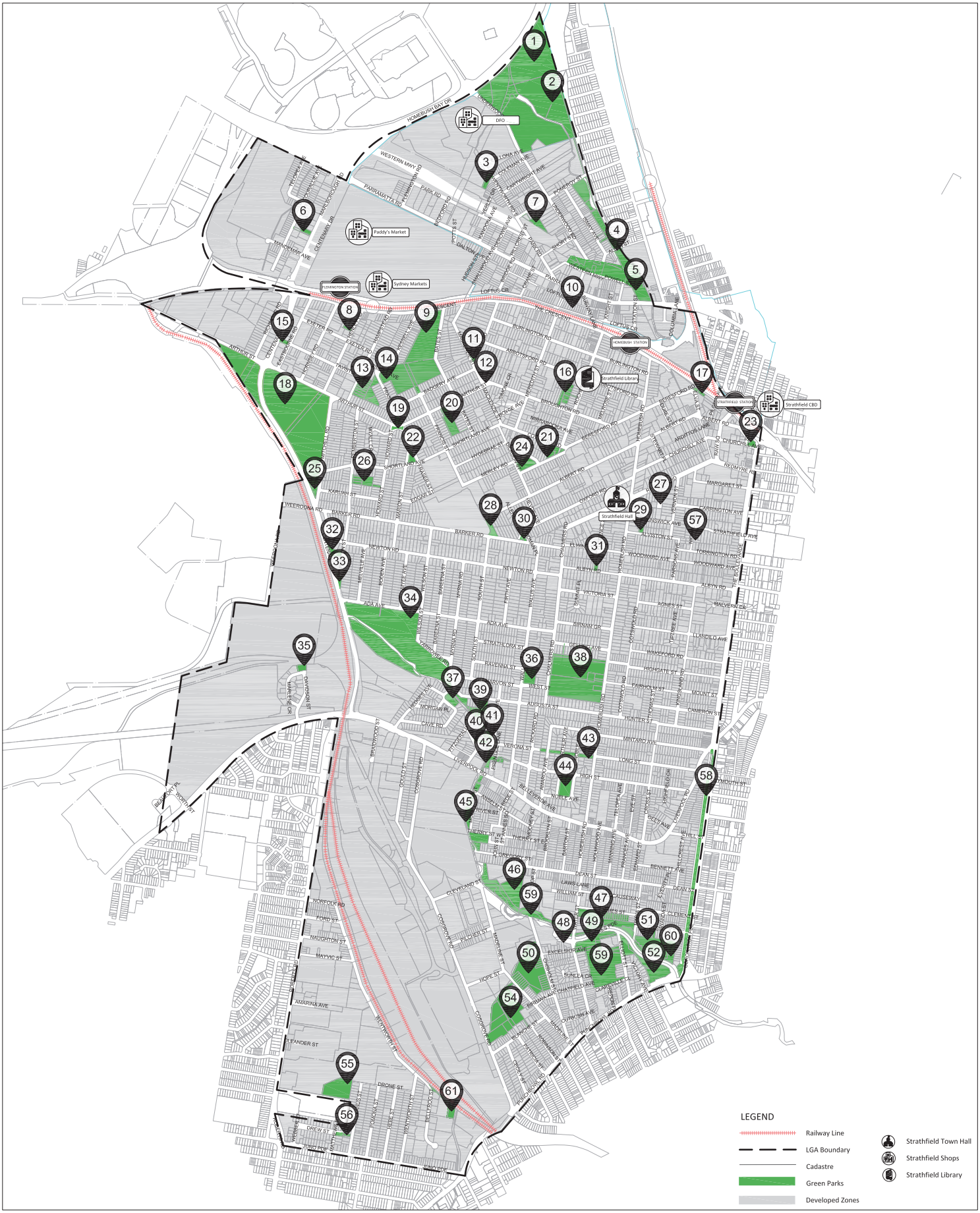
STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

COOKE PARK PLAN OF MANAGEMENT



Strathfield Council



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date
31st January 2020

rev
01

North Point

scale 1:10000
0m 100 250 500 1000m

1. Bressington Park
2. Mason Park & Wetlands
3. Wentworth Reserve
4. Allen Street Reserve (Ismay Reserve)
5. Ismay Reserve
6. Austin Park
7. Bill Boyce Reserve
8. Henley Reserve
9. Airey Park
10. Augustus Loftus Reserve
11. Slater Reserve
12. Shortland Reserve Gardens
13. Melville Reserve
14. Sutherland Gardens
15. Tavistock Reserve
16. Fitzgerald Park
17. Laker Reserve
18. Hudson Park
19. Lowe's Garden
20. Pilgrim Park
21. Davey Square Memorial Reserve
22. Kessel Square
23. Strathfield Square
24. Inveresk Park
25. Frank Zions Reserve
26. Boden Reserve
27. Redmyre Road Croquet Lawns
28. Mt Royal Reserve
29. Centenary Playground
30. Todman Reserve
31. Florence Reserve
32. Cosgrove Reserve
33. Pemberton Reserve
34. Freshwater Park
35. Marlene Reserve
36. Wallis Reserve
37. Chain of Ponds Reserve
38. Strathfield Park
39. Thew Reserve
40. Fitzgerald Reserve
41. Palmer Reserve
42. Prentice Reserve
43. Humphries Reserve
44. Edwards Park
45. St Annes Reserve
46. Dean Reserve
47. Ford Park
48. Water Reserve
49. Maria Reserve
50. Cooke Park
51. Southend Tennis
52. Elliott Reserve
53. Bark Hut Reserve
54. Begnell Field
55. Cox's Creek Reserve
56. Drew St Playground
57. Nichol Reserve
58. Coronation Reserve
59. South Cooks River Land
60. Chiswick Reserve
61. Greenacre Frog Ponds

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1. Introduction

1.1 Title

This plan is titled Cooke Park Plan of Management.

The draft plan was exhibited from 3 February 2020 to 9 April 2020. The current plan was adopted by Council resolution at the meeting of xx.

This plan of management applies to land located at Cooke Park. This land is located between Madeline Street and Chisholm Street, Belfield, north at Coxs Creek and at south located at the rear of residences facing Madeline Street and Birriwa Avenue. There are small areas of land located north of Coxs Creek.

The land in Cooke Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Ownership, lot details and zoning information is set out in Table 1 (information from Council Geographical Information System (GIS) 2019).

The location map of Cooke Park is set out in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Ownership, title and zoning details

Owner	Lot Details	Zoning Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012
Strathfield Council	Lot 26 DP 8960	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot A DP 357501	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lots 1-27 DP 18185	RE1 - Public Recreation
Strathfield Council	Lot 1 & 2, DP 107494	INI – General Industrial

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Figure 1 – Cooke Park Location Map



1.2 Purpose of this Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* and amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* require all public land including Crown Reserves, owned or managed by Council, to be classified as either 'community' land or 'operational' land. Land classified as 'community' land must be managed and used in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management. The land described in this Plan of Management is classified as community land.

Plans of Management are developed by Council in consultation with the community. A Plan of Management describes the features of the community land and outlines how Council intends to manage, use or develop the land in the future, thereby providing a transparent and co-ordinated approach to public land management.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- contribute to the strategic goals and vision as set out in the Strathfield Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and relevant legislation and guidelines
- provide clarity regarding use and access to the community land as described in this plan.

1.3 Contents of this Plan of Management

This Plan of Management is divided into the following sections, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Structure of this Plan of Management

Section	What does it include?
1. Introduction	Title, land covered by plan, purpose, contents and review of the plan
2. About the Strathfield LGA	Recognition of traditional custodians, Strathfield LGA snapshot, trends, community vision, legislative and policy framework, and references.
3. Land – category, classification, use and access	Site description, land use/history, land categories and classifications, maps, use of land and structures, environmental features, condition of land and structures and heritage.
4. Land Uses	Permissible uses and development, scale and intensity of use, authorisation of leases, licences and short term uses.
5. Management of the land	Objectives, performance targets, means and manner for assessment of performance

1.4. Change and Review of Plan of Management

This Plan of Management will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. The performance of this Plan of Management will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the use of land and structures is well maintained and consistent with Council's strategic objectives and community values.

Strategic reviews of this Plan of Management will be required where there is significant change to legislation, land ownership/management or proposed land use. Regular reviews should occur at five (5) year intervals.

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2. About the Strathfield Local Government Area

2.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Strathfield Council acknowledges the Wangal people, the traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Strathfield area is located. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.2 Snapshot of Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA)

The Strathfield Local Government Area (LGA) is well known for transport connections, educational opportunities, attractive streetscapes, parks, heritage and buildings. The Strathfield LGA is centrally located in Sydney's Inner West, approximately 10.5 kilometres from the Sydney CBD and half way between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD. The LGA includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets (postcode 2129) is also located within Strathfield LGA.

Strathfield LGA is well known for its extensive green open spaces and high quality recreational facilities, which enhance the liveability, amenity and sustainability of the local area. The Strathfield LGA has a total area of approximately 1390 ha (13.9km^2) with 104 ha of the total area being public open space (2018 estimates). There is currently 9.06 ha of remnant bushland in the LGA and about 6 ha is under Council management.

In 2019, the estimated residential LGA population was about 47,000 residents and by 2041, the resident population is estimated to reach over 80,000 people (NSW Planning 2019). The growing population and accompanying building density will increase demand for access to and usage of available open space and community facilities. Therefore, management of community land is of critical important to current and future communities.

Open spaces range from regional and district sporting grounds to smaller local parks and reserves. Significant parks with major sporting facilities include Airey Park, Bressington Park, Bark Huts Reserve, Begnell Field, Cooke Park, Hudson Park, Mason Park and Strathfield Park. Many local biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity priority areas, including flora and fauna assets, are located within Strathfield LGA's parks and reserves. A number of connected parks and open spaces form the Cooks River Foreshore open space network, an important local and regional habitat corridor and pedestrian and cycle transport connection.

Strathfield LGA also provides many community facilities, located on community land including meeting rooms, halls and community centres which are available for hire by groups and individuals for sporting, community, recreation, social and other purposes.

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2.3 Strathfield LGA community and recreational trends

Some of the challenges facing the Strathfield LGA include increasing and competing demands for public open space and community facilities. Strathfield Council is strongly focused on identifying and meeting the current and future needs of the Strathfield community in a sustainable manner.

Recent community engagement and analysis of social and recreational trends indicate increasing participation in recreation, sporting and leisure activities such as organised team sports, walking, cycling, running, aerobic fitness and dog walking. There is increased demand for access to community and recreation facilities, outdoor and indoor.

Priorities for Council involve increasing the capacity of local community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds, developing new community and recreational facilities as required and ensuring equity of access to land and facilities, to meet changing and diverse needs.

2.4 Community Vision and Key Strategic Directions

The community vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area by 2030:

"Strathfield is a culturally diverse and socially cohesive community with respect for its heritage and environment and proud of its well-connected transport, business and educational institutions".

Strathfield 2030 is the community strategic plan for the Strathfield Local Government Area until 2030. The plan was developed following extensive community engagement and is divided into the key themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Civic Pride and Management. Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership

This plan is aligned with the Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which defines the long term vision for land use and infrastructure provisions within the Strathfield LGA and supports place within the Greater Sydney and District planning frameworks. This plan of management aligns with the LSPS Priority P13 'Biodiversity and ecological health and resiliency is conserved, restored and enhanced' and Priority P15 'Quality Open Spaces and thriving green corridors offset the impacts of growth across the LGA' and action plan A93 to review and prepare new plans of management.

2.5 Legislative and Policy Framework

The following legislation and policies provide a framework for the preparation of this Plan of Management.

Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (LG Act) requires the preparation of Plans of Management (POMs) for Council owned land, and requires all community land to be categorised.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act) is the principal planning legislation for NSW, that provides a framework for the environmental planning and assessment of development proposals and preparation of environmental planning instruments (including the Local Environmental Plan or LEP).

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (NSW) (CLM Act) governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, including provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for a prescribed public purpose and for

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leasing and licensing. Crown land under Council management requires classification and categorisations under the LG Act and preparation of Plans of Management.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act) requires that Councils consider the impact on threatened species, populations and communities in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the EP&A Act for development approvals. It also covers management of threatened species and communities on Council owned lands.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) provides a national scheme for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and incorporates referral mechanisms and environmental impact assessment processes for projects of national significance.

State Environmental Planning Policy 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas aims to protect and preserve bushland in the Sydney Metropolitan area. The SEPP is concerned with disturbances and development affecting bushland areas.

Companion Animal Act 1998 (NSW) requires the identification and registration of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) and sets out the duties and responsibilities in relation to management of animals and specific areas of land.

Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) provides a framework to ensure the proper management of natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State. Strathfield is part of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS), which provides guidance on matters such as community engagement, biosecurity and weeds.

Also relevant are:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)
- Water Management Act 2000 (NSW)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW)
- Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

Related Strathfield Council policies and plans

- Strathfield Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030
- Strathfield 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- Strathfield Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Development Control Plans 2005
- Strathfield Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020
- Disability Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

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2.6 References

Eco Logical Australia and Strathfield Council, 2019, *Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2020-2030*

Insight Ecology, 2017, *The Fauna of Strathfield (Local Government Area)*

Jones, Cathy, 2019, *Parks and Reserves*, Strathfield Heritage website at https://strathfieldheritage.org/parks-and-reserves

Near Maps – Strathfield LGA, 2019 at https://www.nearmap.com/au/en

NSW Department Planning, 2019, *Strathfield LGA Population Projections 2016-2041.*

Strathfield Council, *Local Environmental Plan 2012*

Strathfield Council, 2018, *Community Strategic Plan – Strathfield 2030*

Strathfield Council, 2019, *GIS Data*

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3. Land – category, classification, use and access

3.1 Description of site

Cooke Park is located at Chisholm Street and Madeline Street, Belfield. Cooke Park is one of Strathfield Council's largest parks and is over 34 hectares in size. The park contains sportsfields, skate park, playground, an amenities building and small car park. Cooke Park is bounded to the east by Bark Huts Reserve, and south west by Begnell Field, with rear boundaries of residential properties that occur along Birriwa Ave and Madeline St.

Cooke Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek Foreshore parks and land in Cooke Park is identified as a Biodiversity Connectivity Priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019.

3.2 Land prior use and history

Cooke Park is located between Madeline Street and Chisholm Street Belfield with frontage on Coxs Creek (Cooks River). Cooke Park is named for Thomas Cooke, a former Alderman (1941-1948) and Mayor of Enfield Council (1941-1946, 1948).

The park is built on the Chisholm Estate, which was subdivided in 1937 and created residential lots along Chisholm and Madeline Streets. A large portion of the site measuring over 4 acres contained a large waterhole and was considered to be difficult to develop. The sub divider approached Enfield Council to purchase this land (Lot 27). Initially, the Council agreed to purchase Lot 27 for £100 but later acquired additional lots on the frontages of both streets and its river foreshore.

The site accepted fill to level out the land and in 1942, on the instigation of the Mayor of Enfield, Thomas Cooke, plans were developed to format the site into a park with playing fields. On 1 January 1949, the west ward of Enfield Council amalgamated with Strathfield Council. Cooke Park was dedicated as a public reserve on 15 October 1952[1].

[1] Jones, C, 2019, Parks and Reserves

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Figure 2: Historical photograph of Cooke Park

The aerial historic photographs indicate changes in the land over time, particularly the building sportsfields, structures and revegetation, especially near the canal and boundaries of the park.



Cooke Park aerial photograph (1947)



Cooke Park aerial photograph (1997)



Cooke Park aerial photograph (2009). © Near Maps



Cooke Park aerial photograph (2019). © Near Maps

3.3 Categories and classifications of community Land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. The core objectives for each category are set out in the *Local Government Act 1993*. The guidelines and core objectives for relevant categories are set out in Table 3.

Table 3 – Guidelines for and core objectives of community land

Category	Guidelines[2]	Core objectives[3]
Park	*Regulation cl.104* Land which is, or proposed to be, improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that not unduly intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.	*Category Park – (Section 36G)* • encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities. • provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games. • improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
Sportsground	*Regulation cl.103* Land should be categorised as 'sportsground' if the land is used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.	*Category Sportsground - (Section 36F)* • to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and • to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
Natural Area	*Regulation cl.102* Natural areas are where land, whether or not in an undisturbed state, possesses a significant geological feature, geomorphological feature, landform, representative system or other natural feature or attribute that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.	*Natural Area - (Section 36E)* • to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised to a natural area; and • to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and • to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and • to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to assist in and facilitate the implement of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*

[2] *Local Government General Regulation 2005*
[3] *Local Government Act 1993*

Category	Guidelines[2]	Core objectives[3]
Natural Area – bushland	*Regulation cl.107* Land that contains primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality. .	*Natural Area - Bushland (Section 36J)* • to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms) of the land and other ecological values of the land, and • to protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land, and • to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and • to restore degraded bushland, and • to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores, and • to retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term, and • to protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Council must manage community land in according to these core objectives. Any activities or uses of the land should be consistent with the core objectives for that category of land. Additional objectives, which support the above core objectives, are included in Section 5 Management of the land.

The land classified as community land under the *Local Government Act 1993* is categorised as Park, Sportsground and Natural Area (Bushland). The categorised areas are marked in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Map of Cooke Park land categorisations



3.4 Use of the land and structures at date of adoption of the plan

Cooke Park provides a wide range of land uses, which support various sporting, recreational and community and environmental uses. The land is categorised as Sportsground, Natural Area (Bushland) and Park.

Part of the land on which Cooke Park is built is categorised as a Sportsground. This sportsground category contains two sportsfields and sportsfield lighting.

Cooke Park contains a habitat corridor, which is identified as biodiversity connectivity priority area in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy. This is located on the northern side of the Coxs Creek canal and has been categorised as a Natural Area (Bushland).

Land in Cooke Park is categorised as a Park and is used for active and passive recreation and leisure purposes which include general park lighting, a concrete skatepark, children's playground, amenities building and general park seating, BBQ, shelter facilities, small carpark and pathways

3.5 Environmental features

Cooke Park is one of the Cooks River/Coxs Creek foreshore parks. Parts of this land are identified in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy 2019 as a Biodiversity Connectivity area. These corridors are also identified as Priority Biodiversity Areas and a Priority Green Grid Project in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2020. The land in Cooke Park categorised as natural area (bushland) is included in the Cooks River Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management.

Cooke Park is comprises a mixture of revegetated parkland and open playing fields. The revegetated parkland is mainly in the northern section abutting Coxs Creek Channel and contains mostly indigenous vegetation planted as strips and/or blocks. Eucalypts, acacia, paperbark and she-oak are planted along its northern edge adjoining Cox's Creek Channel and fringed by some woody weeds. These provide a narrow but thick movement corridor to Cooks River supporting the Superb Fairy-wren, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Silvereye. There are individual planted trees and shrubs planted along the boundaries of the open parkland and playing fields.

National Tree day has run for many years in the LGA. Dedicated events have bene run in Cooke Park in 2014 and 2008. It provides habitat for native species, diverts runoff from storm drains, filters air pollution, reduces urban heat and sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It is directly in line with council's Community Strategic Plan and Environmental Sustainability Plan goals. Achievements included engaging over 300 community members who planted 2500 native plants from 50 different species. This equates to approximately 7000 tons of CO2 captured annually, potentially reducing 30 Mega Litres of runoff per year. The community members also enjoyed education on waterway health and biodiversity from event partners.

Green and Golden Bellfrogs (GGBF) are usually located in and around water bodies such as wetlands and lakes or on sites which humans have disturbed such as abandoned quarries or brickpits. In the Strathfield LGA, the GGBF core habitat area is located in Greenacre such as Coxs Creek Reserve and Greenacre Frog Ponds. Cooke Park is contained within the east-west GGBF linkage area as mapped in the Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy (p17), which also covers parks such as Begnell Field and parts of Ford Park and Maria Reserve. However, with dispersal and movement of frogs, infrequent sightings have been reported in parks further along the Cooks River such as Elliott Reserve, Southend Tennis Centre and 'Chiswick Reserve'. However, these sightings were infrequent and have become increasingly rare. Since 2012, Council has received no reported sightings of GGBF in the Strathfield LGA.

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3.6 Condition of the land and structures on adoption of the plan

The criteria for assessing the condition of land and structure upon adoption of this plan of management are shown in Table 4 and the interpretation of the condition of infrastructure in Table 5.

Table 4 - Condition rating assessment criteria

Rating	Descriptor	Guide	Residual Life as a % of Total Life	Mean % age residual life
1 Excellent	Sound physical condition. Asset likely to perform adequately without major work.	Normal maintenance required	>86	95
2 Good	Acceptable physical condition, minimal short term risk of failure.	Normal maintenance plus minor repairs required (to 5% or less of the asset)	65 to 85	80
3 Satisfactory	Deterioration evident, failure in the short term unlikely. Minor components need replacement or repair now but asset still functions safely.	Significant maintenance and/or repairs required (to 10-20% of the asset)	41 to 64	55
4 Worn	Deterioration of the asset is evident and failure is possible in the short term. No immediate risk to health and safety.	Significant renewal required (to 20 - 40% of the asset)	10 to 40	35
5 Poor	Failed or failure is imminent or there is significant deterioration of the asset. Health and safety hazards exist which present a possible risk to public safety.	Over 50% of the asset requires renewal	<10	5

Table 5 – Condition of assets at Cooke Park

Description	Condition
Amenities building – toilets, kiosk, change rooms, storage and umpire room	Excellent (built 2019)
BBQ	Excellent (built 2019)
Carpark	Excellent (built 2019)
Children's playground	Excellent (built 2018)
Cricket Practice Wicket	Excellent (built 2019)
General park lighting	Good
Park seating	Excellent (built 2018)
Pathways	Good
Shelter & seating	Excellent (built 2019)
Skatepark	Satisfactory
Sportsfield	Good
Sportsfield lighting	Satisfactory
Synthetic Sportsfield	Excellent (built 2019)

3.7 Heritage

There are no statutory heritage listings associated with this land.

3.8 Photographs of Cooke Park

These photographs provide an overview of facilities and spaces at Cooke Park. Unless specified, photographs are dated 2019.



Sportsfield – Chisholm St


Sportsfield – (2018 before construction)


Synthetic sportsfield


Skatepark


Newly planted trees in 2018


Cluster of trees near Coxs Creek



Solar lights, trees near Coxs Creek at Chisholm St



Shelter, seating and all inclusive BBQ



Playground



Sportsfield (turf)



Single cricket practice wicket



Amenities Building – Madeline St

4. Land Uses

4.1 Permissible uses and developments

The tables below set out the purpose/use of the land consistent with its land categorisation and the types of development generally associated with those uses. Facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community. The anticipated uses, and associated development, identified in Tables 6 to 8 are intended to provide an overview or general guide. Development is subject to requirements set out in clauses 4.2 and 4.3

Table 6 – Permissible uses of land categories – Park

Purpose/Use	Development
• Active and passive recreation including children's play • Group recreational use, such as picnics and celebrations • Publicly accessible ancillary areas eg toilets • Festivals, fairs, similar events and gatherings • Low intensity commercial activities • Filming and photographic projects • Public address (speeches) • Easement, utilities and estate • Community gardening	• Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the park eg paths, pergolas, flagpoles, lights, water bubblers, seating, paved areas, hard and soft landscaped areas etc • Development for the purposes of active recreation eg play equipment, children's playgrounds, exercise equipment, courts etc • Amenities to facilitate leisure use of the park eg picnic tables and shelters, BBQ's & sheltered eating areas • Kiosk/café, mobile food vans or refreshment areas • Restricted access ancillary areas (e.g. storage areas associated with functions, gardening equipment) • Transport access and service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg public transport, car parking, loading zones, bicycle racks) • Community gardens • Off-leash areas • Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art etc • Locational, directional and regulatory signage • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. • Water/Energy savings initiatives

Table 7 – Permissible uses of land categories – Sportsground

Purpose/Use	Development
• Active and passive recreational and sporting activities consistent with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities • Organised and unstructured recreation activities • Community events or gatherings, and public meetings • Commercial uses associated with sports facilities • Easement, utilities and estate	• Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport • Sportsfields (turf and synthetic) including cricket, football, soccer, track and field athletics, baseball, softball etc • Courts (basketball, netball, badminton, tennis, hockey, badminton etc) • Amenities eg change room, lockers, shower/toilet facilities, first aid rooms, seating • Café or kiosk facilities, mobile coffee cart or food vending subject to site assessment and Council approval • Car parking and loading areas • Ancillary areas eg staff rooms, meeting rooms, equipment storage areas • Shade structures • Seating and scoreboards • Sports or fitness training, and practice facilities • Heritage and cultural interpretation eg signs, public art • Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that relate to approved uses/activities, discreet and temporary and approved by Council. • Water/Energy savings initiatives • Lighting and water (eg taps, bubblers)

Table 8 – Permissible uses of land categories – Natural Area (Bushland)

Purpose/Use	Development
• Walking and cycling • Guided bushwalks and bird watching • Environmental programs and scientific study • Preservation of biodiversity and habitat • Bush regeneration and revegetation works • Relaxation and passive informal recreation	• Interpretative, regulatory and directional signage • Low impact lighting • Low impact carparking • Low impact pathways • Passive recreation • Seating • Small ancillary building eg storage and amenities for site maintenance • Water saving initiatives eg swales, sediment traps, rainwater gardens

In some instances, physical assets may be located on land which falls into different categories. For example, amenities building may be located on land categorised as Park, or on land categorised for Sportsground.

4.2 Future development and use of the community land

There are no future plans for development in Cooke Park at the time of adoption of this plan of management.

However, it is expected that future development and use of facility on community land may require:

- Minor changes to community land are regularly made on a routine basis, such as garden beds are replanted, and damaged play equipment is replaced.

- In the event of potential future development other than that listed, proposed changes of use of community land will:

1. Meet legislative requirements – land use tables (zoning) in the Strathfield Council Local Environmental Plan specifies the range of uses and activities that may be permitted on the land. A number of uses are also set out in the Regulations to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2. Be consistent with the guidelines and core objectives of the community land category - under the *Local Government Act 1993* uses and development of community land must be consistent with the guidelines for categorisation and the core objectives of each category, and any other additional objectives the Council proposes to place on the community land categories.

3. Be consistent with relevant Council policies - substantial upgrades and proposed new development will take into account a range of factors, including:

- this Plan of Management and the core objectives for the land
- the planning controls for the land
- Council's adopted policies
- the characteristics of the land affected, including existing and future use patterns
- any landscape masterplan for the land.

4.3 Scale and intensity of land use

The scale and intensity of use and development associated with community land in Strathfield is generally dependent on:

- the nature of the approved uses and developments
- approved Development Applications and any conditions
- an approved masterplan
- the physical constraints of the land
- the carrying capacity of the land
- relevant government legislation
- permissible times of use
- proximity of neighbours

The scale and intensity of use of parks and sportsgrounds should be monitored by:

- regular inspection of the physical impacts on the park or sportsground
- consideration of reports regarding any conflicts between park and sportsground users or from adjoining neighbours

4.4 Authorisation of leases, licences or other estates over community land

The Act requires that any lease or licence of community land must be authorised by a Plan of Management. The lease or licence must be for purposes consistent with the categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for leases or licences on community land permitted under the Act is 21 years. If a lease or licence is anticipated, then public notice should be given in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Where a lease arrangement has been entered into with Council for community land, subleasing the land may only occur with specific permission of Council and in accordance with the requirements of Section 47C of the Act, Clause 119 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and conditions set out in agreements.

This Plan of Management authorises existing leases and licence agreements until the end of their current term. The leased or licensed areas may be renewed or changed in future. The leased or licensed areas may be reconfigured in the future to reflect changes in community needs.

This Plan of Management authorises Council to grant leases, licences or any other estates for community land covered in this Plan of Management for purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 6 to 8. Some examples of longer term arrangements are outlined in the following Table 9. Shorter arrangements (for example, a short term licence associated with a particular event, or recurring for a few hours each season) are set out in Table 10.

Calculations for fees and charges for leases and licences will be based on independent market rental valuations that are based on comparisons to similar services and facilities with similar locations, building and land conditions. As a minimum standard, the financial return from licence fees should offset asset maintenance, renewal and any operational costs. Council may also apply subsidies to not for profit organisations where there are demonstrated community benefits or financial hardship. Subsidies are generally not applied to commercial agreements.

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Table 9 – Leases, Licences and other estates

Type of Arrangement Authorised	Land and Facilities covered	Purposes for which long term leasing/licensing will be granted
Licence or lease	Park/ Sportsground	Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include: • sporting and recreational purposes, including team sports, fitness activities and games • kiosk, café and refreshment purposes • use of court or similar facilities
Licence or lease	Natural Area	Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this Plan of Management and Council's goals and objectives in its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and the capacity of the land area to support the activity. Sympathetic, compatible uses include: • educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • walkways, pathways, bridges or causeways • information kiosks • work sheds or storage areas required in connection with maintenance • signs, observation platforms • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other Estates	Park/ Sportsground	This Plan of Management allows Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. Estates may also be granted across community land that is not affected by endangered communities for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.

The grant of a lease or licence is an important step in using community land, but there may be other requirements relevant to any proposed use. For example, the refurbishment of a kiosk may also require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Any interested person should check carefully to make sure they are aware of all relevant requirements.

4.5 Short Term Uses

Agreements for use of community land may be granted for short duration, which may include casual hires, seasonal use (eg sportsfields) or regular hire arrangement. These short-term arrangements should be for the types of uses identified in Table 9 and consistent with prevailing Council policies.

Table 10 – Seasonal, regular and casual use agreements

Community land category	Purposes for which short term uses may be granted subject to council approval	Requirements
Park	• community events and festivals • playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward • picnics and private celebrations such as family gatherings • filming and photography session • public performances • engaging in an appropriate trade or business	• the proposed use must comply with terms and conditions approved e.g. SafeWork NSW regulations, insurance, waste management etc. • the use should not result in physical damage to the park, sportsground or natural area • the use should not result in a significant adverse impact on adjoining residents or disturbance to nearby residents • organisers of the site should be responsible for cleaning up the site and notify authorities and Council of any damage or incidents that may occur
Sportsground	• community events and festivals • sporting fixtures and events • sports and fitness training and classes • filming or photography of sporting fixtures or events • uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events	
Natural Area	• educational or environmental programs, scientific studies and surveys or similar • temporary erection or use of structures to enable a filming project to be carried out	

In assessing community land categorised as Park, Sportsground or Natural Area as a venue for any proposed utilisation, Council applies the following minimum criteria:

- Council reserves the right to refuse bookings based on previous unsatisfactory payment or performance history or where proposed use would damage the facility or cause significant disruption to other regular users.

- Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with Council's adopted Fees and Charges at the time.

5. Management of the land

5.1 Objectives and management of community land

The land is managed in accordance with the objectives and methods set out below:

Table 11 – Objectives, means and performance measures

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Access	1. Provide safe and improved access to the parks, sportsgrounds and general community use properties for pedestrians and cyclists. 2. Provide access to and within parks for people with disabilities.	1. Upgrades, refurbishments and/or improvement works on community land to consider public access requirements for mobility and connections. 2. Proposed ramps, stairs and pathways to comply with relevant Council and BCA requirements consistent with Australian Standards.	1. Audits of community land and facilities to comply with standards
Amenity and Character	1. Ensure Council's community land and facilities contribute to the amenity and character of the Strathfield LGA. 2. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and community use properties as desirable places for recreation, community celebration and commemoration.	1. Provide parks and facilities and pathways as attractive destinations. 2. Maintain and enhance community land and facilities 3. Promote parks, sportsgrounds and facilities in local media and website.	1. Consult with residents and users regarding satisfaction of parks and facilities 2. Monitor and action complaint data
Community Facilities	1. Provide sustainable community facilities for a range of	1. Building and structure design specifications to consider park, sportsground and general	1. Monitor usage of community facilities as measured by bookings.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
	community, social and other compatible activities. 2. Ensure buildings positively contribute to community land amenity, facilitate a range of uses and have regard for environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.	community use character, expected use and environmental sustainability features. 2. Provide community facilities which are multi-purpose and flexible to a range of appropriate uses. 3. Ensure community facilities are universally accessible. 4. Community facilities meet sustainable building requirements and/or are progressively upgraded to incorporate best practice energy and water efficiencies.	2. Community satisfaction surveys. 3. Facility inspections and audits. 4. Monitor comments and complaints
Environmentally Sustainable Principles	1. Manage community land to ensure best environmental management practises and principles having regard to environmental sustainable design, resource use and maintenance.	1. Promote and monitor energy efficiency 2. Minimise use of water 3. Implement waste reduction programs 4. Utilise natural heating and cooling	1. Measure and monitor via plans and strategies such as Energy and Water plans. 2. Monitor usage and trends via quarterly and annual consumption and billing. 3. Monitor and minimise water and energy use in parks, sportsgrounds and ancillary facilities.
Historical and Heritage Significance	1. Appreciation and interpretation of the historical and/or heritage significance of the site and structures e.g. memorials in terms of both natural and cultural components.	1. Undertake, when required, historical research or heritage and cultural assessment studies to identify cultural and heritage values for retention and interpretation. 2. Incorporate historical information on property signage to enhance understanding and appreciation of the site and the history it represents, where relevant. 3. Promote sense of place and local identity	1. Retention and interpretation of heritage and cultural values provides increased appreciation of the property and its history through community consultation.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
Landscape Character	1. Maintain and improve landscape character and visual quality of public open spaces	1. Manage replacement planting strategies to ensure improvement to the current character. 2. Maintain consistency in selection and design of park and sportsground furniture, paving, fencing that is appropriate to the setting and the sport or activity type. 3. Implement & maintain co-ordinated signage strategy	1. Community consultation including surveys regarding community views
Managing assets	1. Provide effective and efficient management of community land and facilities	1. Schedule regular inspections and condition assessments. 2. Inclusion of maintenance standards in licence, lease or hire agreements. 3. Provide waste and recycling bins to cater for public use. 4. Regular waste and recycling collection to minimise litter overflow	1. Measure against Service Standard KPIs. 2. Respond to complaints and audits. 3. Monitor agreements 4. Review and update asset management plans periodically
Natural Environment	1. To maintain and enhance the health of park ecology, including flora and fauna, trees and soil	1. Manage trees, gardens and natural areas to maintain and improve the quality of the environment in accordance with Council's tree management and biodiversity strategies and plans. 2. Retain habitat trees, protect foraging habitat and create/maintain habitat corridors through revegetation where possible 3. Ensure revegetation is undertaken using locally sourced stock from agreed planting lists (refer Strathfield Biodiversity Strategy)	1. Measure and monitor tree canopies, vegetation, weeds and habitat. 2. Undertake periodic flora and fauna reviews

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		4. Maintain weed management program to minimise spread of weeds 5. Implement actions where required under recovery or threat abatement plan.	
Natural Area (Bushland)	1. Refer to the Natural Area (Bushland) Plan of Management 2020		
Promote varied recreational uses	1. Enhance opportunities for a balanced organised and unstructured recreational use of public open space 2. Optimise public access to public open space. 3. Maintain condition and useability of sportsgrounds and 'sustainable capacity'.	1. Capital works program to plan for improvements and upgrades to community land. 2. Promote a range of organised and informal/unstructured activities on community land 3. Provide amenities that support use and enjoyment of parks and sportsgrounds e.g. toilets, change rooms and kiosk/café facilities. 4. Enforce provisions for management of dogs on community land as per requirements of Council's Companion Animal Policy.	2. Monitor local use of parks and sportsgrounds by bookings, surveys, complaints and observation.
Safety and Risk Management	1. Provide safe use and access to public land and facilities.	1. Design and maintain layouts, landscaping and facilities in accordance with CPTED principles (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) principles including passive surveillance, good sight lines, territorial reinforcement and space management and lighting.	1. Works to be in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and CPTED principles. 2. Monitor and action incident and accident reports.

Issues	Objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land s.36 (b) Local Government Act 1993	Means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (c) Local Government Act 1993	Manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets s.36 (d) Local Government Act 1993
		2. Review lighting and security for both day and night time use. 3. Work with local police to identify and act on safety issues. 4. Install and maintain facilities in accordance with relevant Australian standards. 5. Repair vandalism or graffiti within 48 hours where possible.	
Traffic and Parking	1. Ensure traffic and parking requirements provide a safe environment for park, sportsgrounds and general community use property users and do not impact on the amenity of the properties.	1. Minimise use of vehicles on community land and regulate and monitor vehicle access. 2. Installation of signage preventing vehicles from entering unauthorised areas. 3. Where vehicles are permitted, provide clearly marked vehicle movement areas 4. Provide access for emergency or works services.	1. Reduced pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle conflicts. 2. Improved public safety. 3. Traffic access to community land is via agreement.
Use agreements	1. That use arrangements facilitate wide community access to community land, community benefits and support financial sustainability.	1. Licence, leases, estates and short term use agreements comply with legislative and policy requirements.	1. Monitor agreements in accordance with terms and conditions of agreement.