel Park
- Sydenham Green

Benchmarking

There are no population-based benchmarks that have been adopted in the RNS. Figure 35 shows the distribution of outdoor gyms, illustrating a clustering of outdoor gyms along the Hawthorne Canal and fairly sparse distribution elsewhere in the LGA.



Key

Outdoor gym	Key
King George Park	G7
Leichhardt Park	G8
Ashfield Park	G2
Richard Murden Reserve	G10
Blackmore Oval	G1
Camperdown Park	G3
Greenway	G4
Jarvie Park	G5
Johnson Park	G6
Marrickville Park	G9
Steel Park	G11
Sydenham Green	G12

Figure 35 - Outdoor gyms in the LGA



Skateparks

Current provision

Council provides 5 skate spaces in the LGA:

- Whites Creek Valley Park
- Darrell Jackson Garden
- Jack Shanahan Reserve
- Sydenham Green
- HJ Mahoney Memorial reserve

In addition, a new skate park plaza (2,250m<sup>2</sup>) in Lilyfield is identified for delivery in Council's Delivery Program 2018-22 and Operational Plan 2021-22 over the next 1-5 years in Council.

Benchmarking

LGA-wide benchmarking indicates that a new skatepark should be facilitated by 2036, however Council is already actioning plans for the delivery of a new skate park facility in Lilyfield over the next 1-5 years.

Applying the benchmarks at the catchment level highlights the existing provision of skate spaces is uneven, and atachment 3 indicates there is a gap of 1.3 skateparks, which will increase to a gap of 1.6 by 2036.

This is also reflected in proximity mapping (see Figure 36).

Table 29 - Skate space benchmarking

Type	Catchment area	Benchmark: Current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia	Current provision	Current GAP	2026 GAP	2036 GAP
Skate park/ facility (5)	<b>1 - North</b> · Whites Creek Valley Park	1:48,000	1	0	0	0
	<b>2 - Central West</b> · Darrell Jackson Garden		1	0	0	0.1
	<b>3 - Central East</b>		0	1.3	1.4	1.6
	<b>4 - South</b> · Jack Shanahan Reserve · Sydenham Green · HJ Mahoney Memorial reserve		3	0	0	0
	LGA (average)		5	0.1	0.5	0.8

Skate park map with 400m radius

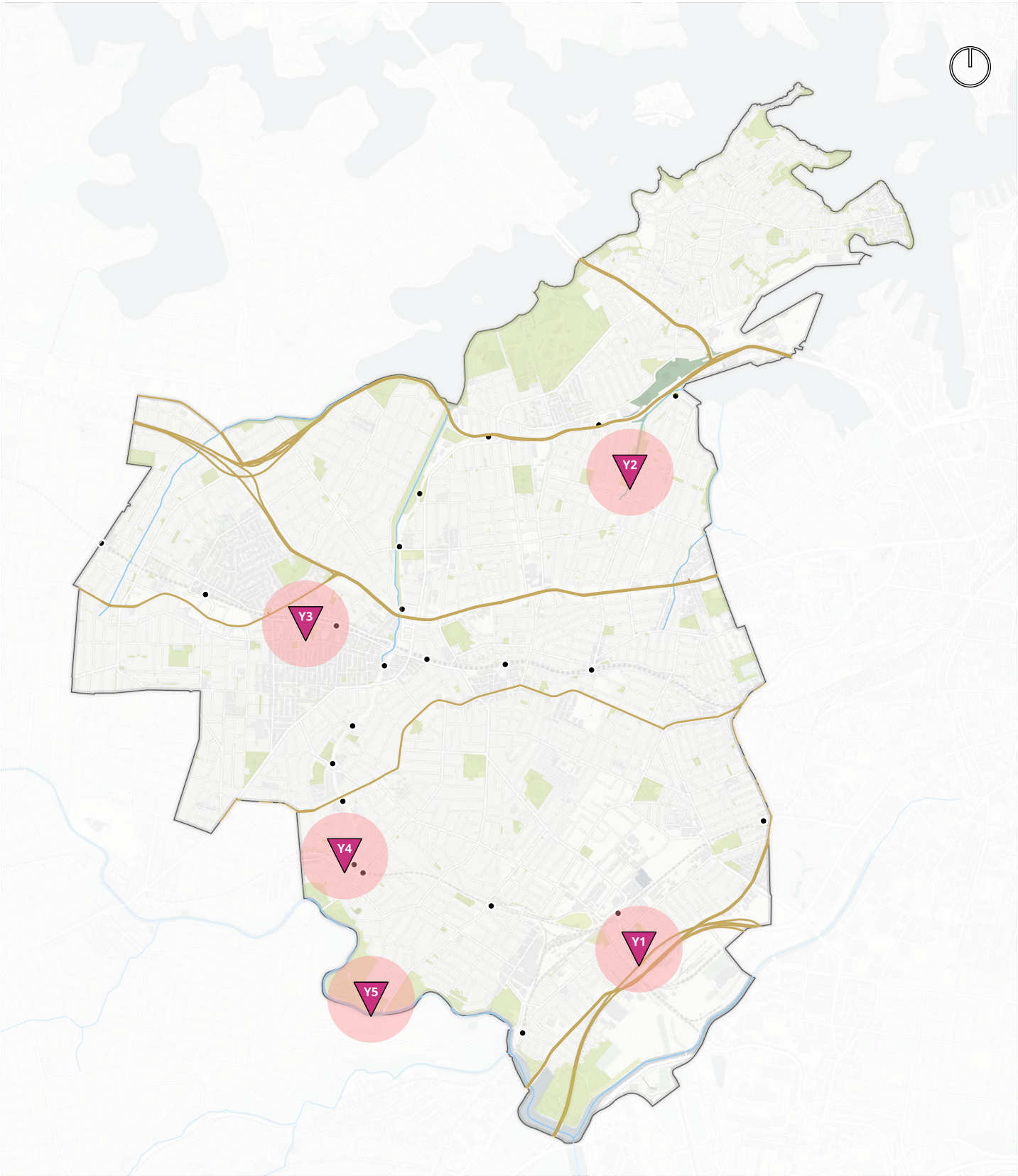


Figure 36 - Skate spaces in the LGA



Play spaces

Current provision

A play space refers to recreation spaces with a play focus for younger and older children. These include playgrounds, nature play or adventure play.

Inner West has a total of 126 play spaces across the LGA.

There is 1 seniors' play space in Leichhardt Park.

Benchmarking

The application of population-based benchmarks (see Table 30) suggest that the Inner West's population has a good provision of play spaces.

Benchmarking indicated that:

- By 2026 there will be demand for 1 additional playground in catchment 4
- By 2036 there will be demand for 3 additional playgrounds in catchment 4

Proximity benchmarking (see Figure 37) indicates that most residential areas within the LGA are within a 400m radius of a playground, with the exception of Ashfield and Dulwich Hill.

Table 30 - Playspace benchmarking

Type	Catchment Area	Benchmark: Current provision per person / Parks and Leisure Australia	Current Provision	Current GAP	2026 GAP	2036 GAP
Play space (including district and regional provision)	1 - North	1:2,000	27	0	0	0
	2 - Central West		27	0	0	0
	3 - Central East		43	0	0	0
	4 - South		29	0	-1	-3
	LGA (average)		126	0	0	0

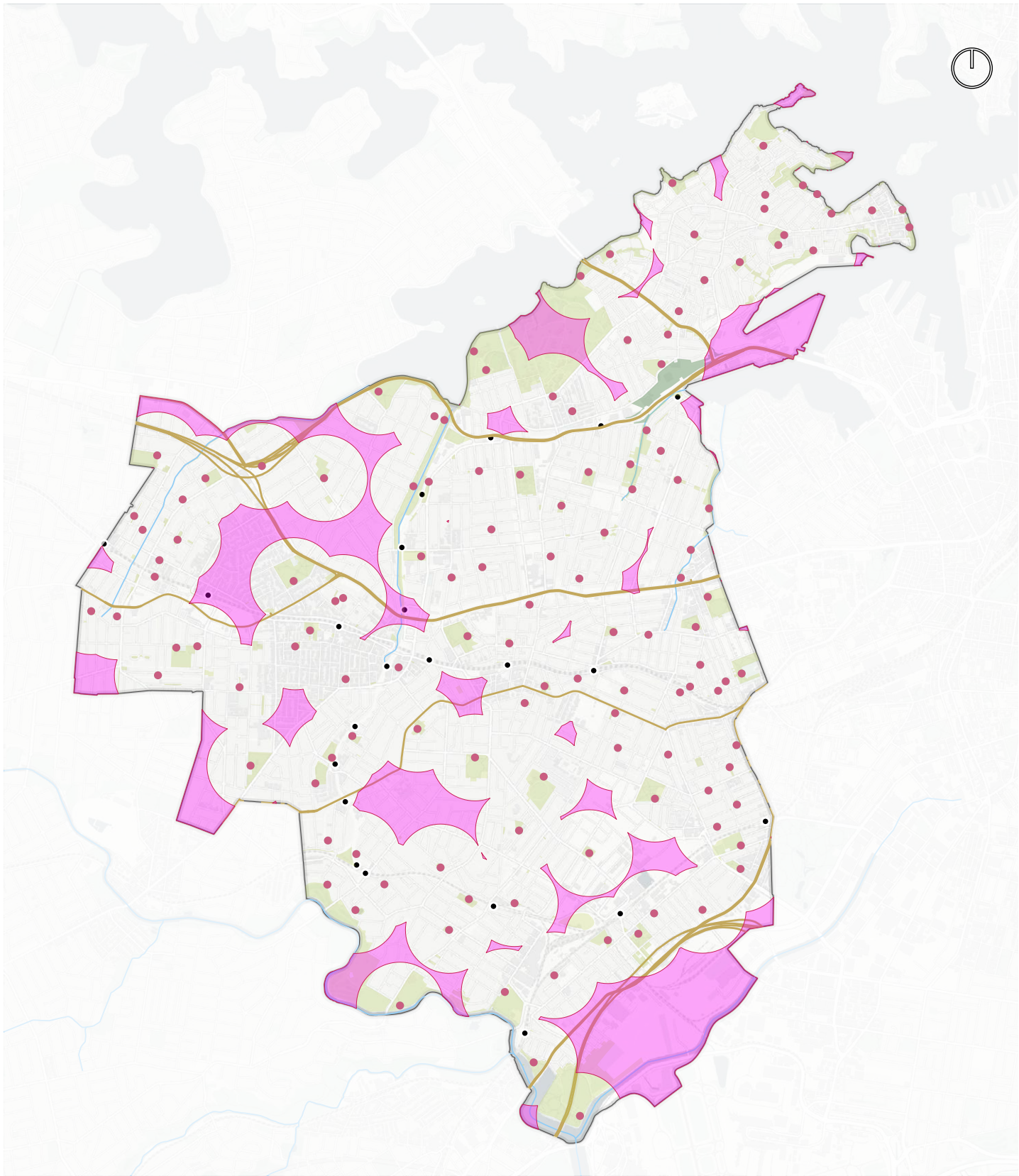


Figure 37 - Play spaces in the LGA



Council-owned leased facilities

As detailed in Table 31, Inner West Council owns 16 recreation facilities, such as bowling clubs, tennis clubs, sheds and amenities buildings, that are leased out. These facilities may be used for, or support recreation activities but also may have other uses such as restaurant and bar uses.

Table 31 - Leased recreation facilities

Name	Type of space	Function
Ashfield Park Bowling Club, Ashfield	Bowling greens including clubhouse, restaurant, function hire & event space	Recreational
Balmain Rowing Club	Rowing club and function hire space	Recreational
Balmain Sailing Club	Sailing club and function hire space	Recreational
Birchgrove Tennis	Tennis court for hire and lessons	Recreational
Camperdown Tennis, Camperdown Park	Tennis court for hire and lessons	Recreational
Cooks River Croquet Club, Mackey Park	Croquet green and facilities	Recreational
Gladstone Park Bowling Club, Balmain	Bowling greens including clubhouse, restaurant, function hire & event space	Recreational
Lambert Park, Leichhardt	Synthetic soccer field, stadium and facilities	Recreational
Marrickville Croquet Club, Marrickville Park	Croquet green and facilities	Recreational
Marrickville District Hardcourts Tennis Club, Henson Park	Tennis courts for hire and lessons	Recreational
Marrickville Golf Course	18-hole golf course and including clubhouse, bistro, function and event space	Recreational
Marrickville Lawn Tennis Club, Marrickville Park	Tennis courts for hire and lessons, clubhouse, bistro, function and event space	Recreational
Pratten Park Community Sports & Bowling Club, Ashfield	Bowling greens including clubhouse, restaurant, function and event space	Recreational
Tempe Basin Motor Boat Association	Club and facilities	Recreational
The River Canoe Club, Mackey Park	Canoe and kayak boat shed and clubhouse	Recreational
Western Suburbs Tennis, Pratten Park Ashfield	Tennis courts for hire and lessons	Recreational



Non-Council-owned recreation facilities

The following data is as per the 2018 report and has not been updated in this 2021 revision.

There are other facilities within the area which service residents with varying degrees of public access for the community, including:

- Commercial fitness clubs and gyms
- Commercial recreation spaces
- Commercial rehabilitation and wellness businesses

An indicative audit of dedicated recreation facilities is provided in Table 32.

Gymnastics facilities

Gymnastics facilities are highly utilised by children, with high proportions of female staff. There are two dedicated gymnastics facilities in the Inner West – a rhythmic gymnastics facility at PLC Sydney, and an artistic gymnastics facility in Marrickville, Inner West Gymnastics. Inner West Gymnastics will need to relocate due to Sydney Metro construction which will mean the loss of the only dedicated artistic gymnastics facility in the Inner West.

There are also a number of parkour, circus and acrobatics facilities and children’s gymnastics/ movement classes in halls in the Inner West. Additional gymnastics facilities near the LGA are located at Sydney University (adult gymnastics and cheerleading), Five Dock Leisure Centre and in Belfield.

Table 32 - Non-Council recreation facilities  
(Source: Google.com, 2017)

Facility type	# of private facilities
Fitness gyms	69
Yoga and Pilates	33
Martial arts studios	30
Dance studios	19
Lawn bowls	4
Rowing clubs	3
Gymnastics facilities	2
Indoor rockclimbing/bouldering	3
Sailing clubs	2
Parkour and circus studios	2



Figure 38 - BK’s Gymnastics Marrickville (Source: Kids Activities)



COUNCIL COMMUNITY VENUES  
USED FOR RECREATION

The following data is as per the 2018 report and has not been updated in this 2021 revision.

Community venues

As shown in Table 33, Council owns 18 community venues used for recreation. Council has completed an accessibility audit of these venues. Fifteen of 18 are current accessible for people with disability.

Recreation programs

There are 71 recreation programs delivered in Council venues and facilities. Of these, 40 are targeted to older people. Recreation programs include:

- Children’s activities
- Seniors' gentle exercise programs
- Magic Yellow Bus, a free activities and information service for children 0 to 12 and their families
- Cycling courses
- Yoga, Tai Chi and meditation
- Table tennis
- Dancing classes
- Skate clinics
- Walking groups

Table 33 - Council-owned venues for recreation (including disability access)

Name	Suburb	Facilities and recreation use	Disability access
Annandale Community Centre	Annandale	2 halls and 1 meeting room. Gentle exercise & dance	Yes but not to upstairs hall
Ashfield Civic Centre Activity Rooms	Ashfield	4 activity rooms. Table tennis. Yoga. Main Hall - dancing	Yes
Balmain Town Hall	Balmain	Hall (not used for recreation as defined by this Study)	Yes
Bastable St Hall Not available	Croydon	Hall. Dance & Yoga	No
Cadigal Room (at Ashfield Aquatic Centre) No longer available	Ashfield	Room. Gentle exercise	No
Graham Yarroll Room (Haberfield Library)	Haberfield	Suitable for yoga classes	No
Hannaford Community Centre	Rozelle	Main hall, activity room, therapy room and meeting room. Gentle exercise & dance	Yes
Herb Greedy Hall	Marrickville	Hall. Dance	Yes
Jimmy Little Community Centre	Lilyfield	Hall. Exercise & dance	Yes
Leichhardt Town Hall	Leichhardt	Hall (not used for recreation as defined by this Study)	Yes
Marrickville Town Hall	Marrickville	Hall with stage, used for dance classes	Yes
Mervyn Fletcher Hall	Haberfield	Suitable for dance classes, karate, yoga or Tai Chi classes.	Yes
Michael Maher Room (Haberfield Library)	Haberfield	Activity room (not used for recreation as defined by this Study)	Yes
Petersham Town Hall	Petersham	Hall with stage, used for dance classes and recreational dancing	Yes
Seaview Street Hall	Dulwich Hill	Hall suitable for yoga, pilates, meditation.	Yes
St. Peters Town Hall	Sydenham	Hall (not used for recreation as defined by this Study)	Yes
Summer Hill Community Centre	Summer Hill	Three halls suitable for martial arts classes, yoga, Pilates, meditation etc.	
Tom Foster Community Care	Newtown	Hall suitable for seniors' gentle exercise and yoga groups	Yes

# RECREATION SPACES IN SCHOOLS

Schools provide recreation spaces and opportunities for recreation within, and in addition to, the curriculum. There is a move by the NSW Government including the Department of Education and the Department of Planning and Environment to open recreation facilities, including playgrounds, sporting fields and halls, in schools to increase access for the community.

A few local public schools have participated in the NSW State Government's "Share Our Schools" program since 2018, providing community access to their sports fields and outdoor courts during school holidays.

Many schools have Community User Agreements with local sporting groups for the use of their sports fields, outdoor courts and indoor facilities.

Schools in the area, both public and private, are also high users of Council's recreation facilities, including using parks as playgrounds, sporting grounds for school and extracurricular sport, and aquatic centres for swimming carnivals and programs.

Inner West Council has shared use agreement with Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt for its football field, Dulwich High School of the Visual Arts and Design for Graham Green and Yeo Park Infants School for shared use of Gough Reserve. Shared use allows for community access, with Council being responsible for park maintenance.

As part of future body of work, Council could identify existing recreational assets held in private/public agency ownership and develop a prioritised advocacy program that seeks to establish and maintain partnerships. This will enable community use of such assets either after hours, on weekends, or during holiday periods. This should prioritise areas that have existing low levels of open space provision and/or areas experiencing high rates of growth.

Comprehensive engagement with regional and local sporting associations, surrounding local government organisations, and educational providers within the LGA, should be undertaken as part of this project to ascertain future needs and collaborative investment opportunities.

## Public primary schools

Schools in the Inner West LGA include:

- Annandale North Public School
- Annandale Public School
- Ashfield Public School
- Australia Street Infants School
- Balmain Public School
- Birchgrove Public School
- Bridge Road School
- Camdenville Public School
- Dobroyd Point Public School
- Dulwich Hill Public School
- Ferncourt Public School
- Haberfield Public School
- Kegworth Public School
- Leichhardt Public School
- Lewisham Public School
- Marrickville Public School
- Marrickville West Public School
- Newtown North Public School
- Nicholson Street Public School
- Orange Grove Public School
- Petersham Public School
- Rozelle Public School
- St Peters Public School
- Stanmore Public School

- Summer Hill Public School
- Taverners Hill Infants School
- Tempe Public School
- Wilkins Public School
- Yeo Park Infants School

Croydon Public School is also located close to the LGA and regularly hires Council's sporting grounds.

## Public high schools

- Ashfield Boys High School
- Canterbury Boys High School
- Dulwich High School of Visual Arts and Design
- Fort Street High School
- Marrickville High School
- Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus
- Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus
- Tempe High School

## Catholic/private schools

- Athena School
- Aspect South East Sydney School
- Bethlehem College
- Casimir Catholic College
- Christian Brothers High School Lewisham
- De La Salle College
- Eileen O'Connor Catholic College
- Fr John Therry Catholic Primary School
- Inner Sydney Montessori School
- Newington College
- St Brendan's Catholic Primary School
- St Brigid's Catholic Primary School

- St Columba's Catholic Primary School
- St Fiacre's Catholic Primary School
- St Joan of Arc Catholic Primary School
- St Maroun's College
- St Michael's Catholic Primary School
- St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School
- St Pius' Catholic Primary School
- St Vincent's Catholic Primary School
- The Athena School
- The John Berne School
- The Waranara Centre
- Trinity College

Trinity Grammar and Presbyterian Ladies' College Croydon are also located close to the Inner West LGA and regularly hire Council's sporting grounds.

Note: Should Council pursue an advocacy program that seeks to enable community use of school sporting grounds and recreational facilities to the broader community, it is recognised that most schools are too busy and risk averse to deal with this type of proposal individually. A proposal of this type would likely need support from the Department of Education or School Infrastructure. Council may wish to prepare a management model template that outlines what such arrangements would involve, such as 'leasing' land from the Department of Education in exchange for ongoing payments to assist towards maintenance, security, liability, and insurance.



# CYCLE PATHS

The following data is as per the 2018 report and has not been updated in this 2021 revision.

Council’s cycle paths including on- and off-road paths are shown in Figure 39. Council is also considering options to make the Lilyfield Road corridor safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, and developing design plans for an east-west route linking Lewisham to Newtown.

Major off-road routes include shared paths on the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path, the GreenWay, and Victoria Road. However, there are no dedicated off-road cycle paths, and much of the network is on streets with mixed or heavy motor vehicle traffic.



Figure 39 - Inner West Council cycle paths

# PUBLIC TOILETS

There are 46 parks with toilets, with the infrastructure schedule associated with this Study facilitating the upgrade of amenities in Hawthorne Canal. It also includes provision of new toilet amenities the southern Greenway Corridor.

Council has also completed the Inner West Public Toilet Strategy (2020) to guide the provision and renewal of public toilets across the LGA.

A high-quality public toilet network support will increase the use of public spaces (people can stay for longer) and also support more inclusive spaces (older people, young families, people with disability).



# NATURAL RECREATION SPACES

The following data is as per the 2018 report and has not been updated in this 2021 revision.

Best practice planning for recreation in urban environments emphasises opportunities to connect and be in nature, to provide relief from the urban environment, support physical and mental health, and contribute to environmental outcomes<sup>1</sup>. Recreation spaces that provide connection to nature include community gardens and bushcare; foreshore, creek and river corridor parks; and the Green Grid. The harbour also provides recreation opportunities such as swimming, kayaking, and sailing.

## Green Grid

The Greater Sydney Green Grid is a long-term vision for a network of high-quality green spaces that connect communities to the natural landscape. It includes tree-lined streets, waterways, bushland corridors, and parks and open spaces linked to centres, public transport and public places.

Key links in the Green Grid in the Inner West are:

- The Cooks River Foreshore path: from Tempe Reserve along the Cooks River, and continuing to Homebush and Botany Bay
- The GreenWay: urban green corridor connecting the Cooks River to Iron Cove
- The Bay Run: approximately 7km harbourside walking and cycle route.

Other identified Green Grid links include:

- Sydney Harbour Foreshore
- Parramatta River Walk

- Whites Creek and Whites Creek Lane parkland and recreational trail
- Callan Park
- Johnson Creek and Harold Park parkland and recreational trail, and
- Tom Uren & Balmain Foreshores Heritage Walking Trail.

## Community gardens and bushcare

There are 18 community gardens in the Inner West, including on Council land and in local non-Council facilities such as schools, community centres and churches.

There are 9 bushcare groups in the Inner West, working at around 15 locations.

## Foreshore, creek and river corridor parks

A number of parks have natural waterfront settings:

- 16 creek corridor parks
- 39 foreshore parks
- 18 river corridor parks

While these offer opportunities for connection to nature, water, and cool environments, they are also at risk from the effects of climate change including flooding, increased rainfall and rising sea levels.

Future urban planning studies should aim to increase tree canopy and biodiversity along streetscapes (“green lungs”) to offset localised urban heat island effects. These studies should examine the potential for incremental increases of open space along pedestrian corridors. For example, this could be achieved through increasing streetfront setback requirements to facilitate safer pedestrian corridors, improved streetscape amenity, and obtain additional open space for plantings and passive rest stops.



Inner West Bush Care Programs (Source: Inner West)



Whites Creek Cottage Community Garden (Source: Cred)

<sup>1</sup> Soderlund and Newman, 'Biophilic architecture: A review of the rationale and outcomes', AIMS Environmental Science, 2015



DISTRICT AND REGIONAL FACILITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNCIL AREAS

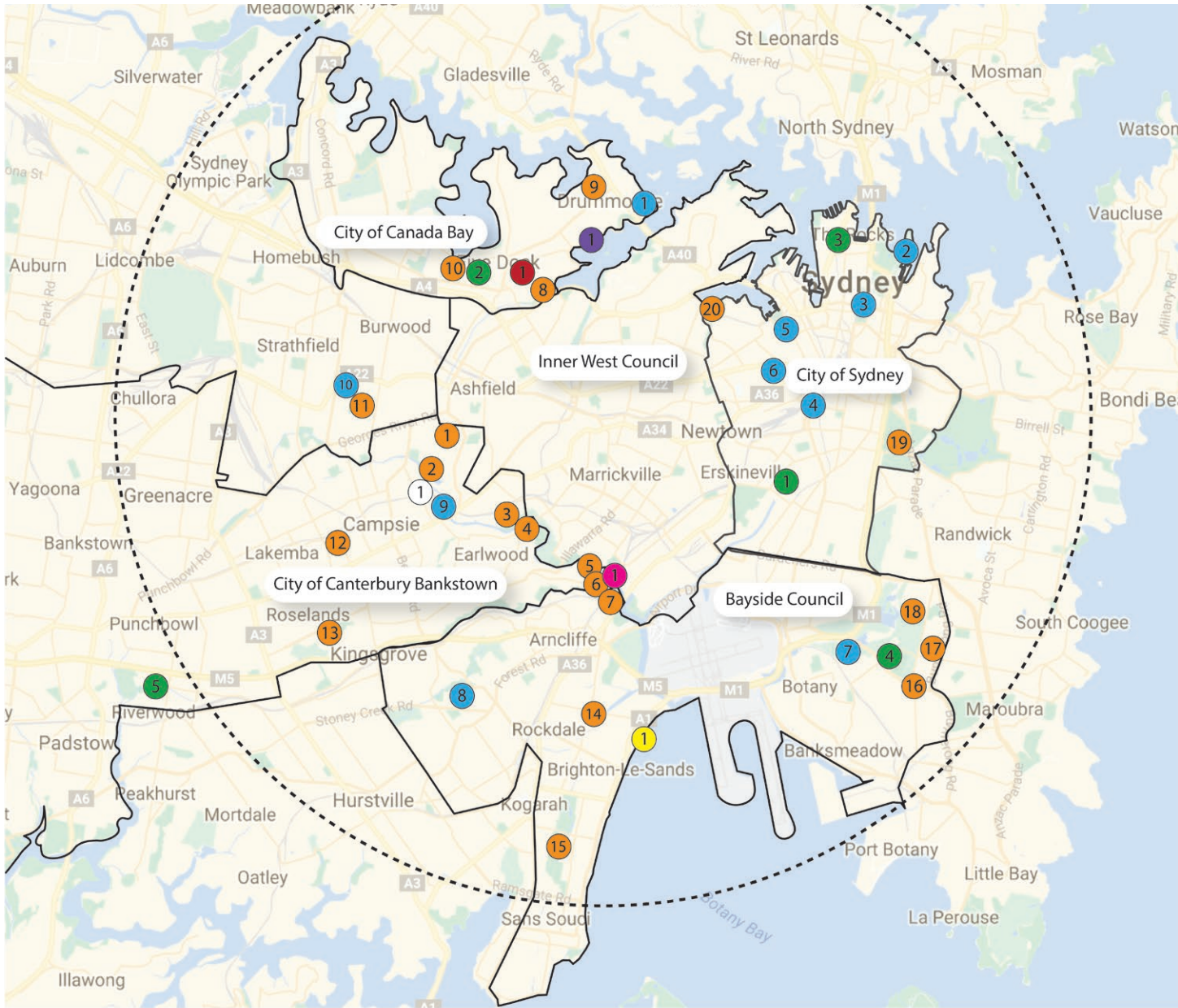
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Residents of the Inner West travel to other areas to participate in recreation, and visitors come to the Inner West to use local facilities. There is a need to work with neighbouring councils to plan regionally for the provision of major recreation

facilities to avoid duplication, meet gaps, and provide increased access to recreation facilities. There are a number of regional-level facilities located within 30 minutes drive of the Inner West.

This includes:

- 2 aquatic centres
- 18 sporting grounds providing over 75 fields, 21 tennis courts, 87 netball courts
- 5 indoor recreation centres



- Sportsgrounds

1. Wagener Oval

Oval x1

2. Canterbury Park

Horse-racing course

3. Ewen Park

Tennis courts x6, cricket pitch, soccer fields x2

4. Beaman Park

Tennis courts x4, grass fields x6, cricket pitch x2

5. Gough Whitlam Park

Oval x1, cricket net x1, basketball court x1

6. Waterworth Park

Multipurpose fields x3

7. Cahill Park

Cricket/rugby field x1

8. Timbrell Park

Baseball fields x 2, touch fields x 5, cricket/soccer fields x2

9. Drummoyne Oval

Cricket/AFL field x1

10. Cintra Park / St Lukes Park

Netball courts x 34, hockey field x1

11. Henley Park

Cricket pitch and practice nets x 1, multipurpose fields x 3

12. Belmore Park

Rugby League, football

13. Clemton Park

Netball courts x12

14. Womens Sports fields

Netball courts x31

15. Scarborough Park

Summer: cricket x11 Winter: rugby league x3, soccer x4

16. Hensley Athletic field

Synthetic athletics track x1, synthetic multipurpose field x1

17. Jellicoe Park

Soccer fields x6, cricket pitch x1

18. David Phillips Sports Complex

Synthetic hockey pitch x1, multiuse football pitch, grass fields x3, tennis courts x4

19. Centennial Parklands

Athletics field x1, netball courts x10, tennis courts x7, various other fields x29

20. Jubilee Park

Hockey/AFL/cricket oval x1
- Indoor recreation

1. Perry Park Recreation Centre [to be completed mid-2018]

Multipurpose courts: indoor x2, outdoor x2

2. Five Dock Leisure Centre

Olympic standard gymnastics hall, multipurpose stadium

3. King George V Recreation Centre

Multipurpose courts: indoor x2, outdoor x1

4. Mutch Park Tennis & Squash Centre

Indoor squash courts x4, outdoor tennis courts x6, cricket nets

5. Morris lemma Indoor Sports Centre

Indoor multipurpose courts x2

- Ice rink

1. Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink
- Velodrome

1. Canterbury Velodrome
- Aquatic Centre

1. Drummoyne Swimming Centre

2. Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool

3. Cook and Phillip Park Aquatic Centre

4. Prince Alfred Park Pool

5. Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre

6. Victoria Park Pool

7. Botany Aquatic Centre

8. Angelo Anestis Aquatic Centre

9. Canterbury Leisure and Aquatics Centre

10. Enfield Aquatic Centre
- Skate Park

1. Five Dock Park
- Beach

1. Lady Robinsons beach
- Other

1. The Bay Run

Running, walking and cycling path

Note: This audit is as per the 2017 audit, and has not been updated in 2021.

Figure 40 - District and regional facilities in neighbouring council areas