



**lismore**  **city council**

# Open Space Strategy 2024 – 2034

Image: Tucki Tucki Walking Track, Goonellabah





**Lismore City Council acknowledges the Widjabal Wiabal people of the Bundjalung Nation, traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we work. We honour their unique cultural and spiritual relationship to the land and waters, and their continuing and rich contribution to Lismore. We pay our respects to elders and community leaders past, present, and emerging.**



# Contents

Introduction	4	Principle 3: Fit for purpose	14
Our achievements:	6	Principle 4: Protect our environment	15
Strategic Context	7	Principle 5: Diverse offerings	16
Benefits of open space	8	Desired Standards of Service	17
Open space planning framework	9	Acquisition and Divestment Framework	20
Open space classifications	9	Divestment	21
Distance thresholds	9	Implementation and Monitoring	22
Open space vision and guiding principles:	11	Appendix 1	23
Principle 1: Equitable distribution	12	Appendix 2	25
Principle 2: Connectivity, accessibility, and inclusivity	13		





Image: Kadina Park, Goonellabah

# Introduction

## Open spaces are outdoor spaces.

They are places where the community can socialise, play, picnic, exercise, cycle, walk, skate, grow food, encounter and immerse in nature. They provide opportunity to connect and protect nature, build community, be healthy and active. Open spaces add to the character and identity of a town, they bring economic benefits, tourism opportunities, and provide amenity to enhance health and well-being.

This strategy comes at a time when Lismore is recovering from the 2022 natural disaster. It is a time of uncertainty and conjecture about the future. Planned retreat of high flood risk residential areas is currently a topic of interest but is recognised as being a slow and arduous process, should it be implemented. Our city is rebuilding and our residents returning, we have a responsibility to provide all residents with quality open spaces to be active, outdoors and enjoy nature.

Lismore Local Government Area (LGA) is fortunate to have diverse open spaces and beautiful natural surrounds with connection to the Wilsons River and tributaries, creeks, bushland reserves, parks and sporting fields. Regarded as a sporting hub within the Northern Rivers region, Lismore has high quality sports amenity for baseball, cricket, hockey, netball, soccer and tennis. Serving a population of 44,344 across a land area of 1290 square kilometres, Lismore City Council is committed to improving the quality and diversity of its open spaces for social, environmental and economic improvement.

The **Open Space Strategy 2023 - 2033** is a 10-year plan that provides a strategic framework and direction for planning public open space that best serves the community and the environment. It applies to public open space including natural areas, parks, trails, sport and recreation facilities where Council has ownership or management responsibilities. It does not apply to indoor sport and recreation facilities.

## The purpose of the strategy is to:

- Identify future open space needs for Lismore and its villages
- Guide the planning, development and maintenance of Lismore's open space network and supporting infrastructure
- Present standards for the provision of open space
- Inform Council's planning scheme, land use plans, master plans and concept plans relating to open space
- Consolidate, link and enhance open space and green corridors
- Protect Lismore's natural resources and biodiversity
- Improve amenity and accessibility of local neighbourhoods
- Support and encourage healthy and active lifestyles





Image: The Quad, Lismore



The strategy has been developed considering both Local and State Government plans, community consultation and extensive open space audits. Implementation of the strategy and accompanying actions will provide residents and visitors with appealing, diverse, accessible and enjoyable places for recreation for every age and ability.

This strategy was developed by @Leisure Planners and Lismore City Council.

## The strategy reflects:

- The review provided by @Leisure Planners, *Lismore City Council Open Space Strategy 2023-2033 Supporting Resources Document*, which includes the accessibility criteria
- Council's *Walking, Cycling and Micromobility Strategy 2024-2034*, which details Lismore's active transport vision and proposed actions
- Council's *Biodiversity Management Strategy* that outlines how Council can work towards protecting and enhancing Lismore's biodiversity assets
- Council's commitment to the *NSW Public Spaces Charter*



# Our achievements



The following projects are some of Lismore City Council's achievements over the past 10 years and have protected, expanded or enhanced Lismore's natural and built open-space environments. We are proud of these achievements and look forward to building upon them.

## Parks with new or upgraded facilities

Albert Park, Lismore	Spurfield Park, McLeans Ridges
Heritage Park, Lismore	Nesbitt Park, South Lismore
Clifford Park, Goonellabah	Oakeshott Street Park, Lismore Heights
Elders Memorial Park, Goonellabah	Sam Trimble Park, Bexhill
Greenhills Drive Park, Goonellabah	Wyrallah Park, Wyrallah
Hepburn Park, Goonellabah	Wade Park, East Lismore
Kadina Park, Goonellabah	Balzer Park, Dunoon
Silky Oak Park, Goonellabah	Peace Park, Nimbin
Sunrise Crescent Park, Goonellabah	Quadrangle, Lismore
Waterford Park, Goonellabah	

## Policy development

Sport and Recreation Plan to 2024
Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023
Walking, Cycling and Micromobility Strategy 2024-2034

## Grants secured for current and future projects

Stronger Country Communities Fund 2023	Upgrades to Heritage Park, Lismore
	Upgrades to Goonellabah Skate park
Sports Priority Needs Program	Renovation of 16 flood effected sports fields
Sports lighting	Lighting at Oakes Oval, Crozier Field, Mortimer Oval and Hepburn Park
Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund	Skatepark installation in the Lismore Urban Sports Precinct



## Strategic Context

Demographic and health profile - limited population growth, lower socio-economic status, high levels of physical inactivity and obesity, and mental health concerns.

Reflects state and local strategies and is complimentary to the *Walking, Cycling and Micromobility Strategy 2024 - 2034*.

There is a growing reawakening and appreciation of nature and its conservation.

The 2022 natural disaster and flood have highlighted the need for planned retreat from parts of Lismore, this will impact considerations regarding open space planning.

Smaller yards are seeing an increase in demand for quality social and family open-space types, as well as community horticulture in open space.

Nationwide trends towards urban gym and fitness activities, cycling, walking and nature-based activities.

# Benefits of open space

Open space provides clear benefits for people who live in proximity, visitors and the community. Four key types of benefits of open space are universally accepted:



## Personal benefits

Social interaction, physical activity, recreation, mental health and well-being, horticultural opportunities, enhanced food security and opportunities to connect with the natural world. Natural places provide children with an opportunity to experience risks and challenges, to explore new things, and to find inspiration and treasures.

## Environmental benefits

Protection of fauna and flora and iconic places. Increased biodiversity and flood resilience through water retention. Reduction of heat-island effect in urban areas. Carbon sequestration.



## Community benefits

Civic pride in a place, neighbourhood character, amenity and spiritual connection, as well as opportunities for cultural celebrations and community events.

## Economic benefits

Attracting visitors to Lismore's rivers, trails and parks for recreation. Increased land values. Opportunities for community events such as markets.



# Open space planning framework

## Open space classifications

Public open space is an essential community asset that builds active and healthy communities. There are different types of open space that provide diverse benefits and serve specific or multiple activities. A range of open space types are required in each area to provide benefits to the community and the environment.

The below classification system has been developed to assist future planning and improve established areas.

- **Open space function** refers to the type of amenity the space is providing.
- **Landscape setting** refers to the vegetation present and environmental qualities to be considered.
- **Catchment hierarchy** determines who the park is designed for, the distance someone would travel, the number of users expected and the scale required to ensure that it is fit for purpose..
- **Settlement type** reflects the density of the housing where the open space is located.

Classification 1: Open space function	Classification 2: Landscape setting	Classification 3: Catchment hierarchy	Classification 4: Settlement type
Social and family recreation	Ornamental garden	Local	Urban residential
Sport	River or water based	Neighbourhood	Village
Visual amenity or lookout	Produce garden	District	Rural area
Roadside rest area	Open grassed area	Regional	
Memorial garden or cemetery	Treed parkland		
Community horticulture	Bushland/forest		
Historic/cultural conservation	Managed sports turf		
Nature conservation	Wetland/foreshore		
Off-Road Trail or Pathways			
Storm water management/drainage/utility			

Table 1: The range of open space functions, landscape settings, catchment hierarchy, settlement type used to define Lismore City Council's open space network.

## Play Hierarchy for Social and Family Recreation

The play hierarchy provides provisions and considerations that form the play offering. Offerings should complement others within the catchment area providing diversity of play across all ages. Barriers such as major roads, railways or waterbodies are not included in the walkable radius.

Please see Appendix 1 for a map of Lismore's current distribution of Social and Family Recreation spaces as of 2024.

Classification	Planning Considerations	Play Elements
<b>Local</b> (Facility with a catchment of 400m walking radius)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of stay 20 minutes.</li> <li>• Approx. 5 play elements.</li> <li>• A minimum of three elements must be able to be used by toddlers and/or preschoolers (0-5).</li> <li>• Seating</li> <li>• Natural shade only</li> <li>• Minor landscaping</li> <li>• Park size minimum 0.1ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children: Sliding, swinging, balancing, spinning, and climbing</li> <li>• Intergenerational: balance beams, chin up bar, monkey bars and/or hardcourt surface.</li> </ul>

Classification	Planning Considerations	Play Elements
<p><b>Neighbourhood</b></p> <p>(Facility with a catchment of 2km walking radius)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of stay 30-45 minutes.</li> <li>Approx. 10 play elements.</li> <li>A minimum of four elements must be able to be used by toddlers and/or preschoolers (0-5).</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Shade</li> <li>Bins</li> <li>Park size minimum 0.2ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children: Sliding, swinging, rocking, balancing, spinning, and climbing</li> <li>Intergenerational: balance beams, chin up bar, monkey bars, step ups and/or hardcourt surface.</li> </ul>
<p><b>District</b></p> <p>(Facility with a catchment of 10km driving radius)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of stay 1 hour +</li> <li>Approx. 15 play elements, offering a range of play choice for all ages.</li> <li>Drinking station</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Shade</li> <li>BBQ's</li> <li>Toilets</li> <li>Large areas of landscaping</li> <li>Park size minimum 0.5ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children: Sliding, swinging, rocking, balancing, spinning, and climbing</li> <li>Intergenerational: All fitness equipment options, hardcourt surfaces, grassy playing fields, and footpaths.</li> <li>Nature play</li> <li>Inclusive and sensory activities.</li> <li>Play types should be provided for users across a range of ages and abilities and in various configurations with progressive levels of challenge.</li> <li>Play types should generally be provided to allow for both individual and group play.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional</b></p> <p>(Facility with a catchment of more than a 10km driving radius)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of stay 2 hours +</li> <li>Approx. 20 play elements, offering a range of play choice for all ages including unique, signature or special feature play elements.</li> <li>Inclusive play elements must be included.</li> <li>Play zones and quiet spaces.</li> <li>Drinking station</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Shade</li> <li>Shelter</li> <li>BBQ's</li> <li>Toilets</li> <li>Large areas of landscaping and mature shade trees</li> <li>Park size minimum 1.0ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children: Sliding, swinging, rocking, balancing, spinning, and climbing</li> <li>Intergenerational: All fitness equipment options, hardcourt surfaces, grassy playing fields, and footpaths.</li> <li>Passive and imaginative play including sand and water play.</li> <li>Nature play</li> <li>Inclusive, accessible, and sensory activities.</li> <li>Play types shall be provided for all ages and abilities and in various configurations with progressive levels of challenge.</li> <li>Play activities and types should be provided to allow for both group and individual play and wherever possible play equipment should be inclusive and accessible.</li> </ul>

Table 2: The play hierarchy stipulates playground provisions for social and family recreation.



# Open space vision and guiding principles:

## Our Vision



**A network of open spaces in Lismore that are:**

**Diverse, equitably distributed, inclusive, enriching, sustainable and fit for purpose.**

## Guiding principles

To achieve this vision the following principles will guide the planning, design, maintenance and management of Lismore's open spaces.

### Equitable distribution

Open spaces are distributed equitably and are within walking distance from all residences in urban and village areas.

### Connectivity

Open spaces are well connected, accessible and inclusive.

### Fit for purpose

Open spaces are of high quality, attractive and meet community needs.

### Protect our environment

Open spaces protect and enhance biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural heritage.

### Diverse offerings

Open spaces are diverse in function type, providing a range of enjoyable recreation opportunities.

The vision and guiding principles were developed using the *2021 -2022 Open Space, Walking and Cycling Survey* results (360 respondents) and the review of Council's framework and assets by @Leisure Planners.

For the review produced by @Leisure Planners, please see *Lismore City Council Open Space Strategy 2023-2033 Supporting Resources Document*

For the *Snapshot of 2021 -2022 Open Space, Walking and Cycling Survey results*, see Council's website.

The following pages outline what, why and how each principle will be addressed. For a full list of detailed actions, see the downloadable implementation plan.

# Principle 1: Equitable distribution

Open spaces are distributed equitably and are within walking distance from all residents in urban residential and village areas.

## What you told us:

Only 35% of survey respondents stated that no barriers prevented their access to their immediate neighbourhood park. The remaining 65% identified barriers such as too far to walk, busy roads, waterways or lack of disability access as hindering their use of open space.

## What the review found:

There is a need for more equitably distributed social and family recreation areas, especially in those locations that are under-serviced, experiencing or expecting residential growth.

## What we will do:

1.1	All new urban development will be designed to ensure residents are within 400m walking distance of a social and family recreation space and an off-road trail. Sports amenities will be located within 1km of new urban residential development.
1.2	Each village will benefit from at least one social and family recreation space.
1.3	In localities where open-space needs are identified, master planning will be carried out to identify solutions for provision and access to open space.



# Principle 2: Connectivity, accessibility, and inclusivity

Open spaces are well connected, accessible and inclusive.

## What you told us:

9% of survey respondents stated that the lack of disability access reduced their ability to frequent their neighbourhood park.

*"Disability access. I'd prefer parks have less woodchips as its hard for kids with disability walkers etc to be included."* – Survey respondent 2022

*"Road edges subside and the absence of footpaths in a number of areas makes it unsafe to walk."* – Survey respondent 2021

## What the review found:

Less than 20% of Lismore's parks provided accessible access and only a few provided a full accessible experience from entry point to accessible experiences within the park itself.

## What we will do:

2.1	New development in urban and village areas will provide off-road trails linking residents to existing open space and/or new open space, particularly to local-level open space which is designed to cater to those walking or cycling.
2.2	Grant funding and developer contributions will be used to improve footpath connectivity in existing urban areas.
2.3	Open space parcels (whether built or retrofitted by developers or Council), will be embellished in accordance with the accessibility criteria to ensure access, safety and inclusion.
2.4	Directional signage will be installed to improve access to and around open-space parcels.



# Principle 3:

## Fit for purpose

Open spaces are of high quality, attractive and meet community needs.

### What you told us:

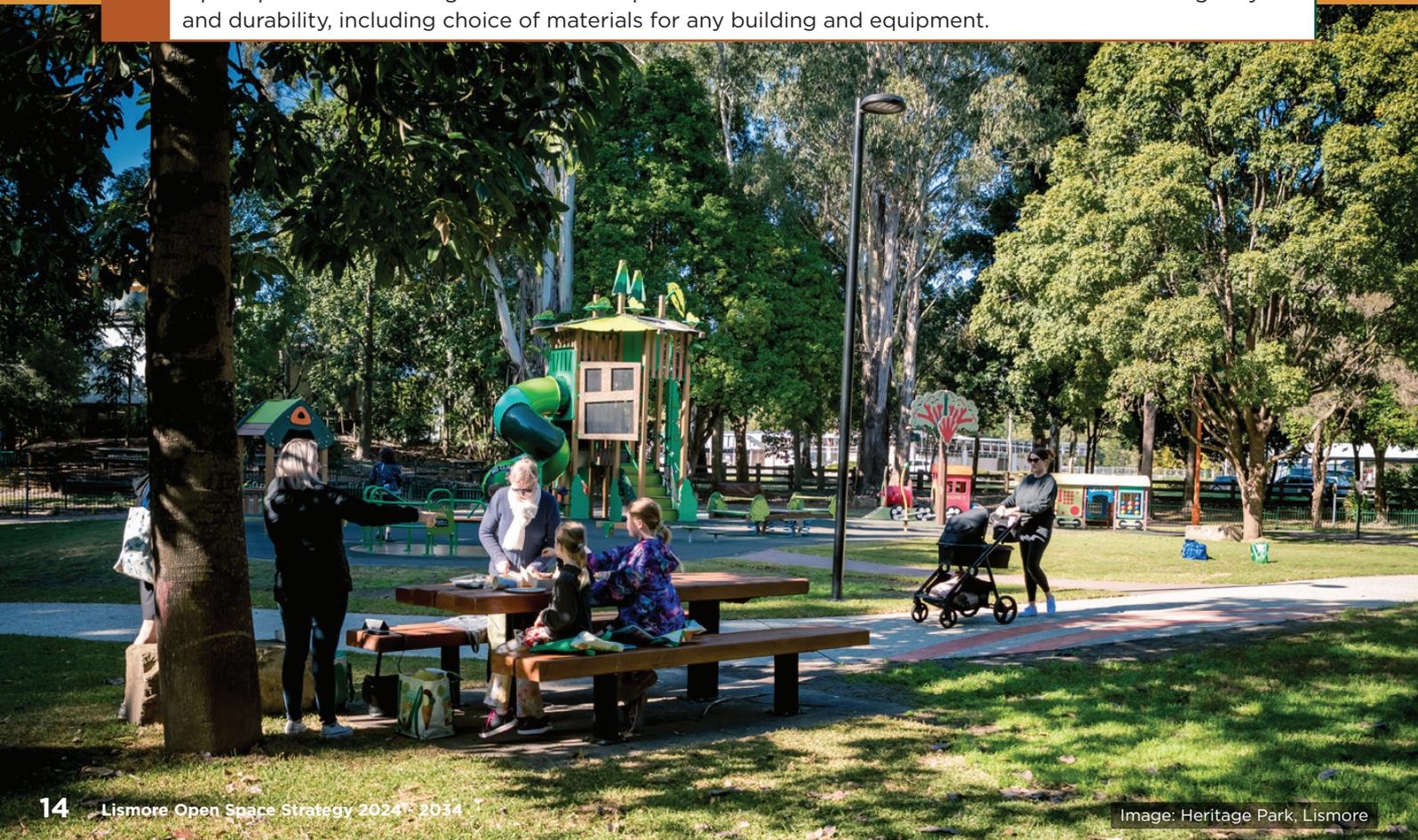
23% of respondents requested that the quality of Lismore's parks be improved. Shade, toilets and better play equipment were the improvements most requested.

### What the review found:

The review found that many parks lacked suitable shade, equipment (play and fitness) was not challenging for diverse ages, and parking and access was generally inadequate. Currently none of the play spaces cater for people of all ages and abilities.

### What we will do:

3.1	Regional and district level open space will have toilets, car parking, seating, shading and other amenities needed in accordance with the space's classification. Grant funding will be sought to upgrade existing spaces.
3.2	All playgrounds, trails and sports fields will have seating and natural shade as a minimum.
3.3	All sports fields and other larger spaces will have an adopted Plan of Management to guide the usage, development and leases permissible on-site; ensuring that parcels are used to the best of their ability.
3.4	Open spaces will be designed and landscaped to minimise maintenance needs and increase longevity and durability, including choice of materials for any building and equipment.



# Principle 4: Protect our environment

Open spaces protect and enhance biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural heritage.

## What you told us:

A limitation of the survey was that it did not ask questions about the environment. However, many residents chose to provide feedback.

*“Increased native vegetation areas would increase opportunities for nature connection and wildlife appreciation, improving physical and mental health for the community” - Survey respondent 2021*

*“Nature-based areas of play. The butterfly walk is perfect for this for kids” - Survey respondent 2022*

*“More nature walks” - Survey respondent 2022*

*“Plants in forested areas named with ID signs including traditional names/uses. Priority given to creating or protecting wildlife habitat” - Survey respondent 2021*

## What the review found:

The review found that river corridors could benefit from riparian plantings to protect the riverbanks and biodiversity. The review found that several existing conservation corridors could be connected to promote the movement of wildlife and enable an integrated network of off-road trails.

The review found that there is potential to enhance resident’s exposure to nature and significant biodiversity values through lookouts and local interpretation, as well as trail access to parks around conservation sites and along waterway corridors. The review found new developments lacked sufficient vegetation and/or tree cover.

## What we will do:

4.1	New open-space provision, or retrofitting of existing parcels, will include environmentally sensitive design and plantings in accordance with its landscape setting.
4.2	Educational information will be incorporated into open space signage to increase awareness of ecological benefits and impacts.
4.3	Nature-based play will be encouraged to provide opportunity for human connection with and learning of nature.
4.4	Open spaces and other green spaces will continue to be mapped as part of the wider network of green infrastructure and corridors. The acquisition framework will be applied to determine where this network can be expanded.
4.5	Riparian protection and conservation zones along river corridors will continue to be supported and expanded.



# Principle 5: Diverse offerings

Open spaces are diverse in function type, providing a range of enjoyable recreation opportunities within a locality but also within the open space itself.

## What you told us:

26% of respondents requested a new function to be provided. Requests included community gardens, dog parks, water play and fitness stations. The majority of those requesting a new function were seeking more walking and cycling facilities.

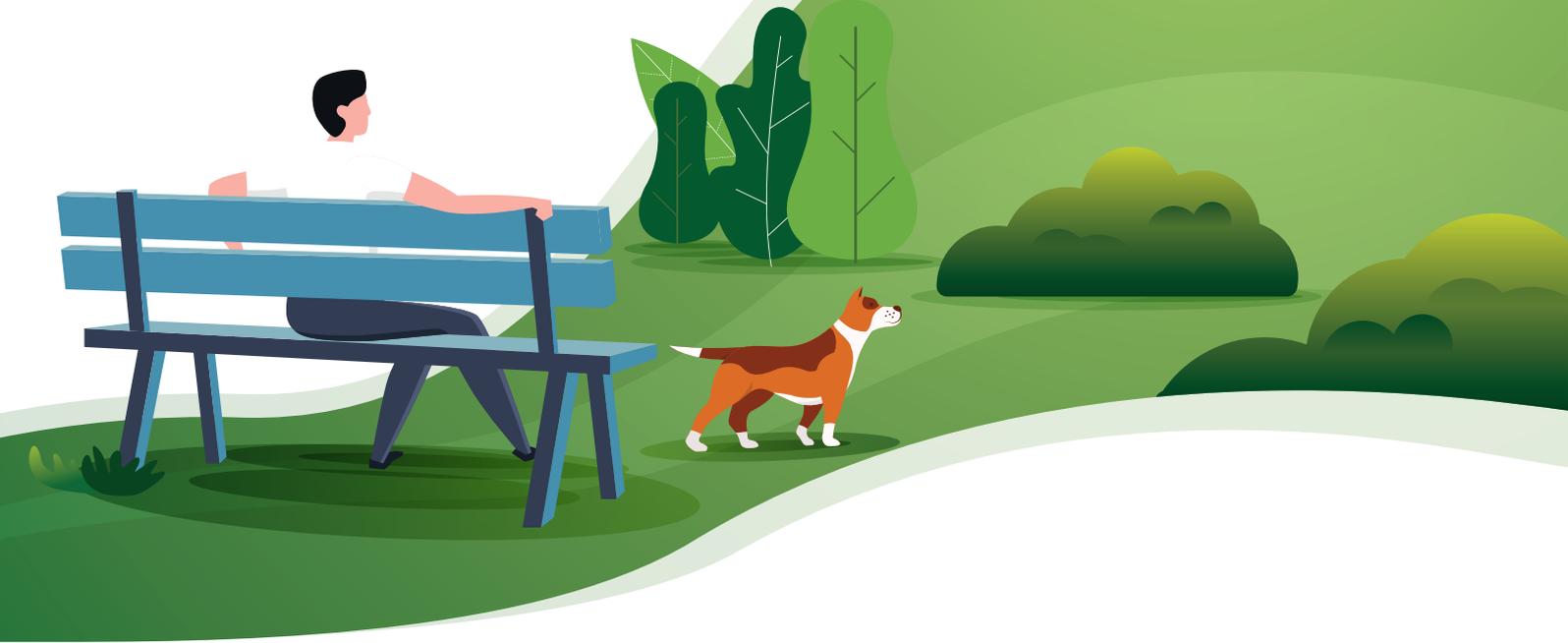
## What the review found:

All areas assessed would benefit from more diverse offerings of function type to provide connected and varied recreation opportunities. Community gardens are underrepresented but provide a great social and health benefit to communities.

## What we will do:

5.1	Function types of oversupplied, under utilised or underdeveloped open spaces will be changed and planned in accordance with locality needs and in consultation with the community.
5.2	New open space compliments existing function types in the area or meets an identified functional need.
5.3	Divestment of open-space parcels will be considered a last priority and decision making will be based on the divestment framework.
5.4	All sports fields and larger social and family recreation spaces will have a footpath around the perimeter of the space.
5.5	Manage and improve opportunities for water-based activities to add to the diversity of offerings around Lismore.





# Desired Standards of Service

The following standards guide the design of open spaces provided as part of new development areas.

Council will prioritise the dedication and provision of new social and family recreation space and off-road trails in new developments, regardless of development size. Where certain standards cannot be met, applicants should demonstrate suitability of their alternative provision.

Note that this does not replace the requirements set by the *Lismore Development Control Plan*.

Settlement	Requirement	Service Standards
<b>Off-Road Trails or Pathways</b>		
<b>Urban</b>	One off-road trail around each neighbourhood or within 500m of all residences.	<p><b>Off-road trails should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comprise of a corridor with sufficient width, to accommodate a path treadway, right of way and buffer.</li> <li>have a path treadway that is no less than 2m, however 2.5m is encouraged.</li> <li>be designed to provide a loop where possible.</li> <li>if primarily for connectivity, the off-road trail is to be an accessible path of travel for walking, cycling and mobility devices, avoiding very steep areas and in accordance with Australian accessibility standards.</li> <li>if primarily for exercise, such as bush walking or to a scenic lookout, steep areas and stairs to scenic areas can be included.</li> <li>surfaces in conservation areas may need to include boardwalks, elevated panels etc. or a stable unsealed surface such a gravel, mulch or mown vegetation that is wheelable.</li> <li>create access to other community and commercial facilities and public open space.</li> <li>be treelined for shading. Edges must be protected from interference by tree roots and obstructions.</li> <li>give consideration of permeability for sustainability, climate change and consistency with the landscape. Unsealed paths will be considered depending on locality.</li> </ul>
<b>Village</b>	One circuit using public land/river corridors for residents access to community facilities in the village or nearest village.	
<b>Rural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a local hub exists, an off-road trail connecting to and around the hub.</li> <li>Mountain bike trails, bushwalking or river corridor trails and those connecting into longer distance trails networks if in the vicinity.</li> </ul>	



Settlement	Requirement	Service Standards
<b>Social and Family Recreation Space (SFR)</b>		
<b>Urban</b>	<p>One SFR should be provided in each subdivision/development regardless of the number of lots or dwellings. The outcome is that all residents are within 400m walking distance (without crossing a major barrier i.e., road, river, drainage canal, train line, gully) of a local-level SFR or 2km of a neighbourhood-level SFR.</p> <p>Where subdivision cannot provide a new parcel of open space, an existing parcel is to be embellished and shared paths connecting residents to the open space are to be provided.</p> <p><b>Additionally:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional small green spaces may be required in activity centres and higher density areas to compensate for the dense, paved and noisy context.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SFR spaces should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be central to the residence served.</li> <li>be a prominent site, i.e. not a battle-axe block with a narrow entry or perched on an escarpment or behind residential dwellings.</li> <li>at least 70m in any one direction.</li> <li>ideally be on land where at least 90% of the site has a gradient of less than 5%. Where this is not possible, designs should demonstrate the suitability of the site for SFR.</li> <li>be serviced by an off-road trail or footpath network.</li> <li>include a perimeter trail for exercise if 1ha or more in size.</li> <li>meet the accessibility criteria set in the Lismore City Council Open Space Strategy 2023-2033 Supporting Resources Document.</li> <li>include areas, landscape features and facilities to promote social, physical, and environmental activities for people of all ages and abilities.</li> <li>where one locality has more than one SFR area, they should provide different activities and focus on different age groups. Facilities/equipment typically included within a SFR space would include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a social/picnic area central to the play or sport items with some shelter and multiple tables accessible to people using a mobility device.</li> <li>a green, quiet contemplative area for respite.</li> <li>play elements, designed for people of all ages, abilities and gender identities. Play elements should include sensory plant materials, nature-based play elements, equipment for swinging, sliding, climbing, rotating etc. Play elements should encourage social, cooperative, nature-based and sensory experiences. Play elements must incorporate shade and seating.</li> <li>a kick-to-kick area, hard court area for games or bikes etc.</li> <li>public toilets are desirable but not essential and will be considered based on locality, surrounding amenity and the catchment level of the park (i.e. local, neighbourhood, district, regional).</li> <li>Drinking water stations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>be overlooked across the road from houses/ residential blocks on at least two and preferably three sides for visual surveillance.</li> <li>include a mix of lawn and planted areas and wheelable pavement.</li> <li>incorporate sufficient lighting.</li> </ul>
<b>Village</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One in the village centre on a main street, where possible co-located with a public hall, community facility or school, or in conjunction with any sports or aquatic facility. This should be a minimum neighbourhood catchment, with the co-located facilities and open spaces assisting to provide diverse offering to all village residents.</li> <li>Embellish this main site and enhance access via trails rather than take additional small spaces in subdivision, in and around villages.</li> </ul>	
<b>Rural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May focus on off-road trails to access the nearest service centre or significant open space for conservation etc.</li> </ul>	

Settlement	Requirement	Service Standards
<b>Sport</b>		
<b>Urban</b>	<p>Sports amenity will be expected to be provided in significant developments that would place residents greater than 2km driving distance to an existing sports amenity.</p> <p>The provision of sports parks would typically be addressed in a development contribution plan, locality, structure, or master plan and be planned in conjunction with any new school.</p>	<p><b>Outdoor sport provision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be large enough to incorporate at least two playing fields, meeting the requirements of the desired code. Typical sports fields are 8 ha + for competition sports, depending on number of fields of play and sports code. Space for parking, all-gender changerooms and shelter is needed in addition</li> <li>• may include smaller footprint sports courts (such as netball/tennis courts, hockey pitches) based on demand with a shared change and support facility</li> <li>• may include facilities for social sports such as kick-to-kick and hard courts for basketball and tennis may be provided with club competition facilities or in a social and family recreation space</li> <li>• must be in prominent high visibility locations that draw local users</li> <li>• can be provided in community hubs - in conjunction with schools, or clubs or private facilities</li> <li>• must include a perimeter exercise trail and canopy trees</li> <li>• must have flood lighting</li> <li>• must incorporate shade and seating</li> <li>• may require buffers to separate adjacent housing (ball spill, lights, noise etc.) or other land uses from sports open space</li> <li>• must include emergency and maintenance vehicle access to all fields of play</li> <li>• should include area(s) for collecting/harvesting of water</li> <li>• must meet the accessibility requirements set out in the Lismore City Council Open Space Strategy 2023-2033 Supporting Resources Document</li> </ul> <p>Indoor sport facilities are supported but will require a development application and is not expected to be provided by new residential developments.</p>
<b>Village</b>	<p>Sports amenity will be expected to be provided in significant developments that would place residents greater than 1km driving distance to an existing sports amenity.</p> <p>In a village, one sports amenity that serves the whole village is expected and should be embellished and have off-road trail connection provided from new smaller development.</p> <p>The provision of sports parks would typically be addressed in a development contribution plan, locality, structure, or master plan and be planned in conjunction with any new school.</p>	
<b>Rural</b>	<p>In the rural areas, it is expected that residents benefit from sports amenity in the closest village or urban locality to them.</p>	

# Acquisition, Reclassification and Divestment Framework

## Acquisition

There are times when Council may wish to acquire land, for example to create parklands due to planned retreat from 'high flood risk' areas or to conserve or regenerate biodiversity corridors. There are four key steps to determine how much open space needs to be acquired and where it is to be located.

**These steps are as follows:**

- 1. Determine the context for the development, the settlement type and nature of the locality, as well as the existing supply of open space,** the relationship with adjacent developments and the closest park and shops etc.
- 2. Determine the open-space function type needed having assessed the current nature of supply.**
- 3. Determine what open-space landscape settings are needed to ensure a diversity of experiences based on existing supply and the potential of the development area.**
- 4. Determine the best site for an open space having considered** any existing site that Council can add to, the unique opportunity the location may provide, and how should it be designed and developed to meet the requirements of the core service levels.

Any new parcel of open space should be classified in terms of function type, landscape setting, catchment hierarchy and settlement type. If the predominant use is to be for off road trails, social and family and/or sport, then any future design process should accord with the desired standards of service outlined within this strategy.

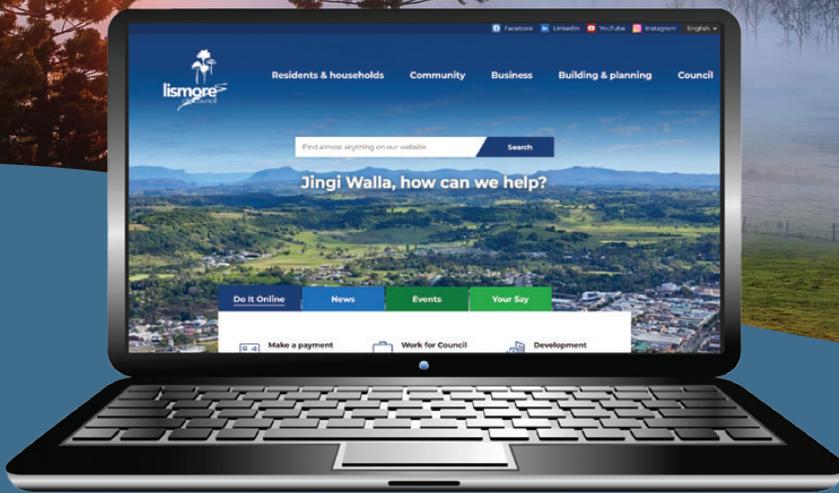
The long-term use of land purchased by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) to remove people from the areas of highest flood risk areas is unknown at the time of preparing this strategy. Council's Growth and Realignment Strategy (2022) identified that "any reclaimed land within the floodplain will be subject to future strategic planning work, but in general terms, should be utilised for open space and revegetation".

The best use of land purchased by the NSW RA and other high flood risk areas may include a range of environmental benefits including riparian area improvements and biodiversity enhancement. The opportunities for environmental offsetting and carbon sequestration by Council should also be investigated. Other recreational and social benefits should also be considered. Extensive community engagement will need to be undertaken to determine how we plan for these areas.

# Reclassification or Divestment

Council may wish to reclassify or divest land when it is not or is unlikely to serve an adequate function type. An example of this would be small poor quality open space, such as a historical hangover from developer contributions. When assessing if land should be reclassified or divested the following should be assessed by a panel of Council staff alongside the open space framework and the review outcomes relevant to the locality in which the space is located (see the Lismore City Council Open Space Strategy 2023-2033 Supporting Resources Document). Divestment of open space is a last resort for Council, particularly in areas where further residential development is expected in the future. If open space is considered suitable for divestment after following this approach, the statutory land reclassification and rezoning process must be followed, including community consultation.

STEP	CONSIDERATION	ACTION
<b>Understand the context: demand and supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What function, landscape and settlement type does it currently serve and are there any gaps in the locality?</li> <li>• Is it of a quality standard?</li> <li>• What proportion of the community use it?</li> </ul>	If the park is serving a useful function that the community values, do not proceed.
<b>Assess the potential values of the space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the site in a strategic location for another open space function type and/or for future development housing?</li> <li>• Is there potential as another type of space that will address function and/or landscape gaps?</li> <li>• Could the sites usability be increased through embellishment?</li> <li>• Are there beneficial attributes and values e.g. cultural significance, biodiversity, views, etc?</li> <li>• Does the site have vehicle access and/or connection to services such as sewer, water, electricity?</li> </ul>	If the site can suitably be converted to an alternate function type that adequately serves the community, do not proceed.
<b>Determine implications of divestment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a potential loss of linking to other community assets?</li> <li>• Is there the potential for loss of native vegetation?</li> <li>• What would the reduction in maintenance costs be?</li> </ul>	If there are significant impacts on linking assets or loss of native vegetation, do not proceed.
<b>Evaluate return from sale</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the likelihood of selling the open space?</li> <li>• What would be the potential sale price?</li> <li>• Assess the likely costs to prepare the land for sale such as land valuation, rezoning (if required), subdivision (if required), advertising and legal/real estate fees, fencing, or clean-up/decontamination.</li> </ul>	If the site cannot be sold for an acceptable value, do not proceed.
<b>Assess history/ complications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How was the open space secured (e.g. bequeathed, transferred from Crown, development contribution etc.) and why?</li> <li>• What has been the level of community involvement in the development and management of the land?</li> <li>• What will likely be the potential community response to disposal?</li> </ul>	If divestment is still being considered at this stage, consult Council and the community.



# Implementation and Monitoring

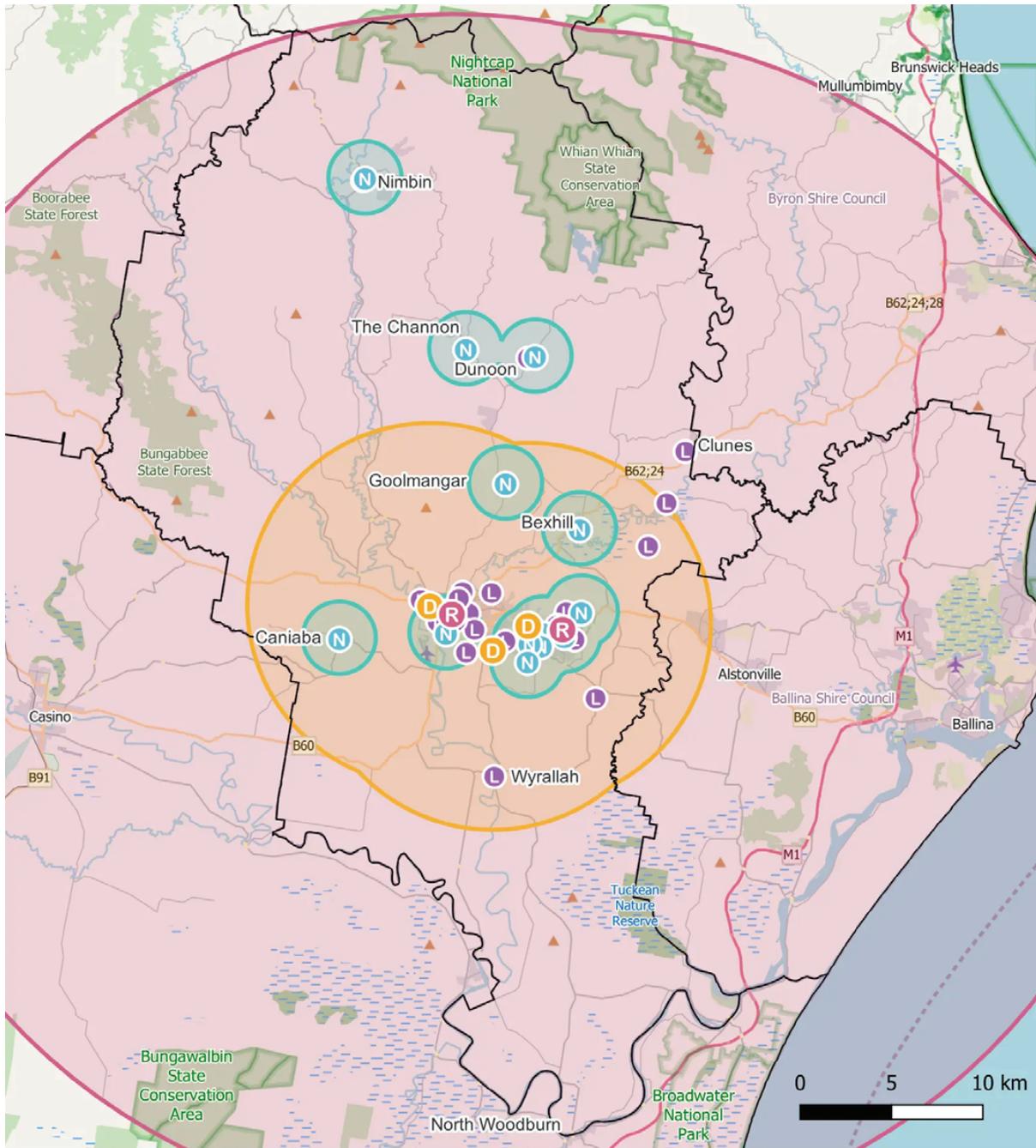
## Please see:

*Appendix 2: Lismore City Council Open Space Strategy 2024-2034 Implementation Plan*

The Implementation Plan outlines Council's actions, including those that are locality-specific, that will assist in achieving the vision set by this Strategy. Each action relates back to at least one of the five guiding principles as outlined on page 11. The Implementation Plan includes details on funding as well as who is responsible for delivery and will be updated by Lismore City Council every two years.

# Appendix 1

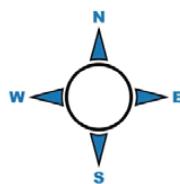
## Lismore Local Government Area: Distribution of Social and Family Recreation Space



### Area Served

- Regional 10+km
- District 10km
- Neighbourhood 2km
- Local 400m

### Lismore LGA



### Park Classification

- Regional 10+km
- District 10km
- Neighbourhood 2km
- Local 400m



# Appendix 2

## Lismore City Council

### Open Space Strategy 2024-2034 Implementation Plan

No.	Action	Funding (see key)	Priority (see key)	Principle (see key)	Responsibility
<b>LGA-wide</b>					
1	Create a webpage on the Lismore City Council website with interactive mapping highlighting open space parcels and their function.	NN	Short term	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
2	Update Part A Chapter 5A of the Lismore Development Control Plan to reflect the Desired Standards of Service.	NN	Short term	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strategic Planning</li> </ul>
3	Plan and deliver open space in line with the open space planning framework.	NN	Ongoing	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Statutory Planning</li> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
4	Address the gaps and opportunities listed in the locality analysis (supporting document) on an ongoing basis.	NN	Ongoing	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> </ul>
5	Review play and leisure facilities that have opportunities to be used while seated – i.e., shop counters that you can get your knees under, or steering wheels and interactive items that can't be accessed from a chair.	NN	Short term	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
6	In all parks larger than 1ha provide a perimeter path suitable for jogging and walking. Sports reserves may need an extra buffer around fields of play to provide these.	NN	Ongoing	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
7	Seek to identify connections between large conservation sites, the river corridors and existing natural areas, to enhance the integrity of remaining indigenous vegetation, support the movement and protection of wildlife and flora, as well as facilitate the development of a city-wide network of off road trails.	RFP	Ongoing	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strategic Planning</li> </ul>
8	Monitor and manage the use of public open space in extreme weather events such as heat, smoke, dust, bushfire and storm events, and risks associated with those.	NN	Ongoing	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
9	Consider reducing the amount of land that requires mowing for example around the edges of sports grounds, and along nature strips – in favour of wildlife meadows or productive plants etc. to increase biodiversity, bird life, a diversity of open space landscape setting types, access to nature for children, and to reduce water use and carbon footprint of maintenance.	NN	Ongoing	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
10	Mitigate the urban heat island effect through increased street tree and park planting, trees shading infrastructure and reducing unnecessary paved areas	NN	Ongoing	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>

11	Consider rewilding much of the river corridors and relocating infrastructure in the longer term to areas that will be more central to the residential areas.	RFP	Medium term	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Environmental Strategies Strategic Planning</li> <li>•Assets</li> </ul>
12	Explore “Shared ways of knowing” with registered indigenous partners and work with them on land, fire, and vegetation management.	RFP	Medium term	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> </ul>
13	Carry out a review of open spaces that require signage and seek funding to install.	SF	Short term	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
14	Carry out a review of open spaces that do not have seating and shading and seek funding to install.	SF	Short term	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
15	Carry out a review of social and family recreation spaces and the adequacy of play offering as per classification ensuring diversity of play and accommodation of intergenerational experiences.	F	Short term	1,3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
16	Ensure that each village has at least one social and family recreational space.	RFP	Ongoing	1,3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strategic Planning</li> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
17	Prepare Plans of Managements for all sports fields and Regional-level open spaces	NN	Short term	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strategic Planning</li> </ul>
18	Ensure that all parks have an accessible entry/exit point and also accessible access to facilities within the space, such as to toilets, courts, paths networks, buildings.	RFP	Ongoing	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
19	If space permits, implement a path circuit around parks and/or ovals to provide a circuit that connects from the main hub/ carpark and or entry and provide opportunity for informal recreation.	RFP	Ongoing	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
20	If there is a hardcourt, ensure that it is marked and maintained for multisport purposes. Provide sport elements such as futsal nets/ basketball hoops to get a variety of benefits out of the court.	RFP	Ongoing	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
21	If the open space is located with the hub of the town or village, provide a hardstand area with tables/seating/shelter to enhance the social/picnic/BBQ opportunities.	RFP	Ongoing	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>



Bexhill					
22	Develop a perimeter trail around the oval and better connect the town with flat walking/running and exercise opportunities.	SF	Medium term	2	•Parks and Open Spaces
23	Investigate opportunities to upgrade Sam Trimble Oval or Bexhill Park Reserve to help meet the play needs of most of the town's population.	RFP	Medium term	1	•Parks and Open Spaces
24	Ensure the access to the play space at the Sam Trimble oval is accessible as it is currently difficult to access due to a locked gate.	SF	Medium term	2	•Parks and Open Spaces
25	Develop a perimeter trail around the oval and better connect the town with flat walking/running and exercise opportunities.	SF	Medium term	2	•Parks and Open Spaces
Clunes					
26	By way of community consultation, identify where the Clunes social and family recreation space could be located and identify a range of facilities the community would like to be installed in that space.	F	Short term	1	•Strategic Planning
27	Use the divestment and reclassification framework to determine the future of Smith Street Park.	RFP	Short term	3	•Strategic Planning
28	Support the continued use of the sports field at the Clunes Public School sports field and the Clunes Common old school site.	RFP	Medium term	5	•Strategic Planning Parks and Open Spaces
29	Pending community consultation, prepare a plan for the improvement of the Village Park on Main Street to become an accessible wayside stop for the local community and passing visitors. Consideration should include accessible access and paths, seating, shade, and toilets.	RFP	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces
Dunoon					
30	Provide a perimeter path around the oval precinct and to connect the main carpark with May St to provide a town loop taking in the oval precinct and back into the town.	SF	Medium term	2	•Parks and Open Spaces
31	Upgrade the usability and the accessibility of both the play elements at the sports precinct and the path networks around this park.	RFP	Medium term	2, 3	•Parks and Open Spaces
32	Improve park and play elements, shelter, and toilets in the Fire Station Park.	SF	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces



East Lismore					
33	Consider options for play and social and family recreation provision in the northeast of the suburb, taking into consideration the potential for planned retreat in some areas of East Lismore. Should Joblin Park continue to be the only provision in the area, consider the undergrounding of the drainage channel in Joblin Park and build a more functional/safe local play space or social family recreation park here. Alternatively fence the channel and work around the channel as there does not look to be many other opportunities for developing other land for open space/ play purposes in this area.	NN	Medium term	1	•Parks and Open Spaces
34	Continue the development of a masterplan for the upgrading of Wade park and investigate funding streams for its implementation.	SF	Short term	3	•Active and Liveable Communities
35*	Consider the opportunities for open space provision as part of the planned retreat out of parts of Lismore, North, East and South Lismore. As planned retreat progresses, Council will encourage master planning exercises to incorporate the framework provided by this Strategy in relation to open space classifications. The locations of open space provision should complement other uses that may be provided as part of Lismore's recovery.	NN	Ongoing	4, 5	•Strategic Planning
Girards Hill					
36	Identify any opportunities to connect trails from Robinson Lookout to the connecting streets of John St, Eden St, Cathcart St, Virtue St.	RFP	Medium term	2	•Active and Liveable Communities
37	Investigate the potential of developing visual amenity/passive space within the Bob Cowley Memorial Peace Park. Barnard Park should remain as a relaxation park and has potential to be further revegetated once not used as a single piece play park.	RFP	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces
38	Should planned retreat proceed within the vicinity, provide at least one local play space in the area east of Cathcart St and west of Wyrallah Rd and north of the golf course and therefore considerations may be required in providing play elements within an open space in this part of the suburb.	RFP	Medium term	1	•Parks and Open Spaces



Goonellabah					
39	Provide social and family recreation parks in areas showing gaps in provision and ensure all residential areas include social family recreation and sport areas in new developments with a diversity of landscape setting types.	RFP	Ongoing	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> <li>•Statutory Planning</li> </ul>
40	Identify opportunities to provide a diversity of landscape settings in future subdivisions such as those not available in the north and south of the suburb including treed parkland and sports turf.	RFP	Ongoing	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
41	Seek to retrofit footpaths in roadways where possible and provide path access to parks as well as into and around parks.	F/ RFP	Ongoing	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Assets</li> </ul>
42	Continue to link up the Tuck Tucki creek off road trails creating several large circuits through the suburb to connect with community facilities, sports, and other parks.	RFP	Medium term	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> </ul>
43	Create better access around and into and connecting with Clifford Park.	RFP	Medium term	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
44	Undertake some minor improvements to Kadina Street Reserve to improve access to separate facilities.	RFP	Medium term	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
Lismore					
35*	Consider the opportunities for open space provision as part of the planned retreat out of parts of Lismore, North, East and South Lismore. As planned retreat progresses, Council will encourage master planning exercises to incorporate the framework provided by this Strategy in relation to open space classifications. The locations of open space provision should complement other uses that may be provided as part of Lismore's recovery.	NN	Ongoing	4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strategic Planning</li> </ul>
45	Consider undertaking a major refurbishment of Heritage Park with replacement and leveling of surfaces and supporting infrastructure, entries, and plant material. Utilise a landscape architect with significant experience in play design for children with a disability.	F	In Progress/ Medium term	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Active and Liveable Communities</li> </ul>
46	Continue to enhance Lismore Park to improve its function as a sporting, social and family recreational space.	F/ SF	In Progress/ Medium term	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Liveable and Active Communities</li> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>
47	Improve accessibility, and quality of offerings in Heritage Park.	F	In Progress	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parks and Open Spaces</li> </ul>



48	Identify opportunities to improve social family recreation opportunities and quality at Dalziel Park or at an alternative location in the east of the suburb and in conjunction with any planning of residential areas outside the flood zone to meet the gaps north and south of this park.	RFP	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces
49	Consider landscape-led enhancement of Kareela Avenue to enhance its visual amenity value and usability. Prior to planning, consult the community.	SF	Medium term	3	•Active and Liveable Communities
<b>Nimbin</b>					
50	Where the demand for sports playing fields arises, consider the use of Nimbin Showgrounds and the Council owned land adjacent for this purpose.	RFP	Medium term	1	•Parks and Open Spaces
51	Continue to enhance Peace Park recreation facilities including a path network, toilet facilities, tables and seats and further tree planting and play elements to support a variety of activities and use by people of different age groups and abilities.	SF	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces
<b>North Lismore</b>					
35*	Consider the opportunities for open space provision as part of the planned retreat out of parts of Lismore, North, East and South Lismore. As planned retreat progresses, Council will encourage master planning exercises to incorporate the framework provided by this Strategy in relation to open space classifications. The locations of open space provision should complement other uses that may be provided as part of Lismore's recovery.	NN	Ongoing	4, 5	•Strategic Planning
52	Ensure that social and family recreation, off road trail circuits and sports functions and that a diversity of landscape setting types are provided across those open spaces at North Lismore Plateau. Open space provision should be delivered at subdivision stage in accordance with Part B Chapter 10 of the DCP.	NN	Ongoing	1	•Statutory Planning
53	Consideration should be given to the provision of hardcourts as part of a mix of open spaces and facilities in new developments in the North Lismore suburb to provide an alternative recreation and activity option.	NN	Ongoing	3	•Parks and Open Spaces
<b>South Lismore</b>					
35*	Consider the opportunities for open space provision as part of the planned retreat out of parts of Lismore, North, East and South Lismore. As planned retreat progresses, Council will encourage master planning exercises to incorporate the framework provided by this Strategy in relation to open space classifications. The locations of open space provision should complement other uses that may be provided as part of Lismore's recovery.	NN	Ongoing	4, 5	•Strategic Planning
54	Continue to upgrade Nesbitt Park social and family recreational provisions, as well as better trail and path connections from the Meadow Drive area and from Casino Street. Subsequently assess the suitability of Meadow Drive Park.	SF	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces



55	Provide a larger social and family recreation park, with perimeter path and internal connections, at Riverview Park enhancing the already existing sporting precinct. Should planned retreat proceed in the area, upgrading of Riverview Park would benefit from a master planning process involving the community. Subsequently assess the suitability of Rhode St Park.	SF	Medium term	3	•Parks and Open Spaces
56	Prepare a master plan for the Lismore Lake Precinct that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Revises the entries roadways, upgrades access to the river and signage and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•access from the adjacent accommodation premises and like, in car parking.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Include a trails plan; around the lake, and connecting from the road footpaths to the river, to adjacent accommodation, to any bird viewing area/hide etc., to key picnic tables etc.,</li> <li>c. Consider providing some shelters, accessible and all gender toilets, accessible picnic tables with path access, picnic areas adjacent to the deepest part of the lake/ or island.</li> <li>d. Include a planting plan - to encourage birds, children's informal play, shade and visual amenity and screening of adjacent properties. (Note the need for different species, specific for these different purposes).</li> <li>e. Determine if the swimming pool is to be redeveloped, if not remove the existing pool and include this area in the master plan.</li> </ul>	RFP	Medium Term	2, 3, 4, 5	•Liveable and Active Communities •Environmental Strategies •Parks and Open Spaces
<b>The Channon</b>					
57	Investigate the potential of extending the path network (perimeter trail) within the Coronation Park and providing an off-road trail from Coronation Park back to connect with Channon Common utilising existing paths and road reserve. Investigations must consider the stability of this route.	RFP	Medium term	2	Parks and Open Spaces

\*Note: Action 35 applies to Lismore, East Lismore, North Lismore and South Lismore

