



8 September 2020

Subject: Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement Submission to Kempsey Shire Council

The Open Space Branch, Public Spaces Division within the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Kempsey Shire Council's (Council) Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

The Public Spaces Division sponsors the Premier's Priority 11: '*Greener Public Spaces: Increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes' walk of quality green, open and public space by 10% by 2023*'. Partnering across government, industry and Councils will be key to achieving the Premier's Priority and supporting communities through:

- a) Helping create more liveable neighbourhoods and communities,
- b) Bringing economic, environmental, social and cultural value to places and residents,
- c) Helping mitigate urban heat island effect, and support biodiversity, and
- d) Improving physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Further information on Premier's Priority 11 can be found at: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces>

What is Public Space?

The Public Spaces Division has adopted the United Nations' (UN) definition of public space for the purposes of Greener Public Spaces, that is '*places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive*', and these include:

- a. **Public open spaces:** active and passive (including parks, gardens, playgrounds, public beaches, riverbanks and waterfronts, outdoor playing fields and courts, and publicly accessible bushland)
- b. **Public facilities:** public libraries, museums, galleries, civic/community centres, showgrounds and indoor public sports facilities
- c. **Streets:** streets, avenues and boulevards, squares and plazas, pavements, passages and lanes, and bicycle paths

This can also incorporate privately owned public space. Walkability and accessibility are key focus areas for the Priority and quality is being defined through:

- a) Physical form: Design, maintenance and integration with the natural environment, such as green infrastructure and tree canopy,
- b) Activities and meaning: What the community values, along with the diverse, inclusive, free, welcoming uses available.

Submission

The Open Space Branch, Public Spaces Division recognises that following themes and planning priorities are adopted to deliver on Kempsey Shire’s vision for the LGA.

- Theme 1: Healthy Environment
- Theme 2: Wealthy Economy
- Theme 3: Connected communities
- Theme 4: Safe and Suitable Housing

Table 1 below identifies recommendations for consideration by Council to assist with further embedding quality public open spaces into the LSPS. If you would like to discuss these recommendations further, please contact Sarika Shasidharan, Senior Open Space Planner, Public Spaces Division at Sarika.shasidharan@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Table 1 – Open Space Branch, Public Space Division’s Comments

LSPS Section	Considerations
<p>Include Greener Places Design Framework reference in the LSPS.</p>	<p>Include Reference to Government Architect NSW’s Greener Places Design Framework:</p> <p>Open Space Branch recommends that a reference is made in the LSPS (Theme 3: Connected Communities) to Government Architect NSW’s Greener Places Design Framework in planning, designing and the delivery of green infrastructure in urban areas.</p> <p>Greener Places is a Green Infrastructure design framework that guides the planning, design and delivery of Green Infrastructure in urban areas across NSW. It aims to create a healthier, more liveable and sustainable urban environment by improving community access to recreation and exercise, supporting walking and cycling connections, and improving the resilience of urban areas.</p> <p>The provision of Green Infrastructure will help improve the quality of our urban areas and help to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Well-designed and planned Green Infrastructure will help absorb flood water, cool the urban environment, clean the air, provide space for local food production and ensure the survival of NSW’s fauna and flora as well as providing space for recreation, sport and leisure.</p> <p>The Greener Places design framework will assist Kempsey Shire Council to create better public open spaces and landscape outcomes for future urban centres of Kempsey and South West Rocks and; the urban villages of Crescent Head, Frederickton, Gladstone, Hat Head, Smithtown and Stuarts Point.</p> <p>Open Space Branch recommends that the Greener Places Design Framework will help Kempsey Shire Council to connect and further protect, manage, enhance and expand public open space and green corridors outcomes.</p>

Theme 1:
Healthy
Environment

Theme 3:
Connected
communities

Theme 4:
Safe and
Suitable
Housing

Following **Actions** are recommended for inclusion in the LSPS and Council's key strategic documents:

- Embed Greener Places Design Framework in planning, designing and the delivery of green infrastructure in urban areas of Kempsey and South West Rocks and; the urban villages of Crescent Head, Frederickton, Gladstone, Hat Head, Smithtown and Stuarts Point.
 - Public open space and green corridors are important assets and must be recognised in the LSPS. The green infrastructure helps create connected communities and as well provide environmental, social, physical and emotional health benefits.
- Prepare 'Open Space Strategy' that considers the future growth in Greenfield sites - Kempsey and South West Rocks and Crescent Head.
- Provide high-quality public open spaces in the future Greenfield housing (Reference to 11.1.2) through relevant development control plan (DCP). Improve accessibility within the subdivision and its public open spaces with accessible walking and cycling paths.
- Assess all proposed open spaces, playspaces and public spaces with NSW Governments 'Everyone Can Play' Guidelines.
 - The Everyone Can Play (ECP) guideline helps to deliver play spaces that are designed to be more inclusive of everyone in the community. The guideline outlines the process and tools for inclusive play. It presents a new way of thinking about how play spaces are planned, designed and managed. The ECP process and tools can be extended to public open space, to deliver inclusive public spaces for the community.
- Identify potential funding mechanisms required or secured for quality open space and recreation provision.
- Plan and allow for effective embellishment and management of quality public open spaces for recreation.