

South West Rocks Open Space Strategy Planning Studies

For

Kempsey Shire Council

August 2004

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Kempsey Shire Council

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Space Strategy
Planning Studies

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South West Rocks Open
Space Strategy
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August 2004

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For and on behalf of
Environmental Resources Management
Australia

Approved by: Christine Allen

Signed:



Position: Project Director

Date: 20 August 2004

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) was commissioned by Kempsey Shire Council to undertake an open space needs analysis for South West Rocks. The purpose of the study is:

- to undertake an analysis of the availability and adequacy of local and district open space facilities;
- to identify existing shortfalls and likely future requirements; and
- to make recommendations for the future management of the local and district open spaces

This study considers only local and district open space. Sporting fields and regional open space have been excluded at the request of Council.

The report will supersede Development Control Plan No. 10 Provision of Open Space for South West Rocks.

Local and District open Space are defined in *Chapter 4.1* as reserves that provide recreational opportunities for the residents in the immediate area. Local parks are usually located within walking distance of residents. District facilities may serve a whole town and allow access by car or public transport.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This study has been undertaken in a number of stages. These are:

- identify existing policies for open space at South West Rocks and review their current applicability (*Chapter 2*);
- analyse population trends in South West Rocks, in particular, the existing and likely future population structure and the implications for open space planning (*Chapter 3*);
- prepare an inventory of sporting fields and local and district facilities in the town (*Chapter 4*);
- compare open space provision with other centres that have similar population and growth characteristics (*Chapter 5*);
- identify appropriate locational criteria and standards for open space provisions have regard to the above and best practice guidelines (*Chapter 5*);
- identify any gaps in open space provision or over supply of facilities (*Chapter 6*); and
- make recommendations concerning rationalisation of existing open space and a strategy for the future provision of open space (*Chapter 7*).

The following chapter considers Councils open space policies that apply to South West Rocks and considers the relationship of the existing policies to this study.

2.1**SECTION 94 CONTRIBUTION PLAN – OUTDOOR RECREATION 2001**

Kempsey Shire Council's Section 94 Plan Outdoor Recreation 2001 applies to all residential subdivision, multi unit development and tourist development in the LGA. It requires payment of a cash contribution towards the provision of open space and recreational facilities. This contribution is calculated having regard to the additional demand generated by the particular development. The dedication of land or provision of a material public benefit may partially or wholly satisfy the contribution. Contributions vary according to the catchment within which the property is located. South West Rocks is within the South West Rocks catchment. All catchments contribute towards district sporting facilities, located in Kempsey.

The Plan is supported by a works schedule. The section of the schedule that relates to the South West Rocks is outlined in *Table 2.1*.

Table 2.1**Allocation of Open Space Section 94 Contributions**

Open Space Type	Contribution Funds
Sporting Fields Acquisition/Construct	\$400,000
Parks and Reserves	\$325,000
Neighbourhood Parks (New Release Areas)	\$758,000
Source: Kempsey Shire Council, 2001	

It is noted that the plan does not identify site specific facilities and is non-specific in its allocation of funding.

2.2**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN NO. 10 – PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE FOR SOUTH WEST ROCKS AND IMMEDIATE DISTRICTS**

Development Control Plan No. (DCP) 10 applies to South West Rocks only. At the time this document was prepared the population of South west Rocks was approximately 2,600 in comparison to the current population of approximately 4,900. Kempsey Council has identified that it is necessary to review DCP No 10, having regard to the population growth and consequent development that has taken place since the preparation of the Plan.

The aims and objectives of DCP 10 are to:

- identify the characteristics of South West Rocks which affect the type and amount of open space needed;
- assess the suitability of existing open space to serve the needs of the population;
- provide for the present and future open space demands;
- keep the use of open space areas flexible;
- encourage the effective allocation of Section 94 contributions and other available funds; and
- guide the location of open space.

DCP no 10 identifies different types of open space including small parks, sportsgrounds and regional open space areas and makes recommendations as to the adequacy and location of open space. Some criteria for the location of open space are also identified. Open space is divided into four categories:

- **Type 1 Open Space.** Includes small parks and playgrounds. The DCP notes that these areas are concentrated near the beaches and older residential areas. Newer areas have very few parks. Areas in which Type 1 open space should be located are identified;
- **Type 2 Open Space.** Includes Sports Grounds and Playing Fields. The DCP notes that these facilities were not fully utilised at the time the document was prepared;
- **Type 3 Open Space.** Includes other sporting facilities such as netball and tennis courts, swimming pools and golf. The DCP made recommendations for the more extensive use of existing facilities; and
- **Type 4 Open Space.** Includes areas of State or Regional Significance. The DCP noted that the area provided is more than adequate.

2.3

COMMENT

This study refers only to local and district open space. These areas were referred to as Type 1 Open Space in DCP No 10. This study updates the information in DCP No. 10 as it is based on the existing population and projections thereof. Criteria for the location and size of local open space are further developed in *Chapter 5*

The Section 94 plan is non specific in its allocation of funds, therefore it is considered that the strategy developed in this study can be adopted without a major review of Councils Section 94 plan. However it is acknowledged that all Section 94 plans should be subject to regular review, particularly in areas of population growth.

The following chapter examines the population characteristics of South West Rocks. It identified the percentage change in population, the age structure, the projected population and age structure.. It also identifies the implications of the population characteristics for the provision of open space.

3.1 SOUTH WEST ROCKS

South West Rocks is located approximately 35km northeast of Kempsey and 450km north of Sydney. It is located in Kempsey Shire, with Hastings Shire to the south, Nambucca Shire to the north and Walcha Shire to the west. The current population of South West Rocks is 4,900.

In recent years, the town has experienced an average annual increase in population between 1.5% and 7.6%. Population projections indicate that growth will continue, with the region having a strong attraction because of its location, physical characteristics and favourable climate.

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The following section outlines the current demographic make-up of the Shire, and projected trends. An understanding of the demographic character assists in determining the adequacy of existing open space facilities and identifying the likely future needs.

3.2.1 Population Profile

South West Rocks has been experiencing consistent growth in recent years. *Table 3.1* indicates that between 1986 and 2001 the population increased from 2,650 to 4,344.

Table 3.1 Total Population and Percentage Change 1981-2001

Year	Population	% Change p.a
1986	2,650	
1991	2,857	1.5
1996	3,946	7.6
2001	4,344	2.0

Source: Kempsey Shire Council, 2001

Table 3.2 illustrates the break up of age structure for South West Rocks in comparison to Kempsey Shire and NSW.

Table 3.2 Age Structure 2001

Age Group	South West Rocks %	Kempsey Shire %	NSW %
0-19	20.6	29.1	27.6
20-29	6.5	8.2	13.5
30-39	9.6	11.7	15.0
40-49	12.8	15.1	14.5
50-59	14.5	13.3	11.7
60-79	32.3	19.1	14.1
80+	3.7	3.5	3.3
Total	100	100	100

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Kempsey Shire Council

In regard to age structure it is noted that:

- 36% of the population are aged over 60 in comparison to Kempsey and NSW where the proportions are 22.6% and 17.4% respectively. This indicates a high concentration of retirees; and
- only 16.1% of the population are aged between 20 and 39, compared with 19.9% in Kempsey and 28.5% in NSW. This indicates that school leavers migrate from South West Rocks for further educational and employment;

3.2.2 Population Projections

Population projections for the South West Rocks are shown in *Table 3.3*. The population projections are compared to Kempsey Shire and NSW percentage increases for the same time period.

Table 3.3 Population Projections for South West Rocks (2001-2021)

Year	South West Rocks (Population)	% Increase	Kempsey Shire (Percentage Increase)	NSW (Percentage Increase)
2001	4,344	2.0	0.3	1.1
2003	4,759	4.7	2.3	
2006	5,520	5.3	1.6	
2011	7,045	5.5	0.8	0.8
2016	9,102	5.8	0.7	0.8

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001, Kempsey Shire Council, 2001 & Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, 2004

Table 3.4 provides population projections for South West Rocks based on age structure. In relation to the projected population and predicted change in age structure outlined in *Table 3.3* and *Table 3.4*, the following comments are made:

- in comparison to Kempsey and NSW, the percentage increase in growth is relatively high, which is consistent with the trend of increasing populations on the NSW Coast;

- the population in South West Rocks is projected to increase by 4,343 people between 2003 and 2016;
- there is likely to be a continuing decline in the percentage of the population in the 0-19 age group and the 20-39 age group. This indicates that young people will continue to move out of the region; and
- the 60+ age group is expected to increase to approximately 44% of the population, which indicates a continuing migration of retirees to the town.

3.3

IMPLICATIONS FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION

The changes and increases in the population of South West Rocks has implications for the provision of open space. Although there is a relatively low percentage of the population aged under 19, local parks provide amenity for all age groups. This should be reflected in the facilities provided in the parks. A range of facilities should be provided including play equipment, seating, BBQ and picnic facilities and gardens.

Local parks should to be provided in all new release areas. The number of parks required should be based on the projected increase in population and the standards and location criteria recommended in *Chapter 5*.

Table 3.4 Age Structure and Intercensal Change

	1996		2001		2003		2006		2011		2016	
	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population
0-19	829	21	900	20.6	994	20.8	1,100	19.9	1,298	18.4	1,533	16.9
20-29	286	7.2	283	6.5	322	6.8	335	6.1	358	5.1	382	4.2
30-39	468	11.9	418	9.6	451	9.5	470	8.5	502	7.1	537	5.9
40-49	478	12.1	556	12.8	595	12.5	735	13.3	1,023	14.5	1,425	15.7
50-59	525	13.3	628	14.5	684	14.4	785	14.2	979	13.9	1,220	13.4
60-79	1,277	31.1	1,403	32.3	4,520	31.9	1,828	33.2	2,449	34.8	3,291	36.1
80+	133	3.4	159	3.7	193	4.1	267	4.8	436	6.2	714	7.8
Total	3,946	100	4,357	100	4,759	100	5,520	100	7,045	100	9,102	100

Source: Kempsey Shire Council

4

OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Kempsey Shire Council provides a large range of open space and recreation facilities for South West Rock's residents. These include natural bushland areas for passive and active recreation, small parks for unstructured recreational activities, sportsground areas for structured activities and organised sport and facilities at patrolled beaches.

As this study addresses only local and district parks, it has not considered bushland/environmental parks or sporting facilities..

The following chapter defines categories of open space and includes a listing of local and district parks in South West Rocks (Open Space Inventory).

4.1

CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE

Open space facilities serve a number of functions, including recreation, conservation and preservation, landscape amenity, environmental education and appreciation, drainage and screening/buffering.

Table 4.1 identifies and describes the various categories of open space.

Table 4.1 Categories of Open Space Types

Open Space Type	Characteristics
Sports Field	Sporting fields are structured areas of open space, and require high levels of maintenance. These areas are centrally located, not necessarily within walking distance of residents.
Local Park	Small reserves that provide recreation opportunities for residents within immediately adjacent areas. They are largely areas for non-formal leisure pursuits, including playgrounds, parks and gardens. These are usually within walking distance of residences.
District Park	Larger reserves that may include picnic and social/recreation facilities, including toilets, walking opportunities, public art and play equipment. These areas provide for groups of suburbs, or whole towns, and allow people to access by cars or public transport.
Regional Facilities	A regional facility is defined by its ability to host a regional or higher event, or by the regional nature of the catchment it serves. It is recognised that the character of a regional facility will vary, ie a facility could be substantial in size and standard, or it could be a smaller facility that draws from a wide catchment due to the uniqueness of the facility. A regional facility tends to serve more than one local government areas, and

Open Space Type	Characteristics
	users would be prepared to drive significant distances.
Bushland/Environmental Park	This includes bushland areas, foreshores, and areas of regrowth and remnant vegetation.

The purpose of this study is to address local and district parks, to consider the adequacy, availability and location of existing parks, recommend a strategy to optimise the community benefit of local and district parks and provide a direction for the future provision.

4.2 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Prior to establishing existing and future open space needs, it is necessary to identify the existing open space. The first step in this process was the compilation of an inventory, which identifies the existing local and district parks in South West Rocks.

Bushland, environmental parks, areas of passive recreation and sporting fields have not been included at the request of Council.

The inventory will also provide a management tool for Kempsey Shire Council. It can be easily updated to reflect changes in the provision of open space facilities.

The inventory is provided in *Table 4.2*. The location of the parks are illustrated on *Figure 4.1*. The parks range in size from less than 600m² to over 3ha. The size of each park was calculated on the useable areas, and excluded bushland areas.

It is noted that only two of the parks are provided with facilities. A barbecue and seating are provided at Brighton Park and a range of facilities including barbecue and play equipment are available at Horseshoe Bay.

These parks are considered in relation to recommended standards and location criteria in *Chapter 6*.

Table 4.2 Local and District Park Summary

Name of Park and Identification Number	Classification	Area (ha)	Description of Facilities
Wilfred Partridge Street (1)	Local Park	0.5	No Facilities
Lindsay Noonan Dr / Frederick Kelly St. (2)	Local Park	3.37	No Facilities
Spencers Creek Road (3)	Local Park	0.049	No Facilities
Trevor Judd Drive (4)	Local Park	0.065	No Facilities
Belle O'Connor Street / Dennis Crescent	Local Park	0.1	No Facilities

Name of Park and Identification Number	Classification	Area (ha)	Description of Facilities
(5)			
Dennis Crescent (6)	Local Park	0.11	No Facilities
Albert Harrower Crescent (7)	Local Park	0.18	No Facilities
Arthur Street East (8)	Local Park	0.28	No Facilities
Arthur Street West / Delmer Close Gordon Young Drive (9)	Local Park	3.5 ha (drainage reserve/open space network).	No Facilities
Brighton Park (10)	Local Park	0.5	BBQ, seating and walking and cycle tracks.
McIntyre Street / Phillip Drive (11)		0.96	No Facilities
Currawong Crescent (12)	Local Park	0.096	No Facilities
Kevin Hogan Place (13)	Local Park	0.1	No Facilities
Ocean Street/Gilbert Cory Street (14)	Local Park	0.28	No Facilities
Victor Perry Place (15)	Local Park	0.081	No Facilities
Horse Shoe Bay (16)	District Park	2.95	Tables and seating, BBQ, concrete walking paths, swings and play equipment, picnic facilities, parking and kiosk.

4.3

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Local and district parks are intended to meet the needs of the local community by providing small reserves that are within walking distance of residents. They include playgrounds, gardens and picnic facilities.

An inventory of local and district parks in South West Rocks indicates that there are more than 16 parks only two are embellished with facilities.

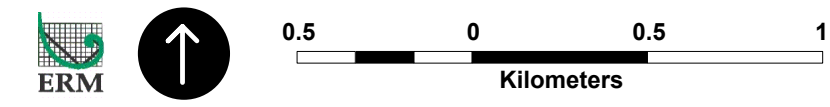
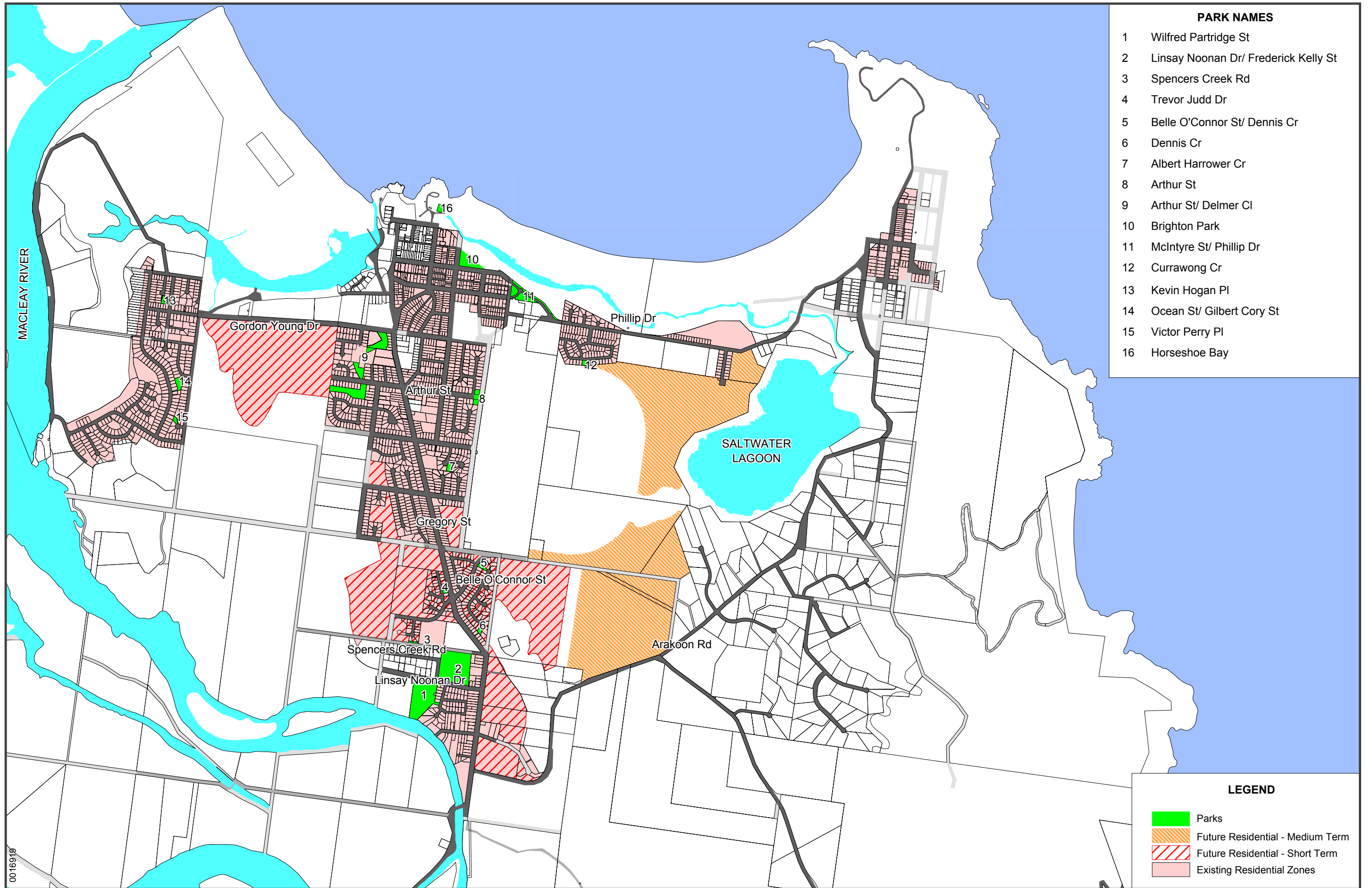


Figure 4.1

Location of Parks

This chapter recommends standards and location criteria relevant to existing and future local and district parks. Local and district parks in South West Rocks are assessed against these criteria in *Chapter 6* of this report.

5.1 STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE

Open space requirements are generally considered in three components, local parks/district parks, sporting fields and regional open space. This study examines the provisions of local and district open space.

To consider the adequacy of existing facilities and future needs, some comparison with other similar sized communities and standards for the provision local and district parks has been undertaken. The local and district open space standards adopted by comparative Councils are presented in *Table 5.1*. The LGA's selected for this study have similar characteristics to South West Rocks, including:

- coastal locations;
- high growth rates;
- a higher than average population aged over 65; and
- a lower than average population aged under 30.

The standards for Tweed, Coffs Harbour and Lismore Local Government Areas (LGA's) are similar to the Department of Sport and Recreation standard. However, variations occur as a result of different Council policies.

Table 5.1 Open Space Standards

	Local and District parks ha/1000 people
Department of Sport and Recreation	1.13
Tweed LGA	1.13
Coffs Harbour LGA	1.0
Lismore LGA	1.0
Sources: Coffs Harbour Council (1998:23). Tweed Shire Council (2002: 5) Ballina Shire Council (2003:20)	

The existing local and district open space in South West Rocks is compared with the standards in *Table 6.1* in *Chapter 6* of this report.

5.2

LOCATIONAL CRITERIA

Table 4.1 identified that local parks are generally small reserves, within walking distance of residents and may include play grounds, parks and gardens. District parks include similar facilities but are larger, serve a wider area and generally have a more diverse range of facilities.

Table 5.2 lists criteria for the location, size and suitable embellishment of local and district parks. Location is based on a catchment-based approach to the provision and embellishment of local parks. The objective is to provide a local park with landscaping playground equipment within 500 metres of all residents. Only one district park is needed for a community of this size, this may also serve as a local park to some residents.

In new developments local parks should be provided at locations that meet the criteria identified in *Table 5.2*. Embellishment with the facilities listed in *Table 5.2* is also recommended.

In existing residential areas, it is recommended that these criteria be used to determine the adequacy of existing facilities, needs of the community and priorities for expenditure. Some existing local parks may not meet all the criteria in listed *Table 5.2* and the area may be less than desirable. However in some cases these parks may be appropriate to embellish, thus optimising the use of existing facilities.

The parks in South West Rocks are assessed against the Location Criteria in *Chapter 6* of this report.

5.3

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Table 5.1 identified local and district park standards adopted LGA's with similar characteristics to South West Rocks and the standards recommended by the Department of Sport and Recreation. Where new facilities are required, local open space should be provided at the rates recommended by the Department of Sport and Recreation, with a focus on the standard of the facility provided. It is therefore recommended that the standard of 1.13ha of local and district parks per 1,000 population be adopted.

The location criteria in *Table 5.2* should be adopted for the assessment of existing parks and the provision of new facilities.

Table 5.2 Locational Criteria

Space Type	Quantity	Location/Distribution	Size	Facilities	Other Attributes
Local Park	Sufficient to meet location and size criteria. 1.13 ha/1000 persons, comprising of local and district parks.	Within 500 metres of all residents and safe access without major road crossings.	Min size of 2,000m ² , exclusive of any drainage/stormwater management reserves and serves up to 1,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating • Play equipment • Pathway • Shade trees or structures • Litter bins • Safety fencing as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access via more than one street; • Integrate with Local shopping and community facilities; • Integrate with cycle and footpaths; • Parks will be sited to take advantage of natural features such as foreshore areas or where there is significant vegetation when applicable; • Link with wildlife corridors and flora and fauna protection areas to provide transition between natural and residential development; and • At least 2,000m² should be level to gently sloping land
District Park	Sufficient to meet location and size criteria. May form part of the 1.13ha/1,000 persons, comprising of local and district parks.	Preferably within 2kms of all residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large enough to accommodate a large range of informal opportunities (while possibly protecting and enhancing significant natural features, visual qualities, heritage items) • Should be large enough to support large numbers of people in social groups • Min size of 1.0 ha – with 3 or more hectares preferred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating • Play equipment • Pathway • Shade trees or structures • Litter bins • Safety fencing as appropriate • Sealed parking • Toilets and amenities • BBQ facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate, where possible with other community foci-shops, community centres, outdoor sports facilities; • Located such that traffic causes minimal disruption to residential areas; and • May be highly modified/developed or incorporate significant natural features. • Access to public transport.

Source: Hastings Open Space, Cultural and Recreational facilities study, 2002: 43

6

ASSESSMENT

This chapter assesses existing local and district parks at South West Rocks against the standards and criteria discussed in *Chapter 5* and makes recommendations for the future of each park.

6.1

STANDARDS

The current provision of local and district parks in South West Rocks is approximately 3 hectares per 1,000 people. This includes some land dedicated to drainage reserves. The actual figure is therefore likely to be lower, but still compares favourably to the Department of Sport and Recreation standard and the provisions adopted in other LGA's.

Although the current provision is relatively high per capita, the majority have no facilities. The needs of the community would be better served with well-located and reasonably sized local parks, which are well embellished.

6.2

LOCATIONAL CRITERIA

Existing local and district parks have been assessed against the locational criteria in *Table 5.2*. *Table 6.1* summarises this assessment and makes comments relating to the suitability of each park having regard to the criteria. *Figure 6.1* show the catchment areas (500 metre radius) of the parks and identifies where there are gaps or an oversupply. This information has been used to complete the assessment of each park.

In addition, *Table 6.1* presents recommendations for the future use of the park. These will form part of a recommended Strategy for local and district parks in South West Rocks.

Table 6.1 Assessment of Parks against Locational Criteria

Park	Location	Size	Facilities	Other Attributes	Comments	Recommendations
Wilfred Partridge Street (1)	✓	✓	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> forms part of a larger heavily timbered reserve; and the area of land identified as a local park is cleared and has access to Wilfred Partridge Street. 	It is recommended that the cleared portion of the site should be embellished with local park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> .
Lindsay Noonan Dr / Frederick Kelly St. (2)	✓	✓	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> two street frontages, Frederick Kelly St and Lindsay Noonan Dr; and is identified as having aboriginal significance. 	It is recommended that the park be embellished with local park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> .
Spencers Creek Road (3)	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> isolated piece of land with no legal formed access. 	It is recommended that disposal of the land to adjoining property owners be investigated. s
Trevor Judd Drive (4)	✓	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> two street frontages, Gregory Street and Trevor Judd Dr. Gregory St is a major road; although located within 500 metres catchment of Belle O'Connor Street/Dennis Crescent Park and Dennis Crescent Park, it is separated by main road; an alternative facility, to the west of this site would be more centrally located to serve the new residential area in this locality; and size limits potential for embellishment and multiple use. 	It is recommended that a local park be investigated on land identified for future residential development to the west of this site. This would service the existing and future population on the western side of Gregory Street. Subject to provision of an alternative facility, the existing park should be sold for residential development and funds from the sale allocated to the embellishment of a new local park in the immediate vicinity.
Belle O'Connor Street / Dennis Crescent (5)	✓	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> two street frontages, Belle O'Connor Street and Dennis Crescent; and location suitable to serve existing new development to the east of Gregory Street 	Provision of a larger park in the development to the east of this site should be investigated. This would service the existing and future population on the western side of Gregory

Park	Location	Size	Facilities	Other Attributes	Comments	Recommendations
					although a park within the development to the east of this site may be better located and sized to serve the community.	Street. Subject to provision of an alternative facility, the existing park should be sold for residential development and funds from the sale allocated to the embellishment of a new local park in the immediate vicinity..
Dennis Crescent (6)	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> located within the 500m catchment of Belle O'Connor St/Dennis St and potential catchment of a new park to the east; and due to relative small size (0.11ha) and its location on the periphery of a residential area, and proximity to existing facilities, this lot is not considered suitable for a local park. . 	The park should be sold for residential development and funds from the sale allocated to the embellishment of a new local park or Belle O'Connor / Dennis Park (see comments above)
Albert Harrower Crescent (7)	✓	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> well located within catchment and linked to other streets by existing pathways; and area (0.18ha) almost meets criteria and is suitable for embellishment given location. 	It is recommended that the park be embellished with local park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> .
Arthur Street East (8)	✓	✓	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> council records indicate this park comprises two areas of reserve joined by an unformed Crown Road Reserve. Council has resolved previously to create two lots plus one residual open space area; has good connections to other open space areas, including the Golf Course. This will be improved as a result of a plan of management to be prepared by Council; and is well located to service the surrounding residential properties and does not overlap with the catchment of other parks 	The residual area should be consolidated with the Crown Road Reserve and embellished with local park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> .
Arthur Street /	✓	✓	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> primary purpose of park is a drainage reserve; 	It is recommended that the park be embellished

Park	Location	Size	Facilities	Other Attributes	Comments	Recommendations
Delmer Close / Gordon Young Drive (9)					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> three street frontages, Arthur Street, Roy Sanders Street and Gordon Young Drive; and due to location and potential for connectivity it is suitable for embellishment. 	with local park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> , with particular regard to paths and cycleways, which would provide internal and external linkages.
Brighton Park (10)	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities include tables and seating, BBQ and concrete walking tracks; is in close proximity to the town centre and residential properties; further embellishment of this park would improve facilities and increase utilisation of the park. 	This park services a large residential population, being the primary local park for eastern South West Rocks. It is recommended that this park be allocated funds for embellishment of facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> and the upgrade of existing facilities.
McIntyre Street / Phillip Drive (11)	✓	✓	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is dissected by three public roads therefore open space is fragmented and use potential is limited; has links to the Country Club and sporting fields. 	Nil
Currawong Crescent (12)		X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> located on southern periphery of residential subdivision has no linkages to other open space; not easily accessible by residents; located adjacent to land identified for future residential development. Area could be better served by integrating with future open space required for development to the south of this site to provide a more central and larger facility; size (0.96ha) limits potential for embellishment. 	It is recommended that opportunities to integrate this park with future open space to be provided in conjunction with development of land to the south of this site.
Kevin Hogan Place (13)	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is located within catchment of Ocean Street/Gilbert Cory Street Park; 	It is recommended that the land be sold for residential purposes and the funds from the

Park	Location	Size	Facilities	Other Attributes	Comments	Recommendations
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • end of culdesac location limits accessibility; and • size (0.1ha) and elongated shape limits potential for embellishment. 	sale allocated to the embellishment of local parks in the immediate vicinity
Ocean Street/Gilbert Cory Street (14)	✓	✓	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located in a central position in relation to development in the vicinity; • has two street frontages, Ocean St and Gilbert Cory St; and • is suitable for embellishment due to size and location. 	This park is the primary local park in western South West Rocks. It is recommended that the park be embellished with local park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> .
Victor Perry Place (15)	X	X	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is located within catchment of Ocean Street/Gilbert Cory Street Park; • size (0.08 ha) limits potential for embellishment. 	It is recommended that this park should be sold for residential purposes and the funds from the sale allocated to the embellishment of local parks in the immediate vicinity
Horse Shoe Bay (16)	✓	✓	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilities include tables and seating, BBQ and concrete walking tracks, swings and play equipment, picnic facilities, parking and kiosk; • is in close proximity to the town centre, residential and tourist properties; • is the only district park in South West Rocks • further embellishment of this park is recommended to upgrade facilities and increase utilisation of the park. 	The park services the South West Rocks population and tourists to the area. It is recommended that the park be allocated funds for the future embellishment of district park facilities identified in <i>Table 5.2</i> and the upgrade of existing facilities.

6.2.1

Discussion

Table 6.1 identifies the suitability of individual parks in relation to identified criteria and makes recommendation for embellishment and in some cases disposal of facilities. Primarily, the parks fall in to three categories. These are, parks that should be embellished, parks where alternative options should be investigated and parks which are recommended for sale.

Parks recommended for embellishment generally meets the size and location criteria in *Table 5.2*. Some do not meet the ideal size required but given that alternative opportunities or opportunities for expansion are limited, they are considered to be suitable to maximise benefits to the local community.

In some instances, opportunities to expand the existing park or replace with larger and better located facilities are recommended. In cases where replacement can be achieved in new subdivisions, funds gained from the sale of existing facilities should be used for acquisition and embellishment of new facilities.

Where the park is within a catchment that is already well serviced and the facility is relatively small, it has been recommended that the park be sold and money used for embellishment of adjacent facilities.

Recommendations for sale of parks have been made on the grounds that well located parks providing a good range of facilities are more in the community interest than small fragmented parks with few or no facilities. It is recognised that Council would need to follow a statutory process associated with the sale of surplus public land, however it is considered that this report provides a reasonable justification, demonstrating that on balance this would be in the public interest.

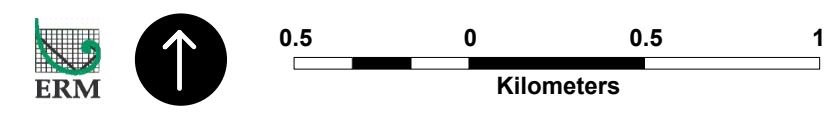
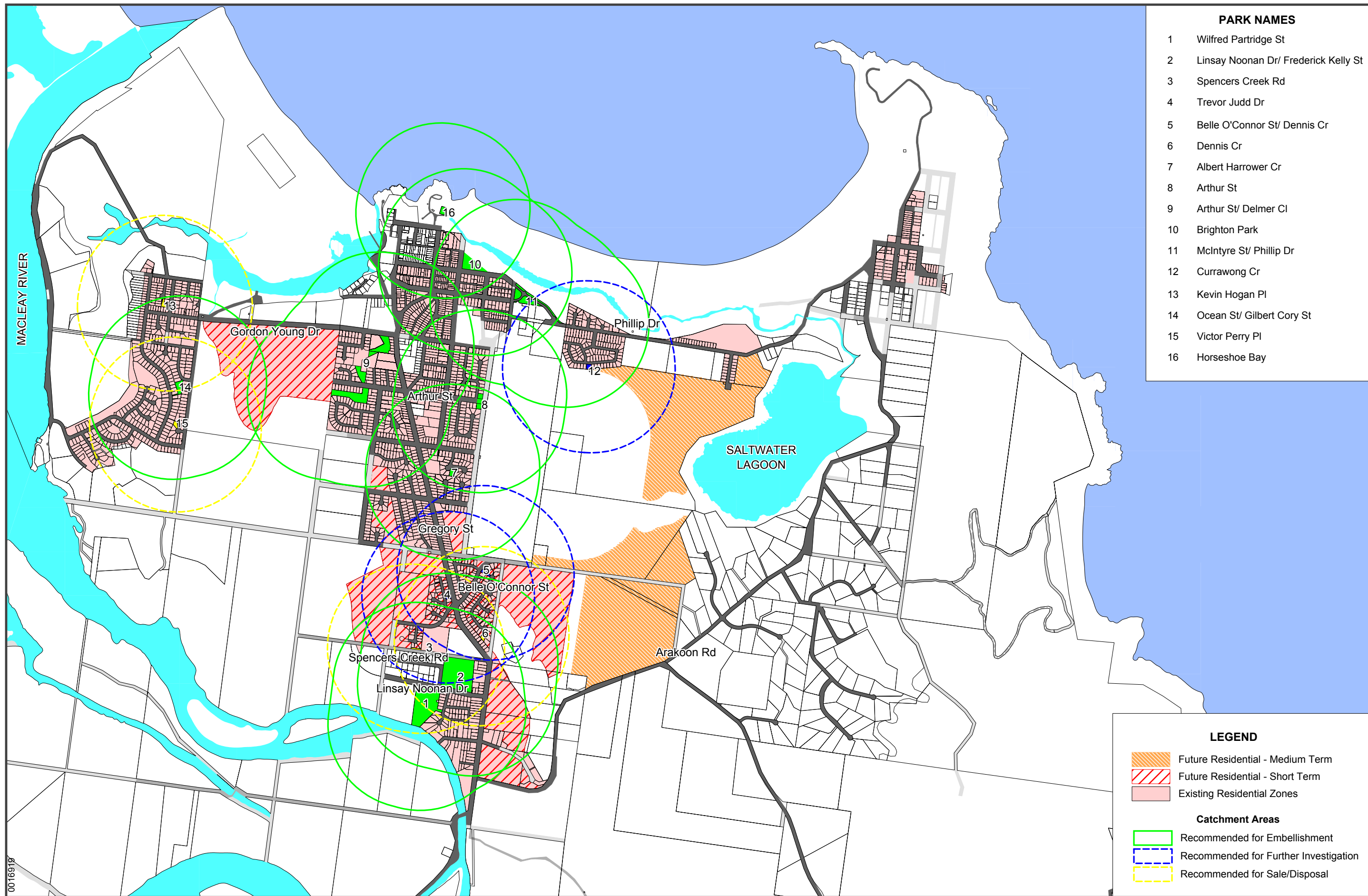


Figure 5.1 Catchment Areas and Recommendations

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following chapter summarises the recommendations regarding existing local parks and the future provision of local parks in South West Rocks.

7.1

STANDARDS

The report assesses current open space availability and makes comparisons with similar centres. There is approximately 3.0ha of local and district parks per 1000 people. This does not include environmental parks and bushland. This compares favourably with other centres and with the Department of Sport and Recreation recommendations of 1.13ha per 1000 people. It is recommended that a standard of 1.13ha per 1000 be adopted for new development.

Additionally, the location and distribution of local parks has been considered. Criteria for the location and size of local parks have been recommended in *Table 5.2*. These criteria have been applied to the assessment of existing parks and it is recommended that they be applied to the location and design of all new local parks.

7.2

EXISTING PARKS

There is a good network of local parks in South West Rocks, however few parks have facilities and many are small and unsuitable for embellishment. All parks have been assessed against the location criteria and recommendations for the future use and embellishment of each park have been made. These are summarised as follows:

Parks recommended for embellishment;

Wilfred Partridge Street

Lindsay Noonan Drive / Frederick Kelly Street

Albert Harrower Crescent

Arthur Street East (subject to linkage and integration with the Crown Road Reserve*)

Arthur Street / Delmer Close / Gordon Young Drive

Brighton Park (upgrade of existing facilities)

Ocean Street / Gilbert Cory Street

Horse Shoe Bay (upgrade of existing facilities)

* Council has previously resolved to rationalise this park, creating two residential lots and the balance as open space.

Parks recommended for further investigation regarding the potential to be replaced or amalgamated with future facilities

Trevor Judd Drive

Belle O'Connor Street / Dennis Crescent

Curawong Crescent

Parks recommended for sale with funds being allocated to embellishment of other parks in the locality:

Spencers Creek Road (investigate sale to adjacent landowners)

Dennis Crescent

Kevin Hogan Place

Victor Perry Place

Recommendations for sale of parks have been made on the grounds that well located parks providing a good range of facilities are more in the community interest than small fragmented parks with few or no facilities. As Kempsey Councils Section 94 Plan for Open Space does not detail specific local park facilities it is considered that the recommendations are not contrary to the Plan, however it may be appropriate to include a schedule of works from this study within the Section 94 plan.

Council would need to follow a statutory process associated with the sale of surplus public land, however it is considered that this report provides a reasonable justification, demonstrating that on balance this would be in the public interest. All funds received from the sale of such land should be used for the purchase and or embellishment of local parks as recommended in this study.

7.2.2

Future Provision

Future needs have been identified having regard to the projected population increases and the adopted standards. It is estimated that the population of South West Rocks will increase from 4,344 (2001) to 9,102 (2016), an increase of 4,758 people.

Based on 1.13ha of local and district open space per 1,000 people, an additional 4.9ha of local and district parks would be required. This land would need be distributed throughout the new release areas and meet the location criteria identified in *Table 5.2*.

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