

# Strategic Sports Plan

Supporting Documentation





City of  
Newcastle



# STRATEGIC SPORTS PLAN

SUPPORTING RESOURCES – VOL 1  
BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. STUDY OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The objective of this project is to...

*“...address future demand, and inform the ongoing supply, maintenance and upgrade of sporting infrastructure with consideration to current and future needs of the community, other adopted strategies and City of Newcastle’s financial capacity and sustainability.”*

The Plan is to provide specific sports facility direction for the following outdoor sports:

- « Athletics
- « Australian Rules Football
- « Baseball
- « Cricket
- « Croquet
- « Equestrian
- « Football (soccer)
- « Netball
- « Rugby League
- « Rugby Union
- « Softball
- « Tennis
- « Touch/ Oztag

Key outcomes of the project include the following:

- « Analysis of sports trends
- « Demand vs supply for outdoor sports grounds/ courts
- « Forecast local and regional sports facility needs
- « Review classification hierarchy
- « Guide planning for the western growth corridor
- « Opportunities for multi-purpose and major non-sport events<sup>1</sup>
- « Identify preferred management models
- « Guide developer contributions, Asset Plans, Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

Indoor sports are not included in the scope of this study. Where the City of Newcastle (CN) is not a direct facility provider in some outdoor sports<sup>2</sup>, the Plan should inform CN’s role in supporting them.



<sup>1</sup> During the course of the study, it became evident that major non-sport events would be addressed within the scope of concept plans developed by Venues NSW for the Broadmeadow Precinct

<sup>2</sup> These sports included archery, cycling, and hockey

## 1.2. STUDY APPROACH

A comprehensive 6-stage methodology in preparing the plan has been implemented. Some stages have been undertaken concurrently. CN officers have assisted the study process through the collection of facility utilisation data, provision of background information, organisation of workshops, and generation of recommendations.

The study approach is illustrated at Figure 1.

Figure 1: Study Methodology



The Strategic Sports Plan comprises the following:

- « The Strategic Sports Plan report incorporating individual sport summaries
- « Supporting Resources Document Vol 1 – Background Research and Analysis (this document)
- « Supporting Resources Document Vol 2 – Sports Facilities Hierarchy
- « Supporting Resources Document Vol 3 – Capital Works Prioritisation Guide

## 2. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

### 2.1. POPULATION PROFILE

A detailed analysis of current and projected CN population and its demographic make-up was undertaken.

#### 2.1.1. Current and Projected Population

As at the 2016 Census, the estimated resident population of the CN was 160,919<sup>3</sup>. By 2031 this is projected to grow by an additional 27,081 persons to 188,000<sup>4</sup>. This represents an increase of 16.8%. Compared to other 5-year periods, the period 2016 to 2021 is anticipated to have the highest growth (refer Table 1).

Table 1: Population projections for Newcastle

ESTIMATED 2016 POP'N	% CHANGE 2011-2016	ESTIMATED 2021 POP'N	% CHANGE 2016-2021	ESTIMATED 2026 POP'N	% CHANGE 2021-2026	ESTIMATED 2031 POP'N	% CHANGE 2026-2031
160,919	3.31%	171,307	+6.5%	180,573	+5.4%	188,000	+4.1%

As illustrated at Table 2, the areas projected to experience the highest growth are Fletcher/ Minmi and Newcastle/ Newcastle East/ Newcastle West, accounting for over a third (36%) of the projected growth for the Newcastle LGA as a whole. The areas of Elernmore Vale/ Rankin Park, Maryville/ Wickham, Wallsend and Mayfield/ Mayfield East will account for another third (32.3%). The population in a number of areas will remain fairly static with two areas (Carrington and Maryland) projected to experience a decline in population.

Table 2: Population Projections for CN by Area (Highest to Lowest Growth)

AREA	2016	2021	2026	2031	ABSOLUTE CHANGE 2016-2031	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2016-2031
City of Newcastle (Total)	160,919	171,307	180,573	188,000	27,081	16.8%
Fletcher - Minmi	6,008	8,259	9,772	11,248	5,240	87.2%
Newcastle - Newcastle East - Newcastle West	4,567	6,560	7,841	9,087	4,520	99.0%
Elernmore Vale - Rankin Park	7,013	7,815	8,874	9,899	2,885	41.1%
Maryville - Wickham	2,611	3,519	4,416	4,731	2,119	81.2%
Wallsend	12,965	13,311	14,289	14,854	1,889	14.6%
Mayfield - Mayfield East	11,346	11,913	12,574	13,195	1,849	16.3%
Adamstown	6,261	6,645	7,085	7,547	1,286	20.5%
Shortland - Sandgate	4,325	4,656	5,159	5,449	1,125	26.0%
Broadmeadow - Hamilton North	2,652	2,863	3,116	3,626	975	36.8%
North Lambton	3,565	3,747	4,090	4,127	561	15.7%
Georgetown - Waratah	6,783	7,063	7,225	7,320	536	7.9%
Hamilton	4,354	4,628	4,731	4,833	479	11.0%
Islington - Tighes Hill	3,730	4,012	4,154	4,209	479	12.8%
Beresfield - Tarro - Northern Environmental Region	5,506	5,670	5,780	5,894	388	7.1%
Stockton	4,200	4,267	4,508	4,524	324	7.7%
Jesmond	3,100	3,401	3,412	3,401	301	9.7%
New Lambton - New Lambton Heights	11,236	11,305	11,407	11,532	296	2.6%

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/newcastle/population?BMID=40>

<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://forecast.id.com.au/newcastle/population-summary> (updated May 2018)

AREA	2016	2021	2026	2031	ABSOLUTE CHANGE 2016-2031	PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2016-2031
Hamilton South - Hamilton East	5,219	5,324	5,428	5,510	292	5.6%
Kotara	4,340	4,456	4,552	4,615	274	6.3%
Adamstown Heights	4,478	4,587	4,681	4,742	264	5.9%
Cooks Hill	3,914	4,061	4,112	4,152	238	6.1%
Bar Beach - The Junction	2,173	2,214	2,275	2,347	174	8.0%
Mayfield West - Warabrook	3,966	4,035	4,083	4,129	163	4.1%
Birmingham Gardens - Callaghan	3,307	3,439	3,451	3,463	155	4.7%
Merewether - Merewether Heights	12,927	13,023	13,067	13,075	148	1.1%
Lambton	5,005	5,137	5,132	5,119	114	2.3%
The Hill	2,069	2,122	2,142	2,165	96	4.6%
Waratah West	3,358	3,403	3,426	3,441	83	2.5%
Carrington	2,003	2,007	2,001	1,999	-4	-0.2%
Maryland	7,938	7,866	7,788	7,770	-169	-2.1%

## 2.1.2. Age Profile

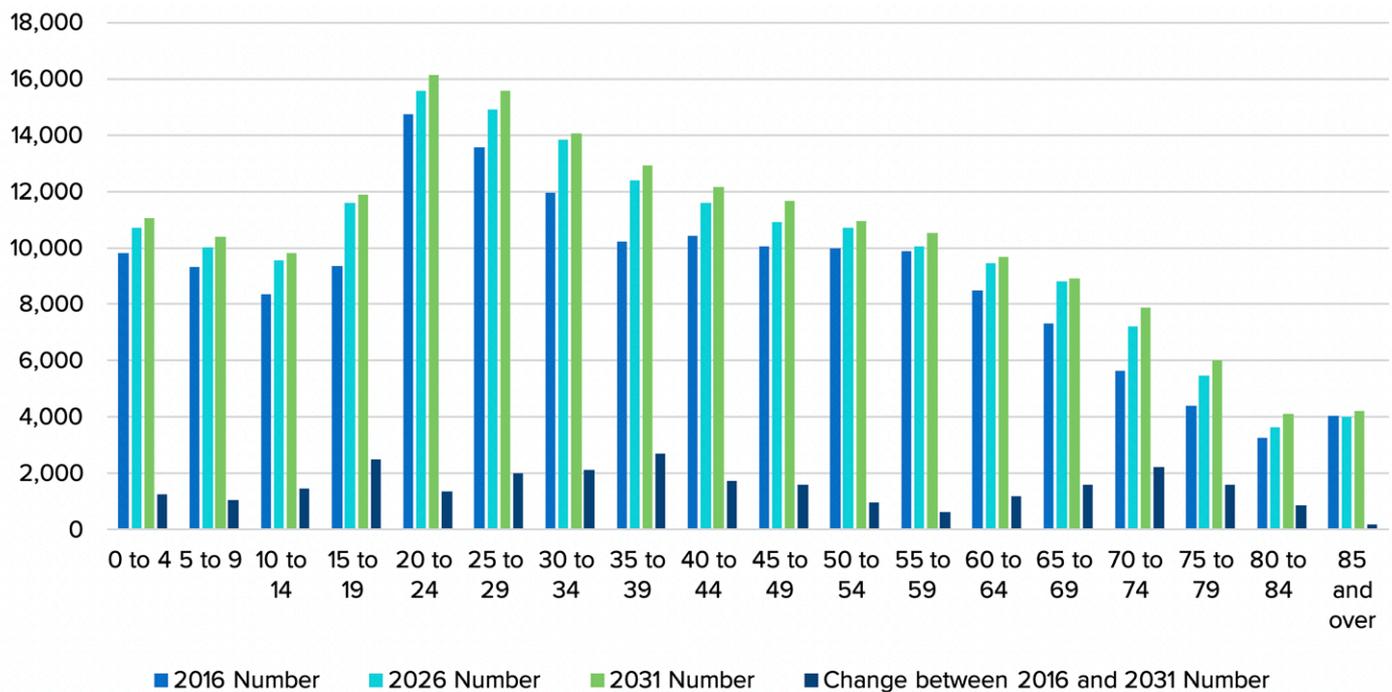
The median age of the CN population is 37 which is significantly lower than regional NSW (43), and slightly lower than NSW as a whole (38). Table 3 shows that the age groups with the highest proportion of the population in the Newcastle area are between 20 and 34 years of age, all slightly above the NSW average. The largest age cohort is aged between 20 and 24 years (8.8%) compared to NSW as a whole (6.5%).

Table 3: Distribution of population by age cohort, Newcastle and NSW (2016 census)

AGE COHORT	NEWCASTLE POPULATION (2016)	NEWCASTLE (%)	NSW (%)
0-4	9,113	5.9	6.2
5-9	8,924	5.7	6.4
10-14	8,170	5.3	5.9
15-19	8,899	5.7	6.0
20-24	13,701	8.8	6.5
25-29	12,540	8.1	7.0
30-34	11,357	7.3	7.2
35-39	9,955	6.4	6.7
40-44	10,085	6.5	6.7
45-49	9,899	6.4	6.6
50-54	9,853	6.3	6.5
55-59	9,728	6.3	6.3
60-64	8,471	5.5	5.6
65-69	7,236	4.7	5.1
70-74	5,675	3.7	3.9
75-79	4,330	2.8	2.9
80-84	3,332	2.1	2.1
85+	4,148	2.7	2.2

Population forecasts estimate that by 2031 the 20 to 34 age cohort will remain high.

Figure 2: CN Population age distribution and change from 2016 to 2031



### 2.1.3. Household Structure

In the CN, 25.6% of households were made up of couples with children in 2016, which is lower than NSW as a whole (31.5%). There is a higher proportion of ‘lone persons’ in CN (28%) compared to NSW as a whole (22%).

### 2.1.4. Income, Ethnicity and Disadvantage

CN has a similar Index of Disadvantage<sup>5</sup> to regional NSW and NSW as a whole. However there are pockets of disadvantage – e.g. the Jesmond area has a significantly higher level of disadvantage and a higher proportion of non-fluent English-speaking people compared to other parts of the Newcastle LGA.

Newcastle has a significantly higher proportion of people of Australian and Anglo-Celtic ancestry compared to NSW as a whole. Of the 13.9% of the population born overseas, most came from United Kingdom (4,048), followed by China (1,718), New Zealand (1,624), India (1,156) and Philippines (812). There are 5,479 persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent (2.5% of population) with the highest proportion residing in the Beresford area.

Median weekly household income for Newcastle (\$1,366) is higher than regional NSW (\$1,166) but lower than for NSW as a whole (\$1,481).

### 2.1.5. Implications

Moderate population growth is predicted, particularly in the suburbs of Newcastle - Newcastle East - Newcastle West, Fletcher – Minmi, and Maryville – Wickham. Future facility development will need to consider current and future demand. In greenfield growth areas, facility demands are likely to be higher.

CN has a high proportion of young people aged 20-34 years which correlates with the presence of two tertiary institutions located in the region - Newcastle University and Hunter TAFE. Further, there is a higher proportion of lone persons and a lower proportion of couples with children. This suggests a likely higher demand for facilities and activities that support self-generated participation (e.g. walk/ cycle), health and fitness related activities (gyms and outdoor personal training) and more social forms of competitions. Events and team sports competitions would encourage socialisation amongst age groups within the area who are likely to be single.

There is evidence that areas with higher levels of disadvantage have lower levels of participation in physical activity and higher incidences of associated health issues. Such areas should be a priority for actions that encourage greater levels of physical activity such as active and healthy programs or improved access to participation opportunities.

High proportions of residents of Anglo-Celtic origin suggest a likely demand for more traditional forms of participation in sport.<sup>6</sup>

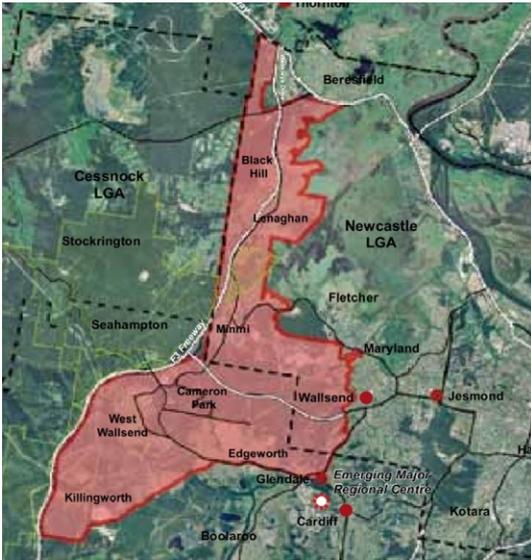
<sup>5</sup> The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) is an index that measures an area's relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. Newcastle's SEIFA score (997) is basically the same as NSW as a whole (996). Jesmond had a score of 8276. Merewether Heights had a score of 1,115.5.

<sup>6</sup> If the ethnicity of the population changes over time, there may be greater demand for facilities/ activities that support non-traditional forms of participation in sport (e.g. residents from different parts of Asia have higher levels of participation in activities such as badminton, volleyball, tai chi, table tennis).

## 2.2. DOCUMENT REVIEW

A review of over 40 reports, plans or policies produced by CN, State Government, sporting organisations, or other agencies was conducted. An overview of key documents is contained at Table 4.

Table 4: Key Information from Review of Background Literature

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
<p>This Regional Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Applies to five LGAs of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland and Cessnock</li> <li>« Represents an agreed NSW government position on the future of the Lower Hunter and for the region’s population over the 25-year period (2006-31)</li> <li>« Is one of a number of regional strategies prepared by the Department of Planning.</li> <li>« Reinforces the role of Newcastle as a regional city.</li> <li>« And will be reviewed every five years</li> </ul> <p>The Regional Strategy does not contain any specific references to sport infrastructure development, except within the broader narrative of providing community access to recreation and open spaces.</p>	<p>NSW Government, Dept of Planning, Lower Hunter Regional Strategy 2006-2031</p>
<p>The Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy was developed in 2012 to revitalise the city centre, and this 2014 report provides updates on the actions completed or underway and updates the implementation plan with next steps and any future considerations.</p> <p>Of the sport facilities that are included in scope for the strategic sports plan, Wickham Park is included in the boundary of the city centre (as defined for the Urban Renewal Strategy) and National Park is just external to the boundary. There are no specific actions in relation to these Parks.</p>	<p>NSW Government, Dept Planning and Environment, Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy, 2014 update</p>
<p>This plan is the first metropolitan plan prepared for Greater Newcastle and responds to vision set out in The Hunter Regional Plan 2036. The plan is designed to coordinate efforts and manage implementation across all tiers of government. The vision for Greater Newcastle - ‘Australia’s newest and emerging economic and lifestyle city, that is connected with northern NSW and acknowledged globally as dynamic, entrepreneurial, desirable and a national leader in the new economy’.</p> <p>The plan is arranged around four outcomes and identifies a number of catalyst areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Outcome 1: Create a workforce skilled and ready for the new economy</li> <li>« Outcome 2: Enhance environment, amenity and resilience for quality of life</li> <li>« Outcome 3: Deliver housing close to jobs and services</li> <li>« Outcome 4: Improve connections to jobs, services and recreation</li> </ul> <p>Catalyst areas are defined as places of metropolitan significance that need a collaborative approach to the delivery of new jobs and homes.</p> <p>Broadmeadow is one of the catalyst areas, identifying the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct as an outcome.</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning &amp; Environment, Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan (2018)</p>
<p>The lands in the Newcastle–Lake Macquarie western corridor are recognised as proposed urban, employment and environmental conservation lands. This corridor covers land from Beresfield to Killingworth, including Minmi, Cameron Park, West Wallsend and Edgeworth.</p>	 <p>NSW Department of Planning, Newcastle-Lake Macquarie Western Corridor Planning Strategy (2010)</p>

## KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

## SOURCE

As part of a state-wide project, Office of Sport reviewed, with the intention to renew, the planning and delivery of sport and active recreation within defined regions of NSW. The plan is designed to be complementary to National Sports Plan (Australian Sports Commission), Hunter Regional Plan 2036 (Department of Planning & Environment).

Across all regions a six-partner group model was utilised, this is presented in the following graphic:



NSW Government, Office of Sport, Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan, 2018-2023 (draft)

The plan outlines the various roles of the partners in developing and delivering the plan. Six outcomes have been identified for the Hunter region:

1. Increased participation of adults and children in regular sport and active recreation
2. Improved access - to sport and active recreation for everyone in the region, regardless of background or ability
3. Integrated performance pathways for participants in sport
4. Fit for purpose facilities in the region
5. Valued regional sporting events which are valued by the region
6. Improved collaboration -. within the sport and active recreation sector.

Within each outcome there are a number of strategies developed from a regional planning workshop. Strategies that are specifically relevant to this Strategic Sports Plan include:

- 4.1 Establish a Regional Sporting Hub at the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct at Broadmeadow and explore locations for sub-hubs
- 4.2 Establish Newcastle Sports Ground No 1 as a Regionally Significant Sports Facility (RSSF) and explore locations for other RSSFs
- 4.3 Establish a collaborative approach to facilities
- 4.4 Explore upgrades to existing facilities (making existing facilities multipurpose and upgrading auxiliary infrastructure)
- 4.5 Explore development of new facilities
- 4.8 Plan for female friendly sporting facilities
- 5.1 Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting and active recreation events
- 5.2 Support hosting of country championships
- 5.4 Host key events (e.g. Commonwealth Games/ Masters)

A project is considered “regionally significant” if it meets the following broad facility criteria:

- « Is a sport or recreation facility of regional level significance to a State sporting organisation or local Council
- « Meets the standards required to host major regional, state or national level competitions, events and/or training
- « Provides a range of participation outcomes (community, competitions, events and talent development)
- « Caters for a broad catchment across multiple local government boundaries, and
- « Delivers flexibility of use, high quality amenity, management and service levels

The Hunter Region comprises 10 Councils. Along with City of Newcastle, it also includes Mid-Coast, Dungog, Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Port Stephens.

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
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The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the highest level of strategic planning undertaken by local Councils. The Local Government Act 1993 requires that a CSP identifies the main priorities and aspirations of its community. The CSP outlines the Vision, Values and Guiding Principles and International Goals that inform the City's seven (7) strategic directions:

1. Integrated and Accessible Transport
2. Protected Environment
3. Vibrant, Safe and Active Public Places
4. Inclusive Community
5. Liveable Built Environment
6. Smart and Innovative
7. Open and Collaborative Leadership

There are limited direct references to the strategic sports plan and its outcomes. Relevant outcomes and actions are arranged within the strategic directions and provide guidance in terms of equity, accessibility, providing options to improve health and activity, protect the environment and improve the economic future of the City through encouraging events and investment.

Specific relevance to sport facility planning and provision are within:

- « SD 3: provide quality parkland and recreation facilities that are diverse, accessible and responsive to changing needs;
- « SD 4: Ensure people of all abilities can enjoy our public places and spaces; Promote recreation, health and wellbeing programs

The Local Planning Strategy (LPS) is a land use strategy to guide the growth and development of Newcastle to 2030. The Strategy:

- « Implements the land use directions from Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP);
- « Incorporates the outcomes of Council's other core strategies as they relate to land use;
- « Aligns with other strategic land use strategies at the State level such as the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy (NSW DP, 2006) and
- « Complements the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy (NSW DPE, 2014) for the Newcastle City Centre; and
- « Underpins the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Section 3.4 covers Recreation and is supported by a map of the LGA showing all forms of recreation land including park, sportsground, bushland, wetland, water course, golf course (developed and undeveloped). An analysis of social and demographic factors impacting on use and provision of recreation facilities is as follows:

DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURE	LIKELY IMPLICATIONS
Increased number of children and youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Ongoing demand for family oriented open space and facilities, including facilities and activity opportunities for children and young people (playgrounds, skate and BMX facilities).</li> <li>« Increased demand for sport</li> <li>« Increased demand for health and fitness opportunities to support young adults, including gyms and swimming pools and cycle paths.</li> </ul>
Increased number of older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Increased demand for facilities and services to support older people, e.g. safe and appealing places to sit and relax, accessible places, indoor and outdoor places for activities.</li> <li>« Increased demand for accessible places and facilities, especially catering to people with a disability</li> </ul>
Increased proportion of flats, units and apartments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Increased demand for parkland spaces and community facilities where people can gather and socialise due to the lack of private outdoor space</li> <li>« Increased demand for parkland spaces where new residential development involves smaller lot sizes (and small backyards) which limit scope for physical activities. In areas of higher residential densities, such as the R3 Medium Density and R4 High Density residential zones, the retention and embellishment of smaller parks will be of greater importance than in the R2 Low density residential zone, where residents have larger private open space. This is especially the case where limited alternative options within proximity are available.</li> </ul>

Community Strategic Plan (2018-2028)  
Newcastle 2030

**KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SOURCE**

Criteria are outlined for consideration in the provisions of usable and connected recreation space:

- « Accessibility and connectedness
- « Equity and opportunity
- « Quality
- « Size
- « Allocation
- « Safety and security

The Parkland Hierarchy is also included, as summarised below.

PARK CATEGORY	ROLE	ACCESSIBILITY	DESIRABLE SIZE	CHARACTERISTICS	DESIRED PROVISION
Regional	Defined spaces that attract visitors from across the city and beyond due to their uniqueness, opportunity offered or the scale of events that may be staged	Expectation is that people will drive to these spaces	10 + hectares. Size will reflect location, natural setting and special features of individual sites.	Quality landscaping, public art, interpretative signage, appropriate supporting amenities and user facilities.  Excellent access for people of all ages and abilities and excellent vehicle access with a substantial frontage to a major road.  Highly visible and preferably adjacent to a local town centre.	One per 250,000 people
District	A park area of substantial size, well developed, offering a broad range of quality recreation opportunities. Central to populations of approximately 15,000 – 25,000.	Not necessarily within walking distance. Expectation is that people will drive to these spaces	1.5 -10 hectares. It should be generally regular in shape, preferably not less than 50m wide	A range of facilities to cater for a variety of users and recreational activities, including: quality landscaping, signage, playground equipment for toddlers, juniors and older children, seating, shade, paths, toilets, BBQ facilities, and lighting.  May support community gardens and/ or off leash dog exercise areas in larger sized parks.	One per 15,000 – 25,000 people
Local	Defined spaces primarily serving a local population. Positioned in a visible location for safety.	300 - 500m / 5-10 minutes walking time to majority of households.  No busy road crossings to access.	0.5 – 1.5 hectares. Recommended minimum of 0.2 hectares for existing parkland unless it adjoins other open space.	A limited range of facilities to support recreational activities including: minor landscaping reflecting existing vegetation, signage, some playground equipment, limited seating, shade and limited paths to enhance play opportunities.  May support community gardens and/ or off leash dog exercise areas in larger sized parks.	Ideally within 500m of residents.

The two recreation zones are outlined with the intent of each: RE1 Public Recreation and RE2 Private Recreation.

**KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SOURCE**

Port Stephens Council and City of Newcastle have developed the Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy (the Strategy) to guide future development and ensure sufficient community infrastructure is provided for the community.

Six precincts have been identified within the Strategy Area, one of which is the Sports precinct including Corroba Oval and surrounding recreational land. The precinct will provide a common place for recreation and community activities for the Stockton Peninsula.

The Goal and associated strategic directions for Open Space and Community Facilities are:

Goal – Improve access to useable open spaces and well-designed community facilities to support daily activity and healthy lifestyles

Strategic Directions:

- « Provide new community facilities with the mixed-use town centre
- « Maximise existing open space areas
- « Ensure new open space areas respond to community needs
- « Establish a district grade sports precinct at Corroba Oval
- « Specific direction for Corroba Oval:
  - « Investigate a new Sporting Precinct at Corroba Oval including multipurpose courts, additional playing fields, parking, amenities building and undercover seating.
  - « Consider cycling facilities (including electric) at the proposed Sporting Precinct at Corroba Oval

City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council, Fern Bay and North Stockton Strategy, 2020



## KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

## SOURCE

The Wickham Masterplan outlines the envisioned future character of the area and establishes various strategies that build upon the opportunities and challenges identified in order to guide future redevelopment, public domain and infrastructure plans and works. Wickham was once a semi-industrial area on the fringe of Newcastle City Centre and is transforming into a mixed use urban neighbourhood.

Wickham Park is within the planning area for this Masterplan; specific opportunities for the Park are outlined as:

- « Better integration of the Croatian Wickham Sports Club
- « Improvements and extension to the playground area
- « Reforming the abandoned bowls greens for hardcourts
- « New community gardens located within the south eastern part of the park
- « New amenities facilities located centrally adjacent to existing grandstand building
- « Utilising the entire precinct for large sporting or community events and festivals
- « Improved pedestrian and cycle links to public transport
- « Incorporation of stormwater management devices and groundwater pumping facilities within the landscape

City of Newcastle  
Wickham Masterplan,  
2017



KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
<p>The Parkland and Recreation Strategy was developed to guide the sustainable provision of parkland and recreation facilities for current and future communities. The strategy highlights the increasing importance of meeting a range of community needs as residential growth increases.</p> <p>Parkland, the beach foreshore, bicycle and walking trails were extremely popular whilst local parks were the most used recreation facility within suburbs. The report emphasises the fact that Council alone cannot achieve the gaps and that there is need to create effective partnerships to achieve the provision of sport and recreation (active and passive).</p> <p>The proposed vision for parkland and recreation is as follows:</p> <p>The City of Newcastle will provide, promote and support a range of facilities, events and programs aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Meeting the diverse parkland and recreational needs and interests of residents, visitors, students and workers;</li> <li>« Creating vibrant, activated and sustainable public places; and</li> <li>« Promoting health, happiness, community connections and wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations/ actions relevant to the Strategic Sports Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« The continued planning of parkland and recreation facilities, particularly within the western planning corridor, to maximise opportunities, partnerships and funding</li> <li>« The development of clear criteria to prioritise the development/upgrade of facilities</li> <li>« The review of small parks and their role in the open space network</li> <li>« The development of a formal partnership with Xstrata Coal for the dedication of land in Wallsend for a future district sporting complex. The inclusion of key stakeholders in the planning, decision making and prioritisation of parkland and recreation project</li> <li>« Develop a district sports facility plan to guide the coordinated planning and development of district sporting facilities</li> <li>« Establish a partnership with Xstrata Coal for land at Creek Road, Maryland for the development of district recreation complex to serve the future population</li> <li>« Commence detailed design of a district recreation complex at Creek Road, Wallsend</li> <li>« Investigate the utilisation of new technologies to increase capacity of existing sports fields</li> <li>« Review and update CN sportsground hierarchy to reflect the changing needs of the sporting community</li> <li>« Develop assessment criteria to guide the prioritisation of proposed capital projects, in particular sports field improvement projects</li> <li>« Review guidelines for the management of recreation facilities by community park committees. Update guidelines to reflect the objectives of greater financial sustainability, utilisation and performance of Council facilities</li> <li>« Establish formal partnerships the NSW Education Department/local schools to increase community access to recreation facilities to meet future demand</li> <li>« Establish a formal network/ forum with Newcastle sporting associations to strengthen relationships and partnership development</li> <li>« Include key stakeholders in the planning, decision making and prioritisation of projects</li> <li>« Enter into financial partnerships with regional and state sporting organisations, the business community and government for recreation facility development</li> <li>« Identify recreation facilities that have the potential to be externally managed as a method to reduce Council's maintenance expenditure whilst encouraging additional private investment</li> <li>« Develop a facility leasing policy and guidelines to facilitate the leasing of district sporting facilities, which are enclosed or where there is a predominant use or single user</li> <li>« Review and update Council's Sports Policy, Parks Booking Policy and Foreshore Usage Policy</li> <li>« Develop a sports facility improvement plan which identifies opportunities for the upgrade and adaptation of existing recreational facilities to accommodate additional codes, users and the changing needs of the community</li> <li>« Develop a tennis delivery plan to guide the development and provision of tennis facilities</li> <li>« Review guidelines for the management of organisation leasing/ managing tennis courts on behalf of Council. Develop clear guidelines to improve sustainability and performance.</li> </ul>	<p>City of Newcastle Parkland and Recreation Strategy, 2014</p>

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
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Proposed standards of provision for Sports facilities:

INFRASTRUCTURE	REGIONAL FACILITY	DISTRICT FACILITY	LOCAL FACILITY
Sports fields	In partnership with and in accordance with local and state sporting association facility guidelines.		One per 1,250 people
Specialised sports fields	In partnership with and in accordance with local and state sporting association facility guidelines.		
Outdoor netball courts	In partnership with and in accordance with local and state sporting association facility guidelines.		One per 3,000 - 4,000 people
Tennis courts	One per 60,000 people		One per 3,000 - 4,000 people
Service levels	Highest level of service	Second level of service	Third level of service

The key directions to address the identified challenges and gaps were identified as:

- a. Planning and development of facilities
- b. Management of facilities
- c. Partnership Development
- d. Promotion of facilities and opportunities-

The Strategy incorporated an Action Plan that is arranged within the 4 key directions. Priority is applied to each action (High - within 2 years (June 2014 - 2016); Medium - within 6 years (June 2014 June 2020); Long - within 10 years (June 2014 – 2024). Actions relevant to Strategic Sports Plan (that are additional to or expand on the recommendations listed above) include:

1.1 (Medium priority) Review relevant Plans of Management (POM) and masterplans. Develop new POM and masterplans to guide the upgrade of local and district parks into quality district parks to meet the changing need of the community. Priority (sport) sites are listed (Gregson Park, Jesmond Park, Lambton Park, Centennial Park, King Edward Park, Taro Recreation Area, Griffith Reserve)

1.2 (Medium priority) Identify a site for the development of a district park within the planning areas: (Adamstown - Kotara; Shortland - Jesmond; Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi; Wallsend - Elernmore Vale; Lambton - North Lambton). Consider Wallsend Park, Waratah Park as potential sites. Develop masterplans.

1.11 (Medium priority) Investigate the utilisation of new technologies to increase capacity of existing sports fields to meet sporting needs of the community. Consider benefits including multi – code use, reduced maintenance, commercial use and income generation.

The Strategy included a number of measures to monitor progress implementing the actions in the four key directions.

There are three Plans of Management (PoM) reviewed:

1. Community Land
2. National Park
3. Newcastle Coastal

A Plan of Management is developed to determine and guide the future management of a place – such as a park, sportsground or bushland reserve. They are developed in conjunction with the community, and act as an agreement between a Council and the community as to how a place is to be managed and its values protected. Current use and activities are identified and future use and activities, including leases and licences, are approved by a plan of management (PoM).

City of Newcastle Plan of Management

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
<p>Community land is land a local government body owns and manages on behalf, and for the benefit, of the community. Community land is governed by the Local Government Act 1993 and through this legislation is required to be included in a PoM.</p> <p>The 'Community Land PoM' applies to Sportsground as well as Park and General Community Use (land) and links to objectives outlined in Newcastle 2030 – Community Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The draft plan focused on five key strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The development and implementation of asset preservation, capital works and cyclic routine maintenance programs to ensure a planned approach to resource allocation;</li> <li>2. The improved management of a centralised booking system; A review of occupancy agreements;</li> <li>3. Implementation of a city wide fees and charges schedule to ensure consistency across grades of facilities, equity and transparency for users; and</li> <li>4. Appropriate training and knowledge for Sports Policy 1998 which applies to organised and informal sporting activities which take place on public land. The policy covers values, goals, strategic directions, operating guidelines and administrative procedures. The policy used in-conjunction with this plan of management provides strategic guidance and direction for the management and use of community land, particularly for the sportsground category.</li> <li>5. Review of the 2000 Sportsland Plan of Management. This plan recognised the importance of sportsgrounds for informal recreation and exercise access; special event venues; purpose-built facilities for graded sports competitions and spectator venues; and cultural significance and tourism potential.</li> </ol> <p>Key Management Objectives which reflect the core objectives in the Local Government Act 1993 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage, promote and facilitate organised and informal sport and recreation.</li> <li>2. Provide appropriate facilities and services and multi-purpose sportsgrounds to meet the current and future needs of the community.</li> <li>3. To manage activities on sportsgrounds, having regard to any adverse impacts on nearby residences.</li> <li>4. Improve accessibility and connectivity within sportsgrounds and to surrounding areas.</li> <li>5. Maintain sportsgrounds and support infrastructure to provide a desirable visual amenity.</li> <li>6. Manage sportsgrounds in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.</li> </ol> <p>The strategies and actions identified in Section 4.7 of this PoM have been developed to address each of these six objectives.</p>	<p>City of Newcastle Plan of Management -Community Land (draft)</p>

**KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS**

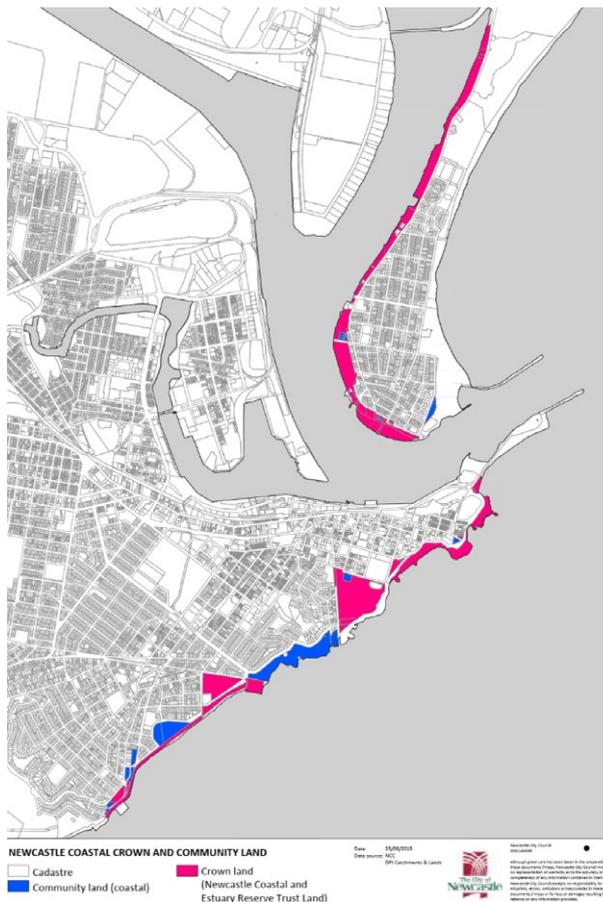
**SOURCE**

This POM aims to:

- « Document the key values of the coastal public land
- « Guide the ongoing management, future use and development of this land
- « Assist Council in meeting its broader strategic goals and vision as set out in Council’s Community Strategic Plan (2013)
- « Identify and protect the intrinsic values of coastal public land
- « Develop clear and achievable management strategies and actions that reflect Council and community expectations within available resource constraints
- « Specify development parameters within the coastal public land
- « The POM applies to the coastal public land/ public spaces spanning the eleven (11) kilometre coastline from Stockton Beach in the north to Merewether Beach in the south:

The plan divides this area in to three character areas/ sectors:

1. Northern (Stockton) Sector (Stockton East, Griffith Park, Stockton West)
2. Central (City Beaches) Sector (Nobby’s Beach, Newcastle Baths, Newcastle Beach, King Edward Park and Bogey Hole)
3. Southern (Suburban Beaches) Sector (Shepherds Hill Reserve, Bar Beach and Empire Park, Dixon Pak, Merewether Beach).



City of Newcastle, Coastal Plan of Management, 2015

The POM recommends categories for land that previously did not have a category or were previously incorrectly categorised. The categories for Community Land are either Natural, Sportsground, Park, Are of cultural significance, General Community Use

The POM outlines the spectrum of values, uses, settings, character, environment, cultural and historical elements of the sectors and outlines the issues and opportunities influencing management of the lands.

The sporting uses of these areas is noted, with no specific recommendations or requirements to reduce or increase sport use.

This document was on public exhibition for the period ending 10 June, 2020. The Stockton CMP was prepared in response to coastal erosion and relocation of assets (Feb 2020) and a ministerial direction; the CMP presents a long-term plan for management of the Stockton coastline area between Northern Breakwater of the Hunter River and Meredith St.

To address beach amenity and immediate risk to assts, CN has committed to sand nourishment in the first year and protect public assets at immediate risk by installing minimised buried protection works.

Stockton netball courts, tennis courts and Lynn Oval are within the area/ zones identified for varying forms of intervention/ mitigation in the CMP.

City of Newcastle Stockton Coastal Management Program (CMP), (Draft) 2020

NCC events guide provides information aimed at event organisers planning and applying to run events on Council managed park, beach and road reserves, sportsgrounds, roads, footpaths and public spaces. The guide supports the City’s Events Plan 2016-2019.

The guide

- « Channels events/ organisers into the appropriate assessment process based on defined impact criteria; these criteria include expected daily attendance, timing, duration (no of days), number of stalls or amusement devices, sound emissions, infrastructure footprint, effect on/ use of roads.
- « Outlines the booking and application process and type/ extent of supporting and additional information required

City of Newcastle, Events Guide 2017

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE																																
<p>City of Newcastle conducts a community satisfaction survey for residents on a quarterly basis, testing the overall satisfaction with council services, functions and programs; with each quarterly survey covering different aspects of the Council’s responsibility. The August 2018 spring edition of the survey was the inaugural survey in this program. This survey covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Beaches, ocean baths, inland pools,</li> <li>« Footpaths, streets, heritage and green infrastructure</li> <li>« Public parks and playgrounds</li> <li>« Visitation to and use of Blackbutt Reserve, Bathers Way</li> <li>« Opinions on cycling, bin infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Satisfaction ratings for cleanliness, maintenance and condition of public parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds and provision of shade in parks and playgrounds indicated a mean score ranging between 3.1 and 3.7 (out of 5); with condition of sports grounds and facilities scoring 3.5.</p>	<p>City of Newcastle, Quarterly Community Survey Spring Report, September 2018</p>																																
<p>City of Newcastle conducts a community satisfaction survey for residents on a quarterly basis, testing the overall satisfaction with council services, functions and programs; with each quarterly survey covering different aspects of the Council’s responsibility. The June 2019 survey covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Environmental issues</li> <li>« Newcastle’s liveability</li> <li>« Climate change</li> <li>« Local environment improvement/ conservation projects</li> <li>« Sportsgrounds and recreational spaces</li> <li>« Favourite part of the Newcastle environment</li> </ul> <p>The top three things nominated as required to improve the City’s sportsgrounds were more shade and improved amenity blocks.</p>	<p>City of Newcastle, Quarterly Community Survey Winter 2019 Report, June 2019</p>																																
<p>This Strategy (2017-2021) is a four year framework outlining the key priorities and actions to be delivered by Council in its commitment to leading Newcastle’s transition to a smart and innovative city in recognition of smart cities being magnets for knowledge, talent, creativity, high value jobs and investment.</p> <p>The strategy includes a summary of aspects that comprise Newcastle Smart City:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="102 987 1217 2056"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Internet of Things (IOT)</td> <td>An IoT platform connects almost any device in the city to the internet and to each other. Apps, sensors, and smart city applications generate data on the city</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart City App</td> <td>A city app makes information on the city easily available. What’s on in Newcastle, how to get to music venues and restaurants, or real time transport info is simple and up-to-date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Mobility</td> <td>All forms of transport are linked together to make getting around simple and seamless. Timetables are synced and vehicle locations provided in real time to provide a better travel experience</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Screens</td> <td>Interactive smart screens around the CBD provide information to help people find out the latest on what’s going on in the city</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Bins</td> <td>Sensors linked to the IoT platform collect data on the city and transform everyday items into smart infrastructure. 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A preferred concept masterplan was developed in 2018

Stevenson Park  
Masterplan, 2018



The report includes an assessment of the current sports situation for Stevenson Park in the context of local, regional and state sports strategic plans, trends and site specific conditions. It found there are conflicts between current users, ageing infrastructure and the need to further invest in the upgrade of facilities. It does not make any recommendations for changes to sports field arrangement, facilities, or current sports supported by the site. Community engagement conducted as part of the masterplan development identified the following:

- « *Sports fields and Amenities*: Community seeking better quality and amenity, resolution of usage conflict, potential co-location in a new multi-purpose building and clubroom/shed improvements
- « *Aesthetics and Image*: People highly valued the wide open space and landscaping elements, suggested fenced off leash dog park and more trees would improve the space further
- « *Access and Linkages*: Need for shared path to connect and loop around. Parking seen as crucial issue and poor disability access.

## KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

## SOURCE

Land within the precinct is State-owned and comprises McDonald Jones Stadium and Newcastle Entertainment Centre & Showground are managed by Venues NSW. The Precinct contains a variety of sporting facilities including hockey fields, touch football fields, tennis courts, indoor basketball courts and a harness racing track. The intent of the planning process is to investigate the potential of the precinct by improving infrastructure. This document also includes a proposed long-term concept plan which represents Venues NSW initial work, providing opportunity to community input.

The 'problem' or current situation has arisen because the various facilities within the Precinct have developed separately, creating some inefficiencies, the land is underutilised and the different mix and spread of uses across the Precinct do not complement each other, some facilities are at end of life and others are not up to standard for the high level/ international standard events envisaged.



A Vision for the Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct; Discussion Document for Community Consultation, Venues NSW

The purpose of this booklet is to provide the procedures and conditions for the use of City of Newcastle's sportsgrounds, including both City of Newcastle and Park Committee managed sportsgrounds for sporting clubs and associations. It helps provide answers to many of the frequently asked questions raised by grounds users. In addition to information on the application and allocation process, there are a number of policy perspectives outlined. These include:

- « Usage – inspections and rotations to reduce/ share wear, permitted hours of use, non-permitted uses
- « Pre-season bookings, use, line-marking
- « Closure process, conditions and responsibilities
- « Field markings and flood light charges
- « Fees and invoicing, including fees and bonds for keys and arrangements for locks
- « Processes for works approvals,
- « Alcohol sales, licensing and responsibilities
- « CN Recreation facilities grants program and works approval process for externally granted funds

Winter 2019 Season Sportsground Information Booklet, City of Newcastle

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
<p>Beaches, Park Reserves &amp; Sporting Facilities – Sport is the section of the Fees and Charges schedule applicable to use of parks, reserves and facilities by/ for sport. Fees are charged for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Non-refundable application and late applications with different fee levels for Charities/ Not for Profit/ Schools</li> <li>« Clean up and park services (week-day business hours and after hours) at cost</li> <li>« Council staff undertaking site inspections, providing support services for Events (week-day business hours and after hours)</li> <li>« Water access – per day or per kilolitre</li> <li>« Electrical access - per day</li> <li>« Per application for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event line marking</li> <li>• Signage, and</li> <li>• Sportsground advertising</li> </ul> </li> <li>« Re-issue of Licence agreement with different fee levels for Charities/ Not for Profit/ Schools</li> <li>« Bonds for key and security</li> <li>« Key cutting and key/ lock replacement</li> <li>« Car parking for events at the ground, with different fees (per entry) for major events (interstate games/ grand finals) and other events</li> <li>« Additional mowing with costs charged per hour and based on nominal hectare size of a field for named sports (football codes, cricket, athletics, baseball)</li> <li>« Additional line marking per field cost for named sports (football codes, athletics, netball other codes)</li> <li>« Goal post exchange</li> <li>« Flood lights – per light per hour and a per occasion fee for lights left on</li> <li>« Canteen Rights – fees levied per season, per day or per hour</li> <li>« Playing Surface – levied per season (2 nights training and 1 day competition), per day or per hour with different rates based on hierarchy (regional/ district/ local) and for user type (senior/ junior &amp; school/ commercial)</li> <li>« Cricket-specific fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wicket curation (per day) based on hierarchy (regional/ district)</li> <li>• Training nets &amp; wickets (per wicket per hour)</li> </ul> </li> <li>« Dressing sheds (per 2 sheds) – fees levied for seasonal (per day) or casual user (per day/ hour) with different rates based on hierarchy (regional/ district/ local)</li> <li>« Netball courts – levied per court per day and for user type (senior/ junior &amp; school)</li> <li>« Function rooms and sporting club halls at National Park No 1 and No2, Elernmore Vale Reserve and Wallsend Park are levied per season/ hour/ half day/ per day</li> </ul> <p>There are a range of non-compliance or breach fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Late application fees</li> <li>« Breach of licence conditions</li> <li>« Use out of season/ without approval/ when closed or in wet weather</li> <li>« Non-return of keys</li> <li>« Without approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage containers/ sheds or other structures</li> <li>• Signage installation</li> </ul> </li> <li>« Damage to facilities/ grounds</li> </ul>	<p>City of Newcastle, Fees and Charges 2019/20</p>

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
<p>This is Tennis Australia's (TA) national strategy, first introduced in 2008 and updated in 2011/12. The framework provides an overview of the approach to be taken by TA and member associations to create sustainable and viable facilities and clubs, intending to enhance the tennis experience for Australians.</p> <p>Some of the key insights in the document include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Social (41%) and fitness (28%) are the major drivers to play tennis</li> <li>« 60% of current players will play all year round</li> <li>« 66% of current participants would prefer a pay for play model to access tennis</li> <li>« 1 in 10 participants who have played in the last 12 months are members of a tennis club</li> <li>« The provision of welcoming tennis facilities promotes a desirable, positive club culture and encourages socially engaged tennis players to play more tennis more often</li> <li>« Increasing maintenance and replacement costs of court surfaces, fencing and the need to fund lighting has resulted in standards decreasing in club/ centre environments</li> <li>« Local governments and facility owners seek to provide tennis environments that offer numerous opportunities and are more commercially focused in order to create self-sustaining operations</li> </ul> <p>The strategy includes targets for performance and participation, strategic priorities and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« MLC Tennis Hot Shots: Increase participation and capture the interest of primary school aged children.</li> <li>« Cardio Tennis - Bringing people into and back to tennis</li> <li>« Talent - Improve the quality and quantity of athletes under the age of 12</li> <li>« Places to Play - Form leading partnerships in planning, building and managing quality places to play</li> <li>« Asia - Develop strong relationships with key stakeholders and commercialise in Asia</li> </ul> <p>The Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Covers the breadth of tennis provision from community level, participation growth elite player development and tour events.</li> <li>« Is designed to be used to guide long term planning and infrastructure development decisions within a region</li> <li>« Provides a basis for decision making around the hierarchical level of facilities to provide a wide range and mix of community opportunities and experiences within a region</li> <li>« Provides sample centre site layout for courts, surrounds and clubhouse</li> <li>« Outlines a hierarchy of facilities with six levels from National to Public Access; with each level in the facility hierarchy defined by number of courts; catchment population served and an outline of the court/ clubhouse/ amenities and administration requirements that comprise the criteria</li> </ul>	<p>Tennis Australia, Tennis 2020 Facility development and management framework for Australian tennis</p>
<p>This facility strategy was developed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Guide the removal of facility related barriers to people in NSW accessing the sport of netball</li> <li>« Assist Netball NSW, affiliated Associations, Clubs and many other netball stakeholder groups throughout NSW to better plan for the future of their facility footprint, seek facility related grant funding</li> </ul> <p>The strategy cites a benchmark of court provision of 1-court for 3,500 people and recognises that development of facilities should be supported by local need and demand assessment. Based on population, NSW requires 2,230 netball courts, and an additional 545 by 2033 to account for projected population growth.</p> <p>Strategy recommendations are provided within 5 focus areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Usage</li> <li>2. Partnerships</li> <li>3. Programs</li> <li>4. Priority Places and Projects</li> <li>5. People</li> </ol> <p>Newcastle Netball Association or Newcastle facilities are not specifically mentioned for consideration; based on the association self-audit assessment of facilities, NNA has a score of 7 and is ranked joint 11th on the assessment matrix. Elsewhere in the Hunter Region Maitland Netball Association is ranked higher (5th) with a score of 9.</p>	<p>Netball in New South Wales – Statewide Facilities Strategy (2018-2033)</p>

KEY FINDINGS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	SOURCE
<p>Presentation slides utilised at a workshop with Hunter Regional council officers in August 2019 by NSW Football aiming for development of State-wide football facility supply, demand and investment strategy for 2020-2030.</p> <p>The presentation covers the Statewide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« facility audit process (supply, quality, ancillary facilities, lighting, synthetic pitches, drainage)</li> <li>« participation profiling</li> <li>« locations of clubs and facilities</li> <li>« snapshot of football performance measured as a % of demand conversion</li> <li>« areas with potential for growth and low facility provision</li> <li>« survey results (clubs, associations and councils)</li> </ul> <p>Top 6 challenges identified by Associations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not enough fields with sports lighting that caters for competition</li> <li>2. Securing funding for facility improvement</li> <li>3. No synthetic playing field locally</li> <li>4. Not enough fields with sports lighting that caters for training</li> <li>5. Inadequate number of playing fields for football</li> <li>6. Poor quality playing fields due to overuse, poor irrigation/drainage and maintenance practices</li> </ol> <p>Top 6 facility-related demands identified by Councils:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provision of maintenance window where grounds are closed</li> <li>2. On field game and training equipment storage</li> <li>3. Upgrading sports lighting</li> <li>4. Securing funding to address on field facility issues</li> <li>5. Poor quality playing fields due to overuse</li> <li>6. Inadequate number of playing fields</li> </ol> <p>A summary of issues identified through the workshopping process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« The need for easily assessable, factual data on football participation in each local Council area.</li> <li>« Identifying the mix and hierarchy of facilities. Not every club can have an all year round facility – a mixture of seasonal natural grass, closed for maintenance, shared with other sports, synthetic and regional facilities required. Ideally all football stakeholders would recognise where they sit in the hierarchy.</li> <li>« Articulate football needs and prioritise capital works in local areas in a transparent manner with local councils.</li> <li>« Consistent messaging from Football NSW, Northern NSW Football, Football Associations and clubs in a one stop shop document.</li> <li>« Funding assistance in rejuvenating ageing football infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>NSW Football Infrastructure Strategy: Local Government Workshop – Northern NSW Football, 2019</p>

## 2.3. TRENDS

The nature of sport participation in Australia is changing. New sports/ activities are emerging and some established sports are declining in popularity. How traditional sports respond to these challenges will impact on future facility needs. A range of sport and recreation trends have been observed through studies undertaken by the Otium team for various local governments throughout Australia and analysis of published data (e.g. ABS, CSIRO, Australian Sports Commission). Below is a summary of participation, planning, design and management trends that are relevant to sports facility planning (excludes trends specific to indoor and aquatic facilities which are out of scope for this project).

### 2.3.1. Megatrends<sup>7</sup>

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) collaborated with the Australian Sports Commission to auspice a report which identified six megatrends likely to shape the Australian sports sector over coming decades. A megatrend was identified as representing an important pattern of social, economic or environmental change and hold potential implications for policy and investment choices being made by community groups, industry and government. Six megatrends outlined in the report comprised:

- « A perfect fit – Individualised sport and fitness activities are on the rise. People are fitting sport into their increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles to achieve personal health objectives.
- « From extreme to mainstream – This megatrend captures the rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports which are particularly popular among younger generations. These sports typically involve complex, advanced skills and have some element of inherent danger and/ or thrill seeking.
- « More than sport – The broader benefits of sport are being increasingly recognised by governments, business and communities. Sport can help achieve mental and physical health, crime prevention, social development and international cooperation objectives.
- « Everybody's game – Australia and other countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) face an ageing population. This will change the types of sports we play and how we play them.
- « New wealth, new talent – Population and income growth throughout Asia will create tougher competition and new opportunities for Australia both on the sports field and in the sports business environment.
- « Tracksuits to business suits – Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport in the future. Loosely organised community sports associations are likely to be replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems in light of market pressures. The cost of participating in sport is also rising and this is a participation barrier for many people.

### 2.3.2. Generic Trends

The following general trends in sport and recreation are evident:

- « Participation in organised sport is generally static but there is growing demand for social forms of participation in sport.
- « Local governments are recognising the importance of creating environments to enable people to lead active and healthy lives, placing greater focus on integration with urban planning, provision and/ or connectivity of walk/ cycle paths, provision of sport and recreation facilities and programs, and provision and access to parks and open space
- « There is greater demand for floodlighting of facilities so that people can participate at times that are convenient to them or to reduce exposure to the sun
- « Multiple use of sport and recreation facilities, season overlap and across season usage is becoming more prevalent in response to limited supply in some urban areas
- « Demographic shift, especially in larger cities, is changing the patterns of participation in sport and recreation
- « Many sports' peak bodies are responding to social and demographic trends by introducing modified forms of participation and scheduling
- « Many individuals and families are time poor and the scheduling of activities at times that are convenient to them is increasingly important
- « There is a desire by many participants to simply "turn up and play" with minimal volunteering commitments. Many participants are willing to pay extra for this service which has created some opportunities for commercial provision
- « Declining volunteerism is also placing greater pressure on Councils in terms of the way they manage sports facilities on their land
- « New methods to maximise use of sport and recreation facilities are being explored in some cases (e.g. community/ cultural events, off season sports, non-traditional sports).
- « Toilets and change rooms are expected to be adequate in size, female-friendly, and PWD compliant.

<sup>7</sup> "The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sports sector over coming decades". Consultancy Report for the Australian Sports Commission. CSIRO, Australia. 2013.

### 2.3.3. Outdoor Playing Fields

In relation to outdoor playing fields, the following trends are evident:

- « Designing and maintaining playing surfaces to maximise their sustainability is important as the intensity of use of playing surfaces increases
- « Water harvesting initiatives to reduce town water consumption, maintain a high standard of playing fields and improve viability is important
- « Provision of shade (natural and artificial) is increasingly important given the emphasis on sun safe practices
- « Change rooms, canteen, storage and clubrooms are considered typically ancillary facilities provided within outdoor playing field environments
- « Due to the open nature of outdoor playing field facilities, CPTED<sup>8</sup> design is critical to protect users and the facility assets
- « Lighting of playing fields, compliant with Australian Standards and/ or sport-specific standards and increasingly the desire for LED lighting to enhance cost savings is increasing in importance
- « Facility design should consider incorporating options for temporary/ spill-over parking to support major events
- « The way people utilise sportsgrounds is changing and people are now relying on open space for an increasingly diverse array of activities. Coupled with increasing cultural diversity, this means that sportsgrounds often need to accommodate diverse activities to meet a variety of needs, including for both formal and informal playing opportunities

### 2.3.4. Synthetic Playing Surfaces

Population growth, adverse climatic conditions, and/ or a shortage of affordable land for sports fields in some urban centres are contributing to increases in the intensity of use of outdoor playing fields. This often results in overuse of fields and adversely impacts on the standard and usability of playing fields. Synthetic surfaces are increasingly being examined as a solution to these challenges in high density urban environments. A number of factors need to be considered in developing a synthetic surface:

- « The cost of developing synthetic fields is relatively high for one playing field
- « Regular cleaning and preventative maintenance is required to protect the integrity of the synthetic surface.
- « Similar to any playing field/ court the standard of playing field is directly related to the quality of the base underneath the surface
- « The life of the surface is not unlimited and generally requires replacement every 7-10 years within a playing environment.

### 2.3.5. Possible Implications for Sports Facility Planning

- « Local government will have an increasingly important role in improving health outcomes by enabling residents to be more physically active
- « There is increased demand for “self-directed exercise related recreation”. This means that local government will need to respond to increasing need for running, walking and cycling networks as well as demand for public spaces to accommodate fitness and exercise activities with demand occurring before during and after work hours
- « People will want to be able to access recreation opportunities easily from where they live especially in areas where density is increasing. Local and regional linkages via cycle/ walkways will grow in importance.
- « Maximum flexibility in design to accommodate varying community needs and forms of use should be a prerequisite. Multi-use sport and recreation precincts may need to consider incorporating opportunities for traditional and non-traditional activities.
- « Future facilities and activities will need to be safe, easily accessible, with few barriers to entry, and cater for formal and informal forms of participation. Provision of safe facilities and safe access-ways is of particular importance where participation by females is concerned.
- « Lighting of playing fields and parks for safety and/ or to extend their usage and functionality will be increasingly important. Evening competitions are likely to continue to grow.
- « Lighting of playing fields should use contemporary technology to maximise operating viability and minimise impacts on neighbouring residents
- « Synthetic playing surfaces may need to be considered in areas where limited provision opportunities, high use of existing facilities, and/ or an inability to adequately maintain grass fields to suitable standards are evident.
- « Increasing demands within limited budgets may necessitate the need for regional scale planning of higher-level facilities to ensure that facilities are economically and socially viable.
- « Partnerships with schools, tertiary sector, or associations/ clubs should be considered in the provision of new/ upgraded sporting infrastructure

<sup>8</sup> *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*

## 3. SPORTS FACILITY SUPPLY

### 3.1. SPORTS PARKS

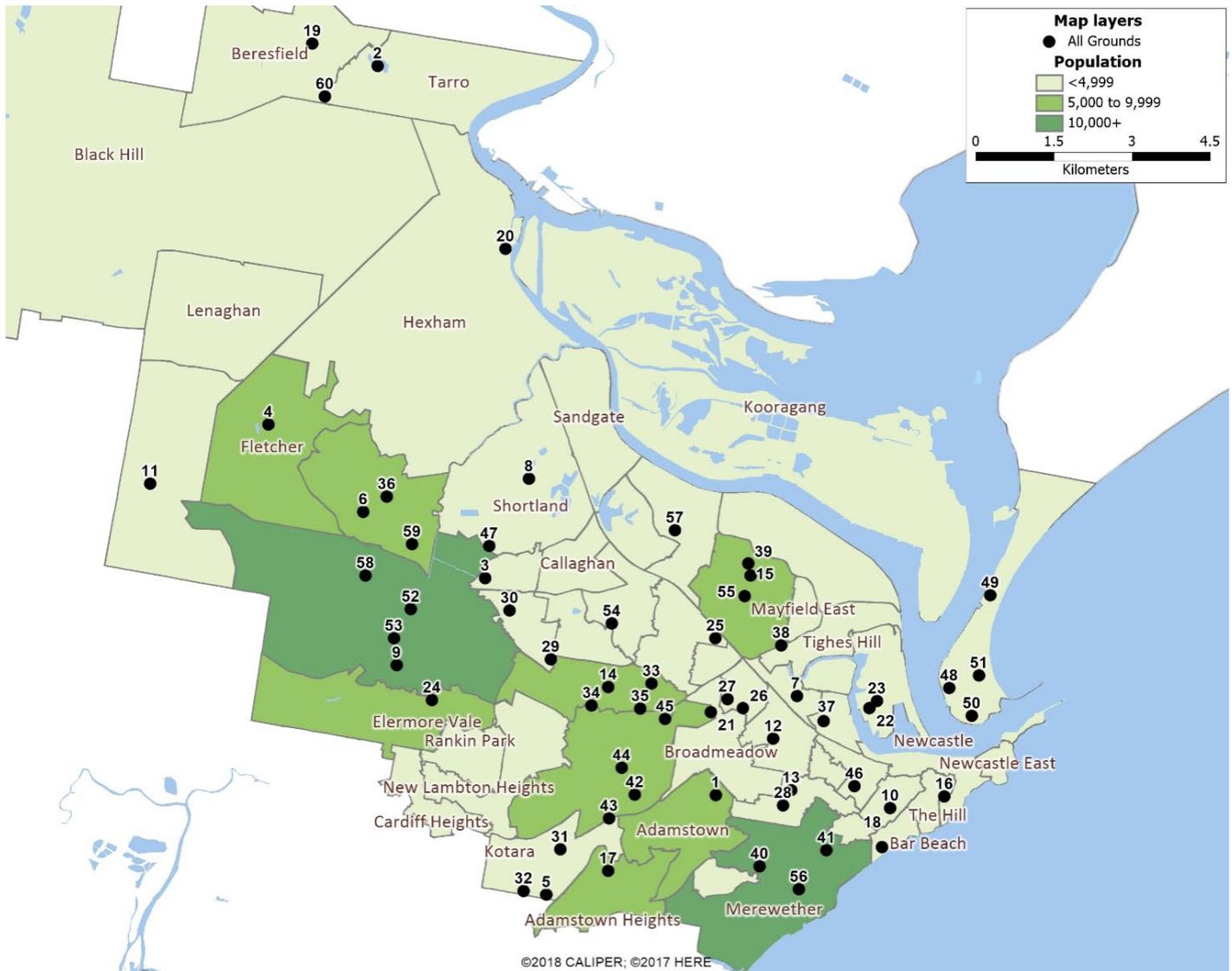
Council's inventory of booked sportsgrounds is distributed across 56 sportsground sites supplying a total playing area of 133.3Ha (actual field playing space) within a total land area of approximately 370.53Ha. The difference between these two areas (237.2Ha) represents outdoor courts (tennis and netball) and ancillary areas (e.g. car parks, amenities, landscaping, pathways and informal open space). This area is approximately 64% of the sportsground playing surface area which is slightly less than ratios established by Otium Planning Group (OPG) in other sportsground planning projects in NSW, ACT and Queensland (70%).

These facilities provide approximately the following number of fields/ courts:

- « 5 x Athletics (one synthetic track)
- « 3 x Australian Rules Football fields
- « 2 x Baseball diamonds
- « 77 x cricket ovals/ wickets; 30x turf; 44x synthetic; 3x concrete wickets
- « 4 x Croquet greens (one location/ venue)
- « 72 x football fields
- « 61 x netball courts, 11 venues (30 competition courts; 31 training courts); and
- « 22 x Rugby League fields (excluding McDonald Jones Stadium)
- « 10 x Rugby Union fields
- « 9 x softball diamonds
- « 61 x tennis courts
- « 22 x Touch/ Oztag, 7 venues



Map 1: Distribution of Facilities for sport in Newcastle



ID	FACILITY
1	Adamstown Park
2	Tarro Reserve
3	Harold Myers Park
4	Kurraka Reserve
5	Nesbitt Park
6	Grange Avenue Reserve
7	Islington Park
8	Tuxford Park
9	Upper Reserve
10	Centennial Park Tennis Courts
11	Minmi Sportsground
12	Hamilton Park Tennis Courts
13	Learmonth Park
14	Lambton Park
15	Mayfield Hillcrest Tennis court
16	Newcastle Hill Tennis Courts
17	Hudson Park
18	Empire Park
19	Lindsay Memorial Oval
20	Hexham Park
21	District Park

ID	FACILITY
22	Connolly Park
23	Pat Jordan Oval
24	Elmore Vale Reserve
25	Waratah Park
26	Richardson Park
27	Smith Park
28	Darling Street Oval
29	Jesmond Park
30	Heaton Park
31	Kotara Park
32	Lugar Park
33	Johnson Park
34	Lewis Oval
35	New Lambton Park
36	Bill Elliot Oval
37	Wickham Park
38	Litchfield Park
39	Mayfield Park
40	Myamblah Cres Oval
41	Mitchell Park
42	Alder Park

ID	FACILITY
43	Novocastrian Park
44	Regent Park
45	Wallahah Oval
46	National Park
47	Cook Park
48	Ballast Oval
49	Corroba Oval
50	Griffith Park
51	Lynn Oval
52	Federal Park
53	Wallsend Park
54	Thomas Percy Oval
55	Dangar Park
56	Gibbs Brothers Oval
57	Stevenson Park
58	Hope Street Reserve
59	Fletcher Park
60	Pasedena Cres Res.

### 3.1.1. General Sportsground Observations

The provision of sportsgrounds in CN is characterised by a high level of small single oval/ field playing areas.

The current supply of sportsgrounds is constrained by a number of factors that impact on their functionality for sport, namely:

- « The distribution of grounds is fragmented with many located in residential areas
- « Most grounds have no expansion capacity and smaller areas are suitable only for junior sport
- « While lighting is installed on approximately half of the grounds (46%), the level and/ or coverage of lighting is limited in some cases with only 7% having competition standard lighting.
- « Many have poor or no drainage

### 3.1.2. Sport Facilities with Hierarchy

At the present time, all fields and courts within the network are assigned an individual hierarchy, refer Table 5 for the list of facilities and the current hierarchy applied by Council.

Table 5: Sports facilities and current hierarchy

FIELDS	CURRENT HIERARCHY	FIELDS	CURRENT HIERARCHY
Adamstown Netball Court (training)	Local	Adamstown No 1 Oval Training Ground	Local
Adamstown No 1	District	Adamstown No 2	Local
Adamstown No 3	Local	Adamstown No 4	Local
Adamstown No 5	Local	Adamstown Tennis Courts	Local
Alder Park No 1	Local	Alder Park No 2	Local
Alder Park No 3 (Junior)	Local	Arthur Edden Oval	District
Ballast Oval No 1	Local	Ballast Oval No 2	Local
Bill Elliot Oval	Local	Blackley Oval	Local
Carrington Tennis Courts	Local	Centennial Park Tennis Courts	Local
Col Curran/Plattsburg No 1	Local	Connolly Park	Local
Cook Park No 1	Local	Cook Park No 2 (junior)	Local
Corroba Oval No 1	Local	Corroba Oval No 2	Local
Dangar Park	Local	Darling Street Oval	Local
Elmore Vale Reserve No 1 & 2	Local	Elmore Vale Reserve No 3 (junior field)	Local
Elmore Vale Reserve No 4 (junior field)	Local	Empire and Reid Park Tennis Courts	Local
Empire Park	Local	Federal Park No 1	Local
Federal Park No 2	Local	Federal Park No 3	Local
Federal Park No 4	Local	Ford Oval	Local
Gibbs Brothers Oval	Local	Grange Ave Netball (training)	Local
Grange Oval No 1	Local	Grange Oval No 2 (junior)	Local
Griffith Park	Local	Hamilton Park Tennis Courts	Local
Harker Memorial Oval	District	Harold Myers Oval	Local
Harold Myers Park Netball Courts (training)	Local	Harry Edwards Oval	Local
Hawkins Oval	Local	Heaton Park No 1	Local
Heaton Park No 2	Local	Heaton Park No 3	Local
Heaton Park No 4 (junior only)	Local	Hexham Park	Local
Hudson Park No 1	Local	Hudson Park No 2	Local
Hudson Park No 3 (junior)	Local	Islington Park	Local
Islington Park Netball Courts (training)	Local	Jesmond Park	Local
Johnson Park	Local	Kentish Netball (training)	Local
Kentish Oval No 1	Local	Kentish Oval No 2	Local
Kotara Park	Local	Kotara Park Tennis Courts	Local
Kurraka Netball Courts	Local	Kurraka Oval field 1	Local
Kurraka Oval field 2	Local	Kurraka Tennis Courts	Local
Lambton Park	Local	Lambton Park Junior	Local
Lambton Park Outer Grounds	Local	Lambton Park Tennis Courts	Local
Learmonth Park Field 1	Local	Learmonth Park Field 2	Local
Learmonth Park Tennis Courts	Local	Lewis Oval	Local

FIELDS	CURRENT HIERARCHY	FIELDS	CURRENT HIERARCHY
Lindsay Memorial Oval	Local	Litchfield Park No 1 (junior)	Local
Litchfield Park No 2 (junior)	Local	Lugar Park No 1	Local
Lugar Park No 2 (junior)	Local	Lynn Oval	Local
Mandalong Oval	Local	Mandalong Oval Training Ground	Local
Mayfield Hillcrest Tennis court	Local	Mayfield Park	Local
Minmi Sports Ground No 1	Local	Minmi Sports Ground No 2	Local
Minmi Tennis Courts	Local	Myamblah Crescent Oval No 1	Local
Myamblah Crescent Oval No 2 (Junior)	Local	Myer Park No 1	Local
Myer Park No 2	Local	National Park Athletics Track (synthetic)	District
National Park Netball (No 3)	District	National Park No 1	Regional
National Park No 2	District	National Park No 4	Local
National Park No 5	Local	National Park No 6	Local
Nesbitt Park	Local	Nesbitt Park Netball	Local
Newcastle Croquet Club	District	Newcastle Hill Tennis Courts	Local
Novocastrian Park No 1	Local	Novocastrian Park No 2	Local
Pasedena Crescent Reserve No 1	Local	Pasedena Crescent Reserve No 2	Local
Passmore Oval	District	Pat Jordan Oval	Local
Regent Park	Local	Richardson Park (junior field)	Local
Smith Park No 1	Local	Smith Park No 2	Local
Smith Park No 3	Local	Stevenson Park Baseball	Local
Stevenson Park Soccer 1 (inc softball)	Local	Stevenson Park Soccer 2 (inc softball)	Local
Stevenson Park Soccer 3 (inc softball)	Local	Stevenson Park Soccer 4 (inc softball)	Local
Stevenson Park Softball No 1	Local	Stevenson Park Softball No 2	Local
Stockton Netball Courts	Local	Stockton Tennis Courts	Local
Tarro Reserve Netball (training)	Local	Tarro Reserve No 1	Local
Tarro Reserve No 2	Local	Tarro Reserve No 3	Local
Tarro Reserve No 4	Local	Tarro Reserve No 5	Local
Tarro Reserve No 6	Local	Thomas Armstrong Oval	Local
Thomas Percy Oval	Local	Townson Oval	District
Tuxford Park Lower No 1 (Soc)	Local	Tuxford Park Lower No 2 (Soc)	Local
Tuxford Park Lower No 3 (Soc)	Local	Tuxford Park Netball (training)	Local
Tuxford Park Upper (RL)	Local	Upper Reserve Netball Courts (training)	Local
Upper Reserve No 1	District	Upper Reserve No 2	Local
Upper Reserve No 3	Local	Upper Reserve No 4	Local
Upper Reserve No 5	Local	Upper Reserve No 6	Local
Upper Reserve No 7	Local	Upper Reserve No 8	Local
Upper Reserve No 9	Local	Wallah Oval No 1	Local
Wallah Oval No 2	Local	Wallsend Park No 1	Local
Wallsend Park No 2	Local	Wanderers Park No1	District
Wanderers Park No2	Local	Waratah Park No 1	District
Waratah Park No 2	Local	Waratah Park No 3	Local
Waratah Park No 4	Local	Waratah Park No 5	Local

This study has recommended a revised definition of sports facility provision, the results of this review can be sourced in Supporting Resources Vol 2.

## 4. CONSULTATION

An extensive consultation process was undertaken. This included all sports clubs/associations within the scope of the study, State Sporting Organisations, Park Management Committees, neighbouring Councils, government agencies and other stakeholders.

### 4.1. NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

Face-to-face meetings with officers in all neighbouring Councils. In general, sports facilities in neighbouring Councils meet local demands however a number of their residents are members of Newcastle based clubs or travel to Newcastle for higher level competitions. In some cases, Newcastle residents use sports facilities in these Councils (e.g. it was reported that residents of Beresfield use facilities in Maitland due to lack of provision in that area).

Neighbouring Councils have a number of existing or proposed facilities which cater for the broader Hunter region or are capable of staging regional events.

Key issues to emerge in discussions are as follows:

#### 4.1.1. Lake Macquarie

- « 2 x 26 court regional netball facilities at Belmont and Charlestown (the latter has spare capacity)
- « Hunter Sports Centre is a regional facility for athletics and gymnastics
- « Lake Macquarie Regional Football Complex is a large complex catering for football and futsal
- « Plans for new 12-court indoor sports centre including show court at Hillsborough; major new aquatic centre at Charlestown; 6-court croquet centre at Cockle Creek
- « There are multiple demands from sports for new/ upgraded facilities however the strategic within sports is often lacking. There is also increasing pressure on the maintenance of facilities to desired standards.
- « It was felt that a sports facility in Maryland could service Newcastle's western growth corridor. The main need in Minmi was seen to be recreational parkland which is seen as poorly supplied in that area.

#### 4.1.2. Maitland

- « Funding of \$10m has been secured to develop a synthetic athletics track, additional field, and upgrade lights at Maitland No 1 Sportsground
- « A planned upgrade of netball courts at Maitland Park will deliver 32 courts and be capable of staging state championships
- « Funding for the upgrading of croquet courts will provide a state level facility
- « A planned upgrade of the existing BMX track will deliver a regional standard venue
- « Council is placing greater emphasis on generating smaller scale sporting and other events. Maitland facilities are likely to play a supporting role for larger regional events.
- « There are no plans to provide new equestrian facilities and Council is supportive of a high level regional equestrian centre being developed at Scone

#### 4.1.3. Port Stephens

- « Kings Park is the most regionally significant facility and includes 4 turf cricket pitches
- « A masterplan for Tomaree Sports Complex has been prepared focussing on athletics, Australian Rules football, soccer, croquet and netball.
- « Sports tourism through events is being sought
- « There is a recognition that the Broadmeadow precinct will be the pinnacle for a number of sports
- « A cross boundary agreement with CN exists for new/ upgraded sporting facilities to service Fern Bay residents and is linked to their s94 Contributions Plan
- « A whole of Hunter approach to pathway development within sports is needed

#### 4.1.4. Cessnock City Council

- « Funding has been sought for a new 18-court tennis facility
- « Rugby league and soccer are the main sports in the LGA and Council has bid for events in these sports well as rugby union and tennis
- « Equestrian sport is believed to be well catered for and the planned development of a major equine centre in the Upper Hunter at Scone is supported
- « No plans for development of any major facilities

## 4.2. SPORTS CONSULTATION

Early in the study process, a series of sport-specific workshops (or meetings) were held with sports within the study scope. Fourteen workshops/ meetings were held to discuss the following key questions:

- « What's working well and should not be changed?
- « What are the key challenges facing sport in the CN area?
- « How adequate are the pathways from local to regional or higher level participation?
- « What are the facility priorities for the sport in CN?
- « Other issues/ opportunities to address?

Surveys were also distributed to all clubs/ associations and state sporting organisations within the study scope in order to seek more detailed information about:

- « Membership/ participation trends and impacts
- « Facility usage and satisfaction with facilities
- « Essential facility improvements required to increase utilisation and/ or facilities within Newcastle
- « Facility improvements required to meet needs of the club
- « Views on management arrangements (sharing responsibilities, booking and allocation, wet weather closure processes) and any suggested improvements to these

A summary of survey feedback is contained at section 4.6.

### 4.2.1. Major Themes from Sports Workshops

Major themes emerging from consultation with clubs, associations and other stakeholders were as follows:

- « Support for CN in undertaking/ completing this work
- « Uncertainty in future development of Broadmeadow Precinct and flow-on effect to other facility development within the City
- « Current facility issues are standards of amenities, lighting (fit for purpose) and field condition; some fields could be reconfigured resolving conflicts
- « Communication within CN, between CN and clubs is inconsistent and relatively poor – examples provided of different decisions for similar questions/ issues
- « Allocation of facilities to clubs based on historical connections is understood/ supported by some, but for others defies logic as it does not seem to represent the actual demand
- « Perception of the relationship between CN and clubs is one of master/ servant or parent/ child; where CN makes all the decisions and determinations and clubs/ sport have no role/ responsibility in facility works, maintenance.

The most common issues and concerns expressed by sports were:

#### 1. CN Processes/ Communication

- « While some sports had a good relationship with CN, most felt that CN communication was poor. CN is perceived to have an “us and them” approach
- « It can be difficult to access the ‘right’ person in CN to deal with queries
- « Sports have no input into decision-making about setting priorities for sportsground improvements, timing of works, or reviewing plans prior to commencement
- « Poor notification from CN of works about to be undertaken on facilities which impacts on the availability of grounds and conduct of fixtures/ training
- « On occasions sports have had works undertaken at their facility without their knowledge or support
- « Council is seen as not supportive of clubs undertaking their own improvements, apparently due to inflexible risk management and procurement processes
- « Works undertaken by/ for Council are often seen as high cost and poor value for money
- « Where works are proposed by sports, Council’s approval process is cumbersome and not timely
- « Some sports are reluctant to invest in improvements to facilities as they have no security of tenure
- « Fees and charges are high and the basis for the fee structure is not understood
- « An example of a rugby league ground was raised where the club pays a seasonal fee of \$10,000 but only uses the ground one night a week for training and every second weekend for competition
- « Multiple layers of fees are cumbersome. There should be a ‘whole of venue’ flat fee hire fee.
- « New 1-year facility management agreements are seen as onerous and complex (e.g. tennis, netball). They place the onus on clubs to undertake maintenance or repairs (sometimes identified by Council audits) often at considerable cost, with little support from Council, and only short-term tenure
- « There is a perception that some sports are treated more favourably by Council than others.

## 2. Facilities

- « There is need for upgrading of grounds, primarily in respect of:
  - Playing surfaces - drainage/ irrigation
  - Lighting – not available or not at sufficient standard
  - Ground infrastructure – lack of parking, shade or fencing
- « There is a need for upgrading of support amenities – many amenities blocks are old and in poor condition, lack female friendly change rooms, and need better storage facilities,
- « Inner city facilities are mostly at capacity, but there is spare capacity further out
- « Sports with incumbency over grounds get priority and they preserve their main fields for competition use
- « Some sports “work the system” by booking and paying for longer hours at certain grounds to preclude other users
- « Some grounds are under-utilised (a number of sports referred to Wickham Park and/ or the Showgrounds in this regard
- « There are difficulties accessing grounds during season crossovers
- « Cricket and touch have lost access to some fields
- « Master planning/ reconfiguration of some grounds would help to resolve usage conflicts
- « Some sports (eg soccer, AFL, touch, netball, baseball, cycling) find it difficult to access sufficient playing areas for their sport
- « There is a need to develop facilities to service the western corridor
- « Fields recently made available to soccer have been handed over to other sports in poor condition at season end (eg athletics, softball, cricket)

## 3. Pathways

- « There are adequate pathways to elite level in place for most sports.
- « For some sports however, facilities for high level competition are either lacking or not at the desired standard (soccer, AFL, cricket, tennis, netball).
- « Having a home ground for high level competition was generally seen as important
- « There are partnerships in place with the University for some codes
- « The Hunter Academy plays an important role in pathway development for some sports

## 4.3. SECONDARY SPORTS

Three sports were selected to include in the review at a higher level, primarily sports that have limited facility development requirements or utilise facilities that are beyond CN control. These sports were cycling, archery and hockey.

Cycling have experienced strong participation growth in multiple age cohorts. Individual disciplines have differing needs and views:

- « Road cycling have a limited relationship with Council at present. They do not have Council facilities and have recognised the need for another venue/s for road cycling due to the possible loss of an existing location due to safety concerns. Ideally a 2-3 km circuit is required.
- « Good pathways in place from local to elite levels and the ability to hold events and competitions assists with promotion of the sport
- « Events and competitions would increase if there was a suitable location. There is an opportunity to partner with other events e.g. Supercars when the roads are closed with potential to run a cycling event on the Thursday night of this event

Archery has little communication with Council. Newcastle City Archers operates at a facility leased from the State Government, however there are constraints associated with the venue:

- « The lease restricts them from having permanent buildings on site and therefore they have no electricity, toilets and only temporary storage containers on site
- « A club room is their main facility priority which they would be happy to make available for other community uses
- « The club feels that expansion into adjacent land could create a field archery course

At their current venue the club:

- « Delivers coaching services, and year-round training (7-days/ week)
- « Has good pathways in place which have seen some members selected by the AIS to continue with the sport at an elite level
- « Is responsible for, and controls, all site maintenance

Hockey operates solely from the Newcastle International Hockey Centre at Broadmeadow (State government land). This facility has three international class water based artificial hockey fields and further facility upgrades are progressing to achieve an aim to have one of the best facilities in New South Wales. Futsal and football use these facilities for some competition and training activities.

## 4.4. PARK COMMITTEES

Park Committees operate under a s355 arrangement. They take bookings, allocate usage (including to schools), set and collect fees, and pay outgoings and for minor repairs. Representatives feel that their autonomy to improve grounds and amenities has been removed by CN. The number of Parks Committees has reduced from 20+ to 6 and remaining committee members are concerned about being removed from their role and not being valued by CN.

During the progress of the plan development, CN determined to abolish the remaining committees, with the management of sport sites returning to CN.

## 4.5. OTHER EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

### **NSW Office of Sport**

From discussions with regional and head office representatives of the NSW Office of Sport, CN strategic planning for sport is supported. The Greater Newcastle Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan aims to complement the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct concept plan for the Broadmeadow Catalyst Area. The Plan has not been released at this stage.

### **Venues NSW**

A confidential briefing with Venues NSW on the progress of the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct plan in Broadmeadow was received. It is understood that a briefing with the Mayor and CEO will be held within the next two weeks.

### **University of Newcastle**

The University's sporting facilities and services (such as ovals, aquatic centre and gyms) are managed and operated by a separate entity "Newsport" under a lease arrangement. From the university's perspective the main focus is on ensuring the facilities are in good working order. Newcastle Jets train on the main oval under a licence agreement. Newcastle Knights juniors train on other ovals at the university.

Community use of the university's facilities occurs and is supported. Any major developments would require the approval of the university. There are no plans for expansion or redevelopment of sporting facilities at the University at this stage.

### **NSW Department of Education**

From discussions with consultants providing planning advice on sport and recreation facilities to the department, Newcastle High School is expanding to accommodate 1,200 – 1,400 high school students plus 700 primary students. There is an opportunity for CN to enter into a joint use/ shared provision agreement with the Department of Education for the redevelopment of sporting facilities at the school. This could complement CN plans for the broader National Park precinct. The department is flexible in terms of the type of facilities sought by CN and capital and/ or operating contributions are negotiable. The Department is seeking an indication from CN of the type of facilities sought (e.g. they could comprise indoor courts, synthetic playing field or outdoor courts).

The Department would also be open to entering into a partnership with CN in developing facilities at a school in the western corridor.

### **Hunter Academy of Sport**

The Hunter Academy of Sport (HAS) is one of 11 regional academies in NSW, supported by the NSW Institute of Sport, with a primary role to identify and support regionally based athletes with the potential to progress from club level competition to representing the state. The HAS is a not-for-profit organisation governed by a Board, independent of Government, and has been in operation for 30 years.

Through the delivery of functional screening, sport science, strength, conditioning, sport techniques and managing physical growth, athletes are supported in making the transition to high performance and elite levels of their sport, while remaining at home and within their community. While based in Newcastle (Stadium), the HAS works across the 11 local government areas in the Hunter region in approximately 24 sports. Of the primary sports in scope, cricket, croquet and baseball are not currently part of the HAS program. Hunter Sports Academy also works with the Jets Academy and does not have any relationship with local football clubs or the NPL competition/ players.

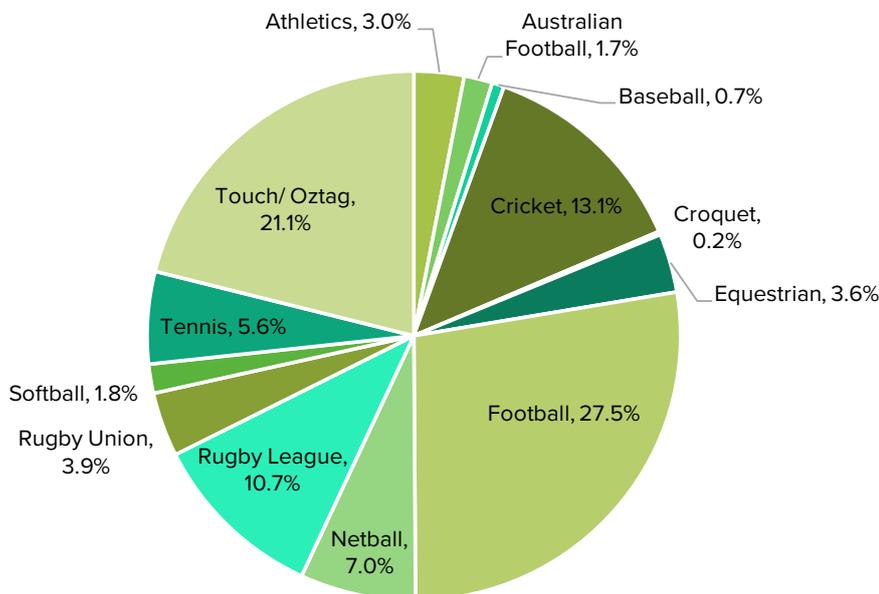
In order to further develop its programs and delivery, the HAS is seeking an indoor centre, with sport courts and studios for testing and education programs. An indoor 3-4 court netball/ basketball facility would suit requirements. The HAS believes that the current basketball stadium needs to be replaced (due to its age and condition) and the HAS would consider applying for the management rights to any new facility that suits their needs as well as catering for other community sport needs. Any new indoor centre c/should be located within a multi-sport facility that is focused on the aspects of sport and athlete development, with less to no emphasis on event capacity or amenities for spectators. Examples cited that demonstrate the model include Windy Hill (Essendon ARFC facility in Melbourne) and the approaches taken by many US Colleges.

## 4.6. SPORTS SURVEY OVERVIEW

### 4.6.1. Sports Participation

From membership data supplied by regional or state sporting bodies, there were approximately 41,790 active participants in the sports within the study scope in 2018. Some of these could participate in more than one sport. From the data provided, football (soccer) accounts for the highest proportion of participants (27.5%) followed by touch/ Oztag (21.1%), cricket (13.1%) and rugby league (10.7%). The proportional breakdown by sport is shown at Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Proportion of Total Active Membership in Sports within Study Scope



### 4.6.2. Facility Needs/ Issues

The most common facility needs and/ or demands expressed by sports in sports surveys were:

- « Inner city facilities are mostly at capacity, but there is spare capacity further out
- « Some grounds are under-utilised (a number of sports referred to Wickham Park and/ or the Showgrounds in this regard
- « There are difficulties accessing grounds during season crossovers
- « Cricket and touch have lost access to some fields
- « Master planning/ reconfiguration of some grounds would help to resolve usage conflicts
- « Some sports (e.g. soccer, AFL, touch, netball, baseball, cycling) find it difficult to access sufficient playing areas for their sport
- « There is a need to develop facilities to service the western corridor
- « Athletics track at National Park too small for major events (only 6 lane)
- « Growth in athletics participation is in non-stadium disciplines/ events (recreational running, parkrun, cross country and trail running), so less need for established/ developed facilities to meet needs/ growth
- « Australian Football clubs are seeking a dedicated venue with multiple fields in one location as central venue for competitions
- « Use of sportsgrounds for major events reduces both availability and quality of facilities for a number of regular sport users
- « Ongoing pressure on cricket clubs to relinquish grounds/ remove cricket pitches for development/ use by other sport codes
- « A number of facilities do not meet the specified state or national facility standards issued by relevant peak organisation, even for local competition as well as higher levels
- « Growth in modified formats of some sports may have an impact on facility development and provision
- « Clubs have aspirations to expand facilities, resolving issues with facility yield, program delivery and long-standing parking/ access difficulties
- « Development of some facilities have resulted in field layouts that compromise their year-round and multiple uses
- « Provision of sport lighting at a number of facilities will improve their utilisation

- « A number of facilities have ageing elements hampering optimal use
- « Cycling have recognised the need for another venue/s for road cycling as they may lose one of the current locations due to safety, accessible and ideally 2-3 km in length
- « The Newcastle International Hockey Centre is in the process of upgrading the surrounding facilities which will make the centre one of the best facilities in New South Wales
- « Development of field archery could be possible through expansion into land adjacent to the current archery field.

A summary of facility needs and issues expressed by individual sports is as follows:

Table 6: Main issues and needs expressed by sports

SPORT	KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS EXPRESSED BY INDIVIDUAL SPORTS
Athletics	Athletics track at National Park too small for major events (only 6 lane); Alder Park is usually in poor condition after hand over from soccer; need for storage shed at Alder Park but club is reluctant to invest as it has no security of tenure and fears being pushed out by football (soccer). Growth in participation is in non-stadium disciplines/ events (recreational running, parkrun, cross country and trail running).
Australian Football	Insufficient access to grounds; No 1 Sportsground needs upgrading as it's too small for major games and has parking/ drainage issues; poor drainage at Bill Elliott; limited access to other fields, none of which have AFL goal posts. The clubs locally are seeking a dedicated venue with multiple fields in one location as central venue for competitions. Participation growth has mainly been in female Australian rules and growth in junior numbers; the introduction of social competition is keeping players on the field longer.
Baseball	Plattsburg Park considered the premier venue in the Hunter. Upgrading of lights will enable mid-week competitions; University Club no longer able to use University field and is seeking a CN ground, new/ additional baseball diamond; Stevenson Park diamond is used year round (softball) leaving little opportunity for playing surface repair and refurbishment Participation numbers are growing each year, including females; the nature of the game also allows players to play through later life stages.
Cricket	Lost access to 20 grounds over last two decades. Ongoing pressure to relinquish grounds/ remove cricket pitches; impacted by shared use of grounds (e.g. Smith Park); Super cars event has severe impact on cricket at No 1 Sportsground; indicated desire for dedicated venue for women's cricket; poor standard of amenities, drainage/ irrigation, and lighting at a number of grounds. A number of venues where facilities are below the standards outlined by Cricket Australia and others where standards are now met due to recent upgrades were cited. Participation is growing due to introduction of modified formats and growth in female participation. Modified format games are being played mid-week/ twilight and evenings.
Croquet	No parking or lights; have some uncertainty about their facility/ location future. Their aspiration is to convert 1 or 2 courts to car parking and develop new green(s) on adjacent tennis court (possibly synthetic surface, covered, and floodlit); seeking 6 courts in total; attract corporate and mid-week evening play. Development of new formats to attract young people;
Equestrian	Only one facility within the LGA; with limited other options. Costs of participation in equestrian sports is holding numbers down.
Football (soccer)	Most common facility needs are improved irrigation/ drainage, lights and more female-friendly change rooms; identified grounds in need of upgrading are Smith Park and Adamstown 2-5; with these having the potential to create well-functioning multi-sport hub/ sites; some clubs at or over capacity while others have spare capacity (but further away from town centre); many facilities have cricket pitches in middle of fields; some clubs try to preserve main fields for competition and train on other fields; mixed views on the extent to which appropriately located synthetic fields would improve training needs. Participation growth generally, including in girls and women.

SPORT	KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS EXPRESSED BY INDIVIDUAL SPORTS
Netball	<p>Main needs at National Park are for additional/ upgraded lighting, additional parking, upgrading of existing ancillary amenities block, and an additional ancillary amenities block; in order to stage state championships an additional 2 courts required at National Park (32 courts needed)</p> <p>Club (training) courts in poor condition with little or no amenities or storage</p> <p>Access to indoor sports courts for higher level competitions and training. Existing indoor basketball courts are poor quality and booked out</p> <p>Participation is generally static; some assign decline to growth of female options in other sport codes</p>
Rugby League	<p>Grounds and amenities need upgrading for players and spectators; identified facility improvements are Waratah Park (drainage and underutilised); Kentish and Ford Ovals (upgrade playing surface); Grange/ Maryland (upgrade playing surface and amenities); master planning or reconfiguring of some fields would resolve usage conflicts; North Newcastle RLFC has indicated that the club has been invited to re-join the district comp in 2020, so will need an enclosed ground.</p> <p>Very high growth in membership in recent years, principally among juniors and senior females.</p>
Rugby Union	<p>In general grounds need upgraded amenities/ change rooms, shade, improve signage, and better parking; identified facility improvements were seen as Waratah Park (increase parking, improve amenities and storage); Empire Park (improve lighting and storage); Dangar Park (ageing facilities need to be replaced); Gibbs Bros Oval (playing field smaller than standard, only has a grassed hill for spectators, canteen is too small with poor visibility to field); improved grounds maintenance will improve resilience.</p> <p>Participation growing through female competitions and improved development at grass roots level</p>
Softball	<p>Need for lighting of No 1 and No 2 diamonds to enable expansion of competition and capacity to host events, confirming role of Stevenson Park as high-quality softball and multi-sport site; additional safety fencing on No 2 diamond; more shade and storage.</p> <p>Participation is increasing – promotion and local player successful at high levels</p>
Tennis	<p>Court hiring has declined; clubs concerned about onerous new 1-year facility management agreements. Difficult to understand and clubs liable for repairs identified in CN audits with limited tenure; main facility priority is to update District Park courts as the main tennis venue. Other courts need upgraded playing surfaces and lighting. Clubs are aware of and plan for cyclic court resurfacing.</p> <p>Participation is generally low.</p>
Touch/ Oztag	<p>Smith Park grounds and amenities are in poor condition. Lighting at Smith Park would enable competition to be expanded/ extended. Wallsend Touch has lost fields at Upper Wallsend due to Hunter Water maintenance works and these have not been returned. Existing clubs have limited to no capacity for expansion without access to additional fields.; parking is a major issue at Upper Reserve (accessed via residential streets).</p> <p>Growth in participation is strong with summer season being the strongest Oztag season (off-season fitness).</p>

## 5. SPORT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

This section provides detailed information relating to the sports within the study scope sourced from survey findings, CN data, State and Regional Sporting bodies, and analysis of participation data. It includes:

- « Current and historic membership
- « Participation trends
- « Sport development pathway
- « Facility usage
- « Facility issues/ demands expressed by the sport

### 5.1. ATHLETICS

Athletics is operated by nine athletics clubs. Some venues are solely for Little Athletics and some are arranged around running events only (refer Table 7). The one synthetic athletics track is centrally located, but not state/ national standard (only 6 lanes). The nearest regional athletics facility located in the Hunter is located at Glendale (Lake Macquarie City Council) 18kms from the Newcastle CBD.

#### 5.1.1. Development Pathway

Athletics NSW has a talent identification and training program with entry tied to selection criteria (times, distances etc) for all track and field disciplines. Locally the pathway for Athletics is through to the Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale (district and country athletics).



## 5.1.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by clubs is outlined at Table 7. Athletics NSW data (including Little Athletics) indicates that the membership of Newcastle-based clubs is 1,269. The reported membership represents 0.79% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>9</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 14.7% of adults and 7.7% of children in NSW reported participating in Athletics; which in the AusPlay survey includes jogging/ running, taking some account of the participation in non-stadium events as outlined by the clubs.

Table 7: Athletics Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY ATHLETICS
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Adamstown New Lambton Athletics Club	342	220	-122	« Overall participation rates are dropping. Little advertising, variable support from state governing body and major local disruptions could be contributing to this. This affects local clubs' viability and self-sustainability.
Kotara South		349		« One senior club is now affiliated with Athletics NSW, providing an additional pathway for athletes to remain in the club and the sport, with a small but steadily growing contingent of seniors. « Only the more experienced athletes are going on; the 'also-rans' losing interest too easily.
Newcastle City		207		« Park Runners, School Sports athletics, and footballers use the specific Athletics Facilities in the LGA for their training. The numbers reported in this survey do not reflect the true representation of participation in the "sport of Athletics". The desire to participate in free sport has increased but they still require infrastructure.
Newcastle Flyers Runners Club Inc		139		« Recreational Running Park Runs and XC and trail races means there is a growing trend for also out of Stadia events. « A Newcastle Marathon on the roads is difficult to organise, however is an enormous opportunity for high volume tourism. A marathon would however require a road or suitable wide enough foot bike roads to accommodate 42.1km
Newcastle Grammar School				« Adamstown New Lambton lost numbers when important work for the soccer field had to occur in soccer's off season which interfered with the Athletics Club season. They had to move their summer season to Wallsend and have lost members/full families as the relocation meant only 20 athletes were going across to Wallsend for club night compared to 300 at Adamstown New Lambton venue.
Newcastle Runners Incorporated		9		
Newcastle Veterans Athletics Club		30		« There is an emerging trend with having difficulty in getting participants to venues for courses away from their clubs due to convenience, being regional (cost and accommodation) and people have limited time. There is a desire to have training for coaches and officials at their club venue. The nature of the training requires participants to be in "theory" sessions with AV required and "on field" practical activities. If the facilities have suitable meeting rooms, clubs/ centres will be able to increase the number of coaches, officials participating in the sport, also capacity to train school teachers.
Stockton Little Athletics Centre Inc	75	84	+9	
Wallsend Athletics Club	271	205	-66	« Out of Stadium events are an emerging problem with cost of hiring parks for cross country e.g. Shortland wetlands Jesmond. It would be helpful removing the barriers/ difficulties for organisers to conduct marathons which are a major tourism opportunity.

<sup>9</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

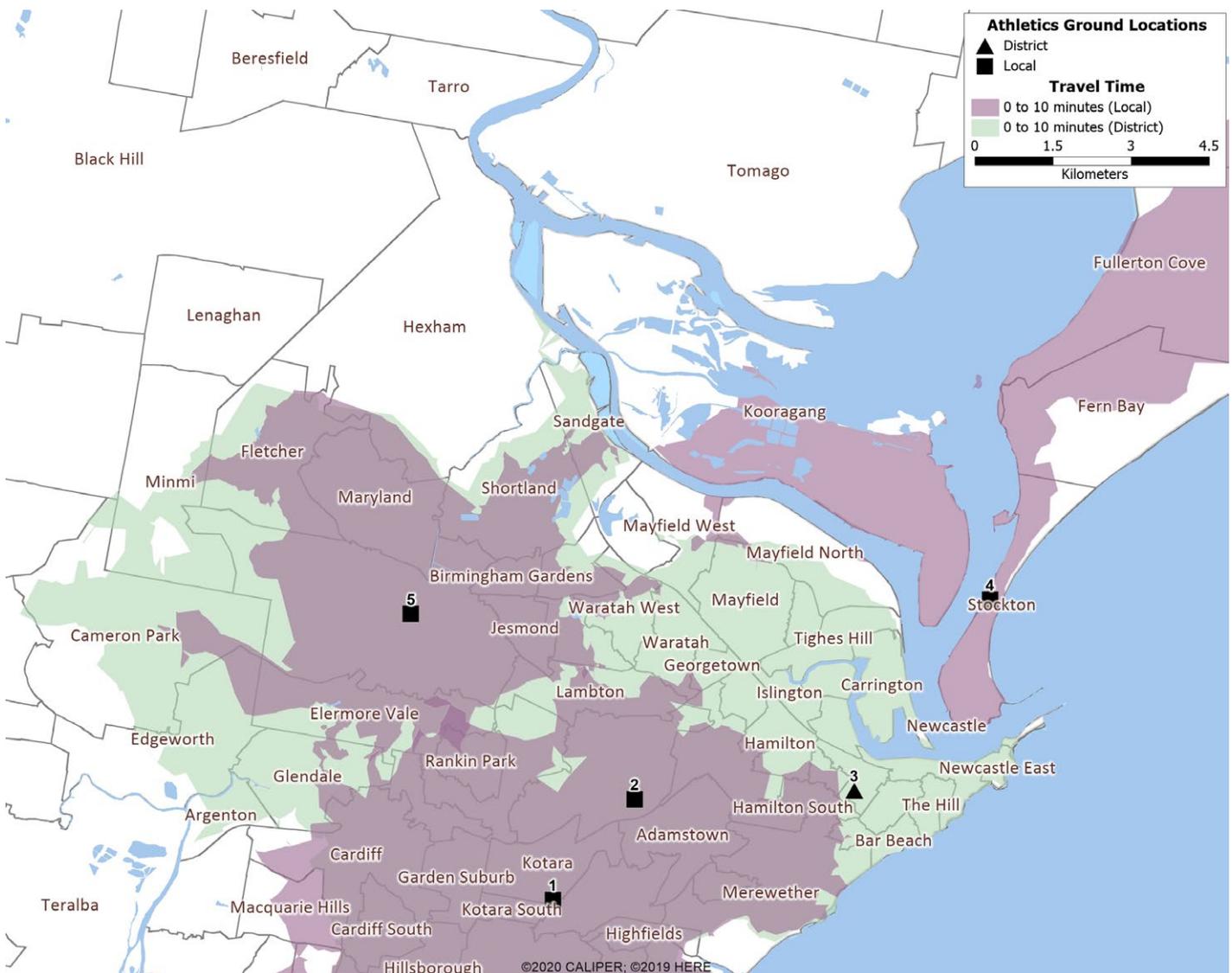
### 5.1.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and includes information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 8: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Athletics

FACILITY	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 2 ID
Alder Park	Bridges Rd, New Lambton	Local	2
Corroba Oval	Fullerton St, Stockton	Local	4
Federal Park	Boscawen St, Wallsend	Local	5
National Park Athletics Track (synthetic)	Union St, Newcastle West	District	3
Nesbitt Park	1 Casey Ave, Kotara	Local	1

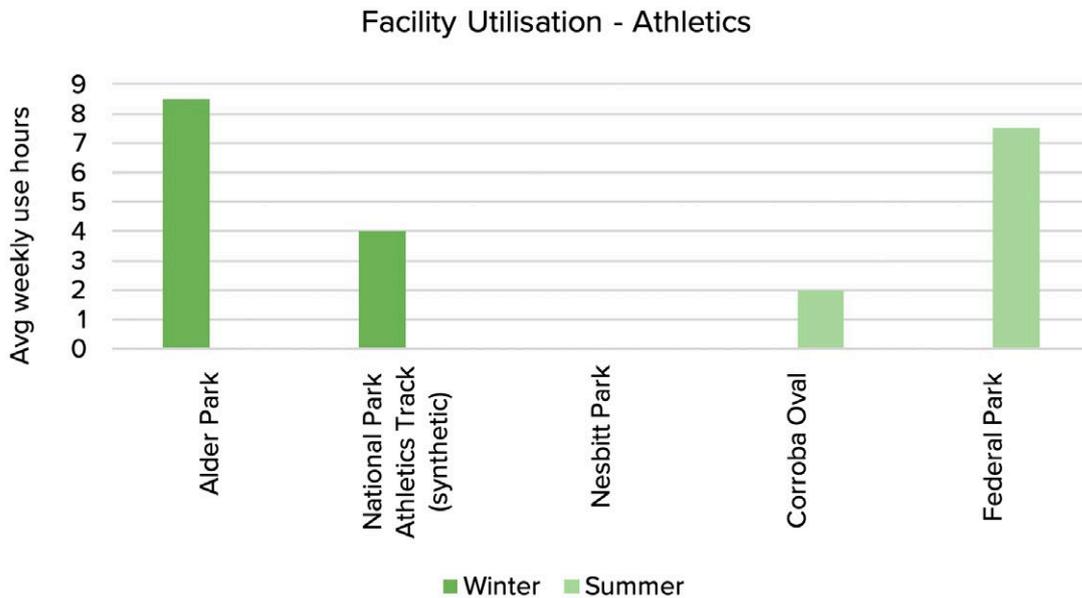
Map 2: Distribution of Athletics facilities/ Little Athletics centres



### 5.1.4. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for athletics facilities has been provided, this is represented in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Athletics facilities



### 5.1.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Athletics

- « Athletics track at National Park too small for major events (only 6 lane); both sports e.g. Soccer and Athletics cannot operate at the same time.
- « Alder Park is a reasonable space, that usually has season overlap with football (pre-season training) which has resulted in the field being in poor condition after hand
- « Need for storage shed at Alder Park but club is reluctant to invest as it has no security of tenure and fears being pushed out by football (soccer); Corroba Oval requires updated toilet facility and more car parking
- « Athletics is a collection of sporting events that involve competitive running, jumping, throwing, cross country running, and race walking. With the increase in events to encourage inclusion facilities will need to be updated to accommodate these people.
- « Squatters and drugs at all facilities in Newcastle are a concern. Especially the facilities that are not fully enclosed. Long jump pits are costly to cover however a necessity to keep the athletes safe from dangerous items buried in the sand.
- « Kotara South has limited space due to sharing ground with cricket. Their numbers are just under 400 a night and they require additional throws areas and long jump pits but there is nowhere to really position the additional activities.
- « Facilities need to be planned near public transport. An adult can get themselves to a track in their car but with more parents working, the young people or aging officials rely on public transport. None of the Athletics Tracks are on transport routes.
- « Enough space (footprint) is extremely important when planning an athletics facility. The layout is important for safety and capacity to conduct full event programs. If the atmosphere has an exciting engaging stadium feel, athletes are more likely to engage, participation increases and spectators have a more enjoyable experience.

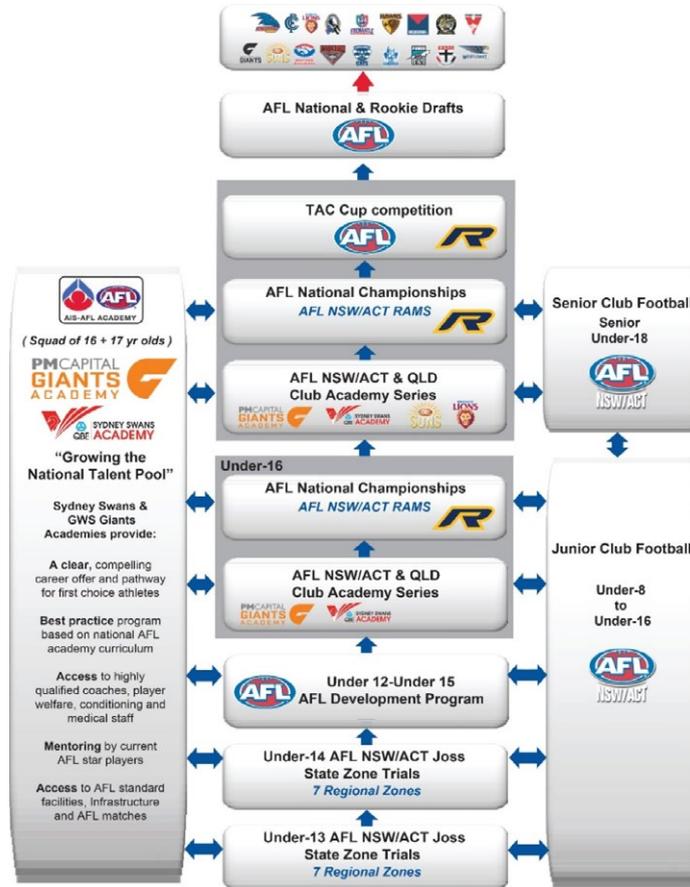
## 5.2. AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

Australian Rules Football (ARF) in Newcastle comprises seven clubs (refer Table 9).

### 5.2.1. Development Pathway

The development pathway is illustrated at Figure 5.

Figure 5: Diagram showing Australian Rules development pathway in NSW



### 5.2.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by clubs is outlined at Table 9. AFL NSW/ACT data indicates that 607 registered players reside in Newcastle, while the affiliated clubs have a combined membership of 718. This reported player membership represents 0.45% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>10</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 2.9% of adults and 8.1% of children nationally reported participating in Australian Rules.

Table 9: Australian Rules Football Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Black Diamond AFL				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« In general, much greater female participation and junior growth in AFL.</li> <li>« Club is promoting and gaining more younger (still over 35) playing members. Advent of the AFL HCC social comp in 2019 is assisting that.</li> <li>« There are currently not enough AFL grounds in the LGA to cater for the growth of AFL.</li> <li>« Additionally, with the exponential growth of female AFL, the lack of female friendly amenities can be a barrier.</li> <li>« Newcastle City AFL Club don't get much training access to their home ground at No 1 Sportsground.</li> </ul>
Hunter Masters AFL	59	62	+3	
Newcastle City AFC				
Newcastle City AFL 9's				
Newcastle City Junior Australian Football Club				
QBE Sydney Swans Academy				
Wallsend District Junior Australian Football Club	67	144	+77	

<sup>10</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

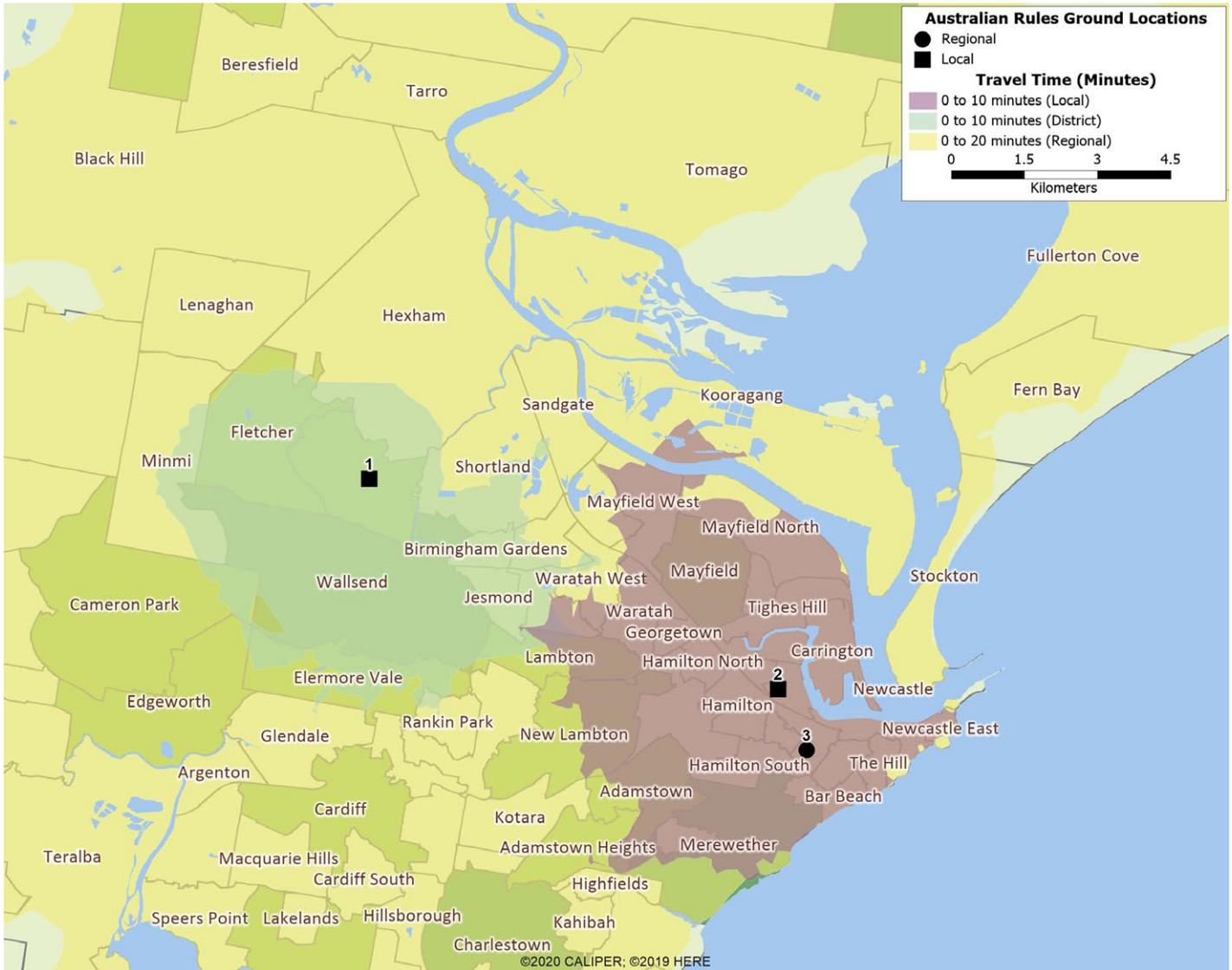
### 5.2.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and added to with facilities as they were found; this CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 10: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Australian Rules

FACILITY	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 3 ID
Bill Elliot Oval	Maryland Dr, Maryland	Local	1
Hawkins Oval	Albert St, Wickham	Local	2
National Park No 1	Parry St, Newcastle West	Regional	3

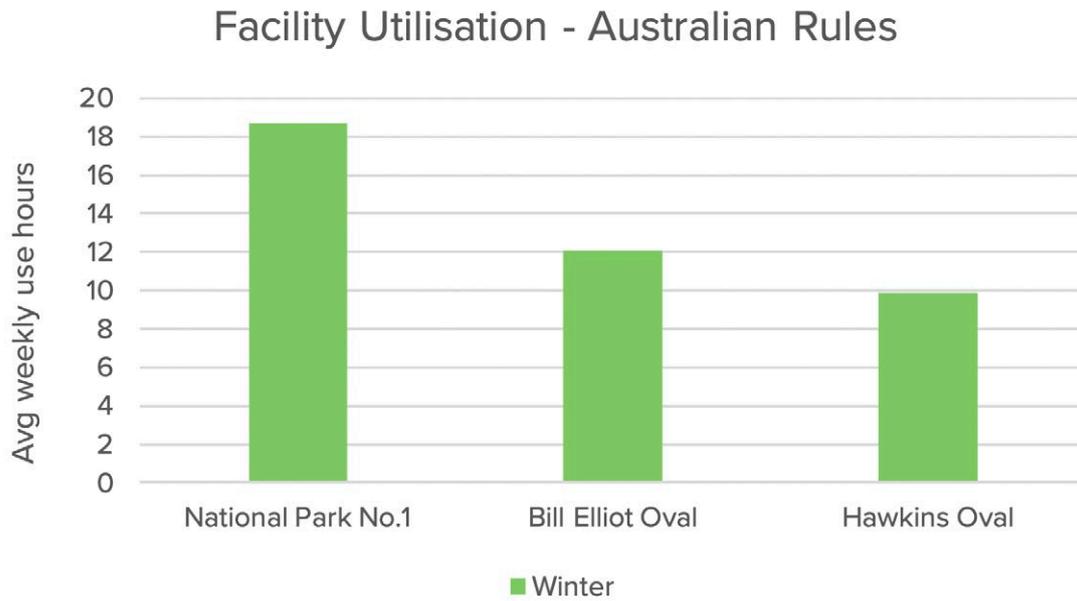
Map 3: Distribution of Australian Rules facilities



### 5.2.4. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for the ARF facilities has been provided, this is represented in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Australian Rules Football facilities



### 5.2.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by AFL

Australian Rules football is growing, which is being felt in juniors and exponentially in women, with Masters and social competitions growing in popularity. Clubs indicated having limited access to multi-use grounds and the grounds that are allocated to the sport are unable to accommodate the growth.

In response, some clubs are staggering training nights and times to accommodate as many players as possible. The clubs indicated that a 'centre or home' for Australian rules football is required and identified the showgrounds as an underutilised resource. This 'centre/ home' ideally would have multiple fields in one location and be used as central venue for competitions.

High level pre-season/ NEAFL games cannot be held at National Park No1, due to non-compliant ground dimensions.

### 5.3. BASEBALL

Competition amongst the numerous clubs located across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Port Stephens local government areas is coordinated by the Newcastle Baseball Association. There are three clubs (refer Table 11) operating from two main facilities.

#### 5.3.1. Development Pathway

The athlete player development pathway is from the local clubs through the baseball program offered at Hunter Sports High<sup>11</sup> (Gateshead) and to Country Baseball NSW country championships and State Cup for Little League.

#### 5.3.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by clubs is outlined at Table 11. The reported membership of 309 represents 0.19% of the CN population participating in Baseball, while the AusPlay<sup>12</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 0.3% of adults and 0.5% of the adult male population; 0.8% of children and 1.1%<sup>13</sup> of male children, nationally reported participating in baseball.

Table 11: Baseball Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY BASEBALL
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Mayfield Boomerangs Baseball Club Inc	100	134	+34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Baseball is attracting more junior players over recent years and continues to grow each season. There has also been an increase in numbers of females of both junior and senior age groups playing interested.</li> <li>« Also seeing increased interest from people with minor disabilities who may be precluded from other sports. These trends appear to be due to baseball being a competitive sport as well as one that all levels of skill can play as well as being a great spectator sport.</li> <li>« The path to earning a living playing baseball is becoming clearer. For that reason, many junior players also play summer ball in Sydney/ Gosford</li> </ul>
Newcastle University Baseball Club	42	58	+16	
White Sox Baseball Club	60	117	+57	

<sup>11</sup> Hunter Sports High School's targeted sports include Australian Rules Football, Athletics, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Girls Rugby Union, Swimming, Tennis and Touch Football.

<sup>12</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

<sup>13</sup> This estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution

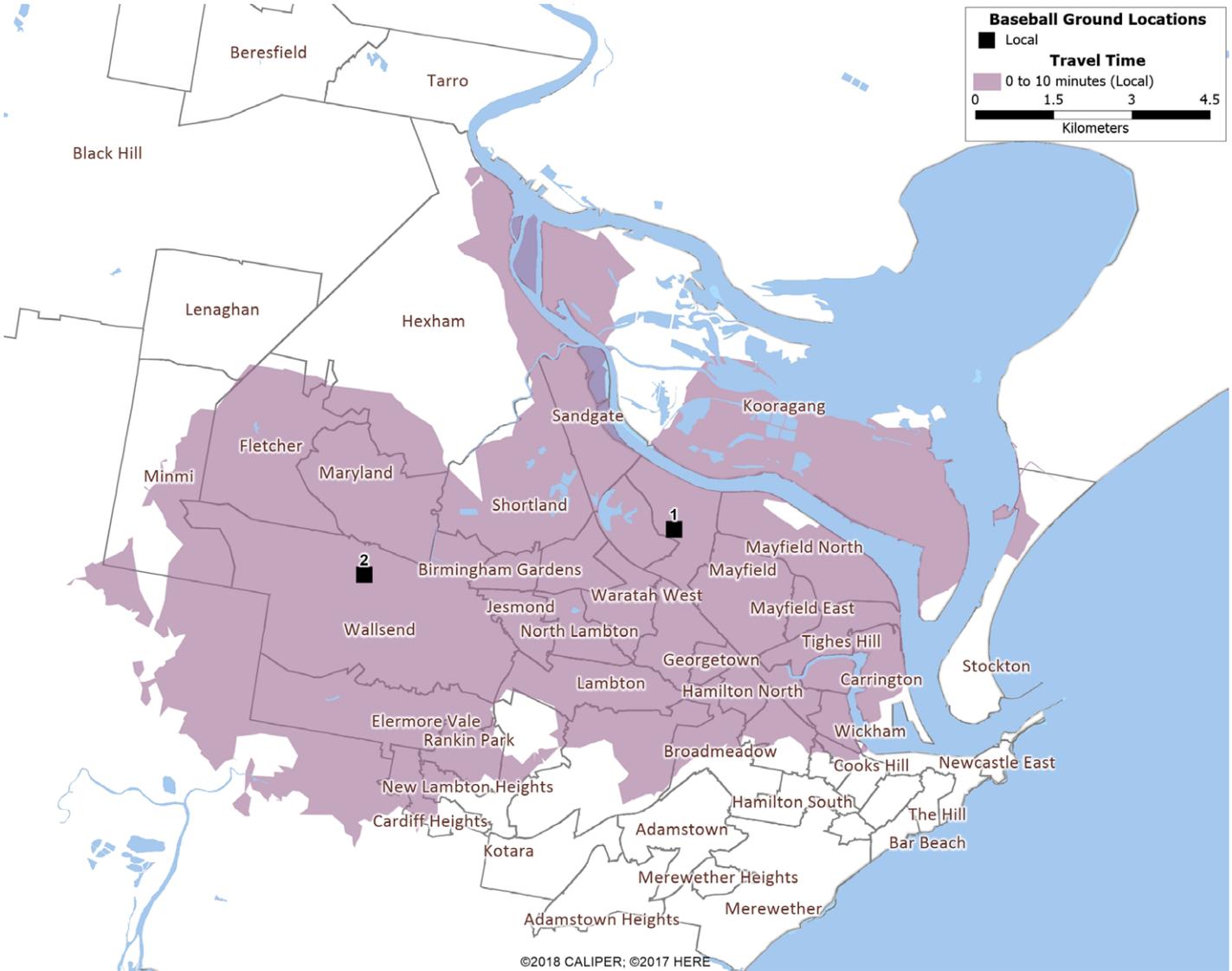
### 5.3.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN; this CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 12: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Baseball

FACILITY	NO OF DIAMONDS	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 4 ID
Stevenson Park Baseball	1	Stevenson Ave, Mayfield West	Local	1
Col Curran/Plattsburg No 1	1	70 Hope St, Wallsend	Local	2

Map 4: Distribution of baseball facilities

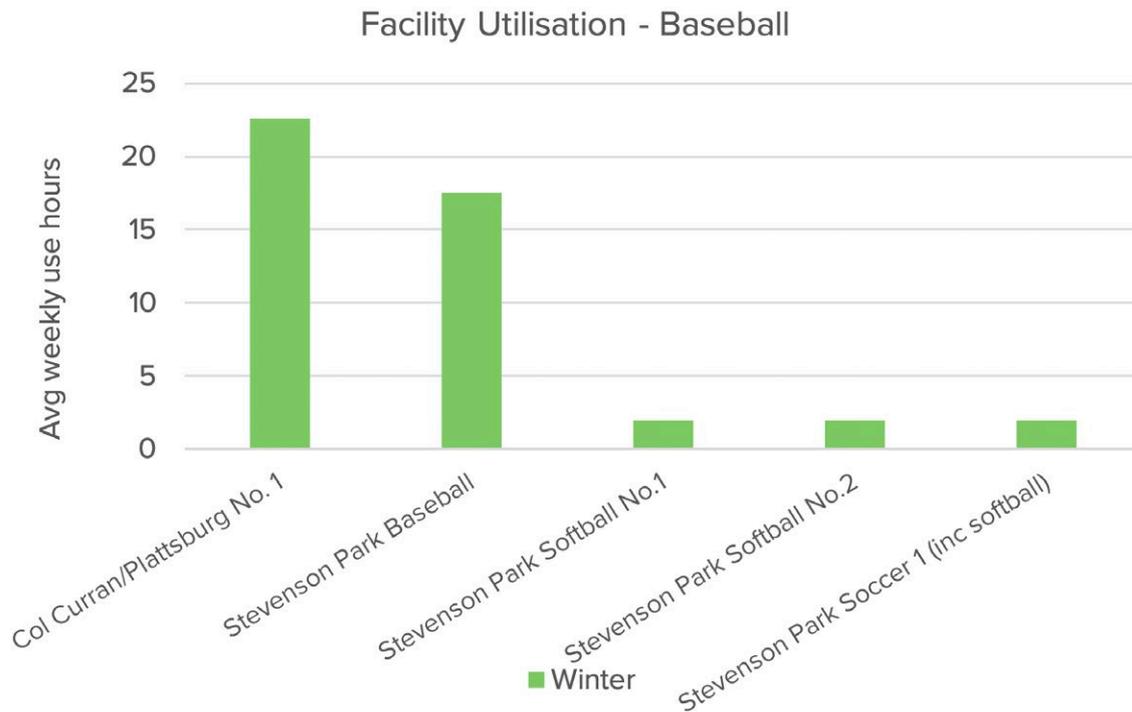


There are two baseball competition diamonds, located approx. 9km from each other in the central/ western area of the City. One of these, at Wallsend, has been recently developed by CN and the club indicates that the facility has become important for the sport in the Newcastle-Hunter area since commencing operation for the 2015 season.

### 5.3.4. Facility Utilisation

Clubs provided information on the average weekly hours of use for baseball facilities; this is represented in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Baseball facilities



### 5.3.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Baseball

- « Plattsburg Park is considered the premier baseball facility in the Hunter and has hosted grand finals. This new facility has resulted in membership growth, particularly in the juniors.
- « Diamonds are not lit for night-time training or competition and both resident clubs believe that twilight/ mid-weeknight competitions could boost participation in the sport;
- « Protective screening at both facilities require attention to ensure that they are fit-for-purpose.
- « The Stevenson Park facility is used year-round; softball in baseball off-season; maintenance of this field should reflect this year-round use to maintain quality.
- « A facility at the University of Newcastle has recently been removed, leaving the resident club without a home facility
- « The Stevenson Park facility has a dedicated batting tunnel for training, but this requires upgrading and enclosing; a similar facility is planned for installation at the Wallsend facility.
- « Amenities require attention at Plattsburg and Stevenson Park; neither are at standard for the level of use

## 5.4. CRICKET

Cricket in Newcastle is coordinated by three associations and comprises seven clubs (refer Table 13). It is played on 77 ovals/ fields across 48 venues.

### 5.4.1. Development Pathway

The player development pathway is defined by Cricket Australia<sup>14</sup> as 'Backyard to Baggy Green':

Elite & Mastery	The Baggy Green: Australian Teams
Talent	Breakthrough: Australia A & CBA Shooting Stars
	Strong Performances: National senior competitions
	Skill & Determination: National 2nd tier competition & performance program
Foundation	Potential is Identified: Premier 1sts, National youth competitions & programs
	Playing & Competing: Junior & senior competition
	Learning the Skills: Woolworths Cricket Blast
	Get Moving: Barbecues, backyards & beaches

#### The Principles of the Pathway are:

1. Focus is on enhancing players enjoyment and retention by:
  - a. Encouraging players to compete at their skill level (age is indicative only)
  - b. Graduated player numbers to increase activity levels for all players by providing more space on field and game opportunities
  - c. Graduated complexity of match formats to support skill development
  - d. Providing options of game duration to suit players and families
2. Consistent formats are aligned to the Australian Cricket Pathway competency framework.
3. Representative cricket is designed to stretch the best players. This includes inter-association, Regional, State and National Championships
4. Coach development, accreditation and skills are aligned to the formats and level of the player
5. Coaching resources are consistent with the Australian Cricket Pathway framework and support development of player skills throughout the formats
6. Female pathways can use same formats however the progression may be different depending on experience and numbers of players

<sup>14</sup> Source: <https://www.community.cricket.com.au/australian-cricket-pathway>

## 5.4.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 13. Cricket NSW data indicates that affiliated clubs have a combined membership of 8,092. This reported player membership represents 5.03% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>18</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 2.4% of adults and 3.9% of children in NSW reported participating in Cricket.

Table 13: Cricket Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY CRICKET
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Newcastle Zone Cricket (Newcastle Jnr Cricket Assoc)	2,024	2,046	+22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Female participation numbers are growing heavily – increase across all age groups</li> <li>« Modified formats – for entry level participation and social matches leading to increased midweek, twilight/night-time use and broadening use of facilities across the week, beyond traditional ‘Saturday’ timeslots</li> <li>« Modified junior cricket formats – using variable pitch lengths and new facilities standards mean aged existing facilities may not accommodate new formats</li> <li>« New cricket match formats such as T20 Cricket provide for increased match play, tournament style carnival play and more intensive use of fields</li> <li>« Loss of cricket pitches and fields, through master planning or reallocation, failure to replace ageing infrastructure – increased pressure on existing facilities</li> <li>« Cannot commit to 2-day cricket and can only play every 2nd Saturday, or 1 in 4.</li> <li>« For the 5-10 age group, participation primarily occurs mid-week, between 4.30pm - 7.30pm. These programs provide a short timeframe to develop skills and play the game (60-90min) and they are ‘term-based’.</li> <li>« Through the Sixers Girls Cricket League (9-14 yrs) seeing competitions played Friday twilight in ‘term-based’ entry level cricket programs (Cricket Blast).</li> <li>« Now seeing a much younger player(s) coming into grade ranks to participate in Saturday afternoon Senior Grade Cricket competitions.</li> <li>« Players/parents time poor, difficulty in committing each week. More infrequent demand for midweek sports.</li> <li>« Trends seem to be that players are drifting away from cricket as a whole. Have seen numbers of players remain relatively the same, however players are not committed to play the full season, preferring to be available on an intermittent basis.</li> </ul>
Newcastle District Cricket Association	600	610	+10	
Newcastle City & Suburban Cricket Association	3,500	2,800	-700	
Hamilton Wickham District Cricket Club,		260	+38	
Last Man Stands				
Merewether District Cricket Club	90	105	+15	
Newcastle City & Eastern District Cricket Club				
Stockton Cricket Club	115	135	+20	
Wallsend District Cricket Club	80	96	+16	
Waratah- Mayfield District Cricket Club				

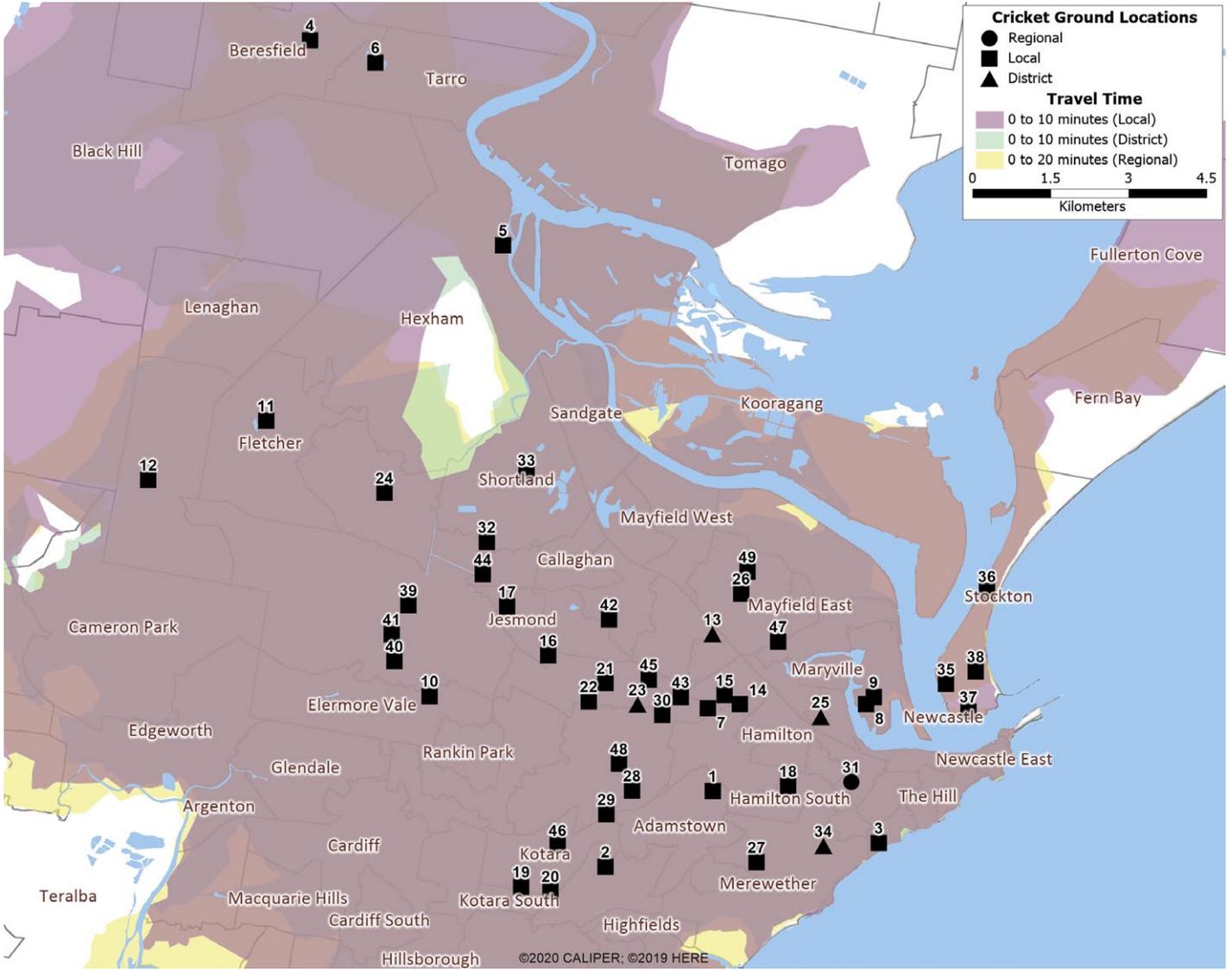
### 5.4.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and added to with facilities as they were found; this CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 14: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory - Cricket

FACILITY	NO OF OVALS	PITCH TYPE	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 5 ID
Adamstown Park	5	2x turf, 3x syn; 3x prac	506 Glebe Rd, Adamstown	Local	1
Alder Park	1	Synthetic	Bridges Rd, New Lambton	Local	28
Ballast Oval	2	1x turf, 1x syn	Fullerton St, Stockton	Local	35
Bill Elliot Oval	1	Turf	Maryland Dr, Maryland	Local	24
Blackley	1	Synthetic	Turton Rd, Lambton	Local	43
Connolly Park	1	Turf	Cowper St, Carrington	Local	8
Cook Park	1	Turf	Macarthur St, Shortland	Local	32
Corroba Oval	1	Synthetic	Fullerton St, Stockton	Local	36
Elernmore Vale Reserve	1	Synthetic	Croudace Rd, Elernmore Vale	Local	0
Empire Park	1	Turf; 3x prac	107-109 Memorial Drive, Bar Beach	Local	3
Federal Park	3	Syn; 2x prac	Boscawen St, Wallsend	Local	39
Griffith Park	1	Turf	3A Hunter St, Stockton	Local	37
Harold Myers Oval	1	Concrete	Sandgate Rd, Birmingham Gardens	Local	44
Heaton Park	2	Synthetic	Mordue Pde, Jesmond	Local	17
Hexham Park	1	Turf; 2x prac	Old Maitland Rd, Hexham	Local	5
Hudson Park	2	Turf; Syn	62 Lexington Pde, Adamstown Heights	Local	2
Islington Park	1	Turf	Maitland Rd, Mayfield	Local	26
Jesmond Park	1	Turf	Robinson Ave, Jesmond	Local	16
Johnson Park	1	Synthetic	10 Bindera Rd, Lambton	Local	45
Kotara Park	1	Concrete	2 Howell St, Kotara	Local	46
Kurraka Oval	1	Synthetic	Kurraka Dr, Fletcher	Local	11
Lambton Park	2	Turf; Syn; 2x prac	Lloyd Rd, Lambton	Local	21
Learmonth Park	1	Turf	Gordon Ave, Hamilton South	Local	18
Lewis Oval	1	Synthetic	27 Grainger St, Lambton	Local	22
Lindsay Memorial Oval	1	Turf	Anderson Ave, Beresfield	Local	4
Litchfield Park	2	Synthetic	Myola St, Mayfield	Local	47
Lugar Park	1	Turf; 3x prac	35 Moruya Pde, Kotara	Local	19
Lynn Oval	1	Turf; 2x prac	Mitchell St, Stockton	Local	38
Minmi Sports Ground	1	Syn; 2x prac	Woodford St, Minmi	Local	12
Mitchell Park	1	Turf	Berner St, Mereweather	District	34
Myambalah Crescent Oval	1	Synthetic	Myambalah Cres, Mereweather	Local	27
National Park	3	Turf; 2x prac	Parry St, Newcastle West	Regional	31
Nesbitt Park	1	Synthetic	1 Casey Ave, Kotara	Local	20
New Lambton Park	3	2x turf; 1x syn; 4x prac	Womboin Rd, Lambton	Local	23
Novocastrian Park	1	Synthetic	Orchardtown Rd, New Lambton	Local	29
Pat Jordan Oval	1	Turf	1A Cowper St, Carrington	Local	9
Regent Park	1	Synthetic	Regent St, New Lambton	Local	48
Richardson Park	1	Synthetic	Chatham Rd, Hamilton North	Local	14
Smith Park	3	Synthetic	Boreas Rd, Hamilton North	Local	15
Tarro Reserve	2	Synthetic	Anderson Dr, Tarro	Local	6
Thomas Percy Oval	1	Synthetic	Allowah St, Waratah West	Local	42
Tuxford Park	3	1x turf; 2x syn	King St, Shortland	Local	33
Upper Reserve	3	Synthetic	Lake Rd, Wallsend	Local	40
Wallarrah Oval	2	Synthetic	Wallarrah Rd, New Lambton	Local	30
Wallsend Park	2	Turf; 2x prac	Lewis St, Wallsend	Local	41
Wanderers Park	1	Concrete	1/50 Denney St, Broadmeadow	Local	7
Waratah Park	4	2x turf; 2x syn; 2x prac	2A Young St, Waratah	District	13
Wickham Park	3	2x turf; 1x syn	Albert St, Wickham	Local	25

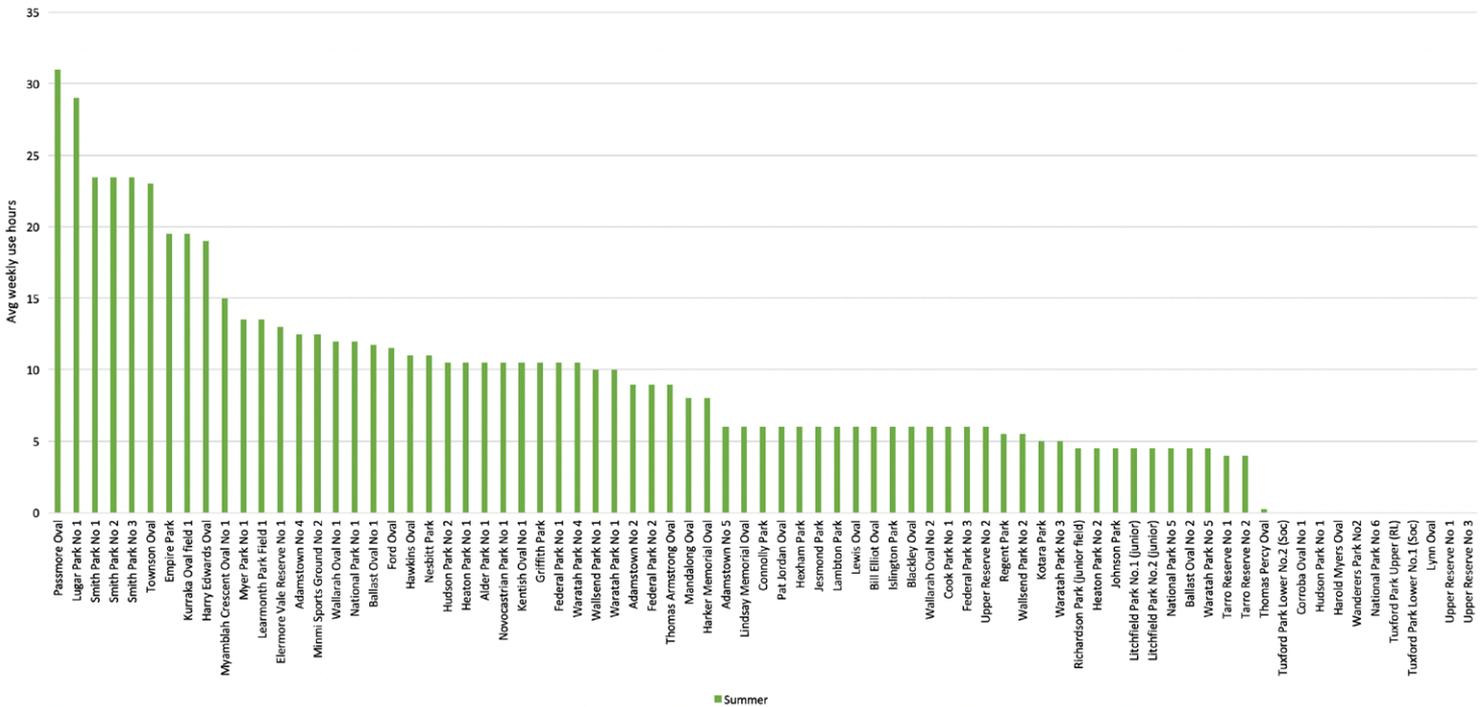
Map 5: Distribution of Cricket facilities



### 5.4.4. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for Cricket facilities has been provided, this is represented in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Cricket facilities



### 5.4.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Cricket

- « Lost access to 20 grounds over last two decades. Ongoing pressure to relinquish grounds/ remove cricket pitches
- « Impacted by shared use of grounds (e.g. Smith Park)
- « Super cars event has severe impact on cricket at No 1 Sportsground
- « Need for dedicated venue for women’s cricket
- « Standard of amenities, drainage/ irrigation, and lighting need upgrading at a number of grounds. A number of venues where facilities are below the standards outlined by Cricket Australia and others where standards are now met due to recent upgrades were cited.

## 5.5. CROQUET

Croquet in Newcastle comprises a number of the sport disciplines (Association, Golf, Ricochet and Gateball) operated by the Newcastle National Park Croquet Club at a four-green facility in National Park.

The Croquet NSW pathway program is Player Pathway to Excellence Programme (PPEP), enabling progression from social and club competition to state standard.

The reported membership of 88 represents 0.05% of the CN population participating in Croquet, while the AusPlay<sup>15</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 0.1%<sup>16</sup> of adults nationally reported participating in croquet.

There is one four-green facility in Newcastle, classified as District level in the current facility hierarchy. The club's greens are in use for approximately 40 hours per week throughout the year. The club advises that installing lights for play would assist with growing their membership by providing week night play.

From the consultation undertaken facility issues/ demands expressed by croquet are:

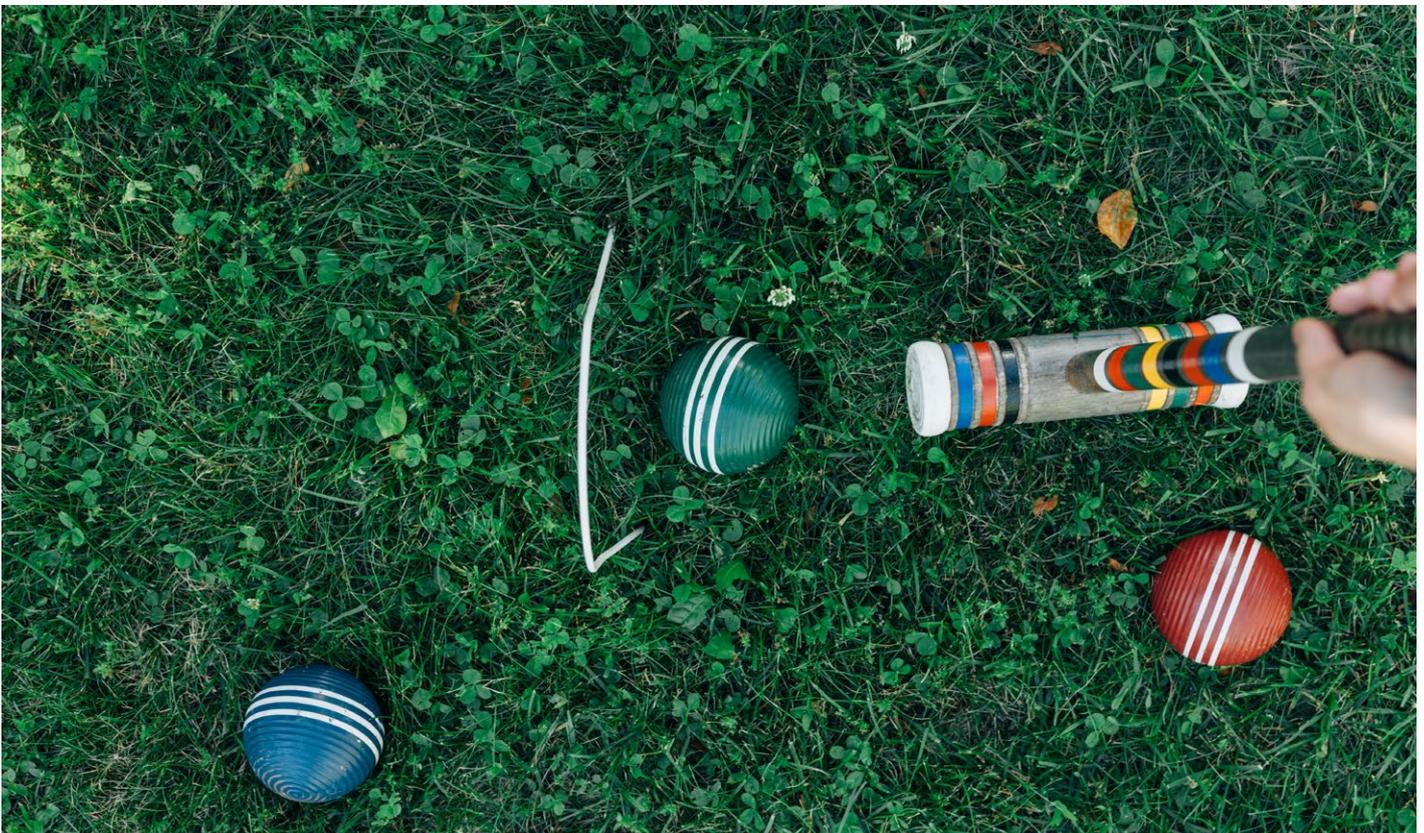
- « No parking or lights which poses a challenge due to age of players/ volunteers
- « Have some uncertainty about their future. Their aspiration is to convert 1 or 2 courts to car parking and develop new green(s) on adjacent tennis court (possibly synthetic surface, covered, and floodlit); seeking 6 greens in total.

## 5.6. EQUESTRIAN

Equestrian options for Newcastle residents primarily exist beyond the city boundaries, although one pony club operates at Fletcher Park (which is also referred to as Creek Road Maryland, a site that has been identified for redevelopment of a range of sport facilities). As a specialist facility, the majority of grounds maintenance is completed by the club.

Membership data provided varies widely. Data from the state association indicates membership of 1,500 which represents 0.93% of the CN population.

Survey information indicated that equestrian activities are poorly serviced in Newcastle as there is no covered/ indoor training facilities or national standard facilities. Equestrian centres in surrounding LGAs and in Sydney cater for higher level events.



<sup>15</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

<sup>16</sup> This estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution

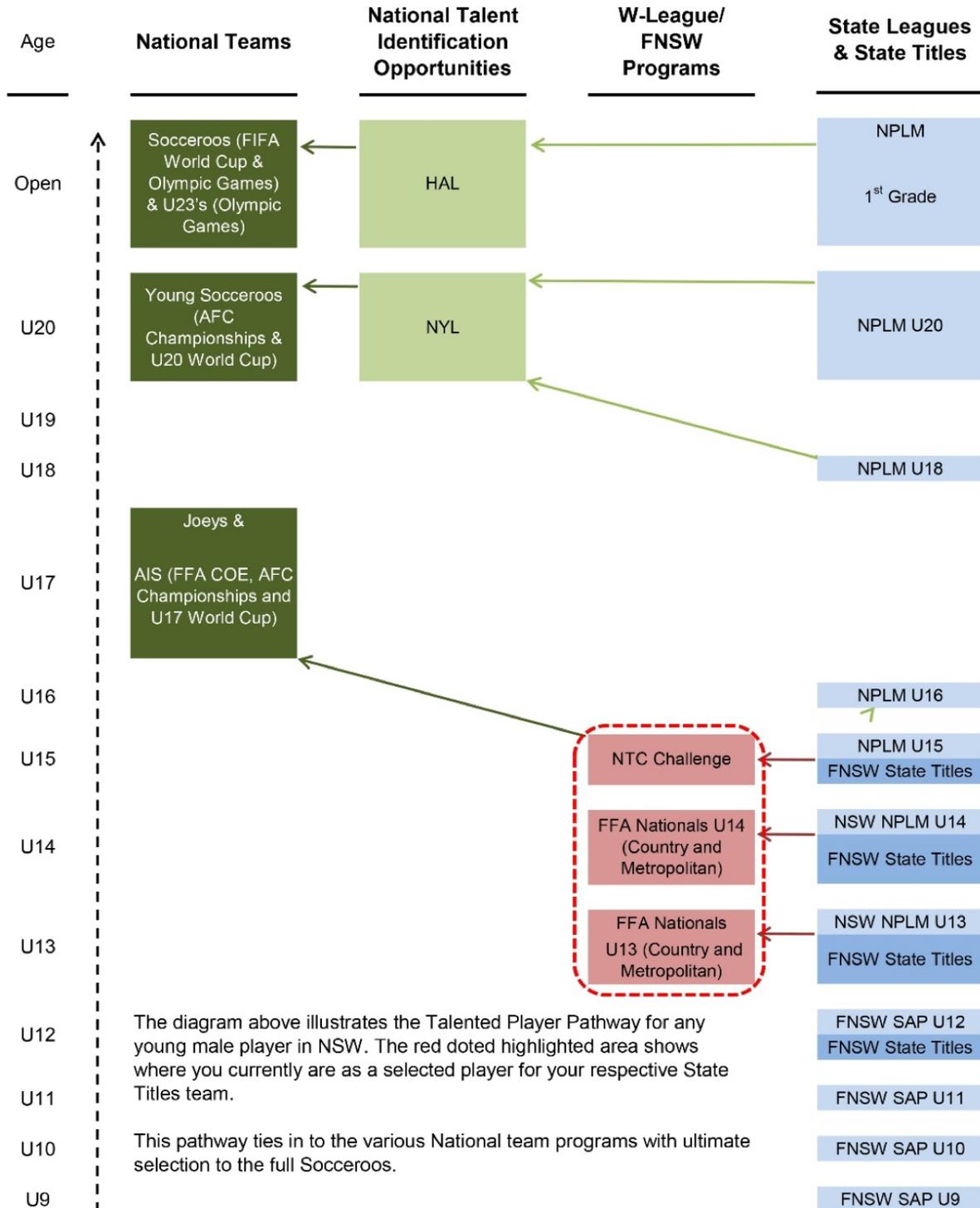
## 5.7. FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

Football in Newcastle is coordinated by two Associations (Newcastle Football and Hunter Christian Churches Football) and comprises 34 clubs (refer Table 15), some of which comprise junior and senior components.

### 5.7.1. Development Pathway

Football NSW defines pathways for male and female players; the male player pathway is shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Male player pathway - Football<sup>17</sup>



<sup>17</sup> Source: <https://footballnsw.com.au/players/player-pathways/>

## 5.7.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 15. The reported membership indicates a total membership of 11,511. This membership represents 7.15% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>18</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 4.9% of adults nationally and 18.8% of children in NSW reported participating in Football (soccer).

Table 15: Football Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY FOOTBALL (SOCCER)
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Hunter Christian Churches Football Association		756	756	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Being social means participation from non-winter players.</li> <li>« An increase in female participation/ registrations in both junior and senior</li> </ul>
Newcastle Football	10,381	10,755	+374	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« A slight increase in average playing age to around 30</li> <li>« Parents don't want to help at all. They expect to pay their money and just turn up on the day.</li> </ul>
Adamstown Rosebuds Football Club		364	364	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Often takes more players per team, especially social to ensure enough players due to work/ lifestyle.</li> <li>« Expectations of football have increased in the last 5 years and in the high-performance area it has progressed from being just a traditional seasonal winter sport to a virtual full year commitment.</li> </ul>
Adamstown Rosebuds Junior FC				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« In seniors a trend towards more Friday night and over 35's teams as people may find it harder to commit to training and weekends once they start families.</li> </ul>
Arnetts Football Program		65	65	
Beresfield Football Club Inc.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Volunteering support for on-the-spot assistance is not an issue and members are generally happy to offer an hour or two to assist when asked or required. However, with people's lives becoming ever more crammed with various commitments, it is increasingly difficult to attract people to fill more substantive volunteering roles.</li> </ul>
Beresfield United Senior Soccer Club	128	124	-4	
Bishop Tyrell Anglican College FC				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Growing estate in the area is definitely a major part in the increase in participation. Word of mouth throughout the local schools.</li> <li>« Senior players are choosing to join certain clubs due to night-time facilities, allowing games to be played after working hours.</li> <li>« Non-traditional formats have seen a spike in registrations with over 300 juniors/ seniors choosing to participate in modified football over the summer months.</li> </ul>
Broadmeadow Magic Football Club	119	139	+20	
Broadmeadow Magic Youth FC				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« More parents/ teams are looking for paid coaches as parents do not want to volunteer.</li> </ul>
Cooks Hill United Football Club	821	1,044	+223	
Fletcher Football Club				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Committee membership is at a very low level</li> <li>« Over 600 kids in special ed locally, with only 10% in the club. There is a need for the club but would love to have so many more.</li> <li>« Growth in Premier comp environment (WPL/LI) attracting new players to clubs with Elite teams</li> <li>« Expectations of development opportunities requiring additional nights available to implement e.g. in 2018, NLFC paid \$13,000 to hire Newcastle Hockey facility</li> </ul>
Hamilton Azzurri Junior Soccer Club	241	285	+44	
Jesmond Football Club				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Football is by far the largest participation sport in Australia (and this also is the case in the Newcastle LGA) and participation is continuing to grow.</li> <li>« Club finds young people are NOT participating in sport and wonder if their parents see team sport as the necessity it used to be.</li> </ul>
Kotara South Football Club				
Kotara South Junior Football Club				
Lambton Jaffas Football Club	116	134	+18	
Lambton Jaffas Junior Football Club				
Maryland Fletcher Football Club	460	557	+97	
Mayfield United Junior Soccer Football Club	369	507	+138	
Merewether Advance Football Club	32	65	+33	
Merewether United Football Club	527	521	-6	
Minmi Wanderers Football Club				

<sup>18</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY FOOTBALL (SOCCER)
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
New Lambton Eagles Football Club				
New Lambton Football Club	1,442	1,381	-61	
Newcastle Hamilton Olympic Football Club	299	341	+42	
Newcastle Jets Westfield W League				
Newcastle Suns Football Club	50	70	+20	
Shortland United Junior Football Club		266	266	
South Wallsend Junior Soccer Club				
Stockton Sharks Junior Football Club	180	315	+135	
Wallsend Football Club (Juniors)				
Wallsend Football Club (Seniors)				

### 5.7.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

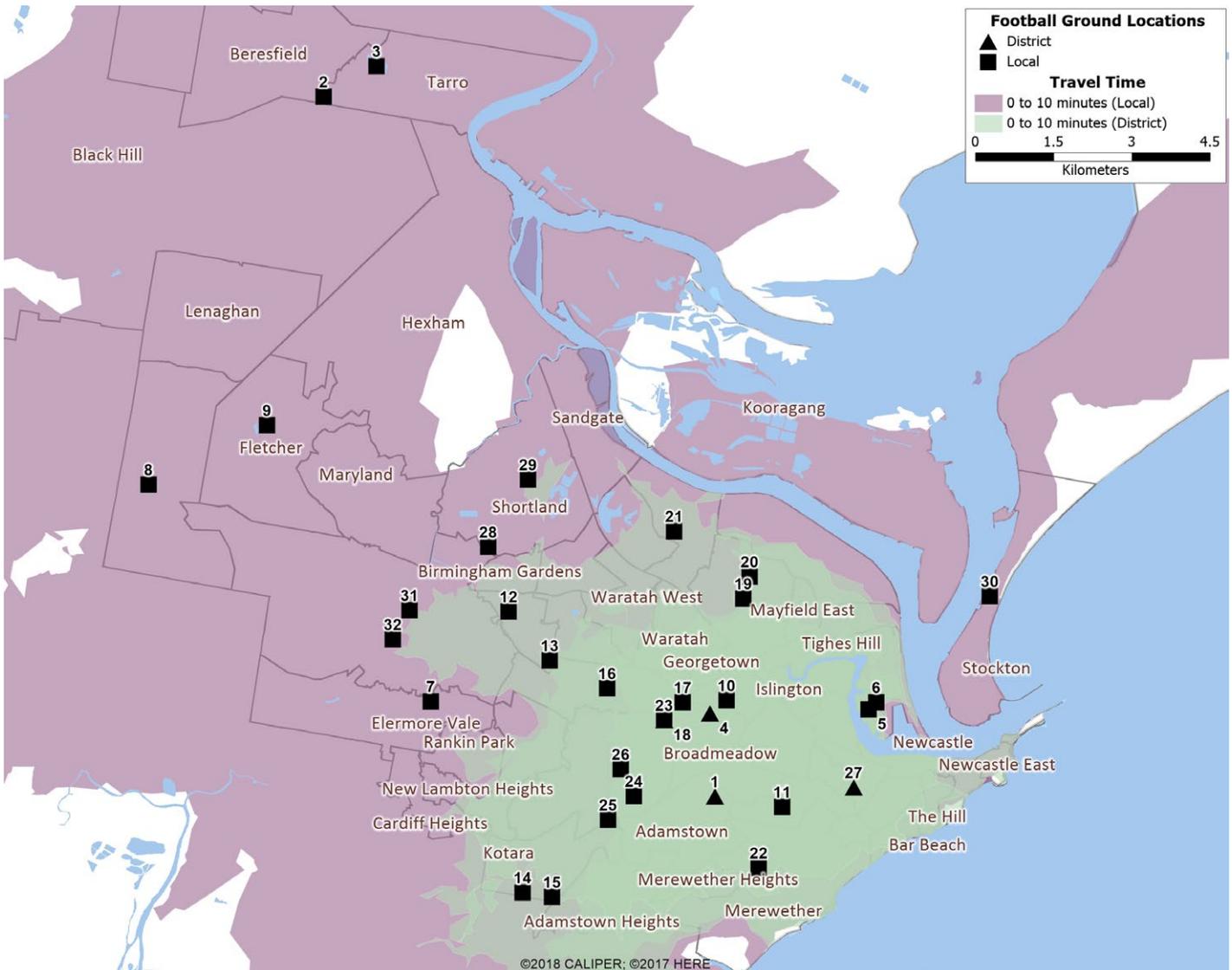
The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and added to with facilities as they were found; this CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 16: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Football (soccer)

FACILITY	NO OF FIELDS	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 6 ID
Adamstown Park	9	506 Glebe Rd, Adamstown	District	1
Alder Park	2	Bridges Rd, New Lambton	Local	24
Arthur Edden Oval	1	Wallarrah Rd, New Lambton	District	23
Blackley Oval	1	Turton Rd, Lambton	Local	17
Connolly Park	1	Cowper St, Carrington	Local	5
Cook Park	2	Macarthur St, Shortland	Local	28
Corroba Oval	2	Fullerton St, Stockton	Local	30
Darling St Oval	1	Darling St, Hamilton South	Local	11
Elmore Vale Reserve	4	Croudace Rd, Elmore Vale	Local	7
Federal Park	4	Boscawen St, Wallsend	Local	31
Heaton Park	3	Mordue Pde, Jesmond	Local	12
Islington Park	1	Maitland Rd, Mayfield	Local	19
Jesmond Park	1	Robinson Ave, Jesmond	Local	13
Kurraka Oval	2	Kurraka Dr, Fletcher	Local	9
Lambton Park	3	Lloyd Rd, Lambton	Local	16
Lugar Park	1	35 Moruya Pde, Kotara	Local	14
Mayfield Park	1	Crebert St, Mayfield	Local	20
Minmi Sports Ground	2	Woodford St, Minmi	Local	8
Myamblah Crescent Oval	2	Myamblah Cres, Mereweather	Local	22
National Park	4	Parry St, Newcastle West	District	27
Nesbitt Park	1	1 Casey Ave, Kotara	Local	15
Novocastrian Park	2	Orchardtown Rd, New Lambton	Local	25
Pasedena Crescent Reserve	2	Pasedena Cres, Beresfield	Local	2

FACILITY	NO OF FIELDS	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 6 ID
Pat Jordan Oval	1	1A Cowper St, Carrington	Local	6
Regent Park	1	Regent St, New Lambton	Local	26
Smith Park	3	Boreas Rd, Hamilton North	Local	10
Stevenson Park	4	Stevenson Ave, Mayfield West	Local	21
Tarro Reserve	2	Anderson Dr, Tarro	Local	3
Tuxford Park	3	King St, Shortland	Local	29
Wallarah Oval	2	Wallarah Rd, New Lambton	Local	18
Wallsend Park	2	Lewis St, Wallsend	Local	32
Wanderers Park	1	1/50 Denney St, Broadmeadow	District	4

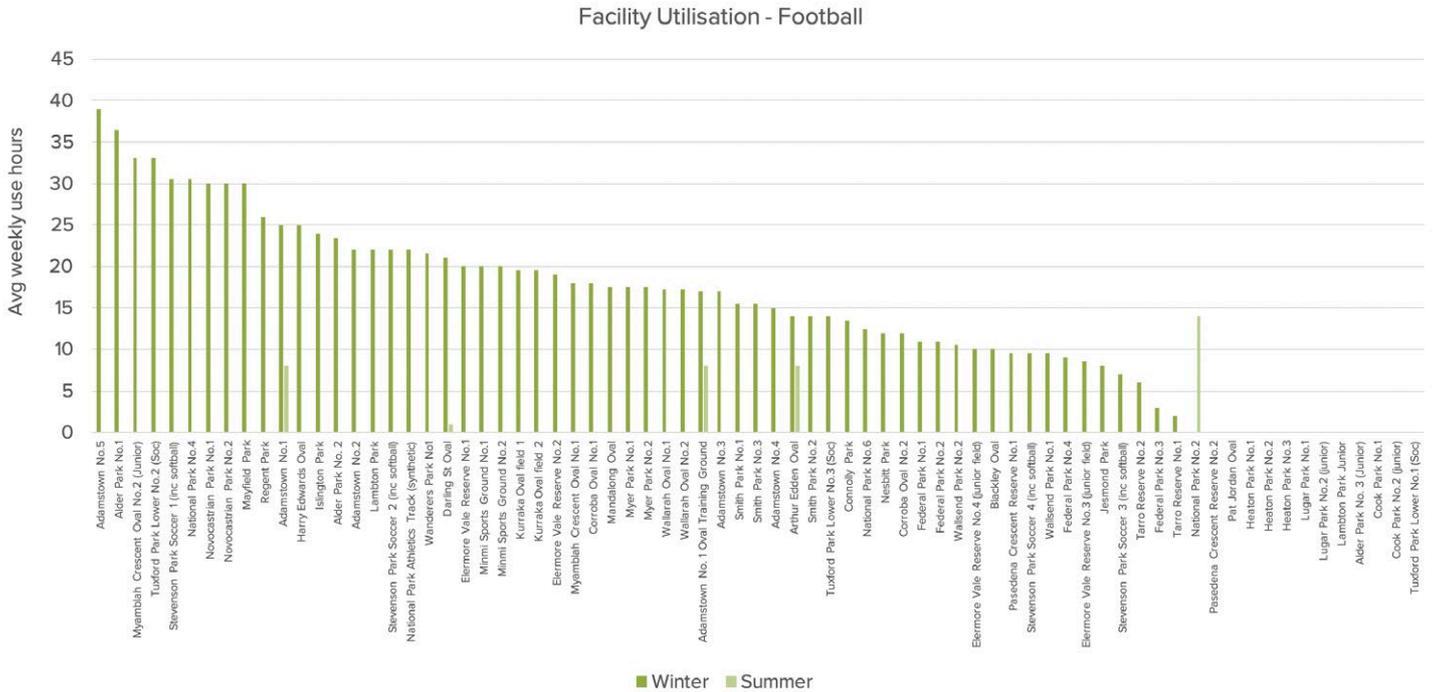
Map 6: Distribution of facilities for Football



## 5.7.4. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for football (soccer) facilities has been provided, as represented in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Football (soccer) facilities



### 5.7.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Football

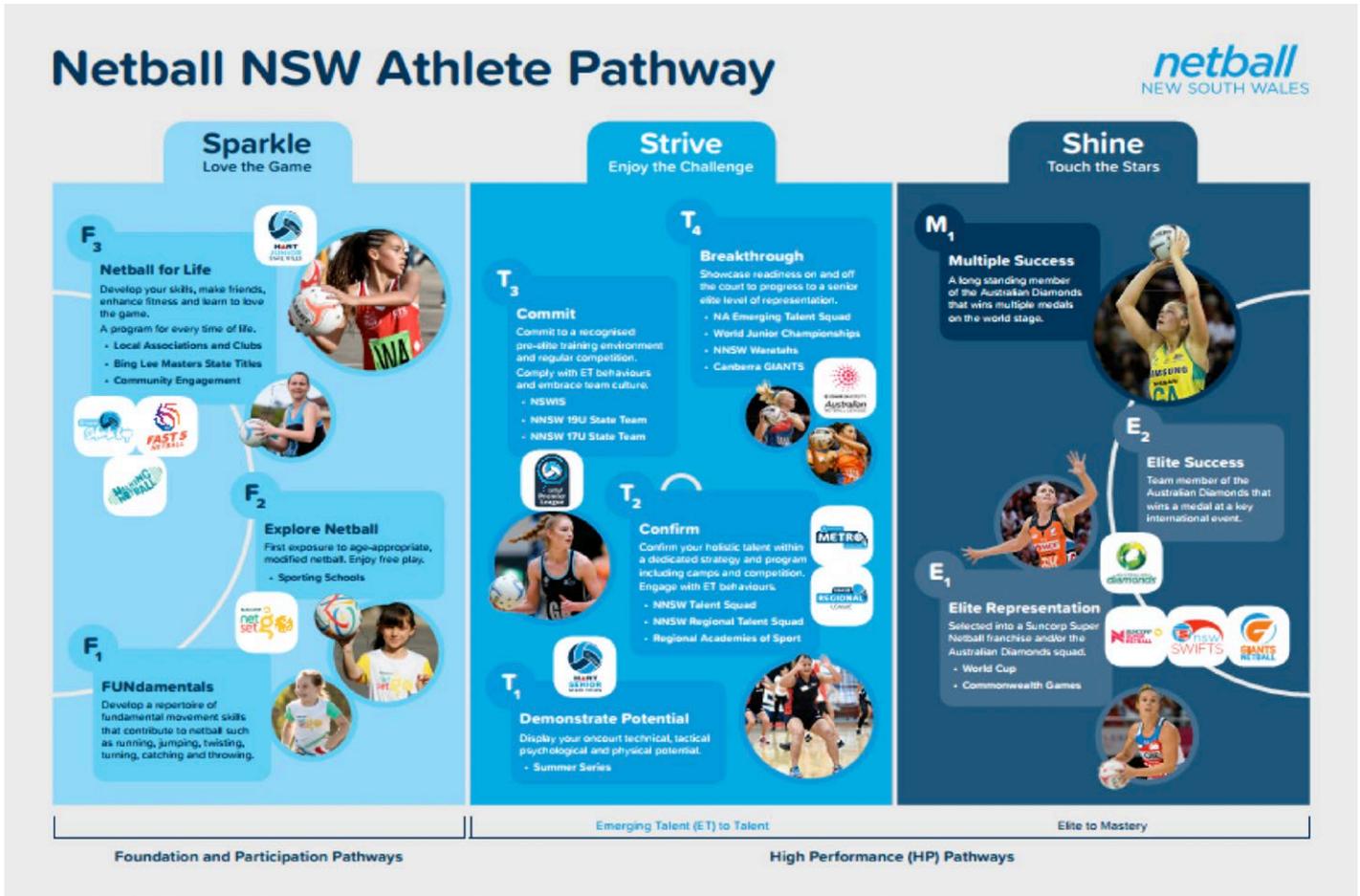
- « Inadequate facilities to cater for female participants. Female growth has been 46% over the last 10 years and it is increasingly difficult to cater for them. NNSWF Facilities Audit found that only 4 of 32 facilities in NCC area has female friendly changerooms. A 1:119 player to pitch ratio restricts participation levels. The growth of non-traditional football such as Summer Football has stretched the use of facilities and available space to host these programs.
- « Facilities are not keeping pace with women’s needs (change rooms)
- « Training demands have increased and therefore the demand on safe and effective floodlighting is higher. 68% of clubs have lighting less than 100 lux.
- « More players, more teams, more grounds required. If it rains, we lose matches - good drainage is important.
- « More kids want to play and wear and tear on the ground, plus the competition for nights and space, make it very hard to keep everyone happy. Players also expect more these days and complain if the fields are not up to scratch or there aren’t enough amenities. The lack of public toilets at the clubhouse in Adamstown Park is a regular source of complaints to the committee, especially on Game Days when people have to use the toilets in the dressing rooms and players are also wanting to use same.
- « Expectations of football have increased in the last 5 years and in the high-performance area it has progressed from being just a traditional seasonal winter sport to a virtual full year commitment. This has put additional strain on providing facilities of a standard commensurate to the level of football being played especially for training.
- « Higher demand on training space, even with junior teams, which has proven difficult to manage on limited space.
- « Football representatives claim their sport is by far the largest participation sport in Australia (and this also is the case in the Newcastle LGA) and participation is continuing to grow. Involvement in national competitions – National Premier League (NPL) and FFA Cup – and the SAP heightens the need for more facilities and for those to be of a much higher standard. Additionally, Football Federation Australia (FFA) and NNSWF requirements for some Clubs to operate a 42-week youth development program; means more access is required to facilities during the summer period.
- « The grounds are not good enough, and not enough available grounds. Every ground should have grass...NOT dust bowls. Clubs are unable to access grounds to have adequate trial matches. The grass comes good, only with work, but cannot be sustained throughout a season.
- « Conflict between use of fields for cricket and football. Response to and expressed need for synthetic surfaces was mixed. Community clubs see the value in terms of throughput and wet weather play, while the clubs with premier league teams prefer well established and maintained natural turf fields and see synthetic surfaces offering some advantage in provision of training as well as for protection

## 5.8. NETBALL

Netball in Newcastle is coordinated by the Newcastle Netball Association, which comprises 17 clubs (refer Table 17). The central netball association competition courts are located in National Park, with the clubs conducting training at ten 1-2 court facilities across the suburbs.

### 5.8.1. Development Pathway

Figure 11: Player development pathway for netball in NSW<sup>19</sup>



<sup>19</sup> Source: <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/netball-wp-assets/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/07/30172427/NNSW-Athlete-Pathway-Framework.pdf>

## 5.8.2. Participation and Trends

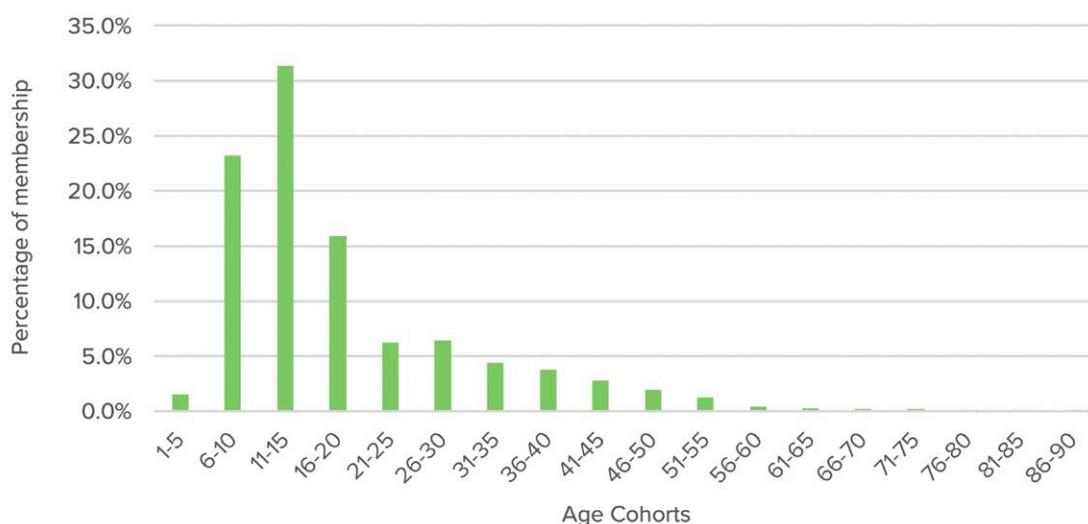
Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 17. Netball NSW data indicates that the Newcastle Netball Association (in 2018) had 3,856 registered members and 2,939 players. This reported player membership represents 1.8% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>20</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 8.3% of children in NSW reported participating in netball. 70.4% of the association membership is aged under 21 years. The most predominant age cohort of netball participants is 11-15 years (31.3%) followed by 6-10 years (23.2%) and 16-20 year olds (15.9%). This is illustrated at Figure 12.

Table 17: Netball Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY NETBALL
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Newcastle Netball Association	3,091	2,932	-159	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Facility capacity pressure with growing population</li> <li>« There is more male participation as players and coaches, and more interest in night-time competitions</li> <li>« For older players, walking netball is available</li> <li>« Club has been trialling come and try days</li> <li>« There is a renewed interest in health and fitness whilst being part of a team</li> <li>« Parents seem to be commenting more on wanting their girls to learn how to be part of a team in a fairly regimented sport</li> <li>« Seeing numbers decline due to the number of different sporting codes that are now available to girls and there is a dramatic decline in numbers when the girls reach their teens.</li> </ul>
Bishop Tyrell				
BNC Netball Club				
Cardiff Netball Club				
Mayfield Diggers Netball Club				
Junction Hotel NC				
Kotara Netball Club				
Maryland Wallsend NC	161	134	-27	
Newcastle Grammar				
Shortland Netball Club				
South Leagues Netball Club				
South Wallsend Netball Club				
Stockton Netball Club	93	123	+30	
Sugar Valley Netball Club				
Nova Netball Club				
Waratah Netball Club	140	85	-55	
West Leagues Netball Club	554	613	+59	
Wanderers Netball Club				

<sup>20</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

Figure 12: Age distribution – Newcastle Netball Association membership (2018)



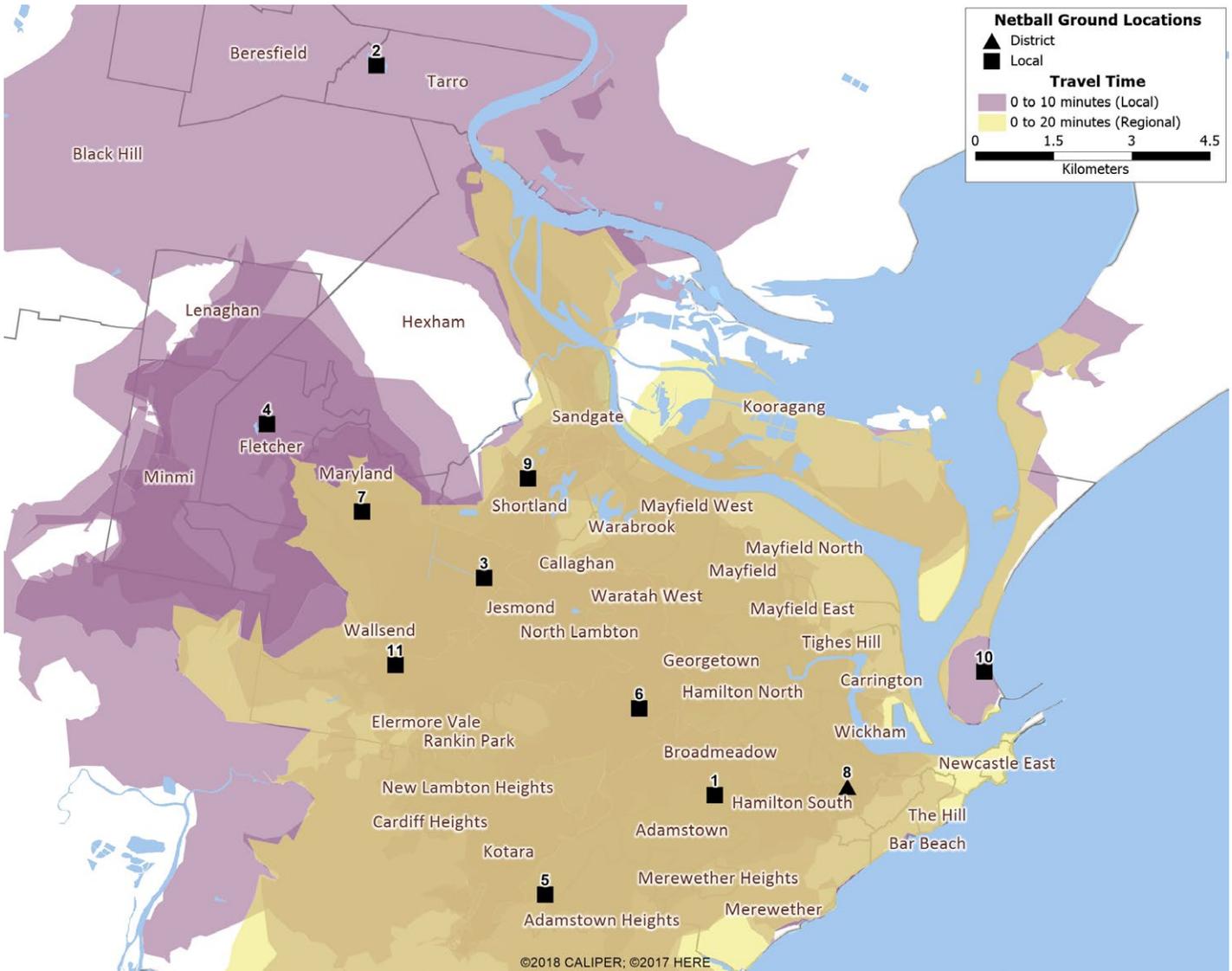
### 5.8.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and added to with facilities as they were found. This CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 18: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory - Netball

FACILITY	NO OF COURTS	SURFACE	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 7 ID
Adamstown Netball Court	1	Asphalt	506 Glebe Rd, Adamstown	Local	1
Grange Ave Netball	2	Asphalt	Boundary Rd, Maryland	Local	7
	4	Grass			
Harold Myers Park Netball Courts	1	Asphalt	93 Sandgate Rd, Birmingham Gardens	Local	3
		Grass			
Kentish Netball	6	Asphalt	Womboin Rd, Lambton	Local	6
	3.5	Grass			
Kurraka Netball Courts	2		Kurraka Dr, Fletcher	Local	4
National Park Netball	30	Hardcourt	Union St, Newcastle West	District	8
Nesbitt Park Netball	2	Asphalt	1 Casey Ave, Kotara	Local	5
Stockton Netball Courts	2	Asphalt	Mitchell St, Stockton	Local	10
Tarro Reserve Netball	2	Asphalt	Anderson Dr, Tarro	Local	2
Tuxford Park Netball	2	Asphalt	King St, Shortland	Local	9
Upper Reserve Netball Courts	3		Lake Rd, Wallsend	Local	11

Map 7: Location of netball court facilities with hierarchy



#### 5.8.4. Facility Utilisation

Data on actual court utilisation was not available. A court capacity analysis<sup>21</sup> provided by Netball NSW indicates that the National Park facility was operating beyond its capacity, using 2017 registration. Determining the capacity using 2018 registration reverses this result, as the reduction in membership provides an increase in capacity.

#### 5.8.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Netball

- ◀ Main needs at National Park are for additional/ upgraded lighting, additional parking, upgrading of existing ancillary amenities block, and an additional ancillary amenities block
- ◀ Need additional 2 courts at National Park to enable staging of state championships (32 courts needed)
- ◀ Club courts in poor condition with little or no lights, amenities or storage
- ◀ Access to indoor sports courts for higher level competitions and training. Existing indoor basketball courts are poor quality and booked out

<sup>21</sup> Court capacity was determined by Netball NSW as 16 people x 7 timeslots multiplied by the number of courts; the application of this to National Park indicates that the facility is capable of supporting 3,360 people/ players

## 5.9. RUGBY LEAGUE

Rugby League in Newcastle is coordinated by three Associations (Newcastle Junior Rugby League, Newcastle & Hunter Rugby League, and Newcastle Rugby League) and includes 15 clubs (refer Table 19), some of which comprise junior and senior components.

### 5.9.1. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 19. The reported 2018 membership indicates a total of 4,463 active members across the three associations. This represents very high growth compared to the previous three years (+65%) and is attributed mostly to juniors and senior females. Membership represents 2.8% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>22</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 1.0% of adults and 2.3% of children nationally reported participating in Rugby League.

Table 19: Rugby League Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY RUGBY LEAGUE
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Country Rugby League				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Male competition decreasing; female increasing.</li> <li>« The landscape of the NRL has direct impact on the numbers across the junior grades.</li> <li>« Females – seniors (NSW U/12 – U/18), juniors play with U/12 girls &amp; boys, ladies tag. 14, 16, 18's tackle for women, last 2 years, tag run all season. 15-18 drop off.</li> <li>« Rugby league is traditionally the strongest winter code in the Newcastle area, especially so with more women and girls now competing. At present club is playing in the largest 2nd division RL comp in the world, with approximately 40 clubs.</li> <li>« 3.5% increase year for 2018. Number of women playing have doubled since 2015 in RL. 5.4% growth in country RL for NSW. Indicators show continued growth is expected and the club would love to be a part of that.</li> <li>« Club has been invited to re-join the district comp in 2020, so will need an enclosed ground.</li> <li>« Club is finding a lot of younger children are joining the club. Girls league is also becoming popular.</li> </ul>
Newcastle Junior Rugby League	850	1,588	+738	
Newcastle & Hunter Rugby League	1,060	1,810	+750	
Newcastle Rugby League	799	1,065	+266	
Hamilton Ducks Rugby League Football Club				
Kotara Junior Rugby League Club	685	740	+55	
Kotara Rugby League Football Club				
Newcastle Knights		330	330	
Newcastle Steelers Rugby League				
North Newcastle RLFC Inc		52	52	
Shortland Rugby League Football Club				
South Newcastle Junior Rugby League Club	245	287	+42	
South Newcastle Rugby League Football Club				
Stockton Junior Rugby League Football Club				
Stockton Rugby League Football Club				
Wallsend Maryland Junior Rugby League Club	30	30	0	
Wallsend Maryland Tigers Rugby League Club				
Waratah Mayfield Junior Rugby League	470	510	+40	

<sup>22</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

## 5.9.2. Facility Supply and Distribution

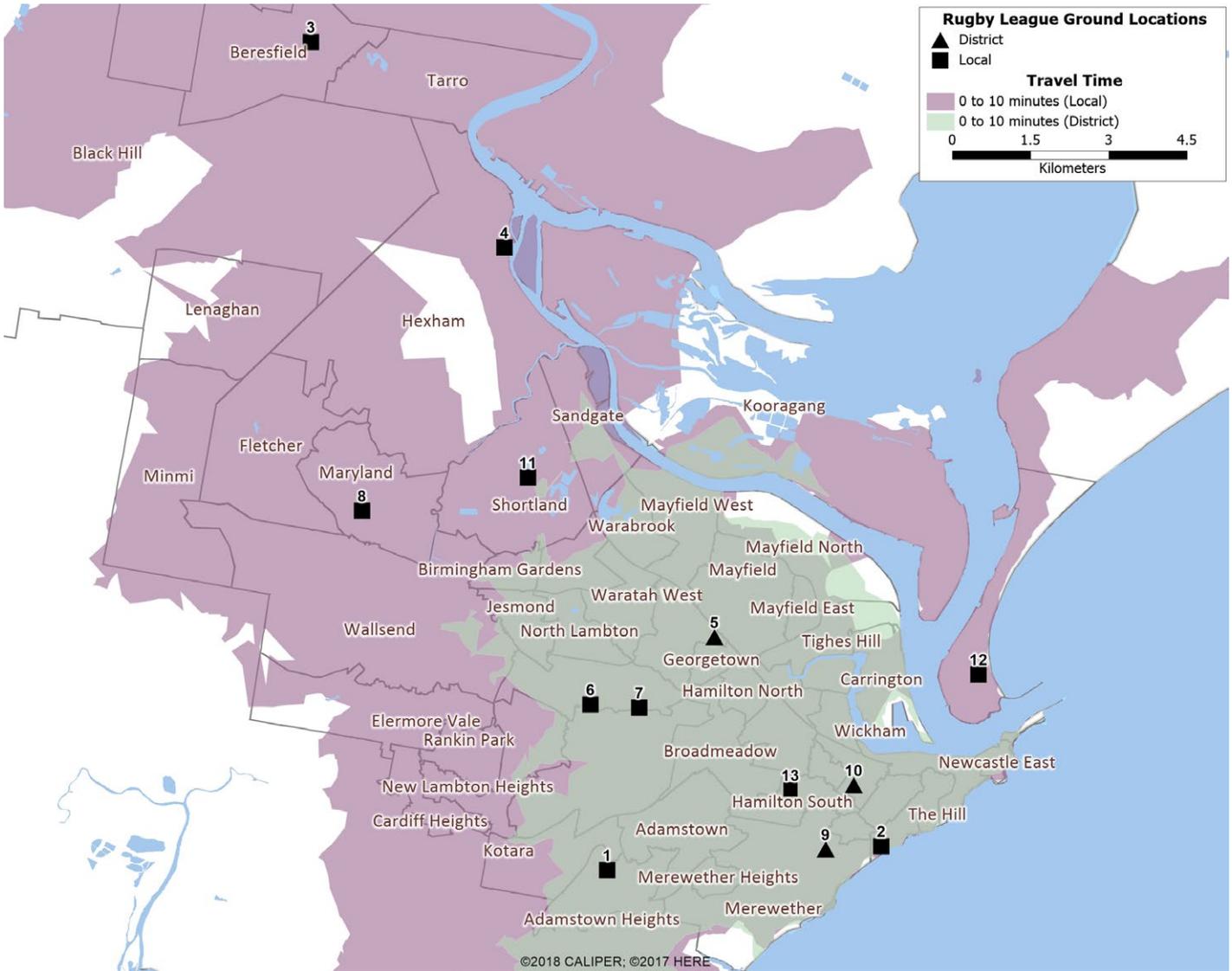
The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and added to with facilities as they were found. This CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 20: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Rugby League

FACILITY	LIGHTING	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 8 ID
	Y	107-109 Memorial Drive, Bar Beach	Local	2
Ford Oval	Y	Womboin Rd, Lambton	Local	7
Grange Oval No 1	Y	Grange Ave, Maryland	Local	8
Grange Oval No 2		Grange Ave, Maryland	Local	8
Harker Memorial Oval	Y	Wallarah Rd, Lambton	District	7
Hexham Park	Y	Old Maitland Rd, Hexham	Local	4
Hudson Park No 1	Y	62 Lexington Pde, Adamstown Heights	Local	1
Hudson Park No 2	Y	62 Lexington Pde, Adamstown Heights	Local	1
Kentish Oval No 1	Y	Womboin Rd, Lambton	Local	7
Kentish Oval No 2	Y	Womboin Rd, Lambton	Local	7
Learmonth Park Field 1	Y	Gordon Ave, Hamilton South	Local	13
Learmonth Park Field 2		Gordon Ave, Hamilton South	Local	13
Lewis Oval		27 Grainger St, Lambton	Local	6
Lindsay Memorial Oval	Y	Anderson Ave, Beresfield	Local	3
Lynn Oval	Y	Mitchell St, Stockton	Local	12
National Park No 2	Y	Parry St, Newcastle West	District	10
Townson Oval	Y	Berner St, Mereweather	District	9
Tuxford Park Upper (RL)		King St, Shortland	Local	11
Waratah Park No 1	Y <sup>23</sup>	2A Young St, Waratah	District	5
Waratah Park No 3		2A Young St, Waratah	Local	5
Waratah Park No 4		2A Young St, Waratah	Local	5
Waratah Park No 5		2A Young St, Waratah	Local	5

<sup>23</sup> Lighting at Waratah Park has been installed on the perimeter of the park and not specifically to fields

Map 8: Distribution of Rugby League facilities



### 5.9.3. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for rugby league facilities has been provided as represented in Figure 13.

Figure 13: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Rugby League facilities



### 5.9.4. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Rugby League

- « Priority improvements are Waratah Park (drainage and underutilised); Kentish and Ford Ovals (upgrade playing surface and amenities); Grange/ Maryland (upgrade playing surface and amenities)
- « Lighting standard needs improving at some fields
- « People are more likely to participate in sport when the facilities provided are at of a reasonable modern standard. The general condition of the CN provided facilities influence the way people participate in sport. The club has improved the CN owned facility with floodlighting and a new canteen; and the local sport participants have responded to these improvements in a positive manner
- « Master planning or reconfiguring of some fields would resolve usage conflicts.



## 5.10. RUGBY UNION

Rugby Union in Newcastle is coordinated by three Associations (Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union, Hunter Women's Rugby Union, and Hunter Junior Rugby Union) and includes seven clubs (refer Table 21), some of which comprise junior and senior components.

### 5.10.1. Development Pathway

Club Rugby (NSW Country Competitions) to District/ Zone Representative Teams competing in NSW Club State Championships. Rugby Union Development is through clubs and through Schools (ISA, AICES, CCC, NSWSRU, CHS, GPS).

There is an elite pathway, with players identified at a young age and then progressing into academies to then move into super 15's. Feedback was that rugby union needs to offer/ attract sponsorships at a level that matches the Knights juniors for players to stay in the area.

### 5.10.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 21. In Newcastle, rugby union clubs report recent good progress with junior levels, but a recent decline due to quality of amenities at some venues. The competition structure has altered in response over recent years. Rugby union in schools is at the behest of the schools themselves or with interested staff within the school system and this aspect is not driven by Rugby NSW.

The reported membership of 1,638 represents 1.02% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>24</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 0.7% of adults and 1.8% of children nationally reported participating in Rugby Union.

Table 21: Rugby Union Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY RUGBY UNION
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Newcastle & Hunter Rugby Union				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Programs for under 7 year olds – Club initiative</li> <li>« Governing bodies introducing competition for young women</li> <li>« Re-building of a schools competition</li> <li>« Establishment of a branch state development academy</li> <li>« Players not returning due to ever increasing cost to play</li> <li>« Increased focus and awareness of female participation. Club and regional focus on grassroots development</li> </ul>
Hunter Women's Rugby Union				
Hunter Junior Rugby Union				
Cooks Hill Rugby Union Football Club		42		
Easts Rugby Club		156		
Hamilton Rugby Club		253		
Merewether Carlton Rugby Union Club	376	467	+91	
Newcastle Griffins Rugby Union		37		
The Waratahs Rugby Union Football Club	90	130	+40	
University of Newcastle Rugby Union Club		142		
Wanderers Rugby Union Club	395	370	-25	

### 5.10.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

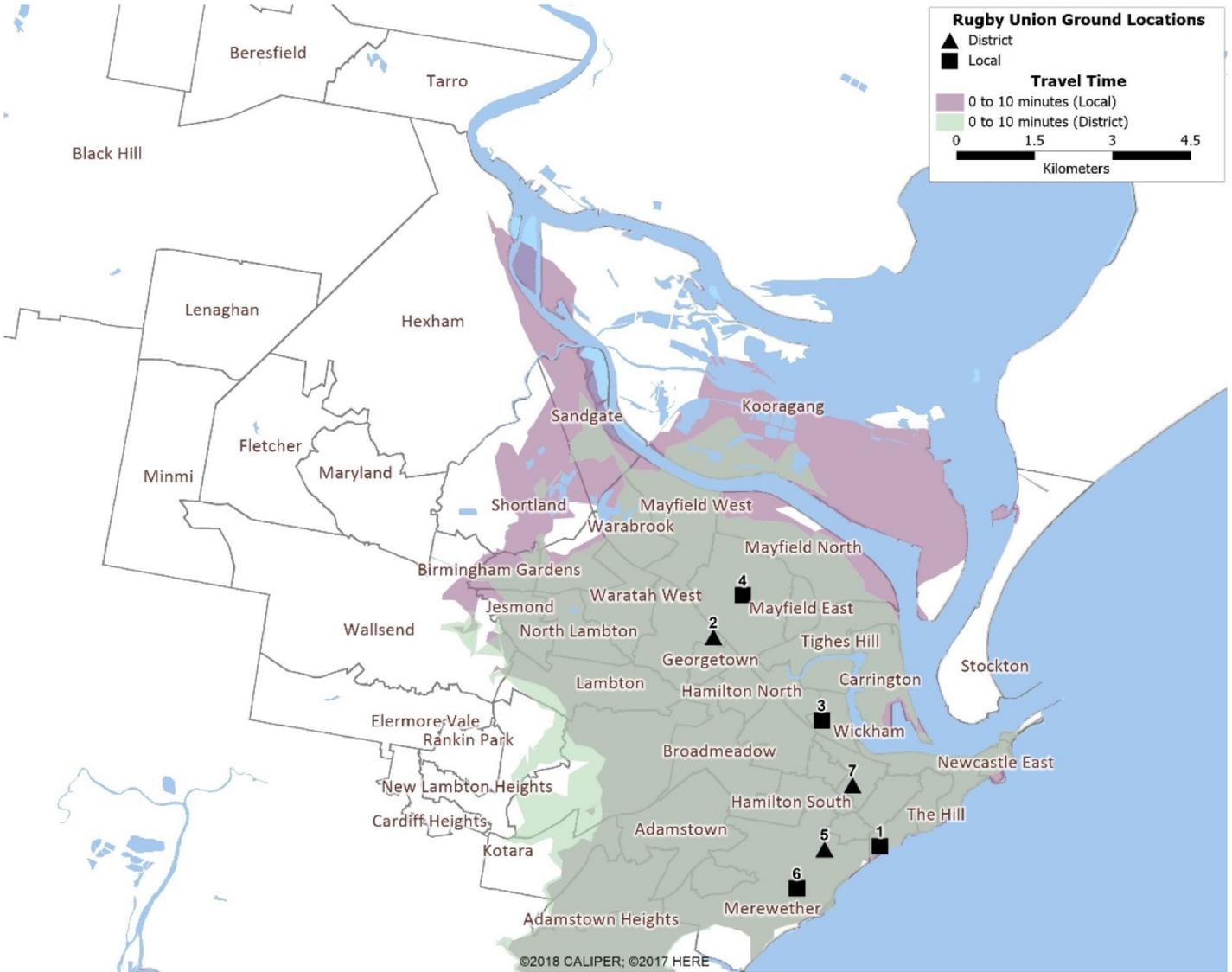
The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and added to with facilities as they were found. The CN inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 22: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Rugby Union

FACILITY	LIGHTING	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 9 ID
Dangar Park	Y	21A Maitland Rd, Mayfield	Local	4
Empire Park	Y	107-109 Memorial Drive, Bar Beach	Local	1
Gibbs Bros Oval	Y	Rowan Cres, Merewether	Local	6
Hawkins Oval	Y	Albert St, Wickham	Local	3
National Park No 2	Y	Parry St, Newcastle West	District	7
National Park No 5	Y	Union St, Newcastle West	Local	7
Passmore Oval	Y	Albert St, Wickham	District	3
Townson Oval	Y	Berner St, Mereweather	District	5
Waratah Park No 1	Y	2A Young St, Waratah	District	2
Waratah Park No 2	Y	2A Young St, Waratah	Local	2

<sup>24</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

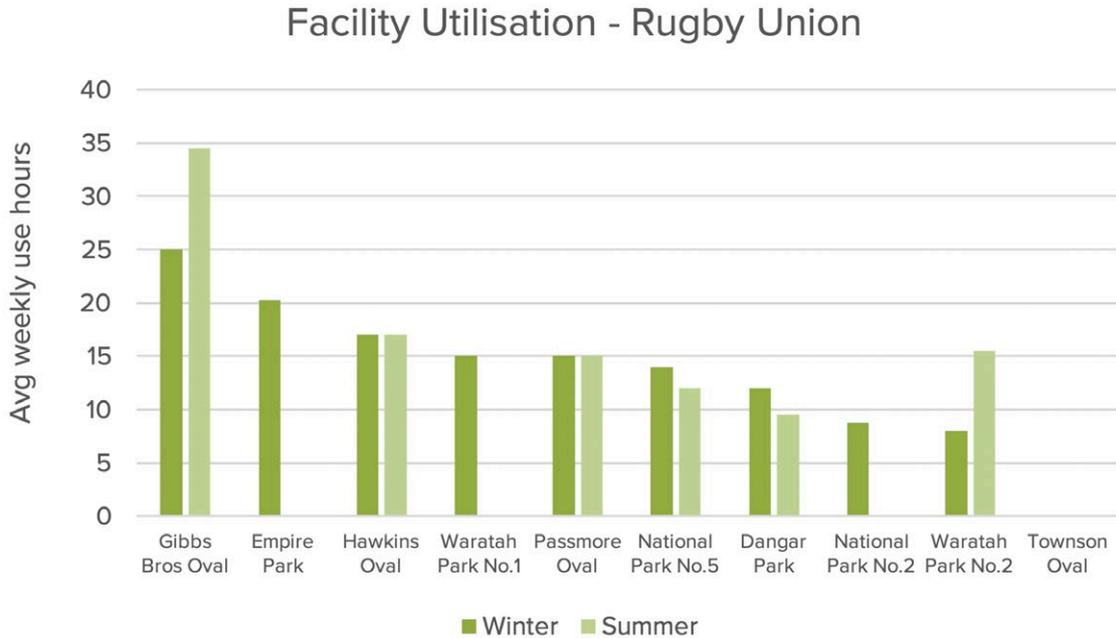
Map 9: Distribution of Rugby Union facilities



### 5.10.4. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for rugby union facilities has been provided and is represented at Figure 14.

Figure 14: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Rugby Union facilities



### 5.10.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Rugby Union

- « In general grounds need upgraded amenities/ change rooms, shade, improve signage, and better parking, or improved oval configuration
- « Facility priorities were seen as Waratah Park (increase parking, improve amenities and storage); Empire Park (improve lighting and storage); Dangar Park (ageing facilities need to be replaced); Gibbs Bros Oval (playing field smaller than standard, only has a grassed hill for spectators, canteen is too small with poor visibility to field)
- « Improve grounds maintenance to improve resilience
- « Consider drop-in pitches for shared use rugby/ cricket venues
- « Spectator facilities vary between the grounds (provision and quality), e.g.
  - Townson has a grandstand – being redeveloped currently; rugby has use of the bar on game days and the canteen is a good size
  - Gibbs Bros Oval only has a grassed hill, the canteen is too small and visibility to the oval from the canteen is poor
- « As the premier rugby field, the following comments were made about National Park No2:
  - Is good for higher level competition but can only accommodate 1 game
  - Good facility catering for rugby union and womens’ soccer, but the field churns up easily
  - The bar should be overlooking the oval
  - Better than any local rugby league facility.

## 5.11.SOFTBALL

Softball in Newcastle is coordinated by the Newcastle Softball Association, which comprises nine clubs (refer Table 23).

### 5.11.1. Development Pathway<sup>25</sup>

There is a suitable pathway in place including the Hunter Academy as well as representative teams for under 10 to over 35's. This pathway is described below.

	NSW Open Team	
	NSW U23 Team	
	NSW U23/ Open Squad	
	NSW U18 Team	
	NSW U18 Squad	State League
	U18 State Camps	
	NSW U16 Team	
	U16 NSW Squad	Winter League
	U16 State Camps	
	Regional Academies	
NSW All Schools Team	U14 Regional Team	State Championship Development League
Sports High Schools	Affiliate Representative	
NSW PSSA Team	Club Teams	

### 5.11.2. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 23. The reported membership of 742 represents 0.46% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>26</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 0.2% of the adult population and 0.6%<sup>27</sup> of children, nationally reported participating in softball.

Table 23: Softball Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY SOFTBALL
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Newcastle and District Softball Association	510	742	+232	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Increase in schools running trials and gala days</li> <li>« Holding major events such as State championships, Australian International Youth Games (bringing competitions from overseas)</li> <li>« Increasing participation of men and juniors. One of the great things about our sport is that the entire family can play regardless of their skill level. It's one of the only sports where someone can play in the same team as their parents and grandparents. Because of this our sport has a wide age bracket to attract.</li> <li>« Anecdotally, players are coming from a larger catchment area. Softball is minority sport but has an extremely well organised and officiated competition highly regarded by Softball NSW.</li> <li>« It seems the sport is growing into a more family-oriented sport. There is a trend of families signing up as a whole or when children play a season, parents then sign up with them the following season.</li> </ul>
Belmont Softball Club				
Camels Softball Club	88	128	+40	
Macquarie Softball Club				
Maitland Meteors Softball Club Inc				
Port Hunter Softball Club				
Steelers Softball Club				
Strikers Softball Club		194		
Newcastle University Softball Club				
Wolves Softball Club				

<sup>25</sup> Source: <http://nsw.softball.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/04/2019-Player-Pathway.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

<sup>27</sup> This estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution

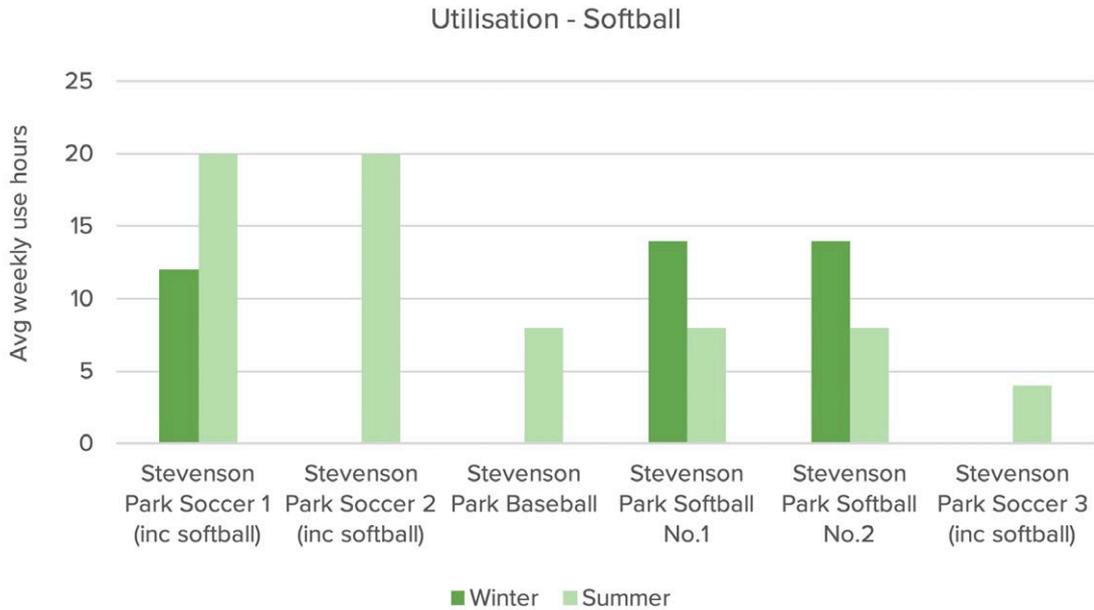
### 5.11.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

With nine diamonds Stevenson Park, Mayfield West, is the primary facility for softball in Newcastle. Parts of the park are allocated for football (soccer) in the softball off-season and the baseball diamond is also used for softball. The facility is currently classified as Local.

### 5.11.4. Facility Utilisation

Clubs provided information on the average weekly hours of use for softball facilities. This is represented in Figure 15.

Figure 15: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Softball facilities



### 5.11.5. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Softball

- « The association is proud of the facilities they have developed and maintained, have a strong group of volunteers willing to assist, and have held school carnivals, state school carnivals and state championships
- « Ideally softball would prefer security of tenure over their facility at Stevenson Park
- « Key challenges facing softball include:
  - New formats have placed additional pressure on the space available
  - No lighting for the sport and funding that was for lighting (with softball seeking the funds) went to light the football field
  - Recent changes to parking by CN have reduced the amount available
  - Soccer season expansion (use shared fields/ diamonds) is impacting on the grass quality
  - Shade for spectators
- « Facility development priorities include:
  - Lighting
  - Additional safety fencing on diamond 2 to prevent balls going onto the highway.
  - Additional storage and building/ clubhouse improvements

## 5.12. TENNIS

Tennis in Newcastle is operated by 12 associations and clubs and one commercial operator (refer Table 24), with the clubs that utilise CN-controlled facilities operating under one-year facility management agreements.

The major Newcastle tennis centre is centrally located at District Park, within the Broadmeadow Precinct, and is not owned/ controlled by CN. Across the city there are 14 separate facilities with a total of 61 courts. Court surfaces are predominantly hardcourt or flexipave, with some artificial grass.

### 5.12.1. Development Pathway

The development pathway is described as:

Social Club Local competition Regional competition NSW Junior State Teams Platinum level event  
Junior ITF ATP Challenger Pro Tour Federation Cup Davis Cup

### 5.12.2. Participation and Trends

In the main membership is static, court hire is declining, and the high number of small community-club managed centres is unsustainable and not supporting the development of the sport overall. Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 24.

Tennis NSW data indicates that 2,803 registered players reside in Newcastle. While the affiliated clubs have a combined membership of 2,353, 86% of these are members of Newcastle & District Tennis Association. Membership of tennis clubs and associations is not a true picture of participation in the sport, due to high level of social and casual play and absence of systems to track and report this use.

The reported membership represents 1.4% participating in tennis, while the AusPlay<sup>28</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 4.9% of the adult population and 6.1% of children in NSW reported participating in tennis.

Table 24: Tennis Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY TENNIS
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Newcastle and District Tennis Association				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Fewer younger participants</li> <li>« Due to the limited number of 4 plus courts, there are very few professional coaches operating within the LGA. This negatively impacts participation as coach operators drive more participation compared to volunteers.</li> <li>« Whilst membership numbers have increased slightly over the past few years, we have noticed significantly more bookings and usage of the facility. This is particularly the case in the summer months as people engage in tennis throughout the Australian Open period. It is clear that the primary trend is that the club facility is predominantly used for recreational tennis.</li> <li>« Club getting more hirers making enquiries from other facilities</li> <li>« There appears to be a general decline in tennis participation nationwide with smaller clubs reported to be struggling.</li> </ul>
Adamstown Rosebud Tennis Club	28	33	+5	
Bar Beach Tennis Club	97	128	+31	
Cagney Tennis Academy		89	+89	
Carrington Tennis Club				
Hamilton Park Tennis Club	25	21	-4	
Hillcrest Tennis Club				
Kotara Park Tennis Club	17	16	-1	
Lambton Park Tennis Club	39	36	-3	
Learmonth Park Tennis Club	23	25	+2	
Newcastle Hill Tennis Club	132	105	-27	
Newcastle Tennis Club	36	35	-1	
Stockton Tennis Club	180	210	+30	

<sup>28</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

### 5.12.3. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN with additional facilities where they were subsequently found. The inventory included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 25: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory - Tennis

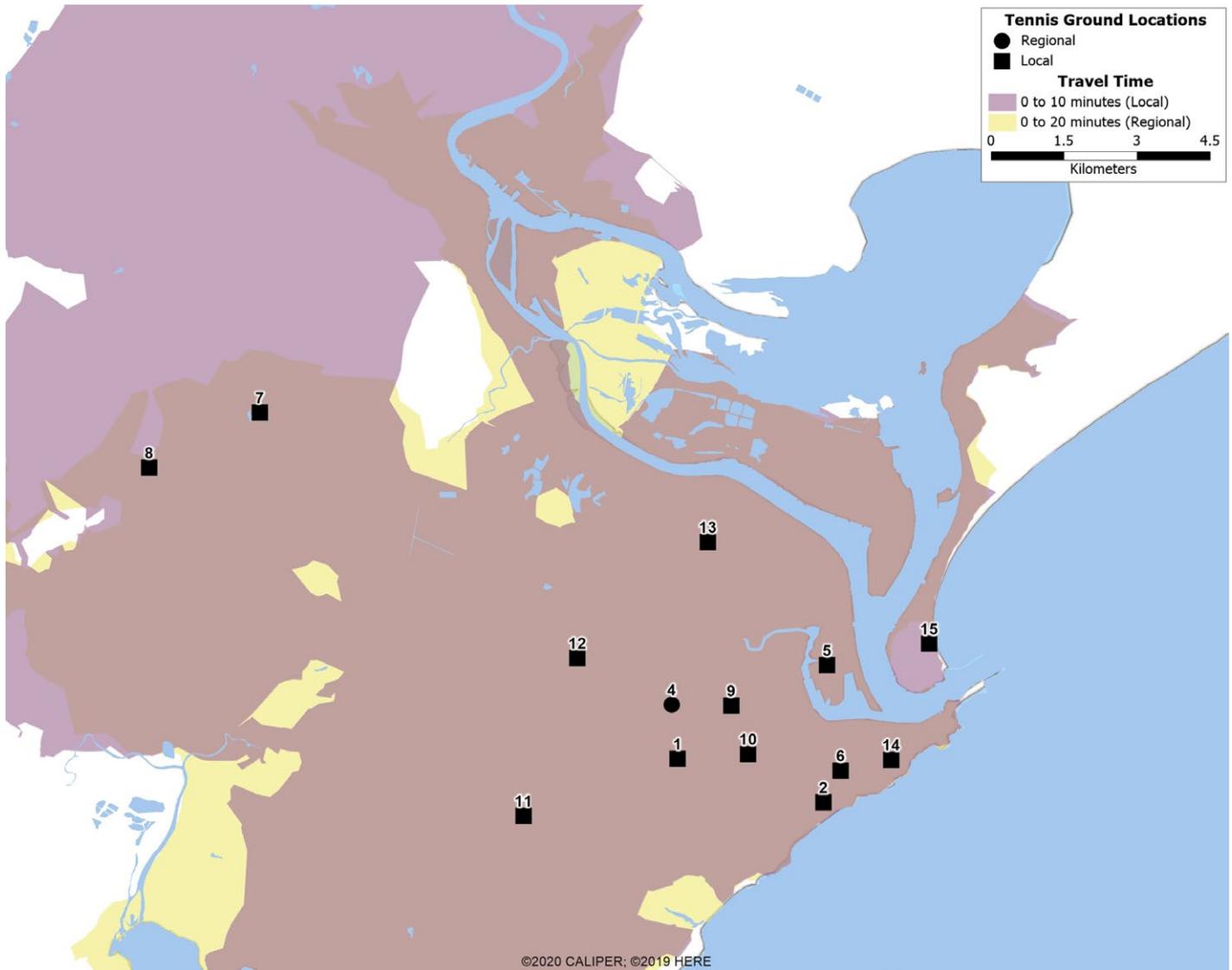
FACILITY	NO OF COURTS	SURFACE/ LIGHTING	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	TENNIS AUSTRALIA HIERARCHY <sup>29</sup>
Adamstown Tennis Courts	3	H / Y	Glebe Rd, Adamstown	Local	Public Access
Carrington Tennis Courts	2	AG / Y	Cowper St, Carrington	Local	Public Access
Centennial Park Tennis Courts	2	G / Un	Dawson St, Cooks Hill	Local	Public Access
Empire and Reid Park Tennis Courts	5	H / Y	Kilgour Ave, Bar Beach	Local	Local
Hamilton Park Tennis Courts	2		Tudor St, Hamilton	Local	Public Access
Kotara Park Tennis Courts	3		Park Ave, Kotara	Local	Public Access
Kurraka Tennis Courts	2	H / Un	Kurraka Dr, Fletcher	Local	Public Access
Lambton Park Tennis Courts	3	H / Un	Howe St, Lambton	Local	Public Access
Learmonth Park Tennis Courts	2		Gordon Ave, Hamilton South	Local	Public Access
Mayfield Hillcrest Tennis court	2		Usk St, Mayfield	Local	Public Access
Minmi Tennis Courts	1		Woodford St, Minmi	Local	Public Access
Newcastle Hill Tennis Courts	5		Ordinance St, Newcastle	Local	Local
Newcastle Tennis Centre	24	H / Y	Broadmeadow		National
Stockton Tennis Courts	5		Mitchell St, Stockton	Local	Local

Notes to table: surface/ lighting abbreviations: H = hard court; G = grass; AG = artificial grass; Un = unknown; Y = Yes

As illustrated in Map 10, the majority of tennis centres are located within the well-established eastern third of the LGA, with two facilities (3 courts) serving the western communities of the City.

<sup>29</sup> Source: Tennis 2020: Facility development and management framework for Australian tennis; Tennis Australia

Map 10: Location and hierarchy of tennis facilities



ID	FACILITY
1	Adamstown Tennis Courts
5	Carrington Tennis Courts
6	Centennial Park Tennis Courts
2	Empire and Reid Park Tennis Courts

ID	FACILITY
9	Hamilton Park Tennis Courts
11	Kotara Park Tennis Courts
7	Kurraka Tennis Courts
12	Lambton Park Tennis Courts
10	Learmonth Park Tennis Courts

ID	FACILITY
13	Mayfield Hillcrest Tennis court
8	Minmi Tennis Courts
14	Newcastle Hill Tennis Courts
4	Newcastle Tennis Centre
15	Stockton Tennis Courts

The Tennis Australia hierarchy for tennis facilities has been applied to courts and facilities within CN (refer Table 26). 73% of centres and 37% of all courts in Newcastle are within the 'Public Access' category; three centres (20%) are 'Local' and one is classified as 'National', due to the number of courts, although this facility does not satisfy other criteria for this classification.

Table 26: Extract from Tennis Australia Facility Hierarchy

HIERARCHY	PUBLIC ACCESS CENTRE	LOCAL TENNIS CENTRE	DISTRICT TENNIS CENTRE	LARGE COMMUNITY TENNIS CENTRE (SUB-REGIONAL)	REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE	NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE
Court number/ level	1-3 courts	4-7 courts	8-11 courts	12-15 courts	16-19 courts	20+ courts
Newcastle Centres (#)	11	3				1
Newcastle courts (#)	23	15				24

#### 5.12.4. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Tennis

- « One Year Facility Management Agreements issued to clubs with courts on CN-owned land
  - Agreements are difficult to understand and provide little certainty
  - Transfer daily operation and maintenance to the clubs
  - Make clubs liable for repairs identified in CN audits (although only limited tenure is available)
- « District Park
  - Facility is valued but in need of redevelopment
- « Courts and Lighting:
  - Surfaces requiring regular/ programmed re-surfacing (depending on type)
  - Impact of trees on stability/ integrity of surface
  - Lighting requires upgrade to meet standards, with LED preferred to assist with operating costs
  - System of locking/ providing access for casual use requires attention
- « Amenities/ clubhouses:
  - Some facilities have no access to toilets and amenities
  - Some have recently been refurbished and others are sub-standard

## 5.13. TOUCH/ OZTAG

Touch in Newcastle is administered by four associations (refer Table 27) which operate from four venues, distributed primarily in more populated central and southern areas of the City with a venue in the north.

Oztag is a commercially delivered sport which, in Newcastle, is organised by Newcastle Oztag.

### 5.13.1. Participation and Trends

Participation data supplied by associations and clubs is outlined at Table 27. NSW Touch data indicates that the affiliated associations and clubs in Newcastle have 6,959 registered players (2018), while the regional association reported 5,300. Newcastle Oztag reported 3,510 registered players: providing a total of 8,810.

This combined reported player membership represents 5.5% of the CN population, while the AusPlay<sup>30</sup> data for 2018 indicates that 2.3% of adults in NSW and 0.8%<sup>31</sup> of children nationally reported participated in Oztag and 2% of children nationally reported playing Touch.

Table 27: Touch and Oztag Participation and Trends in Newcastle

ASSOCIATION/ CLUBS	MEMBERSHIP			TRENDS EXPRESSED BY TOUCH/ OZTAG
	2015	2018	CHANGE	
Newcastle Oztag	2,570	3,510	+940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Whilst still concentrating on the senior competitions, the division has also actively targeted junior players and is growing rapidly. The summer competition attracts family and friends to the mixed division who participate in lower grades.</li> <li>« Oztag now holds World Cup Tournaments every four years, as well as State, Nationals and Trans-Tasman competitions. If selected, players able to represent their region, State and Australia</li> <li>« Players from 6 to 60 are able to participate. Association has had a significant increase in the number of players wanting to participate in the next level of representative competition.</li> <li>« In low socio-economic areas, it is important to keep cost as low as possible. The greatest cost for some clubs is field hire.</li> <li>« People continue to play with friends</li> <li>« Association slowly declining</li> </ul>
Hunter Western Hornets Regional Touch Association	4,474	5,300	826	
Beresfield Touch Association	392	264	-128	
Kotara Bears Touch Association				
Wallsend Touch Football Association	2,857	2,399	-458	

<sup>30</sup> AusPlay Survey. Australian Sports Commission. Data from survey period January to December 2018 (data released April 2019)

<sup>31</sup> This estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution

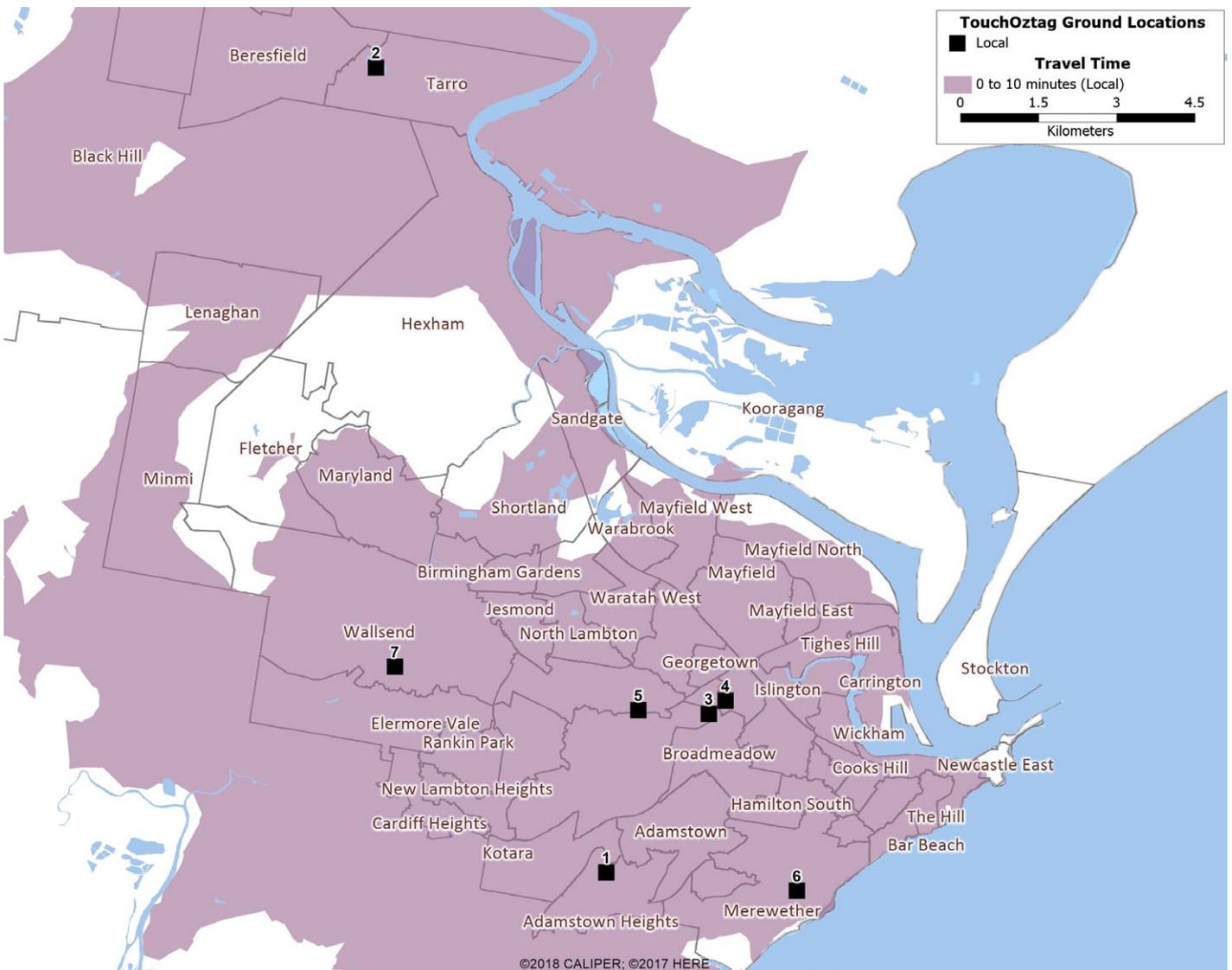
### 5.13.2. Facility Supply and Distribution

The inventory of facilities was provided by CN and included information on the hierarchy of facilities as currently defined by CN.

Table 28: Extract from Sports Facility Inventory – Touch and Oztag

FACILITY	NO OF FIELDS	FACILITY ADDRESS	CURRENT CN HIERARCHY	MAP 11 ID
Gibbs Bros Oval	1	Rowan Cres, Merewether	Local	6
Hudson Park	3	62 Lexington Pde, Adamstown Heights	Local	1
New Lambton Park	3	Womboin Rd, Lambton	Local	5
Smith Park	3	Boreas Rd, Hamilton North	Local	4
Tarro Reserve	2	Anderson Dr, Tarro	Local	2
Upper Reserve	9	Lake Rd, Wallsend	Local	7
Wanderers Park	1	1/50 Denney St, Broadmeadow	Local	3

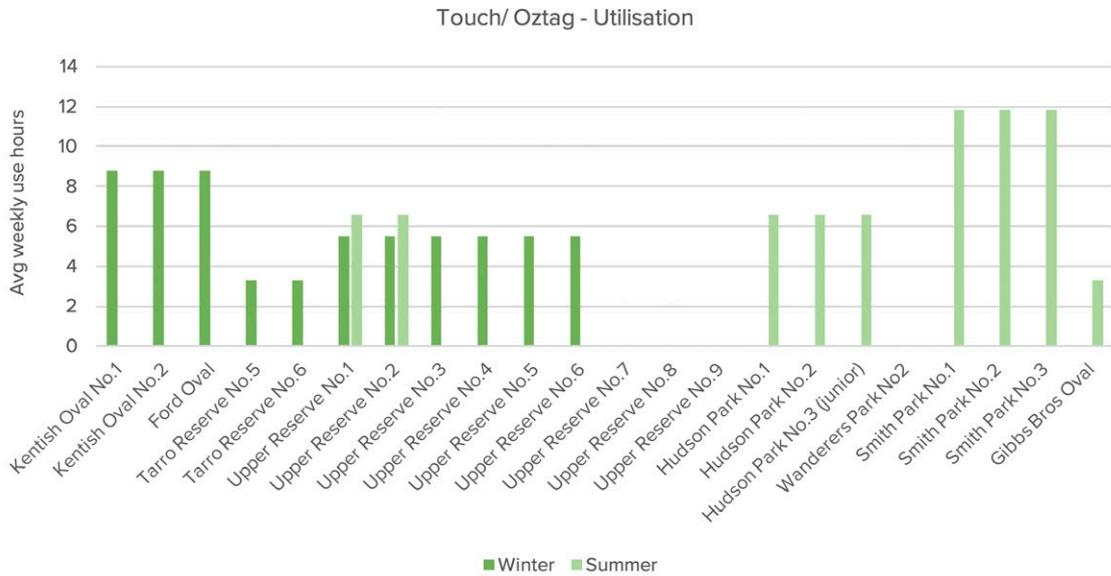
Map 11: Distribution of Touch and Oztag facilities



### 5.13.3. Facility Utilisation

Utilisation information for Touch/ Oztag facilities has been provided and illustrated at Figure 16.

Figure 16: Average weekly use (combined training and competition hours) of Touch and Oztag facilities



### 5.13.4. Facility Issues/ Demands Expressed by Touch/ Oztag

- « Smith Park grounds and amenities are in poor condition
- « Lighting at Smith Park would enable competition to be expanded or extended. Oztag is unable to access this venue in winter months
- « Wallsend Touch has lost fields at Upper Wallsend due to Hunter Water maintenance works and these have not been returned
- « Touch and Oztag have no capacity for expansion without access to additional fields
- « Parking is a major issue at Upper Reserve (accessed via residential streets). Possible solution to convert lost playing fields to car park.

## 6. DEMAND ANALYSIS MODELLING

This section models land area requirements for playing fields and needs for future outdoor courts. Future demand for playing fields and courts to 2031 has been assessed using predictive models developed by Otium Planning Group and/or benchmark data from other sources. Otium Planning Group models are described in more detail below.

### 6.1. BENCHMARKING OF SPORTSGROUNDS SUPPLY

It is difficult to gain reliable data to benchmark the provision of sportsgrounds due to different data collection methods and levels of accuracy for recording sportsground areas. Often, figures are quoted that incorporate expanses of bushland, recreation parks and other associated spaces that are not directly related to the provision of sport. To gain a more appropriate comparison, the area of available/ useable 'playing space'<sup>32</sup> needs to be compared. This level of data is not typically reported by most Councils, however, Otium recently conducted a similar study for North Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) which is available for comparative purposes. Table 29 shows the spatial supply comparison between Newcastle and the NSROC LGAs.

Table 29: Supply by LGA<sup>33</sup>

AREA	POPULATION (2016)	PLAYING AREA COUNT	PLAYING SPACE (HA)	AVERAGE SITE AREA (HA)	POP/HA	HA/1000 POP
Newcastle	160,919	134	133.3	0.99	1,207	0.83
Hornsby	149,650	44	59.5	1.35	2,516	0.40
Hunters Hill	14,500	10	6.5	0.65	2,238	0.45
Ku-ring-gai	123,500	63	63.6	1.01	1,943	0.51
Lane Cove	37,350	7	9.3	1.33	4,016	0.25
North Sydney	72,150	13	10.1	0.77	7,179	0.14
Northern Beaches	248,564	62	116.5	1.88	2,134	0.47
Ryde	119,950	73	61.9	0.85	1,936	0.52
Willoughby	75,450	19	28.5	1.50	2,651	0.38

The following observations can be made from this data:

- « Newcastle's supply of sports grounds is much higher (hectares/ head of population and population per hectare) than the benchmarked Councils in the north of Sydney
- « The average size of grounds is in the mid-range compared to these Councils, most of which are more densely populated than Newcastle.

<sup>32</sup> This relates to useable sports surfaces (e.g. competition/ training areas) and immediate surrounds. The analysis in this report focuses predominately on this figure.

<sup>33</sup> Playing area/ current supply refers to actual playing area and run-off areas only, not ancillary facilities such as car parks, amenities, landscaping, pathways and informal open space.

## 6.2. UTILISATION MODEL

The **Utilisation Model** assesses the current utilisation of sportsgrounds against capacity benchmarks and population projections to determine the actual playing area required (expressed in hectares, excluding ancillary space<sup>34</sup>).

This has been developed by scrutinising data obtained from CN and Park Committees on utilisation of sports parks and applying models relating to current and future demand. It should be noted that usage data has been recorded on a 'field by field' basis.

It is generally accepted that sportsground utilisation and facility condition have a direct and inseparable relationship. Several turf consultants suggest that any use of more than 25 hours a week will contribute to a deterioration of the playing surface and require a more intensive maintenance regime.

The intensity of use (number of players per field and spread of hours) is much more relevant in the winter season than the summer season, as this is when demand reaches its peak and supply is at its most tenuous due to growing conditions for natural turf.

CN's booking schedule identifies 134 individual 'bookable' fields/ spaces, 12 netball facilities and 14<sup>35</sup> tennis centres across 56 sportsground sites.

Key considerations and assumptions for this model are outlined below:

- « CN owned or managed facilities – only facilities where CN manages and/ or records usage are included (due to availability of data)
- « Actual usage data is based on self-reporting by user groups and represents average weekly hours of use (training and competition)
- « Standard weekly use benchmarks – analysis is based on a typical or average week of allocations in winter and compared against a range of notional capacity benchmarks
  - Natural turf field 25 hours
  - Synthetic surfaces 54 hours

- « School use is included, but if data is not available a 10% loading to existing use has been applied (based on experience with similar studies elsewhere)
- « Other informal sport or recreational use is not generally recorded by CN and has not been taken into account
- « It is recognised that not all use is equal. That is, higher impact sports (greater numbers, game play and footwear) and user types (adults v children) may result in higher or lower surface deterioration. The utilisation data available does not make these distinctions.

There are a number of facilities that form part of the supply of sports fields for which usage data was not obtained by CN (26 or 19% of total). In order to avoid assessing these fields as zero usage (and therefore risking an underestimate of demand) the average of other fields (14.75 hours/ week) was applied to these fields.

Figure 17 indicates that 18% of playing fields are used in excess of the benchmark capacity of 25 hours per week – some well in excess of this amount (e.g. Adamstown No 5, National Park No 4, Ford Oval, Stevenson Park, Alder Park and Nesbitt Park). A further 9% are approaching the 25 hours per benchmark. However, the majority of sports fields (54%) are utilised below the benchmark capacity of 25 hours - in many cases well below (fewer than 10 hours per week).

Actual usage of playing fields compared with the hours that these fields are booked is shown at Figure 18. There is a wide variation between booked hours and actual usage. In many cases actual usage far exceeds booked hours; in others booked hours far exceeds actual usage. Booked hours data was not available for many cases.

<sup>34</sup> Based on Otium Planning Group experience, ancillary areas such as car parks, amenities, landscaping, pathways and informal open space would require an additional 70% of the actual playing area.

<sup>35</sup> The Newcastle Tennis Centre (District Park) is the 15th tennis centre and is included in the overall assessment of supply but is not located on Council land or its use managed by Council.

Figure 17: Sports field Utilisation and notional carrying capacity

### Winter - Sports field Utilisation and Notional Carrying Capacity

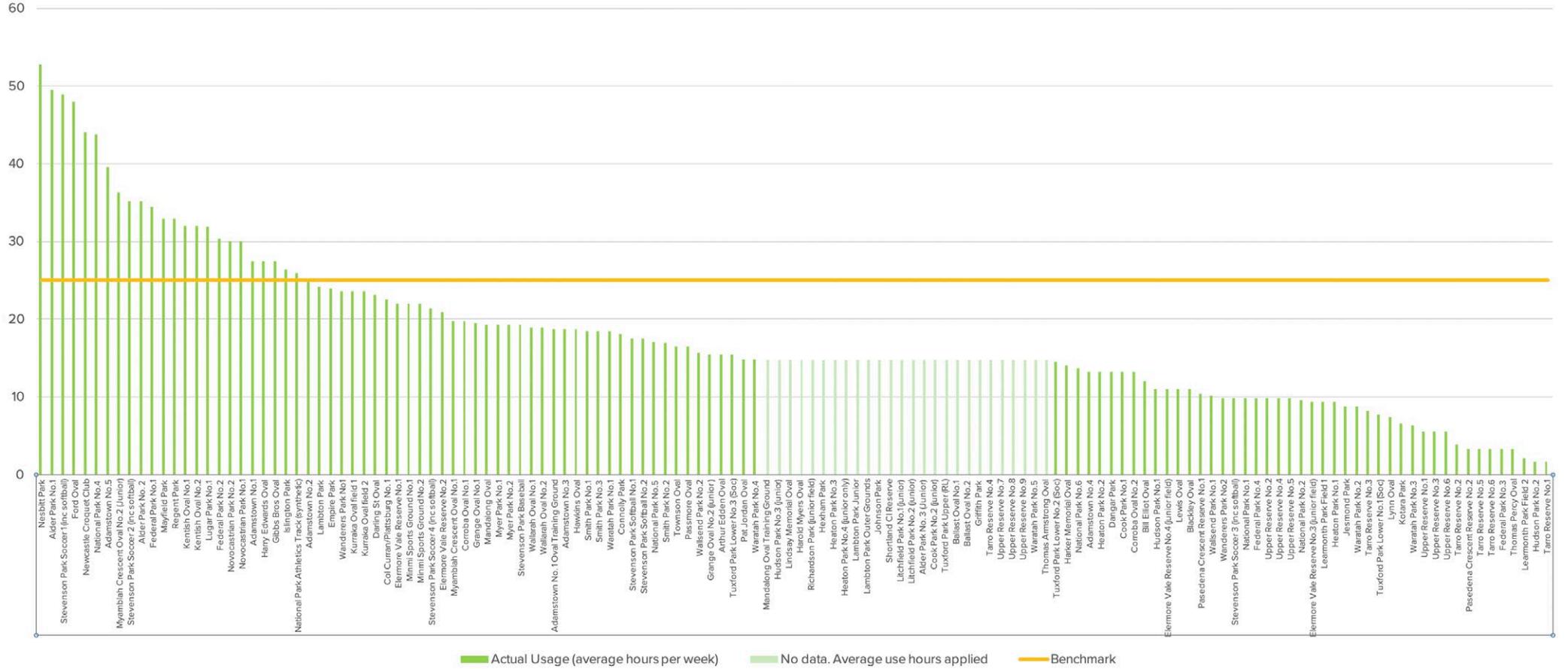
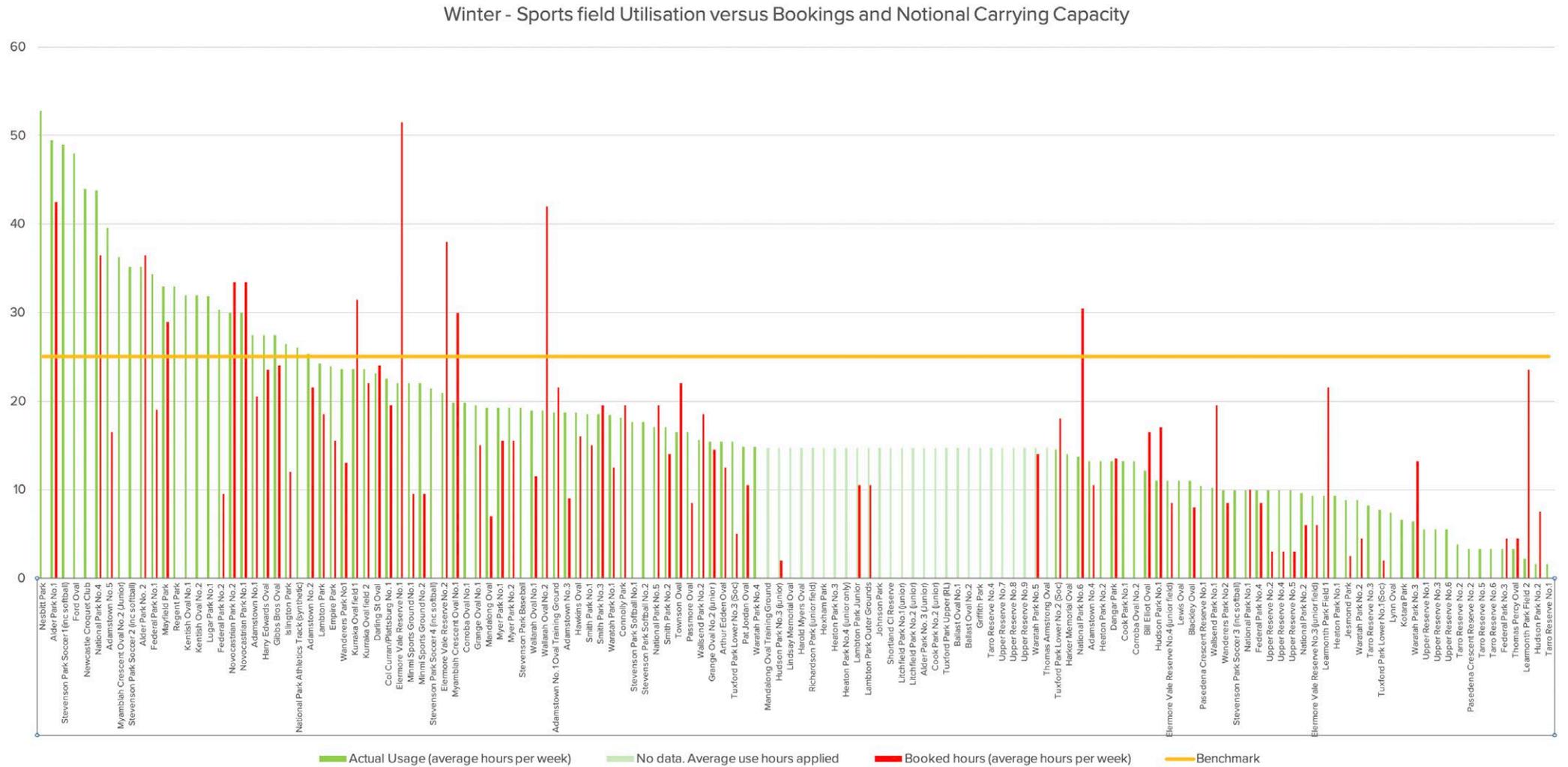


Figure 18: Sports field utilisation versus bookings and notional benchmark



## 6.3. DEMAND ASSESSMENT MODEL

Otium Planning Group has developed a Demand Assessment Model based on participation data, facility capacity, user requirements and a number of variables calibrated for the specific population.

This proprietary model allows a projection of the number of facilities required and the area needed to accommodate the demand. Using the model provides a tool to test provision scenarios for future populations as well as assess the adequacy of current supply in terms of current or modelled demand. Demand for sporting facilities is modelled using a combination of the following data:

- « Available sport activity participation data for the population.
- « Modelling of the capacity of fields, courts or other facilities in terms of the number of users they can accommodate.
- « Determination of the areas required to accommodate actual playing surface and ancillary space required for different facilities.
- « Setting parameters for the modelled facilities around hours of operation, differences between training and competition use and average lengths of seasons relative to each sport.

### 6.3.1. Developing the Model for Newcastle

Every time the Demand Assessment Model is developed for a client there are a number of individual calibrations undertaken to ensure it recognises the local context. The Model has been applied to Newcastle in order to determine the current future demand for sports fields and courts to 2031; the following assumptions have been applied to the model for this project:

### 6.3.2. Participation Data

Participation data for this model is sourced from local membership/ registration data supplied by the regional or State associations for Newcastle and AusPlay data (as at July 2019). Though there are some issues with sample sizes and confidence levels for some individual sports within the Ausplay data, these individual results are of limited concern when participation data is aggregated for all sports using a particular type of field (e.g. oval fields). To explain, while we can be less certain about the exact numbers playing a particular sport, we can be reasonably confident that total participation in Oval-based sports as a whole is reasonably robust. For the purpose of this model, the following assumption has been applied to athletics:

- « AusPlay data for Athletics includes jogging and running, which in our view is not a true representation of participation in the “sport of athletics” and hence could skew the demand for formal athletics facilities. AusPlay data is separated into organised and unorganised participation modes and indicates the venue type used for the activity. Therefore, the participation rate for Athletics is based on ‘organised’ participation undertaken at a sports club or association.

### 6.3.3. Variables Adjusted for this Model

For every model a number of variables are adjusted to reflect the local conditions. These variables also allow testing of future provision scenarios (e.g. the impact of changing the amount of lit fields). For this model the following variables have been applied:

DATA	VARIABLES
Year of population data	2016
Total Population	160,919
% 5-14 Y.O.	11%
% 15+ Y.O.	83%
<b>% of facilities lit for night use</b>	
Field Sport	60%
Outdoor Courts	40%
<b>Season Length</b>	
Winter	20
Summer	20
All year round	40
<b>Average use Hours/week</b>	
Lit fields and outdoor courts	40
Unlit fields and courts (winter)	19.5
Unlit fields and courts (summer)	27

### 6.3.4. Understanding the Model

The Demand Assessment Model has been developed using a complex set of relational data. However, in simple terms the model calculates demand around three fundamental calculations. Firstly, each sport, based on the needs of its participants, will require access to a facility for an average number of hours per year per participant. Secondly, each sport will have a maximum number of users per hour that can be accommodated, on average, at a single field or court (or other facility type). Thirdly, a facility has an available capacity of hours per season/ year. The model assumes that each facility is used to capacity before another is needed.

Simply, this means that modelling the facility demand uses the available participation data to determine how many facilities are required to meet the annual demand generated by that participation. The model also uses the spatial variables to identify the amount of land needed to accommodate the facilities and ancillary space required to meet this demand.

### 6.3.5. Calculating Facility Numbers

The model focuses on the facility type overall and seasonality, which ensures that demand for facilities that are generally used by different sports in different seasons (e.g. AFL and Cricket shared oval fields) is not over projected. The model assumes that all field sharing across seasons and between sports is the norm.

In projecting facility needs it is assumed that when shared between summer and winter users the peak demand (i.e. the season with the highest demand) can then accommodate demand from the opposing season.

For example: if AFL requires 5 fields and Cricket requires 4 fields, developing 5 multi-use facilities can accommodate for both Cricket and AFL, as they operate in separate seasons. This peak seasonal demand combines with year-round demand to generate a total number of facilities required to meet annual demand. Therefore, calculating facility demand is the sum of all-year round needs and the “higher” need of either summer or winter users.

### 6.3.6. Using the “Standard Facilities” Measures

To accommodate the variance in the size and shape of playing areas and to acknowledge that in many cases facilities are provided as overlays (e.g. two touch fields overlay onto a single rugby field), a “standard” facility as a special measure has been adopted. In general, this is the larger of the possible layouts and the model has adjusted for this overlay and shared use effect. The standard facilities are defined as:

1. Oval field- based on senior AFL playing area footprint (2.47 Ha)
2. Rectangle field – based on senior Rugby Union (1.26 Ha)

As the model calculates demand it determines the number of individual facilities required for a specific sport as well as the number of “standard” facilities to simplify planning for multi-use facilities. The added advantage of this approach is that it recognises that facilities need to be flexible and able to be reconfigured as participation trends and demand changes over time. Using the standard footprint means that overall demand (for example for sports using rectangular fields) can be accommodated with a certain level of provision regardless of the potential for changing participation between the codes that use rectangular fields.

### 6.3.7. Calculating Spatial Outputs

The model also generates a demand output based on a combination of the actual space required for the playing surface and the additional land required to accommodate buffers, amenities, parking etc that make sporting spaces functional.

Ancillary land needs for fields and facilities has been incorporated into the model based on analysis undertaken in several states around the average total land footprints accommodating sporting fields or facilities. The development of the average rate of ancillary land is based on real-world examples where land parcels are neither a perfect shape nor of perfect quality. This means that while the actual playing space may be only 1 Ha, the total land needed for a functional outcome equals the playing surface plus the ancillary space.

Analysis from projects in a number of cities across NSW, Qld, and ACT has found that generally:

- « For field sports an additional 70% (of the playing space) is required
- « For built facilities and courts an additional 50% is required.

## 6.4. ASSESSMENT OF MODELLING OUTPUTS

### 6.4.1. Playing Fields Demand Modelling

Table 30 shows the outputs of both the Utilisation Model and the Demand Assessment Model. The mid-point of both model outputs was calculated, which Otium typically utilises to determine the demand for sports fields.

Table 30: Summary of Demand Analysis – Surplus or Deficit of Sports field playing area<sup>36</sup>

MODELLING RESULTS	CURRENT SUPPLY (HA)	2016	2021	2026	2031
		SURPLUS / DEFICIT			
Utilisation Model	133.3	+33.2	+26.8	+21.0	+16.4
Demand Assessment Model	133.3	+19.8	+13.3	+7.3	+0.8
Mid-point Output (Playing Area Only)		+26.5	+20.0	+14.1	+8.6
Mid-point Output (Playing Area + allowance for ancillary space)		+45.1	+34.0	+24.0	+14.6

Both models indicate that in terms of total supply, the existing level of provision is adequate to meet current and future demand. That said, supply should take into account the distribution of facilities as well as overall quantum. As the western growth corridor populated, some additional supply (land and facilities) will be warranted (refer section 6.5).

### 6.4.2. Netball Court Demand Modelling

There is no single adopted industry standard for the provision of outdoor netball courts. Netball competitions are centralised on an Association basis, with the vast majority of competitions historically played on Saturdays. Data on the current utilisation of the National Park netball competition venue was obtained from the Association. This analysis indicates that this netball competition venue operates at 80% of available court hour capacity for Saturday competitions. Utilisation data was not available for other outdoor courts. Any residual capacity in existing courts was factored into population growth projections and assumed a linear growth in netball participation.

The mid-point of provision benchmarking<sup>37</sup> the current utilisation analysis, and Demand Analysis Modelling of netball participation was applied to calculate current and future competition court demands (refer Table 31). This analysis indicates a shortfall of 7 netball courts by 2031.

Table 31: Summary of Demand Analysis – Surplus or Deficit of Facilities

NETBALL COURTS SUPPLY	CURRENT SUPPLY (# OF COMPETITION COURTS)	2016	2021	2026	2031
		SURPLUS / DEFICIT			
Mid-point of modelling and benchmarks	30	-1	-3	-5	-7

### 6.4.3. Tennis Court Demand Modelling

Comparing the supply with population and club membership indicates that the per capita provision of tennis courts in Newcastle is 1:2,647. There is no single adopted industry standard for the provision of outdoor tennis courts and the amount of social play makes demand more difficult to assess.

The mid-point of a range of benchmarks<sup>38</sup> for tennis court provision and Otium Demand Analysis Modelling for tennis participation was applied to calculate future tennis court demands in the City. This analysis indicates that the current supply of tennis courts exceeds demand and will continue to do so by 2031.

Utilisation information for tennis courts was not been obtained, for this study. Further information on the utilisation of existing courts across Newcastle will be required to make accurate determinations on future retention, expansion or disposal of courts.

Table 32: Summary of Demand Analysis – Surplus or Deficit of Facilities

TENNIS COURTS SUPPLY	CURRENT SUPPLY (# OF COURTS)	2016	2021	2026	2031
		SURPLUS / DEFICIT			
Mid-point of modelling and benchmarks	61	+14	+11	+8	+6

<sup>36</sup> Playing area/ current supply refers to actual playing area and run-off areas only, not ancillary facilities such as car parks, amenities, landscaping, pathways and informal open space.

<sup>37</sup> CN as a whole has a provision rate of 1 court per 5,364 people (competition courts) and 1:2,660 (all courts). Netball NSW provision benchmark for competition courts is 1:3,500. Demand Analysis Modelling undertaken by Otium Planning Group for CN indicates a ratio of 1:10,057.

<sup>38</sup> CN as a whole has an average of 1 court per 2,647 people. Guidelines produced in 2012 by Parks and Leisure Western Australia suggest a ratio of between 1:1,875 and 1:3,750. Tennis Australia benchmark is 1:5,000. Demand Analysis Modelling undertaken by Otium Planning Group for CN indicates a ratio of 1:2,966

## 6.5. ANALYSIS FOR WESTERN GROWTH CORRIDOR

While the overall supply of sports grounds within CN as a whole is considered adequate, there will be a need for additional facilities in proximity to new residents to service the projected population in the main growth area (Western Corridor).

### 6.5.1. Assessment of Land Requirements

The western growth corridor is situated in both the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGA's. For the purpose of the land area estimate for sporting land to service current and future population, the 2016 population data from id.Profile for (SA2) Fletcher Minmi has been used as current base, and the future population provided by estimates of growth derived from approvals (refer Figure 19).

Figure 19: Approval Plans – Western Corridor (Fletcher-Minmi)

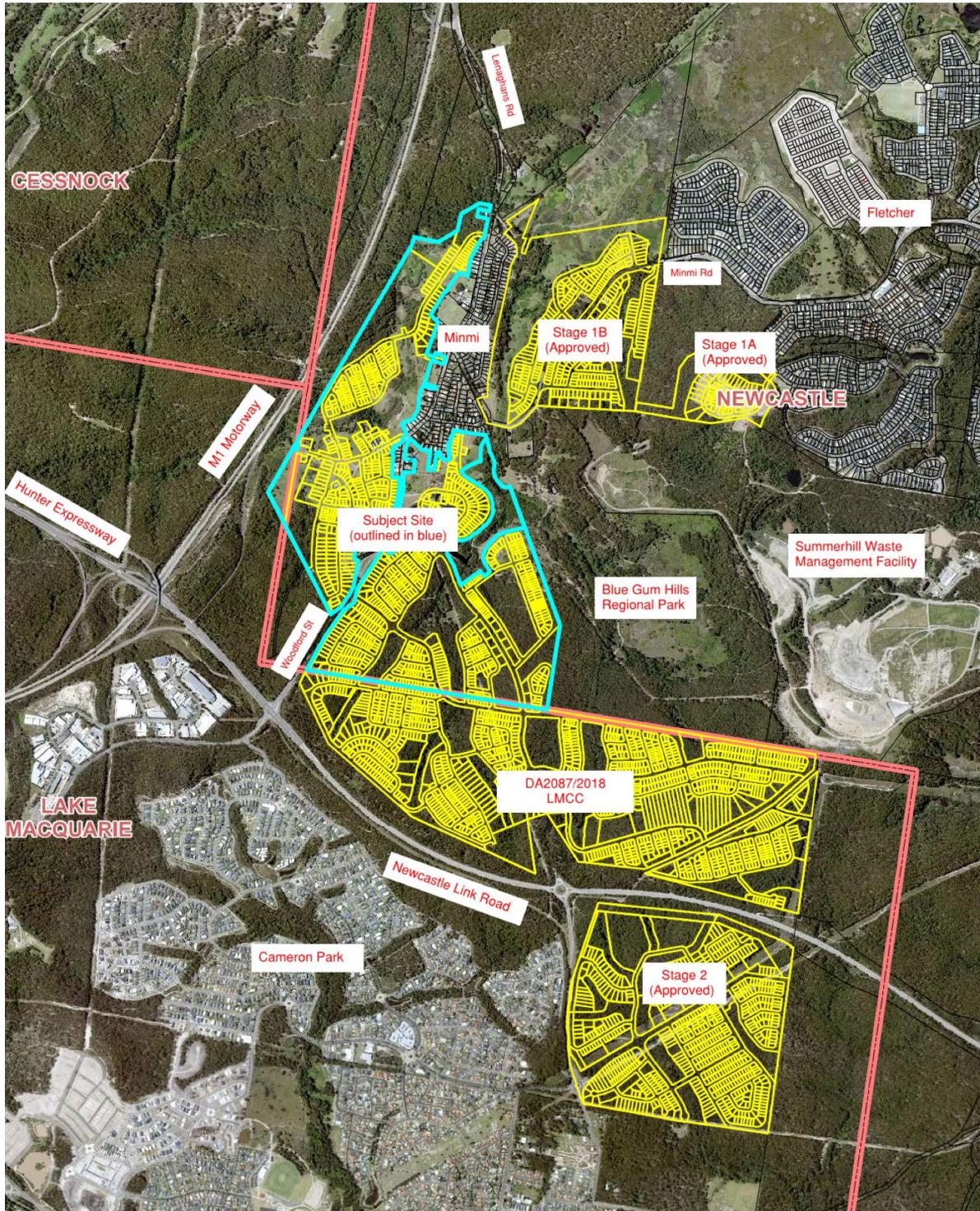


Table 33: Population projections for Western Corridor (id.Profile data; CN data on Development approvals)

AREA	2016	2031	CHANGE
<b>SA2</b>			
Fletcher – Minmi	6,008	11,248	5,240
<b>Development Approvals (refer Figure 19)</b>			
Stage 3 & 4 (blue boundary)		3,186	3,186
LMCC (north of link road)		3,300	3,300
St 1A		171	171
St 1B		950	950
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>13,615</b>	<b>7,607</b>

Note to table: the projected realisation of the population growth attributed to development approvals is not known, however for modelling purposes, is assumed as being achieved by 2031.

The analysis of land requirements for additional sporting facilities for the Western Growth Corridor uses the following inputs and assumptions:

- « Population of the whole SA2 areas are used, including projections of growth to 2031
- « Comparative modelling has been completed using projected population increases arising from:
  - Approved development within the corridor
  - The inclusion of the potential addition of (currently) Lake Macquarie Council population, that may be transferred to CN in the event of a local government boundary realignment.
- « Existing supply of sports facilities within these areas (Kurra Oval, Minmi Sportsground)
- « Otium Planning Group (OPG) demand modelling approach

For the purpose of calculating future land area needs, the higher population figure in Table 33 (13,615) based on development approvals has been adopted. The table includes the current and modelled demand for sporting land shown in hectares and hectares/ 1,000 population. The current rate of provision across CN as a whole is 1.41Ha/ 1,000 (calculated against total land area).

Table 34: Model with population projections informed by development approvals and boundary realignment including the addition of LMCC population

OUTPUT	TOTAL LAND AREA (HA)	HA/ 1000 POP
Current Supply (actual)#	8.12	1.35
Demand assessment 2016	13.19	2.20
Demand assessment 2031 <sup>39</sup>	20.30	1.49
Demand assessment 2031 <sup>40</sup>	19.21	1.41
Surplus/ deficit (as 2031)	-12.18	

Hence the deficit in supply of land for sport to 2031 is assessed at between 11.09Ha and 12.18Ha.

### 6.5.2. 2013 Western Corridor Contributions Plan

2013 Western Corridor Contributions Plan indicates levels of provision for the Western Corridor, based on expected development and population increase of 8,943.

The application of per capita benchmarks to determine provision levels is not favoured by Otium Planning Group. Otium demand analysis modelling for sportsground land is based on aggregating the total land area required rather than the number of individual playing field types. This is considered to be a more robust approach for the purpose of projecting future land area needs. To explain, while we can be less certain about exact numbers playing a particular sport such as Australian Football or soccer, we can be reasonably confident that participation in field sport as a whole will continue. So, though the land requirements to service field sport as a whole can be projected with some confidence, the actual configuration of the land (in terms of types/ numbers of fields) is less certain the further ahead projections are made. Assessment of individual playing field types is best informed by more detailed master planning.

<sup>39</sup> As estimated by the Otium Demand Assessment Model

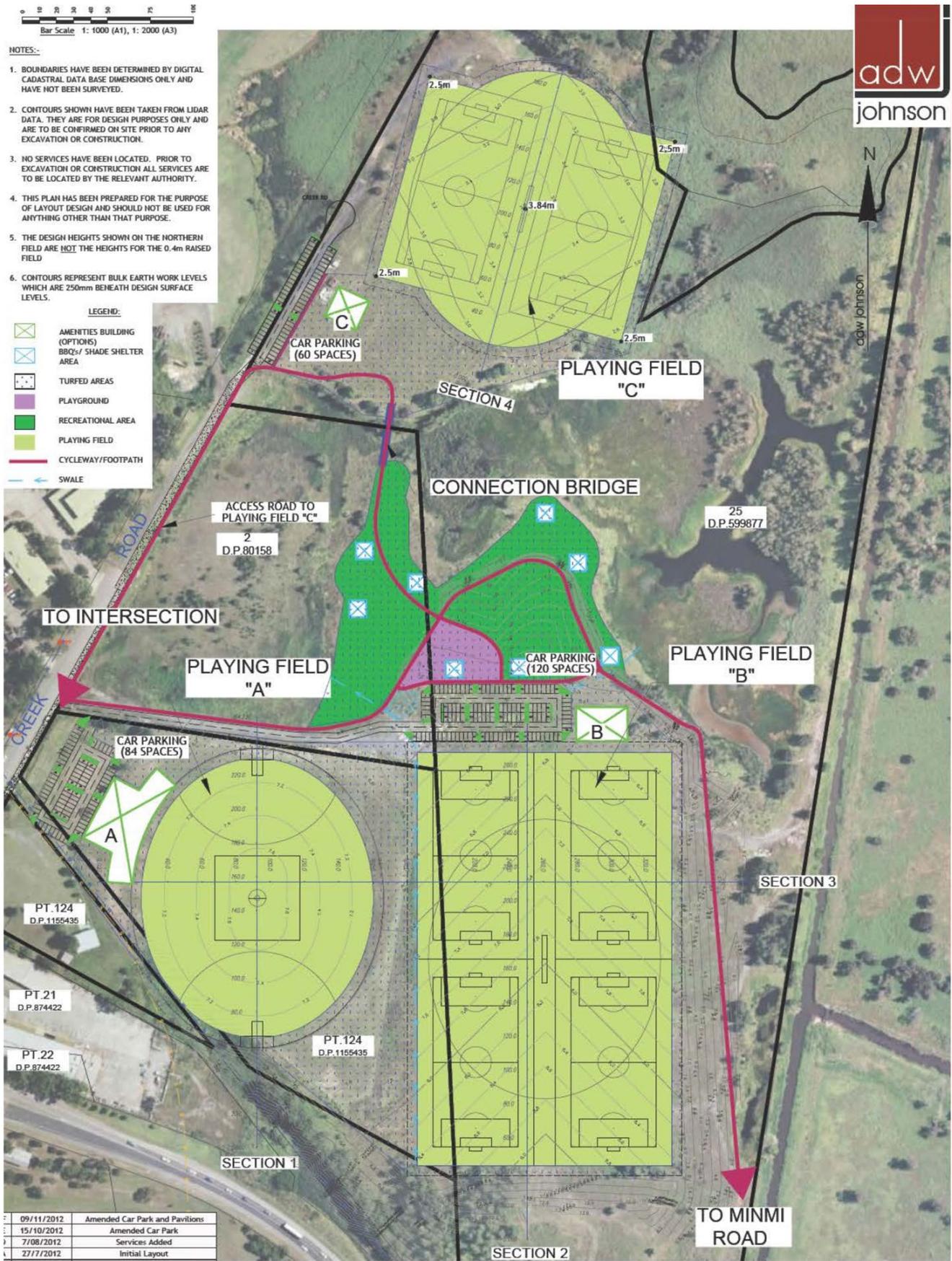
<sup>40</sup> As determined by applying the CN rate of provision to the projected population

Table 35: Infrastructure schedule – with Otium observations

ITEM & DESCRIPTION	LAND AREA (M2)	COMMENTS/ OBSERVATIONS (OTIUM)
<b>Local sportsfields</b> Minimum of 7 local fields; double fields facilities each min 5ha	175,000 m2 17.5ha	Assumed that 17.5ha is considered as new/ additional land, currently not in CN ownership/ control.
<b>District sportsfields</b> Apportioned cost of providing 2 fields <sup>41</sup> at proposed Creek Road facility	247,600 m2 24.76 ha	24.76ha is the approximate total land area provided by the Creek Road lots, considerably in excess of the land required for development of 2 fields
<b>Outdoor courts</b> Minimum of 8 sealed courts: 3x netball 2x basketball 3x local tennis	Included in local sportsfield sites/ facilities	Preferable that any new courts are developed in conjunction with existing; that new tennis courts are provided at minimum of 6 courts to increase potential for sustainability/ viability.
<b>Cricket nets</b> Minimum of 3 nets	Included in local sportsfield sites/ facilities	Preferable that these nets are provided at one location, sited with potential to be expanded in future

<sup>41</sup> 2 Fields is assumed to consist of 2 ovals, yielding 2 cricket/ Australian Rules ovals and four rectangular fields for the other three football codes.

Figure 20: Proposed development plan for Creek Road District



Source: Feasibility Report Proposed Sporting Fields Creek Road, Maryland, prepared by ADW Johnson Pty Ltd, November 2012

## 7. RECREATION PARKLANDS ANALYSIS

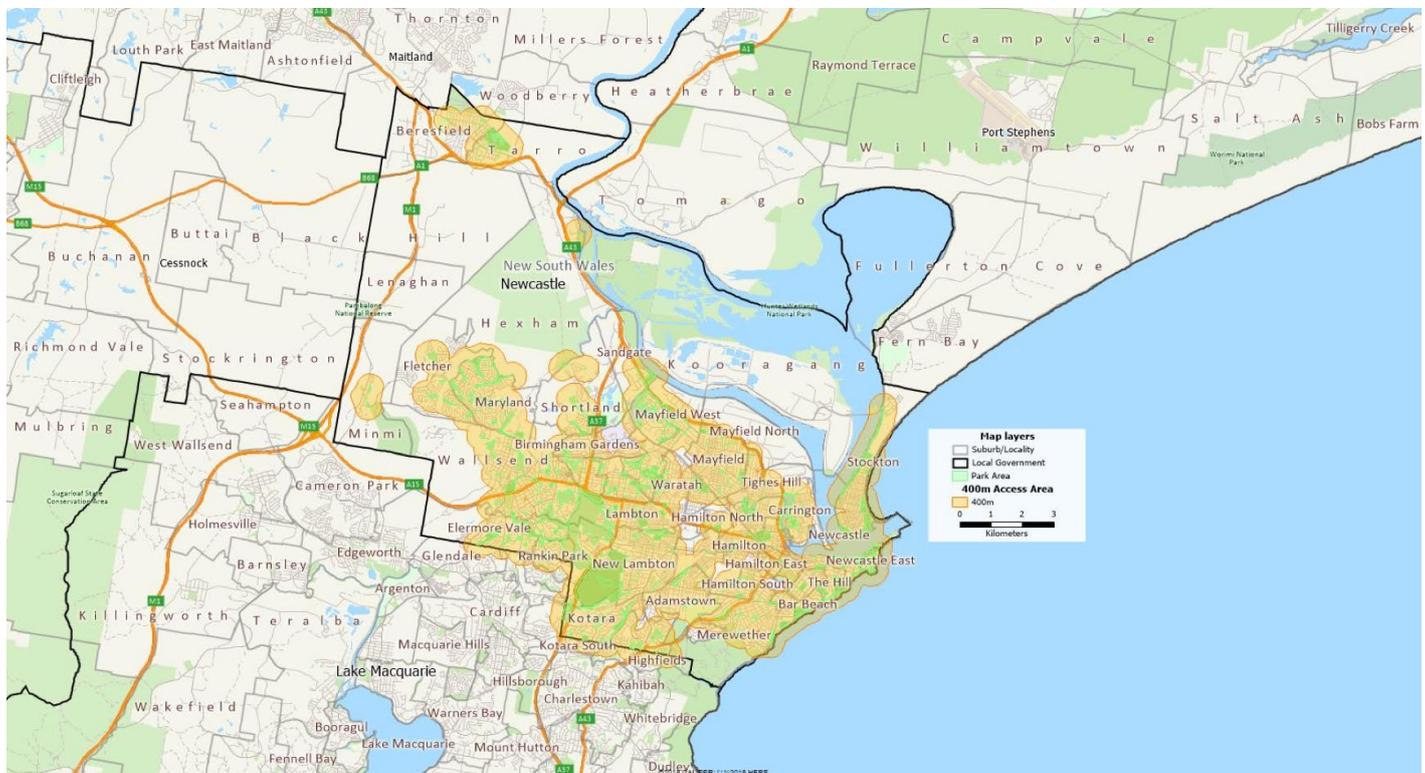
A high-level overview (utilising mapping supplied by CN) of the supply and distribution of recreation parkland in Newcastle was undertaken in order to identify:

- « Areas that may be under-resourced in terms of access to informal recreation parks
- « Existing sports parks that could potentially be re-purposed as recreation parks

Map 12 below illustrates the population within a 400m radius of the existing recreation park network. It indicates that there are some residential areas without access to a recreation park within 400m. Sports Parks in a number of cases, contain infrastructure which enables the park to serve both a formal sport and informal recreation function.

The recommendations of the Strategic Sports Plan have identified a number of sites that could be considered for re-development as recreation parkland (or disposal) primarily due to existing use for sport being heavily constrained (e.g. small size, configuration) and having a more appropriate functionality as recreation park. These recommendations will require further consultation with local residents.

*Map 12: 400m catchments for recreation parkland network*



## 8. WARRANTIES AND DISCLAIMERS

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.



## APPENDIX 1: TENNIS AUSTRALIA – FACILITY HIERARCHY

PUBLIC ACCESS CENTRE	LOCAL TENNIS CENTRE	DISTRICT TENNIS CENTRE	LARGE COMMUNITY TENNIS CENTRE (SUB-REGIONAL)	REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE	NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE
1-3 courts	4-7 courts	8-11 courts	12-15 courts	16-19 courts	20+ courts
	Catchment population within 5 years; within 30km radius of >5,000		Catchment population within 5 years; within 30km radius of 40,000 to 50,000	Catchment population within 5 years; within 30km radius of 80,000 to 100,000	
Tennis engagement opportunities Health and social objectives Publicly accessible venues Community development objectives	Interclub tournaments High performance training feeder Sustainable tennis development objectives Sustainable community health and development objectives		Intra/Inter club tournaments High performance training feeder and focus Resource for smaller centres, clubs and associations Grass roots development Sustainable tennis development objectives Community health and wellbeing objectives	National/state based tournaments High performance training and talent feeder focus Resource for smaller centres, clubs and associations Economic driver Grass roots development Sustainable tennis development objectives Community health and wellbeing objectives	Inter/national tournaments and events High performance training environment Sustainable tennis development objectives Sustainable economic development objectives Showcase for tennis
« Facilities that can be hired or have free access for community use.	« Minimum of 50% of courts based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (grass) « 50% of courts to be floodlit to minimum club competition standards. (350 lux)	« Multi suburb service catchment – social and competition « Minimum of eight courts, at least 50% of courts based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (grass) « 50% of courts to be floodlit to minimum club competition standards (350 lux) « 2 dedicated MLC Tennis Hot Shots courts for primary aged introduction programs	« Minimum of 12 courts, at least 80% of courts based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (grass) « each court to be floodlit to minimum club competition standards (350 lux) « a main court that can provide adequate seating (either fixed or mobile) for local and regional tournaments and events « 4 dedicated MLC Tennis Hot Shots courts for primary aged introduction programs	« Minimum of 16 courts based on a mix of ITF surface codes A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (grass) « Minimum of 14 courts of the same surface based on ITF surface code A (acrylic), F (clay) and H (grass). (Ideally the total court configuration should be a mix of all surfaces) « Each court floodlit to minimum ITF competition standards (500 lux) « Show court that can provide capacity for national, state, regional tournaments and events « At least 6 dedicated MLC Tennis Hot Shots courts for primary aged introduction programs	« Pinnacle facilities « Developed by state government as the elite state venue.
	« Clubhouse, « change and showers, « café/ kiosk, preferably licensed social area « Admin office « Lit sealed on-site carpark	« Clubhouse, « change and showers, « café/ kiosk, licensed social area « Admin office « Lit sealed on-site carpark	« Clubhouse, « change and showers, « café/ kiosk, licensed social area « Admin office « Lit sealed on-site carpark « Located near/ in / adjacent to sport facility/ parklands	« Clubhouse, « change and showers, « café/ kiosk, licensed social area « Admin office « Lit sealed on-site carpark « Multipurpose space for wider community use « Meeting facilities	

## APPENDIX 2: NETBALL NSW COMPETITION LEVELS AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS<sup>42</sup>

COMPETITIONS RUN BY NNSW	AGE GROUP	DURATION	LIKELY FREQUENCY IN EACH REGION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF SPECTATORS	# HARD COURTS REQUIRED
Netball NSW Junior State Titles	12/U, 13/U, 14/U Divisions 1,2, 3 and 4	3 Days	Competition to be run over 3 days, commencing the first weekend of July School Holidays.	3000-4000	8000-10000	Min courts to host: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Divisions 1 &amp; 2 – 32 courts</li> <li>« Division 3 &amp; 4 – 32 courts</li> </ul> (based on 20 teams per/division & 6/7/6 format)
Netball NSW Senior State Titles	15U, 17U, Opens,	3 Days	Competition to be run over 3 days of the June long weekend. All teams in division will play each other once.	1500- 2000	4000-5000	Min courts to host: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>« Venue 1 – 32 courts</li> <li>« Venue 2 – 32 courts</li> </ul> (based on 20 teams per/division & 6/7/6 format)
Netball NSW State Masters Titles	Comp Masters – O35s & O40s Social Masters – O35s,O40s,O45s	2 Days	Competition to run over the 2nd last weekend in October.	600-800	1200-1500	Min courts to host: One venue – 24 courts Venue will preferably be a Regional Association.
Netball NSW School Cups	Primary: Years 5/6 (mixed) Competitive and Non-Competitive; Secondary: Year 7/8 Girls, Years 7/8 Boys, Year 9/10 Girls, Year 9/10 Boys Competitive and Non-Competitive	1 Day at various locations	These events are based in locations where growth and interest has been identified within the regions			Regional: min 8-10
Netball NSW School Gala Days	Years 3/4 non-competitive	1 Day at various locations	These events are based in locations where growth and interest has been identified within the regions			Regional: min 4

<sup>42</sup> Adopted December 2017

