

# Plan of Management and Master Plan

**for Blackmore Oval**

Revision E  
January 2024





## Further Information

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Front cover image photography by Welsh + Major.

Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West Local Government Area is situated. We celebrate the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, heritage, beliefs and their relationship with the land and water.

We acknowledge the continuing importance of this relationship to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living today, despite the devastating impacts of European invasion. We express our sorrow for past injustices and support the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to self-determination.

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# Document Control

Date:	Revision No:	Revision details:	Approved:
02/12/2022	-	Draft issue for client review	XX
15/02/2023	A	Minor text corrections	DW
17/03/2023	B	Master Plan Strategies Included	DW
27/03/2023	C	Sections 2 and 4 combined; Leases and Licences included	DW
26/04/2023	D	Minor Amendments	DW
19/01/2024	E	Amendments to Precinct B to reflect current leasing arrangements	DW

# Introduction + Executive Summary

Inner West Council have produced a Plan of Management priority list identifying which open spaces within the Inner West LGA are in greatest need of review.

In 2022, Welsh + Major were engaged by Inner West Council to develop Plans of Management and accompanying Master Plans for the five top priority parks.

This document contains a Plan of Management and Master Plan for Blackmore Oval (sometimes known as Blackmore Park). Blackmore Oval is located in Leichhardt and is bounded by Charles St and Canal Rd to the north, and the light rail embankment and commercial arts precinct to the south. It consists of 4.6 acres (1.86 hectares), inclusive of the wetland area to the north of the sportsground.

## Plan of Management

The Plan of Management [POM] is a guiding framework which directs the future vision, planning, management and use of the park. It will be used to inform the development of the park over the next ten years.

## Master Plan

The Master Plan is a design report outlining the actions required for improvement, intended to guide the physical upgrade of the site over the next ten years. It does this by suggesting how the strategies set out in the Plan of Management can be translated

into site specific gestures for application to the park.

## How to use this document

Development of the POM and Master Plan involved some overlap of research and analysis. As such the POM and Master Plan were undertaken simultaneously, and are presented together within the same document.

The site has been considered and designed as a whole, but for ease and clarity within this document it has been presented as four zones.

Developing the Plan of Management and Master Plan involved the following processes:

- Policy review identifying the opportunities and constraints presented by national and local government initiatives.
- Demographic review identifying the local community profile.
- Review of site ownership and legal categorisation.
- Identification of applicable statutory conditions and legislation.
- Undertaking a detailed site analysis.
- Undertaking Community Engagement through drop in sessions and an online survey.
- Analysis of the outcomes of the Context Review, Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes to develop Key Objectives and Strategies for management and action.
- Application of the physical strategies within the Draft Master Plan

**Key features of the Master Plan**

**01 New amenities**  
with safe, inclusive facilities and increased connection to Blackmore Oval and greater area.

**02 Upgraded entry from Canal Road (North)**  
including new bollards, reduced hardscaping, rationalised bin storage and increased understorey planting.

03 Park signage location

**04 Demolish + rebuild damaged wing of SES building**

**05 Location of new gym/storage for sports clubs**  
paid for by sports clubs in location of existing storage containers.

06 New ball protection screen  
to replace existing along clubhouse + SES building facade.

**07 New paved entry from Canal Road (South)**  
at south entry to create a welcoming 'meeting place' at park entry.

**08 New shaded seating structures.**

09 Condition of existing flood lighting to sports ground monitored, maintained and upgraded as required.

10 New bollard lighting strategy along existing path to provide safe access for users at night, with minimal impact on local wildlife.

11 Monitor and maintain existing fitness stations and synthetic surface of existing cricket nets.

12 New pedestrian bridge over stormwater channel to increase circulation to greater parklands + promote connection to nature.

13 New pedestrian zebra crossing and widened bike path at Canal Road for safety of pedestrians and cyclists entering the park.

14 Screen southern boundary and extend fauna linkages with new understorey planting amongst existing trees.

15 New uncovered park benches alongside sports field.

16 Monitor and maintain existing sports field + cricket pitch to ensure it meets the needs of the community.

17 New dogs 'on-leash at all times' rules enforced throughout full extents of the park. Updated signage provided.

# Plan of Management Stakeholder Targets and Activities

The Plan of Management Process has a number of engagement targets both internally and externally. These include:

## **Community and External Stakeholders:**

- The Local Inner West community
- Neighbouring properties
- Sports clubs
- User groups

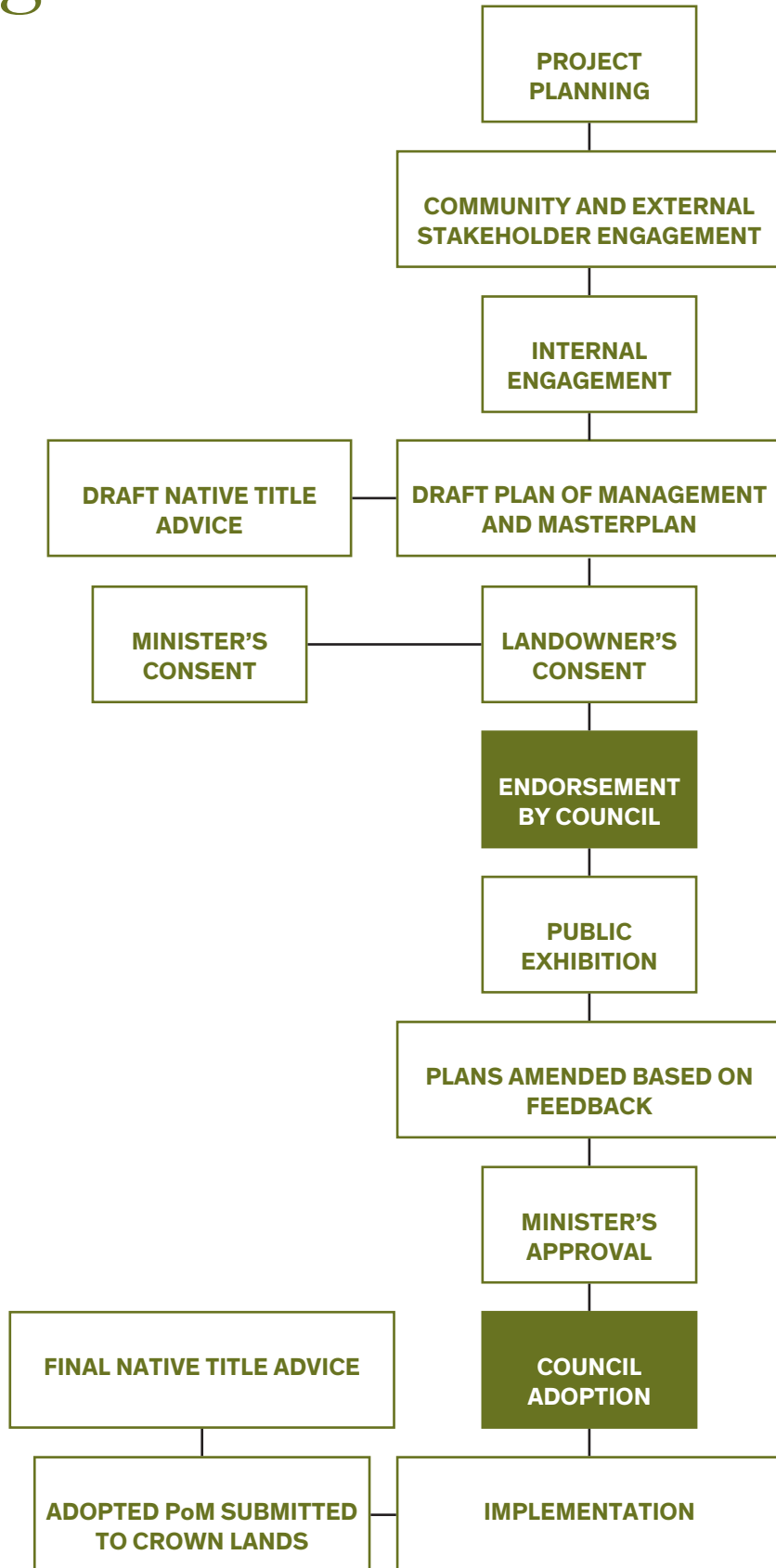
## **Activities Include:**

- Onsite drop-in sessions
- Online survey, comment, and/ or discussion

## **Internal (Council) Activities Include:**

- Internal workshops
- Online survey, comment, and/ or discussion
- Meetings, phone calls, and written submissions

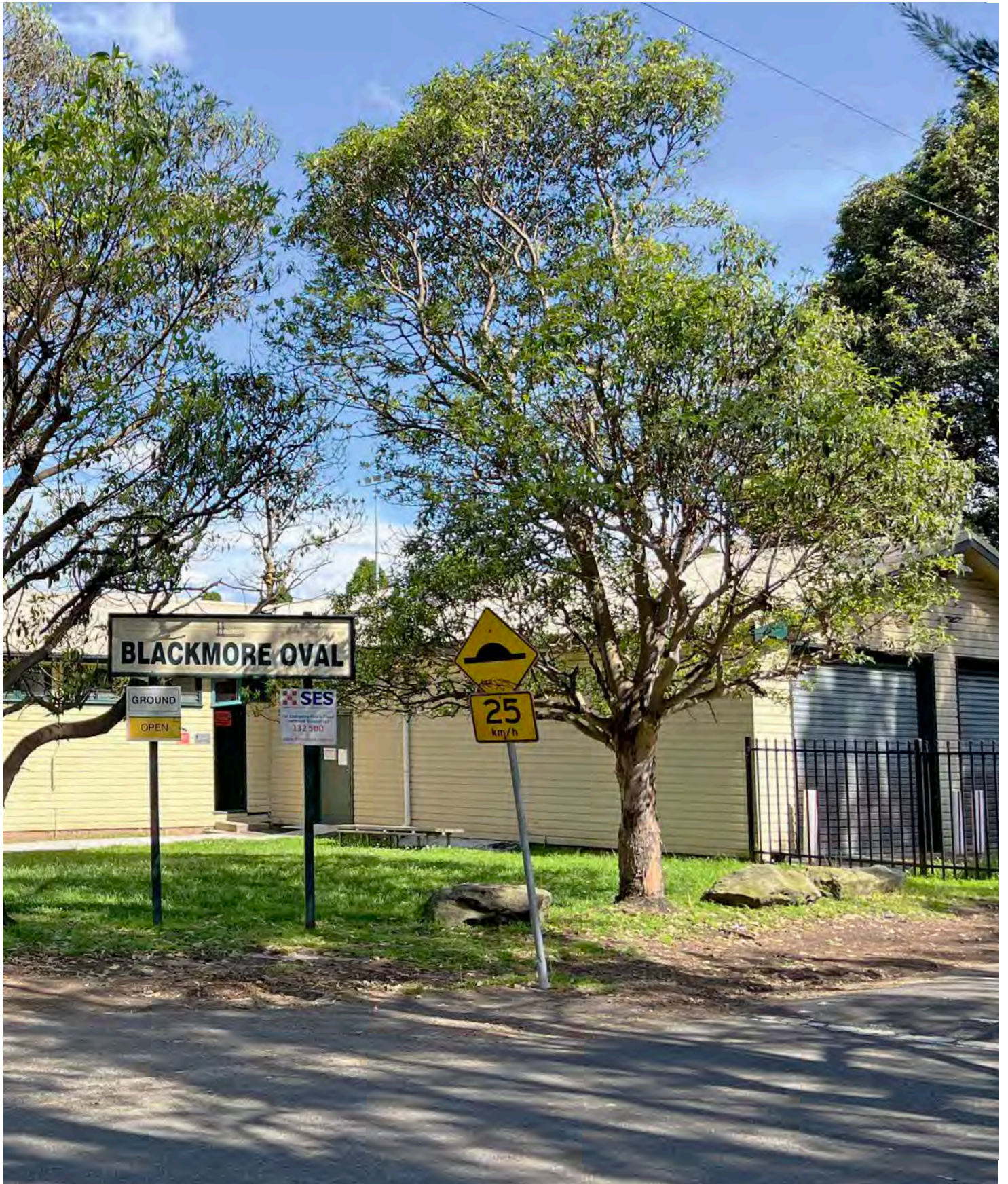
# The Plan of Management Process: Stages

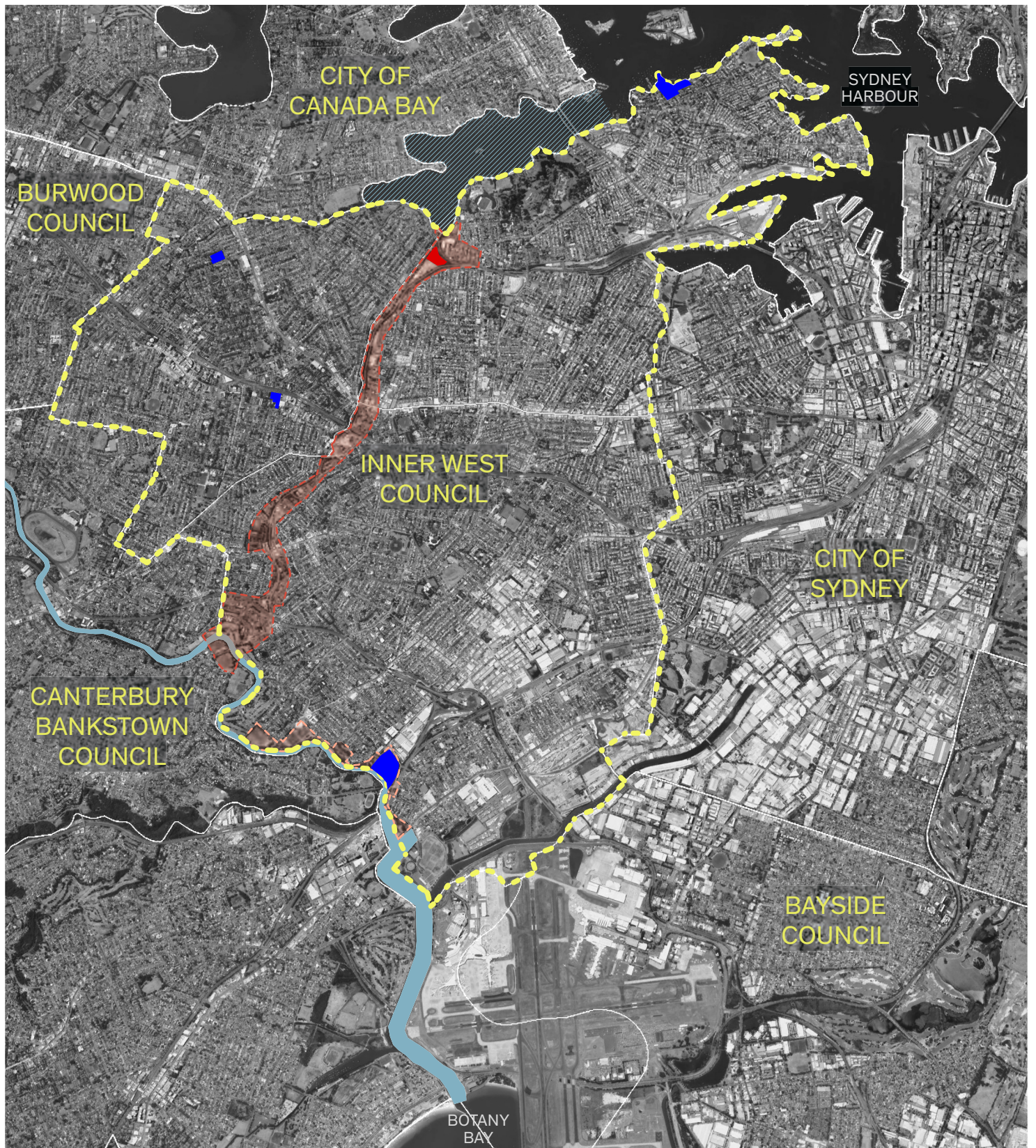


# 1.0 Context Overview



Blackmore Oval across the Hawthorne Canal. Photography by Welsh + Major.





# Regional Context

## Inner West Council

The Inner West Council area is located five kilometres west of the Sydney Central Business District (CBD). It was established when the former Councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville merged in May 2016. Five wards make up the Council: Ashfield, Balmain, Leichhardt, Marrickville, and Stanmore.

The Inner West Council has a resident population of 192,000 people, and spans 36km<sup>2</sup> from the banks of Parramatta River at Birchgrove in the north east, to the Cooks River at Dulwich Hill in the south west.

In total (including non-Council owned land), there is 321.6 hectares of open space within the Inner West, making up 9.1% of the total land area. Based on the 2016 population, this equates to 16.4m<sup>2</sup> of open space provision per person.

There are 278 Council-owned or controlled parks and sporting grounds, totalling 256 hectares. This makes up 7.3% of the total land area of the Inner West.

## Existing Recreational Needs and Future Projections

Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West, published in 2018 and then updated in October 2021, is a study commissioned by Inner West Council in 2018 providing an analysis of the existing recreation facilities within the LGA, including their current and predicted usage. The document breaks down the Inner West into 4 catchment areas to provide accurate information regarding the future needs of each catchment.

Blackmore Oval lies within Catchment 3 - East, bordering Catchment 1 - North and Catchment 2 - West.

The Inner West community is expected to grow with an additional 34,815 residents projected by the year 2036. If new open space is not provided the amount of open space per person will decline from 16.4m<sup>2</sup> to 14.3m<sup>2</sup> per person within this timeframe.

Population growth will also result in additional pressure on current sporting and recreational facilities, and it is anticipated that additional facilities will be needed, and that current facilities will be required to intensify their usage to meet demand.

Based on industry benchmarks, by 2026 there will be a total gap of:

- 3 summer sporting grounds
- 5 winter sporting grounds
- 6 indoor (multipurpose) courts
- 9 outdoor (multipurpose) courts
- 0.9 indoor leisure centre (dry)
- 0.6 indoor leisure centre (aquatic)
- 0.5 skate park/facility.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community engagement completed for this Study investigated recreation participation in the Inner West. Local participation in recreation broadly corresponds to national and state participation trends - walking is the most popular activity at a local, state and national level.

Across the spectrum of recreation activities, people participated most often in "active recreation" activities, with 80% of survey respondents participating at least weekly.

This was followed by personal fitness, with 66% of people participating at least weekly.

In total, 4.5% of people engaged did not participate regularly (at least weekly) in recreation (of any kind), and an additional 1.4% participated regularly in "passive recreation" but not any other kind of recreation.

Figure 18 shows the most popular recreation activities across all community engagement types.



Figure 18 - Most popular recreation activities identified through community engagement completed for the Inner West Recreation Needs Study (Source: Cred Consulting, 2018)

## POPULAR INNER WEST PLACES FOR RECREATION

The most popular recreation spaces in the Inner West identified through a range of consultation activities:

- Footpaths, streets and town centres
- Cycle paths
- Bay Run
- Cooks River foreshore path
- Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre
- Annette Kelleman Aquatic Centre
- The GreenWay
- Steel Park
- Private gyms
- Hawthorne Canal/Richard Murden Reserve
- Enmore Park
- Ashfield Park

Key differences between different groups:

- Females used children's playgrounds, aquatic centres and footpaths more often, while males used cycle paths, sporting fields and courts, and the Greenway more often than females.
- People who speak a language other than English at home used all facilities less regularly than the general community.

The most common types of facility that people visited for recreation in the Inner West:



# Reviewed Documents



### **Our Inner West 2036; The Inner West Community Strategic Plan** (endorsed by Council 06/2022)

This plan identifies the community's vision for the future, outlines long term goals, strategies to get there and how to measure progress towards that vision. It guides all of Council's plans, policies and budgets.

The strategic directions set out are:

- 1 - An ecologically Sustainable Inner West
- 2 - Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport
- 3 - Creative communities and a strong economy
- 4 - Healthy, resilient and caring communities
- 5 - Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

Among the stated aims, those which apply directly to the regeneration of public parkland are to increase community satisfaction with: connected natural areas + increased biodiversity, improved health of waterways, public infrastructure which fulfils the needs of diverse communities, safe networks of transport.

### **Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West**

Cred Consulting for Inner West Council, published 10/2018, (Updated Oct 2021)

Analysis of the current and projected recreation needs of the Inner West community, with a view to both maintaining and improving social and mental health as the population of the Inner West Council (IWC) area continues on its projected path of growth and change.

The study identified that the IWC area lacked sufficient public open space for the growing population. It outlines a strategic 'action' framework and explores how this framework could be applied.

The study undertook extensive engagement with the community to determine both recreational participation within the inner west as well as comments and suggestions about the quality of public open space within the LGA. These findings form a body of information about community needs and desires for public open space which have informed this Plan of Management and Master Plan.

### Other Documents Reviewed:

- Blackmore Oval - Plan of Management - (former) Leichhardt Council adopted Nov 2011
- Going Places - An Integrated Transport Strategy for Inner West, adopted March 2020
- Leichhardt LEP 2013
- Comprehensive Inner West DCP 2016 for Ashbury, Ashfield, Croydon, Croydon Park, Haberfield, Hurlstone Park and Summer Hill
- Inner West Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan, August 2021
- Inner West Council Public Toilet Strategy, May 2020
- Inner West Council - Inclusion Action Plan
- Inner West Council Local Environment Plan 2022

# Our Inner West 2036



## SD1 – An ecologically sustainable Inner West

**1. The Inner West community is recognised for its leadership in sustainability and tackling climate change**

- Provide the community the information, knowledge, and tools for a sustainable Inner West
- Share successes and publicise community and Council achievements in sustainability

**2. An increasing and resilient network of green corridors provide habitat for plants and animals**

- Maintain and increase Inner West's urban tree canopy
- Manage and improve Inner West's mid and understorey vegetation
- Protect, connect and enhance natural areas, biodiversity corridors and sensitive habitat

**3. Waterways are healthy and the community is water-sensitive, treating water as a precious resource**

- Implement water-sensitive policies and projects to improve the health of our waterways
- Capture and use water from Inner West catchments
- Identify and plan for river swimming sites

**4. Air quality is good and air pollution is managed effectively**

- Improve air quality through effective regulation and education
- Facilitate alternatives to private motor vehicle use to reduce exhaust emissions
- Minimise air pollution through policy and regulation

**5. Inner West is zero emissions, climate adapted and resilient to the changing climate**

- Respond to the Climate Emergency and implement the Inner West Climate and Renewables Strategy to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop and implement a whole of Council climate adaptation strategy to build resilience to the changing climate

**6. Inner West is a zero waste community with an active share economy**

- Move towards a circular economy to avoid waste, reuse, share and recycle through education, information, projects and initiatives
- Publicise and broaden access to local reuse and recycling infrastructure
- Increase recovery of organic material and provide a food organics recycling service to all households



## SD2 – Liveable, connected neighbourhoods and transport

**1. Development is designed for sustainability, net zero and improves health and wellbeing of the community**

- Pursue integrated planning and urban design across public and private spaces to benefit community and local environment needs
- Monitor local development and ensure it meets legislative requirements for safety and amenity

**2. The unique character and heritage of neighbourhoods is retained and enhanced**

- Provide clear and consistent planning and management that respects heritage, accessibility and the distinct characters of urban centres

**3. Public spaces are welcoming, accessible, clean and safe**

- Plan, deliver and maintain public spaces and infrastructure that fulfil and support diverse community needs and life
- Ensure private spaces and developments contribute positively to their surrounding public spaces
- Advocate for and develop planning controls that retain and protect existing public and open spaces and provision of additional public and open spaces

**4. People have a roof over their head and a safe, secure place to call home**

- Increase social, community and affordable, livable housing with good amenity, across the Inner West

- Encourage diversity of housing type, tenure and price in new developments
- Assist people who are homeless or sleeping rough

**5. Public transport is reliable, accessible and interconnected**

- Improve public transport services
- Provide transport infrastructure that aligns to population growth

**6. People walk, cycle and move around the Inner West with ease**

- Deliver safe, connected and well-maintained networks of transport infrastructure
- Manage the road network to increase safety and prioritise active and public transport over private motor vehicles
- Collaborate on innovative, accessible transport options



## SD3 – Creative communities and a strong economy

### 1. Creativity and culture are valued and celebrated

- Create opportunities for all members of the community to participate in arts and culture and pursue creative lives
- Celebrate and promote awareness of the community's history and heritage

### 2. Inner West remains the engine room of creative industries and services

- Promote the Inner West as a leading destination for creativity including street art, live music and performance
- Enable creative and cultural industries to thrive through targeted investment and support
- Build new content, audiences and professional opportunities through local programs, including for young and emerging creatives

### 3. The local economy is thriving

- Assist businesses growth, innovation and improvement
- Encourage new enterprises in Inner West

### 4. Employment is diverse and accessible

- Manage the strategic future of industrial and employment lands
- Collaborate with business and industry on social and environmental initiatives



## SD4 – Healthy, resilient and caring communities

### 1. The Inner West community is welcoming and connected

- Celebrate, value and respect the diversity of the Inner West community
- Foster inclusive communities where everyone can participate in community life
- Address social inequity, obstacles to participation and social exclusion

### 2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and culture flourish and enrich the Inner West

- Centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander needs and voices at the heart of initiatives, policies and strategies

- Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history

### 3. People have opportunities to participate, and develop their health and wellbeing

- Provide facilities, spaces and programs that support community health and wellbeing
- Build connected communities and provide opportunities for social participation

### 4. People have access to the services and facilities they need at all stages of life and all abilities

- Plan and deliver infrastructure and services for the changing population and those with disabilities
- Provide quality children's education and care services to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning
- Provide facilities, resources and activities for lifelong learning
- Improve the quality and use of existing community assets



## SD5 – Progressive, responsive and effective civic leadership

### 1. Council is responsive and service-focused

- Deliver responsive and innovative customer service
- Monitor performance and implement continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of the community

### 2. Council makes responsible decisions to manage finite resources in the best interest of current and future communities

- Undertake visionary, integrated, long term planning and decision

making, reflective of community needs and aspirations

- Ensure probity and responsible, sustainable, ethical and open local government
- Manage public resources to achieve financial sustainability

### 3. People are well informed and actively engaged in local decision making and problem solving

- Inform communities through multi-channel communications
- Support local democracy through inclusive participatory community engagement

- Support evidence-based Council decision-making

### 4. Partnerships and collaboration are valued and enhance community leadership creating positive change

- Advocate for emerging community issues
- Build resilience and capacity of local leaders, groups and communities
- Work with suppliers to deliver positive outcomes for the community, economy and environment

# Recreation Needs Study - A Healthier Inner West

## Key Findings:

A number of findings about recreation within the Inner West are highlighted by the report. These include its benefits and its changing perception and role within society generally. These have assisted in providing a foundation for the strategies and objectives of this Plan of Management and Master Plan. A summary of the key findings includes;

- Participation in recreation brings significant health and social benefits to individuals, including mental health benefits and improved development outcomes for children and young people.
- Recreation provides benefits at the community level, supporting community cohesion and community development, and public health benefits.
- A majority of Australians participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week.
- Nationally, the most popular recreation activities include walking, fitness, swimming, cycling and running, and this is reflected by local participation trends in the Inner West.
- The major change in participation in recreation is a trend to more flexible and non-organised participation.
- Children have declining access to unsupervised participation in recreation activities, with Planet Ark estimating that only 35% of Australian children play outside every day, compared to 72% a generation ago.
- People with disability have lower levels of participation in recreation and are less likely to take part as a spectator.

## Open Spaces:

The study divides the Inner West into four catchment areas, locating Leichhardt in Catchment 3 - East. Catchment 3 has a below average + declining provision of open space per person at 7.6m<sup>2</sup> in 2016. By 2036 it is anticipated that this number will drop to 6.4m<sup>2</sup> per person. The benchmark for the combined LGA in 2036 is stated in this study as 14.3m<sup>2</sup> per person.

## Sporting Capacity:

The study indicates the sporting ground of Blackmore Oval has an optimal capacity of 30 hours of use per week, which ensures a usable surface. The study suggests that the field is being used for 36 hours each week, exceeding it's maximum capacity. The study indicates that it was last upgraded in 2015.

By 2036, Catchment 3 will have a gap of:

- 7.4 summer sporting fields
- 10.6 winter sporting fields
- 18.9 outdoor multi purpose courts
- 1 indoor leisure centres
- 3.7 indoor multi purpose courts
- 0.9 indoor aquatic centres
- 1.6 skate park facility

## Objectives:

The report found a number of opportunities for improving recreational spaces within the LGA through a needs and gaps analysis. These opportunities were grouped into broad themes. Key opportunities which relate to the scope of this Plan of Management have been summarised below.

NEED
Increased quality of open space to optimise use, address demand and meet higher and more diverse needs
Well maintained public toilets, water bubblers and bins in parks.
Picnic and BBQ facilities, seating and shade for informal social gatherings, as well as informal grassed passive recreation areas.

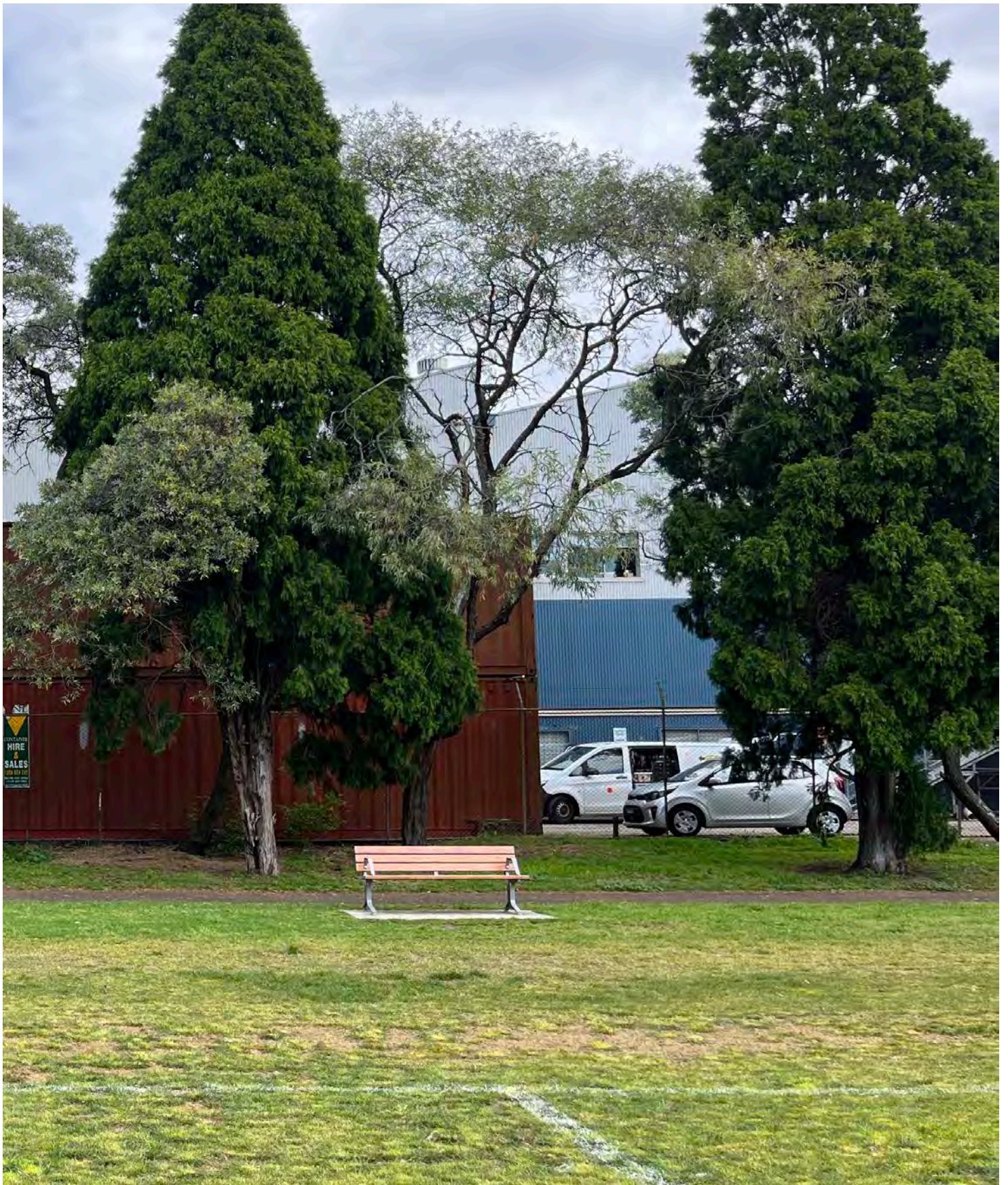
OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use, flexible open space that is designed to support sharing and reduce conflict between users</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the Inner West Council Public Toilet Strategy, May 2020 recommendation that all residents and visitors be within 400m of a public toilet that is open during daylight hours throughout the LGA.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide space for social gatherings outside of the home.</li> </ul>

<p>New facilities in parks including: table tennis tables; outdoor gyms including for seniors, and hard surfaces with shelter for tai chi.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide equipment and designated areas for a diverse range of outdoor activities.</li> </ul>
<p>Lighting and design of parks to increase (feelings of) safety. Lighting should be fauna-friendly and use sustainable technologies to support environmental outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street lighting around perimeter to connect park with surrounding streets and public transport options.</li> </ul>
<p>Improved lighting to support evening and night time recreation opportunities after work hours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting in specific areas of park for informal night time use, e.g. dog walking, running paths and areas for informal sport.</li> </ul>
<p>Improved walkable connections to open space and recreation opportunities .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved connections to Richard Murden Reserve</li> </ul>
<p>Improving sporting building infrastructure, amenities blocks to increase usability and support safety, and support the participation of women and people with disability in sport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access paths to and from surrounding areas, specifically to provide safe accessible entry.</li> </ul>
<p>Signage and wayfinding on cycle routes. Safer shared paths, and/or separate bike/pedestrian paths.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review throughout the LGA.</li> </ul>
<p>Cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities and bike parking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling infrastructure at connections to public transport and recreation facilities.</li> </ul>
<p>Play spaces for older children / young people; Play opportunities for other age groups and abilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play for older children such as basket swings, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, flying foxes</li> <li>• Innovative play spaces such as nature play, and adventure/ junk play.</li> <li>• Include inclusive play equipment in all playgrounds, rather than only in some dedicated inclusive playgrounds.</li> </ul>
<p>Increased access to recreation opportunities for older people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath improvements, specifically to consider steepness of paths into the park.</li> <li>• More recreation opportunities for older people.</li> </ul>
<p>Informal, flexible and social recreation opportunities that cater to a time-poor population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved lighting on streets and in parks to enable night time use including for informal activities.</li> </ul>
<p>Inclusive recreation opportunities for people with a disability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise accessibility in the upgrades of recreation facilities in parks, for example in new amenities buildings.</li> <li>• Audit of Council's recreation facilities and parks and whether they are accessible.</li> </ul>
<p>Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from the LGBTQI+ community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming bathroom amenities for gender diverse people.</li> </ul>
<p>Inclusive recreation opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation opportunities located close to public transport and promoted in community languages</li> <li>• Recreation programs targeting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds</li> <li>• Recreation opportunities that reflect popular activities</li> </ul>
<p>New off leash dog parks, including dog swimming and water play; Ongoing provision and maintenance of existing dog off leash areas; Managing and preventing conflicts between users of parks, particularly children and dogs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity in signage to enable regulation and enforcement.</li> <li>• Design of parks and playgrounds to minimise conflict e.g. planting borders 10m from playgrounds to identify dog free areas.</li> </ul>

## 2.0 Categorisation / Ownership, Statutory Conditions and Legislation



View south towards neighbouring industrial precinct. Photography by Welsh + Major.



# Lots and Zoning



# Land Categorisation + Ownership

## Community land - Local Government Act Requirements

Public land as defined under the Local Government Act 1993, must be classified as either community or operational land.

'Operational' land comprises land that serves a commercial or operational function (e.g. offices, works depot, car park, sewage pump station, etc.), or land that is being retained for commercial or strategic reasons. The range of controls that apply to Community land do not apply to the use and management of Operational land.

'Community' land is generally public park land set aside for community use. Development and use of this land is subject to strict controls set out in the Act such as Community land cannot be sold, or leased or licensed for more than 30 years. In addition to these controls, the Act requires Councils to have plans of management for all Community lands.

A plan of management places each piece of Community Land into one or more of five categories which impact on how they can be used. These are: Natural area; Sports ground; Park; Area of cultural significance; or General community use. Community Land is still subject to zoning controls and a plan of management operates as an additional control over that piece of land.

## Crown Land Management Act 2016

Following a comprehensive review of legislative provisions and the management of Crown land the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) commenced on 1 July 2018 and the Crown Lands Act 1989 was repealed. The objectives of the CLM Act are:

- To provide for the ownership, use and management of the Crown land of New South Wales, and
- To provide clarity concerning the law applicable to Crown land, and
- To require environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations to be taken into account in decision-making about Crown land, and
- To provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, and
- To facilitate the use of Crown land by the Aboriginal people of New South Wales because of the spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance of land to Aboriginal people and, where appropriate, to enable the co-management of dedicated or reserved Crown land, and
- To provide for the management of Crown land having regard to the principles of Crown land management.

The CLM act gives Council the authority to manage Crown Land in the same way that it manages Public land, as defined under the Local Government Act 1993. The legislation requires Council to firstly classify Crown land managed by Council as Community Land or Operational Land, and to then to nominate a single category for the land. The Plan of Management then provides the mechanism to place the Crown Land into multiple categories which are better suited to the current and future use of the land.

Lot/DP	Name & Location	Current Management & Agreement Recommendations	Ownership & Classification	Area	Notes
Lot 649 DP 729259	Blackmore Oval, Canal Rd, Leichhardt	Inner West Council	Crown Land	1.59ha	
Lot 2 DP 797913	Blackmore Oval, Canal Rd, Leichhardt	Inner West Council	Inner West Council	542m <sup>2</sup>	
Lot 1 DP 184476	Blackmore Oval, Canal Rd, Leichhardt	Inner West Council	Inner West Council	155m <sup>2</sup>	
Lot 1 DP 1045624	Wetlands, Charles St, Leichhardt	Inner West Council	Inner West Council	TBC	
Lot 1 DP 1239048	Wetlands, Charles St, Leichhardt	Inner West Council	Transport for NSW	TBC	

# Land Categorisation + Ownership (cont'd)

## Crown Land Reserves

Crown Land Reserves are owned by the State of New South Wales (NSW) and managed by Councils or boards appointed as land managers on behalf of the NSW Government for the benefit of the general public.

Crown Land Reserves managed by Council have been set aside for a particular public purpose. Where local Councils are the land manager of Crown Reserves they are to be managed as if they are 'public land' under the Local Government Act 1993. Crown reserves which are classified public land require a Plan of Management.

The Crown Land within Blackmore Oval is divided into the categories listed within the table below. The land which each category specifically applies to is demonstrated by the map opposite.

## Management Principles

The principles of Crown land management are:

- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land, and
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible, and
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged, and
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged, and
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or

otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

## Native Title on Crown Land

On Crown land native title rights and interests must be considered unless:

- native title has been extinguished; or
- native title has been surrendered; or
- determined by a court to no longer exist.

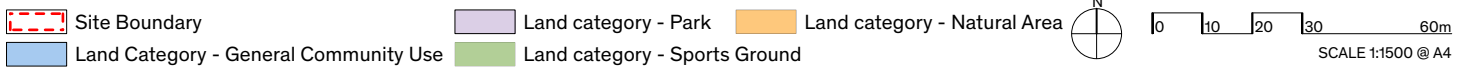
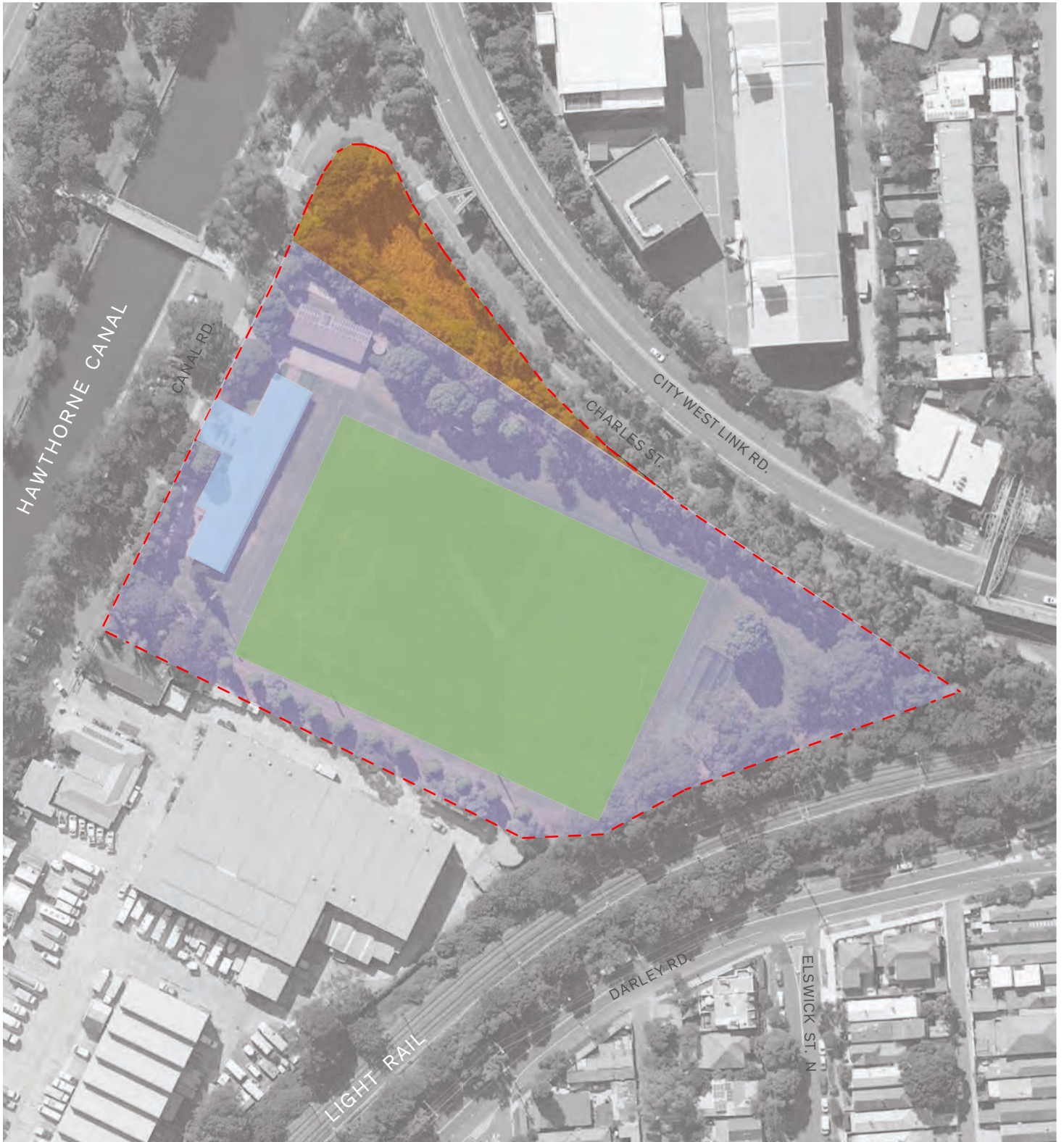
Some examples of acts which may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves managed by Council include:

- the construction of new buildings and other facilities such as toilet blocks, walking tracks, tennis courts, grandstands and barbecues,
- the construction of extensions to existing buildings,
- the construction of new roads or tracks,
- installation of infrastructure such as power lines, sewerage pipes, etc,
- the creation of an easement
- the issue of a lease or licence,
- the undertaking of major earthworks.

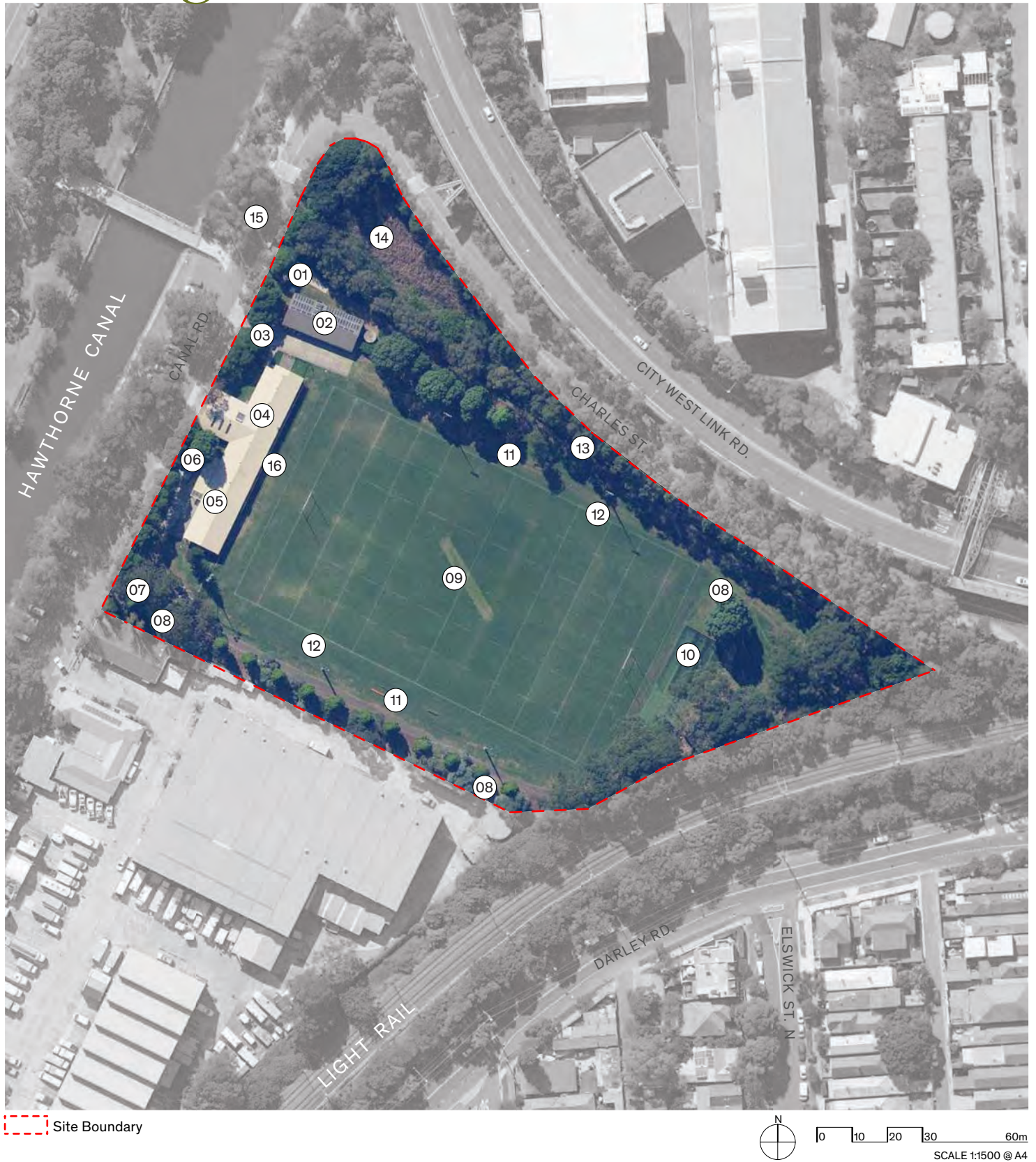
When proposing any act that may affect native title on Crown land or Crown reserves the act must be authorised through Part 2 Division 3 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity to comment any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered native title bodies corporate and registered native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the Native Title Act 1993.

Category	Core objectives (as defined by the Local Government Act 1993)
SPORTS GROUND	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a sportsground are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and (b) to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.
PARK	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a park are— (a) to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities, and (b) to provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games, and (c) to improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.
GENERAL COMMUNITY USE	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public— (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).
NATURAL AREA	The core objectives for management of community land categorised as a natural area are— (a) to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area, and (b) to maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting, and (c) to provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land, and (d) to provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion, and (e) to assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in a recovery plan or threat abatement plan prepared under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

# Land Categorisation Map



# Existing Park Conditions



	Use of land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Condition of the land or structure (on adoption of the PoM)	Future Condition (targeted following adoption of the PoM)
01	Northern path	Good	Good - maintain
02	Amenities + Men's Shed building	Very Poor	Very good - replace
03	Driveway + entry	Poor	Good - replace
04	SES quarters	Very Poor	Good - replace damaged building
05	Sports club house + facilities	Fair	Fair - maintain
06	Sports club storage	Poor	Good - upgrade
07	Southern entry + path	Very Poor	Good - upgrade
08	Outdoor Fitness Stations	Good	Good - maintain
09	Sports field + cricket pitch	Fair	Good - maintain
10	Cricket nets	Fair	Fair - maintain
11	Park furniture	Fair	Good - upgrade
12	Flood lighting	Poor	Good - upgrade
13	Path lighting to northern boundary	Good	Good - maintain
14	Wetlands	Poor	Good - maintain
15	Pedestrian/cyclist access into main entry	Poor	Good - upgrade
16	Ball protection screen	Poor	Good - replace

### Zoning + Classification

Ashfield LEP : RE1 'Public recreation'

### Other Relevant Legislation

- Foreshore Building Line LEP 2013
- Native title Act 1993 (cwlth)
- Companion Animals Act.
- Disability Discrimination Act.
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- National Construction Code 2019.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- State Environmental Planning Policy (infrastructure) 2007
- Work, Health and Safety Act.
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Vegetation SEPP

## 3.0 Leases + Licences



Clubhouse courtyard + Canteen. Photography by Welsh + Major.



### **An Overview**

The Local Government Act allows Council to grant leases, licences or undertake works over all or part of Community Land.

Where exclusive control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed or desirable, a lease is appropriate. There are also other factors which may influence the granting of a lease. These include the level or scale of investment, the necessity for security measures and the relationship between the activity on the land and the activity of the controller of the land.

The activities undertaken by a leaseholder should be compatible with any zoning or Council requirements and provide benefits and services or facilities for the users of the land. Terms and conditions of a lease should reflect the interest of the Council, protect the public and ensure proper management and maintenance.

Where short term, intermittent or non-exclusive occupation or control of all or part of an area or facility is proposed, a licence may be used. Providing there are no conflicts of interest, several licences may apply concurrently.

In considering whether to grant any lease or licence, Council should take into account the consistency of the proposal with the values and management strategies of this Plan of Management, particularly with regard to the following:

The Lessee/Licensee is responsible for ensuring the area is maintained to a standard which is acceptable to Council.

There is a need to define the times the land or facility will be available for use by the Lessee/Licensee, the impact of the lease/licence on the public/private space use of the Parks, the impact on maintaining the Parks as one cohesive open space.

The Plan of Management for Blackmore Oval allows for the provision of leases and licences in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Crown Lands Management Act 2016, Crown Lands Management Regulations 2018 and any subsequent legislation. Future leases and licences will be authorised consistent with this Plan of Management, the Inner West Council Local Environment Plan (2022) and any other applicable legislation. Any licences for biodiversity works are permitted.

Any leases, licences on crown land (a use agreement) on Crown land may impact native title rights and interests. Any use agreement issued on Crown land must be issued in accordance with the future act provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 and in accordance with Part 8 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 unless native title is extinguished. For Crown land which is not excluded land this will require written advice of one of Council's native title managers that it complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation.

### **What are Leases and Licences?**

A lease is a contract between the land owner, and another entity granting to that entity an exclusive right to occupy, use or control an area for a specified time.

A licence allows multiple non – exclusive use of an area. Short term licences and bookings may be used to allow the best overall use of an area.

Council's leasing and licensing is governed by its Land and Property Policy.

### **Authorisation of Leases and Licences**

The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) requires a lease or licence of community land be authorised by a Plan of Management (PoM). The lease or licence must be for a purpose consistent with core objectives of its categorisation and zoning of the land.

The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government.

This PoM expressly authorises Inner West Council as land manager of Blackmore Oval to grant leases and licences for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in Table 1.01 and Table 1.02. The leases and licences authorised on this land align with original gazetted purpose of "Public Recreation".

Leases and licences for the use of an area of land need to be permissible under this PoM, the LG Act, the Local Government Regulations 2005, Crown Lands Management Act 2016 (CLMA), Crown Lands Management Regulations 2018 and Inner West Council LEP 2022, and pursuant to a development consent if required.

Any proposed lease or licence for more than 5 years must be by tender unless it is to a non-profit organisation.

Any proposed lease, licence other than short term or casual public notice must be given and be in accordance with section 47 of the Act.

### Current Leases and Licences

Licence: Leichhardt Men's Shed Incorporated. Purpose: Woodworking, metalworking, and social and community projects.

Licence: Leichhardt Wanderers JRLFC. Purpose: Club house for storage and activities associated with the football club.

### Future Leases and Licences

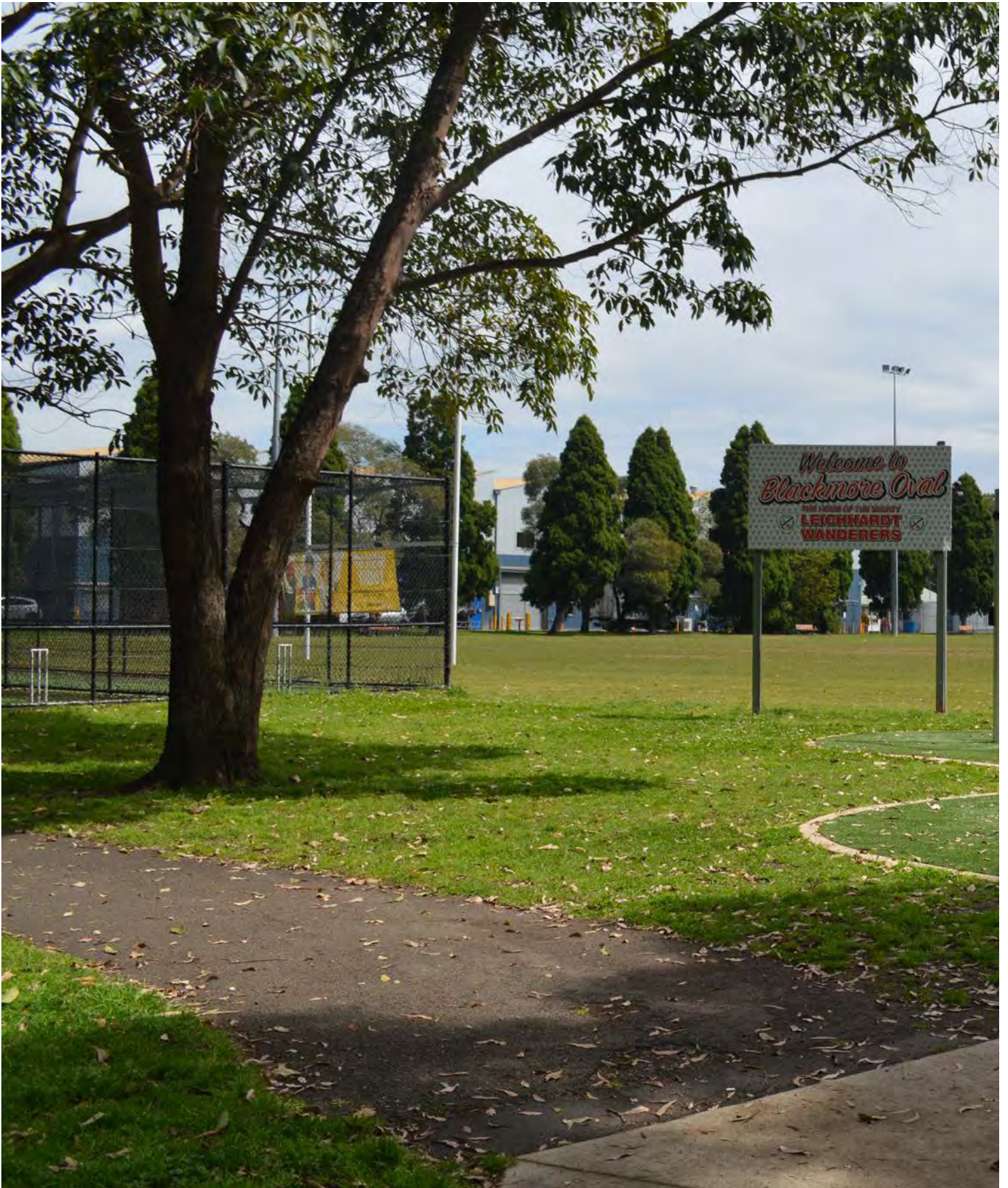
This Plan of Management expressly authorises Inner West Council to grant leases and licences of Blackmore Oval for the purposes and uses which are identified or consistent with those in the following tables

Note: Long Term Use for Up to 30 Years. The maximum period for a lease or licence is 21 years if granted by Council or 30 years if granted by Council with the consent of the Minister for Local Government

Type of arrangement/ categorisation and facilities	Purpose for which licencing/ leasing will be granted
Licence: Sports Grounds	Organised sport including but not limited to soccer, rugby, cricket, oz tag
Licence: Sports Grounds	School and community group recreation and education use
Lease: General Community Use Building	Sporting club and associated uses including but not limited to filming, training, storage, fitness classes and the provision to sell alcohol.
Licence: General Community Use Building	Creative industry/Artist in residence
Licence: Park	School and community group recreation and education use

Type of arrangement/ categorisation and facilities	Purpose for which up to 12 month licence will be granted
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal licences</li> <li>Sporting fixtures and events</li> <li>Uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events</li> <li>Use as per the sporting ground allocations policy; Training from Tuesday - Friday; Games Saturday + Sunday</li> </ul>
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School and community group recreation and education use</li> </ul>
Licence: Sports Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial fitness trainers</li> </ul>
Licence: Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School and community group recreation and education use</li> </ul>
Licence: Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering a public address</li> <li>Public performances</li> <li>Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings</li> <li>Conducting a commercial photography session</li> <li>Filming including film / television</li> <li>Community events and festivals</li> <li>Playing a musical instrument or singing for fee or reward</li> <li>Advertising</li> <li>Catering</li> <li>Community, training or education</li> <li>Environmental protection, conservation or restoration or environmental studies</li> <li>Exhibitions</li> <li>Functions</li> <li>Hiring of equipment</li> <li>Meetings</li> <li>Outdoor cinema</li> <li>Site investigations</li> <li>Sporting and organised recreational activities</li> <li>Storage</li> <li>Emergency purposes including training</li> </ul>

# 4.0 Master Plan Strategies



Blackmore Oval. Photography by Welsh + Major Architects.



# Overview

The key objectives outline a broad vision for the future of Blackmore Oval. They have been derived from the opportunities and constraints outlined in the Site Analysis and Community Engagement Outcomes. They have also been informed through a precedent study of successful local, national and international parkland projects.

Key strategies offer practical measures for how these objectives can be implemented within Blackmore Oval.

## ACCESS+INCLUSIVENESS

### Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range users.*
3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Upgrade existing pathways and entry points.
- Increase mixed-use park area by reducing the clubhouse courtyard
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.

## SENSE OF PLACE+COMMUNITY

### Key Objectives:

1. *Highlight the significant historic and environmental aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.*
2. *Provide high quality furniture and facilities.*
3. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish an integrated interpretation strategy to highlight assets within the park and the history of the park.
- Establish additional shady seating areas and upgrade existing amenities block
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and improve the quality of under-utilised spaces.

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Key Objectives:

1. *Support local ecology and biodiversity + protect existing vegetation within the park*
2. *Maximize opportunities to connect with nature in and around Blackmore Oval.*
3. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities.*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain health and extent of existing canopy, densify and diversify flora within the park by introducing understory planting to southern boundary
- Improve connections to wetlands and greater parklands around Blackmore Oval
- Design and upgrade facilities with sustainable principles and measures.



## SAFETY

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### Key Objectives:

1. *Increase the perceived sense of safety by the introduction of carefully designed built elements*
2. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
3. *Implement strategies to reduce the risk of injury to park users by cricket balls.*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Consider pathway junctions at entryway on Canal Road.
- Implement safety upgrades to cricket nets and recreational areas.



## SPORTS+RECREATION

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### Key Objectives:

1. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*
2. *Maximise the use of the sports ground after dark*

### Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use and maintain shared community access to park assets.
- Improve flood lighting lux levels and allow the extension of hours of use

# Access + Inclusiveness

## Key Objectives:

1. *Ensure that the park and its assets are accessible for all visitors.*
2. *Provide facilities which cater for a range users.*
3. *Provide high quality amenities which are inclusive and accessible.*

## Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Upgrade existing pathways and entry points.
- Increase mixed-use park area by reducing the clubhouse courtyard
- Ensure new and upgraded facilities are inclusive and accessible.

## Public Access

Whilst there are four existing entry points to the park, the main access are limited to two points on Canal road. This contributes to the park's unique character by providing a sense of seclusion and respite from the surrounding urban areas. The Master Plan proposes to maintain this quality while improving the existing park entry by widening the two main access points at the western part of the site.

A new driveway with fold down bollards is proposed to ease the access to service vehicles. A new area of understory planting on each side of the driveway will widen the entry point while reducing the hardscaping, improving the aesthetic appeal of the park entry.

Parts of the pathways are in poor condition and this limits access for visitors with prams, wheelchairs and mobility requirements. Upgrades are proposed to improve pedestrian amenity by patching the existing pathways and widening its narrow sections. This will also promote movement around the field to encourage the passive use of the eastern part of the park, defined as underutilised during community consultation.



Example of shared use plaza  
Erie Street Plaza by Stoss Landscape Urbanism, Milwaukee

## Activity Spaces

The Master Plan proposes to remove the fence to the sports club courtyard to accommodate for a new multi-purpose area. This area could serve both the club during sports events and casual park users the rest of the time. It would create a link between Canal Street entry, the club courtyard and the field whilst being screened and protected from the car park through a new fringe of understory planting. This shared area includes seating and picnic arrangements.

## Amenities

The existing amenities block is not equipped to meet the needs of park users and is in poor condition. Both the Site Analysis and Community Consultation highlight poor the condition of the amenities generally, the poor location of the female toilets and shower. It is proposed to replace the existing amenities block with a new one, proposing fully accessible male, female and non binary toilets and changing rooms with improved signage strategy.



Example of shared use plaza  
SUPERKILEN by BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), Topotek 1, and Superflex, Copenhagen, Denmark

# Sense of Place + Community

## Key Objectives:

1. *Highlight the significant historic and environmental aspects of the park and build upon them to establish a clear identity for the park and its assets.*
2. *Provide high quality furniture and facilities.*
3. *Continue maintenance of existing park assets.*

## Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Establish an integrated interpretation strategy to highlight assets within the park and the history of the park.
- Establish additional shady seating areas and upgrade existing amenities block
- Maintain existing open green spaces for flexible recreation and improve the quality of under-utilised spaces.

## Historical Interpretation and Identity

Few visitors are aware of Blackmore Oval's history. There is currently no evidence of historical conservation or celebration of history within the park. There is an opportunity for historical interpretation strategy to be developed in collaboration with local historians and artists, and to be integrated into new park elements.

This strategy could reference the former creek or Hawthorne Canal, First Nations history, the wetlands and the local sports history.

This could be incorporated in new park elements such as maps, inscriptions or imprints in footpaths, informative plaques or artwork. The design of these should be contemporary and complementary to elements already present within Blackmore Oval to provide a cohesive identity. The interpretation strategy should be engaging for both children and adults.

## New Park Furniture and Facilities

New furniture and facilities are recommended to support passive enjoyment of the park. These are indicated to a number of areas including:

- New shaded seating structures to provide sheltered seating areas within park. The structures will serve both organised sports players and spectators.
- New bins, bike racks and drink water stations provided near the park entry points. These should be designed for convenience, and to enhance visitors enjoyment of the park.
- New bridge to the wetlands over the existing storm water channel and near the new amenities block, to improve the connection to the greater parklands
- New amenities block to include male, female, non binary toilets and changing rooms, accessible to all users.

## Maintaining the Open Green Space

The open grassed area of Blackmore Oval is highly valued by the community for both organised sports and unstructured recreation and relaxation. This area should be protected and maintained into the future. Development within the park, such as amenities and sports and recreation upgrades should be limited to existing built areas or areas which are currently under-utilised by the community.



Picnic shelter integrated into landscape, Parramatta Park. CHROFI, photography by Simon Whitbread.



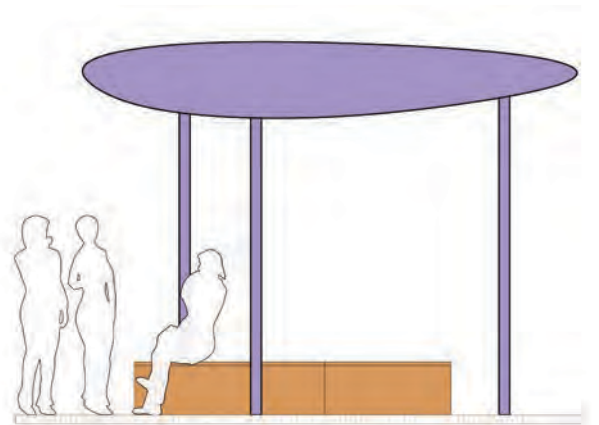
Cohen Park Amenities on Gadigal Land, Annandale Sydney  
Welsh + Major Architects



Naturalised precinct with integrated footpaths, play spaces + amenities, Lizard Log Parkland, Sydney. McGregor Coxall, photo by Simon Wood.



Example concept drawings of shaded seating structures



# Sustainability

## Key Objectives:

1. *Support local ecology and biodiversity + protect existing vegetation within the park*
2. *Maximize opportunities to connect with nature in and around Blackmore Oval.*
3. *Integrate sustainable measures into new and existing facilities.*

## Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain health and extent of existing canopy, densify and diversify flora within the park by introducing understory planting to southern boundary
- Improve connections to wetlands and greater parklands around Blackmore Oval
- Design and upgrade facilities with sustainable principles and measures.

## Trees and Understorey Planting

Multiple large trees flank the edges of the park as well as the informal eastern area of the park. A great majority of these trees are in good condition and their location offers good shade.

It is proposed to undertake a condition assessment of the existing trees for maintenance and potential renewal. This will ensure consistent continuous canopy cover along the additional hard landscaping created by new paths within the park.

The Master Plan proposes to introduce new understory planting along the southern boundary to connect the broken flora and fauna link around the park perimeter. Understorey planting is recommended for areas which are less utilised, to improve the range of habitats available for local fauna and to encourage greater biodiversity. The planting would also be a good opportunity to visually screen the neighbouring commercial precinct and create additional area for park users to connect with nature.

## Connection to nature

Both the Site Analysis and the Community Consultation described the wetlands located at the north of the Park as being a great way of connecting with nature. Many users mentioned the lack of connections between the park and the wetlands and greater parkland around Blackmore Oval .

The Master Plan proposes to add a new bridge over the existing stormwater channel to increase this connection. It is proposed to align this new path with the passageway through the new amenities block to promote movement throughout the park and increase sight lines and safety within the amenities.

## Sustainable Facilities

Upgrades should consider the environmental impact of design, construction and future maintenance of park facilities. The Plan of Management promotes progression towards sustainable practices in construction, building maintenance and overall life

cycle. There is opportunity for the park to showcase sustainable approaches to visitors.

- New constructions within the park must be designed and built to meet sustainable principles. This would include considerations of a facilities life-cycle, embodied energy and on-going sustainability.
- Building upgrades should maximise adaptive reuse, water harvesting and reuse, and sustainable energy sources and materials.
- Sporting ground and park maintenance should consider watering requirements, replacement cycles, and eliminating the use of harmful products and practices,
- Lighting upgrades should consider sustainable energy sources and energy efficient fittings.



Boardwalk over naturalised wetland habitat. Swanport Wetlands, Monteith, South Australia

# Safety

## Key Objectives:

1. *Increase the perceived sense of safety by the introduction of carefully designed built elements*
2. *Ensure park users feel safe entering and leaving the park*
3. *Implement strategies to reduce the risk of injury to park users by cricket balls.*

## Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Create opportunities for passive surveillance around the site
- Provide consistent after dark lighting around primary routes
- Consider pathway junctions at entryway on Canal Road.
- Implement safety upgrades to cricket nets and recreational areas.

## Lighting

There was support for lighting upgrades to improve safety and to extend the hours that the park can be used. The Master Plan proposes a new low level consistent lighting along the new perimeter path for increased safety of visitors after dark.

Consideration should be given that this area is a biodiverse environment and lighting should be directed so as not to limit the effect of light pollution on sensitive nocturnal habitats.

## Passive Surveillance

The Master Plan proposes to increase visibility around the park existing and new amenities to encourage respectful use of the facilities.

The female changing facilities and bathrooms are currently concealed and its position at the rear of the sports club makes it very isolated. The current male facilities forms a barrier that blocks the view from the entrance and from the wetlands to the sports ground.

It is proposed to build the new amenities as a consolidated block with wide see through common areas to increase visibility and provide security to visitors using the amenities as well as the ones using the existing path near the storm water channel.

## Increase road safety around public parks

Traffic calming measures and user shared paths on Canal Street could greatly improve the safety of park users as well as improving the connectivity between the park and its immediate neighbourhood.

The Master Plan suggests the addition of a new cycle path connecting the crossing over Hawthorne Canal to the north. Pedestrian crossing at Canal Road entry point to the bridge is also suggested to improve safety around Blackmore Oval.

## Sports + Park Visitors

While Blackmore Oval is an important ground for cricket training, cricket balls can be dangerous for other park users and it is recommended that steps are taken to reduce the risk of injury to the community. Safety upgrades to the existing cricket nets should be completed as well as replacing the existing mesh screen next to the club with a new one to reduce the risk of cricket balls to break windows.

Multi-lingual signs could also assist in informing the community to be aware of the potential safety issues.



Examples of low level path lighting



Example of unobtrusive netting

# Sports + Recreation

## Key Objectives:

1. *Continue a balance of sports and general community use of the park and maintain sports and recreation facilities*
2. *Maximise the use of the sports ground after dark*

## Key Strategies to achieve this in Master Plan:

- Maintain the sporting ground for both sports use and general community use and maintain shared community access to park assets.
- Improve flood lighting lux levels and allow the extension of hours of use

## Casual Recreation spaces

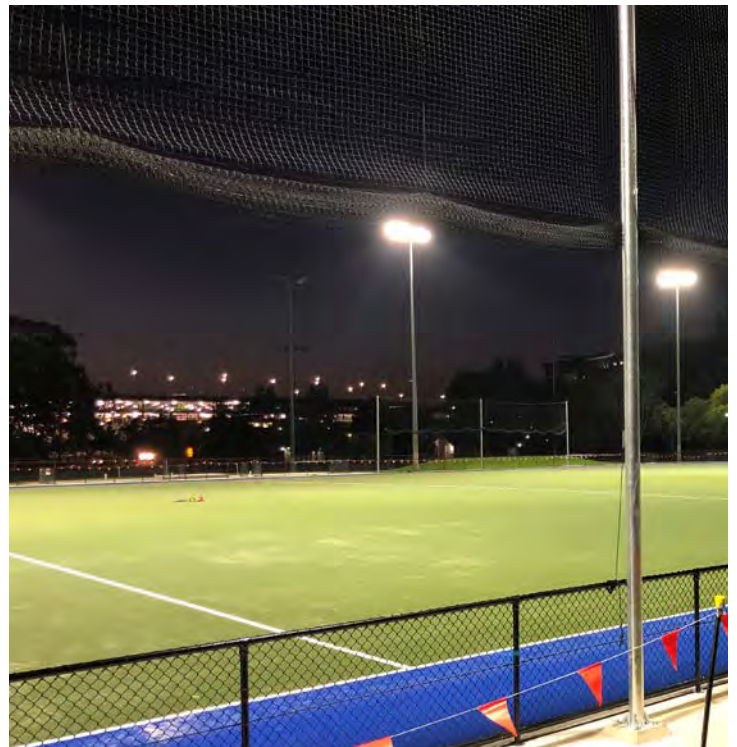
Providing spaces for both formal and informal sports and games helps to support the community in leading an active lifestyle outside of organised sports. The sporting ground is utilised by a variety of formal and casually organised sporting groups. Care should be taken in the management of the park to allow as many different groups as possible to utilise the open spaces of Blackmore Oval to encourage public health and wellbeing as well as community cohesion by providing opportunities for various cultural groups to come together and interact through exercise and sport.

New shaded seating structures are also proposed alongside the sports ground. The structures will serve for both organised sports players and spectators during games and general public.

## Lighting Upgrades

The Master Plan proposes to upgrade the existing flood lights around the sports ground. The community consultation process identified some light spill over adjacent areas. Inconsistent operating hours were also mentioned as an issue of concern.

The lighting upgrades would also allow users to use the sports ground in early mornings and increase opportunities for organised sports to utilise the ground.



Kedron Wavell Hockey Fields, Queensland utilise mid level LED sports field lighting and unobtrusive netting. Image: Australian Sports Lighting Solutions