

# PROPOSED PLAN OF MANAGEMENT + MASTER PLAN

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TEMPE RESERVE

OCTOBER 2019





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## FURTHER INFORMATION

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Front cover image: Bushland between sports ground + Tempe Lands.

Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.

Document Set ID: 31020506

Version: 1, Version Date: 07/11/2019



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# Document Control

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DATE:	REVISION NO:	REVISION DETAILS:	APPROVED:
27/08/19	-	Draft Issue for Client Review	DW
18/09/19	A	Updated to reflect client comments; Draft Issue for Client Review	DW

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# Introduction + Executive Summary

Inner West Council have produced a Plan of Management priority list identifying which open spaces within the Inner West LGA it feels are in greatest need of review.

In 2019, Welsh + Major Architects were engaged by Inner West Council to develop Plans of Management and accompanying Master Plans for the seven top priority parks.

This document contains a Plan of Management and Master Plan for Tempe Reserve. Tempe Reserve is located at the south corner of the Inner West Council area, on the north bank of the Cooks River at its intersection with Alexandra Canal. It consists of 77 acres (31 hectares), making it one of the largest parks in the LGA.

## Plan of Management

The Plan of Management [POM] is a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park. It will be used to inform the development of the park over the next ten years.

## Master Plan

The Master Plan is a design report outlining the actions required for improvement, intended to guide the physical upgrade of the site over the next ten years. It does this by suggesting how the strategies set out in the Plan of Management can be translated into site specific gestures for application to the park.

## How to use this document

Development of the POM and Master Plan involved some overlap of research and analysis. As such the POM and Master Plan were undertaken simultaneously, and are presented together within the same document.

The site has been considered and designed as a whole, but for ease and clarity within this document it has been presented as four zones.

Developing the Plan of Management and Master Plan involved the following processes:

- Policy review identifying the opportunities and constraints presented by national and local government initiatives.
- Demographic review identifying the local community profile.
- Review of site ownership and legal categorisation.
- Identification of applicable statutory conditions and legislation.
- Undertaking a detailed site analysis
- Undertaking Community Engagement through drop in sessions and online survey.
- Analysis of the outcomes of the Context Review, Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes to develop Key Objectives and Strategies for management and action.

## Application of the physical strategies onto the Proposed Master Plan

Key features of the Master Plan:

- Introduction of clear and consistent way-finding and information signage strategy.
- Definition of access points and relocation of gateways.
- Improvement and definition of road-way safety.
- Reduction of vehicular routes around the site.
- Separation of cycle paths, footpaths and roadways.
- Definition of on-leash and off-leash dog walking areas, and retention of a fenced off-leash dog park.
- Additional car parking.
- Development of two new social precincts, including opportunities for active and passive multi-generational recreation.
- Continued naturalisation of inter tidal riparian zone.
- Use of bio-swales to assist with alleviation of water logged ground.
- Reduction in hard standing and integration of facilities within the natural landscape.
- Introduction of synthetic sports fields, including AFL.
- Introduction of dragon boat storage facilities.
- Activation of Village Green for community events.
- Introduction of physical barriers between road ways/ car parks and park land.
- Revised lighting strategy.
- Replacement of Robyn Webster sports centre with new indoor sports facility including spaces for arts and music, and community cafe.
- Introduction of two new tennis courts.
- Reduction in number of netball courts, and adaptation of courts to accommodate basketball.
- Addition of outdoor sports equipment and retention of space for unstructured sports and activity.
- Demolition of old bowling club and greens, and dedication of the space to community use.
- Consolidation of built form.
- Increased quantity and quality of amenities.
- Maintenance strategy for upkeep of amenities.
- Introduction of higher quality cycle racks, water fountains, benches, barbecues, shade structures and picnic shelters, and consolidation of furniture style throughout the Reserve.
- Preservation, enhancement and increased area of natural environments and native bushland.
- Introduction of native meadows and under storey planting beneath developed trees, to cultivate a wider range of animal habitats, and enhance the naturalisation of ground plane for visitors.
- Reconnection to Alexandra Canal path and habitat wall.
- Connection of wetland paths to upper area of Tempe Lands.
- Proposals for edge condition to Sydney Gateway elevated highway.
- Proposals for Sydney Gateway land (still to be determined) council is advocating for the provision of up to six futsal courts, a new off leash dog exercise area and improved leachate facility.





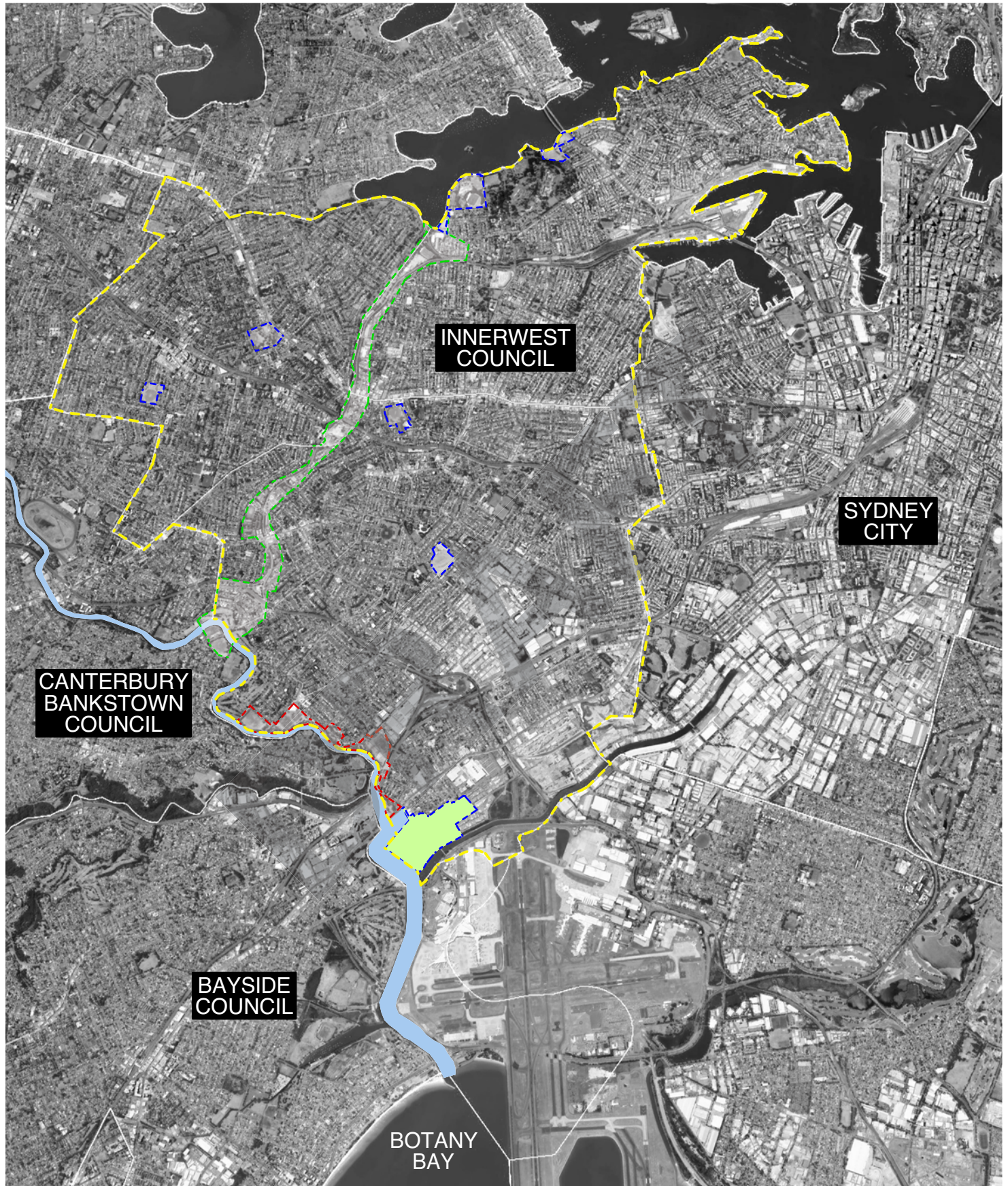
Model Autosports track viewed from river side path. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.













## I.0 Context Overview



- |                                                                                    |                             |                                                                                     |                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|  | Cooks River                 |  | Greenway Masterplan                           |
|  | Tempe Reserve Site Area     |  | Cooks River Parklands Masterplan              |
|  | Inner West Council Boundary |  | Other IWC parks undergoing PoM and Masterplan |



## REGIONAL CONTEXT

## Inner West Council

The Inner West Council area is located five kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD)

The council area was established when the former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville merged in May 2016.

Inner West Council has five wards: Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt, Marrickville, and Stanmore.

The Inner West Council has a resident population of 192,000 people, and spans 36km<sup>2</sup> from the banks of Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west

There are 269 parks and reserves including playgrounds and sports grounds in the Inner West Local Government Area (LGA).

## Existing Recreational Needs and Future Projections

A Recreational needs study commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 provided an analysis of the existing parklands within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage.

The community is expected to grow with an additional 49,000 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 13.3m<sup>2</sup> to 10.6m<sup>2</sup> per person within this timeframe.

Population growth will also result in additional pressure on current sporting and recreational facilities, and it is anticipated that additional facilities will be needed, and that current facilities will be required to intensify their usage to meet demand.

Based on industry benchmarks, by 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- 8 summer sporting fields
- 8 winter sporting fields
- 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 14 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 1 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 1 indoor leisure centre (aquatic)
- 1 skate park/facility.



## INNER WEST 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 4 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.



Figure 4 - 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 were:

- 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, and
- Ashfield Park.

Key differences between different groups were that:

- 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.

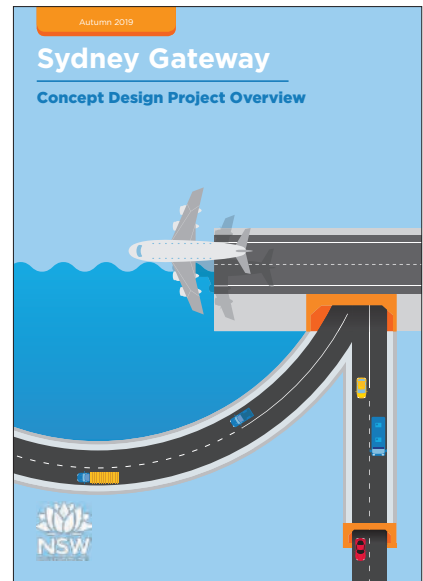
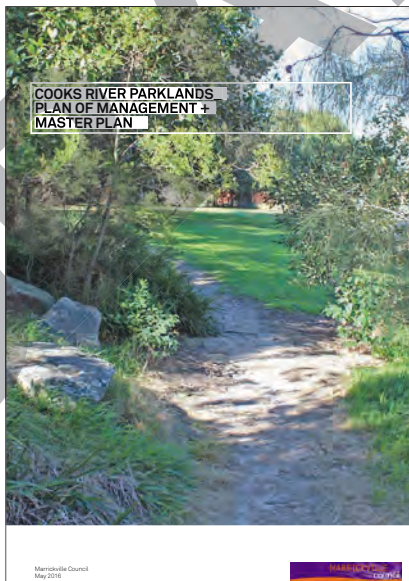
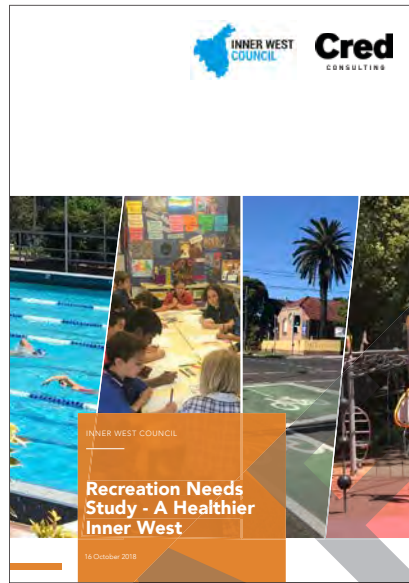
The most common types of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West were:

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

Figure 5 - 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)



# I.0 Context Overview



## REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICY + DESIGN DOCUMENTS

### Our Inner West 2036; A community strategic plan for the Inner West community

*Inner West Council, draft endorsed by council 06/2018*

This plan identifies the community's vision for the future, outlines long term goals, strategies to get there and how to measure progress towards that vision. It guides all of Council's plans, policies and budgets.

The strategic directions set out are:

- 1 - An ecologically Sustainable Inner West
- 2 - Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods
- 3 - Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4 - Caring, happy, healthy communities
- 5 - Progressive local leadership

Among the stated aims, those which apply directly to the regeneration of public parkland are to increase community satisfaction with: green infrastructure, the total area of habitat for wildlife managed under bush-care programs, protection of the natural environment, safety of public spaces, cycleways, maintaining footpaths, aquatic and recreation centres, availability of sporting grounds and facilities and walk-able open space. [Also aligns with State and District Plans]

### Recreation needs study - A healthier Inner West

*Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/ 2018*

Analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community, with a view to both maintaining and improving social and mental health as the population of the Inner West Council (IWC) area continues on its projected path of growth and change.

The study identified that the IWC area lacked sufficient public open space for the growing population. It outlines a strategic 'action' framework and explores how this framework could be applied.

The study calls out *Leichhardt Park/ Tempe Reserve* as one of few large public parks within the IWC area, and emphasises the need to maximise the recreational use of the site.

### Greenway masterplan - Cooks to Cove greenway

*Mcgregor Coxall for Inner West Council, adopted 08/ 2018*

A masterplan for a linear 5.5km long urban biodiversity corridor in the Inner West Council area, linking the Cooks River in Earlwood to the Parramatta River at Iron Cove. The route also links two well established shared paths – the Bay Run around Iron Cove at its northern end (links to Leichhardt Park), and the Cooks River shared path at its southern end (potential links to Tempe reserve).

### Sydney Gateway - Concept design project overview

*RMS for NSW government, Autumn 2019*

Concept design report for a toll-free road to complete missing links in the motorway network., Increasing vehicular capacity to the airport and ports. The proposed road connects airport roads 'Airport Drive' and 'Qantas Drive' directly to the major M5 junction 'St Peters Interchange' which at the time of writing is under construction.

Aspects of the proposal which directly affect Tempe Reserve include a pair of four-lane bridges over the Alexandra Canal, and proposed redirection of the Airport Drive cycle path through the site.

Parts of Tempe Reserve - the golfing range and grassland where the off leash dog park is currently located, are earmarked to be the primary construction site for the Gateway project.

The report notes that community feedback for the project was overwhelmingly concerned with its environmental impact, with particular emphasis on 'Tempe wetlands and reserve, ecosystems and biodiversity, native wildlife and fauna, visual amenity, open space, noise and pollution and waterways'. The report commits to 'improving open space on the Tempe lands after construction'.

### Cooks River Parklands - Plan of Management + Masterplan

*by and for Marrickville Council, 05/2016*

The 10 year plan covers 2.5km of the Cooks River foreshore including HJ Mahoney Memorial Reserve, Steel Park, Warren Park, Richardson's Lookout, Cooks River Foreshore, Kendrick Park and Fatima Island.

The report outlines all the legislative requirements for a Plan of Management. Key design principles and strategies are presented for each park, with design outcomes aligned with requests from the community consultation process.

The report aims to deliver outcomes that are balanced and allow for multipurpose infrastructure which serves all park users and the environment.

Tempe Reserve is not included in this plan, however principles and strategies for nearby parks are of relevance, particular for items such as pathways, signage, planting, furniture, wsud and future swimming initiatives. These can inform plans for Tempe Reserve, as another link in the series of connected spaces along the Cooks River foreshore.

## EXISTING POLICY REVIEW - OUR INNER WEST 2036

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>1.1 The people and infrastructure of Inner West contribute positively to the environment and tackling climate change</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the support needed for people to live sustainably</li> <li>2. Reduce urban heat and manage its impact</li> <li>3. Create spaces for growing food</li> <li>4. Develop planning controls to provide ecosystem services*</li> <li>5. Provide green infrastructure that supports increased ecosystem services*</li> </ol>
<b>1.2 Biodiversity is rich, with connected habitats for flora and fauna</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support people to connect with nature in Inner West</li> <li>2. Create new biodiversity corridors and an urban forest across Inner West</li> <li>3. Maintain and protect existing bushland sites for species richness and diversity</li> </ol>
<b>1.3 The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate to make plans, designs and decisions that are water-sensitive</li> <li>2. Supply water from within Inner West catchments</li> </ol>
<b>1.4 Inner West is a zero emissions community that generates and owns clean energy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local adoption of clean renewable energy</li> <li>2. Develop a transport network that runs on clean renewable energy</li> </ol>
<b>1.5 Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support people to avoid waste, and reuse, repair recycle and share</li> <li>2. Provide local reuse and recycling infrastructure</li> <li>3. Divert organic material from landfill</li> <li>4. Advocate for comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility+</li> </ol>

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>2.1 Development is designed for sustainability and makes life better</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to suit community needs</li> <li>2. Identify and pursue innovative and creative solutions to complex urban planning and transport issues</li> <li>3. Improve the quality, and investigate better access and use of existing community assets</li> <li>4. Develop planning controls that protect and support a sustainable environment and contribute to a zero emissions and zero waste community</li> </ol>
<b>2.2 The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide clear and consistent planning frameworks and processes that respect heritage and the distinct characters of urban villages</li> <li>2. Manage change with respect for place, community history and heritage</li> </ol>
<b>2.3 Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan and deliver public spaces that fulfil and support diverse community needs and life</li> <li>2. Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to their surrounding public spaces</li> <li>3. Advocate for and develop planning controls that retain and protect existing public and open spaces</li> </ol>
<b>2.4 Everyone has a roof over their head and a suitable place to call home</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure the expansion of social, community and affordable housing, distributed across Inner West, facilitated through proactive policies</li> <li>2. Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments</li> <li>3. Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough</li> </ol>
<b>2.5 Public transport is reliable, accessible, connected and enjoyable</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate for improved public transport services to, through and around Inner West</li> <li>2. Advocate for, and provide, transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth</li> </ol>
<b>2.6 People are walking, cycling and moving around Inner West with ease</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deliver integrated networks and infrastructure for transport and active travel</li> <li>2. Pursue innovation in planning and providing new transport options</li> <li>3. Ensure transport infrastructure is safe, connected and well-maintained</li> </ol>



Outcomes	Strategies
<b>3.1 Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grow Inner West's reputation as a leading creative and cultural hub, celebrating and supporting diverse creative industries and the arts</li> <li>2. Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and cultural activities</li> </ol>
<b>3.2 Inner West is the home of creative industries and services</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Position Inner West as a place of excellence for creative industries and services and support them to thrive</li> <li>2. Facilitate links to programs and services to help businesses grow, innovate and improve their competitiveness</li> <li>3. Encourage the establishment of new enterprises in Inner West</li> <li>4. Facilitate the availability of affordable spaces for creative industries and services</li> </ol>
<b>3.3 The local economy is thriving</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support business and industry to be socially and environmentally responsible</li> <li>2. Strengthen economic viability and connections beyond Inner West</li> <li>3. Promote Inner West as a great place to live, work, visit and invest in</li> </ol>
<b>3.4 Employment is diverse and accessible</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local job creation by protecting industrial and employment lands</li> <li>2. Encourage social enterprises and businesses to grow local employment</li> </ol>
<b>3.5 Urban hubs and main streets are distinct and enjoyable places to shop, eat, socialise and be entertained</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote unique, lively, safe and accessible urban hubs and main streets – day and night</li> <li>2. Enliven community life by delivering and supporting events, public art, cultural celebrations and entertainment</li> <li>3. Pursue a high standard of planning, urban design and development that supports urban centres</li> <li>4. Promote the diversity and quality of retail offerings and local products</li> </ol>

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>4.1 Everyone feels welcome and connected to the community</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life</li> <li>2. Embrace, celebrate, respect and value difference by building awareness and appreciation of Inner West's diversity</li> <li>3. Empower and support vulnerable and disadvantaged community members to participate in community life</li> <li>4. Increase and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage</li> </ol>
<b>4.2 The Aboriginal community is flourishing, and its culture and heritage continues to strengthen and enrich Inner West</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history</li> <li>2. Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and businesses</li> <li>3. Acknowledge and support the rights of the Aboriginal community to self determination</li> <li>4. Actively engage Aboriginal people in the development of programs, policies and strategies</li> </ol>
<b>4.3 The community is healthy and people have a sense of wellbeing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide the facilities, spaces and programs that support wellbeing and active and healthy communities</li> <li>2. Provide opportunities for people to participate in recreational activities they enjoy</li> </ol>
<b>4.4 People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan and provide services and infrastructure for a changing and ageing population</li> <li>2. Ensure the community has access to a wide range of learning spaces, resources and activities</li> <li>3. Support children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning</li> </ol>

Outcomes	Strategies
<b>5.1 People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem-solving</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support local democracy through transparent communication and inclusive participatory community engagement</li> </ol>
<b>5.2 Partnerships and collaboration are valued and recognised as vital for community leadership and making positive changes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support leadership and mentoring initiatives that build and strengthen the capacity of individuals, businesses and communities</li> <li>2. Support local capacity for advocacy</li> <li>3. Collaborate with partners to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment</li> </ol>
<b>5.3 Government makes responsible decisions to manage finite resources in the best interest of current and future communities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake visionary, integrated, long term planning and decision making, reflective of community needs and aspirations</li> <li>2. Ensure responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government</li> <li>3. Deliver innovation, excellence, efficiency and effectiveness and probity in Council processes and services</li> </ol>

## EXISTING DOCUMENT REVIEW - RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY

### Key Findings:

A number of findings about recreation within the Inner West are highlighted by the report. These include its benefits and its changing perception and role within society generally. These have assisted in providing a foundation for the strategies and objectives of this Plan of Management and Master Plan. A summary of the key findings includes;

- 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.
- People with disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator.

### Community Engagement:

The study undertook extensive engagement with the community to determine both recreational participation within the inner west as well as comments and suggestions about the quality of public open space within the LGA. These findings in conjunction with community engagement carried out specifically for Tempe Reserve form a body of information about the community's needs and desires for public open space which have informed this Plan of Management and Master Plan.

### Objectives:

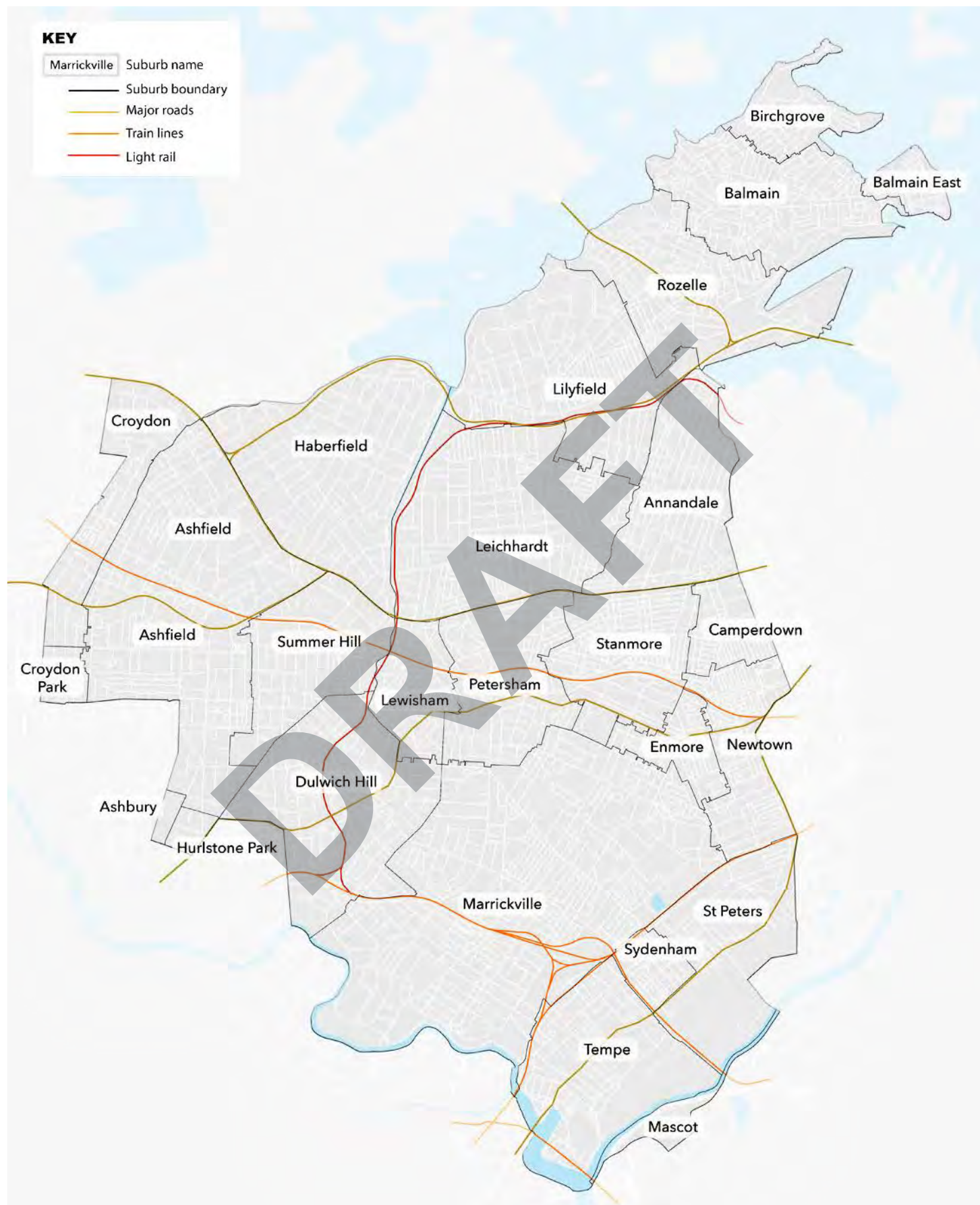
The report found a number of opportunities for improving recreational spaces within the LGA through a needs and gaps analysis. These opportunities were grouped into broad themes. A number of these key opportunities which relate specifically to the scope of this Plan of Management and Master Plan have been summarised in this review.

NEED	OPPORTUNITIES
Additional Sporting fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthetic fields, possibly at Tempe Reserve or Leichhardt #2 and #3 could reduce the need for additional sporting fields</li> </ul>
Additional Aquatic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase capacity at existing facilities through the planned Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre upgrade.</li> </ul>
Increased quality of open space to optimise use, address demand and meet higher and more diverse needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users</li> </ul>
Well maintained public toilets, water bubblers and bins in parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the Marrickville Public Toilet Strategy recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.</li> </ul>
Lighting and design of parks to increase feelings of safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting on the Bay Run and Cooks River;</li> <li>• Lighting in parks for informal night time use eg at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport.</li> </ul>
access and storage for water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirational approach to swimming in the Cooks River as per Council's existing planning</li> <li>• Opportunities for inclusive access to kayaking, and</li> <li>• Opportunities for kayak launching and storage as part of the GreenWay masterplan.</li> </ul>
Improved car parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of LPAC and Leichhardt Oval programming to address parking concerns.</li> </ul>

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Lighting and design of parks to increase feelings of safety, including;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting on the Bay Run and Cooks River;</li> <li>• Lighting in parks for informal night time use eg at outdoor gyms, dog parks, running paths, large flat areas for informal sport.</li> </ul>
Access and storage for water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirational approach to swimming in the Cooks River as per Council's existing planning</li> <li>• Opportunities for inclusive access to kayaking, and</li> <li>• Opportunities for kayak launching and storage as part of the GreenWay masterplan.</li> </ul>
Improved sporting field playing surfaces through upgrades to drainage, turf, soil.	Implement a rolling program of sporting field upgrades at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tempe Reserve.</li> </ul>
Improving sporting building infrastructure, spectator infrastructure, courts surfaces, lighting, allocation and booking processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade sporting grounds throughout the LGA</li> </ul>
Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review throughout the LGA, in particular for the Bay Run, Cooks River foreshore path and the GreenWay.</li> <li>• Continuing to widen and possibly separating the Bay Run paths</li> </ul>
Play spaces for older children / young people; Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes</li> <li>• Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/junk play.</li> </ul>
Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath improvements, Bushcare programs,</li> <li>• More affordable recreation opportunities for older people</li> <li>• Support with transport to recreation opportunities.</li> </ul>
Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable nighttime use including for organised and informal activities</li> <li>• Encourage recreation providers (eg sports clubs, fitness providers) to provide recreation opportunities in the evening eg social versions of sport</li> </ul>
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with disability including organised sport and aquatic centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities and parks eg new amenities buildings,</li> </ul>
Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTQI+ community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming change and bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.</li> </ul>
New off leash dog parks, including dog swimming and water play; Ongoing provision and maintenance of existing dog off leash areas; Managing and preventing conflicts between users of parks, particularly children and dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement</li> <li>• Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict eg planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.</li> </ul>
Protecting ecological recreation sites and biodiversity areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue bush care programs, nature based play spaces</li> <li>• Open space and streetscape design that incorporates natural elements and delivers on environmental outcomes, such as understorey planting and native plants.</li> </ul>
Clean waterways to reduce smell and rubbish, and to provide new recreation opportunities such as swimming and kayaking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve, and</li> <li>• Cooks River.</li> </ul>



# I.0 Context Overview



Inner West Council area and suburbs. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

### Overview

This section outlines the current community profile of Tempe using data from the 2016 ABS Census from Profile i.d.

### Population growth

In 2016, the Estimated resident population of the Inner West was 192,030 people. The population increased by 11,729 people or 6.5% between 2011 and 2016. The growth rate of Greater Sydney during this period was 9.8%.

Tempe experienced population growth slightly higher than the IWC average between 2011 and 2016. Further growth is anticipated, with an additional 13,769 people living in the IWC by 2036.

### Open space provision

The Inner West has 323.4ha of open space which equates to 9.2% of the total land area or 16.8m<sup>2</sup> per person. Of this, council owns 256ha, which equates to 7.3% of total land area, or 13.3m<sup>2</sup> per person.

The provision of open space in Tempe is high, with 90.1m<sup>2</sup> of council owned open space per person in 2016.

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I.0 Context Overview

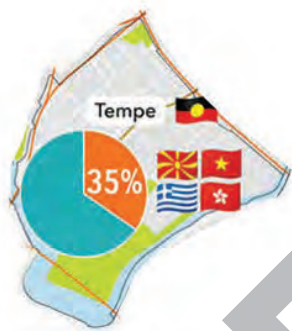


**KEY**

Icons show suburbs with a proportion above the LGA average or high number of:

- Babies and children (0 - 12yrs) (over 12.9% or over 1,000 people)
- Young people (12 - 24yrs) (over 13.1% or over 1,000 people)
- Older people (65yrs+) (over 12.2% or over 1,000 people)
- People with disability (over 4.5% or over 500 people)

01 Tempe - Age + disability profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.

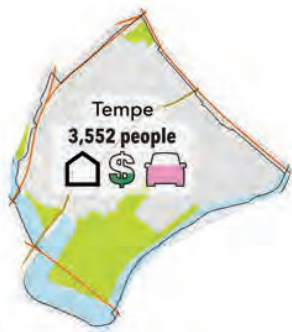


**KEY**

- % speaking English at home
- % speaking a language other than English at home
- Languages spoken by more than 2% of the population:
- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Greek
- Italian
- Macedonian
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- >1.5 % Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

\*in Leichhardt, while the proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home is relatively low, the number of speakers is very high: >2,000

02 Tempe - Cultural profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.



**KEY**

Median weekly household income:

- \$1,500 - \$1,749
- \$1,750 - \$1,999
- \$2,000 - \$2,499
- \$2,500 - \$2,999
- > \$3,000

% of households with cars:

- Under 75%
- 75% - 80%
- 80% - 85%
- 85% - 90%
- Over 90%

Dominant dwelling type:

- Low density
- Medium density
- High density

03 Tempe - Density, income + housing profile. Recreation Needs study - A Healthier Inner West.



**Age + disability profile**

Tempe has one of the highest proportions of people reporting a need for assistance in the LGA (6.1%), along with higher numbers of babies, children and young people. Creating spaces that are accessible and flexible should be prioritised to cater for current and future population needs.

**Cultural profile**

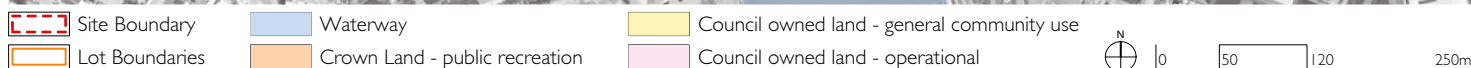
Tempe is culturally diverse, with a higher proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home. Macedonian, Greek, Vietnamese and Cantonese languages have a high representation in the area. There are also higher percentages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in Tempe than the LGA and Greater Sydney, averages. Park facilities, wayfinding and site interpretation strategies should take this into consideration.

**Density, income + housing profile**

Tempe is characterised by low density housing which is atypical for the LGA. Income levels are just below average and car ownership is high. The majority of households have cars, and Tempe has one of the highest proportions of households with 2 or more cars. Improved connectivity would encourage Tempe residents to use active or public transport, and also cater to park visitors from adjacent higher density areas.



# I.0 Context Overview



SCALE 1:6000 @ A4



## LAND CATEGORISATION + OWNERSHIP

### Community land - Local Government Act Requirements

Public land as defined under the *Local Government Act 1993*, must be classified as either community or operational land.

'Operational' land comprises land that serves a commercial or operational function (e.g. offices, works depot, car park, sewage pump station, etc.), or land that is being retained for commercial or strategic reasons. The range of controls that apply to Community land do not apply to the use and management of Operational land.

'Community' land is generally public park land set aside for community use. Development and use of this land is subject to strict controls set out in the Act such as Community land cannot be sold, or leased or licensed for more than 30 years. In addition to these controls, the Act requires councils to have plans of management for all Community lands.

A plan of management places each piece of Community Land into one or more of five categories which impact on how they can be used. These are: Natural area; Sports ground; Park; Area of cultural significance; or General community use. Community Land is still subject to zoning controls and a plan of management operates as an additional control over that piece of land.

### Crown land - Management Principles

Crown reserves are owned by the State of New South Wales (NSW) and are managed by Council on behalf of the NSW Government for the benefit of the general public.

Crown reserves managed by Council have been set aside for a particular public purpose. This plan of management allows use of the reserve for the purposes of public recreation.

Following a comprehensive review of legislative provisions and the management of Crown land the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) commenced on 1 July 2018 and the Crown Lands Act 1989 was repealed. The objectives of the CLM Act are:

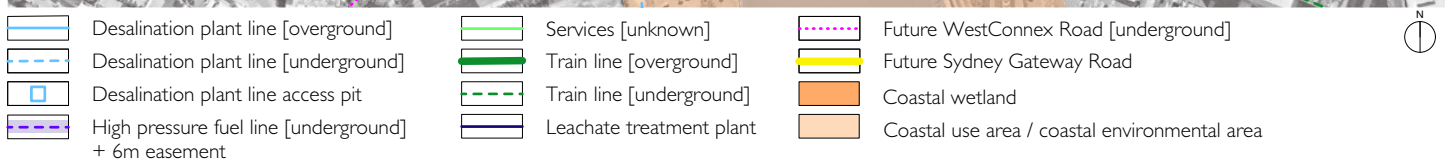
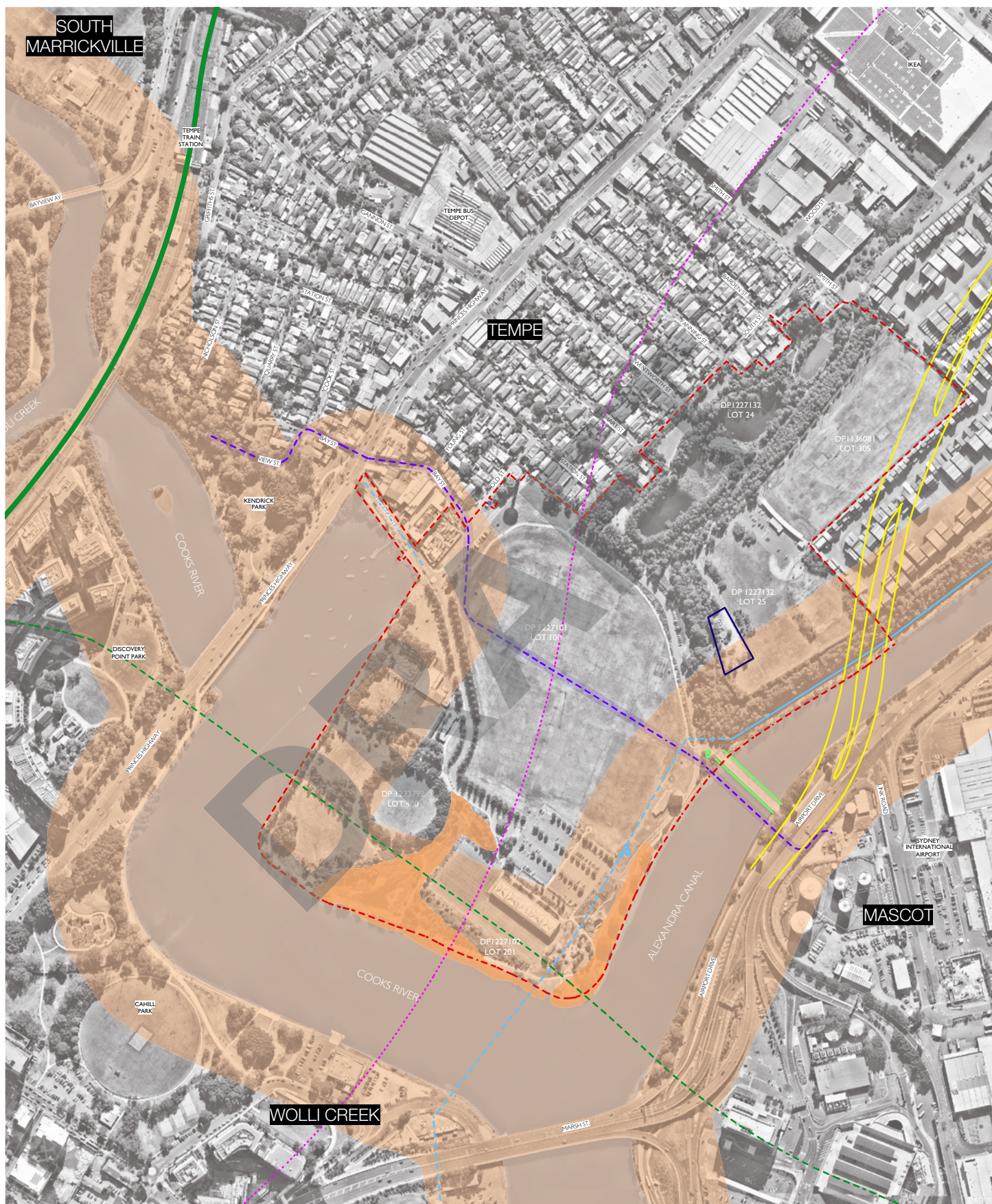
- To provide for the ownership, use and management of the Crown land of New South Wales, and
- To provide clarity concerning the law applicable to Crown land, and
- To require environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations to be taken into account in decision-making about Crown land, and
- To provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, and
- To facilitate the use of Crown land by the Aboriginal people of New South Wales because of the spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of land to Aboriginal people and, where appropriate, to enable the co-management of dedicated or reserved Crown land, and
- To provide for the management of Crown land having regard to the principles of Crown land management.

Where local councils are the land manager of Crown reserves those Crown reserves are to be managed as if they are "public land" under Local Government Act 1993. Crown reserves classified community land require a Plan of Management.

Lot/DP	Name & Location	Current Management & Agreements	Ownership & Classification	Area (approximate)	Notes
Lot 305 DP 1136081	17 Swamp Road Tempe Lands	Leased to Tempe Golf Driving Range [TGDR]	Inner West Council	28,435 m <sup>2</sup>	Golf driving range
Lot 24 DP 1227132	9-41 Smith Street Tempe Lands		Inner West Council	21,933 m <sup>2</sup>	Wetlands
Lot 25 DP 1227132	2-4 Smith Street Tempe Lands	Only part of this lot falls into the Tempe Reserve PoM.	Inner West Council	83,165 m <sup>2</sup>	Dog park/ Car park/ Leachate plant/ Wetlands/ Baseball
Lot 100 DP 1227101	Tempe Reserve	Part of this land is leased to Tempe Basin Motor Boat Association [TBMA]	Crown Land	64,222 m <sup>2</sup>	TBMA / sportsfield
Lot 400 DP 1233792	Tempe Reserve	The Robyn Webster Sports Centre, netball courts and Tempe Jets Club [currently operated by Brand X] which sit on this land are leased to various parties.	Crown Land	107,946 m <sup>2</sup>	Sportfields / Old Tempe Jets Club / Robyn Webster / Netball / Track / vegetation
Lot 201 DP 1227102	Tempe Reserve	Netball courts which sit partly on this land are leased.	Crown Land	7,148 m <sup>2</sup>	Netball courts / vegetation



# I.0 Context Overview





## STATUTORY CONDITIONS + LEGISLATION

### Current and Future Leases + Licences

The Plan of Management allows for the provision of leases and licences in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Crown Lands Management Act 2016, Crown Lands Management Regulations 2018 and any subsequent legislation. Future leases and licences will be allowable for uses consistent with this Plan of Management, the former Marrickville Local Environment Plan or Inner West Council Local Environment Plan (to be adopted) and any other applicable legislation. Any licences for biodiversity works are permitted.

### Current Leases + Licences

(Future recommendations noted in *italic*.)

- Tempe Golf Driving Range [TGDR] - Holdover  
*RMS plan to acquire part of the Driving Range for Sydney GateWay Construction*
- Tempe Basin Motor Boat Association [TBMBA] - Holdover  
*Renewal of the TBMBA lease is not recommended on the grounds of non compliance in relation to public safety.*
- Robyn Webster Sports Centre - Holdover
- Netball courts - Holdover  
*Robyn Webster Sport Centre and adjacent netball courts have a temporary license agreement for five years after which it is recommended that the building to be demolished and replaced, as it is no longer fit for purpose. Art work to be recycled and reused on another site (possibly on the Sydney Gateway land) if preferable. New Lease to be advertised through a combined sport and recreation precinct EOI.*
- Tempe Jets Club [Brand X] - Holdover  
*Site to be redeveloped as per Master Plan proposals*

### Zoning + Classification

Marrickville LEP : RE1 'Public recreation'

### Land Category/ Core Objective Council owned land

This Plan of Management categorises the community land as follows:

Council Owned Land - Community land - General community use

The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
- (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

### State Environmental Planning Policy - Coastal Management 2018 + Coastal Management Act 2016

This legislation provides a framework and objectives for managing coastal issues in NSW. It focuses on ecologically sustainable management, development and use of the coast for the social, cultural and economic well-being of people.

### Other relevant legislation

- Companion Animals Act.
- Disability Discrimination Act.
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- National Construction Code 2019.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Native Vegetation Act 2003
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- State Environmental Planning Policy (infrastructure) 2007
- Threatened Species Conservation act 1995
- Work, Health and Safety Act.

### Mascot Petroleum Pipeline - Viva Energy

The Mascot Petroleum Pipeline bisects the site and this has a minimum 1m clearance to any structure laid parallel to the pipeline, along with a 6m easement and 120m buffer. Any works within the zone of the pipeline require consultation and approval by Viva Energy who own and operate the pipeline.

### Desalination plant pipelines and access pits - Sydney Water Assets

A Sydney Water asset cuts across the east of the site. It is a desalination pipeline which runs overground alongside the canal, transitioning to run underground in a north - south direction. It is unclear what restrictions this asset poses.

### Transport Assets

The T8 airport connection train line runs underneath the site in the east - west direction.

Westconnex infrastructure is indicated running underneath the site in a north-south direction.

The Sydney Gateway concept design includes proposals for a pair of four-lane bridges over the Alexandra Canal, redirection of the Airport Drive cycle path through the site, and use of the golfing range and off leash dog park as the primary construction site.

It is unclear what restrictions these assets pose.

### Leachate Treatment Plant

Leachate treatment is in use to treat contaminated liquid from under the landfill cap, this is contained within a fenced plant area adjacent the lawn. It is unclear what restrictions this asset poses.

### Unknown services

Pipelines run either side of the footbridge over Alexandra Canal. It is unclear what these services are, and what restrictions they pose.





Looking towards wetland pond. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



## 2.0 Site Analysis







<b>01</b> Alexandra Canal (Item no 1270)	<b>05</b> Timber Slab cottage   44 Barden Street (Item no 1294)	<b>09</b> Tempe Hotel (Item no 1300)	<b>13</b> Tempe Station masters cottage (Item no 1304)
<b>02</b> Morton Bay fig tree   43 South Street (Item no 1303)	<b>06</b> Tempe Police Station (former) (Item no 1301)	<b>10</b> Group of 3 War widow's houses (Item no 1381)	<b>14</b> Pair of sandstone semi-detached houses & Federation style house (Item no 1374 & 1376)
<b>03</b> Riverview and Irish Harp Hotel (Item no 1302)	<b>07</b> Former Commonwealth Bank (Item no 1380)	<b>11</b> Tempe bus depot site (Item no 1274)	<b>15</b> Kendrick Park (Item no 1308)
<b>04</b> Former Methodist Chapel   47 Hart Street (Item no 1375)	<b>08</b> Westpac Stores Department and Penfolds Wine Cellars (former) (Item no 1299)	<b>12</b> Tempe Railway station (Item no 1296)	<b>16</b> Tempe House & St Magdalenes Chapel (Rockdale Council)



## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

### Indigenous History – Cooks River

'The first Aboriginal people of the Cooks River lived tens of thousands of years ago with marine life being an essential part to their diet. Illustrations from the 1820s and 1830s depict Aboriginal people living along the river. In the late 1860s, some Aboriginal people were still fishing the river. Connections to the river run deep, with many significant sites dotted along its banks. This includes a shell midden in Kendrick Park Tempe which is 'filled with the shells of cockles, mud whelks, rock oysters, mud oysters and hairy mussels, as well as fish bones and stone artefacts.' Across the river near Tempe House, excavation has uncovered stone tools including spear points. Today many Aboriginal people live in the area and have a strong sense of custodianship of the river and its heritage.' [1]

### Industrialisation and Pollution of the Cooks River 1840s-1860s

The village of Tempe was developed in the 1840s with the construction of a dam at what is now known as Wolli Creek near Tempe House. The dam proved to be unsuccessful, with the water remaining brackish as well as interrupting the tidal flow. This led to the trapping of silt and pollution within its walls and the death of some fish species. [2] Pollution within the Cooks river was exacerbated by the industrialisation along its banks. Highly polluting industries banned from the inner city were shifted to the areas along the Cooks River and Sheas Creek (later developed into Alexandra Canal). These included tanneries, brickworks, quarries, wool washing, a sugar works at Canterbury and a lime kiln next to the dam near Tempe House. These all contributed polluting substances to the river along with the dumping of Sydney's sewerage into Sheas Creek, further killing fish species in the area. [3]

### Construction of the Alexandra Canal 1887-1900

In 1887 dredging commenced to adapt Sheas Creek into a canal, with the intention of transporting coal, blue metal and building materials more cheaply than could be done by rail, increasing manufacturing and industrial opportunities. [4] 'It was constructed under an unemployed work relief scheme, with the reduced scheme being completed in 1900. During excavation, Dugong bones were found providing evidence of the long history of Aboriginal people in the area. Alterations to the canal were later undertaken with the expanse of the airport from 1947 to 1970. Despite never being considered a success, Alexandra Canal is now a heritage listed item as 'a rare example of 19th century navigational canal construction in Australia. It measures 4.5 km from its southern point at Cooks River to the north near Huntley Street, Alexandria and is spanned by 4 bridges.' [5]

[1] Paul Irish. Dictionary of Sydney. First People of the Cooks River. 2013. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]

[2] Paul Irish for Cooks River Alliance. Aboriginal History Along the Cooks River. 2017. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]

[3] Lesley Muir. Dictionary of Sydney. Industry in the Cooks River Valley. 2013. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]

[4] Ron Ringer. Dictionary of Sydney. From Sheas Creek to Alexandra Canal. 2013. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]

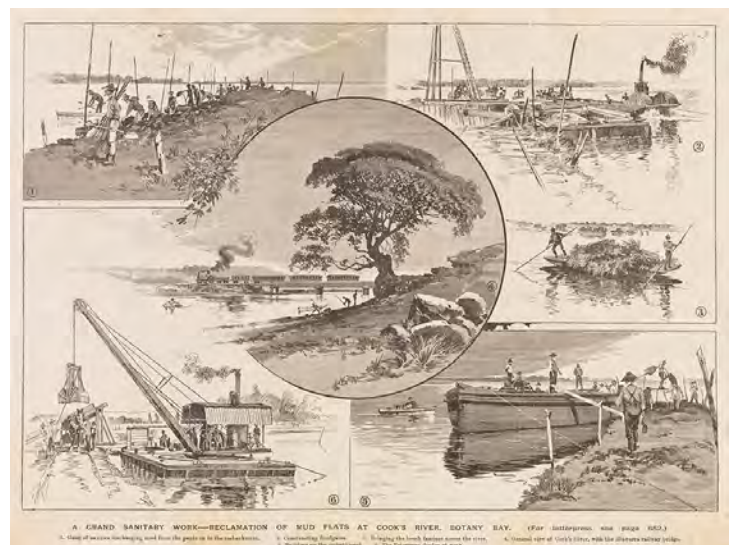
[5] Office of Environment and Heritage NSW. Alexandra Canal. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]



John Thompson Painting – Aboriginal people fishing; Scene along the lower Cooks River 1830. Source: State Library of NSW



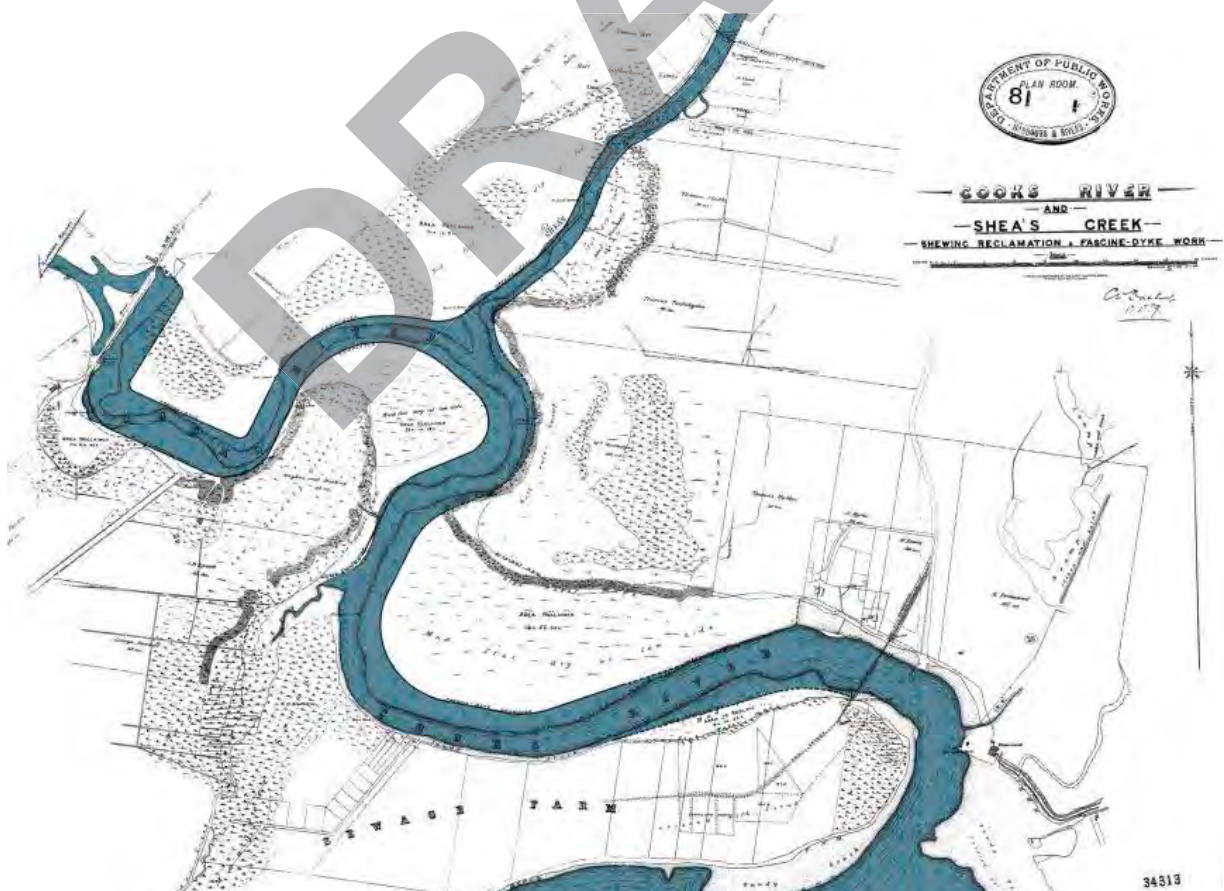
Cooks River Dam 1871. (In approx location of present day Princes Highway) Source: State Library of NSW



Reclamation of Cooks River 1888. (Showing processes involved in reclaiming mud flats) Source: State Library of NSW



## 2.0 Site Analysis



Alexandra Canal, [top image] pre 1880. [bottom image] 1880 - 1900 Source: Sydney Water.



## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

### Establishment of Sydney Airport 1919

'Sydney Airport is located on the northern shore of Botany Bay where Captain James Cook and botanist Sir Joseph Banks navigated past in 1770.' In 1919, Nigel B. Love established an aircraft manufacturing facility in what was a cow paddock, declaring it the 'Mascot Aerodrome' in 1920. This was soon acquired by the Federal Government to be a national airport. The airport expanded north overtime to accommodate the increase of international flights reclaiming further land and requiring the alteration of the Alexandra Canal. [6]

### Tempe Lands – 1920s - Present

Tempe Lands was the site of a shale quarry in the 1920s, a greyhound racing track in the 1940s, and then a rubbish tip until the mid-1970s. In 2004 the then - Marrickville Council began extensive work to remediate the site, and one year later it was reopened as new parklands featuring a golf driving range, a fenced off-leash dog exercise area, walking paths and wetlands. The wetlands have since become a thriving haven for native wildlife. Local volunteer group Tempe Birdos meets monthly to survey bird life and other fauna in the wetlands. In 2017, the group recorded their 100th bird species sighting. [7]

Tempe Lands was a former landfill site for large clay quarries that supplied brick kilns in St Peters. It is over 90 years old. Landfill capping has been used at the former landfill since 2005. This forms a barrier that contains contaminated contents. The current landfill cap is around 0.5 metres thick.

### Redevelopment Proposals and Cleaning up the River

During the 1920s complaints about the state of the river grew leading to the formation of the Cooks River Improvement League. They published a booklet 'Our Ocean our Opportunity' to create public anger and demanding the government take initiative to clean the river. In 1928 the river was cleared of obstructions to improve drainage. In 1946 the 'Cooks River Improvement Act' was passed aiming to control flows and prevent degradation of the banks. 'In 1975, the Cooks River and its estuaries were classified under the Clean Waters Act 1970 No 78 by the State Pollution Control Commission as 'restricted', that is, unsuitable for domestic purposes but suitable to maintain aquatic life and associated wildlife. This classification was given to control industry and domestic outflows into the river.' [8] The Wollie Creek Expressway was successfully opposed leading it to be pushed underground and allowing the preservation of the land around the Cooks River.



Plan of the village of Tempe c.1843. (The site can be identified to the east of South Street, which bounds the present day Tempe Lands)

Source: State Library of NSW.



Sheas Creek Outlet c.1890.

Source: Sydney Water/ Water NSW Historical Archive



Construction of Sheas Creek c.1926.

Source: Sydney Water/ Water NSW Historical Archive

[6] Shire Shuttle Bus. History of Sydney Airport. 2018 [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]

[7] Inner West Council. Tempe Lands. 2019. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]

[8] City of Canterbury Council. History of Cooks River. [ONLINE] [Accessed 2 August 2019]



2.0 Site Analysis





**NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTEXT****Site Overview**

Tempe Recreation Reserve is one of the largest parks in the Inner West Council area. It was identified by the Recreation Needs Study as a facility whose capacity could be increased to address the forecast gap in provision of open spaces providing active and passive recreation opportunities.

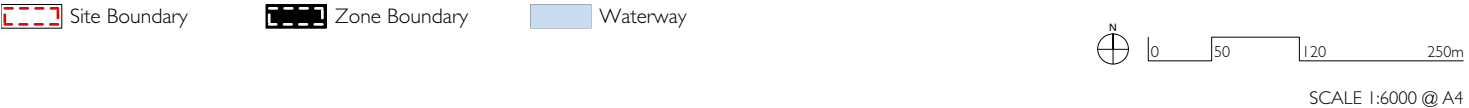
Tempe Recreation Reserve is located at the south edge of the Inner West Council Area. Bounded by a busy highway, elevated container depots and waterways to three sides, the Reserve is a peninsula of open space within an urban environment. Sydney airport is directly over the Canal to the west of the site, and the Princes Highway is to the east. The west perimeter of the site is bounded by a low scale residential neighbourhood.

Despite being surrounded by transport links, access to the Reserve is physically limited, leaving it feeling isolated from its surroundings. This isolation contributes to an atmosphere of calm, and has engendered an atmosphere of community ownership but unfortunately also apathy in terms of priority of preservation and maintenance by some users and authorities.

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2.0 Site Analysis





## ZONE IDENTIFICATION

Tempe Reserve has been separated into four zones for the purpose of clarifying a detailed site analysis. The zones have been selected based on an assessment of the character and use of different areas within the park, while taking into account real and perceived boundaries. The borders of the zones should be treated as blurred rather than absolute. In the following analysis they are represented with dotted lines for graphic clarity.

### Zone 1 - ENTRY + PARKLAND

Zone 1 of the Tempe Recreation Reserve is located to the western edge of the site at a bend in the Cook's River. It has a triangular profile, bounded by the river to the west and south, and by Tempe Reserve Loop Road to the east.

Zone 1 acts as the primary vehicular access route to the reserve, with Holbeach Avenue leading directly off the Princes Highway. The northern part of the Zone contains an operational amenities block and a complex containing a disused but re-purposed Bowls Club and model auto-sports track. The southern part of the Zone consists of open turfed parkland and a developing salt-marsh area.



Zone 1 - saltmarsh

### Zone 2 - INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

Zone 2 of the Tempe Recreation Reserve is located in the south corner of the site. It is bordered by the heritage listed Alexandra Canal to the east, the Cooks river to the south, the Tempe Park Loop Road to the north and salt marsh to the west. This zone includes the Robyn Webster sports centre and associated car park, eleven outdoor netball courts, a children's playground and a series of picnic shelters and barbecues. An access bridge across the Alexandra Canal is located on the eastern edge of the site providing a cycle and pedestrian link to the airport.



Zone 2 - Robyn Webster Sports Centre

### Zone 3 - OUTDOOR SPORTS FIELDS

The sports fields draw both organised sports clubs and informal users to the site. The exposure of the site makes it very windy, and when the fields are not in use the area can feel bleak. When the fields are in use, Zone 3 is the hub of the site, with a good community-vibe. Every spare area of grass is utilised, with informal users appropriating the sidelines and other peripheral areas and creating lots of activity.

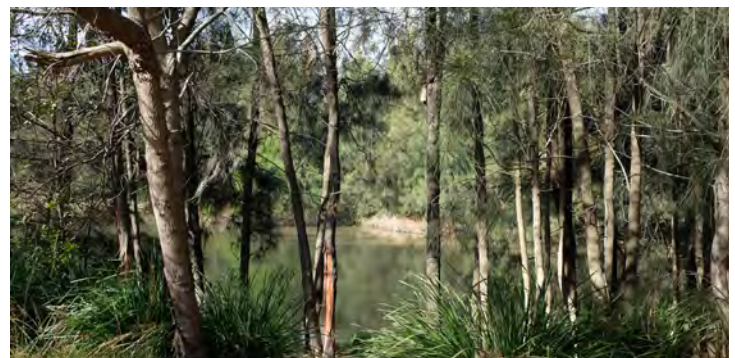


Zone 3 - Sports fields

### Zone 4 - TEMPE LANDS

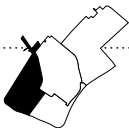
Zone 4 is at the north of the site, on the area known as 'Tempe Lands' - the site of a former quarry turned landfill. The area was opened as public parkland in 2004 after extensive site re-mediation work.




Zone 4 is bounded by a low scale residential community to the west, a container depot to the north, and the Alexandra Canal to the east. It contains Lori Short Reserve (a pocket park adjacent the residential area), a wetland park, a driving range, a fenced off-leash dog exercise area and adjacent lawn, and a car park.



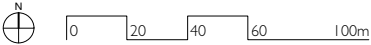
Zone 4 - Wetland pond





 Zone Boundary  Adjacent zones  Outside of site boundary

01. Lightweight jetty / 02. Concrete slipway / 03. Corner plot leased as boatyard / 04. Gateway to Tempe Recreation Reserve / 05. Former bowls club / 06. Former bowling green re-purposed as model auto sports track / 07. Overgrown bowling greens / 08. Amenities block / 09. Cook's River Valley Garden / 10. Picnic and barbecue facilities / 11. 'Village Green' / 12. Timber bridge link / 13. Salt-marsh.



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## ZONE 1

### Overview

Zone 1 of the Tempe Recreation Reserve is located to the western edge of the site at a bend in the Cook's River. It has a triangular profile, bounded by the river to the west and south and by Tempe Reserve Loop Road to the east.

Zone 1 acts as the primary vehicular access route to the reserve, with Holbeach Avenue leading directly off Princes Highway. The northern part of the Zone contains an operational amenities block and a complex containing a disused but re-purposed Bowls Club and model auto-sports track. The southern part of the Zone consists of open turfed park-lands and a developing salt-marsh area.

### Character

The Reserve in Zone 1 has three distinct areas which differ in character:

The entry to the park from Princes Highway is undefined and provides no sense of arrival or announcement. It retains an industrial-fringe character, defined more by the roads and lack of use or ownership than the arrival into a community Reserve.

Despite views over the sports fields of Zone 3, the fenced-off areas adjacent the Bowls Club cut the north section off from the rest of the parkland, and though the waterfront pathway provides a pleasant experience along the southern edge, the section along the western edge is less welcoming.

The south of this zone contains two successful 'gardens' - a formal circular lawn surrounded by large fig trees, and a salt-marsh which collects run-off from the rest of the site. The lawns between these gardens though lacking a little in character, do provide good public amenity as social spaces.

### Entry Gateway

Holbeach Avenue is the primary gateway to the Reserve for people who arrive by car, or those who walk in from the main public transport nodes on Princes Highway or local train stations. The roadway is two lanes, one in either direction, with parallel parking to both sides. To the Cooks River edge, a number of Norfolk Pine trees separate the road from pavement.

Though contained within the site boundary, this zone is under ownership of Roads and Maritime Services [RMS], and has a different character to the rest of the Reserve. It provides access not only to the Reserve but also to industrial-commercial units along its north side and the Cooks River via a slipway to its south. Adjacent the slipway there is a relatively new jetty for private moorings.

This edge of the Reserve also contains an urban plot on the opposite side of the road to the Reserve which is council owned and currently leased to a motorboat association and acts as a boatyard.

This entry point is primarily designed for vehicular movements, with a narrow pavement alongside the water shared between cyclists and pedestrians despite being the main cycle route in and out of the park and an access point to the Cooks River cycleway.

### Foreshore Edge

The river bank along Holbeach Avenue is constructed from boulders and slopes down to the waterline, allowing mangroves and grasses to grow in the intertidal zone and atop the river wall. A concrete slipway to the water breaks the wall, and the riparian zone is quite narrow due to the location of the shared path and road alongside. A jetty touches the wall very lightly creating a walkway down to a pontoon for boat access.

The western foreshore has a generous paved pathway above a vertical wall construction, restricting habitat development - though some mangroves are developing directly in front of the wall within the intertidal zone. Generally, rainwater runoff from the foreshore walkway flows straight into the river.

The pathway continues along the southern foreshore, however is set-back from the waters edge by a sloping bank which has resulted in a successful strip of native planting and developing mangrove.

### Signage

Despite signage directing traffic toward the golf club, there are no welcome signs at the entry to the park and there is no cohesive strategy for signage to the Reserve with individual informative or prohibitive signs affixed wherever an opportunity presents.

### Built structures

The former Bowls Club is a single-storey brick structure, which appears to have been extended on several occasions. It is now occupied by Tempe Jets, a music and arts organisation. The building whilst still serviceable is no longer in good condition.

A single storey brick amenities block with male and female toilets, canteen, gym and storage facilities looks out over the Loop Road onto the sports fields beyond. Although it occasionally floods it is currently maintained by a sports group who run the canteen for events and have fitted out the gym.

Adjacent to the site, a timber-fenced boatyard on Holbeach Avenue contains a number of temporary tarpaulin covered structures of unknown usage.

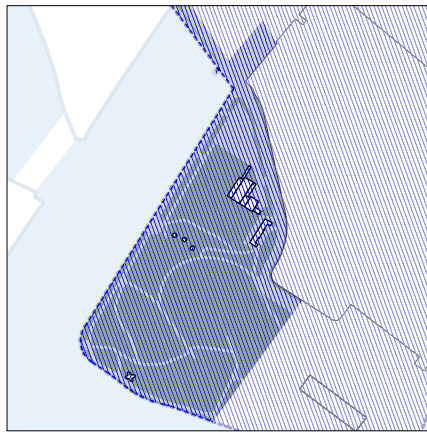
### Lighting

Holbeach Avenue and the car park are well lit from street lamps which extend along the Loop Road to the entry barrier. From here the road is unlit but there is specific footpath lighting. The Foreshore is generally well lit, and there is some lighting to the secondary pathways across the lawns.





Facilities



Floodplain extent



Foreshore building line



Fence + enclosure



Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



Sports + recreation grounds



Ground cover + Fauna linkages



Tree cover



Gradient



Services

Zone area	Floodplain
Waterway	Car Park
Existing structure	Road
Existing Hardstanding	Formal foot path
Foreshore building line	Informal foot path

Cycle path	Ground cover
Playground	Lawn
Wetland	Sydney water pipeline
Saltmarsh	Leachate plant/ other
Sportsground	Oil pipeline

High fence	Barbeque
Medium fence	Bench
Low fence/ bollards	Picnic shelter
Security gate	Water fountain
Trainline	Bike rack



## ZONE 1

### Facilities

There is no consistency in style, placement or condition of the park furniture; there is a single bank of electric barbecues alongside six sheltered picnic tables facing onto one of the lawns, at the bend in the Cooks River there is a single bench facing the waterway, and close-by a modernist style shelter at the corner of the salt-marsh with four picnic benches beneath.

There are also a couple of benches located along the foreshore.

### Fences + enclosure

Along the edges of the Loop Road is a single row of metal bollards to prevent vehicular access to the pathways and lawns. These are not in consistent style and placement, and provide opportunity for parking on or driving over grass verges, for instance in-front of the amenities block.

### Access points + existing pathways

The entry to the Reserve has only a narrow pathway, shared by pedestrians and cyclists, with access across for the slipway.

The two primary pathways are along the foreshore and the pavement on Tempe Reserve Loop Road. With the exception of the foreshore adjacent to the Bowls Club, these are both in good condition. The secondary routes connect across the turfed areas providing access to them and connecting to a bridge and path over the salt-marsh. The area adjacent the Bowls Club and car park has much double-up, with parallel pathways separated by only a couple of metres. The width and lack of obstacles makes it very tempting for people to drive along this section of the Foreshore.

There are no dedicated cycle paths in this Zone.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

Holbeach Avenue leads directly off the arterial Princes Highway, splitting at a small roundabout into Tempe Reserve Loop Road in both directions. This tree-lined boulevard provides access to the southern and eastern edges of the Reserve past a boom gate which is closed at night. Due to its connection to Princes Highway, this section of road can have relatively fast vehicle speeds, with the roundabout doing little to slow traffic into or out of the Reserve.

A triangular shaped car park with about 90 spaces on hard-standing is accessed from the Loop Road adjacent to the Bowls Club. It is bounded along the road edge by raised planters, but there is no such barrier to the foreshore pathway which is used by some members of the public as an extension of the car park. There is no bike parking in this zone.

### Sports + recreation grounds

The two remaining bowling greens adjacent the former Bowls Club are closed off with a dilapidated barbed-wire fence and are now unused and overgrown. In what appears to have been the third bowling green, an asphalt model auto sports track has been installed and is used by Sydney Model Auto sports club about five times a month.

### Ground cover + tree cover

This planted areas in Zone 1 were redeveloped in the early 2000s as part of the construction of the Sydney Airport Link train line which runs beneath the site:

- Salt-marsh

A salt marsh zone spans from the Loop Road to the Foreshore path. At its narrowest point a timber bridge passes over it, and a timber pier provides a place to look out over the area. These are beginning to require maintenance. Within the salt-marsh are a couple of bat boxes, and at one point the salt-marsh is split into two by a solid concrete path.

- Cooks River Valley Garden

Sandwiched between the old Bowls Club and the picnic shelters, this garden was intended to display local native plants but has fallen into disrepair in recent years.

- Village Green

A circle of fig trees around a raised lawn creates an area known as the 'Village Green'. This has been used for markets and events in the past and now provides good local social amenity along with the less well defined adjacent lawns. Access is via stairs from one side, and level access from lawns on the other. The lawn adjacent to the barbecue area gets the most use.

### Services

There is a freestanding electrical cabinet between the bowls club and the toilet block, and some wall mounted electrical cabinets on the external wall of the amenities block.



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01. Salt-marsh / 02. Boat trailer on Holbeach Avenue / 03. Jetty on Holbeach Avenue / 04. Tempe Motor Boat Association / 05. Boom gates restrict after hours entry / 06. Signage indicates entry to Cooks River Valley Garden / 07. Modernist concrete picnic shelter / 08. Riverside pathway - western edge / 09. Bench on hardstanding - south western corner / 10. Loop Road flanked with Norfolk Pine trees / 11. Model auto sports track from riverside pathway / 12. Fenced, unused bowling green.

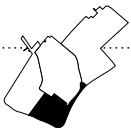


Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 1.

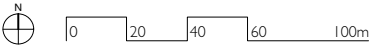
There are opportunities to:

- Define the entry gateway
- Consolidate and improve signage
- Increase awareness of what Tempe Reserve has to offer
- Rationalise and improve the physical security infrastructure
- Consolidate car parking to provide space for other modes of transport
- Provide family-friendly activities
- Improve accessibility to the path network and jetty
- Provide comfortable places to pause
- Cater for off-leash dog walking
- Reclaim the land of the bowls club as a community space
- Better inhabit the waterfront
- Improve picnic facilities
- Accommodate regular markets or festivals
- Improve amenities
- Re-purpose un- or under-utilised structures
- Develop a common style of street furniture across the Reserve
- Create awareness of the history of the Cooks River
- Inhabit and regenerate neglected spaces
- Increase the area of gardens and tranquil spaces
- Incorporate Tempe Motor Boat Association site as an integral part of the Reserve
- Enhance intertidal habitats
- Develop the Cooks River Valley Garden
- Increase the proportion of native planting
- Create awareness of the biodiversity and habitats of Cooks River
- Connect pockets of biodiversity to encourage wildlife
- Further develop habitats for small animal, bird and bat life
- Allocate 'dark sky' pockets for nocturnal animal life
- Create passive surveillance along waterfront path
- Restrict vehicular access beyond marked car parks and roads
- Segregate bicycle and pedestrian movements from vehicles
- Improve slipway access
- Restrict or condition camper-van access
- Provide better lighting and night-time access
- Maximise access to the Cooks River for boating and fishing
- Re-purpose bowls greens for other activities

2.0 Site Analysis



Zone Boundary    Adjacent zones    Outside of site boundary



01. Drop off + turning zone / 02. Car park entry + exit / 03. Storm-water garden / 04. Car park exit only / 05. Shared path and one way road merge / 06. Bridge over Alexandra Canal / 07. Netball courts / 08. Robyn Webster sports centre / 09. Planted mound / 10. Children's playground / 11. Barbecue + picnic facilities / 12. Rockery garden / 13. Grass covered mound / 14. Concrete picnic shelter / 15. Viewing platform for canal bank regeneration.

SCALE 1:2500 @ A4



## ZONE 2

### Overview

Zone 2 of the Tempe Recreation Reserve is located in the south corner of the site. It is bordered by the heritage listed Alexandra Canal to the east, the Cooks river to the south, the Tempe Park Loop Road to the north and salt marsh to the west. This zone includes the Robyn Webster sports centre and associated car park, eleven outdoor netball courts, a children's playground and a series of picnic shelters and barbecues. An access bridge across the Alexandra Canal is located on the eastern edge of the site providing a cycle and pedestrian link to the airport.

### Character

Zone 2 is the anchor of the site for many users, since most of the built facilities are located here. The zone is characterised by the distinctive sports centre building, and is primarily surfaced with hard standing for car parking and sports courts, with the picnic and playground amenities also predominantly founded on hard standing. The land and landscape in this corner is flat and exposed, characteristics exaggerated by the proximity of busy roads on opposite sides of the Canal and River, and the aviation fuel tanks visible to the east which give an industrial backdrop to the site. The overall character of this corner is hard edged city fringe, rather than a soft and relaxing recreation space.

### Foreshore edge

The river bank along the south edge of Tempe Reserve continues from Zone 1 as a shallow sloping bank made up of rocks and boulders. Development of native planting is less successful here than it is further up the river, and planting within the riparian zone looks quite patchy or bare in places, perhaps due to the exposure of this edge.

The retaining wall along the edge of the Alexandra Canal has undergone a recent restoration project – a joint initiative between the previous Marrickville Council and Sydney Water, to repair the collapsing banks. From the intersection with the Cooks River to the first bridge over the canal, a sloped sandstone wall incorporating holes and cut outs for 'plant pockets' and 'block pools' has been installed. Mud flats which provide a foraging ground for birds have been retained below the wall. The area at the top of the bank is not very densely planted, so a shoulder high metal fence has been installed for both human safety and habitat protection. The fence limits the visibility, awareness and interaction with the sea wall installation.

A connection to the canal has been installed at one end of the new bank with interpretation signs to showcase the new wall, despite this, the canal and park feel quite disconnected.

### Signage

As in Zone 1, there are a large number of signs placed at different heights and by different organisations in almost every direction. The mass of signs acts to make each less impactful or effective, since no visitor could be expected to notice and interpret all of them. Many of the signs highlight danger due to nearby gas or electricity services.

Way-finding signage - In this zone there is a defaced way finding totem signboard for Tempe Recreation Reserve at the entry point from Alexandra Canal bridge, and an informative signboard about the regeneration of the Canal bank, both installed by the previous Marrickville Council.

### Built structures

The largest built structure on the Tempe Reserve site, the Robyn Webster indoor sports centre, is a linear corrugated metal shed with a pitched roof and covered in a distinctive red and white mural painted in 2005 by Bundjalung artist Bronwyn Bancroft. The sports centre, which opened in 2003, contains two indoor sports courts, is owned by Inner West Council and currently operated by Sydney University Sport and Fitness.

The building contains changing and toilet facilities and a kiosk.

### Sports amenity

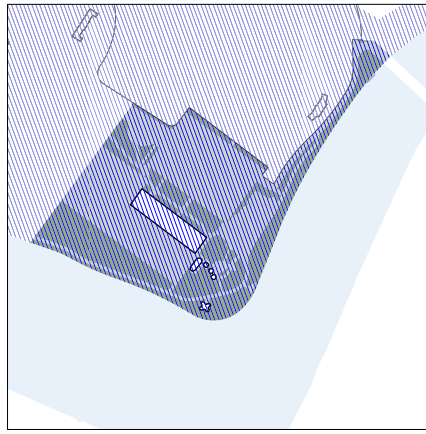
Eleven outdoor netball courts wrap in an 'L' shape around the back and west side of the sports centre, forming a hard edge to the adjacent salt-marsh and planted zones.

The courts are owned by Inner West council and operated by City of Sydney Netball Association.

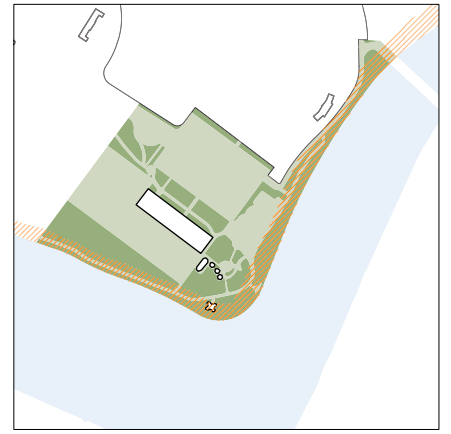
The courts can be accessed from the car park, through the sports centre, or from their east and west sides, however fences have been installed in places around their perimeter, so it is not clear whether the space is intended for public use while not being used for organised competition. The netball courts are bordered on their long edge by a planted mound which provides protection from the wind.



Facilities



Floodplain extent



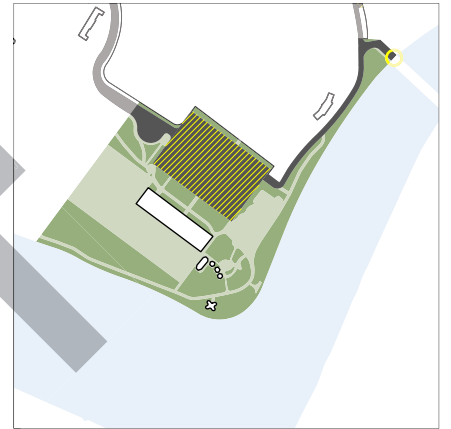
Foreshore building line



Fence + enclosure



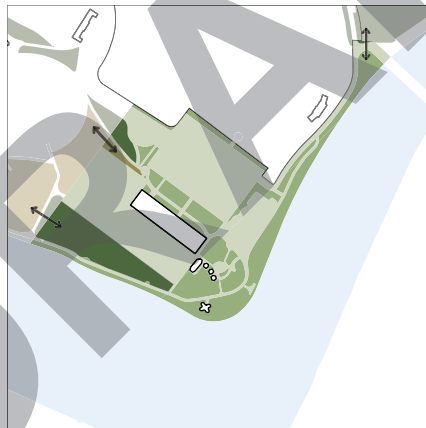
Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



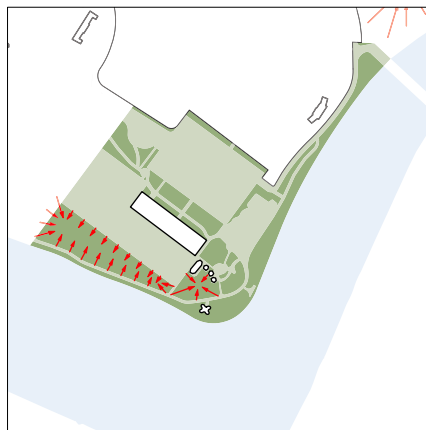
Sports + recreation grounds



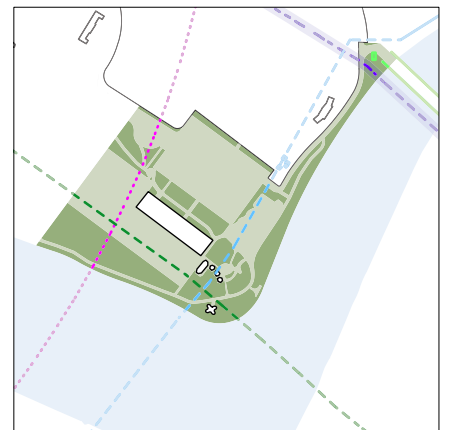
Ground cover + Fauna linkages



Tree cover



Gradient



Services

Zone area	Floodplain
Waterway	Car Park
Existing structure	Road
Existing Hardstanding	Formal foot path
Foreshore building line	Informal foot path

Cycle path	Ground cover
Playground	Lawn
Wetland	Sydney water pipeline
Saltmarsh	Leachate plant/ other
Sportsground	Oil pipeline

High fence	Barbeque
Medium fence	Bench
Low fence/ bollards	Picnic shelter
Security gate	Water fountain
Trainline	Bike rack



## ZONE 2

### Facilities

Adjacent to the sports centre there are three pairs of electric barbecues arranged within a paved clearing. The landscape around this area is generally flat and windswept - though there are grassed areas and some trees, there is a lot of hard landscaping and the facilities feel quite hard and exposed. Three small parasol style picnic shelters cover two tables each, and one large shelter covers a very long communal table. The large shelter appears to be the most intensively used, perhaps due to its capacity, or its position behind a small grassy mound which provides some shelter from the wind.

There is no vista from the picnic shelters, yet the area appears well used. A modernist style concrete picnic shelter is located slightly apart from the barbecue area in a very exposed position on the corner of the site. Two of the four picnic benches have been removed from under the shelter.

There are a number of loose 240L wheelie bins within the park, with a large amount in this barbecue area. The bins are held in place, but look messy and can easily be removed or toppled.

There is a fenced children's play area between the car park and canal with some shelter structures and benches within. The play structures look relatively new but the park does not seem to be intensively used.

There are two bike racks around this zone to accommodate users cycling to the sports centre. These are bolted to the floor, not in the most logical locations and do not look very robust.

### Fences + enclosure

Sections of fence have been installed around the car park to prevent vehicles from driving further into the site.

The river bank to the south edge of Tempe Reserve comprises a shallow sloped buffer made up of rocks and boulders. This is planted, but looks patchy or bare in places.

An approximately 3m wide concrete path shared by pedestrians and cyclists runs parallel to the river.

### Access points + existing pathways

A shared concrete path for cyclists and pedestrians runs alongside the south bank of the Cooks River and cuts across the corner of the site to meet the Alexandra Canal. At this point the path runs parallel to the Canal, separated by a planted zone before it merges with the road as described above.

A number of secondary pathways split from the main path at the corner of the site and loop around to the car park and children's playground entry gate, netball courts, picnic shelters and indoor sports centre. A couple of paths connect through the paved clearing where the barbecue facilities are grouped.

Some of these secondary paths are wide enough for cars to drive onto the netball courts and right up to the barbecues. Sections of fences have been installed in places to prevent this from happening.

### Ground cover + tree cover

To the river edge of the netball courts, there is a large, well-planted mound of earth. This provides a good habitat for small birds, but is quite isolated from other bird friendly habitats - connecting only to the salt-marsh on its short western edge.

A small garden space has been created between the children's play park and barbecue area with crazy paving and some low level planting. The scale of the garden looks like it is intended to be intimate but has not developed well and feels quite exposed.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

There is one entry point to the car park, from the tree lined Tempe Reserve Loop Road which passes through Zone 1 which accommodates two way traffic. Just before entry to the car park there is a turning loop and waiting zone for vehicles which are dropping off or collecting passengers.

A one-way road exits the car park at the opposite side, completing the Loop Road and providing a second exit point. A shared concrete path for cyclists and pedestrians runs alongside this road before merging into it, creating a shared space for two-way pedestrians and cyclists and one-way vehicles. Despite being marked on the road it can still be confusing and off-putting for non vehicular road users.

Shared cycle and pedestrian paths separate from the Loop Road in two directions at the junction with the Alexandra Canal bridge - one way across the bridge, with the other cutting across the top of Zone 3. Vehicular traffic continues on the Loop Road into Zone 3.

The Alexandra Canal bridge is gated to vehicular traffic though the gates are often left open - it is unclear how much vehicular traffic uses the bridge.

A large free of charge car park providing over 200 parking bays is the destination for most vehicular users. The car park is located between the indoor sports centre and outdoor playing fields and serves users of those facilities as well as visitors to the children's playground, barbecues and foreshore walk. A path runs through the car park connecting the indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The car park is spaced with rows of trees and planted beds and a storm-water garden has been created between the sports centre and car park. The trees are a good size but neither the ground cover beneath them nor the storm-water garden are successful, so they appear more similar to the hard standing than adding softness to the landscape, and ultimately exaggerate the apparent area of the car park.

### Services

A high pressure aviation fuel pipeline runs beneath the site, continuing under Alexandra Canal to Sydney Airport. There is a minimum clearance of 1m to any structure laid parallel to the pipeline, though any work in the vicinity requires prior approval of Viva Energy, who own and operate the pipeline.

A desalination pipeline which runs overground in zone 4 transitions to run north - south under zone 2.

The T8 airport connection train line runs underneath the site in the east - west direction.



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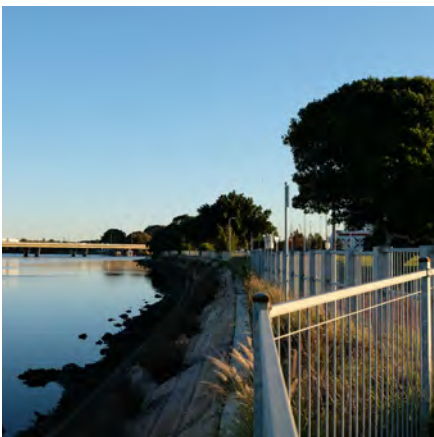
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01. Approach to site from bridge over Alexandra Canal / 02. Underdeveloped riparian zone - south edge / 03. Shared cycle, pedestrian and vehicle road / 04. Cycle path junction / 05. Large picnic shelter / 06. Benches overlooking Alexandra Canal / 07. Bins and barbecue banks / 08. Robyn Webster Sports Centre viewed from netball courts / 09. Bridge over unsuccessful bio-swale / 10. Fence between parkland and habitable Canal bank wall / 11. Transition between new and old Canal bank wall / 12. View across canal towards fuel silos - north edge.



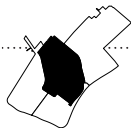
## ZONE 2

Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 2.

There are opportunities to:

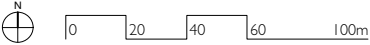
- Incorporate clear way-finding information
- Clarify locations and access arrangements to sporting facilities
- Connect pedestrian and cycle paths to Zone 4 and across Alexandra Canal
- Provide a secondary point-of-entry at the Alexandra Canal bridge
- Integrate children's play into the landscape
- Accommodate activities for younger children and older children
- Include activities for adults
- Engage with non-sports visitors through observation points, culture and arts
- Introduce wind-protection
- Enhance and extend the picnic facilities
- Connect the facilities into the parkland
- Solve the waste management issues, prevent wildlife from accessing them, and encourage visitors to use them
- Create interaction between activities and user-groups
- Develop a common style of street furniture across the Reserve
- Take-advantage of the industrial outlook as a unique feature of the Reserve
- Restrict built interventions and spread of hard, non-permeable surfaces
- Increase awareness of current diverse habitats including foreshore edge and small bird habitat
- Develop planted intertidal zone
- Create visual connections to less-inhabited spaces
- Restrict vehicle access beyond marked car parks and roads
- Segregating pedestrian and cycle movements from vehicles
- Improve lighting strategy
- Improve existing physical sports infrastructure making Tempe Reserve a landmark sports facility
- Accommodate competitions and galas
- Maximise commercial returns
- Better maintain existing facilities
- Diversify the sports offering within existing or new facilities
- Encourage informal uses of spaces for non-competitive sports

2.0 Site Analysis



Zone Boundary    Adjacent zones    Outside of site boundary

01. Coach drop off and waiting zone / 02. Water tank(?) / 03. Water tower / 04. Swampy land / 05. Concrete storm-water drain / 06. Park gate / 07. Pedestrian access to wetlands / 08. Junction with road up to Tempe Lands / 09. Sign marks end of two way traffic - one way traffic commences east of this point / 10. Cricket nets / 11 + 12. Synthetic (?) cricket wickets / 13. Amenities block / 14. Paved clearing / 15. Below ground Sydney Water tanks (?).



SCALE 1:2500 @ A4



### Overview

Zone 3 of Tempe Recreation Reserve is located in the centre of the site, bounded by the Tempe Park Loop Road and car-parking, a section of which is contained within Zone 2. Zone 3 is primarily comprised of a large flat turfed area accommodating sports fields - currently four soccer fields, two rugby fields, two cricket wickets and three cricket nets.

### Character

The sports fields draw both organised sports clubs and informal users to the site. The exposure of the site makes it very windy, and when the fields are not in use the area can feel bleak. When the fields are in use, zone 3 is the hub of the site, with a good community-vibe. Every spare area of grass is utilised, with informal users appropriating the sidelines and other peripheral areas and creating lots of activity.

### Signage

There are no signs indicating who owns and runs the facilities, which pitches are which, who is using each pitch, whether the grounds are open or closed, or how to book them.

Once again, there are a huge number of small signs of different styles with repeated or even contradictory information. There is no effective signage to clarify the organisation of the sports fields.

### Built structures

A single storey brick amenities block with male and female toilets and a canteen is opened and run by sports clubs on game days sits on the east edge of the grounds, parallel to the canal and overlooking the pitches. The amenities block does not seem to be regularly maintained.

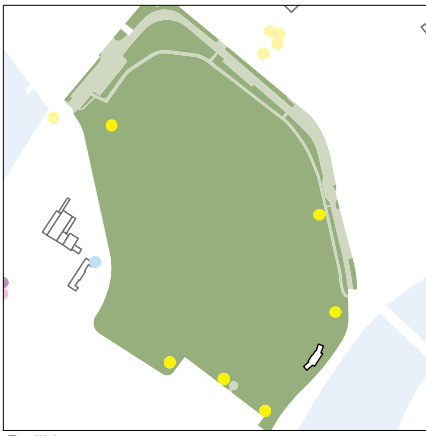
### Lighting

There are some flood lights on the sports grounds, though their distribution does not look consistent – it is unclear how effective these are in low light or dark conditions or how they are controlled.

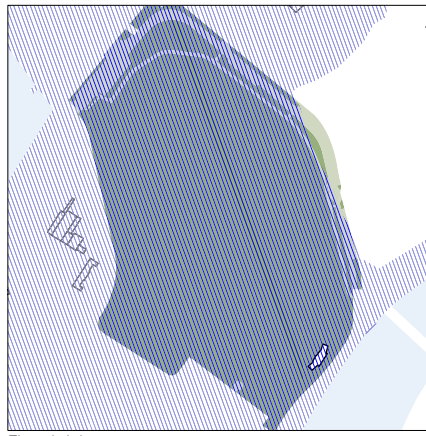
There are regular street lights on one side of the loop road.

### Facilities

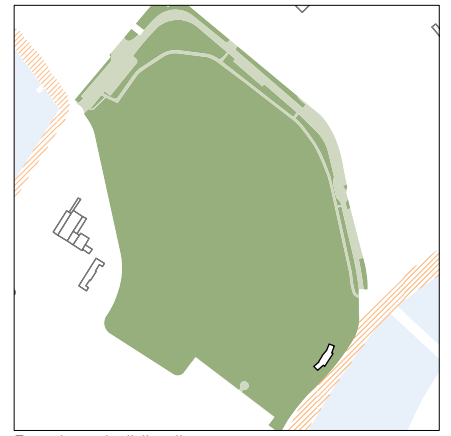
There are few benches scattered around the perimeter of the sports fields. The benches are generally used to hold sports equipment and personal items to keep them elevated from the ground, where they will be visible and dry. Larger organized groups can be seen using their own furniture for events and festivities, and supporters bring their own sideline seating to games. There is greater desire for furniture here than available facilities.



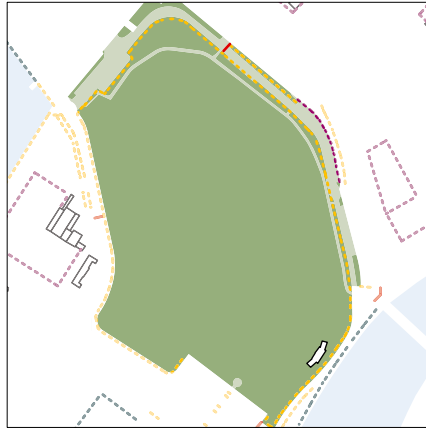
Facilities



Floodplain extent



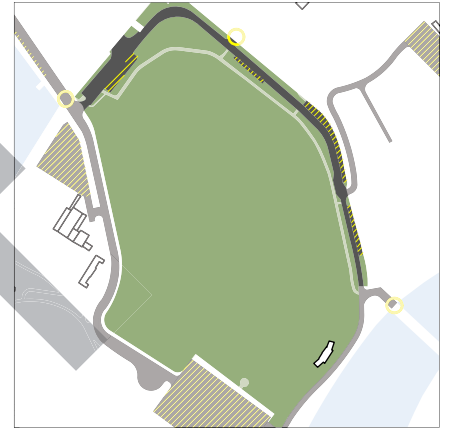
Foreshore building line



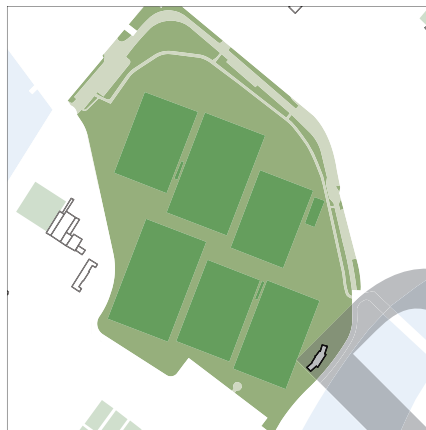
Fence + enclosure



Access points + existing pathways



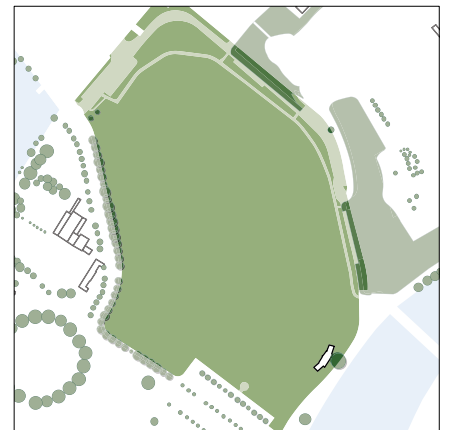
Vehicular access roads + car parks



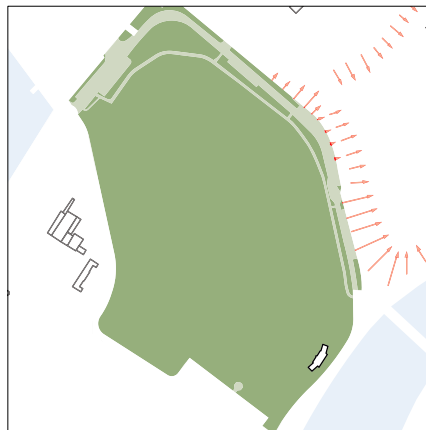
Sports + recreation grounds



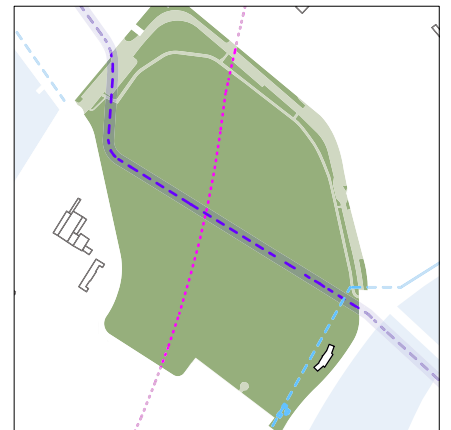
Ground cover + Fauna linkages



Tree cover



Gradient



Services

Zone area	Floodplain
Waterway	Car Park
Existing structure	Road
Existing Hardstanding	Formal foot path
Foreshore building line	Informal foot path

Cycle path	Playground
Wetland	Saltmarsh
Sportsground	

Ground cover	Sydney water pipeline
Lawn	Leachate plant/ other
Oil pipeline	

High fence	Barbeque
Medium fence	Bench
Low fence/ bollards	Picnic shelter
Security gate	Water fountain
Trainline	Bike rack



## ZONE 3

### Fences + enclosure

The boundary of the sports fields is defined by the loop road. Low barriers have been installed and are effective in preventing vehicles from driving onto the pitches. Typically these are horizontal log barriers, except at the border of zone 3 and zone 2, where the barrier is Norfolk Pine trees with metal bollards between.

A vegetated swale runs for a section between the Loop Road and concrete pathway. This might be effective in terms of capturing water runoff from the Loop Road, but its success in terms of capturing storm-water runoff from sports pitches is restricted by the fact that in some areas the concrete pathway is elevated above the level of the sports pitches – so the swale is separated from the pitches.

The corner of the fields adjacent the water tower sits at a slightly lower level to the rest of the pitches, and is often flooded by rainwater which does not drain into the ground. A drainage route towards the roundabout exists – its path can be identified by the location of a concrete storm-water drain in the corner near the roundabout. It appears as though the vegetated swale should drain into this concrete drain, but the number of concrete paths block this drainage route.

### Access points + existing pathways

A concrete path runs parallel to the north part of the loop road, linking the bridge over Alexandra Canal with Holbeach Avenue. Signs indicate that the path is shared between pedestrians and cyclists. Desire paths from the on street car parking in the north onto the fields are evident from the trodden down landscaping between barriers.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

The section of the Tempe Reserve Loop Road between the small roundabout (zone 1) and South Street (RMS) is very wide and undefined by road markings, pavements or kerbs. The road surface runs into and at the same level as the sports fields and neighbouring sites. This condition continues around the corner until the junction of the Loop Road with South Street. This layout could be confusing to an unfamiliar user; particularly the junction at which the Loop Road meets Old Street and Bay Street, which is an undefined expanse of road surface with no direction or orienting signage. It is unclear who is responsible for this section of the road.

This area is used extensively for car parking, with the undefined nature meaning the edges of the road are broken up and the grass worn away.

A number of properties with frontage on Station Street use the grass verge between the back of their houses and the Loop Road for access and parking. It is assumed that this land is appropriated rather than under the ownership of these properties.

After the Loop Road intersects with South Street, signage and a lockable metal security gate on the Loop Road indicate that we are entering Tempe Recreation Reserve. The road narrows to two lanes, road markings are reinstated and the road becomes more defined by planting and low fences. South Street is a typical defined residential street.

There are a number of opportunities for on street parking on the Loop Road;

- Approx 16no. 90° parking spots opposite the motor boat association site. Though the parking zone is recessed into footprint of the sports field and the spots are clearly marked onto the road, a sign here indicates that this is a no parking zone.
- Approx 6no. Parallel parking spots recessed into the swale zone, on entry to the park zone;
- Approx 40no. 90° parking spots below the access road to Tempe Lands. The parking is recessed into where the mound would have been – the earth is cut away and retained with a gabion wall which feels well suited to the park environment.
- Approx 8no. parallel parking spots in the one way section of road;
- A number of undefined car parks are located on the Loop Road between Holbeach Avenue and South Street, especially backing onto Old Street;

There is also a bus zone sign posted outside the motor boat association site, though the sign posted area is unsealed and not physically defined. It is unclear whether there is any demand for a bus zone at the site.

### Sports + recreation grounds

The pitches are marked, and hired out to organized competitions. There are pitches marked on the grass for soccer, rugby and cricket and by all accounts these are well used, but there is evidence of demand for other users given that other sports come to set up on the leftover sections of grass at the weekend.

The Tempe Reserve sports pitches were closed due to the impact of wet weather more than any other Inner West Council sporting ground in 2018 and 2019 (based on info from @IWCsportgrounds). When open the sporting grounds are well used and often fully booked at the weekend.

In terms of complementary amenities, changing rooms, storage etc, there is not much available on site.

### Ground cover + tree cover

All turf, except swale planting and some trees. There are good examples of mature trees separating Old Street from the Loop Road, the Loop Road planting heading into the sports centre, and adjacent the amenities block.

### Services

A high pressure aviation fuel pipeline runs beneath the fields to Sydney Airport, of Alexandra Canal. There is a minimum clearance of 1m to any structure laid parallel to the pipeline, though any work in the vicinity requires prior approval of Viva Energy, who own and operate the pipeline.

A Sydney Water asset cuts across the east of the site. It is expected to be a continuation of the desalination pipeline which runs alongside the canal in zone 4. It is unclear what restrictions this asset poses.



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01. Cycle + footpath deposits visitors onto road / 02. Desalination service pits / 03. On-road car parking, and bio-swale / 04. Cricket nets / 05. One type of sheltered bench seat / 06. Synthetic cricket wicket / 07. Statutory signage / 08. Floodlights / 09. Trampled section of bio-swale / 10. Sheltered picnic bench / 11. Amenities block / 12. Naturalised gabion wall.

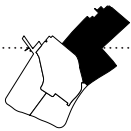



Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 3.

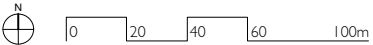
There are opportunities to:

- Maximise parking for Reserve visitors by controlling parking on the Loop Road through introduction of parking restrictions
- Rationalise signage generally, and better communicate sports field locations and booking systems
- Restrict motor vehicle access beyond marked car parks and roads
- Provide unstructured casual recreation spaces
- Clarify that dog access to sports fields is prohibited
- Refurbish or replace existing amenities and formalise maintenance of existing facilities
- Provide spaces for observation and shelter
- Develop a common style of street furniture across the Reserve
- Catch and filter rainwater run-off and alleviate drainage issues, and improve, connect and naturalise storm-water swales
- Densify naturalised planting
- Formalise 'bridges' across the swales
- Direct pedestrians and cyclists via safe connections through the site
- Formalise Loop Road boundaries and rationalise road junctions
- Segregate pedestrians and cyclists on higher volume routes
- Increase quality and provision of sports lighting systems
- Upgrade existing fixed sports facilities
- Provide opportunities for observation
- Maximise capacity through inclusion of synthetic surfaces

2.0 Site Analysis



 Zone Boundary     Adjacent zones     Outside of site boundary



SCALE 1:2500 @ A4

01. Smith Street lorry turning circle and access to container depot. Location of two boom gates and signs marked 'no entry' to Tempe Reserve / 02. Storm-water outlet / 03. First 'pond' of wetland zone / 04. Final 'pond' of wetland zone / 05. Lori Short Reserve / 06. Private residential property / 07. Unvegetated clearing / 08. Pedestrian routes through Tempe Lands / 09. Driving range / 10. Driving range amenities / 11. Off leash dog park / 12. Service road / 13. Leachate treatment plant / 14. Point at which desalination pipeline goes underground / 15. Steep wooded embankment bank down to Alexandra Canal.



**ZONE 4****Overview**

Zone 4 is at the north of the site, on the area known as 'Tempe Lands' - the site of a former quarry turned landfill. The area was opened as public parkland in 2004 after extensive site re-mediation work.

Zone 4 is bounded by a low scale residential community to the west, a container depot to the north, and the Alexandra Canal to the east. It contains Lori Short Reserve (a pocket park adjacent the residential area), a wetland park, a driving range, a fenced off-leash dog exercise area and adjacent lawn, and a car park.

**Character**

Zone 4 can feel disconnected from the rest of Tempe Reserve as most of the area is raised with steep sides down to the lower level of the site to the south. This gradient coupled with dense bushland around the escarpment creates a physical separation of this part of the site. Despite sharing a boundary with the Canal, zone 4 is disconnected from the water.

Three distinct areas are located within Zone 4; wooded wetlands - containing a number of ponds which act as a storm-water filter - with a well developed ecology, a golf driving range, and a somewhat nondescript open lawn accommodating an off-leash dog park and car park.

**Signage**

There are a huge number of signs installed within the wetlands area primarily identifying restrictions on behaviour and access. These signs are dotted around at different heights and locations with a lack of consistency. There is a neat information post identifying the Lori Short Reserve in a pocket park off South Street, and informative though worn looking interpretation signage about local bird life between two of the wetland ponds.

The driving range has independent signage, and the dog park has instructive signage attached to adjacent lampposts.

**Foreshore Edge**

Though bounded by the Canal, this Zone has no direct connection to it - though as noted people have created their own access to this strip. The bank here appears to be the original sandstone, part of the heritage listed structure. Planting has grown up against this creating a small riparian zone and successful buffer to Airport Drive.

**Built Structures**

Some private residential properties abut the site boundary. The properties are fenced and do not affect access to the site.

The golf club amenities are located in demountable cabins which appear to be sat on the surface of the car park. A tall linear shelter covers the tee points.

**Lighting**

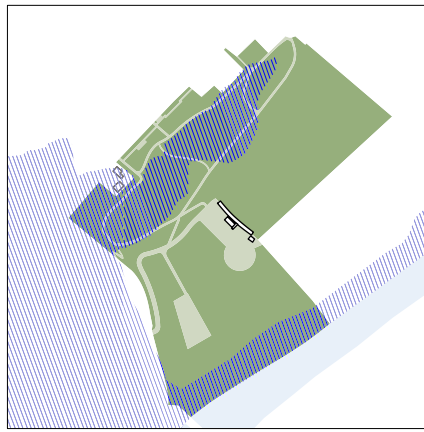
There is no lighting through the wetlands area, but the driving range and container depots have their own floodlighting which lights most of the upper area along with the street-lamps for the car park and access road. Light pollution from South Street and Airport Drive also illuminate areas of this Zone.

**Facilities**

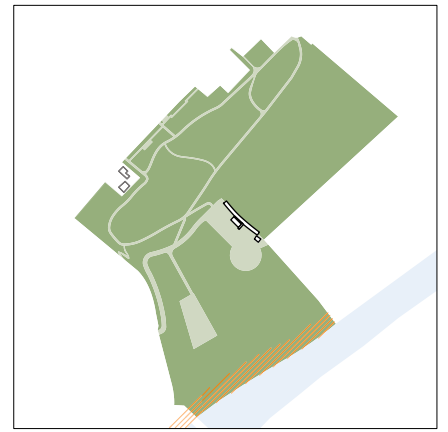
To the south of the wetlands there is a small clearing which contains a number of picnic benches which are arranged around an empty central focal point. There are also some benches in the Lori Short Reserve, and sheltered benches in the off-leash dog park - however due to the height of the structures these are not very effective.



Facilities



Floodplain extent



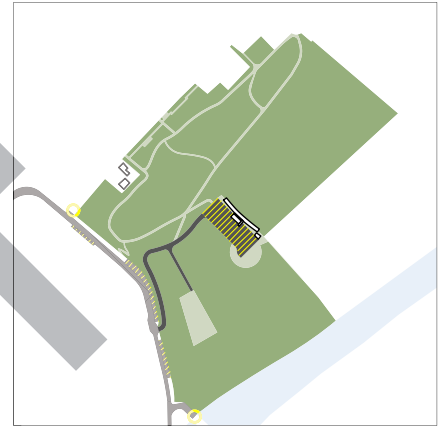
Foreshore building line



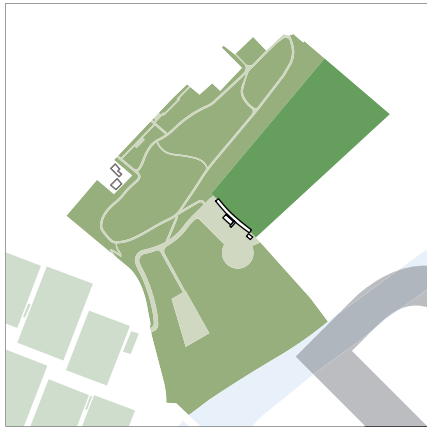
Fence + enclosure



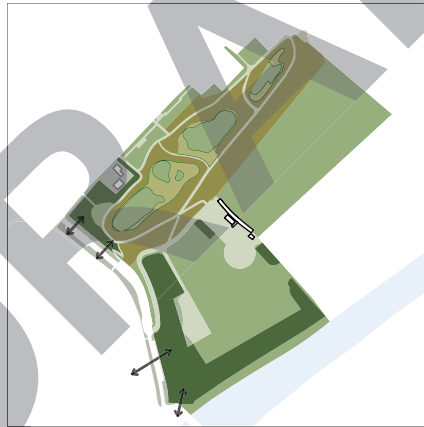
Access points + existing pathways



Vehicular access roads + car parks



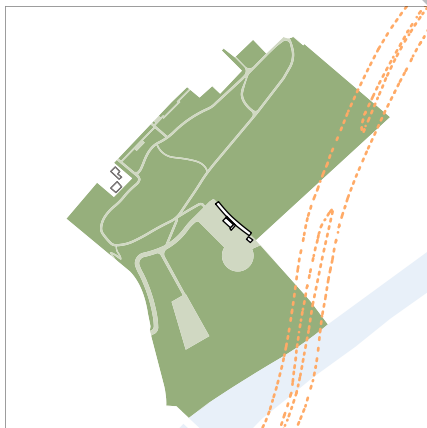
Sports + recreation grounds



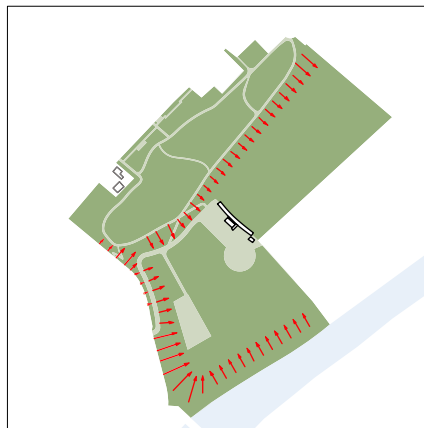
Ground cover + Fauna linkages



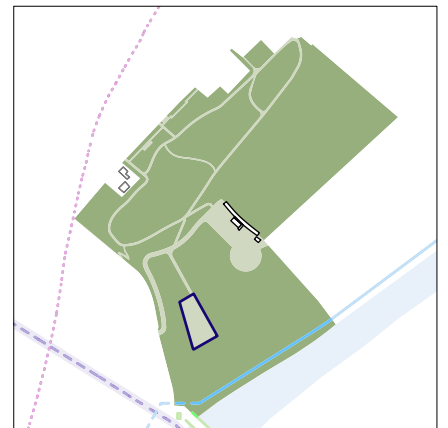
Tree cover



Proposed Sydney Gateway route



Gradient



Services

Zone area	Floodplain
Waterway	Car Park
Existing structure	Road
Existing Hardstanding	Formal foot path
Foreshore building line	Informal foot path

Cycle path	Ground cover
Playground	Lawn
Wetland	Sydney water pipeline
Saltmarsh	Leachate plant/ other
Sportsground	Oil pipeline

High fence	Barbeque
Medium fence	Bench
Low fence/ bollards	Picnic shelter
Security gate	Water fountain
Trainline	Bike rack



## ZONE 4

### Fencing + enclosure

There is a tall net around the driving range to catch golf balls, though this is in need of repair.

A hip height chain link fence encloses the off-leash dog park; it has one pedestrian gate, and a large padlocked gate for vehicular access.

Large rocks or densely planted zones have been positioned to prevent vehicular access to the lawn, however it can still be accessed from adjacent areas where the car park and road are bounded only by a low kerb.

There is a 2m tall chain link fence to the container depot, but the containers beyond, stacked up to four high form a wall in themselves. The leachate plant also has a 2m tall chain link fence all-around.

The turfed area is fenced to the Canal boundary by another chain link fence which sits atop the retaining wall, this also acts as fall-prevention.

### Access points + existing pathways

The wetland is discreetly but successfully connected to the neighbouring residential zone as the established linear street pattern continues into the wetland zone as pathways which lead off South Street, where a row of small concrete bollards prevents vehicular access into the Reserve. This connection from the residential zone is generally very intuitive.

The path is less successful at the extension of Barden Street, where there are privately owned properties abutting the wetland zone on both sides of the path. In this situation the extension of the street doubles as a vehicular access point and parking space for these properties. Here the bollards widely spaced, and small motor vehicles like quad and trail bikes are able to enter the reserve.

The wetland pathways snake around the edges of the ponds and across embankments between them. Natural grasses have populated these banks, but the paths are gradually being widened and their edges eroded by the use of motorbikes in the wetlands.

At the north end of the wetlands, two paths meet Smith Street where boom gates provide access for vehicles (potentially maintenance of the storm-water outlet). The western path is wider than elsewhere and directly abuts the scrap yard adjacent.

The eastern wetland path is cut-off from the upper area of the Zone by an escarpment to the edge of the driving range, however further along two paths do traverse the slope to terminate at the car park.

The Canal edge of the upper area is a near vertical retaining wall with a flat 'step' half-way down before continuing the Canal below. This flat zone has an un-paved path running along its length, starting in the bush below the leachate plant and continuing past the container depot to a lookout over the airport runway beyond. It is unclear if this is an adopted or appropriated pathway.

At the lower level, there is a gravel path at 'tow path' height alongside the Canal. A Sydney Water owned desalination pipeline runs alongside the path, and whilst it generally allows for a generous path width, the pipeline and Canal begin to converge closer to the bridge before the pipeline enters a concrete walled structure where it goes under ground.

Access to this part of the site is restricted by a tall barbed wire topped gate but it is evident that people have created access through it.

### Vehicular access roads + car parks

The only road within Zone 4 is for car park access - this splits from the Loop Road in Zone 3 and traverses up the escarpment before terminating in the car park. A service driveway splits from the road just before it reaches the car park accessing the leachate plant.

A car park in front of the driving range provides over 70 parking bays. This car park is not as intensively used as those in the lower zones, and primarily serves the visitors to the driving range and off-leash dog park.

### Ground cover + tree cover

The wetlands appear semi-wild but are regularly maintained by council appointed landscape contractors. The Lori Short Reserve is mainly turfed but fringed quite successfully with formal domestic-scale planting.

The wetlands are haven for bird life. Since remediation of the land in 2004, local bird watching group Tempe Birdos have sighted more than 120 bird species in the wetlands.

The embankment to three sides of the upper area is densely wooded with bush undergrowth, and the upper area itself is almost entirely grass ground-cover. This can create quite a windy area with no larger planting to act as a buffer.

Landfill capping has been used on this land since 2005, creating a barrier 0.5m thick to the contaminated ground below. This has the knock-on of making the turfed area often waterlogged due to poor drainage.

### Proposed Sydney Gateway route

NSW Government has made a proposal for the Sydney Gateway - a highway connecting to the nearby airport to the wider motorway network. If the proposal goes ahead as per published concept design (July 2019), the boundaries of Zone 4 will be negatively impacted.

### Services

Leachate treatment is in use to treat contaminated liquid from under the landfill cap, this is contained within a fenced plant area adjacent the lawn.

An overground desalination pipeline runs parallel to the Alexandra canal. The pipeline is about 1.5m diameter, and climbable with ladders running around it at points.





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01. Leachate plant / 02. Wetland entry path, frequented by motor bikes / 03. Boom gates marked 'no entry' and accompanying instructional signage / 04. Clearing within wetlands / 05. Benches around edge of clearing / 06. Concrete bollards successfully restrict vehicular access to wetlands / 07. Single metal bollard unsuccessful in restricting vehicular access to wetlands / 08. Concealed instructional signage / 09. Naturalised pathway and vandalised interpretation signage / 10. Vandalised instructional signage / 11. Overground desalination pipeline / 12. Fenced off-leash dog park.



Based on the Analysis set out over the previous pages, the following opportunities present themselves within Zone 4.

There are opportunities to:

- Remove outdated signage, and consolidate wayfinding and instructional signage to increase awareness of what Tempe Reserve has to offer
- Connect informal pathways and Alexandra Canal
- Embrace Sydney Gateway and connect proposed cycle pathways
- Improve off-leash dog spaces
- Provide shelter and shade opportunities
- Retain local residential connections to the Reserve
- Enhance connections to the rest of the Reserve
- Better maintain Lori Short Reserve
- Contribute to the design of Sydney Gateway protective buffer, with a view to minimising its impact on Tempe Lands.
- Increase awareness of the history and ongoing ecological impacts of the site
- Provide information about the wetland storm-water filtration system
- Develop and enhance pathways through the wetlands
- Create an identity for Tempe Lands
- Protect the established environment
- Restrict motor vehicle access
- Naturalise larger clearings and increase awareness of and connection to natural habitats
- Encourage the developing ecology of the wetlands, connect diverse pockets with corridors of natural planting and develop further habitats for small animals, birds and bats
- Maintain the 'dark sky' opportunities of the wetland zone
- Identify and resolve any issues of leachate
- Provide low-level lighting for a greater sense of safety
- Improve ground conditions providing opportunities for sports and recreation



Looking across sports fields, Tempe Reserve. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



## 3.0 Community Engagement

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## 3.0 Community Engagement

### OVERVIEW + ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

#### 1.0 Introduction

Inner West Council engaged the community on their enjoyment of Tempe Recreation Reserve, with a view to the preparation of a ten-year plan for the Reserve, which include a Plan of Management and a Master Plan. Community engagement was carried out via the online platform Your Say Inner West (YSIW) and two drop-in sessions at Tempe Recreation Reserve.

#### 1.1 Background/ Context

Plans of management must be prepared for all types of parks on community land. Inner West Council has established a parks planning priority list, which nominates which open spaces it feels are in greatest need of new or updated Plans of Management. Tempe Recreation Reserve has been nominated as high priority within the Inner West council area.

#### 1.2 Promotion

The engagement initiative was promoted by a number of means, including:

- Your Say Inner West project page
- On-site signage
- Media release
- Social media
- E-news
- Council website
- Email to identified groups

All promotion collateral directed people to the online submission form on YSIW and to the two park drop-in sessions.

#### 2.0 Drop-in sessions

Two drop in sessions were held at Tempe Recreation Reserve on consecutive Saturdays, one in the morning and one in the afternoon; 29.06.19, 10am-2pm and 06.07.19, 2pm-4pm.

Printed boards outlined key activities, both existing and proposed, as well as a map indicating the site area. Members of the public were asked to identify the facilities and areas they liked the most, and which facilities and areas they felt had room for improvement. Comments on additional items were also welcomed.

The outdoor sports pitches were closed during both drop-in sessions due to wet weather. Generally the consultation attendees lived locally and had walked or driven to the reserve.

At the second consultation, user groups including the Newtown Jets Juniors, Sydney Morning Cricket Association, Tempe Birdos attended.

Inner West Council's Urban Ecology team also attended site to give their feedback. Their comments have also been included in this summary.



Figure 1. Drop-in session activity board - site map.



Figure 2. Drop-in session activity board.



## 2.1 Engagement Outcomes

Engagement outcomes have been themed for ease of reference.

### Movement around Tempe Reserve

- Users who took part in the engagement process were all satisfied with the volume of parking at the site, noting that capacity was adequate even when all sports facilities were in use.
- Local residents noted that the junction of Bay Street with Old Street and the Loop Road is unclear. Concerns were raised that unfamiliar users would find it confusing to navigate, leading to potentially hazardous situations.
- Users requested that access to the Canal side path be extended along the foreshore for walking and jogging - past the point which is currently gated.
- Users commented on the under-use of the Tempe Lands area (Zone 4) due to its disconnection from the rest of the site, though conversely many enjoyed the calm environment this created within the wetland area.

### Passive recreational use

- Local users noted that many vehicle campers park overnight in the Reserve. Most did not take issue with this in itself, but were concerned that the already poorly maintained sanitary amenities in the park could not support the load of both recreational users and campers.
- Dog walkers expressed a desire to walk their dogs off leash in a wider area within the park, some expressing a preference for a less isolated off-leash dog park in the lower area of the Reserve. Some dog walkers were frustrated at the perceived domination of the off-leash dog park by professional dog walkers, who bring a lot of dogs to the park restricting availability for non-commercial use.
- Dog walkers also requested more and better maintained dog waste disposal bins and a water play area, citing Sydney Park as good example.

### Café / Community space

- There was a lot of support for the idea of a café and community space. Users expressed a preference for a family and local resident friendly community directed space, with a diverse and active programme incorporating music and arts. Examples of successful venues put forward included Camperdown Commons, Petersham Bowling Club and the Concordia Club.
- A number of users suggested using this as an opportunity to regenerate the bowls club.
- Long term users noted that the site has been used for markets and family friendly festivals in the past - something they would be keen to encourage and facilitate within the Reserve.

### Synthetic Pitches

- Participants in the drop in sessions at Tempe Reserve were either supportive or indifferent to the prospect of synthetic pitches at Tempe Reserve.
- The people who did comment noted that the existing pitches get worn out quickly and are often closed due to rain. These participants speculated that if some pitches were replaced with a synthetic surface the demand would likely increase, making it more difficult for them to secure a spot. Despite this they were supportive of the proposal due to the increased usage synthetic pitches would provide year round and in a wider range of weather conditions.
- A number of participants commented on poor drainage around the site, including on the sports pitches. Some were satisfied that synthetic pitches would overcome these issues, but others were concerned that the drainage issues would persist despite installation of synthetic pitches, and therefore requested that the drainage issues be addressed on a wider scale.
- Some queries were raised as to whether synthetic surfaces are suitable for all sports.
- Participants who use the existing pitches for sports were concerned that the installation period of the synthetic pitches would restrict the ongoing use of the sports pitches and therefore affect their season's play.



Figure 3. Drop-in session activity board.

## 3.0 Community Engagement

### DROP IN SESSIONS

#### Sense of place

- Frequent visitors to the site, especially local residents emphasised their appreciation of the wetland area, citing it a 'hidden gem' of the city. Users consistently reiterated their pride, appreciation and enjoyment of this area with the main attraction being the absence of intervention and a rare opportunity to enjoy a wild space within the city.
- Users were concerned about the impact that the proposed Sydney Gateway project could have on the Wetlands, apprehensive that its form will dominate and severely impact the peace and quiet of the wetlands. Concern was also expressed about the state and usability of the Wetlands and wider reserve during the construction of the project.
- When prompted, users did not express a strong desire to retain the artwork which covers the sports centre.

#### Anti-social behaviour

- Lack of respect for shared facilities within the Reserve, and behaviour which is considered anti-social was raised by a number of users, citing examples including but not limited to - leaving rubbish in the picnic areas, wrapping the picnic shelters with plastic against the wind, and illegal dumping of large unwanted goods in low visibility areas.
- A number of users expressed frustration with trail or quad bike riders driving off road into and around the park-lands and wetlands at high speeds during the day when the Reserve is busy with users and at night, causing danger to themselves and others. Users felt this activity directly impacted their comfort, safety and enjoyment of spaces within the Reserve. From a longer term perspective concern was expressed about damage to the landscape and impact on biodiversity.
- Users noted that picnickers drive cars off road and directly into the Reserve, to park on footpaths and lawns. This was perceived as antisocial and disruptive.

#### Water + drainage

- In terms of usability, regular users identified a number of areas around the site which flood and remain waterlogged for a disproportionate time after rainfall. The main problem areas were the turfed area of zone 4, the sports fields in Zone 3, and the north corner of Zone 3. Many users attributed this issue to a high water table and clay rich ground.
- IWC Urban Ecology team flagged the North corner of Zone 1 as an area of lower ground which could be easily manipulated to connect the adjacent naturalised swale and engineered storm-water drain into a drainage system which runs around the Zone 3 sports grounds.

#### Biodiversity

- Users were generally very appreciative of concentrated pockets of biodiversity around the Reserve and expressed a desire for more bushland, salt-marsh and encouragement of native flora and fauna. A huge number of positive comments were made in appreciation of the quiet tranquillity and isolation of the wetlands.
- The Tempe Birdos, a local birdwatching group, highlighted that though biodiversity at the site has come a long way in a short space of time it could be even better. They feel that more could be done to encourage and protect small birds, by creation and connection of small bird habitats and biodiversity corridors. The group noted that cats could be detrimental to small bird (and other small animal) environments.
- IWC Urban Ecology team observed that small birds have made attempts to nest within some of the picnic shelters, and suggested that this could be encouraged by being better supported.
- IWC Urban Ecology team noted that the naturalised areas of the reserve (zone 1, zone 4) were attractive areas for bat species due in part to the lack of artificial light after dark.

#### Multi-generational use

- Users expressed a desire for provision of family friendly activities such as a family cycle track, a learn to cycle course or interactive water features which could cater to children too old for the play-park and which could be integrated into the park as opposed to segregated to certain zones.
- Users specifically noted that the wetlands and naturalised walking routes were great for multi-generational enjoyment of the Reserve.

#### Maintenance

- Responses to the online survey highlighted that many users felt that the Reserve was poorly maintained.
- Users commented that enjoyment of the riverside could be enhanced by council taking time clear rubbish which often washes up onto river bank by changing tides.
- IWC Urban Ecology team were keen to resume maintenance and improve the condition of the Cooks River Valley Garden, which has become abandoned and overgrown in recent years.

#### Furniture/ facilities

- Users requested more fresh water stations.
- Users felt that there was room for improvement in the barbecue and picnic facilities and potential for increasing capacity of these facilities, noting that the facilities in Zone 1 received less use than those in Zone 2.
- Toilet amenities were raised as in need of improvements and regular cleaning and maintenance.



### 3.0 Online survey

An online survey was conducted in June and July 2019 through the 'Your Say Inner West' (YSIW) website, seeking feedback on a range of questions regarding Tempe Reserve. The survey included multiple-choice and essay style questions and was open for public response for five weeks from 14.06.19 to 19.07.19.

The project page received 522 visits. 231 visitors participated in viewing documents and information, of whom 131 visitors contributed to the online submission form.

Quantitative responses to the multiple-choice questions are displayed visually in the Engagement Outcomes section below. Text based responses to the essay style questions have been grouped into themes, and issues which featured the most prominently have been summarised below.

Eight written responses were made on behalf of organisations - a summary of these submissions can be found at the end of the Engagement Outcomes section.

### 3.1 Engagement Outcomes

Who did we hear from?

Q: 'What are the main reasons you visit Tempe Reserve?  
Please tick all that apply' (see figure 5 below)

Q: 'How often do you visit Tempe Reserve?'  
(see figure 6 overleaf)

Q: 'How did you get to Tempe Reserve?'  
(see figure 7 overleaf)

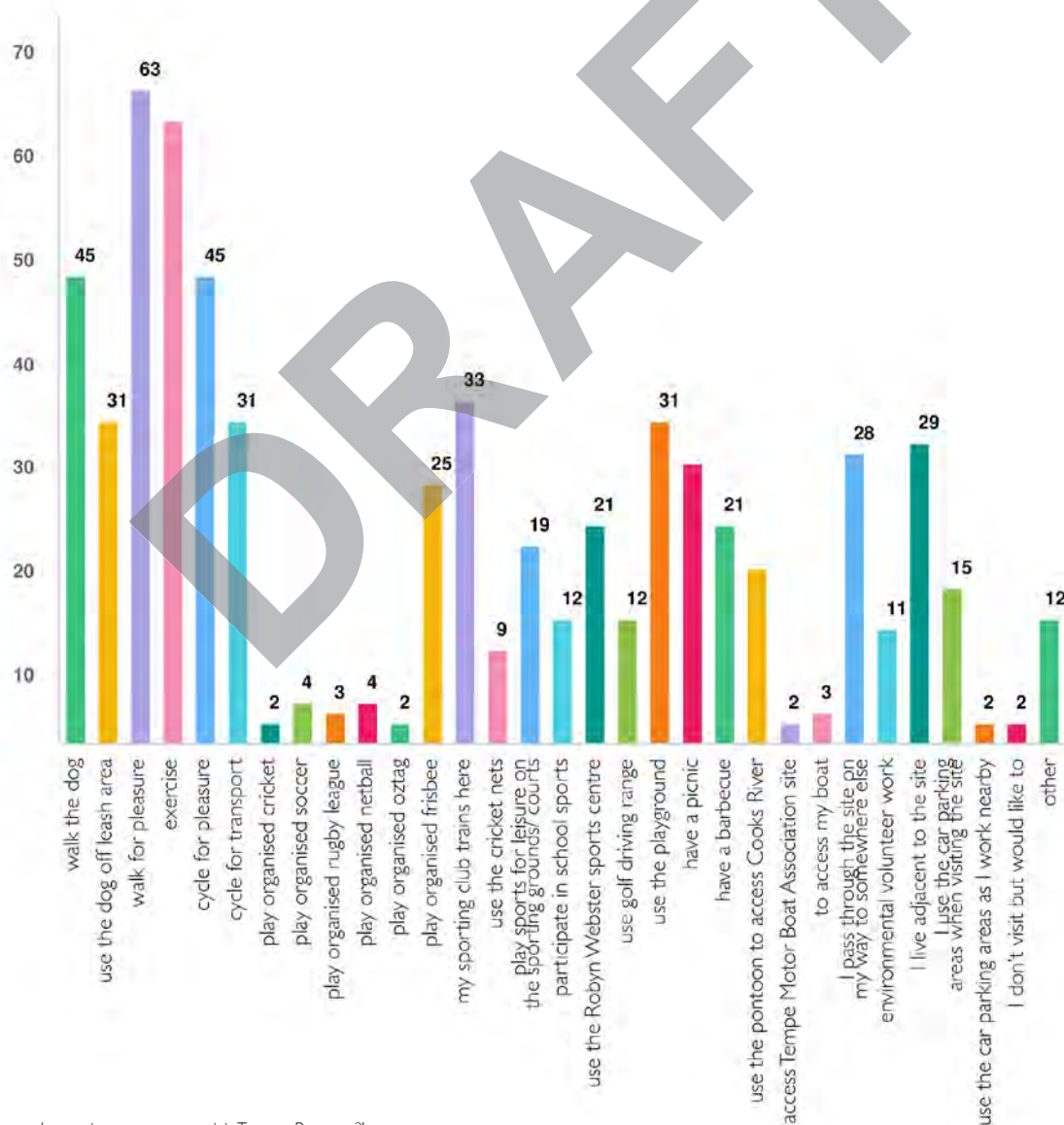


Figure 5. 'What are the main reasons you visit Tempe Reserve?'

3.0 Community Engagement

ONLINE SURVEY

How did these participants feel about Tempe Reserve?

Q: ‘To what extent do you agree with the following statements?’

- When I visit during the day I feel safe
- When I visit in the evening or at night I feel safe
- I feel part of the community when I visit
- Tempe Reserve is easy to walk around
- It’s easy to find information about Tempe Reserve
- Tempe Reserve caters for all ages
- Tempe Reserve meets the needs of the community
- Tempe Reserve is well maintained
- Tempe Reserve has a nice character

Successful aspects of Tempe Reserve were highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel safe when they visit Tempe Reserve during the day;
- Users feel part of the community when they visit Tempe Reserve;
  - Users find it easy to walk around Tempe Reserve;

Less successful aspects of Tempe Reserve were also highlighted by responses to this question:

- Users feel substantially less safe in the park after dark than during the day;
- Users find it difficult to find information about Tempe Reserve;
- Users do not feel that the Tempe Reserve is well maintained.

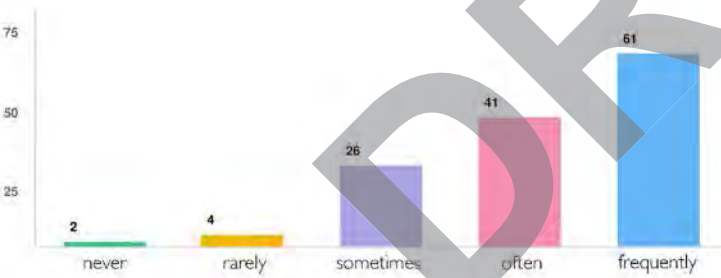


Figure 6. ‘How often do you visit Tempe Reserve?’

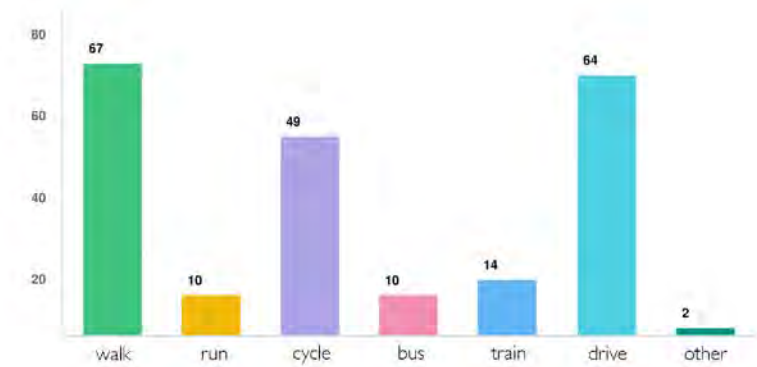


Figure 7. ‘How did you get to Tempe Reserve?’

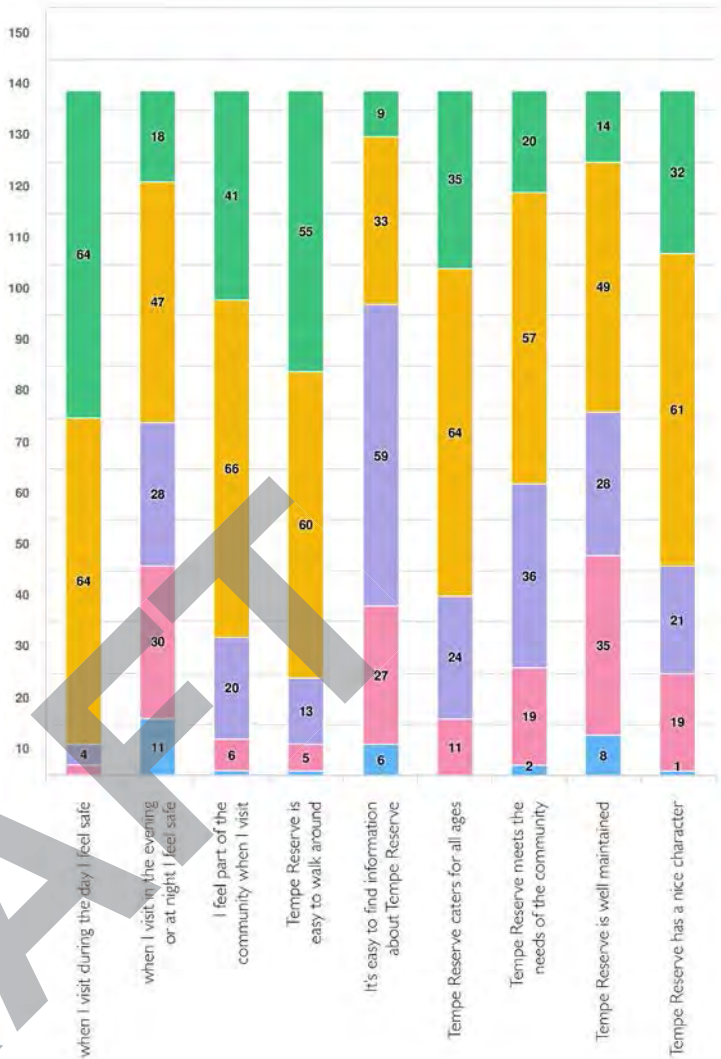


Figure 8. ‘To what extent do you agree with the following statements?’  
strongly agree  
agree  
unsure/ not applicable  
disagree  
strongly disagree



A number of essay style questions were asked, to establish community opinion of Tempe Reserve in more detail.

Q: *'Please describe what you value about Tempe Reserve. You may like to describe what it looks like, how you use it or how it makes you feel.'*

Responses to this question were overwhelmingly positive and emotive, focusing on users' appreciation of the natural environment which they interact with when using Tempe Reserve, with a number of users describing the Reserve as an 'oasis' or 'hidden gem'. A number of users noted the benefit of this open space and park-lands on both their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The root of what users valued most about Tempe Reserve was repeatedly attributed to:

- Diversity of plants and animals;
- The close proximity of a substantial pocket of nature to the built environment;
- The size and scale of open space;
- The wetland area, as an oasis of calm and tranquillity;
- Interaction with water and connection with the waterfront;
- The balance of built area to parkland;
- Availability of open space for use by casual and organised recreation/ exercise.
- The range of activities catered for by the Reserve.

Q: *'What don't you like about Tempe Reserve?'*

Responses to this question revealed that the main things which respondents disliked about Tempe Reserve was the perceived anti-social treatment of the space by other users, and the physical condition of the Reserve.

- Anti-social use of Tempe Reserve, specifically in the form of cars, motorbikes and trail bikes driving onto various parts of the Reserve, damaging the environment and affecting other users' enjoyment of the space.
- Anti-social use also manifested in the quantity of waste left around the park, impacting the waterways, attracting vermin and discouraging users from visiting Tempe Reserve. Users observed that the majority of the waste was left around the picnic and barbecue areas, speculating that it was due to lack of bins or enforcement encouraging users to clean up after themselves.
- A large proportion of respondents to this question disliked the physical condition of the grounds. Feedback consistently noted that drainage on and around the periphery of the sports fields, and on the lawns of Tempe Lands was very poor, resulting in frequently water-logged ground. The quality of the sports fields was noted to be uneven, with dirt patches and potholes affecting play.

Additional themes of dislike included:

- Poor lighting, operating inconsistently;
- Low quality, level of maintenance and hygiene of amenities;
- Campervans parking in the reserve overnight – users had safety and hygiene concerns with this.
- The disuse of the Jets club, and atmosphere of neglect perpetuated by this.

Q: *'What improvements would you like to see to Tempe Reserve?'*

Responses to this question mirrored many of the themes which had been highlighted as 'dislikes' in the previous question, and reinforced themes which had been 'liked' in the first essay question. The main area of desired improvement was to upgrade and maintain the Reserve:

- Upgrade and ongoing maintenance of built amenities, including the toilets, changing areas, barbecues, drinking water fountains, and of outdoor sports grounds and lawns.
- Clean up waste and associated pollution both within the Reserve and around its waterfront fringes, followed by implementation of future preventative measures including provision of vermin and Ibis-proof bins for general and dog waste, rubbish socks on water outlets, and active steps to encourage visitors to use these facilities.
- Use of the Jets club site, either by activation of the existing building for a community focussed use such or by giving the site back to the community as parkland.
- Step up the ongoing maintenance of parkland, and promote greater biodiversity by enhancing and increasing the area of natural environments. Respondents emphasised their desire to increase the area of wetlands, garden and native plantings which contribute to small animal habitats and shading for park users.

Additional themes included:

- Reliable and consistent lighting to main routes.
- Improvements in drainage of the sports grounds and park lawns.
- Addition of more off-leash dog areas, to include water and shade, and replacement of the existing off-leash dog area if it becomes displaced by Sydney Gateway project.

### 3.0 Community Engagement

Q: *'What do you think should be the main priority of the park plans?'*

The majority of responses to this question focussed on intangible concepts of inclusivity and community rather than physical improvements. Respondents felt that the main priority of the park plans should be:

- To reflect community needs, making sure that Tempe Reserve considers and accommodates everyone who wants to use it. It should be family friendly, inviting and inclusive to all visitors, nature and types of casual or organised sport and recreation.
- To keep Tempe Reserve open as a public parkland, free for use by all visitors, particularly for an evolving population of apartment dwellers who use the Reserve as an extension of their homes. Users felt that the Reserve should maximise its community use, maintaining and building upon its current assets while retaining its character.

Emphasis was also placed on tangible priorities, many of which were reiterated from previous answers:

- A return to natural habitats where possible; 'wild' as opposed to manicured, and expanding and enhancing natural environments to support more wildlife.
- Use of Jets club as community space or café
- Upgrade in condition and ongoing maintenance of sports grounds.

Q: *'Do you have any other comments on Tempe Reserve?'*

- Concern that any positive impact of improvements to the Reserve would be undermined and jeopardised by the proposed Sydney Gateway project;
- Concern that the Reserve would become developed or commercialised;
- A number of people expressed concern about the environmental impact of the proposed move towards synthetic turf;
- Some respondents observed that Tempe Reserve was more run down and neglected than other parks in the council area, and speculated that other parks must be receiving more attention and financial support from the council.

### 4.0 Written Responses

Council received eight written responses from organisations during the initial engagement period.

Themes raised in the written responses are summarised below.

#### 1. Sydney University Sports and Fitness

Sydney University Sports + Fitness [SUSF], a not for profit organisation established by the University of Sydney to provide sporting services and clubs to University and local communities, expressed a desire to partner with Inner West Council to upgrade the indoor sports facilities at Tempe Recreation Reserve with the intention of increasing capacity and range of available sports. The organisation have outlined their recommendations – any partnership will need to be negotiated with council based on the recommendations made in this Plan of Management.

As the current leasers and operators of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre, SUSF were able to provide statistics on current condition and use of the facilities.

Current regular usage by badminton (42%), soccer (23%), roller skating (19%), volleyball (14%), netball (3%)

Other users – volley and netball competitions, german wheel, Department of Education for galas, rehearsals, and school sports, roller fit and roller derby, biathlon training, futsal.

SUSF believes that to maximise its current usage the indoor sports courts need to be refurbished by renovation of the floor surface and line markings. Installation of scoreboards and stop clocks been enquired after by users.

Basketball is the most enquired about sport at the centre, SUSF recommended that accommodating indoor, outdoor and casual basketball would attract a wide range of users to the facility.

Enquiries by other users for which there is not capacity or facilities to currently accommodate include martial arts, gymnastics, futsal competitions.

The opening hours of the facility are currently restricted by limitations of economic sustainability, whereby it is not sustainable to staff two courts for extended hours. SUSF felt that provision of four courts would create a more sustainable model, allowing the facility to remain open for longer each day. Expansion would also increase its appeal by becoming a competition sized venue for more sports.

#### 2. Colony Ultimate Frisbee Club

Colony Ultimate Frisbee Club [CUFC] expressed support for synthetic pitches, to allow training in wet weather and maximise the capacity of the fields. CUFC requested that installation of the synthetic be conducted in low season to minimise disruption to bookings.



## WRITTEN RESPONSES

**3. Newtown Junior Jets RLFC**

Newtown Junior Jets RLFC [NJJ RLFC], who use and maintain the blue painted amenities block (Zone 1) noted that inadequate lighting levels and timing of lighting is an issue, specifically mentioning arrival routes to the Reserve, around the amenities, on and around the sports fields and the routes between these points.

The club currently store their sports equipment in the amenities block, and would like to formalise this use to ensure its continued availability.

In terms of the condition of the amenities block, NJJ RLFC noted that no maintenance or management is undertaken by the council; the amenities are not cleaned and there is no hot water. Plumbing issues, odours and rodent access makes occupation unhygienic. Despite this, the club have successfully improved the standard of the space, and would like to see a renovation of the block which would build on their work to date.

**4. City of Sydney Netball Association Inc**

City of Sydney Netball Association [CSNA] requested upgrades specific to the outdoor netball courts including upgrade the six courts were not recently resurfaced, the court lighting system, the PA system provision, the Robyn Webster kiosk.

The club would like consistent provision for ongoing maintenance to the netball courts, the ability to increase club exposure by posting signage throughout the reserve, and addition of spectator seating around the courts.

CNSA also suggested improvements which would benefit the wider Reserve, including upgraded lighting to facilitate safe access to the Reserve from public transport hubs, improved provision for public and personal transport connections, sufficient public amenities with regular cleaning and maintenance and the continued enhancement of landscaping within the Reserve, specifically around the netball courts.

**5. Inner West Roller Derby League**

Inner West Roller Derby League [IWRDL] outline the current extent of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre at Tempe Recreation Reserve, noting that improvement of facilities to accommodate the sport would fuel increased demand for the facilities by the roller derby community.

IWRDL outlines the physical requirements of roller derby, stating preference for sprung timber floor or polished concrete, over rubberised 'sports court' material. The written response contradicts misconstrued views that roller derby impacts venue flooring.

IWRDL set out their desire to see the upgrade and extension of the Robyn Webster Sports Centre doubling the size and incorporating grandstand seating to enable it to host roller derby host games and tournaments. The written submission proposes that improved facilities at Tempe Reserve could give it the potential to become centre of roller derby in the county, in turn boosting economy of the Inner West Council area.

**6. Skate Victoria Inc**

Skate Victoria [SV] highlighted the progressive and inclusive culture of the sport of roller derby, and expressed support for Inner West Roller Derby League [IWRDL] – an affiliated club of their organisation.

Skate Victoria stated their intention to introduce a number of skating programs in the near future, which would give IWRDL opportunity to attract higher numbers of participants if additional venue space were available.

**7. Sydney Olympic Football Club**

Sydney Olympic Football Club [SOFC] expressed a desire to partner with Inner West Council to upgrade the sports facilities at Tempe Recreation Reserve with the intention of relocating its home grounds to the site. The club outlined their requirements in detail – note that any partnership will need to be negotiated with council based on the recommendations made in this Plan of Management.

**8. BIKEast**

Bike East, a bicycle user group representing cyclists in the eastern suburbs, who champion safe, continuous and connected bike routes, identify Tempe Reserve as both an important link in the Sydney cycling network and as a hub for recreational cycling.

In their written response, Bike East highlight the connection to the Cooks River space through Tempe Reserve and the space around Alexandra Canal, and the importance of retaining and developing the route as an open community space and active travel corridor.

Bike East referred a number of to guidelines and initiatives including The Greater Sydney Principal Bicycle Network, which clearly supports bicycle connections between Sydney Airport, Kogarah, Sydenham (Metro coming soon) and Wolli Creek.

Bike East observed that The Sydney Gateway concept design removes existing connectivity used by people walking and cycling around Sydney Airport. Bike East believe that this makes a connection via Tempe Reserve vital to enable the Sydney active travel network.

Bike East noted that many airport staff live in the Inner West, and therefore feel that Inner West council should look to provide transport support for local workers, by providing safe and convenient walking and cycling facilities. They encourage Inner West Council to plan strategic bicycle connections around Tempe Reserve, Sydney Airport and Wolli Creek, to support these residential and commercial growth areas.

Additionally, Bike East noted 'an obvious and missing cycling link' between Airport Drive and Marsh St, and urged Inner West Council to plan for this link, however this area is not covered by scope of the Tempe Recreation Reserve Plan of Management and Masterplan.





Looking across bio-swale towards Loop Road and wetlands. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



## 4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies





# 4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies

## OVERVIEW

Key objectives for the future of the park have been derived from the opportunities outlined in the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes. They have also been informed through precedent studies of successful local, national and international park-land projects.

Key strategies have been outlined to accompany these objectives. The Strategies suggest, in broad terms, how the objectives can be achieved within the Master Plan.



### ACCESS

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Improve access to the site for all users*
2. *Create simple signage and way-finding strategy*
3. *Increase awareness of what Tempe Recreation Reserve has to offer.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Define access points into the Reserve
- Create additional access points into the Reserve.
- Provide safe, segregated routes into the Reserve for pedestrians and cyclists
- Consolidate way-finding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format



### INCLUSIVE

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure accessibility to the Reserve for all demographics*
2. *Integrate activities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Continue connections to local indigenous communities and the history of the area
- Balance provision of activities to consider visitors of multiple generations and abilities
- Ensure alterations cater for people who are less able than others
- Provide off-leash dog areas



### SENSE OF PLACE

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Educate, inform, and entertain visitors with stories from the history of the Reserve and the local area, and the ecology of the place*
2. *Cultivate an environment which patrons feel proud of*
3. *Preserve and protect successful spaces*
4. *Provide definition to intermediary spaces, connecting them through the Reserve*
5. *Re-purpose and revive forgotten or neglected spaces and consider strategies to ensure they remain in-use long-term*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Develop the identity of intermediary spaces.
- Re-purpose Jets club and bowling greens.
- Create an integrated waste management solution throughout the site. Install bins and water fountains which do not attract pests and vermin.
- Protect existing wetlands, salt-marshes and bushland.
- Contribute realistic proposals for mitigating the impact of Sydney Gateway over the site.
- Maintenance of amenities, and ongoing site condition.





### COMMUNITY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Maintain facilities for use by all patrons*
2. *Reflect community needs as a public parkland*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create a community directed local hub, with an active, inclusive and diverse programme
- Revive the use of Tempe Reserve as venue for markets + festivals
- Improve the quality, condition, visibility and maintenance of communal amenities, to encourage respectful use and provide passive surveillance



### SUSTAINABILITY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Optimise and consolidate natural storm-water strategy*
2. *Maintain and increase concentrated pockets of biodiversity and natural areas throughout the site, creating connecting corridors for wildlife, and increasing user awareness of site ecology*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Connect existing bio swales to each other and to storm-water system
- Promote awareness and appreciation of managed interventions
- Continue to encourage small bird life
- Maintain dark sky zones for nocturnal wildlife
- Resume maintenance of naturalised zones



### SAFETY

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Increase the perceived sense of safety by the introduction of carefully designed built elements*
2. *Address the interaction of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic*
3. *Discourage and dissuade perceived anti-social behaviour through design elements.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Separate traffic routes for each mode of transportation
- Introduce physical barriers to deter vehicular access to parkland and after hours access to car parks
- Improve road safety by better definition of road junctions



### SPORTS + RECREATION

#### Key Objectives:

1. *Maximise the profile and use of Tempe Recreation Reserve as a destination sports hub.*
2. *Preserve inclusivity and availability of sports and recreation opportunities across Tempe Recreation Reserve.*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Enhance quality of existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- Increase quantity of sports facilities to accommodate in-demand sports and competitions.
- Consider provision of accompanying amenities to match potential increased capacity.
- Retain spaces for unstructured and casual sports use.
- Enable flexibility of spaces, to be shared across a range of sports.
- Reduce adverse impacts of storm-water on turfed areas, to maximise potential use.



## 4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies



Clockwise from top left:  
 Clear, informative way-finding signage, Pelzer Park, Adelaide.  
 Consolidated instructional signage, New York Parks Department, USA. Pentagram.  
 Transition from vehicular road surface to calmed shared space. Source unknown.  
 Separation of pedestrian and vehicular access routes, Rochetailee, France. Design + photo by IN SITU.  
 Development of road definition, before + after, Rochetailee, France. Design + photo by IN SITU.  
 Timber bollards with chainlink metal barrier. Source unknown.  
 Something. Source unknown.





### Key Objectives:

1. *Improve access to the site for all users*
2. *Create simple signage and way-finding strategy*
3. *Increase awareness of what Tempe Recreation Reserve has to offer.*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Define access points into the Reserve
- Create additional access points into the Reserve.
- Provide safe, segregated routes into the Reserve for pedestrians and cyclists
- Develop a way finding strategy for the park, and consolidate all way-finding, regulatory and information signage into a consistent, clear and concise format

### Entry points

It can be unclear where the entry point to Tempe Reserve actually is; as such first time visitors can be unsure where to go and that they are entering the Reserve. The boundary to the Reserve has dissolved around the edges, meaning the 'Jets Club' car park and the Loop Road between Holbeach Avenue and South Street have become unmaintained and appropriated by overnight campers.

Cycle and footpaths disintegrate at the edges of Tempe Reserve, specifically at Holbeach Avenue and South Street.

Creating a raised 'shared space' prior to the roundabout on Holbeach Avenue acts to slow vehicles down and provides a clear entry point to the Reserve. At this location, large clear and concise way-finding information shall be provided allowing visitors a simple choice of routes to take towards their chosen activity.

### Signage

The site analysis identified that the signage information about Tempe Recreation Reserve was generally unavailable or inaccurate.

The Princes Highway entrance currently displays no longer relevant signage directing visitors towards facilities which no longer exist - with independent signage for each attraction.

Signage providing rules and regulations are scattered across the Reserve, meaning that they largely go ignored.

First time visitors accessing the Reserve from Princes Highway were not aware of the extent of the site or its facilities, and were unable to locate information on how to use or enquire about the sports facilities on offer.

The Master Plan proposes that way-finding, regulatory and instructional signage is consolidated and displayed at logical points throughout the Reserve, in order to provide an adequate level of information without overwhelming visitors. Consistency with wider Inner West Council signage is recommended, both to visually connect the Reserve to its counterpart parks, and to achieve a familiar way of communicating to visitors. Locations for consolidated signage have been suggested on the Master Plan, but ultimately the design, location and implementation of the signage system should be undertaken by a specialist consultant.

### Car parking

As a strategy across the Reserve the number of car parks has been increased due to the potential increased visitor numbers post enhancement. It is recommended that future designs should seek advice from a Traffic Management Consultant to ensure that the proposed car parking can accommodate the potential visitor load.

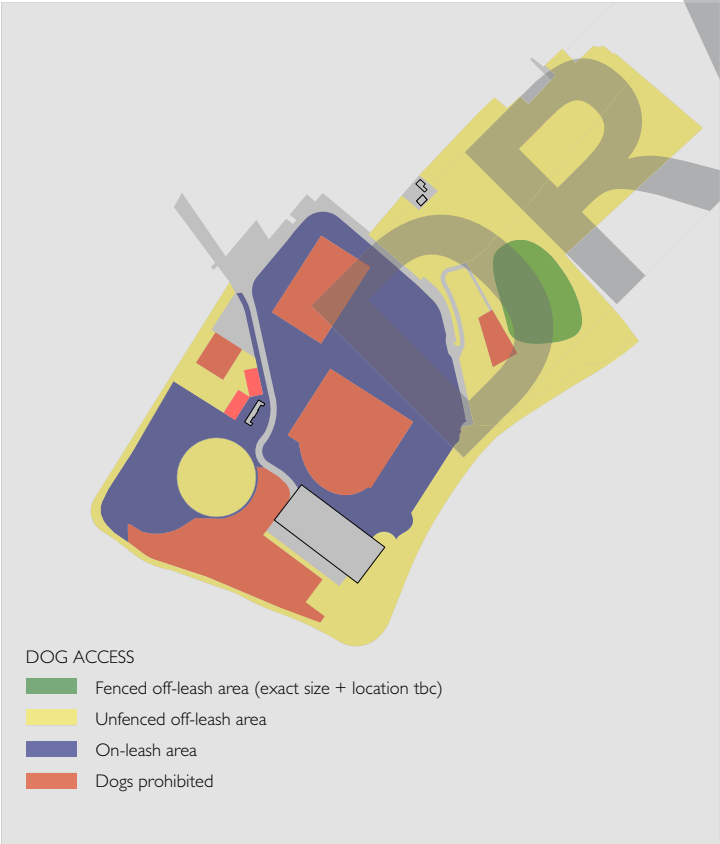
It is important that visitors who want to spend time in Tempe Reserve have parking priority over visitors who park at the site but are not planning to use the Reserve. Therefore it is proposed that time restricted parking is implemented throughout the Reserve. The object of the parking controls should be to restrict long term (all day or overnight stays) but not discourage visitors to the Reserve who may only be staying for a short time period.

We note that implementing parking restrictions within Tempe Reserve has the potential to increase load on neighbouring streets; consideration should be given to the nearby residential neighbourhood where the parking is not currently permit controlled.

### Public Transport

The Community Engagement Outcomes highlighted the fact that most visitors to the Reserve arrived on foot or by private vehicle despite the proximity of public transport links. Visitors to the Reserve should be encouraged to use public transport - signage at train stations, bus stops and marked pedestrian routes between them and the Reserve could help this. This information should also be available at Tempe Reserve for return journeys and be made available online and within published information about the Reserve.

4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies



Clockwise from top left:  
McKinnon Reserve sports field mid-height fence, Glen Eira City Council, Victoria.  
Wild play area integrated into wider park land, Pelzer Park, Adelaide. ASPECT studios, photo by CoA  
Wild play area integrated into wider park land, Pelzer Park, Adelaide. ASPECT studios, photo by Sweet Lime  
Sydney Park dog pool. Source unknown.  
Fenced off-leash dog park, Pelzer Park, Adelaide. ASPECT studios, photo by Sweet Lime  
Tempe Reserve Master Plan dog access strategy.  
Bicycle play track, Drapers Fields, England. Kinnear Landscape Architects, photo by Adrian Taylor.





#### Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure accessibility to the Reserve for all demographics*
2. *Integrate activities which cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Continue connections to local indigenous communities and the history of the area
- Balance provision of activities to consider visitors of multiple generations and abilities
- Ensure alterations cater for people who are less able than others
- Provide off-leash dog areas

#### Public access

The Community Engagement Outcomes highlight the strength of feeling among the local community in protecting their Tempe Reserve as a large, open and unrestricted public parkland, free for any visitor to use.

The Master Plan proposes the introduction of elements which could have the potential to obstruct public access if they are not managed carefully. The POM therefore outlines that these elements must be managed in a way that maintains the public ethos of the Reserve and remains as inclusive as possible.

Synthetic Fields - these will require fencing to reduce foot fall and animal impact in order to increase the longevity of the surfaces. The Plan of Management [POM] recommends that fences remain below shoulder height to decrease their visual impact, that gates remain unlocked when the fields are not formally booked to allow casual, unstructured access, and that the design of these are carefully considered to encourage the use of the spaces for sports.

Private Enterprise – Should Council proceed with more than one synthetic surface on the site and support the development of a new indoor recreation facility it is recommended that a transparent and publicly advertised expression of interest process is undertaken prior to any agreements with a third party being entered into. An expression of interest process should promote community access, inclusion and importantly a long term investment in the provision of quality sporting facilities (both indoor and outdoor). Given the capacity of Tempe Reserve to manage and host a range of recreation activities (concurrently indoor and outdoor) as well as the high costs associated with providing a diverse range of quality recreation facilities, a partnership opportunity which manages access and use of recreational infrastructure on the site should be a key consideration. The opportunity for a major indoor recreation facility on this site as well as increasing the capacity of the sporting grounds by introducing synthetics has been a key feature of the master planning process. Given the financial and competing priorities which local government is challenged with, partnership opportunities and capital investment should be a key consideration of Council. Exclusivity should not be considered in any future partnership - the reserve should remain a shared outdoor public space, and should only be considered in conjunction with the recommendations of this Plan of Management.

#### Dog walking

The Community Engagement Outcomes identifies that visitors with and without pets are concerned about losing the off-leash dog park as this amenity is highly valued as one of the few local locations where this is possible - increased and improved provision was suggested by most contributors.

The Master Plan proposes potential locations for timed on and off-leash, fenced and unfenced dog walking areas. The POM recommends that provision for an off-leash dog park within Tempe Reserve should be available at all times during staged works to the Reserve and that fencing and shade structures should be considered in relation to the needs of visitors and their pets.

#### Activity spaces

The Master Plan proposes an increased range of activity and play spaces, catering for children, teenagers and adults.

Having a distribution of unfenced play spaces throughout a zone facilitates access and greater social interaction between active users and passive observers, with wild play encouraged due to opportunities for children to make their own ways of playing.

#### Passive spaces

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that a large proportion of visitors - with older generations especially - use the Reserve for walking as opposed to any organised activity, therefore the Master Plan is careful to preserve walking routes and endeavours to open new ones.

The Master Plan introduces a physical overlap of facilities which might have common appeal to visitors. This makes the layout more inclusive and invites visitors to use the Reserve in ways which they might not have considered before.

#### Physical accessibility

The site analysis identifies that Tempe Lands, including the wetlands are not physically accessible by less able visitors due to the materiality of pathways and steep inclines. The Master Plan suggests that materials and inclines should be taken into account in any works undertaken to this area in the future.

## 4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies



Clockwise from top left:

Monolithic, industrial influenced play spaces for all ages, Bungarribee Superpark, Western Sydney. JMD design, photo by Simon Wood.

Bin enclosure, source unknown.

Interpretation signage highlighting history and interest of Adelaide Oval, Adelaide. Source unknown.

Naturalised gabion wall - potential road edge barrier. Source unknown.

Naturalised gabion wall - potential road edge barrier. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, England. Source unknown.

Recognisable artwork defines physical landmark, Bungarribee Superpark, Western Sydney. JMD design, photo by Simon Wood.





#### Key Objectives:

1. *Educate, inform, and entertain visitors with stories from the history of the Reserve and the local area, and the ecology of the place*
2. *Cultivate an environment which patrons feel proud of*
3. *Preserve and protect successful spaces*
4. *Provide definition to intermediary spaces, connecting them through the Reserve*
5. *Re-purpose and revive forgotten or neglected spaces and consider strategies to ensure they remain in-use long-term*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Develop an identity for currently undefined spaces
- Re-purpose the Jets club and bowling greens
- Protect existing wetlands, salt-marshes and bushland
- Integrate explanatory signage where appropriate into the wider way-finding strategy
- Contribute realistic proposals for mitigating the impact of Sydney Gateway over the site.
- Maintenance of amenities, and ongoing site condition
- Create an integrated waste management solution throughout the site. Install bins and water fountains which do not attract pests and vermin

#### Built area

The Community Engagement process identified the value users place on the naturalised 'wild' areas such as the wetlands, salt-marsh and bushland. Many users identified these as important assets which enhanced their well-being and happiness.

Conversely, a consistent complaint was the under-use of the Jets club and bowling greens which created an atmosphere of neglect and abandonment. The general feeling was that this engendered a lack of respect for the area, which perpetuated a culture of anti social behaviour which, in turn, deterred once regular patrons from continuing to visit the Reserve.

The Master Plan proposes the demolition of uninhabitable disused or run down structures at Tempe Reserve, including the former Jets Club and bowling greens, and the eastern amenities block, giving the area of both facilities over to community use.

The long term vision of Tempe Reserve as a sports hub necessitates the construction of a new indoor sports facility and replacement of public amenities. The Master Plan proposal uses this situation as an opportunity to consolidate the built volume to one area of the site.

This strategy intends to free up as much of the site as possible for parkland, retaining a naturalised setting and preserving the existing sense of place.

#### Sydney Gateway

The Existing Policy Review identifies that the proposed Sydney Gateway route [an elevated motorway] cuts through Tempe Lands, the upper section to Tempe Reserve.

The Master Plan acknowledges that an elevated road has potential to have a severely detrimental impact on the peace and tranquillity of the Tempe Lands area if not managed with sensitivity and consideration of its impact on the place. As such, the Master Plan proposes that the council works with RMS to design an edge condition which will act as a visual and acoustic barrier, reducing the impact of the road from the Reserve as much as physically possible. A naturalised, non climbable edge condition would be a preferred outcome.

Council are advocating for restoration of this site at the completion of any 'approved' motorway works and the provision of six futsal courts, an enclosed off-leash dog area and improved leachate plant.

#### Identity

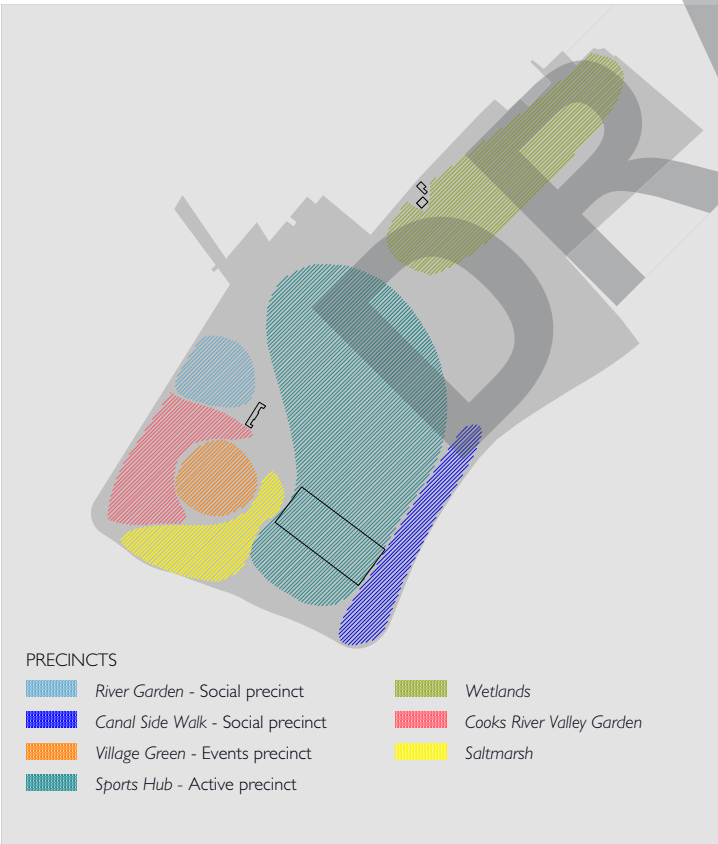
The Master Plan proposes to build upon elements already present within Tempe Reserve, to strengthen the identity of the place and its position within the local community.

Recognisable features such as the Cooks Valley River Garden and the 'Village Green' are enhanced with the intention of becoming landmarks for visitors.

The existing mural covering the Robyn Webster Sport Centre is a recognisable site specific artwork which has become associated with the identity of Tempe Reserve. Though in poor condition, and likely to be removed once the sports centre reaches the end of its life cycle, the Master Plan proposes that the motif can be re-purposed elsewhere within the Reserve, as a continued memory of the history of the place.

The Site Analysis identifies that the physical location of Tempe Reserve opposite the airport, in view of the fuel silos and flyover highways lends it an industrial 'urban island' character. The Master Plan proposes that this character could be embraced within the scale and style of facilities within the Reserve.

4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies



Clockwise from top left:  
Barbecue bank integrated into landscape, Parramatta Park. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.  
Picnic shelter integrated into landscape, Parramatta Park. CHROFI, photography by Simon Whitbread.  
Evening events at Market Square Park, Houston USA. Source unknown.  
Cafe seating spills out into parkland, Prince Alfred Park. Sydney. Neeson Murcutt Architects with Sue Bardsey Landscape Architects, photography by Brett Boardman.  
Cycle racks integrated into plaza. Source unknown.  
Tempe Reserve Master plan precincts.  
Naturalised precinct with integrated footpaths, play spaces + amenities, Lizard Log Parkland, Sydney. McGregor Coxall, photo by Simon Wood.





#### Key Objectives:

1. *Maintain facilities for use by all patrons*
2. *Reflect community needs as a public parkland*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create a community directed local hub, with an active, inclusive and diverse programme
- Revive the use of Tempe Reserve as venue for markets + festivals
- Improve the quality, condition, visibility and maintenance of communal amenities, to encourage respectful use and provide passive surveillance

#### Precincts

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that the barbecue and picnic areas tucked behind the sports centre can at times be a focal point for anti-social behaviour.

The Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes also identified that amenities separated from other attractors, near the run down Cooks Valley River Garden, were less intensively used by the local community.

It was also noted that the most popular barbecue facilities sit on hard standing, surrounded by pieces of fence, which leads to a separation from the park that visitors are there to enjoy.

The Master Plan responds to these findings by collecting groups of attractors together into 'social precincts', the linear canal-side precinct and the river garden precinct. The intended effect is that by collecting these together it will increase usage, and the increased level of passive surveillance will encourage visitors to use the facilities with greater respect, breaking down the opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Within these social precincts the activities are set within native lawns and meadows, placing them in a more natural setting.

#### Shared Amenities

The Master Plan proposes provision of a site wide waste management strategy, including non movable enclosed bins. Additional, better designed water fountains are proposed, and it is suggested that some picnic shelters could be available for hire by groups - this would maximise commercial potential of the new precincts and also act to allocate responsibility of care to the group.

Robust cycle racks in logical locations could encourage passing cyclists to stop at the Reserve, and could encourage other visitors to cycle to the Reserve in the future.

#### Maintenance

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that the deteriorating condition of public amenities was a deterrent to use of Tempe Reserve.

The Master Plan recommends facilitating the ongoing maintenance of Tempe Reserve by including spatial provision for council maintenance equipment and staff welfare facilities within the footprint of the built area.

#### Events

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that local visitors want a community hub with events to visit - they want to see a return to regular activation of the Reserve with family friendly festivals and events.

The POM proposes that the 'Village Green' is made available and desirable to potential events organisers. The Master Plan proposes adapting the 'Village Green' to accommodate vehicle access during events.

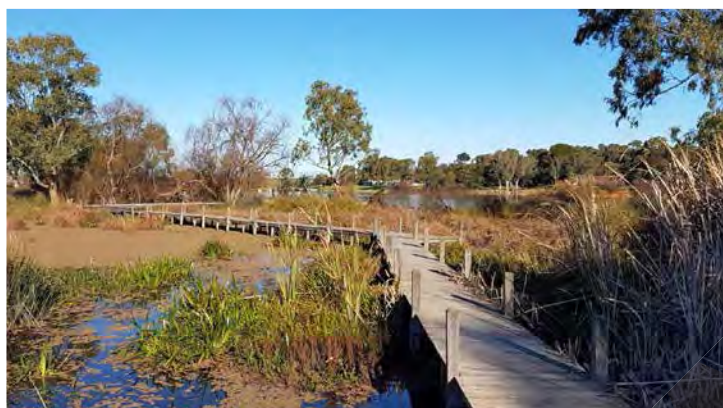
#### Cafe

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that there is a potential market for a cafe at Tempe Reserve.

The Master Plan proposes that the cafe is incorporated into the same built form as the indoor sports facility, and connected to both the sports and social precincts for maximum visibility and convenience.



## 4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies



Clockwise from top left:

Native meadow understorey planting, Parramatta Park. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.

Native meadow understorey planting, Prince Alfred Park. Sue Bardsey Landscape Architects, photography by Brett Boardman.

Bird boxes, Solvallsparken, Sweden. Karavan Lansapsarkitekter, photo by Alex Giacomini.

Well developed riparian zone. Source unknown.

Development of riverbank riparian zone, before + after, Rochetailee, France. Design + photo by IN SITU.

Boardwalk over naturalised swale or wetland habitat. Source unknown.





#### Key Objectives:

1. *Optimise and consolidate natural storm-water strategy*
2. *Maintain and increase concentrated pockets of biodiversity and natural areas throughout the site, creating connecting corridors for wildlife, and increasing user awareness of site ecology*

#### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Connect existing bio swales to each other and to stormwater system
- Promote awareness and appreciation of managed interventions
- Continue to encourage small bird life
- Maintain dark sky zones for nocturnal wildlife
- Resume maintenance of naturalised zones

#### Water Management

Both the site analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes revealed that many of the turfed areas of Tempe Reserve suffer from regular flooding. Naturalised swales exist on the site, but are disconnected from each other and the storm water outlet by concrete paths and turfed areas.

As the Master Plan proposes additional drainage to the sports field, it also proposes to enhance the existing naturalised swales on the site to cope with additional load. This is achieved through the connection of swales to one-another; densification of planting, providing dedicated pedestrian routes bridging over the swales; utilising the regularly flooded north west corner of the sports fields as a natural reservoir; connected with the existing storm water inlet to the south west of the sports fields.

Review of the existing and proposed stormwater drainage system should be undertaken by a specialist consultant prior to implementation.

#### Biodiversity + wildlife

Feedback from the Community Engagement Outcomes and IWC Urban Ecology team was very positive about the high level of wildlife using the site - speculating that this is due to its unique situation as an urban sanctuary.

The Master Plan aims to make the natural environment more attractive to local wildlife, strategies include identifying and filling physical gaps or under maintained zones to create continuous biodiversity corridors through the site and adapting shelters and bird hides to provide nesting points. Increasing the density and concentration of low level native planting, for example under mature tree canopies and between inhabited zones by replacing hard barriers with natural ones, will improve ground conditions and provide another level of naturalisation, providing opportunities for greater ecological diversity.

While lighting throughout the park is required in places for visitors physical and perceived safety, the Master Plan recommends that dark zones should be preserved to accommodate natural wildlife. Lighting has been restricted to primary footpaths and to sports fields. A specialist consultant should be appointed to undertake lighting design.

The Master Plan proposes the removal of physical barriers between visitors and biodiversity pockets, with the intention of increasing visitors awareness and appreciation of the natural environment, and promoting the actions being taken to protect and enhance it.

#### Approach to building

The Master Plan proposes a number of new built forms on the site. The POM recommends that the approach to the design and construction of these facilities should consider the environmental impact of the construction and maintenance methodologies of these buildings. The POM promotes progression towards sustainable practices in construction, building maintenance and overall life cycle.

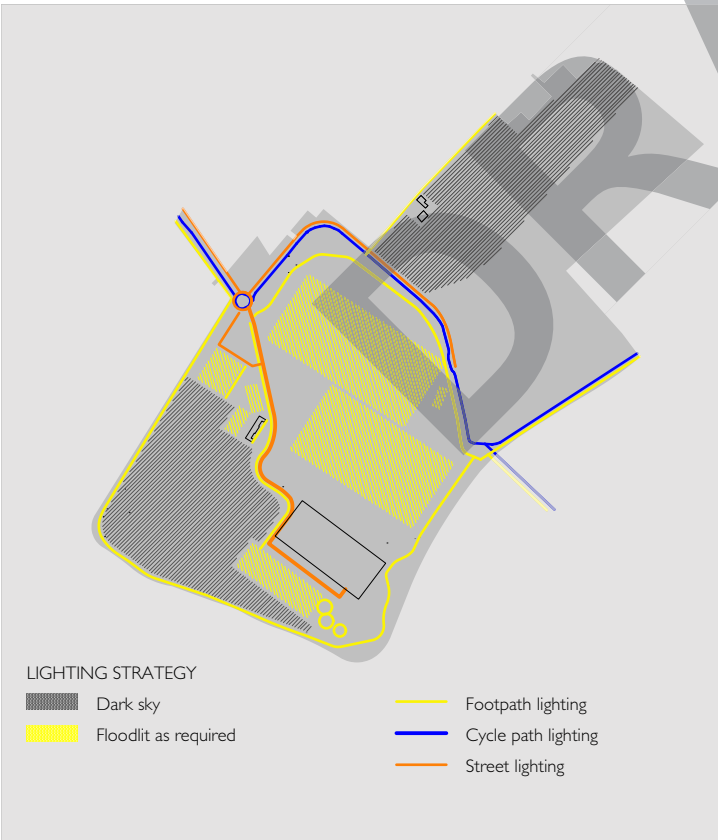
Sustainable energy sources should be used to power amenities such as lights and barbecues where possible. In this public space there is the opportunity to exhibit a wide range of low energy integrated solutions to visitors.

#### Wellness + wellbeing

The Community Engagement Outcomes Report emphasised the position of Tempe Reserve as an important asset to the local community who use the Reserve as a pocket oasis to benefit their mental and physical wellbeing. The wetlands, water front and wild bushland pockets emerged as highly appreciated zones. The Master Plan proposes retaining and enhancing the condition of these areas.

4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies

STRATEGIES - SAFETY



Clockwise from top left:  
Discreete low level lighting, Baakenpark, Germany. Atelier Loidl, photo by Leonard Grosch.  
Solar powered illuminated cycle path, Netherlands. Daan Roosegaarde + Heijmans Infrastructure.  
Separated cycle path cuts through park, Piazza Nember, Italy. Design + photo by Stradavarie Associated Architects.  
Tempe Reserve Master Plan lighting strategy diagram.  
Localised lighting over footpath, flood lighting over sports courts, Prince Alfred Park, Sydney. Neeson Murcutt, photo by Brett Boardman.





### Key Objectives:

1. Increase the perceived sense of safety by the introduction of carefully designed built elements
2. Address the interaction of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic
3. Discourage and dissuade perceived anti-social behaviour through design elements.

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Separate traffic routes for each mode of transportation
- Introduce physical barriers to deter vehicular access to parkland and after hours access to car parks
- Improve road safety by better definition of road junctions

### Cycle + Foot Paths

The site analysis observed that the cycle lanes and footpaths have a tendency to disappear at intersections and upon entry and exit to Tempe Reserve - specifically around the Loop Road intersections with Holbeach Avenue and South Street.

The Master plan proposes creating safe connections between paths for all users, identifying and adjusting pathways that deposit visitors directly onto trafficked roads.

The Community Engagement Outcomes showed that visitors travelling around the Reserve on foot felt uncomfortable sharing footpaths with cyclists. Visitors felt that cyclists travelled at dangerously high speeds on the shared paths, whilst cyclists felt unsafe on the roads.

The position of Tempe Recreation Reserve as an active travel corridor makes it hard to justify slowing down cyclists who use the route for commuting across the city. The Master Plan therefore proposes separation of cycle lanes and foot paths. A segregated on-road cycle path provides a route for active transport across the site from east to west. A segregated cycle circuit route is also proposed, for cycling practice and training.

The Master Plan proposes limiting cycling through Tempe Reserve to these routes only.

### Passive Surveillance

The Master Plan proposes moving social spaces from behind buildings into open visible areas to encourage respectful use of the facilities. The river walk is currently well concealed and its position on the edge of the peninsula makes it very isolated. The Master Plan proposes that the built form of the indoor sports facility overlooks the river walkway, to provide passive surveillance and a perceived point of security to visitors using the river path.

The Master Plan proposes eliminating left-over gaps between facilities - for example concealed corners behind the amenities block - to eliminate opportunities for anti social use of concealed spaces.

### Dogs

Contributors to the Community Engagement were worried when dogs they consider dangerous approach them unprompted. The Plan of Management [POM] proposes that instructions for using the Reserve include not letting dogs that could be considered dangerous off leash in public areas.

### Lighting

The Master Plan proposes lighting the primary pedestrian waterside pathway and primary vehicular road into the Reserve, for increased safety of visitors after dark. Consideration should be given to the status of the Reserve as a biodiverse environment, and lighting should be directed so as not to limit the effect of light pollution on sensitive to nocturnal habitats.

The route of the active transport cycle path should be highlighted to cyclists. It is recommended that a low lux level, ecological solution be considered for this, such as a reflective solar powered paint, or low level bollard lights.

### Vehicular access

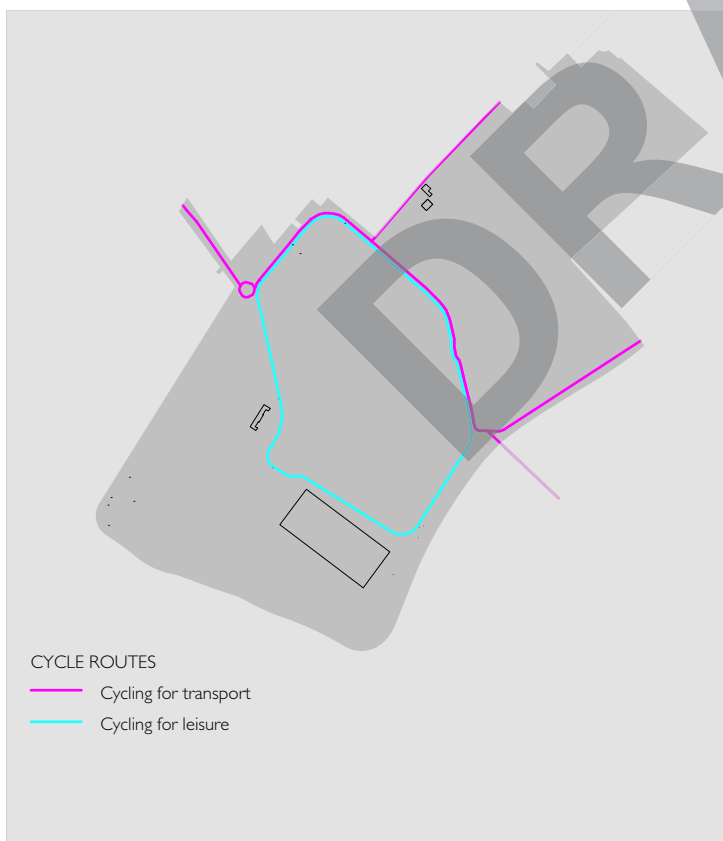
The Master Plan proposes rationalisation of routes through Tempe Reserve for cyclists and vehicular traffic.

The section of Tempe Reserve Loop Road which is currently shared between cars, bicycles and pedestrians poses limitations and hazards to all parties and forms a disconnect between park users and the Alexandra Canal. The Master Plan surmises that there is no longer a reason for this section of road, or for the adjoining bridge over Alexandra Canal to be accessed by motor vehicles. The Master Plan therefore reclaims the one way section of road as parkland.

A consistent complaint within the Community Engagement was frustration with vehicles driving onto the park-lands and disrupting other visitors enjoyment of the Reserve and causing damage. Whilst successful barriers are present in some parts of the Reserve, the Master Plan identifies locations where access is possible and proposes barrier types suitable for use in these locations.

The Community Engagement Outcomes also highlighted concern over a wide and undefined junction between the Loop Road, Bay Street and Old Street. The Master Plan considers that with increased visitor capacity, confusion around this junction could lead to dangerous situations. As such the Master Plan proposes rationalising this section of the Loop Road and defining the junction.

## 4.0 Key Objectives + Strategies



**Clockwise from top left:**

Sensitively lit basketball practice courts, Baakenpark, Germany. Atelier Loidl, photo by Leonard Grosch.

Indoor sports facility, Milton Island. AJC, photo by Nic Bailey.

Outdoor gym, Prince Alfred Park, Sydney. Neeson Murcutt. Source unknown.

Outdoor gym, Solvallsparken, Sweden. Karavan Lansapsarkitekter, photo by Alex Giacomini.

Sports field orientation signage, Moore park. Photo by Welsh + Major Architects.

Tempe Reserve Master Plan cycle path diagram.

Box Hill Gardens multipurpose sports area, Melbourne. ASPECT studios with NMBW, photo by Andrew Lloyd.



## SPORTS + RECREATION



## Key Objectives:

1. *Maximise the profile and use of Tempe Recreation Reserve as a destination sports hub.*
2. *Preserve inclusivity and availability of sports and recreation opportunities across Tempe Recreation Reserve.*

## Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Enhance quality of existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- Increase quantity of sports facilities to accommodate in-demand sports and competitions.
- Consider provision of accompanying amenities to match potential increased capacity.
- Retain spaces for unstructured and casual sports use.
- Enable flexibility of spaces, to be shared across a range of sports.
- Reduce adverse impacts of storm-water on turf areas, to maximise potential use.

## Outdoor Sports Fields + Courts

Both the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes reiterated that the existing natural turf sports fields (four soccer, two rugby) are regularly in a poor state, due to a combination of flooding, overuse, uneven surfaces and inadequate lighting. To establish status as a destination sports hub the Reserve should be able to consistently provide reliable access to sports fields.

The Master Plan proposes replacement of three of the natural turf pitches with four synthetic surface pitches (one rugby pitch and two soccer which can be combined to create one AFL pitch).

The drainage and ground conditions of the remaining natural turf fields should be resolved, and ongoing maintenance kept up to maximise potential use of the fields.

The Community Engagement Outcomes revealed that first time visitors to the site found it difficult to identify which field they were playing on, and which fields were free or already booked. The Master Plan proposes that on site signage is regularly updated to provide this information to visitors.

The Community Engagement Outcomes identified that there is a demand from visitors to accommodate a wider range of sports at Tempe Reserve. The Master Plan proposes that courts and fields should be multi purpose where feasible, to accommodate as many visitors as possible.

The Community Engagement Outcomes also identified that the outdoor flood lighting over the sports fields and courts is considered inadequate. The Master Plan proposes renewal of lighting, and an option for sports visitors to have greater control over the lighting.

## Indoor Sports Facility

The Community Engagement Outcomes reinforced the demand for and upgrade of the existing indoor sports facility. The size of the Reserve makes it one of few locations within the Inner West Council area which is suitable for siting a competition sized sports venue.

The Master plan proposes replacement of the existing Robyn Webster indoor sports centre with a multi-purpose built facility. The proposed footprint is based on the size of four multi-purpose sports courts (a typical requirement of a competition host venue) a space for arts and music and associated amenities and circulation. In order to limit the area of solid surface within the Reserve, the Master Plan

proposes that the indoor sports facility is raised up to accommodate car parking underneath. This leaves the area which would otherwise be given to car parking available for other recreational uses. This project will have a significant cost impact on Council.

As previously highlighted, given the financial and competing priorities which local government is challenged with, partnership opportunities and capital investment should be a key consideration moving forward. It is recommended that an expression of interest process is developed and advertised by Council which enters into a long term agreement with a third party. This arrangement should include management and access rights which are balanced with key investment into the provision of quality sporting facilities (both indoor and outdoor).

## Capacity of amenities

The Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes both identified that the existing amenities which cater for the site are run down and in need of refurbishment and maintenance. Increased visitor numbers are projected as the site progresses towards becoming a destination sports hub. This will increase the demand for amenities.

The west amenities block is currently looked after by a local sports team. The Master Plan proposes retaining and upgrading this block.

The Master Plan proposes removing the east amenities block and replacing the amenities with increased capacity facilities within the new indoor sports facility.

## Non- organised sports

The Community Engagement Outcomes found that in addition to using Tempe Reserve for organised sports, visitors also used the site as a place to play sports informally, within teams or as individuals.

The Master Plan recognises the importance of facilitating sports and exercise for all, and as such proposes retaining as much area as possible for unstructured sports and recreation.

The Master Plan proposes that outdoor gym equipment is integrated into the park, to encourage visitors to engage in activity. Fixed equipment has the benefit of requiring less maintenance, and being less likely to break.



Looking towards Tempe Lands, from shared vehicular, cycle and pedestrian road. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.